

# The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa. No. 136 May 2023



Most Worshipful Brother John Smith OSM MSA.

## The 18th World Conference in Jerusalem

My wife and I attended this conference, which was held at the Ramada hotel in Jerusalem, where most of the delegates stayed, and we were joined by RW Bro Brandon Topham and Wor Bro Frank Begot and their wives. The weekend began with an informal meet and greet cocktail party on Sunday, 7 May 2023 around the outdoor swimming pool. There were more than 100 Grand Lodges with 51 Grand Masters, several Past Grand Masters and several other senior Grand Lodge Officers, many of whom were accompanied by their wives and partners.

On Monday the conference opened with a short pre-recorded and very positive video message from the President of the State of Israel. We then had addresses by the Mayor of Jerusalem and the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Israel, MW Bro Ilan Segev. The lectures which followed were restricted to 20 minutes each with 10 minutes for questions. The first session included topics on *the history of Freemasonry in Israel* and *King Solomon's Temple*. The planned formal Lodge meeting in Zedekiah's cave on Monday afternoon could unfortunately not be held due to recent rock falls so it was held in the conference room of the hotel and was hosted by the Holy Land Lodge. Although we were asked to wear our regalia, the venue was not tyled, the Lodge was not formally opened or closed and the meeting was informal. The Presiding Master of this Lodge is Wor Bro Michael Salem, an ex-South African and the son of MW Bro Joe Salem, a Past Grand Master of Israel who had been Provincial Grand Master of Rhodesia under the Netherlands and

the Grand Superintendent of the District of Rhodesia under the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the Netherlands. He was also the presiding officer at the consecration of our Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter in Cape Town in 1969. Our partners had a free morning to explore Jerusalem and many went to the Holocaust Museum. In the afternoon they were taken on a culinary tour, which was much enjoyed.

On Tuesday, I presented a lecture titled *The concept of Amity and its impact on the formation of the GLSA*. This was well received and was followed by lectures dealing with *Customary and Common Laws of Freemasonry*, *Masonic identification*, *Regular and irregular Grand Lodges*, *the Ethics of Freemasonry* and *Communication between regular Grand Lodges*. That afternoon the delegates and their partners were taken on a bus tour through Jerusalem and shown the highlights, which included the Parliament buildings and the Mount of Olives. That evening we all attended a spectacular and much enjoyed outdoor light and sound show in the City of David, which is just inside the Jaffa Gate of the Old City, and it told the story of Jerusalem from the time of Canaan in about 3300 BCE to the formation of the State of Israel in 1948.

On Wednesday, the lecture topics included *whether Masonic principles can or should become the basis of Ethics in the future*, *Freemasonry in the second quarter of this century*, *Freemasonry's contributions and solutions to current challenges*, *the universality of Freemasonry* and a very interesting lecture by the Grand Master of the Netherlands, MW Bro Leonard Jonkers, titled *Freemasonry - staying relevant for the future*. After lunch, the Conference Committee, which was chaired by 3 Grand Masters, being from Germany (the previous World Conference host), Israel (the present host) and Parana, Brazil (the next host) held its "BoM Meeting". Certain updates to the Conference Rules were proposed, explained and voted on. As the World Conference is held every 18 months on a different Continent, the new schedule of Conference locations was also agreed upon, being:

Nov 2024 South America; May 2026 – Africa;  
2027 – North America; 2029 – Europe; 2030 Asia;  
2032 – Central America & Caribbean; 2033 Oceania

The Chairman then asked which African Grand Lodge wished to host the 2026 Conference and I advised that we did and that we had the support of the Grand Lodges in Africa. I then played an audio-visual presentation in support of our bid and the vote was unanimously in our favour. The GLSA will host the 20<sup>th</sup> World Conference in Cape Town in May 2026!

The Conference closed with a sumptuous gala dinner in the Ramada ballroom that evening, attended by about 500 tired but very satisfied delegates.

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

## Some World Conference Highlights!

One of the major advantages of attending big international Masonic events is that it enables us to meet and establish relationships with Masonic leaders from all over the world. This not only expands our own Masonic knowledge and understanding, but also ensures that our Brethren who travel around the world are received and welcomed appropriately.

At an event like the World Conference of Masonic Grand Masters, we have the opportunity to meet a large number of Masonic leaders in a short space of time and in an environment which promotes Masonic learning and fraternal interaction.

MW Bro John Smith was a prominent figure at the Conference and really did us proud!



*MW Bro John Smith OSM MSA presents "Amity and its impact on the formation of the GLSA"*

Here are pictures of some of the Grand Masters which we were privileged to meet in Jerusalem.



*GL of India*



*GL of Western Australia*



*GL of Serbia*



*GL of New York*



*Representatives of GLs of England, Malta, Netherlands, GLSA (MW Bro John Smith), India, Italy, France and Germany,*

## New Grand Master is RW Bro Godfrey Place!!

In terms of our Constitution, every third year the GLSA elects its Grand Master for the 3 years ahead. It is customary that the Grand Conclave meet in Durban for this extremely important event and 2023 was no exception. The Conclave took place right at the outset of the Eastern Division AGM weekend.

We are delighted to be able to advise you that this year's new Grand Master is **RW Bro Godfrey Place**.



*RW Bro Place being congratulated by MW Bro John Smith*  
RW Bro Godfrey Place's Masonic journey began in 2007. He now belongs to Prins Frederik, moved through the chair to PGL, became PGM in 2019 and was appointed as an Assistant Grand Master in 2022. He is a dedicated Freemason who gets things done.

### Grand Committee 2023 - 2024

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Grand Master      | MW Bro Godfrey Place   |
| Deputy GM         | RW Bro Tommy Hardiman  |
| Assistant GMs     | RW Bro Johan Britz MSA<br>RW Bro Keith Hutton OSM                            |
| Provincial GMs    | RW Bro Simon Nash<br>RW Bro Johan van der Merwe                              |
| Acting PGMs       | Wor Bro Raymond Eyiomen<br>Wor Bro Marcel de Kock<br>Wor Bro Ricardo Gillmer |
| Secretary         | MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM   |
| Treasurer         | RW Bro Brandon Topham  |
| Senior Wardens    | RW Bro John Miller<br>RW Bro Ron Smith<br>RW Bro Rex Ingle                   |
| Junior Wardens    | RW Bro Monty Montgomery<br>RW Bro Reuven Coenen                              |
| Past Grand Master | MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM<br>MW Bro John Smith OSM MSA                          |





*As you can see, the Eastern Division AGM weekend was extremely well attended!*

### **Durban weekend a great success**

Our Annual Meetings in our various Divisions are invariably highlights of the Masonic year, both for the Division concerned and for Grand Lodge overall. This year's Eastern Division AGM was no exception. It was exhausting, but much enjoyed and memorable.

The weekend started early on Friday afternoon when the AASR took advantage of the fact that many of their members were in town and duly scheduled their Annual Meeting. This was the first AGM since the passing of MP Bro Boet du Plessis and all present agreed that our new Sovereign Grand Commander, MP Bro Victor Mühlenbeck, handled the meeting well. The AASR has some challenges to address, but there is a great deal of enthusiasm amongst the members and every reason to believe that our future is, indeed, much to be looked forward to.

During the course of the afternoon, MP Bro Mühlenbeck took the opportunity to present the Outstanding Service trophy to M III Bro Simon Nash for his contribution to sorting out our administrative challenges and making a major contribution to the AASR's overall progress.



On Friday evening we all went to the prestigious Durban Country Club for a formal black tie banquet. The mood was vibrant, the speeches were well presented and the evening was much appreciated.

Saturday morning at 8h00 am saw the members of the Grand Conclave gather for the election of our next Grand Master and this was immediately followed by a Grand Committee meeting.

On Saturday afternoon we had an extremely well run Eastern Division AGM and, while the PGM and his Officers are well aware of the challenges that they face, the mood was optimistic and positive.

To finish the weekend, we spent Saturday evening enjoying a very festive spit braai at the NMR complex. These gatherings allow the Brethren and their partners to relax together and often have as much value as the more formal activities which precede them.



*Reena and Reuven Coenen*

### **Wor Bro Raymond Eyiomen a Grand Ritualist**

On Wednesday 10 May Lodge de Goede Hoop's Master, Wor Bro Raymond Eyiomen, became the 4<sup>th</sup> member of the GLSA to qualify as a Grand Ritualist.

Ray initiated Bro Guy Taylor (de Goede Trouw) and had 2 other Grand Ritualists, RW Bros Alan van der Vyver and Tommy Hardiman as his assessors. He was superb!



*The attendees at the AASR of South Africa AGM with MP Bro Victor Mühlenbeck seated in the centre*



## De Broederband initiate Bruce De Nysschen



On Wednesday 17 May, Wor Bro Fritz Ganz and De Broederband initiated Bro Bruce De Nysschen. The Assistant PGM, Wor Bro Gerald Bosch, attended the ceremony on behalf of Northern Division.

## Brits recognise Members of the local CPF



Setting a fine Masonic example, Losie Brits decided to recognise members of the local Community Policing Forum for the excellent work that they do in safeguarding the area around the Temple. Wor Bro Pieter Pretorius is seen with 2 of the recipients.

## Almoner's Corner

It was with both shock and sadness that we received the news of the passing of our Grand Administrator, Wor Bro Emile van As. Emile was a hard-working and committed Freemason who always gave of his best. He was due to be installed as the Worshipful Master of Libertas. Our thoughts and prayers are extended to the family at this difficult time.

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 John Meyer       | 073 3525832 |
| Eastern  | Wor Bro Andrew Pover     | 084 2597108 |
| E Cape   | Wor Bro Ian Hetherington | 082 9545297 |

## AASR Central remain extremely active



Under the leadership of P Bro Cor van Zyl, the AASR Central Division is continually active and 2023 has seen this trend continue. Well done Brethren!

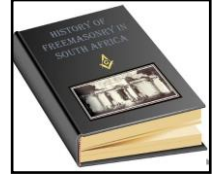
## GLSA Online Shop

If you wish to purchase GLSA or Masonic items or memorabilia, log into our GLSA Online Shop and explore our offerings. The link is below:

[GLSA Online Shop](#)

There are various items available, but 2 well worth your consideration are:

**The Heritage Book** In 2022, South Africa celebrated 250 years of Freemasonry. To mark this event, we published a Heritage Book which explored our history over all Constitutions and Divisions. A few remaining copies of the A4 book are still available.



## GLSA and RA Ties

If you wear ties to work or for any other purpose, you really should include these handsome additions in your collection. The GLSA tie is navy blue, while the RA tie comes in navy blue or red.



## Max Matjane's Travelling Band



The President Burgers team flew to Cape Town to attend Wor Bro Eyiomen's Grand Ritualist bid and, wearing their distinctive Lodge shirts, attended the Durban weekend. We love the Lodge commitment!

## RA Chapter Jeffreys Bay get off to fast start



Having been consecrated in April, Chapter Jeffreys Bay wasted no time in getting down to some serious work. Their first new Companion was Bro Mias Jansen van Vuuren and we have no doubt that there'll be plenty more to follow.

**Don't find fault, find a remedy. Henry Ford**