

The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa. No. 118 November 2021



Most Worshipful Brother John Smith OSM MSA.

The Consecration of a new Lodge

It is important to understand the significance of the Consecration ceremony of a new Masonic Lodge and the symbolic use of the various elements employed therein. According to Mackey's Jurisprudence of Freemasonry new Lodges have, from the earliest times, been consecrated to the purpose for which they have been formed. By this act, the Lodge is set apart for the cultivation of the great tenets of Freemasonry. The word consecration is understood today to have a religious connotation, but it originally had a much wider meaning, namely to be dedicated to a moral and spiritual purpose. The consecration of a Lodge is thus the traditional ceremony that activates the Lodge and firmly links its labours and its members to the Glory of the GAOTU and its usefulness in society. Prior to the formation of the Grand Lodge of England in 1717, Masonic Lodges existed and held meetings without a Charter or a Warrant. The granting of Lodge Charters thereafter became a very significant event and while it always remains property of the issuing Grand Lodge, the Charter today contains the names of the Lodge's founder members and of the first Presiding Master and the Wardens and it is the very cement which binds the founder members and the Grand Lodge together.

The first reference to the word "Lodge" did not refer to a building, but rather to the members of the Lodge and while the members will change with the passage of time, the Lodge will always exist as it is consecrated to the service of the GAOTU and to mankind. We read in the book of Chronicles in the VSL

that King Solomon requested King Hiram of Tyre to send him cedar, pine and algum logs to build the Temple in Jerusalem and he offered corn, wine and oil as payment for this material. From the earliest times, the symbolic wages of corn, wine and oil have therefore been used in the consecration of Masonic Lodges. Corn is associated with nourishment, wine with refreshment and oil with peace and joy and these elements are, to Freemasons, a threefold representation of the Divine blessings from the GAOTU to the members who comprise the Lodge, both at the time of its consecration and throughout the years of its existence. It has therefore become accepted that the consecration of a Lodge is a Masonic Rite, religious in form, by which a new Lodge is blessed and dedicated to the purpose for which it is constituted, namely to practise Freemasonry.

In his message to Hiram, Solomon also states that he will dedicate the Temple to God by burning fragrant incense therein. The use of incense in the consecration ceremony has always been a symbol of the prayer of the faithful rising to Heaven. Its fragrance, which will permeate every corner of the Lodge, is symbolical of the good deeds which will be performed by the Lodge members and which will bring relief to the many recipients who are less fortunate than themselves. With these elements as the solid foundation of a new Lodge, it is hoped that the members will be inspired to build a multi-cultural Brotherhood of good men who will practice brotherly love, charity and truth and who will be united in the enhancement of wisdom, high moral standards, equality and justice for all persons.

We also read in the book of Deuteronomy in the VSL that it was the custom to dedicate a new residence to God with prayer, praise and thanksgiving, for no sensible man could imagine that he could dwell safely in any house lest it be under the immediate protection of God. Once a Lodge has therefore been consecrated, it must also be dedicated to the GAOTU. We thus perform re-dedication ceremonies for Lodges which have reached particularly significant milestones in their lifetimes, such as 50 year, 100 year or even 250 year anniversaries. It is important for the present members to recall their Lodge's history, to re-emphasise the purpose for their formation and to re-affirm the reasons for their continued existence.

Once consecrated and dedicated, the Lodge must be constituted as a permanently registered Lodge under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge. This will give the Lodge the constitutional authority to perform the actions for which it was established. The Lodge may then assume its rank and proceed to enjoy all the privileges of a duly Chartered or Warranted Lodge.

MW Bro John Smith OSM MSA
Grand Master

Grand Master visits France



The Grand Master has just returned from Germany where he represented our Grand Lodge in Berlin at the World Conference of Grand Masters. On his way to Germany he had to spend a few days in Paris and, while there, he took the opportunity to visit the main headquarters of the Grand Lodge Nationale Francais. The Grand Chancellor showed him their Main Temple.

A report on the Grand Master's experiences at the World Conference will be included in the December edition of the Square and Compasses.

Royal Protea prepare for new year

Like all of our Lodges, Royal Protea is restarting again after their Covid induced break. This East London Lodge held their Installation on Saturday 30 October 2021 and Worshipful Master, Wor Bro Mark Hiles, and his team much look forward to the challenges and opportunities presented by the 2022 year.



The Installation was performed by the PGM, Mark Hiles and Wayne Enslin RW Bro Keith Hutton, and was a great success.



Attending the Eastern Cape AGM were Grand Master, MW Bro John Smith OSM MSA, (c), Past GM, MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM, Deputy GM, RW Bro Brandon Topham, Assistant GMs, Alf Brönnner and Alan van der Vyver, PGMs Tommy Hardiman, Keith Hutton and Frans Appelgryn, Grand Lodge and PGL Officers and members of the Eastern Cape Lodges

Eastern Cape's Special Weekend

Some Masonic days are very special and Saturday 6 November was just such a day. After first visiting the proposed new Masonic Temple we all went through to Parliament Street where the meeting was to take place.

The AGM as conducted by RW Bro Keith Hutton really displayed the expertise that he has gained after several years in his present role. It was confident and polished and the Annual Report was a realistic but very optimistic one. There is clearly a good vibe in the Eastern Cape and it showed.

After complimenting the PGM and thanking him for the manner in which he had conducted the meeting, the Grand Master, MW Bro John Smith OSM MSA, retained the gavel and proceeded with the Consecration ceremony for Lodge Jeffrey's Bay. The Lodge had been Constituted some months earlier and under the Mastership of Wor Bro Dirk Uys had already initiated new members and were generally doing extremely well. The working was excellent!

The evening's festive board was held at the prestigious Port Elizabeth Club and the extremely enjoyable fellowship summed up the reaction to what really had been a special Masonic day.



Lest we Forget!

Over the years our Divisions have regularly taken the opportunity to show their respect for those who gave their very lives so that we may live in a better world.

In a Durban event, our PGM, RW Bro Johan van der Merwe, participated in the Mayor's Remembrance Day Parade and laid a wreath at the Cenotaph, in the city centre, on behalf of our Eastern Division Brethren.

In Bloemfontein, the Masons of all Constitutions took part in the St Andrews School Remembrance Day event. Central Division were represented by PGM, RW Bro Frans Appelgryn (R).





MP Bro Boet du Plessis MA with the participants and candidates at the AASR 4th and 18th degree workings in Klerksdorp



M Ill Bro Cor van Zyl and MP Bro Boet du Plessis MA together with the day's candidates

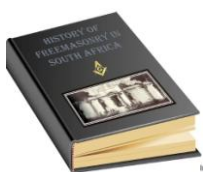
AASR gets back to work - by the dozen!

After a hiatus of over 18 months in which numerous Brethren were unable to experience their advancement to the 4th (Secret Master) degree and then to the new 18th (Rose Croix) degree, the Supreme Council organised a call-out for the members of the Executive, to assist with the advancements of Brethren who had waited so patiently. A meeting was therefore held on Saturday 13 November 2021 at the Klerksdorp Masonic centre, commencing at 10 am.

The 4th degree working was conducted by members of Chapter Vrystaat with V Ill Bro Marcelle de Kock 33° as the Acting Most Wise Sovereign. There were 7 candidates, being Bros Donovan Le Roux, Stephan Venter, Izak Labuschagne, Douglas Sansom, Barend Esterhuizen, Isak Jordan and Willie Luck. After a short break, the Chapter was then opened in the 18th degree. All the Brethren who had been through the earlier 4th degree, together with Thomas McArdle, Johan Wolfaardt, Francois Dauth, Hendrik Prinsloo, Aristos Abatzoglou, Pieter Kruger and Federicco Lupacchini then participated in the new 18th degree.

This was the first occasion at which the new ritual had been worked in Central Division and all the candidates and members of Supreme Council left agreeing that it was a truly inspirational experience.

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. This is a book that no local Freemason can afford to be without. To reserve your Collector's Item, click on:

[Purchase the Heritage Book](#)

Brixton RAC relieves their "Cabin Fever"

Wednesday 3rd November saw Brixton break out of its "Cabin Fever" syndrome and hold their first real meeting since 4th March 2020. What a great experience!

Two ceremonies were conducted. The first was a Re-Affirmation ceremony to renew the obligations of the Officers and this was officiated over by MEC Mervin Kruger, Assistant Depute PG Superintendent.



The second was an Excellent Masters ceremony for Comp Leo Gerber who had been waiting since March 2020. Considering it was the first working since then, it was well presented with the utmost sincerity.

Lodges that Play together Stay together!



Having survived a long Covid induced separation, the younger members of Hiram and Marina decided that it was time to get to know each other again!

Lodges are getting back to work again

The past 2 months have seen a resurgence of our Masonic activities and our Lodges working degrees.



On 12 October, Bro Charles Letuka was initiated as a member of Prins Frederik. He is seen here with PGM, RW Bro Godfrey Place. May his Masonic journey be a long, happy and extremely stimulating one. May he learn and offer much.



In early November Bro Andries Ellis (Dromedaris) was raised to Master Mason. The Pietermaritzburg Lodge was assisted by First United, whose Brethren have specifically learned the GLSA ritual so that they can assist other Lodges. We are advised that the first hour of the working was conducted by candlelight.

On 26 October, Prins Frederik passed Bro Andrew Pienaar to Fellowcraft. He is seen here in the very capable hands of Wor Bro Reuven Coenen and the PGM, RW Bro Godfrey Place. Supported by Brethren of this calibre, his journey should be a fruitful one.



Having waited for almost 2 years, Blake Kent was finally initiated into Marina on 16 November. Welcome Bro Blake, you have now started your Masonic journey and we are sure that it will have been worth the wait.

Almoner's Report

The recent past has seen 2 Southern Division Masons called to higher labour. Wor Bro Heinz Smekal (Hiram) has long battled his health problems and now they are over. His commitment to PGL will always be remembered. Our thoughts and prayers are with Alison.

Wor Bro Nic Millen (Jacob de Mist) moved to Taiwan some years ago. He has always kept connected to his Brethren and they were saddened to see him lose his brave fight with cancer. Our thoughts and prayers are with Sonnet and the family at this difficult time.

RW Bro Neville Klein OSM is recuperating in Durban after having had a leg amputated. As you can see, our Past Grand Almoner remains cheerful and optimistic as he faces the future.



Wor Bro Koos du Preez (Johan van Riebeeck) is another Brother who simply doesn't know how to give up. He's recently been in hospital for a procedure, but we are confident that he'll soon be back to his old self.

Northern Division reports that Wor Bro Paul Nash (Star of the Rand) and RW Bro Nuno Calvet (Star of the West) both have bad tummy bugs while Bro Tshepo Motlhale (Prins Frederik) is recovering from food poisoning. What are our Brethren eating up there?

We are also advised that VW Bro Simon Nash (Star of the Rand) has a pinched nerve in his neck and possible middle ear infection. Recover quickly, Simon, we can't afford to have you slowing down!

Louise, the very special Masonic wife of Wor Bro Jan Venter (Johan van Riebeeck) is recovering well after her recent back operation. We are delighted!

Colleen Moroukian is in ICU and is not at all well. Our thoughts and prayers are with her and RW Bro Cedric (Cape Town) at this very challenging time.



Finally, here is some good news. On 20 November 2021, Bro Llewellyn Meyer (Prins Frederik), married Heidi, the love of his life. We trust that they'll enjoy a long and very happy life together. We see that Llewellyn is currently the Senior Warden. Work at your Freemasonry, Brother, it could be the only chance you ever have of being the Master!

Brethren we are fast approaching the holiday season and it is often at this time that our senior Brethren and widows feel most vulnerable. They need love and care. We are Masons, let's be sure they get it.

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