

# The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa. No. 126 July 2022



Most Worshipful Brother John Smith OSM MSA.

## A Golden Jubilee

A golden jubilee is defined as the completion of 50 years of existence, of an activity or vocation, of the membership of an organisation or some similar occasion warranting a joyous celebration. The word jubilee originates from the Hebrew word *yōbhēl* meaning a ram's horn which is used as a trumpet. This instrument was used to mark Jewish religious occasions including the one observed every 50 years and known as the Year of Jubilee. The English spelling of the word was influenced by the Greek word *iōbēlaíos* and the Latin word *jūbilāre*, both meaning to shout for joy. It appears that the word golden was added to the word jubilee in 1801 to celebrate the first 50 years of King George III as King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

This year we celebrate the golden jubilee of four members of the Grand Lodge of South Africa, being RW Bro Petrus (Piet) Johannes Naude MSA of Lodge Trichardt, Wor Bro John (Jock) Louis Wood of Lodge Marina, Wor Bro Leon Sher of Lodge Star of the East and Wor Bro Marthinus (Martin) Johannes Prinsloo of Lodge Star of the West. All these members have served their Lodges, their respective Provincial Grand Lodges and the Grand Lodge with zeal and fidelity, as is summarised below:

RW Bro Naude MSA was initiated in 1972, was duly passed and raised and served 2 terms as the WM. He also served in various offices as a PGL officer. He joined the Royal Arch Chapter Witbank and in 1981 served as the MEZ of this Chapter. He thereafter served in various offices as a PGC officer and in 1993

he was appointed as the Grand Superintendent, an office he held for 5 years. In 2000 he was elected as the First Grand Principal of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter. He held this office for 6 years and received the Meritorious Service Award (MSA) in 2006. He is also a Past Grand Senior Warden and holds the 32<sup>nd</sup> degree in the AASR for South Africa.

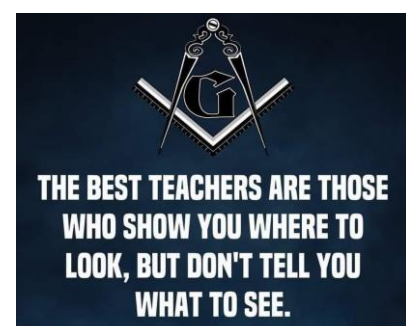
Wor Bro Wood was initiated in 1972, was duly passed and raised and served 3 terms as the WM of Lodge Marina and twice of Lodge Perseverance. He also served in various offices as a PGL Officer and thereafter as a Grand Tyler and Grand Inner Guard. He is a life member of the Masonic Education Fund of South Africa and has served 3 years as its chairman.

Wor Bro Sher is a Lewis and was initiated in Star of the East in 1970, was duly passed and raised and served as the WM in 1980. He also served in various offices as a PGL Officer and thereafter as a Grand Lodge Officer and holds the rank of Past Grand Ambassador. As a result of the Covid pandemic, we could unfortunately not celebrate his golden jubilee until now. His father, Wor Bro Max Sher, was also a member of Lodge Star of the East and received his 50 year long service jewel in 1994.

Wor Bro Prinsloo was initiated into Star of the West in 1971, was duly passed and raised and served as the WM in 1977. He also served in various offices as a PGL Officer and thereafter as a Grand Inner Guard, Grand Sword Bearer and Grand Banner Bearer.

It was my honour and privilege to present each of these worthy Brethren with their 50 year long service jewel and certificate. They are now exempted from paying any subscription fees to their Lodges and capitation fees to their Provincial Grand Lodge and to Grand Lodge. This is not only a remarkable achievement for each of these Brethren, but is testimony to the fact that Freemasonry is not only a worthwhile but an essential pastime for every good, honest, moral and honourable man. It has been well said that as we lose ourselves in the service of others, we discover our own lives and happiness. Brethren, we thank each of you most sincerely for your faithful and dedicated service to our Grand Lodge!

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

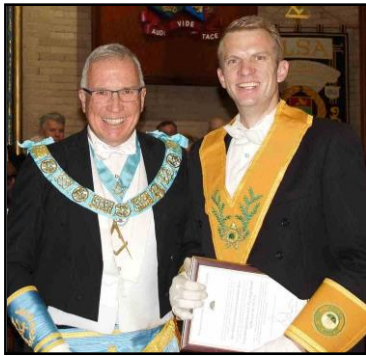


## Northern – an Annual Meeting of 2 halves

Saturday 23 July was a very special day for Northern Division. It was not only the day on which the immediate past PGM, RW Bro Godfrey Place, closed and reported on his final year in this role, but it was also the occasion at which the Grand Master installed RW Bro Simon Nash as the new PGM.

After the meeting had been opened RW Bro Place commented on some highlights from his annual report, which had been circulated in advance. The Division's top 2021–2022 performers were then recognised. The "Fritz Odendaal" award recipients were:

- Best Presiding Master  
Wor Bro Wikus Steyl (De Broederband)
- Best Secretary  
Wor Bro Skottowe Lourens (Orange) and  
Bro Willie Luck (Star of the East)
- Best Master Mason  
Bro Fritz Ganz (De Broederband) and  
Bro Dougie Sansom (Star of the West)
- Best Ritualist  
Bro Omelemo Sepato (President Burgers)



During the merger of Lodges Aurora and De Broederband Wor Bro Wikus Steyl really showed his worth. His work was exceptional at this challenging time and RW Bro Godfrey Place had no hesitation in selecting him as the

Division's outstanding Presiding Master in 2021-2022.

As a result of his commitment to his Lodge duties and his willingness to make personal sacrifices to ensure he fulfils them, Bro Dougie Sansom was easy to include as "Best Master Mason". He and Bro Fritz Ganz had both excelled in the course of 2021-2022 and were worthy joint recipients of this award.



Bro Omolemo Sepato is still a Fellowcraft but, due to his high Ritual standard and his having accumulated 29 Ritual Excellence points within 6 months of his initiation, he has already qualified for a Ritualist Jewel. This really is a quite exceptional achievement!



The Best Secretary Award for 2021-2022 went to Bro Willie Luck and Wor Bro Scotty Lourens. Both are highly committed and meticulous in performing their duties and are really making a difference.

Having completed his work, RW Bro Place handed the gavel to MW Bro John Smith OSM MSA to enable him to install VW Bro Simon Nash as PGM.



VW Bro Nash was conducted into the Temple by the heads of the Sister Divisions and Constitutions, with RW Bro Alan van der Vyver as the Proclaiming Officer and his blood brother, Wor Bro Paul Nash, as his Regalia Bearer. As always, it was most impressive.

The Grand Master and his team then set about performing a flawless Installation, with everybody as prepared as they needed to be for this most important ceremony. MW Bro Smith's address to the new PGM



was suitably inspirational and, generally, Northern's new Masonic year started just as needed. In our picture, RW Bro Nash receives his

Letters Patent from MW Bro John Smith OSM MSA.

Having been installed in the Chair and handed the gavel, RW Bro Simon Nash then set about installing his new Provincial team. Included were his 4 Assistant PGMs, being Wor Bros Alex Ndubuisi, Gerald Bosch, Achille Katumbay and Marius Mostert. Overall, the team is a good one and the year has much promise.



During the course of the afternoon's proceedings, the Grand Master took the opportunity to return a 19<sup>th</sup> century Masonic book to RW Bro Chris van Gaalen of the UGLE. The beautiful book had been discovered at Orange Grove and, as it had a UGLE Library stamp inside, it seemed only right to return it. Appreciating the honesty, RW Bro van Gaalen light-heartedly advised that they would not raise any overdue charge.

The day was completed with a formal dinner at the Wanderers club to celebrate the Installation and 250 years. Everybody was relaxed, the ambience was very special and it was a perfect way to end things off.



## Freemasonry is a Journey – often a long one

Each year we celebrate a new set of initiates to our 50 year's service team – and every time I am, once again, reminded of just how important and enduring Freemasonry is in most of our Brethren's lives. This year 4 Brethren received their 50 year service jewels.



At the Northern AGM, the Grand Master presented 50 year jewels to, and is pictured above with, RW Bro Piet Naude MSA (Trichardt) and Wor Bros Leon Sher (Star of the East) and Martin Prinsloo (Star of the West). A few weeks earlier, at the Southern AGM, he presented Wor Bro Jock Wood (Marina) with his award. All 4 are Past Grand Lodge Officers, while RW Bro Naude was also a First Grand Principal of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of South Africa and was awarded a MSA.



While it seems hard to believe, in November at Eastern Cape's AGM, the Grand Master will present a 60 year jewel to Wor Bro Hylke Jorritsma.(Sonheuwel). Fact is that he has spent almost his full life as a Mason.

## De Goede Trouw Reinstall Wikus van Zyl

On Tuesday 12 July, Wor Bro Wikus van Zyl was reinstalled as Presiding Master of our no 2 Lodge, de Goede Trouw. He had enjoyed a commendable first year and the second promises to be even better.



F – RW Bro Avron Jacobson MSA, MW Bro John Smith OSM MSA, Wor Bro Wikus van Zyl, RW Bro Tommy Hardiman, Wor Bro Seppi Ricci with PGL Officers and the Lodge members standing behind them.

RW Bro Tommy Hardiman led PGL with the Installing Officer being Wor Bro Cobis Wilson, while MW Bro John Smith OSM MSA led Grand Lodge.

Overall, it was a thoroughly memorable evening.

## Tolerance Install Ian Hetherington

On Saturday 9 July, Wor Bro Ian Hetherington was installed as Presiding Master of Eastern Cape's Lodge Tolerance. Ian is an experienced and capable Mason and will almost inevitably do a great job.



Wor Bro Ian Hetherington (c), Wor Bro Nowellyn van Vuuren (3L) and RW Bro Keith Hutton (5L)

RW Bro Keith Hutton and his PGL team ensured that the Installation was properly performed.

## Star of Africa Charter discovered

Star of Africa (14 GLSA) was consecrated in 1884 in Jagersfontein (Central Division). A few months ago Losie Diamond moved back into the old Jagersfontein Temple and they have now discovered the original Star of Africa charter. This has been reframed and will be displayed in the Temple.



MW Bro John Smith OSM MSA & RW Bro Frans Appelgryn (Central PGM) with the reframed Star of Africa charter.

## A Special Day for the van Zyl family

RW Bro Cor van Zyl (Star of the West) was initiated over 20 years ago and has enjoyed a most distinguished Masonic career. He has not only been Master of his Lodges, but also a PGM of Central Division and a Senior AASR Officer.

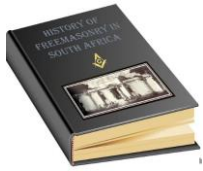
28 June 2022, however, must surely be the most memorable day of all – for that is the day that Cor initiated his 2 sons into Freemasonry – and that's got to be the best day ever for any Masonic father!



VV Bro Simon Nash (Acting PGM Northern), Bros Wayne and Kevin van Zyl and RW Bro Cor van Zyl.



## The Heritage Book – Orders still being taken!



In 2022, South African Freemasonry celebrated its 250th birthday. To mark this event, we published a Heritage Book relating our history over all Constitutions and Divisions. A few copies of the A4 book are still available through our GLSA online Shop - click on:

[Purchase Heritage Book](#)

## Almoner's Report

Over the last month or two we have lost 3 of our most senior Brethren. All had contributed greatly to our Grand Lodge and will be sorely missed.

RW Bro Boet du Plessis (Star of the East) was a Past Grand Junior Warden. His real Masonic interest, however, was in the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, where he had served for the past few years as Sovereign Grand Commander. He was launching a wide range of education initiatives, had made much progress in the development of our international connections and had normalised the inter-constitution relationships within South Africa. He had received a Meritorious Award for his work.



Our deepest sympathies are extended to Theresa and the family at this very challenging time.

RW Bro Cedric Moroukian (Cape Town) was a much loved Past Grand Junior Warden. He was a 50 year jewel holder who had laboured diligently for his Lodge, Province and Grand Lodge over the years. He was also a senior member of Royal Arch and had been the AASR's ESGIG for South Western Region. He had received a MA as well as the "Boet du Plessis Trophy" for his contribution to the AASR.

Our thoughts are with his family at this time.

VW Bro Schalk Stapelberg (Star of the East) was initiated into Sonop in 1986 and spent almost his entire Masonic life as a member of the Lodge. He was an extremely active Provincial and then Grand Lodge Officer, rising to the rank of Grand Orator. He was also an active member of Royal Arch and was a 33° member of the AASR for South Africa.

Our sincere sympathy goes to his family at this difficult time. May your memories make you strong.

As from our August Newsletter we will revert to including a more complete list of Brethren in distress. If you know of any Brother facing health challenges, please make certain that you advise your Almoner.

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 Kevin Smith	082 8883890
Central	Wor Bro Johnny Cambanis	083 9865397
Eastern	Wor Bro Marais Viljoen	083 4413670
E Cape	Wor Bro Ian Hetherington	082 9545297

## Constitution Heads Support Tom Hardiman

On Thursday 7 July Westerford Reinstalled RW Bro Tommy Hardiman. As has become customary in Southern Division, the Sister Constitution heads all banded together and supported their co-leader.



*F – RW Bro Avron Jacobson MSA, RW Bro Tom Hardiman, Wor Bro Cobis Wilson; B – RW Bro Ernest Malherbe (England), Wor Bro Raymond Eyiomen, RW Bro Tony Alsemgeest (Ireland), Bro David Gallacher (Scotland)*

## Around the Lodges



On 13 June, Bro Alistair Sawyer was initiated by Perseverance. Wor Bro Louis Krige is 4<sup>th</sup> left.



On 4 July, Bro Reagan Mbaya was passed by Cape Town. Wor Bro Tyson Mukendi is 3<sup>rd</sup> from right.



On 9 July Wor Bro Rudi Swart was installed as the new Worshipful Master of Theophilus.