

The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa. No. 85 February 2019



Most Worshipful Brother David Duncan OSM.

Is it a Journey or an Expedition?

Our ritual tells us that life is like a journey. A journey on which we will meet with many challenges that will enable us to develop our self-knowledge.

During life, we will undertake many physical journeys. These will be defined by a known destination. A beginning in the now and a known end point. Can you buy a ticket when you cannot specify the physical destination?

An expedition however needs only a purpose or an intention. An expedition is a journey into the unknown. In our case, it is the search for self-knowledge. It is a journey to an unknown destination, as we will never be sure as to when we have achieved the ultimate goal of perfection.

Freemasonry exhorts every Brother to undertake this journey with faith. Faith in his own ability to discover his own ultimate destination. It is a personal journey in which a guide can only provide support, not direction.

The biggest challenge that many of our members face, having come from a rigid and structured education system where imagination is discouraged, is the ability to shed the expectation of being spoon-fed. We may be guilty of using the term "*Masonic Education*" lightly as, in traditional terms, it can be construed as being Masonic schooling. It is true that the principles and tenets of the Order can be taught formally, but the true essence of the Order cannot. Each Brother must undertake his own expedition of

discovery and improve himself in such a way that he is happy with the result. My result will definitely be different to yours, and so how can I "*teach you*".

The Grand Lodge is looking at a formalised "*mentoring*" program to aid those who are genuinely searching for self-knowledge. These "*Mentors*" will not be teachers; they will be guides. They will respond in the spirit of our ritual which indicates that "*who, when earnestly consulted about the way which is to be travelled, always answers*".

The emphasis is on the "*earnestly consulted*" because we cannot force any Brother to undertake his expedition. If a Brother sits passively waiting for guidance, it will not come. It cannot come, because the guide is not aware of his particular need. It is the requirement of every Brother who is undertaking his expedition of self-knowledge to seek whatever HE personally needs.

Because there is no one correct answer on a journey of emotions, the Brother will need to consult many guides. The more views and interpretations to which he can expose himself, the more he will increase the confidence with which he will make his next decision. A decision that will most probably shape his future. Remember, there are many cross-roads on the journey of life. "*Freemasonry requires that the Brother does not just know much but comprehends what he has learned. What man is, and what man may become.*"

Brethren: Freemasonry offers you a hand intended to facilitate you in undertaking the expedition of self-discovery. Take advantage of it; "*it will be of service to you when.*"

**MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM
Grand Master**

A Special Ride for a Centenarian!

Wor Bro Bushy McKelvey (Dromedaris) and his bike have set several world speed and endurance records. In this picture, Bushy makes certain that his 100 year old passenger has a birthday to remember.





Wor Bro Paul Nash (behind charter) surrounded by Officers of PGL Northern Division, the Scottish District and the Lodge.

FreeMasons Love Tradition!

GLSA PGL Northern Division Officers seldom attend Scottish installations, let alone with a contingent of 9 Brethren. It is even more unusual to have a GLSA Presiding Master acting as Senior Warden at the same installation - but this is what happened when Wor Bro Paul Nash was installed as the Worshipful Master of Lodge Golden Thistle (Scottish Constitution).

For the past 130 years the Presiding Masters of Lodges Star of the Rand (GLSA) and Johannesburg (UGLE) have filled the offices of the 2 Wardens at Lodge Golden Thistle's Installation. This arrangement is reciprocated between the 3 Lodges involved. This tradition started 131 years ago when the Charter Master of Lodge Golden Thistle was out of the country at the time of their installation and the Charter Master of Lodge Star of the Rand was symbolically installed in his stead. The 3 Lodges jointly owned the temple in Plein Street in Johannesburg and there remains a close relationship between them. With a GLSA Past Master, Wor Bro Paul Nash, being installed as Master of Golden Thistle, this relationship can only get stronger and the support from PGL Northern Division and Lodge Star of the Rand on the night made this look like it could easily have been a GLSA installation. Long may the close bonds continue!

AASR Education Course gets High Praise

M Ill Bro Arturo de Hoyos is, without doubt, one of the world's leading experts on AASR Freemasonry. He is the Grand Archivist and Grand Historian of the Southern Jurisdiction in the USA and is based at the renowned House of the Temple in Washington DC. He has written numerous books on AASR and, when he describes an Education course as special, you listen - and he rates our own Sovereign Grand Commander, MP Bro Boet du Plessis', course as "the MOST detailed out there". Arturo highly recommends it. Well done Boet! Can't wait for the formal release.



Professor Ike is a Credit to the GLSA

Wor Bro Ike Ezeudji is the Presiding Master of Lodge Meerensee in Richards Bay. His first GLSA Lodge was Star of the Rand (Northern), after which he spent a year or so at Westerford (Southern) and he is now in Eastern Division. Ike is an academic and is now based at the University of Kwa Zulu Natal.

Wor Bro Ike is an extremely hard working and dedicated person and Freemason. We were delighted, therefore, when we received the news that he has been made a Professor at the University of Kwa Zulu Natal and the Head of Department. Well done Ike!



MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM, Wor Bro Ike Ezeudji and RW Bro Tommy Hardiman, recalling times at Westerford.

Losie Trichardt Installation

On Saturday 19 January Wor Bro Danie Niewoudt was installed as Presiding Master of Losie Trichardt. The Installation was performed by the Deputy PGM, Wor Bro Simon Nash, who was assisted by Wor Bro Michiel Victor as PG Master of Ceremonies and 10 PGL Officers. Wor Bro Niewoudt's predecessor, Wor Bro Herman Smit, reported on a very successful 2 years in the chair, growing the Lodge substantially during that time. He was complimented by the Installing officer on an outstanding performance and his most encouraging report.

The installation was followed by a memorable festive board, much enjoyed by all in attendance.



Come to Bloemfontein for a Special Weekend!

On Saturday 2 March, Central Division will be holding their Annual General Meeting at the Bloemfontein Masonic Centre. As has become the norm over the past few years, on the Friday all the Grand Lodge and PGL Commissioned Officers, Secretaries and Treasurers will spend the day attending a Chain's Conference at which key issues and strategies impacting on our Grand Lodge will be discussed and reviewed and decisions made which will help us to take the GLSA to ever greater heights.



RW Bro Cor van Zyl
PGM Central Division

This year, however, there is a great deal more happening over the weekend and, for any enthusiastic Freemason, it really is a Masonic occasion worth being a part of. All of our Brethren are encouraged to attend:

- Fri 1 Mar 19h00 What is Freemasonry?
- Sat 2 Mar 12h30 Central Division AGM
- Lodge Magersfontein Consecration
- Lodge Magersfontein Installation
- Sat 2 Mar 18h00 Central Division Spit Braai

As always, RW Bro Cor van Zyl and his Central team are putting a great deal of effort into ensuring that the weekend will be a most successful one.

Losie Sonop Installation

The Masonic year started off with a bang for the Northern Division when, on Wednesday 9 January, Wor Bro Juan de Villiers was reinstalled as Presiding Master of Losie Sonop. The installation went very well with a polished delivery by the installing officer, Provincial Grand Master RW Bro Peet Roos, supported by 12 PGL Officers. Wor Bro Tony Bosman, Provincial Grand Master of Ceremonies, performed his first Afrikaans installation very competently.

The evening saw the Brethren of the Lodge bid a fond farewell to "Oom" Bennie Spies who has been a Freemason for more than 55 years and a real stalwart of the Lodge. Oom Bennie had attended all but one of Lodge Sonop's installations over the years, but announced that he would no longer be able to attend Lodge meetings due to ill health. He and his lovely wife Cynthia will be hard to replace and sorely missed.



RW Bro Boet du Plessis with
RW Bro Bennie Spies (R)

"Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts".

Winston Churchill

How RA can Enhance your Masonic Journey

One of the challenges faced by Brethren having completed their 3rd degree, is knowing just what to do next. They will generally be aware of the Royal Arch and the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite – but what do these mean and what do they offer? And how can a young Master Mason benefit by joining them?

The Deputy First Grand Principal of Royal Arch, M Ex Comp John Smith OSM MSA, decided that he would address the challenge and wrote a demonstration ritual which introduces Royal Arch to Masons who are not already RA members. On Wednesday 16 January, this was presented by Chapter de Goede Kaap to a significant gathering of interested Brethren.



Ex Comp Graham Symons welcomes the Provincial Officers

The ceremony is designed to answer certain questions which Brethren may have about the construction of King Solomon's Temple, the following destruction thereof by the Babylonians and the fate of its treasurers, the rebuilding of the second Temple thereafter and the discovery of the Master's word, which was lost with the death of Hiram Abiff. The presentation gives a brief taste of just a few of the most interesting experiences the Masonic traveler will be subjected to and the lessons that he will learn.

The Chapter de Goede Kaap event was attended by not only a number of interested Royal Arch and Craft Masons, but also by Provincial Grand Chapter, led by M Ex Comp Dawie van Rooyen as well as Grand Chapter led by M Ex Comp Brian Carstens.



*Back: M Ex Comps Walter Marcus (EC), Dawie van Rooyen (Grand Superintendent), Brian Carstens (Assistant 1st GP).
Front: M Ex Comp John Smith, Ex Comp Graham Symons, Comp Malcolm Gessler*

Almoner's Corner

It is with much sadness that we have to report the tragic passing of Bro Gerrard Foster (Star of the Rand) from a suspected heart attack. Gerrard had joined our Grand Lodge in 2018 and was still an Apprentice. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

Wor Bro Paul Nash (Star of the Rand) continues to recover from throat cancer, although his voice is still substantially weakened. Stay strong Paul!

Bro Rynhard Jansen van Rensburg a past member of Lodge Star of the West passed on to the Eternal East on 14 January. Our condolences to his family.

Southern's 2 cancer patients, Louise du Preez and Wor Bro Corrie Grobbelaar (Simon van der Stel) are still making steady progress. They both have great attitudes and are very positive about their challenges.

Bro Dawood Momla (Star of the Rand) is still waiting for a suitable liver donor and is frequently hospitalised due to toxicity.

RW Bro Kenny Manefeldt (de Goede Trouw) and Wor Bro Heinz Smekal (Hiram) continue to struggle with back problems and need our prayers.

Wor Bro Fred Kitching (AJ Haak), who has such a positive influence on his Lodge, is fighting cancer. He has already had a kidney removed, has severe pain in his shoulder and is undergoing chemotherapy to counter various other spots – but still visits whenever he can. Please keep this fine Mason in your prayers. He really is an example to all of the Brethren.

Bro Barney Fourie (Unie) has been in and out of hospital recently due to illness. "Vasbyt" Barney, we're hoping to see you at the Central AGM in March.

Wor Bro Dawie van Rooyen (de Goede Hoop) has had a hip replacement operation and is now at home and on the mend. He is also the Grand Superintendent of the Royal Arch (Southern Division), so we need him to make as quick a recovery as possible.

Bro Manny de Freitas (de Goede Hoop) went into hospital to have his sinuses attended to. Best of luck Manny, sinusitis is a really unpleasant ailment.

After a long fight with cancer, Bridget Benadie passed away at the end of January. Our sincere condolences are extended to Wor Bro Dennis Benadie (Simon van der Stel) and the family at this very difficult time. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Brethren, there are few roles in Freemasonry which are as important than that of the Almoner. He is our interface with the sick and needy and, if functioning effectively, really does make a major difference to our efforts to ensure that our Grand Lodge is seen as a genuinely caring organisation.

Our Provincial and Lodge Almoner's are urged to be proactive and to ensure that we, as Freemasons, reach and support all of our ailing Brethren and their families. If you know of anyone who could use our assistance, please advise the Grand Almoner so that we may encourage and support them as best we can.

If anything is known about a Brother in distress, please phone RW Bro Nuno Calvet at 083 5607838 or send him an email to nunocalvet@gmail.com

GrandView for Dummies

You are all extremely aware by now of our implementation of GrandView, a Masonic Membership Platform developed in the USA. The system now services 27 Jurisdictions with over 4,500 Lodges and 410,000 members. It has already proved of major benefit to the GLSA



as far as our administration is concerned - and the challenge now is to get more and more of our Brethren enjoying the Masonic benefits that GrandView offers.

In this brief article we will try to help you, as an individual Brother, to explore the information which is now available to you - but the first step is to make sure that you are registered on GrandView. Once you are, you may now log in regularly, by clicking on this link:

https://portal.grandlodge.co.za/users/sign_in

You then enter your unique password after which we suggest that you perform the following:

- Check all of your personal details, such as your name, address, contact nos, email address - and make any adjustments online.
- Update your partner / spouse's details.
- Include a photo - suitable .jpg of yourself.
- Review your Memberships, History and Offices and note any corrections needed. Send these in an email to your PGL Secretary and, after he has validated them, he will forward them to the Grand Secretary for updating.
- Click on "Home" at the top of your screen.
- You will now be given all the postings to GrandView in the most recent few weeks. Keep abreast of these as they will provide invaluable information for you. Check for any new updates on a regular basis.
- Click on "Resources" on right of screen.
- It shows "Candidate", "Entered Apprentice", "Fellowcraft" and "Master Mason" and you gain access to material for which you qualify.
- Under "Candidate", you will find the package given to all new GLSA applicants. Familiarise yourself with this, so that you are able to answer any questions that are put to you.
- Under each degree level you will find the latest version of the related Sections from the Book of Life. Make sure that you are familiar with this material. It is a Masonic gold mine that every single Brother should benefit from.
- Also on right, you will see "Masonic Exams". The Entered Apprentice Test has been loaded and you are welcome to try it. We are waiting, however, for the release of the assessment component so that we may implement it.
- Please be sure to forward us any questions.