

The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa. No. 97 February 2020



Most Worshipful Brother David Duncan OSM.

Is the receipt of Brotherly Love a right?

“Truth, Morality and Brotherly Love” are the founding principles of Freemasonry and are supported by Relief and Tolerance. Do we practice them and how?

Many believe that we live in a social society that has lost its moral compass and is seriously sick. There are so many negatives, that a detailed study of what is going on around us can be most depressing.

We feel powerless to make a difference at the macro level and so attempt to regulate our lives as individuals at the micro level. This usually is based at family level and extends into our social circle of friends and close neighbours.

As Freemasons we are fortunate, because we have a wide range of friends and close neighbours in the Order. We attempt to regulate our Masonic micro environment on the above principles and have to deal sympathetically with those who disrupt the peace of our society. Remember this part of the ritual?

The way in which we handle these disruptions is very important, as every action has a reaction and the consequences of a negative reaction are often uncontrollable. Most of the issues that arise in our Order are not caused by the actual misdemeanour, but by the way we react to it.

The strength of the Order comes from the union of individuals who are acting together towards a common goal. For a Freemason, one of those goals is peace and harmony within the Order. When disruptions occur, the reaction must always be positive if the Order is to

survive. We have all experienced Lodges that have closed because of personal politics. These squabbles have disrupted the Lodge to such an extent that the Brethren who were not directly involved have left to find peace and harmony elsewhere. The politics were most probably based on abuse of power. Did the disruptive members achieve what they wanted when there was no longer a Lodge to preside over?

As Freemasons we would all love to see our Order as a place of perfect harmony. I am sure that all of us wake up each morning with an intention of making it so. We do this by confirming our resolve to live by the principles of Truth, Morality and Brotherly Love. We start our day with the intention of spreading kindness and light to whomever may need it. As in the parable of the Sower, and on a good day, we will fail as often as we succeed. But should this dent our enthusiasm? Freemasonry is all about giving and through the giving of ourselves for no material gain, we grow in the knowledge of ourselves. As the knowledge of our self grows, so we become better men.

Many of us have heard the question posed in the title of this article many times. As a Freemason, are we ENTITLED to receive Brotherly Love? Should every Brother spend his time making contact and empathising with another Brother? It would be wonderful if it was this way. But is it practical or realistic?

We always inform our potential Candidates that the order of priority in our lives is: the Creator, our Family, our economic support system, and then Freemasonry. Every Brother has his priorities in life and I am sure that every one of us has challenges occurring on a daily basis. Do we really expect that it is the duty of every Brother in the Order to offer their support when none has been requested? How does this information system work? How would I know?

No Brethren, Brotherly Love is earned. By interacting with Brethren on a regular basis, not (cont'd)

VW Bro Frans Appelgryn new PGM of Central

RW Bro Cor van Zyl will be stepping down as the PGM of Central Division and will be replaced by the Deputy PGM, VW Bro Frans Appelgryn. The Grand Master will perform the installation on Saturday 7th March 2020 at the Spitskop Bloemfontein Masonic Centre.

Frans has some 36 years Masonic experience and has long been a stalwart of the Central Division. He is an active RA Provincial Grand Chapter Officer and is a 33^o in the AASR.



(cont'd) just through Facebook, and behaving as caring Freemasons, we will reap the product of what we sow. Then, when we face challenges, we will find Brotherly Love being shown. Brotherly Love that is positive and creative and not just passive by way of perceived duty.

In my opinion, no Brother has the right to demand Brotherly Love. Love is something freely given, never demanded. It saddens me greatly when I hear laments in Lodge that no Brotherly Love is being shown when the Brother complaining is possibly the worst offender.

Brethren, I agree that we must practice what we preach, but we must be realistic as well. If we do not give, on what moral basis can we demand to receive?

When the above lamentation is made in public, it is sad that the Brother often forgets or is oblivious to the outpouring of Brotherly Love that he receives at that time. If the comment he made could be considered as "unmasonic conduct" and therefore worthy of a disciplinary procedure, he will be relying on the Brotherly Love of his Brethren to help him see the error of his ways before such action takes place. If he is a true Freemason, he will listen and then scrutinise what he has done. He will then make urgent reparations to rescue himself from the consequences of his ill-considered statements. He will be relying on the Brotherly Love shown as tolerance to the failings of a Brother. This is true Brotherly Love. The receipt of tolerance and forgiveness when you hit a bump in the road to self-knowledge.

**MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM
Grand Master**

Northern Division's Active Holiday Season!

December / January are traditionally quiet months for the GLSA Lodges - but this is certainly not the case in Northern Division. During these months they had Installations at Koh-I-Noor, Sonop and Trichardt, held a number of degree workings at their different Lodges and still found time for charitable and other activities.

In this article we cover a selection of their recent events and trust that you will find them interesting.



Worshipful Master. He is seen being congratulated by the Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Godfrey Place.

During the past few months the Grand Master has presented a number of 25 year pins. The time came when he earned one of his own and is pictured here being "pinned" by Northern Division PGM, RW Bro Godfrey Place.



With a total of 59 members, Koh-I-Noor is the largest Lodge in the GLSA. At the beginning of December they had the Installation and Wor Bro Ignatius Muthien was installed as their



RW Bro Godfrey Place (centre) visited Libertas and presented 25 year pins to Wor Bro Hannes Breedt, RW Bro Johan Britz, Wor Bro Martin Kotze and Wor Bro Steynberg de Kock. All of these Brethren have contributed much to their Lodge over the years.



Koh-I-Noor recently raised Bro Ernst Botha (3L) to Master Mason. Attending the event were Friendship's RW Bro Alan van der Vyver, RW Bro Godfrey Place, Wor Bro Reyaan Uys, Wor Bro Simon Nash and Wor Bro Norman Smithies who also received his 25 year pin during the course of the evening.



Seen at the Trichardt Installation are 2 of Northern's hardest working members, Wor Bros Tony Bosman, Assistant PGM, and Simon Nash, Deputy PGM.

Wor Bro Ronnie Horn is one of Star of the West's true stalwarts and the PGM, RW Bro Godfrey Place, was delighted to have the opportunity of presenting him with his 25 year pin during the course of a double 2nd degree working.



AASR Central Division Install their new Consistory and Chapter Heads.



At the end of November last year, the AASR's Central Division met in Senekal for the Installation of the Division's Consistory and Chapter. Ill Bro Marcel de Kock (front L) was installed as the Eminent Commander of Consistory Unie, while Ill Bro Jan Coetzee (middle R) was installed as Most Wise Sovereign of Chapter Vrystaat. The meeting was completed, as always, with a special festive board. M Ill Bro Cor van Zyl (4F), ESGIG of the Central Division, and MP Bro Boet du Plessis (5F), Sovereign Grand Commander, both added lustre to an already memorable occasion.

Friendship Honour their Promise

On Saturday 25th January, Lodge Friendship, represented by their WM, Wor Bro Stephane Mabiala, gave 3 electric cooking pots to Thato Ke Matla Orphanage and Safety, which is located in Orange Farm. This was to honour a promise made at the "Christmas Gift Presentation" in November 2019.



The Donation was received by Disebo and she and her team could not hide their

appreciation for Friendship's generous support.

The Lodge seems to have adopted this worthy cause and are to be complimented on their efforts.

RA Past 1st Grand Principal gets 25 year Award!

Those of you who have been around a while will remember RW Bro Piet Naude MSA as a very dedicated and knowledgeable Royal Arch 1st Grand Principal.

Time has, of course, moved on and it is now some 14 years since RW Bro Naude headed the GLSA's Royal Arch section, but he is still a very committed Mason who is always worth listening to. In our picture, MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM presents RW Bro Piet Naude MSA with a 25 year pin – but in just 2 years he'll qualify for a 50 year award.,



Westerford's 3rd Degree Working

Westerford has a reputation for being a strong ritual Lodge – and this was demonstrated in an excellent 3rd degree working for Bro Al'Oret Pukuta.

Al'Oret is a fine ritualist in his own right and he'll soon make a very real 3rd degree contribution.



Helping to Look After Dylan

Life has dealt young Dylan some really cruel blows. He has a medical condition that prevents him from digesting food properly and, as a result, he has to be fed every 2 hours day and night. The medical costs are horrendous!

The GLSA Masons are assisting the family where they can and the R10 000 recently raised by Bro Marco Petronio is an excellent example.



Almoner's Corner

Sadly, the recent past has seen another 2 of our GLSA Brethren called to the Eternal East.

Bro Dirk Raave (Meerensee) passed away after complications arising from an operation. Our condolences are extended to those near and dear to him.

Wor Bro Alex Thomson (Star of the East) has lost his battle with his recent health challenges and, while his passing is not a great surprise, he will be sorely missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

RW Bro Cedric Moroukian (Cape Town) is having a couple of heart procedures done but seems fairly relaxed about it all. Hang tough, Setty, you're important to us and we need you to be strong again.

Congratulations to Bro Gert van Wyk (de Morgenster) and his wife Simone on their beautiful new baby daughter.

Wor Bro Robbie Verheijen (Dromedaris) is having a series of eye operations to remove cataracts and is inevitably feeling a little out of sorts right now.

Wor Bro Rodney Schreuder (Neerlandia), Eastern's fine Secretary, is making good progress after his recent prostrate treatment. As always, he's very cheerful and you wouldn't know that there'd been any sort of a problem.

Wor Bro Fred Kitching (AJ Haak) has been in and out of hospital with his cancer challenges but, while it keeps him out of Lodge, he still remains positive.

Wor Bro Heinz Smekal (Hiram), after his fight against cancer, had a hip replaced and it slipped out again when he got home. It sounds like he's making progress right now, but please keep him in your prayers.

If you know of a Brother in distress, please advise your Divisional Almoner. We are Masons – and we all care!

Southern Wor Bro Cobis Wilson	083 2844684
Northern Wor Bro Reuven Coenen	071 6120577
Central Wor Bro Johnny Cambanis	083 9865397
Eastern Wor Bro Johan v d Merwe	083 3010219
E Cape Wor Bro Ian Hetherington	082 9545297

The Builders

I watched them tear a building down.
A gang of men in a busy town.
With a ho heave ho and a lusty yell.
They swung a beam and the sides all fell.

I asked the foreman "are these men skilled?
Are they the kind you would hire if you had to build?"
And he gave me a laugh and said
"No indeed, just common labour is all we need.

I can easily wreck in a day or two,
What other builders have taken a year to do"
And I thought to myself as I went my way
"Which of these roles have I tried to play?"

Am I a builder that works with care?
Measuring life by the rule and square.
Am I shaping my deeds to a well-made plan,
patiently doing the best I can?

Or am I a wrecker who walks the town,
content with the labour of tearing down.

Lunch with Bro Gary Hendricks

In November 2018 Bro Gary Hendricks was initiated into Lodge Simon van der Stel and quickly demonstrated his enthusiasm for our Order. He visited whenever he had the chance, took part in the Inter-Constitutional Olympics and always assisted in his Lodge's charitable initiatives.

Recently, Gary introduced his own Charity initiative and he and his team of helpers now provide lunch every Sunday to some of the poor people in Observatory.



As things have progressed, other members of the Lodge have joined in and, inevitably, more and more people are turning up to enjoy the lunch. It's turned into quite a significant project – but Gary and his team are just having fun and setting a fine example to all of us.



Wor Bro Jan Venter, Bro Gary Hendricks, Wor Bro Koos du Preez

GrandView New Releases

On a regular basis we release new items of interest on to our GrandView platform – and this is going to increase during the months that lie ahead. In 2020 thus far, we have made the following material available:

- Address "Brotherly Love" - Tony Bosman;
- Lodge Directory with all Masters and Secretaries;
- Toespraak "Berei vir die Stoel Voor" – Tony Bosman;
- Square and Compasses No 96 – January 2020;
- Toespraak "n Daad van Liefdadigheid" – T Bosman;
- Paper "A Personal Awakening" Andrew Randston;
- GLSA Year Book : 2018;
- Square and Compasses No 97 – February 2020.

All of these are easily accessible by logging into GrandView on your computer or via the mobile App.