

The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa. No. 45 October 2015



Most Worshipful Brother Geoff Edwards OSM.

"Be Henceforth an Example"

In the 3rd Degree the candidate is exhorted to "be henceforth an example to the Fellowcrafts and Apprentices in faithfulness and zeal for our Order, as well as in the practice of all Masonic virtues". Ponder on this Brethren, for it is extremely important. We are not just an organisation that gathers men together for social interaction, Freemasonry provides a blueprint for a way of life. A life which, if properly lived, can have a real impact on yourself and all around you.

The truth is, however, that while some Brethren understand this message right at the outset of their Masonic journey, others never really seem able to fully grasp its significance.

I have recently had a very positive experience which I'd like to share with you. This is a true story and highlights the impact applying Masonic standards can have on those near and dear to us.

A few months ago a young man approached us with a view to joining our Lodge. He was extremely enthusiastic, was a well qualified professional man, lived an irreproachable life and was generally a most attractive candidate. Shortly before his initiation, however, he phoned me to let me know that he had run into a problem. He had recently married and his new wife was strongly opposed to Freemasonry. What should he do? While I was most disappointed, I explained to him that we could not accept a married candidate without his wife's agreement. We tried to set up a meeting with her to address her reservations, but she refused to have any contact with us.

Anyway, we suggested that he tried to bring her to a social function where she could meet some of our Brethren and their wives, but frankly we held out little hope of her ever attending any of our activities.

Six months later however, much to our surprise, the young candidate and his wife decided to attend our annual Spring Ball where they shared a table with the Master of our Lodge and were generally made to feel extremely welcome. The young man's wife soon realised that Freemasons weren't the evil force that she had been led to believe that they were and shortly thereafter her husband joined our Lodge.

He has progressed really well and has now been passed to the Fellowcraft degree. He visits often and performs charges with confidence and obvious pride. He really has turned into an excellent role model.

I recently had the opportunity to meet with his wife again and I commented that, while I knew that her husband was loving his Freemasonry, I wanted her reassurance that she was now more comfortable with us. She assured me that this was certainly the case and then passed a comment that made so many things that we do so very worthwhile. She told me that not only was her husband much enjoying his Freemasonry, but that it had made a real difference to him as a person and this had much enriched their life together.

Brethren, this is what Freemasonry is about. It's about creating an environment where good men can grow as human beings and have a positive impact on the world in which they live. It's about Brethren accepting the challenge to shape themselves in line with our Masonic principles. It's about setting an example for others to follow and living a life which will genuinely enrich the society in which we live. Above all things, it really is a way of life!

**MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM
Grand Master**

Think Before You Speak

On a more disappointing note, I was recently exposed to an extremely distasteful performance by a very senior Brother who chose to use the festive board toast that he was asked to perform as an opportunity to malign a senior member of the Order. His comments were ill-judged, distasteful and totally inappropriate. I certainly did not agree with them and neither did most of the other Brethren in attendance.

I was reminded of the Sufi philosophy, that everything that you say should pass through 3 gates.

"Is it true?"

"Is it necessary?"

"Is it kind?"

Brethren, we are Freemasons and I really would urge all Brethren, and particularly our senior Brethren, to remember this before they give vent to their views. Our newer Brethren look up to you for example and it is your duty to make very sure that it is a good one!

The Value of Positive Diversity.

Brethren in Lodge Isandlwana, No 141, designed a tartan in which the history of the Battle was recorded symbolically in colour. The Tartan was recorded in the "Register of Tartans" in Scotland.

After the registration was completed and the certificate received, a batch of the material was woven



and the first Lodge Isandlwana kilts produced. RW Bro Vic Muhlenbeck is seen wearing the kilt on its first public showing in March 2014. Next to him is VW Bro "Spud" Keane-Murphy, who sadly was called to active duty in the Grand Lodge above shortly afterwards.

Many believe that local traditions and differences in the practice of our Masonry, so long as they do not break the "rules", add to the value that each Brother receives when he visits a Lodge. It is a reality that the successful Lodges invariably have a "wow" factor that is derived from the sum total of the ambiance and hospitality within that Lodge. They are not successful by accident; their Brethren consciously work at the image of their Lodge and rigorously apply the principles of Brotherly Love.

The current Master of Lodge Isandlwana, RW Bro Doug Kirton, was installed on the 29th August as the District Grand Master of Kwazulu Natal, EC. In a very dignified ceremony in the Durban Country Club, RW Bro David Williamson, Past Assistant Grand Master, and his team officiated. This was the first time in the history of the Division that the Installation had been conducted by a Senior Dignitary from London.

The event was very special with the DGMs of every Southern African District of the UGLE present. Delegations from the local Irish and Scottish Districts were also present to wish Doug every success in his new appointment.

Our Grand Lodge was represented by 9 GL Officers, led by RW Bro Dave Duncan OSM, as the only Sister Grand Lodge delegation present. We were treated royally and given the opportunity to discuss issues of mutual interest at lunch, where the Grand Secretary of the UGLE, RW Bro Nigel Brown, hosted the leader of the GLSA Delegation.

On the basis of an invitation extended at that lunch, RW Bro Dave Duncan OSM represented the Grand Master at the Quarterly Communication of the UGLE in London on 9th September at Great Queen Street. This was something very special and it was a real privilege to be received as one of the visiting Grand Lodges in such magnificent surroundings.

It was most satisfying to realise that we are indeed part of the International Masonic Fraternity and that we are very much respected as such.

The Grand Lodge of England was the World's very first Grand Lodge and was formed on the 24th June, 1717, at the "Goose and Grid Iron Ale House, after a preliminary meeting at Appletree Tavern in London. There were 4 founding Lodges.

A GLSA Mason's Irish 3rd Degree

Bro Sören Smith is a Danish born member of Lodge de Goede Hoop and, as such, completed his 1st and 2nd degrees in Cape Town in 2013. Due to business demands he then relocated to Ireland on a long-term contract and, despite the obvious challenges, has endeavoured to continue enjoying his Freemasonry there. In mid-September, after relevant correspondence had been exchanged between the two Grand Lodges, Lodge 95 Hibernian raised Sören to Master Mason on behalf of Lodge de Goede Hoop.



Sören Smith (front) with Lodge Hibernian Brethren

"What is Freemasonry?"

On Saturday 10th September, in support of "Vision 2020", the Northern Division conducted a working of "What is Freemasonry?" for an audience of guests from YPO (Young Presidents Organisation). VW Bro Brandon Topham is a member of this 60 year old not-for-profit organisation governed by members for its members (23,000 in 400 Chapters worldwide in 2013). It is a community of peers in the business field who share in common the achievement of success at an early age (before 45) and who stand collectively in alignment around core principles:

Lifelong education and idea exchange.

A safe haven of trust, respect and confidentiality.

A uniquely personal experience.

The Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Alan van der Vyver reported that the meeting had been hosted by Wor Bro Simon Nash and the Brethren of Lodge Star of the Rand at the Park Lane temple. There were 38 visitors from the public, 12 Masonic visitors and 11 Provincial Grand Lodge Officers.

The Brethren who participated in the presentation had gone to great lengths to learn and, more importantly, understand their workings and so delivered a very professional and polished product.

At the end of the Presentation, Alan fielded questions from the visitors for about twenty minutes. The majority of the questions were the standard queries (Why are no women allowed?, What do the different aprons mean? etc) and these were effectively responded to by Alan himself.



After the presentation, the visitors joined the Brethren for a Festive board where Alan was kept busy answering many more questions from both ladies and gentlemen who were too shy to ask in the temple. This proved to be an extremely worthwhile exercise with several of the men enquiring as to how to join (hopefully this turns into applications).



Alan was also approached by Arthur Gillis (Education Chairman of the YPO for the African region up to Nigeria) who expressed an interest in having this presentation performed in countries and areas throughout his region. He was advised that, while we would be happy to assist in the GLSA jurisdiction, we could not comment outside of that.

Arthur was asked to reply to the Toast made to our visitors by VW Bro Brandon Topham and in his reply he commented that in his 30 odd years as a YPO



member, this was one of the best presentations he had attended and that all of the visitors had enjoyed a really memorable evening. The Brethren who took part in this event should feel extremely proud of

themselves. They conducted themselves with aplomb and dignity at the meeting and festive board and the evening was a resounding success. VW Bro Topham organised a Videographer to record the evening and the first edit is available on the address below”.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ej7CfzQ15r4&feature=youtu.be>



Below are excerpts from a letter from Arthur Gillis.

Dear Alan

Thank you so much for the hospitality you and your Brother Masons showed YPO last week. For years now there has been a huge amount of suspicion about the Freemasonry movement. This has unfortunately led to jokes and derision at this ancient order. Most of us approached the meeting ... with a fear of the unknown and a degree of trepidation.

The YPO / WPO mission is “Better leaders through education and idea exchange”. As we represent the third largest economy in the world and are employers of many millions of people, it is very much in our interest to improve ourselves as human beings and leaders. Last week we had the privilege to experience firsthand the wonderful world of Freemasonry. The evening was run in a spirit of the utmost dignity and respect and as you could see from the huge amount of questions there was so much interest and awe in what you do.

The presentation was a real eye-opener for so many of us and I cannot thank you enough for this once in a lifetime opportunity. The love and respect that you and your brothers have toward one another is quite wonderful to see and even though quite obviously you were not in a position to share many of the inner workings of the lodge with us, that which we were able to observe was awesome.

I really believe that every YPO chapter in the world should have the privilege to experience what we did, as removing some of the mystique will make us much more appreciative of the marvellous work done by the lodge.

Thank you so much for being brave enough to share your beautiful world with us. No doubt some members of YPO will approach you to see if they might qualify to join and the others who don't have the time available will no doubt defend your order as they are now in a much better position to do so.

Please let me know if you are able to consider similar meetings in other parts of the world and I will do my best to make that happen as this is precisely what YPO needs right now.

We salute your courage and the work that you and your brothers do to make this world a much better place for all of us to live in.

Kind regards
Arthur Gillis
Regional Education Chairman
World Presidents Organisation.

Fund-Raising at the Cape Town Marathon



In an initiative inspired by the PGL team under Wor Bro Andre Engelbrecht (right), the Brethren of Southern Division got up very early on Sunday morning 20 September to act as Marshalls at the Cape Town Marathon. 45 Brethren participated in the project and overall they raised a sum of

R21,600. Every bit as important, the Brethren taking part had a really great time together.



Wor Bros Koos du Preez and Jan Venter



VW Bro Ron Smith



Bro Graham Symons and Wor Bro Corrie Grobelaar



RW Bro Avron Jacobson, MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM and RW Bro Brian Rossouw

An Exemplary Mason.

Brethren, Freemasonry is about unselfish giving and not for material gain. Many Masons, who do not seek great rank and recognition, make a major contribution to our Order. One such Brother has made his Masonic challenge the effective dissemination of Masonic information and, resultantly, knowledge.

Wor Bro Mike Watkins (Lodge Cape Town) is rarely seen in our Grand Lodge nowadays as he has spent the last few years in other parts of Africa. And yet, during this time, he has continued to contribute to our welfare by providing a Library of publications of Masonic interest, and many of our Brethren benefit.

“Vision 2020” promotes the self development of all Brethren as a means to achieving a “Meaningful Masonic experience” and access to Mike's database is a godsend to those seeking to expand their knowledge.

For more information on Mike's services, please go on to the Grand Lodge website at:

<http://www.grandlodge.co.za/glsa-mason-in-africa/> or email Mike at mikewatkins001@gmail.com

Almoner's Report

This month sees us bid farewell, after a long illness, to Lodge Marina's Wor Bro Lionel Pithey. He was a well loved and dedicated Mason for 46 years.

Several Brethren have spent time in hospital, Wor Bro Piet van Rooyen (de Morgenster) and Wor Bro Auret Weir (Diamond) both with serious heart problems, RW Bro Coenie Bronkhorst (Sonop) for a knee operation and VW Bro Heimo and his wife Gail have both needed attention. VW Bro Swenny Crofton has also been in and out receiving treatment.

We sincerely trust that all of you will make good progress. Please be aware that you are in our thoughts and prayers and it is our sincere hope that you will soon be well and enjoying your Freemasonry.

Grand Almoner

Brethren, the Grand Almoner is only as effective as the information he receives. Please, if anything is known about a Brother in distress, be sure to phone RW Bro Neville Klein OSM at 071 4148869 or send him an email to:

kleinneville@gmail.com



GRAND LODGE REGALIA ITEMS

“Wear them with pride”.

The following items of regalia of the Grand Lodge of South Africa are currently available from the Grand Lodge Office.



The price of the tie is R100.



The cufflinks cost R140.

Both of these items are only available whilst the current stocks last.



Registration Number: 2002 / 031211 / 23

Masonic Tour to Israel

“In the Footsteps of Freemasonry”

Join the Grand Master on this wonderful tour during
September 2016

Please contact Henda Heyneke on +27 (0) 11 764 2783, Cell: +27 (0) 83 256 6682 or on heyneketours@telkomsa.net for more information on this tour and other arrangements.