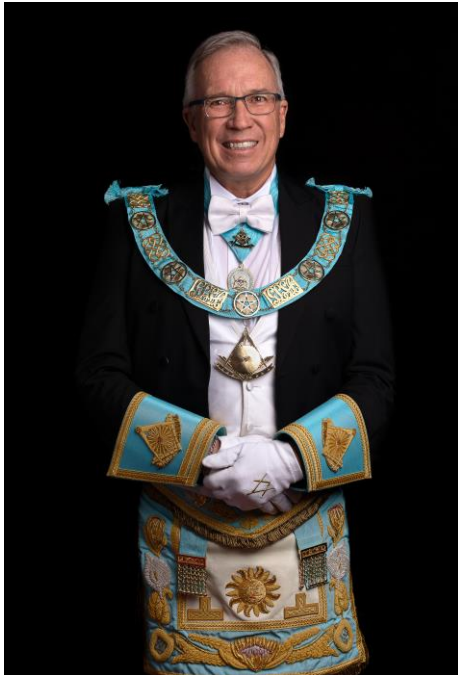


The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa, No. 146 April 2024



Most Worshipful Brother Godfrey Place.

Breaking Down Misconceptions

Freemasonry is considered to be a secret society, beleaguered by misconceptions, bias and ignorance.

Countering these misconceptions is an important task requiring critical thinking and open-mindedness. It is crucial to address and challenge these misconceptions in order to foster a more inclusive and informed society about what Freemasonry really is.

As members we are regularly called upon to respond to questions and misconceptions about the Order. Are we able to respond to some of the common topics raised? One thing we must never do, is make up an answer. Rather admit that you don't know and promise to come back when you do. Honesty is one of the key attributes which Freemasons profess to uphold.

Here are some of the common misconceptions about Freemasonry. We hope that this article will help you to respond when misconceptions are raised.:

Secretive and Mysterious Practices: One of the most persistent misconceptions about Freemasonry is that it engages in secretive and mysterious rituals. While we do have certain "private" rituals, they are not meant to be secret but are reserved for members as a form of tradition and bonding. Our principles and teachings are openly available to the public. Nothing which we do is in conflict with the duty we owe to our God, our Country and our Fellow Man.

Conspiracy Theories: Freemasonry has often been the subject of various conspiracy theories, alleging that it holds undue influence over the world at large. There is no credible evidence to support such claims. Freemasonry is a fraternal body focused on

self-improvement and charity. We encourage our members to actively participate in their communities. If someone is successful, then those who are jealous of his success will often look at ways and means to tarnish it, rather than learning from his success.

Exclusivity and Elitism: Another misconception is that Freemasonry is an exclusive and elitist organization, admitting only the wealthy or powerful. We welcome men from all walks of life, regardless of social status, race, religion, or wealth. Membership criteria focus on moral character and a belief in a supreme being. One must be a man of good repute.

Religious Affiliation: Some people mistakenly believe that Freemasonry is a religion or a religious cult. Over the years, we have seen a number of unfortunate misinterpretations between the Church and Freemasonry. It is important to fully understand Freemasonry's position on this issue. It cannot be emphasised too strongly that Freemasonry lacks the basic elements of a religion. It has no theological doctrine and, by forbidding religious discussion at its meetings will not allow a Masonic theological doctrine to develop. It offers no sacraments and it does not claim to lead to salvation by any means. Freemasonry insists that its members believe in a higher power and uses symbolism from various religious traditions. Members are encouraged to practice their own faith and do not adhere to any specific religious doctrine.

Loyalty Conflicts: There is a misconception that Freemasonry requires its members to prioritize loyalty to the Order over such obligations as family, work or country. Truth is, we explicitly teach our members to place their duties to their God, family and country above Masonic obligations. We encourage members to be responsible citizens and community members.

Material Gain: Some people believe that being a Freemason can lead to material or career benefits. Freemasonry promotes brotherhood amongst its members. Networking is a natural extension of the friendships and trust we develop - no different to knowing that a fellow member at a club is an attorney and when one is in need of such skills and services, we introduce them. Belonging to the Order does not guarantee any material gain or special treatment in professional or personal life. In fact we advise applicants that if they seek such rewards, they will be disappointed and should withdraw their application.

Freemasonry is often misunderstood due to our historical roots, traditions, and symbolism. It exists as a voluntary organisation aimed at promoting moral and ethical values, charitable work, and fellowship among its members. We simply wish to make the world a better place for all who live in it.

MW Bro Godfrey Place
Grand Master



This picture from the de Vereeniging Installation includes RW Bro Ric Gillmer (5L), Wor Bro Mark Hiles (6L) and MW Bro John Smith OSM MSA surrounded by PGL Officers, Sister Constitutions, Lodge members and visitors.

De Vereeniging Install Wor Bro Mark Hiles

On Saturday 6 April, Lodge de Vereeniging No 3, now in Port Alfred, installed Wor Bro Mark Hiles as their new Worshipful Master. The ceremony was performed by Wor Bro Ric Gillmer and his team, with Wor Bros Ian Hetherington, Dennis Nienaber and Hendrik Rademeyer as chain bearers. The outgoing Master's report was concise but complete while the Installation Address delivered by RW Bro Gillmer, "The little unsung heroes of Mozambique's mine fields" was a most interesting one.

Joint RA Installation in Port Alfred

In Port Alfred on Saturday 6 April, there was a joint Installation ceremony for 2 Royal Arch Chapters - Fiat Lux and Jeffreys Bay. MEC Hendrik Rademeyer was installed MEZ of the former and MEC Dirk Uys the latter. MEC Louis van der Linde, the Grand Superintendent, was the Installing Officer and he was assisted by the First Grand Principal, MEC John Smith OSM MSA. The standard of the working was as high as was to be expected and the somewhat unusual ceremony really was an extremely memorable one.



This Port Alfred Royal Arch picture includes MECs Bro John Smith (6L), Louis van der Linde (4L), Dirk Uys (Jeffreys Bay 5L) and Hendrik Rademeyer (Fiat Lux 7L). They are surrounded by Grand Chapter and PGC Officers, Companions and visitors.

De Goede Hoop Masonic Movie Night

On the 2nd Friday of each month de Goede Hoop has a movie night, complete with popcorn, hot dogs and fraternal interaction. It's a great initiative and much enjoyed by the regular attendees. Thanks go to organisers Bros Manny de Freitas and Kelvin Irvine.

		<p>2024 UPCOMING MOVIES</p>	<p>Join us for a fascinating evening of knowledge</p> <p>De Goede Hoop Lodge Masonic Club</p> <p>is hosted in the refectory at 19h00. All brethren, their spouses and potential masons are invited to attend.</p> <p>Please confirm attendance for catering purposes with MW Geoff Edwards OSM on 083 8310 0883</p>

Southern Division's Cricket success

Southern Division's inter-constitutional Olympics is great fun– and winning makes it even better!



The "Glorious GLSA" were John vd Weijde, Matthew Antonio, Sean Stuart, Richard Hendricks, Julian Theunissen, Gary Hendricks, Leroy Muller, Alistair Sawyer. Well done Brethren!

Star of the West Install Bro Doug Sansom

On Saturday 13 April, Klerkdorp's Star of the West had their annual Installation. The Grand Lodge delegation was led by RW Bro Johan Britz and the Provincial team by RW Bro Simon Nash.



The new Master, Wor Bro Doug Sansom, was installed by his nephew, Assistant PGM Wor Bro Gerald Bosch.

Wor Bro Sansom went to a great deal of effort in preparing for the event and it was a great success.

AASR of South Africa attend Scottish tribunal

One of the most pleasing recent aspects of our AASR Freemasonry is the manner in which the different Constitutions have grown closer together. In the picture below, our Sovereign Grand Commander, MP Bro Victor Muhlenbeck (3R), accompanied by M Ill Bro Simon Nash (R) attended a Scottish tribunal.



de Goede Hoop Initiate Bro Dirk Agenbag

On Wednesday 10 April de Goede Hoop, with RW Bro Tommy Hardiman as Presiding Master, initiated Bro Dirk Agenbag as a member of the Lodge.



Acacia Exalt Derian Echiverri-Molina

On Monday, 15 April Comp Derian Molina was exalted to the Royal Arch degree by Chapter Acacia. MEC Kevin Smith was the MEZ with EC Reyaan Uys (EH) and Comp Ben Chapman (EJ) assisting as his co-Principals. The working was much enjoyed by all the Companions who participated in it.



Westerford Pass Joao de Sales

On Thursday 4 April Lodge Westerford had a 2nd Degree working in which they passed Bro Joao de Sales to Fellowcraft. As always, the working was of an extremely high standard and much enjoyed by all taking part. The WM, Wor Bro Sean Stuart is seated next to Bro de Sales.



Brixton RA perform Mark Master

On Wednesday 3 April RA Chapter Brixton performed a Mark Master Mason degree working for Bro Costa Spyridis, a member of Golden Thistle-245 Royal Arch Chapter No 25. The MEZ of Chapter Golden Thistle is MEC Peter Rigopoulos and he was suitably delighted to be able to include a new member in his team. Enjoy the RA experience Comp Spyridis!

Settlers perform a Double

On Saturday 27 April Settlers Consistory advanced Ill Bro Hendrik Rademeyer to 31st and the Chapter then initiated Bro Dewald Steynberg into the 4th degree. AASR English Brethren were at both of the workings.

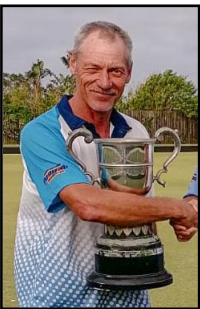




At Star of the West: RW Bro Johan Britz MSA (L3), RW Bro Simon Nash, Wor Bro Doug Sansom, Wor Bro Gerald Bosch, Wor Bro Marius Mostert with Grand Lodge and PGL Officers, Sister Constitution representatives, Lodge members and visitors.

Hiram Initiate Bro Morya Omatete

On Monday 15 April Lodge Hiram performed a 1st Degree working for Bro Morya Omatete. This most successful working had Wor Bro Tyson Mukendi in the Chair and visitors included 8 Apprentices.



Mark Hiles Bowls Champion

Wor Bro Mark Hiles recently won the Gonubie Bowling Club Singles Title. He is the recently installed Presiding Master of Port Alfred's Lodge de Vereeniging and Immediate Past Master of East London's Royal Protea. Well done Mark – it's always good to see our Brethren doing well in their community activities!

Brethren doing well in their community activities!

de Goede Verwachting raise John v d Weijde



On Thursday 21 March de Goede Verwachting raised Bro John van der Weijde to Master Mason. Wor Bro Cobis Wilson was in the Chair and, amongst

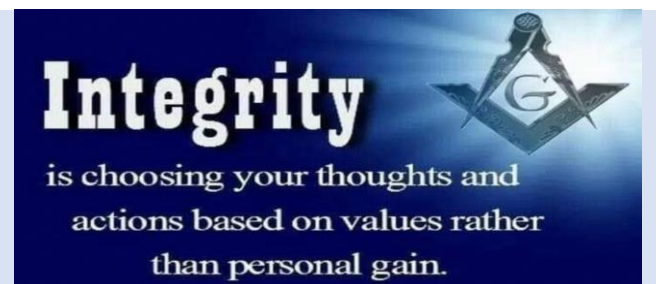
the visitors, was an American from Pensacola who thoroughly enjoyed the GLSA ritual. Several visitors from other GLSA Lodges assisted in the ceremony.

Fidelity RA Elevate Comp Gerhard Nortje

On Monday 22 April RA Chapter Fidelity elevated Comp Gerhard Nortje to Excellent Master. MEC Ian Huntly was the MEZ



Front are Comps Willie Luck, Achille Katumby, MEZ Ian Huntly, Comps Gerhard Nortje, Jeannot Boussougouth.



Almoner's Report

We were both surprised and shocked by the recent passing of Denise, the wife of Wor Bro Llew Lloyd-Jones (Marina). She was a delightful lady and our deepest sympathies are with the family.

As always, please keep your PGL Almoners updated on Brethren in distress and stay in touch with and support your no longer active senior Brethren.

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

Southern Wor Bro Llew Lloyd-Jones	0729653572
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