

# The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa. No. 133 February 2023



Most Worshipful Brother John Smith OSAI MSA.

## Our Masonic Journey in the GLSA

The aim of our Grand Lodge is to build a multicultural Brotherhood of good men who practice brotherly love and benevolence and who are united in the enhancement of wisdom, high moral values, equality and justice for all persons. To enable us to achieve this aim, we offer an exciting and enlightening Masonic journey to all our members. You will first proceed through the three foundational and indispensable degrees in Craft Freemasonry, being the Apprentice, Fellowcraft and Master Mason, and it is internationally accepted that the highest degree in Freemasonry is that of a Master Mason. There are also two Appendant Masonic Orders which we recommend to all of our members to ensure that you attain as complete an understanding of Freemasonry as possible during your lifetime. These are the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of South Africa and the Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite for South Africa.

When you embark on the route through the Royal Arch Order you will learn the significance of Masons' marks in its first degree, being that of Mark Master Mason, which completes the Fellowcraft degree. You will then be advanced to the Excellent Master's degree where you will learn about the journey which the liberated Israelites took from Babylon to Jerusalem to begin rebuilding King Solomon's Temple which had been destroyed by the Babylonians. You will then be exalted in the Royal Arch degree in which you will learn about the discoveries which were made when the rubble was cleared away from the Temple's

ruins. This is generally accepted as the completion of the Master Mason's degree.

Once you have attained the Royal Arch degree, you may join the Cryptic Order and the Royal Ark Mariner Order. The name of the Cryptic Order is derived from the Greek words for the vaults or subterranean rooms which were discovered under King Solomon's Temple and the four degrees in this Order cover a vast and interesting period of time in the Masonic story and explain the essence of the Royal Arch degree. In the Royal Ark Mariner's degree, you are reminded of the story of Noah and the ark which God instructed him to build and the ancient moral and spiritual lessons, which are still applicable today.

Although the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite is an independent Masonic Order, a Supreme Council cannot be established in any country unless it has its own Grand Lodge which supports it. It recognises the supremacy of the Grand Lodge and its aim includes the cultivation and strengthening of the mutual bonds between all internal and external Masonic jurisdictions. It seeks to expand on the Craft degree lessons and assists in the search for mankind's identity and destiny. It encourages the study, promotion and application of the principles of Freemasonry and its historic evolution and it offers philosophical background which will enhance your understanding of the tenets and teachings of life in general and Freemasonry in particular. It also provides a forum in which you will be encouraged to advance ideas, concepts and proposals which will stimulate research and personal development. The Supreme Council for South Africa consists of Chapters which confer from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> degrees, Consistories which confer from the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 32<sup>nd</sup> degrees and the Supreme Council which confers the 33<sup>rd</sup> degree. The advancement from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 32<sup>nd</sup> degree will depend on your competence, level of education and commitment to the Order and which is ultimately expressed in the motto *Spes mea in Deo est*, which means "My hope is in God".

In Proverbs 16:3 we read: *Commit to the Lord whatever you do and your plans will succeed*. As members of our Grand Lodge and of these Appendant Orders, let us therefore continue in our quest to produce wiser and happier men who will ultimately become better men and thereby assist us to make the World a better place for all persons.

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

**To achieve something that you have never achieved before, you must be prepared to do something that you have never done before.**

**Les Brown**



*MEC John Smith OSM MSA with the senior dignitaries at the Irish Grand King's Installation.*

### 1<sup>st</sup> Grand Principal Attends Irish Installation

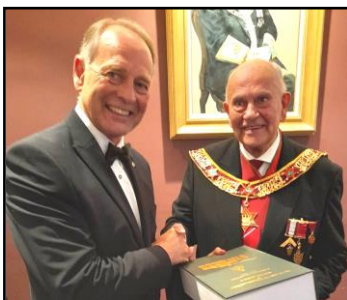
On Tuesday, 24 January 2023 at 19h00, the festivities surrounding the Installation of the new Grand King of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Ireland started with a Welcome dinner at Dublin's Freemasons' Hall with most of the heads of the foreign delegations in attendance. Our Grand Chapter was represented by MEC John Smith OSM MSA, while other attendees included MW Bro Douglas Grey (Ireland), MW Bro Peter Lowndes (UGLE) and the representatives from Scotland, France, Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, Greece and Estonia.

Freemason's Hall is situated near the centre of the city and is an old 3 story building which is kept in very good condition. It has an interesting museum and dedicated temples for Royal Arch and Mark Master Mason degree workings.

At the welcome dinner MEC Smith was seated at the main table with the retiring Grand King, MEC Gordon Leathern, MW Bro Douglas Grey (above); MEC Peter Lowndes and MP Bro Eric Waller, the Sovereign Grand Commander of the Ancient and Accepted Rite of Ireland, and certain of their partners.



On Wednesday, 25 January 2023 at 12h00 MEC Smith attended the installation of the new Grand King, MEC Charles Olden. The installation ceremony was held in the main temple of the Grand Lodge and there were about 200 Companions in attendance. The ceremony was much the same as ours, including an opening and a closing hymn. Apart from the SGC Banner, it appears that every Grand King has his own banner and part of the ceremony included the furling of the retiring Grand King's banner and the unfurling of the new Grand King's banner. The retiring Grand King further removes his chain of office and invests the new Grand King with this chain of office.



After the installation ceremony there was a long lunch in the main dining room with the delegates and partners. Foreign delegates were given the opportunity to present their gifts to the new Grand King. MEC John Smith OSM MSA presented MEC Charles Olden with a much appreciated copy of our Heritage Book.

### De Broederband Install new Master

In an organisation such as ours, there are always going to be Brethren who, by their commitment and dedication, get noticed. Wor Bro Fritz Ganz is such a Brother and we were delighted to see him installed as the new Worshipful Master of De Broederband.



*RW Bro Johan Britz, RW Bro Brandon Topham, Wor Bro Fritz Ganz, RW Bro Simon Nash, Wor Bro Marius Mostert, Wor Bro Achille Katumbay*

RW Bro Simon Nash led the PGL delegation and performed a fine Installation and Board of Installed Masters, while the Grand Lodge delegation was led by Deputy Grand Master, RW Bro Brandon Topham.

During the course of events Wor Bro Ganz presented RW Bro Nash with a greatly appreciated 1970 picture of the Northern Division team for the archives.



### Chapter Settlers advance J Bay Brethren

It seems like it's every month that the Brethren from Jeffrey's Bay do something that gets them into our news. Truth is that their sheer enthusiasm is irresistible. They are now playing a very active part in our AASR activities at Eastern Cape's Chapter Settlers and Ill Bros Hendrick Rademeyer and James Lidderd have both been advanced to the 30<sup>th</sup> degree. They are seen in our picture below with the Eastern Cape ESGIG, M Ill Bro Nowellyn van Vuuren – as always, their enjoyment of the moment is clear to us all!





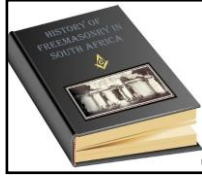
## GLSA Online Shop

If you are looking 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.



## De Goede Verwachting welcomes new Brother

Like most Lodges, de Goede Verwachting has had its highs and lows. Right now, however, with Wor Bro Cobis Wilson as the Worshipful Master, they are on the upswing. On Thursday 16 February they initiated Bro John van der Weijde and all the indications are that there are more initiations pending.



*Bro John van der Weijde (3L), Wor Bro Cobis Wilson(4L), surrounded by the Lodge members and visitors*

## Father raises Son or Brother raises Brother

On Saturday 11 March, the Brethren of Lodge Star of the West journeyed to the Senekal Temple where Wor Bro Marcel de Kock performed a 3rd degree working for Bro Kevin van Zyl. Kevin's very proud father, RW Bro Cor van Zyl (Past Central Division PGM), assisted in the working.



*Wor Bro Marcel de Kock (L) with Bro Kevin van Zyl and RW Bro Cor van Zyl seated in front.*

## Vereeniging's Danie follows in Dad's footsteps

On Saturday 18 February Vereeniging installed Wor Bro Danie Vosloo as their new Master. This was some 41 years after Danie's father, also Danie, had been installed into the same Office. The Installation was performed by Wor Bro Gerald Bosch and the PGL team from Northern Division and I'm assured that the usual high standard was maintained.



Danie's Dad, incidentally is reputed to have been an Assistant PGM and we are hoping to see Danie (jnr) also progress to such a senior Office.

## Mass Advancement to AASR 4th degree

In a recent Chapter Eendracht Maak Macht event with Ill Bro Ian Huntly in the chair, 9 Brethren were advanced to the 4<sup>th</sup> (Secret Master) degree. They included Brethren from Eendracht Maak Macht, Phoenix and Horeb, as well as an Irish Mason.

Never regret a day in your life. Good days give you happiness, bad days give you experience, worst days give you lessons, and best days give you memories.



*The Brethren at the Eendracht Maak Macht 4<sup>th</sup> degree working*



## Prins Frederik initiate Josiah Mashigo

On Tuesday 26 February Prins Frederik initiated Bro Josiah Mashigo as a new member of their Lodge. Due to load-shedding, the ceremony was conducted by candlelight – but that doesn't seem to have diminished the enjoyment of those taking part. Good on you, Brethren, Freemasonry should be fun!



*Bro Teboho Monahadi, RW Bro Godfrey Place, VW Bro Reuven Coenen and Bro Josiah Mashigo*

## Calling Back the Past!

Freemasonry has a rich history and we often receive old pictures reminding us of this. The 1932 picture below, however, is particularly interesting. The Grand Master of the Grand East of the Netherlands, MW Bro Herman van Tongeren visited South Africa and gave addresses in all of the major centres. He was accompanied on his tour by RW Bro CC Silberbauer.

Silberbauer was the Deputy Grand Master National for South Africa for some 40 years and was responsible for establishing the Provincial Grand Lodge of the Transvaal and for opening a large number of new Lodges under the Grand East of the Netherlands. He was a respected lawyer in his private life. He was also a prolific Masonic writer and he and his brother, C "Fred" Silberbauer, wrote much Masonic material including some of the hymns we now include in our rituals, as well as 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> degree papers which are to be found in our Masonic Book of Life.

A book, "Addresses by H van Tongeren", was later compiled and can still be found in Masonic book collections today. After inhumane treatment by the Nazis, van Tongeren died in a Concentration Camp.



*Losie Dagbreek in January 1932 with Wor Bro HP Ward (51), MW Bro Herman van Tongeren and RW Bro CC Silberbauer, surrounded by the Brethren of Losie Dagbreek and Visitors.*

## Almoner's Report

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 Andrew Pover	084 2597108
E Cape Wor Bro Ian Hetherington	082 9545297

## 2022's Most Balanced Lodges

The Balanced Lodge Program is, above all, a tool to assist Lodges to assess their own progress. It also facilitates healthy competition between Lodges of a comparable size. At the end of 2022 some of our Top Performers, in alphabetic order only, were:

### Large Lodges (> 25 Brethren)

Lodge	Total	Average
De Goede Hoop	94	23.5
Koh-I-Noor	173	19.2

### Medium Lodges (16 to 25 Brethren)

Lodge	Total	Average
De Broederband	187	18.7
De Goede Trouw	112	18.7
PrinsFrederik	201	20.1
Star of the Rand	82	20.5
Star of the West	59	19.7
Westerford	122	20.3

### Smaller Lodges (< 16 Brethren)

Lodge	Total	Average
Brits	47	15.7
Jacob de Mist	46	15.3
Jeffrey's Bay	205	18.7
MW Pretorius	61	15.3
Orange	62	15.5

2023 should see all our Lodges taking advantage of this challenging way of measuring their progress. Remember, Brethren, Freemasonry does not expect us all to be the Best, it expects us to be continually striving to be Better than we were and to be the Best that we can be. If your Lodge isn't doing so, why not!