

The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa. No. 89 June 2019



Most Worshipful Brother David Duncan OSM.

At My Initiation

Prior to my initiation I discovered, by accident, that a very close friend of mine was a Freemason. I knew very little about Freemasonry and we then spent many an hour discussing the precepts and concepts of the Order and the negative perceptions of it that existed in the outside world. I became interested as to how it worked; but he would not reveal any of the practical operations of the Order to me. The comment was; *“it will spoil your enjoyment of the initiation ceremony”*.

On the night of my initiation, we arrived early and I was taken to the Chamber of Preparation without seeing another soul. I was visited there by the Brethren who had interviewed me and they told me not to worry. *“Put your trust in the Brethren”*.

Up until then, I had not been worrying. Now I must put my trust in the Brethren! Who were they? I knew one well and a couple of others I had met on several occasions. Basic instinct kicked in and I must now make a choice between fight or flight.

I learned a valuable lesson that evening. Trust is something precious that is earned and my friend had done just that. Would he willingly expose me to danger? I trusted him, overcame my concerns and experienced a whole new world that opened up to me.

The Lodge was full, the ambiance electrifying and, as many of us have experienced, a number of friends and acquaintances, unknown to me as Brethren, were there to greet me into the Order. As for most of us, it was a bewildering experience that left more questions

than answers. Questions to which I will probably never, during the rest of my life, find the definitive answer. I have realised since my initiation that Freemasonry is a way of life. Our material life changes daily and what was relevant yesterday, may have no value today. The precepts and teachings of Freemasonry give me the moral foundation from which I can develop an understanding of what is happening around me without being judgemental.

As I studied the ritual in an attempt to understand what I had experienced, I found that the obligation I had taken before my Creator was deeply profound and represented a huge responsibility. I often wonder if all of our Brethren have understood how they promised to effect change in terms of their personal attitude and behaviour going forward from that moment. Have they ever re-visited that ritual in an attempt to understand?

We all rely on our Higher Being to guide and protect us during our daily lives; but can he TRUST us. Do we have the right to expect to be guided and protected whilst showing disrespect to the sacred obligation that we freely gave to him?

While Freemasonry is a voluntary organisation; being a Freemason has values and standards which are not negotiable. For me, the whole foundation of Freemasonry is encapsulated in the obligation in the First Degree. Maybe we should consider making the learning of that obligation one of the expectations that we have of every Brother. If he knows it word perfect, attempts to understand it and visits it regularly, he may well find it so much easier to truly be a Freemason in everything he does. Just a thought!

**MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM
Grand Master**

Wor Bro Godfrey Place new Northern PGM

After 2 years as Provincial Grand Master of Northern Division, RW Bro Peet Roos is now retiring and Wor Bro Godfrey Place will be installed as the new PGM at the July Annual Meeting.

Godfrey was initiated at Golden City in April 2007 and was installed as the Worshipful Master in 2013. He introduced the Burns Night fundraising events which ran from 2008 to 2014 and have since been run by Koh-I-Noor. Godfrey is of Scottish Ancestry and enjoys his connection to the Pipe Band fraternity. He moved to Prins Frederik in 2015 and was appointed as a PGL Officer in the same year. He was installed as an Assistant PGM in 2017 and spent a year in this role.





At the Brixton 790 RA Chapter 23 working in Nigel are MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM (4L); MEC Johan Britz (5L) and the various Companions who participated in the Royal Arch working at this unique Masonic facility.

Finding the Lost Word

Freemasonry did not suddenly appear but is the accumulation, over years and generations, of the input of qualified people who wanted to maintain and store the valuable knowledge, learned and accumulated.

When Speculative Free Masonry emerged in the 1700s it was a collection of ideas passed down by Operative Masons that was waiting to be unravelled and presented to enquiring minds. That knowledge was channelled into distinct directions or degrees, so as to introduce the concepts and traditions awaiting new candidates as they moved “from darkness into light”.

The 3 degrees of Craft Masonry take a candidate just so far in his quest for knowledge and he must now progress to obtain further knowledge. The next step in the quest to find “the Word“ is taught in the Royal Arch degrees. The Exaltation into the Royal Arch degree is full of symbolism and a focal point in the ceremony is the finding of the Word in a long-lost Vault or Crypt.

Up to the beginning of the 20th Century, many Masonic Lodges were built with a Crypt or Vault for this ceremony but,



sadly, the specially designed Temples have almost all vanished. The 100 year old Nigel Temple is now a rare example.



On Saturday 11th May, 2 Brethren had the privilege of
 Bro Ross Hemingway, MEZ Marianus de Jager and Bro Duncan Kotze

being Exalted into the Degree of the Royal Arch by Brixton 790 RA Chapter No 23 at the Nigel Temple. Bros Duncan Kotze and Ross Hemmingway of Horeb and Brixton Chapters respectively were the fortunate candidates. The ceremony was conducted with dignity and in accordance with our antient teachings – and the candidates were inevitably most impressed by it all.

Brother welcomes his Uncle as his Brother

On Tuesday 28th May, Lodge Star of the West had a 1st Degree Working in Klerksdorp.

Bro Douglas Sansom was initiated into the Lodge with Wor Bro Robert Thomsen in the chair. The Lodge also felt extremely privileged to have 2 visiting presiding Worshipful Masters in attendance, namely Wor Bros Gerald Bosch from Lodge Orange in Rustenberg and Donovan Le Roux from Parys.

Star of the West's new Apprentice was introduced to the Lodge by his nephew, Wor Bro Gerald Bosch - and Wor Bro Bosch was afforded the honour of performing his Uncle's obligation with him.



The Lodge also had visiting Brethren from Lodges Royal Albert (EC), Bloemhof-Fontein (SC) and Parys, MW Pretorius and Orange. Being a country Lodge, the number of attendees was much welcomed and, at the end of it all, the Past Master's commended the younger Brethren on a job extremely well done..

“In the middle of every difficulty lies an opportunity.”
 Albert Einstein

RW Bro Keith Hutton's Turkish Adventure

A few weeks ago the Grand Lodge of Turkey invited us to attend their Annual Communication - and RW Bro Keith Hutton was duly selected to represent us. To say that he gained a great deal from the experience doesn't describe his visit. It was much better than that!

RW Bro Hutton was met at the airport and whisked through to his hotel. After a suitably relaxing day, he and his partner and the various other foreign guests, including Cape Town's Wor Bro Edgar Baron and his wife, were taken through to the Lodge in Istanbul for a "meet and greet" cocktail party. Much Masonic matter was discussed and new friendships established. Gifts were exchanged and the Turkish Grand Master was delighted with the beautiful teak carving of an elephant's head presented to him by RW Bro Hutton on behalf of the GLSA.

The following morning all the foreign guests were taken on a historical tour of the city, which included a boat ride on the Bosphorus. After this it was lunch at a top class restaurant where RW Bro Hutton and his partner were seated with the Grand Masters of Germany, Poland and the Netherlands and their wives - and after lunch it was back to the Hotel for the Annual Communication.

In line with Masonic protocol, some 50 foreign Grand Lodges were received in order of their seniority



MW Bro Akkan (Turkey).



RW Bro Hutton, the GM of Morocco and Wor Bro Edgar Baron

(oldest to newest) and RW Bro Hutton was seated between Israel and Belgium. Of the 5 African delegations present South Africa was the most senior.

There were approximately 700 Brethren at the extremely well run and impressive meeting. While some of the ceremony was similar to our own way of doing things, other parts were very different and it really was interesting to see it all.

The weekend's activities ended with a memorable Gala Dinner and Keith had the pleasure of sharing a table with Turkish Grand Secretary, RW Bro Selim Ors, and his wife Dalik. Overall, it really had been a special weekend and RW Bro Ors had played a leading role in ensuring that everybody was quite so well looked after, so sitting with him meant much to our contingent.

As they bade farewell to all their new friends, the South Africans could not help but ponder on the true length of the Brother Chain which really does extend right around the world.

These visits are extremely important to the GLSA as they both expose our Brethren to new experiences and strengthen our international standing.

A Heart-Warming story from Koh-I-Noor

Little Kiana Davids was born in September 2018 to overjoyed parents, Karlen and Kaylam. However, their worlds were rocked just over a month ago when Kiana was diagnosed with a Congenital Heart Defect (CHD), presenting features of cardiac failure due to having large holes in the walls separating her heart chambers.

Kiana's case was critical and life-saving surgery was urgent. Several parties came together to make this miracle happen, and Kiana successfully underwent her operation on Tuesday 9th April, 2019.

Lodge Koh-I-Noor members Bro Willem Oberholzer and RW Bro Brandon Topham serve as Trustees of The Maboneng Foundation which, assisted by a variety of



donors, such as the Lodge, make this type of surgery possible. When the foundation got an urgent call for funding on a Friday morning, it was just a week later, with all necessary funds raised, that Kiana had her life-saving surgery.

We are proud to be involved with the work which The Maboneng Foundation is doing. They help alleviate the heart-ache of families who have a child suffering with this life-threatening heart condition, and provide a second chance at life to babies born with CHD.

Statistically, Kiana is 1 of 100 South African children born with CHD every year - and they all deserve a second chance. If any Lodge or Brother can help fund future operations, please contact Koh-I-Noor.

The "Mampoer Festival" story continues

On Saturday 1st June 2019, Lodge Star of the West continued their tradition of selling sosaties at the local "Mampoer Festival". Thankfully the morning wasn't too cold and the event proved to be a most successful one. The stock of 150 sosaties was sold out by 12:30 pm and R3,000.00 was raised for the Lodge.

These events are so much more than fund-raisers, however, they are also great team builders. The Lodge's new Apprentice, Bro Douglas Sansom was quickly put to work with the assistance of the legendary Past Masters, Wor Bros Ronnie Horn and Martin Prinsloo, while Wor Bro Rob Thomsen and Bros Nolan Bruwer and Pieter Roos were also there to play their part.



Douglas Sansom, Ronnie Horn, Pieter Roos, Robert Thomsen, Nolan Bruwer and Martin Prinsloo

Almoner's Corner

We were much saddened to hear of the passing of Wor Bro Eugene Slabbert (Senekal) to the Eternal East. Eugene was a committed and dedicated Brother who, as Grand Architect, fulfilled his duties with zeal and devotion. Our thoughts and prayers are with Betsy and the family at this time.



May also saw Wor Bro Yme de Groot (Makalani) called to higher service and our deepest condolences are extended to his family and all those who loved him.

Thirdly, we were shocked to hear of the tragic drowning of Tshibwabwa Kamba (Marina) while swimming off a KwaZulu Natal beach. He was an enthusiastic young Apprentice whose Masonic journey had hardly even started. Once again, our thoughts are with his family and loved ones.

Our condolences are also extended to the families of Wor Bro Danny Retief (de Goede Hoop) who lost his sister and Bro Hendrik Dreyer (Star of the East) who lost his mother. May your memories keep you strong.

We are pleased to report that RW Bro Piet Roos' daughter has finally had her kidney transplant and is making excellent progress, getting stronger by the day.

Wor Bro Fred Kitching (AJ Haak) advises me that his latest scans were very positive and that it's time that we stopped worrying about him. That's great news!

Wor Bro Corrie Grobelaar (Simon van der Stel) continues to fight his cancer. He is experiencing a lot of pain and he and Dalene need to be kept in our prayers.

Our back pain victims, Wor Bros Heinz Smekal (Hiram) and Ken Manefeldt (de Goede Trouw) continue to battle along bravely. Heinz is also being treated for cancer - please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

Wor Bro Hannes Jonker (Prins Frederik) has been in hospital but is thankfully now recovering at home.

Wor Bro Ken Marcus (Isandlwana) continues to recover from his badly broken leg. He is now getting around on crutches and making good progress. We expect this to be the last time we mention him here!

Wor Bro Marius Beyleveld (De Vereeniging) has Parkinson's disease but we are assured that he is responding well to the medication he is taking.

Wor Bro Koos Snyman (Johan van Riebeeck) is one of Southern Division's "revered elder statesmen". He is due to start radiation therapy and he and Louise are very much in our thoughts and prayers.

There are also a significant number of Brethren who have been challenged by such winter ailments as

flu and bronchitis. Look after yourselves, Brethren, each and every one of you is very important to us!

If anything is known about a Brother in distress, please ensure that your Divisional Almoner is aware of him:

Southern	Wor Bro Cobis Wilson	083 2844684
Northern	Wor Bro Simon Nash	082 4148604
Central	Wor Bro Johnny Cambanis	083 9865397
Eastern	Wor Bro Johan v d Merwe	083 3010219
E Cape	Wor Bro Roy Handley	082 8625804

A Masonic visit in Greece

Wor Bro Evangelos Doucas is, as his name would suggest, of Greek origins - and he loves going "home" for a visit. This year he and Bro Enrico Calandro (both of de Goede Hoop) spent a few days there and, while in Athens, attended a local Lodge. They were the guests of MW Bro Dimitrios Kontessis, a Past Grand Master of



Greece and Honorary member of the GLSA. In the picture, Enrico and Evangelos are seen with MW Bro Kontessis during a ceremony on a yacht.

AASR launch the new 18th Degree

For some time now the AASR for South Africa has been investigating the possibility of introducing a new 18th degree ritual. The version that has been used since the Supreme Council's inception, while a beautiful degree in many ways, was somewhat out of line with the rest of the world standards and, like it or not, was seen as religiously unpalatable by some Brethren.

The new ritual is based on the Netherlandic Supreme Council offering and it has taken many months of preparation to reach the point of delivery. At a recent Chapter Eendracht Maak Magt working the new 18th degree ritual was launched with 5 Brethren being raised to Knights of the Rose Croix. Thanks are extended to all members of the AASR of South Africa who made it all possible by participating in this process.

The new working is a spectacular one and very different from anything done before, with special lighting effects leaving an indelible impression. The ritual will be rolled out over the next 2 years until all Chapters are delivering the new working.

The 5 new Knights of the Rose Croix were suitably impressed by the profound nature of the working



AASR Brethren at the launch of the new 18th degree with Sovereign Grand Commander, MP Boet du Plessis, 2nd row 3R.