

The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa. No. 117 October 2021



Most Worshipful Brother John Smith OSM MSA.

Freemasonry and the Future

At the recent installation in Richards Bay KZN of RW Bro Johan van der Merwe as the Provincial Grand Master of our Eastern Division, I was introduced to a member who was initiated a few years ago. When I enquired from him whether he was enjoying his Masonic journey, he not only assured me that he was but he also informed me that his life partner and their young family tell all with whom they socialise how Freemasonry has changed his life and, indirectly, their lives as well. In his own words, he said that he has become less cynical, more patient and a huge believer in Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

In a recent survey conducted in America amongst several thousand Freemasons and non-Freemasons, it was found that Freemasonry typically includes five generations, namely the Silent Generation being men born between 1925 and 1945, the Baby Boomers (1946 – 1964), Generation X (1965 – 1980), the Millennials (1981 – 1996) and Generation Z (1997 – 2012). It also found that more than 80% of the non-Freemasons who participated therein had heard about Freemasonry but did not really know what our fundamental tenets are. Notwithstanding this, they were interested in joining an organisation which promotes charity, fraternity, selfless giving and high moral values and strives to make one a better person and thereby help to improve the quality of life for others in the world around them.

Despite the fact that Millennials, for example, want to trust brands, institutions and people and regularly use modern technology to first verify whether those entities

or persons will meet their expectations, the values common to all these generations include integrity, justice, tolerance, equality, service to others, caring for each other and reverence to God. While the Covid pandemic and its Worldwide consequences has presented many challenges, it has also been a blessing for Freemasonry, as more people are now seeking, in addition to these values, a real human connection, which Freemasonry can and does provide. As we live in a highly sophisticated technological World, we must therefore utilise this technology to not only promote our core values but also to increase our focus on our fundamental caring for each other.

The objectives of the Grand Lodge of South Africa include encouraging all free-thinking men who wish to and who may already contribute to peaceful and poverty free communities to become members of our Order. We must also continue to encourage our own members in general and each other in particular to adopt high moral and ethical values in our daily lives and to expand on and improve our spiritual growth and to share this with our families, our friends, our work colleagues, our Brethren and, indeed, with all persons with whom we come into contact on a daily basis.

The Covid pandemic has adversely affected many people and there is no greater power, no greater achievement and no greater honour than to restore hope and dignity to persons in need. Let us remember that our aim is to build a multi-cultural brotherhood of good men who practice brotherly love, charity and truth and who are united in the enhancement of wisdom, high moral standards and justice for all persons. It is therefore clear that Freemasonry is more relevant today than it has ever been and it is our duty to promote our fundamental tenets whenever and wherever we can and so continue making the World a better place for all. Next month I will be in Berlin where I will be attending the 17th World conference of Masonic Grand Lodges. The agenda includes topics relating to our World in the future with or without Freemasonry. It is quite obvious that we must be the change which we wish to see in the World and I will remind the delegates that our future depends on what we do today. I believe that we must be more than just men, we must be Freemasons!

**MW Bro John Smith OSM MSA
Grand Master**

The weekend in Richards Bay was at the BON Hotel overlooking the waterfront and the Installation with nautical scenery as a backdrop was very special. A quotation on the wall though, also caught our attention:

**The Man who is doing the Rowing
Doesn't have time to rock the Boat!**



The Grand Master, MW Bro John Smith OSM MSA, the Deputy GM, RW Bro Brandon Topham, the Assistant GMs, RW Bros Alan van der Vyver and Alf Brönnner, Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Frans Appelgryn, Grand Lodge and PGL Officers, members of Lodges de Morgenster and Senekal and various visiting guests.

De Morgenster celebrates 150 years

If there's one thing that the GLSA Grand Master, MW Bro John Smith OSM MSA, really enjoys, it's celebrating special occasions. In 2020, GLSA's No 9 Lodge, de Morgenster (Kroonstad), turned 150 years old. Due to Covid we couldn't recognise the big date at the time, but on Saturday 2 October the Grand Master and his Officers more than made up for this.

The day began at 11 am with the Losie Senekal Installation. The ceremony was in the hands of Wor Bro Jan Coetzee and the PGL team and Wor Bro Thomas McArdle was installed for another term.

At 1 pm it was time for the much looked forward to Rededication Ceremony. This was well performed by the Grand Master and his Grand Lodge team. We then had the re-Installation of Wor Bro Marius Kapp as the Worshipful Master and Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Frans Appelgryn, and his PGL team performed the ceremony with aplomb as they went about their tasks.

The festive board was an excellent way to round off a very special day. As always, the food was good,



Wor Bro Alan MacGillivray arrives in style

the company was excellent, the Brethren really enjoyed being together again and all present agreed that justice had been done to a very important



The Grand Master addresses the Brethren Lodge milestone

As we reopen our Lodges, there is much planned. We have Installed a new PGM, are consecrating a new Lodge and have other events to look forward to. May they all be as memorable as the day in Kroonstad.

Star of the Rand's new Apprentice

On 19 October Bro Ben Clarke was welcomed by 10 Apprentices, 4 Fellowcrafts and 12 Master Masons



The visiting Prins Frederik delegation comprised of Bros Tshepo, Zaheer, Charles, Gerhard and Brad. with RW Bro Alan van der Vyver and Bro Eric Houniet.

when he was initiated into Star of the Rand. In a meeting held under the Covid protocols, Ben had Assistant GM, RW Bro Alan van der Vyver, and Deputy PGM, VW Bro Simon Nash, participate in the working and 2 Assistant PGMs in the Lodge, with an official visit from Prins Fredrick to add to the decorum.

RA Chapter de Goede Kaap gets a flying start

After a Covid induced lack of physical activity, the Companions of Royal Arch Chapter de Goede Kaap restarted with a real flurry of activity. On Wednesday 20 October, they advanced Bros Avron Lucas and Alfie van der Westhuizen, both of de Goede Trouw, to the degree of Mark Master Mason. EC Cobis Wilson was in the chair and he was ably assisted by the Brethren of the Chapter in the performance of an excellent working.

They also welcomed Comp Alex Costopolous, an Affiliating Companion from the English Constitution.



Comp Alfie van der Westhuizen, EC Cobis Wilson, Comps Avron Lucas, Alex Costopolous and Corne Burger.

Father helps Son become his Brother

Lodge Jeffrey's Bay was constituted in the Parliament Street Temple in Port Elizabeth on 26 June and will be consecrated on 6 November. They are a new Lodge - but they are already making great progress.



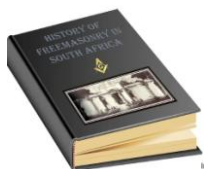
RW Bro Keith Hutton and his PGL Officers with the Brethren of Lodge Jeffrey's Bay

They have already had their Installation, initiated several new Apprentices and are generally setting an extremely high standard for others to follow.

In a recent meeting, Wor Bro Hendrick Rademeyer had the very special privilege of assisting with the initiation of his son into Freemasonry. Bro Schalk, every single one of us who has a son can envisage how you and your Dad must have felt. Enjoy the memory - and, indeed, every precious Masonic moment that you are blessed to share.



The Heritage Book - place your Order now!



In 2022, South African Freemasonry celebrates its 250th birthday. To mark this event, we are publishing a Heritage Book summarising our history across all Constitutions and Divisions. The A4 book will be published in hard cover and leather bound versions and only pre-ordered and paid for books will be printed. To reserve your Collector's Item, click on:

[Purchase the Heritage Book](#)

Westerford initiate new Apprentice

Being very aware of the fact that there are many, many good men out there who see, or would see, if they were given half a chance, joining our Order as a life-changing possibility, RW Bro Tommy Hardiman initiated a social media campaign to identify them and put us in touch with each other. The campaign has proved a great success and our new Bro Vincent Pienaar of Westerford is a fine example of our new recruits. Vincent is a mature, balanced person with a successful track record and Freemasonry will have a real impact on his life.



New Eastern Division PGM is Installed

Those of you who travel Masonically will relate to my comment that our Order really does come up with some unforgettable weekends. Eastern Division, on the 23 October, produced just such a memorable weekend.

It all started with the planning of the Meerensee Installation in Richard's Bay. This was scheduled to be a Grand Lodge call-out with the Grand Master in attendance. It then progressed to include the Installation of the new PGM, RW Bro Johan van der Merwe. As most of the senior Officers were going to be in Richard's Bay anyway, why not have both events on the same day. Problem was that the Temple wasn't going to be big enough, especially under Covid rules.

No problem, RW Bro Frans Roodt came to the rescue and we decided to have both celebrations at the BON Hotel on the Waterfront. The agenda was hectic, but who can ever forget sitting in Masonic workings against a beautiful seafront backdrop. It was surreal!

The afternoon began with the Installation of the new Provincial Grand Master by the Grand Master. After disinvesting RW Bro Basil de Kock (r) and having thanked him for his efforts, MW Bro John Smith (c) and his team gave a fine performance as they duly installed RW Bro Johan van der Merwe (l) as the new Provincial Grand Master. In his opening address, the new PGM outlined his exciting plans.



After a short break, which would have been much shorter if there wasn't so much catching up to be done, RW Bro van der Merwe and his team set about installing Wor Bro Bill Murphy as the new Master of Meerensee. The outgoing Master, Wor Bro Ike Ezejudi provided a most inspiring valedictory report on his 3 years in office and the PGM's address also provided plenty of food for thought. Wor Bro Murphy is a skilled and experienced Mason and the Lodge has every right to be optimistic about the future.



Wor Bros Bill Murphy and Ike Ezejudi (1 & 2 right) with Brethren of Lodge Meerensee

The evening saw BON Hotel serving a splendid festive board - and the laughter and happy buzz of conversation said it all. What a special weekend!

Introducing the Provincial Grand Masters

The Richards Bay Installation means we have a change in our PGMs team. Here is the updated team.



RW Bros Johan van der Merwe (Eastern), Frans Appelgryn (Central), Keith Hutton (Eastern Cape), MW Bro John Smith OSM MSA (Grand Master), RW Bros Tommy Hardiman (Southern), Godfrey Place (Northern)

Almoner's Report

We were saddened by the passing of Wor Bro Albert Sadie (de Goede Trouw) after a difficult battle with cancer and related problems. Our condolences are extended to Trudy and the family.

Covid updates are still filtering through on a regular basis and it was with much sadness that we received news of the passing of 2 no longer active Brethren. Wor Bro Ian Cairncross (de Goede Hoop) was a popular member of his Lodge while Bro Andre Moolman (Brits) will also be missed. Our condolences are extended to their families and those close to them.

Bro Dawie van der Merwe (Meerensee) is fully recovering after an operation for prostate cancer. He sent me an email in which he talks in glowing terms of how his Brother (and Doctor), RW Bro Frans Roodt, saved his life. I just love these stories!

Wor Bro Jan Venter's (Johan van Riebeeck) wife, Louise, has been in hospital for a back operation but I'm assured she is making positive progress. Louise does a great deal for Freemasonry and it really is appreciated.

Wor Bro Henry Selzer's (First United) has also been in hospital and is making a steady recovery. Please keep her, and all of our Masonic families, in your thoughts and prayers. They are so very important to us.

Wor Bros Rodney Schreuder (Neerlandia) and Hannes Jonker (AJ Haak), both Grand Lodge Officers, have been through a challenging time health-wise and are in our thoughts and prayers. Be well soon, Brethren.

Brethren, there's inevitably other cases we should be including, so please keep us updated on your Divisions.

If anything is known about a Brother in distress, please share it with your Divisional Almoner.

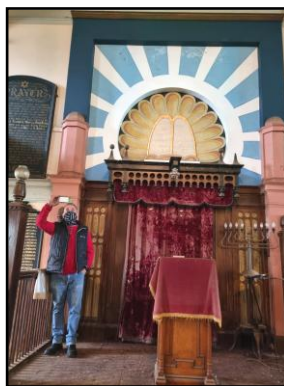
Southern	Wor Bro Cobis Wilson	083 2844684
Northern	Wor Bro Paul Nash	083 3774843
Central	Wor Bro Johnny Cambanis	083 9865397
Eastern	Wor Bro Marais Viljoen	083 4413670
E Cape	Wor Bro Ian Hetherington	082 9545297

Eastern Cape's proposed new Temple

RW Bro Keith Hutton and the Brethren of the Eastern Cape Division are more than excited right now. After years of having to be accommodated in various facilities they have found a place which they are hoping to be able to call their own. The building which they are looking to purchase was formerly a Synagogue and then the Pioneer's Jewish Cultural Museum. It was first consecrated in 1912, has a number of beautiful architectural features and the basic layout is ideal for conversion to a very special Masonic Temple.



The Temple has installed seating on both sides and plenty of floor space for ceremonial activities. Some minor modifications will be needed, but the amount of work will be more than manageable. It stands on a sizeable property and is surrounded by lawns.



Friendship install new Master

On Wednesday 27 October Wor Bro Jean Donald Taladazi was installed as the new Worshipful Master of Lodge Friendship. The Installation ceremony was performed by Assistant PGM, Wor Bro Alex Ndubuisi,



Wor Bros Ian Huntly, Jean Donald Taladzi and Stephane Soami Mabala

the Board of Installed Masters by the Deputy PGM, VW Bro Simon Nash and the Deputy Grand Master, RW Bro Brandon Topham, led Grand Lodge.

Due load shedding the working was conducted by torch and candle-light, but I am assured that this only enhanced the evening's ambience.