

The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa. No. 48 January 2016



Most Worshipful Brother Geoff Edwards OSM.

The Year Past and the Year Ahead

A quotation from Martin Luther King Jnr goes:

*"If you can't fly then run;
if you can't run then walk;
if you can't walk then crawl;*

but whatever you do, you must keep moving forward!"

I was again reminded of it as I looked back on the past 12 months. While we may not quite be flying yet, we are certainly moving forward! As to whether, however, we are running, crawling or walking, you will have to be the judge.

As 2015 comes to a close and 2016 gets underway, I thought it might be interesting for us to explore our progress in just a few of the areas we, as a Grand Lodge, have been working on.

Firstly, let us consider our various Education initiatives. As a Grand Lodge we have standardised on the "Masonic Book of Life" as our basic Education offering. This document is handed out, in printed form, to every Brother as he progresses through our Order. When he is initiated he is given a folder with all the material related to the Apprentice degree together with various items on our history, structures and activities. As he progresses through his 2nd and 3rd degrees our Brother is given further material related to his level of advancement while he is given yet more content as he is installed as the Master of his Lodge.

All of this material is available, in electronic form, to every single member of our Grand Lodge, dependant on your status. We will also create accessible databases which will provide still more papers related to each degree and are exploring the most effective ways of providing effective mentoring.

You should also know that the Constitution, Laws and Regulations will be included in the "Book

of Life" and will appear on our Grand Lodge web site. This will enable us to make sure that it is readily accessible to our Members and will further ensure that everybody is working on the most recent version.

As a further Education initiative we are about to launch a Ritual Excellence program. This is being spearheaded by RW Bro Alan van der Vyver and will enable our Brethren to be measured on their ritual skills. In this program Brethren will be evaluated as they progress and will receive formal recognition of their successes. It supports our philosophy that every Brother is entitled to a Quality experience - and high standard ritual work is an absolute essential.

Another key initiative that we are about to introduce is our new online, interactive Membership Management System and we will be using American software specifically designed for Grand Lodges. This is being spearheaded by RW Bro Avron Jacobson and will benefit all of our members as we will be better able to provide you with information. It will also assist us in monitoring our progress as a Grand Lodge and generally simplify our administration processes.

On a slightly different topic, I was recently asked the question "What is the GLSA's reason for being?" As this is very relevant when we consider our 2020 Vision campaign, let me try to provide a simple definition. "The GLSA exists to create an environment where good men can bond together in fraternal harmony as they seek to enhance their own life and the lives of those around them by the application of the Masonic precepts of truth, morality, brotherly love and charity." While growth is absolutely essential to ensure our long-term future, it should never be considered as our reason for being.

For practical reasons, however, Vision 2020's growth objectives remain extremely important and I have recently updated you on the progress of some of our more successful Lodges. We are now presenting the "What is Freemasonry?" ritual in several Divisions with significant success. This ritual not only targets potential candidates but is also useful to educate our newer members, our wives and our families. Let me repeat what I have said before - as far as recruitment is concerned, it really does not matter what you do, as long as you do something! There really are many, many suitable men who are interested in becoming Freemasons and we are each personally responsible for making very sure that we are visible and available.

There are, of course, other initiatives being implemented and 2016 promises to be a most exciting year. It will be a privilege to share it with you.

**MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM,
Grand Master**

Grand Master visits Grand Lodge of France

Over the first weekend of December the Grand Master, MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM, attended the re-installation of the Grand Master of NGLF (France). While the trip had its challenges, with the flight to Paris leaving 4 hours late and without any luggage, the weekend overall was a great success. There were 70 Grand Lodges present and we were able to both renew old contacts and establish many new ones.

Friday night was memorable with an excellent dinner being served while cruising on the Seine, on Saturday there was the annual meeting and the reinstallation of MW Bro Phillip Serval with ± 1500 Freemasons present, while on Saturday there was a Grand Banquet with 700 guests, including partners.



Table companions on the Seine cruise included 2 Past GMs of Washington DC, The GM and Past GM of China, the Deputy GM of Germany and 2 wives.



As his luggage only caught up with him 2 days after he got back to South Africa, the Grand Master had to borrow a set of French Regalia for the ceremonies. Despite this we received an extremely warm reception when our Grand Lodge was formally welcomed into the very full assembly hall. In the picture on the right the Grand Master is seen with MW Bro Philip Serval, Grand Master of France.

Another most successful Masonic Spring Ball

Southern Division's 2015 Masonic Spring Ball proved yet another extremely successful event. The Ball was once again held at the Kelvin Grove Club and the 300 Brethren, wives and guests in attendance had a most enjoyable and memorable evening.

The Ball's aim is, of course, to raise funds towards the Southern Division's Masonic Homes. This project supports a block of flats and 3 communal houses for Senior Citizens and a specially designed Home for Quadriplegics. Future dreams include such facilities as Homes for Children and Abused Women. The financial success of the evening is totally

dependent on the support and efforts of the Lodges, the Brethren and their wives, partners and friends.



At the de Goede Hoop Christmas working the Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Avron Jacobson, handed over an amount of R160,000 to the Chairman of Denid Property, RW Bro Brian Rossouw.

The Deputy Grand Masters of the Netherlands 1 - Jacob de Mist (1800 - 1805)

It is an interesting fact that, of the 4 constitutions present in South Africa up until the mid 20th century, only the Netherlandic appointed a single Brother to formally represent the Supreme Authority throughout the whole of its South African jurisdiction. His title was the Deputy Grand Master National of the Netherlands. Over the next 160 odd years, this prestigious but extremely challenging position was held by no more than 9 men – and it is these men that we will introduce over the months ahead.



Jacob de Mist

It was in the years around 1800 that the first Deputy Grand Master of the Netherlands appears in our records and, indeed, he had an enormous impact in laying our Masonic foundations. **Jacob de Mist** was Commissary General of Batavia and was despatched to Cape Town to “form a Government” and “promote the prosperity of the people”. He was acknowledged as a far-seeing Statesman while, at the same time, he performed exceptional Masonic work amongst the Brethren involved in the Lodges at the time. Described as “a determined though mild revolutionary”, he was a man of extremely high principles and impeccable integrity. During his few, very successful years based in Cape Town, he promoted fraternal interaction, formalised the Lodge structures and consecrated the new de Goede Hoop Temple – which had been built at a cost of some £10,000 or the equivalent of a little more than R30,000 in today's values. He was also well thought of in his profane activities and, amongst his accomplishments, he was responsible for Cape Town's

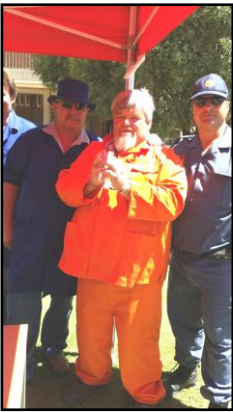
coat of arms. By the time this “man of imposing figure” finally took his leave of the Cape at the beginning of 1805, he had left an unforgettable legacy.

A “Bleed off” in the Free State.

While it is generally accepted that many of our members are prepared to sweat blood for the good of our Order, our Brethren in Central Division gave it a more literal interpretation!!!

In early November 2015, Lodge Bultfontein (No 123), together with Lodge Central Free State (No 35) had a “bleed off.”

The Worshipful Master, Br James Meyer, as well as WM Jack Coetzee, allowed themselves to be dressed in "prisoners" clothing for the day. They were captured, loaded into the back of a police pick-up van and taken to "prison." This took the form of a tent that had been erected at the local flea market venue for the occasion.



The "release" of our two Worshipful Masters depended entirely on the amount of units of blood collected by the local blood bank (SANBS). The Brethren of both Lodges rallied to the cause in persuading all of the members of the public known to them to donate blood and in so doing, secured their release.

This was the Lodge's first effort at helping with the collection of blood and was a huge success. The norm in the past has averaged 75 units for the day. Assisted by the efforts of the Freemasons, the SANBS were able to increase this number to 134 units.

Well done Brethren for making a difference in your community and showing the true colours of our caring Order.

Brethren; a Thought to Reflect on.

With the New Year almost upon us, it is that traditional time when we formulate our “*New Year resolutions*”. How about keeping this in mind?

“It's a terrible thing, I think, in life to wait until you're ready. I have this feeling now that actually no one is ever ready to do anything. There is almost no such thing as ready. There is only now. And you may as well do it now. Generally speaking, now is as good a time as any.”
Hugh Laurie

The Installation of Royal Arch Chapter Horeb.

The installation of Ex Comp Marius Mostert as MEZ of Chapter Horeb No 13 GLSA, took place on 21 November 2015 in the presence of the Provincial Grand Superintendent, M Ex Comp Tom du Toit.

The two junior Principal Officers were Companions Frik Brits and Emile van As. The installation ceremony was conducted in an exemplary

manner by Ex Comp Martin Kotze and his team of Provincial Officers.



Chapter Horeb meets at the Halse Street Masonic Complex in Krugersdorp.



Ex Comp Marius Mostert with Ex Comp Martin Kotze.

Losie Aurora's lunch at Masonic Haven, Pretoria.

The 7th of November started out as any other Pretoria Saturday, sleeping a bit later, lazily having coffee on the porch.

At about 9 am, however, things started to change and a few members of Lodge Aurora started gathering and packing cool bags which contained meat and a few boxes of wine. Their arrival at the Masonic Haven Home for the Aged, in The Willows, had been planned for 10 am. Upon arrival the brethren unloaded the necessary cool bags, charcoal and braai tongs from the cars, but as yet a quiet atmosphere continued to prevail at the Masonic Haven.

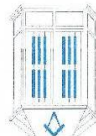
The fires were lit and within 15 minutes noises were heard from deep within the bowels of the Masonic Haven. The smell of the smoke lazily drifting through the Home promoted a rush and clatter of elderly folks with their walking sticks, walkers and wheelchairs. They arrived in ones, twos and bigger groups and the total started to reach closer and closer to the 80 people that were being catered for.

While the men stood around the fires and started turning the meat, our good ladies began offering wine, juice and cold drinks to those that had gathered under the carport where tables and chairs were arranged for the luncheon. At first, the elderly folks were quiet and looked wonderingly at these men and women who had gathered on their premises. As the time wore on, they started chatting to each other, the Lodge members and our ladies.

Lunch was served at 12pm and was very well received as the very appetising mixture of meats and salads was presented. Lunch being enjoyed in the open air and not within their dining hall, made a real difference and all present agreed that there was something very special about being exposed to the fresh air and to the beautiful day.

After the lunch the Brethren and their ladies were heartily thanked for a well planned and executed event which the elderly folks had much enjoyed.

This event has been a success with the elderly for a number of years but this was the first time that the event was held on the Masonic Haven premises.



MASONIC HAVEN FOR THE AGED
"WE CARE"

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20 November 2015

*RW Provincial Grand Master Northern Division,
Grand Lodge of South Africa*

Re. CHRISTMAS FUNCTION FOR RESIDENTS OF MASONIC HAVEN

W. Bro. Sarel Mulder and other members of Aurora Lodge once again brought happiness to the hearts and a smile to the faces of our residents when they arranged a braai on 7 November 2015 at Masonic Haven.

The brethren involved committed themselves to ensure as far as possible the enhancement of quality life of the older person. (Psychological and physical). They live by the values and principles of Free Masonry and can proudly and honestly say:

"Love is not patronizing and charity isn't about pity, it is about love. Charity and love are the same -- with charity you give love, so don't just give money but reach out your hand instead." (Mother Teresa).

I once again wish to express my sincere thanks and appreciation on behalf of the Masonic Haven Council and our residents and can assure you that your humanitarian approach will live in the minds of our people.

May the almighty God, Great Architect and Supreme Ruler of the Universe, bless and keep you.

Yours fraternally

*WBro. Dr. R. Bothma
General Manager: Masonic Haven*


miss his dedication to duty and his love for the Order. We offer our deepest condolences to his family at this testing time in their lives.

To all other Brethren who are carrying burdens of concern about their own health or the health of a loved one; we hope that a swift resolution of the problem will be achieved and that they may they be blessed with a safe return to the bosom of the family.

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





HeynekeTours


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.



from Mother Teresa:

*"Life is an opportunity, benefit from it.
Life is beauty, admire it.
Life is a dream, realize it.
Life is a challenge, meet it.
Life is a duty, complete it.
Life is a game, play it.
Life is a promise, fulfil it.
Life is sorrow, overcome it.
Life is a song, sing it.
Life is a struggle, accept it.
Life is a tragedy, confront it.
Life is an adventure, dare it.
Life is luck, make it.
Life is life, fight for it."*

Almoner's Corner.

It is with much sadness that I have to report that Wor Bro Mervyn Metcalfe (Lodge Mutual) has passed to the Grand Lodge above. Mervyn has been a very effective PG Secretary in the Southern Division and was taking significant strides in assisting, not only the Division but also Grand Lodge, to make real progress with its administrative procedures. Always positive, supportive and first to respond to any query, we will

Editor's Footnote

Brethren; may we as the editorial team of "Square and Compasses" thank you for your support throughout this Masonic year. Without your input, we would have nothing to report. We have a lively Order and by sharing your successes with the Brethren at large, you make an invaluable contribution to reaching our goals in "Vision 2020". These goals are not just about growth, they are about enjoying the wonderful experience of Freemasonry in all of its forms. From ritual to camaraderie, from fellowship to a sense of belonging to something very special.

Brethren; we wish you a most enjoyable festive season and may Anno Lucius 6016 prove to be your best year yet.

**RW Bro Dave Duncan OSM
Deputy Grand Master
Editor - Square & Compasses**