

# The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa,  
No. 143 - December 2023 / January 2024



Most Worshipful Brother Godfrey Place.

## Mitigate Negative Behaviour and Foster Positivity

Maintaining a positive, constructive environment is crucial for promoting the well-being of our Order! Destructive behaviour and negativity hinder progress, demotivate members and ultimately undermines the organisation's goals. I hope that the points which follow will assist each and every one of us to stop destructive behaviour and reverse the negativity which has infiltrated in certain areas of our organisation.

### 1. Open Communication:

Effective communication is the foundation of any successful organisation. We encourage open dialogue among our members, allowing them to express their concerns, ideas, and suggestions. Our regular meetings should seek to foster a sense of community and ensure that everyone's voice is heard. This inclusivity will help prevent destructive behaviour and create an environment where negativity can be addressed constructively. Remember to play the problem and not the man. Respect is paramount in these deliberations.

### 2. Clear Expectations and Goals:

We have recently defined the GLSA's vision, mission and values. The setting of clear expectations, enables our members to have a sense of purpose and direction, thus minimising destructive behaviour. We must regularly revisit and communicate these goals to keep everyone aligned and motivated.

### 3. Collaboration and Teamwork:

A culture of collaboration and teamwork must exist within the Order. Members are encouraged to work together, share ideas, and support one another.

This fosters an environment where members feel valued and appreciated for their contributions. Teamwork creates an environment where members will feel a sense of belonging and camaraderie, and negativity and destructive behaviour is minimised.

### 4. Training and Development Opportunities:

The Grand Lodge offers training and mentorship, sadly many members do not participate in these voluntary learning opportunities. We offer training sessions, to enhance the skills and knowledge of our members. We provide opportunities for growth for our members and participants in these programs feel valued and motivated, reducing the likelihood of destructive behaviour. We get to know ourselves better and learn to respect other's opinions and work towards attaining a common platform on which to go forward.

### 5. Conflict Resolution Strategies:

Conflict is inevitable in any organisation and must be addressed promptly and constructively. Our Order requests that when two or more members are in variance with each other, that the members involved resolve their differences outside of the Lodge. We encourage open dialogue, active listening and compromise. By resolving conflicts early on, a positive atmosphere can be maintained.

### 6. Recognise and Celebrate Achievements:

Our frenetic lives often mean that we fail to acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of individual members and the Order as a whole. We need to regularly recognise and reward exceptional contributions. By highlighting positive outcomes and successes, our members will feel appreciated.

### 7. A Supportive and Inclusive Environment:

Our Lodge environments should be ones where our members feel supported and included. We encourage diversity and respect for different perspectives and backgrounds. Our Order promotes inclusivity and will not tolerate discrimination. This is one of the core objectives of our Grand Lodge. By fostering such a supportive and inclusive environment, our members will feel safe and valued.

### 8. Lead by Example:

Leaders within the Order should exemplify the behaviour they expect from others. Not only must we demonstrate professionalism, respect, and positivity in all interactions, but we must act and live as though our very existence is dependent on doing so. As leaders of the Order, we must actively listen to our members, address concerns promptly, and provide constructive feedback. By leading by example, leaders can inspire Brethren to emulate their positive behaviour and contribute to a harmonious organisational culture.

### Conclusion:

Stopping destructive behaviour and reversing negativity within our Order requires a proactive and

comprehensive approach. I undertook to listen more to our members. We are promoting open communication, setting clear expectations, encouraging collaboration. We provide training and mentoring opportunities, we want to recognise success rather than failures, in a supportive environment. This can only be achieved if we all lead by example. By so doing, we will all be working together to create a positive and constructive atmosphere. In this way we hope our members will feel motivated, engaged, and empowered to contribute their best, ultimately leading to the success and growth of our Order and specifically our Grand Lodge.

**MW Bro Godfrey Place  
Grand Master**

**Koh-I-Noor Install Derian Echeverri-Molina**

On Monday 4 December Lodge Koh-I-Noor had their annual Installation. Retiring Worshipful Master, Wor Bro Samuel Zwane, gave an impressive report on the previous year's activities before handing the gavel



*RW Bro Simon Nash, Wor Bro Derian Echeverri-Molina and Wor Bro Max Matjane*

to Wor Bro Max Matjane to install his successor. The Installing Officer's address was a thought-provoking one and the ceremony was conducted with dignity.

Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Simon Nash, led the Provincial team and the evening overall was much enjoyed by all in attendance.

**Jeffreys Bay are just having fun!**

Somebody recently asked me why I gave so much Square and Compasses space to our newest Lodge, being Jeffreys Bay. The answer is simple. It's



*Don't you love this? The Jeffreys Bay car, parked outside the Temple on the beach with the sea and the blue sky as a backdrop.*

because they are always doing something different and interesting - and they keep me suitably updated. They practise their Freemasonry and have fun doing so.

The Lodge limousine is a great example. They found it on a scrap heap and, under the direction of Wor Bro Herdus Snyman, fixed it up and turned it into a really special means of transport for the whole team.



*James Lidderd and Herdus Snyman*

The Lodge is extremely visible in their community through their much appreciated kind deeds like fetching excess apples from the local farms and distributing them to the needy

They are also very active Masonically. They are regular attendees at functions all over the country and are more than busy in their own fast growing Lodge. Brethren moving to Jeffrey's Bay soon hear of them and seek to join them. Initiating new candidates is *Herdus Snyman* welcomes *Willem Kruger* also a regular occurrence for this dynamic Lodge.



**De Goede Hoop beat the Prince of Darkness!**

De Goede Hoop's Christmas working is always a



highlight of the Southern Division year. This year the Lodge initiated Chris Mabheka and the work was finished

We had a candle lit festive board and were much honoured by the presence of the Grand Master and his Officers, as well as the PGM and his team.

MW Bro Godfrey Place, Bro Chris Mabheka, just as the RW Bros Tommy Hardiman, Ray Eyiomen power was cut.

### Masonic Homes enjoy their Christmas lunch

In Southern Division, Christmas isn't Christmas without the Masonic Homes lunch. As always it was held in the de Goede Hoop Refectory and was much appreciated by all who were there. The food and gifts were special and the ambience was exceptional.



*RW Bro Ron Smith with some of the Ted's House residents*



*Wor Bro Jan Venter and the Andy's House residents*



*The residents of the Masonic Home for Quadriplegics*

The Masonic Homes encompass 5 properties, each with a Brother coordinating our activities. The Chairman is Wor Bro Michael Burchell and the Homes are Desmain Lodge (MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM), Burchell House (Wor Bro Michael Burchell), Ted's House (RW Bro Ron Smith), Andy's House (Wor Bro Jan Venter) and Masonic Home for Quadriplegics (Wor Bro Danny Retief). Other members are MW Bro John Smith OSM MSA and RW Bros Tommy Hardiman, Raymond Eyiomen and Avron Jacobson MSA.

There are currently some 50 people living in our heavily subsidised accommodation, all of whom are extremely grateful for the positive impact that the Freemason's are having on their retirement years.



### Hosting the Grand Master of Serbia

On Thursday 7 December Lodge Westerford raised Bro Yannick Punga to Master Mason. To make the evening more special, MW Bro Godfrey Place, our Grand Master, was in attendance, as was the Grand Master of Serbia, MW Bro Lukas Rasulic.

The working was extremely well performed by Wor Bro Sean Stuart and the Westerford team and the evening was a most memorable one.



*Front: MW Bros Lukas Rasulic, Godfrey Place, Bro Yannick Punga, Wor Bro Sean Stuart Back: RW Bros Basil de Kock and Raymond Eyiomen*

### Marina initiate Bro Otega Ejeta

On Tuesday 16 January Lodge Marina started their 2024 year by initiating Bro Otega Ejeta. After a turbulent period the Lodge is making good progress under Wor Bro Cyril Engelke and his team and are looking forward to a really successful year ahead.



*Bro Otega Ejeta, Wor Bro Cyril Engelke and Marina Brethren*

### Lodge de Goede Kaap RAM Installation

In December 2023 the de Goede Kaap Royal Ark Mariner's Lodge installed MEC Louis van der Linde as their new Commander Noah. Overall, the evening was much enjoyed and a most successful one.



*MECs Frank Winter (SC), John Smith, Louis van der Linde, Avron Jacobson and Les Martin with members and visitors.*

## Almoner's Report

It is with much sadness that we have to report the passing of RW Bro Bernard Neuhaus on 21 January. Bernard was a legend in our Grand Lodge, having risen to Grand Senior Warden. He was a member of Lodges Alpha and Flaming Star and was much loved by his Brethren.



He was also an Assistant Grand Master and holder of the OSM with the Grand Lodge of Mauritius and visited all over Africa on their behalf.

Bernard was almost 93 years old and had been a Freemason for 64 years. In recognition of his service, the GLSA is in mourning until 23 March 2024.

Our deepest sympathies are extended to Bernard's wife and family at this very difficult time.

We were also saddened to hear of the passing of Petro, the beloved wife of RW Bro Fanie Strydom (Unie). Our condolences are extended to Fanie and the family as they learn to live without her.

On a more positive note, the Northern PGM, RW Bro Simon Nash, recently had a neck operation. While his thumb's up is far from convincing, I can assure you that he is making good progress and should be back as a better version of his old self pretty soon.



Just a reminder, Brethren, that Freemasonry is "a caring organisation". If you know of a Brother (or their family) in danger or difficulty, please ensure that we know about it and that we react as best we can.

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

Southern Wor Bro Llew Lloyd-Jones	072 9653572
Northern Wor Bro Herman Roos	082 3184238
Central Wor Bro John Meyer	073 3525832
Eastern Wor Bro Bushy McKelvey	076 8912058
E Cape Wor Bro Ian Hetherington	082 9545297

## England SGC visits South Africa

On 27 January our AASR Sovereign Grand Commander, MP Bro Vic Mühlenbeck, accompanied by M Ill Bro Henry Selzer and M Ill Bro Frans Roodt attended the enthronement of the Inspector General for the District of South Africa, Eastern Natal, V Ill Bro Patrick Macquet 33°, in Pietermaritzburg.

The ceremony was conducted by the Sovereign Grand Commander for the Supreme Council for England and Wales, MP Bro John Boyington CBE 33°, assisted by the Past Sovereign Grand Commander, MP Bro AJ Englefield 33°, as well as such Brethren as V Ill Bros Tom Cloete, Chris van Gaalen and David Whitfield of their South African branch council.

The ceremony was professional, well conducted and impressive and MP Bro Mühlenbeck observed that "the superb manner of delivery and conduct during the enthronement ceremony set an example for our Supreme Council to emulate"



MP Bro John Boyington CBE, MP Bro AJ Englefield, V Ill Bro Tom Cloete and MP Bro Vic Mühlenbeck.

MP Bro Vic Mühlenbeck and his team could not help but feel most welcome and noted that the "new" relationship between our Supreme Councils has really made a difference to our Supreme Council and that we would all benefit from the visiting, cooperation and cross-pollination which was already taking place.

The following week it was the Eastern Cape and Grahamstown and, again, we were well represented. M Ill Bro Nowellyn van Vuuren and his team really helped to foster our relationships in their territory.



Hendrik Rademeyer, Herdus Snyman, Nowellyn van Vuuren, MP Bro John Boyington CBE 33°, Keith Hutton, Dennis Nienaber, James Liddard

## But You Didn't

by Merrill Glass

Remember the time you lent me your car and I dented it?  
I thought you'd kill me...  
But you didn't.

Remember the time I forgot to tell you the dance was formal, and you came in jeans?  
I thought you'd hate me.  
But you didn't

Remember the times I'd flirt with other boys just to make you jealous, and you were?  
I thought you'd drop me...  
But you didn't.

There were plenty of things you did to put up with me, to keep me happy, to love me, and there are so many things I wanted to tell you when you returned from Vietnam..  
But you didn't.

Editor's comment: This beautiful poem has long been a favourite of mine and, while it is not Masonic, it does send us an extremely valuable message. When we are wrapped up in our daily challenges and rushing through our lives, it's all too easy to forget to attend to the things that matter most in life – and then it's too late.