



# DGL NEWS

## DISTRICT GRAND LODGE of CENTRAL SOUTH AFRICA

Volume V Issue 08

November 2010

### FROM THE EDITOR

Greetings Brethren,

I apologise for the "late edition" this month, but I was away last week!

Great news from Roslyn Park, is that they are 99% fully booked for the first time in two years. Bro. Tommy Hair informs me that he still has some of his excellent wine to sell, which is taking up space at Roslyn Park. Please contact DGL for info.

To subscribe, or to unsubscribe, just send an e-mail to [Rhoda is my sister/secretary] with your request in the subject line, and that will do the trick.]

**Bro. Neville Boner PM, Lodge Sound Memory No. 1655**  
SC - [Nevilleb@ispr.co.za](mailto:Nevilleb@ispr.co.za)

### TO THE EDITOR

Greetings Brethren,

The young masons meeting was very informative and a lot of fun with our young masons giving their opinions on the topic of Masonic Honour. As always the topic was just the start with lots of other subjects being brought into the discussion. The next young masons meeting will be a social bring and braai with our ladies invited to spend the afternoon with us. This one will take place on Sunday the 21<sup>st</sup> of November at 1400hrs.

The venue being 34 langermann drive, kensington, johannesburg.

We would especially like our guest speakers for this last year to bring their ladies and come and join us.

Fraternal regards

**Bro. Arthur Pollok RWM The Cairngorm Republic**  
Lodge No. 1539

### A QUESTION OF BALANCE

*By Bro. Zak Theron, RWM Lodge Unity*

Isn't life strange? I've known the WSubst.DGM Dave Kennedy for many years. I was at his Initiation, Passing, and Raising. I was also at his son's Initiation. The extent of our conversations hardly ever went beyond "Hello, How are you, Keep well, Good to see you again." Then I recently wrote something on Facebook which I borrowed from a song by the Moody Blues. Dave responded, and soon we started sending each other verses of songs by the Moody Blues (incidentally, the opening lines to this article, viz. Isn't Life Strange? is the title of a song by the Moody Blues). When I asked the WSubst.DGM which is his favourite Moody Blues album, he replied, "A Question of Balance." (mine is "On the Threshold of a Dream"). But I said all of that so that I can say this: Neville asked me to write something, I wracked my brain to find something that would neither be esoteric or the

run-of-the-mill Masonic topics. That's when "A Question of Balance" struck me as a topic for an article. And here is the reason why:

In every Craft Lodge we have a mixture of individuals ranging from the highly intelligent to the (almost) intellectually challenged. We have Brethren who live in extreme opulence and those who live just above (or sometimes, below) the "Breadline." Some are engineers, while others are mechanics. We have lawyers, scientists, businessmen, and we can go on and on and on. But the point is, we all come from vastly divergent backgrounds. And we are all Brethren. So far, so good.

Every Craft Lodge has Brethren who belong to other Orders e.g., Royal Order of Scotland, Knights Templar, Royal Arch, Red Cross of Constantine, and Brethren who are members from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 33<sup>rd</sup> Degrees of the A&AS Rite. It often occurs that a Brother is but a Junior Deacon in his craft Lodge while, at the same time, he is the First Principal (equivalent of the RWM) in the Royal Arch. Then we have Brethren who hold office in the District Grand Lodge, and here again, the spectrum covers offices from District Grand Steward up to the Worshipful Substitute District Grand Masters, the Worshipful Depute District Grand Master, and finally, The Right Worshipful District Grand Master himself. There's the rub!

Every brother is entitled to the same respect – even he "who has been placed on the lowest spoke of Fortune's wheel." And, generally speaking, we all abide by that principle. A problem (sometimes) arises when we have a brother in our Lodge who holds a high office in the District Grand Lodge. For, while it is true that "Three rule a Lodge," namely the RWM, WSW, and WJW, we owe it to the Brethren in District to give due recognition and respect to them, not only because of their rank, but because of the tremendous amount of work they put in to see that all the Lodges in a given District operate in accordance with established Masonic principles. Few Brethren realise the time, money, and effort these Brethren put into Freemasonry. What many of us do not realise is that when, on a Saturday, we sit in our lounges with a cold frosty in our hands, watching the Springboks get whipped by some team somewhere in Soweto, these Brethren are either on the road to some far-off town, or are already inside a Lodge performing their various duties. And yes, there are quite a few Springbok or Blue Bull fans (I forgot who the other Provincial teams are) among the Office Bearers of the District Grand Lodge of Central South Africa. So, how can we ensure that every Brother gets the recognition and respect due to him? The answer, quite simply, is "A Question of Balance." It is my experience that people don't respect someone because that "someone" tries to show how important HE is. On the contrary, people will respect us when we show them how important THEY are. Q.E.D.! on the Quantum level, we are all made of the same stuff. All of us. All over the world. Which gives me a gap to

quote a few lines from one of my favourite songs from the sixties:

*We are stardust, we are golden,  
We are billion year old carbon,  
And we got to get ourselves back to the garden.*  
(Woodstock)

## WEBSITES TO CHECK OUT:

<http://www.masonicinfo.com/allengland.htm> "The Grand Lodge of all England" debacle.  
<http://www.cornerstonesociety.com/index3.html> - Essential Masonic articles and conferences in England.  
<http://www.ugle.org.uk/> -New and improved UGLE website.

## POINTS TO PONDER

"Your children are not your children.  
They are the sons and daughters of Life's longing for itself.  
They come through you but not from you,  
And though they are with you, yet they belong not to you.  
You may give them your love but not your thoughts.  
For they have their own thoughts.  
You may house their bodies but not their souls"-  
*Kahlil Gibran*

## DGL INFO:

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District Grand Lodge: [www.dgl-sa.com](http://www.dgl-sa.com)  
District Grand R A Chapter: [www.dgrac-sa.com](http://www.dgrac-sa.com)

## POEM

### A Memorial Poem

**"When your final summons comes,  
to take that last, long trip,  
Adorned with Lambskin Apron white,  
and gems of fellowship;  
The Tiler at the Golden Gate,  
with Square and Rule and Plumb  
will size up your pin, and say,  
Walk in -I see you've Travelled some."**

## QUOTABLE QUOTES:

"Never tell people how to do things. Tell them what you want them to achieve, and they will surprise you with their ingenuity."-- General George S. Patton, Jr. (1885-1945)

"Human beings, who are almost unique in having the ability to learn from the experience of others, are also remarkable for their apparent disinclination to do so."-- Douglas Adams, (1952-2001) English writer, dramatist

"It is in the character of very few men to honour without envy a friend who has prospered."-- Aeschylus, (525-456 BC) Greek playwright

## UNDERSTANDING OUR LAWS AND BYE-LAWS-

### FOURTH SCHEDULE

#### Duties of the Committee of Enquiry

*[continued]*

In this Schedule "the Committee" means the Committee of Enquiry of a Lodge.

Further Procedure

- 3 Unless paragraph 2 above applies, the Committee has no power to prevent the application taking its course and being put to the ballot. Its duty is to enquire fully into the character and qualifications of the Candidate and report to the Lodge.

It is the Committee's duty to make every possible investigation, in the course of which it must interview the Proposer, Seconder and Candidate. It is justified in putting to them any relevant question it thinks fit and it entitled and indeed enjoined to make independent investigations through its members.

The Committee must not shorten its enquiries in order to have its report ready for a particular meeting of the Lodge

- 4 The Committee must interview the Proposer, Seconder and Candidate separately. If practicable the Proposer and Seconder should be interviewed before the Candidate.
- 5 The questions to be put in the case of an application for Affiliation do not require to establish the Candidate's suitability for admission to the Craft. The questions set forth below apply mainly in the case of applications for Initiation.

**FOR SALE! - FOR SALE! - FOR SALE!**

**MASONIC ITEMS and MEMORABILIA**

Lapel pins, cuff links, tokens etc are now available for sale and view on the D.G.L. website under purchases.

[www.dgl-sa.com](http://www.dgl-sa.com)

New stock, just landed, so every thing is available plus new mother of pearl cuff links and Robert Burns Depute Master lapel pins are back in stock.

## **INSIDE THE STRANGE AND SECRET WORLD OF THE FREEMASONS**

*Saturday October 02 2010*

For as long as there have been freemasons, there have been conspiracy theories. They are the secret rulers of the world. They are in league with the devil. They look out for one another when it comes to the best jobs. Douglas Grey has heard them all before and nothing fazes him. The Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ireland says he even gets a kick out of the conspiracies. "They're so far-fetched," he laughs.

"I read the last Dan Brown book [The Lost Symbol] and there were definitely aspects of it I recognised as a Freemason in terms of symbols, for instance, but a lot of it is a far cry from the freemasonry I know."

Incidentally, Brown's novel is sympathetic to Masons and their traditions.

Grey -- "Dougjie", as he is affectionately known -- is a 67-year-old Dubliner who has been a Freemason for 30 years. "We have nothing to hide whatsoever. The only secretive aspects of Freemasonry are the forms of recognition -- passwords and handshakes -- and that dates from the earliest days."

Since the advent of the internet, he says the conspiracy theories have intensified, and the huge popularity of fiction like The Lost Symbol has led to an upsurge in people seeking information about the masons.

"In recent years, we've had a lot of enquiries and some younger men are seeking membership," he says. "But it's important that they want to join for the right reasons. Yes, it is a fraternal society and there is a very enjoyable social aspect to it, but our main concern is with charity. And we expect our members to pitch in. We strive to be a part of the community, not apart from it."

Last year, it donated €600,000 to worthy non-masonic causes and the Grand Lodge pays all or part of the school fees of 800 Irish students, most of them related to a Mason. "Obviously, we only pay the fees of those whose family have fallen on tough times."

Irish Freemasonry's profile is set to be raised with the sponsorship of one of the country's premier classical music competitions, Young Musician of the Year 2010. The semi-finals and final will be held in the Freemason's Hall, Dublin, on October 14 and 16.

"Sponsoring an event like this is hardly the act of an organisation that sees itself as a secret society," Grey says.

"I suppose we wanted to move with the times and be a bit more visible than we had been in the past.

"We are happy to answer any question and anybody who likes can have a tour of this building. We've nothing to hide."

This building is No. 17 Molesworth Street, the headquarters of Freemasonry for the island of Ireland. Situated opposite Buswell's Hotel, the imposing address was built by the 3rd Duke of Leinster and opened in 1868. It is in use almost every night of the week, as Masonic lodges nationwide hold meetings here.

Inside, it is vast and grand and loaded with the symbols of Masonry, which are bewildering for first-time visitors. There are several ornate rooms designated for the different ranks of Freemasonry -- such as the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter -- as well as the striking Grand Lodge Room, which is capable of seating 300 people and comes replete with a white and black chequered carpet to denote good and evil. The Grand Lodge of Ireland is 285 years old and the first meetings were held in taverns in what is now Temple Bar. Freemasonry has its roots in the Enlightenment Era, as progressive thinkers co-opted the honour codes that existed between the stonemasons of medieval times -- those artisans who built Europe's stunning cathedrals and were considered to be touched by the grace of God.

As these masons were illiterate, they revealed their skills to a new employer by way of a special handshake. The aprons Freemasons wear today is also a throwback to those worn by stonemasons centuries ago.

Although Freemasonry differs from country to country, the central premise is based around the parable of King Solomon's Temple in the Old Testament. Hiram Abiff, the so-called Widow's Son, is a key figure for masons because they believe he was the master architect of the temple.

According to Dougjie Grey, freemasons strive to lead a better life, attributing symbolic meanings to the stonemason's tools -- such as the square and compass, which along with the Bible (or a book of worship from any of the world's major religions) are key to understanding Freemasonry. "It's important to remember that Freemasonry is not a religion," he says. He is anxious to point out that there are no links whatsoever between the Orange Order and Freemasons.

"That is a sectarian, political organisation. Freemasonry does not permit discussion on religious or political matters at meetings."

Another myth he wants to debunk is the notion that it is a Protestant fraternity exclusively. "We welcome people of all religions. We ask that members believe in a Supreme Being, but they do not have to define that being. We have Roman Catholic members. Freemasonry is open to all men, except atheists and agnostics."

While that may be the case, the Catholic Church and some of the Protestant denominations have had a long-standing antipathy toward Freemasonry so, in Ireland, lodges were overwhelmingly comprised of Church of Ireland devotees, and that is probably still the case to this day. It is not clear what the Vatican's official stance on Freemasonry is today, but previous Papal Bulls were strongly opposed to what it

considered to be a sect.

There are 35,000 Freemasons on the island of Ireland, but only 5,000 of them are resident in the Republic. Despite this, Grey says the organisation continues to thrive and after something of a lull, younger men are seeking membership. Dniel Stanford -- "son of", he says with a playful roll of the eyes in reference to his actor father, Alan -- is 28 and has been a Freemason for five years. After losing his Day job a year ago, he now works full time as a tour guide at No. 17. He clearly loves the role and is fascinated by the history of Freemasonry. He happily admits a yen for symbolism and mystery prompted his interest in the first place, but now it is the fellowship of Masonry that has truly captured his heart. "It's completely different than what I imagined it would be like," he says.

"I've made some wonderful friends here. Yes, many of them are much older than I am, but so what? One of the best people I've ever met in my life was a Mason, Bob Fitzgerald, who used to be secretary of the IRFU. He's passed away now, but I consider myself fortunate to have met him." He is fond of the strange rituals of Freemasonry, not least because they have been passed down through the generations. Although he is reluctant to talk about what exactly happens during the three initiation ceremonies all members must undertake in order to become a Master Mason, he is adamant that the occasions are "incredibly moving and unforgettable".

Freemasonry is not short of its critics, especially those who take umbrage at the policy that prohibits female members. "It's tradition," Grey says. "I wouldn't want to be a member of the Irish Countrywomen's Association."

Stanford says he has wrestled with the gender issue, and would be open to the idea of women joining if there was sufficient demand.

"My girlfriend works here as an archivist and sees the great work it has done, so I don't have to defend my membership to her," he says.

"But when I tell people I'm a Mason, it does tend to raise eyebrows. I'm just proud to be part of an old tradition."

*Irish Independent*

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## FROM THE BLOGISPHERE:

### KGB Archives Reveal Secret Masonic History

New revelations about the secret history of Freemasonry will be revealed at an international academic conference due to take place in London on 30-31 of October. However, unlike the fictional account proffered by Dan Brown in his latest best-selling novel, *The Lost Symbol*, the history being revealed will be firmly rooted in fact.

The conference, which is being organised by the North-London based educational charity, the Canonbury Masonic Research Centre (CMRC), will include at least two speakers who will cast light on their recent forays into the former KGB archives in Moscow, archives that still contain millions of masonic documents originally stolen by the Nazis during the Second World War.

One speaker, Dr. Patricia Kennedy Grimsted of Harvard University, an expert of international renown in this highly specialised field, will deliver a keynote lecture entitled, 'War on the Freemasons: the fate of Nazi and Soviet seized books and archives', which will provide an overview of how these vast archives were stolen by the Gestapo and other branches of the Third Reich's security and intelligence apparatus during the 1930s and 40s, to how they were subsequently shepherded back to the Soviet Union by the NKVD, the forerunner of the KGB. While another speaker, Dr. José Ferrer Benimeli, a recently retired Professor of modern history at the University of Zaragoza, will cast light on General Franco's hatred and brutal suppression of Freemasonry in Spain.

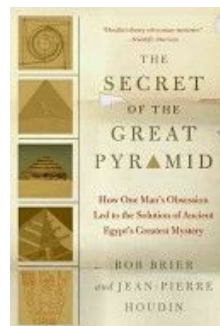
Other revelations due to be unveiled for the first time will include recently deciphered diplomatic correspondence from the close of the eighteenth century which provides a fresh insight to mindset of British Prime Minister Pitt the Younger and his attempts to thwart the activities of Freemasonry and various kindred societies one year after the United Irishmen's rebellion of 1798.

One keynote lecturer will expound upon the infamous Protocols of the Elders of Zion, a notorious forgery which tragically helped to pave the way for the Holocaust. And several speakers will also explore the phenomenon of anti-masonry during the era of the European Fascist regimes, as well as in Turkey and the contemporary Arab world.

Further information, including a downloadable programme of this unique conference and full details of how to register, can be found on the CMRC's website at: <http://www.canonbury.ac.uk/> Student reductions are available on request.

## BIBLIOPHILE:

**"THE SECRET OF THE GREAT PYRAMID:**  
how one man's obsession led to the solution of ancient Egypt's greatest mystery."



Authors: Bob Brier & Jean-Pierre Houdin  
Publisher: Harper (Smithsonian Books), 2009.  
ISBN: 978-0-06-165553-1

Well, if it wasn't for birthdays and booksales, I wouldn't be able to afford to be the resident book reviewer...

Having recently stated categorically

that pyramids feature nowhere in Masonic ritual, I came across an excellent book on pyramids: you can take the Masonry out of pyramids; but you can't take pyramids out of Masons ... The big thing about the pyramids is that none of the theories about *how* they were built actually worked. Standard teaching is that they were built by dragging 30 ton stones up a humongous ramp. The problem with that is that the ramp would have used more stone than the pyramid itself, and that there is just not enough room on the Gizeh plateau for such a construction (and, of course, there's just no archaeological trace of the ramp – let alone all the stone).

An obsessive Frenchman and his architect son came up with a hypothesis which has been corroborated by discoveries within the Great Pyramid itself: there *was* a ramp – inside the pyramid. It is now filled with sand, and its outline can be dimly seen in photographs. One remnant of it is that strange Grand Gallery leading up to the so-called King's Chamber.

The engineering drawings explain every feature of the space, including the gouges in the walls.

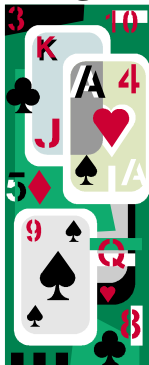
The book is detailed, replete with drawings and photos, and crammed with technical detail – enough to satisfy the most perfectionist engineer. The authors make what looks like a watertight case.

It's a wonderful addition to your library, if, like many Masons, you have a passing interest in Egyptology (and, like many Scottish Masons, have an engineering background).

*By Bro. Dai McClymont Master Elect-The Century Lodge of Research No. 1745*

## EVENTS

### Lodge Douglas 799 SC



## TEXAS HOLD 'EM CASINO TOURNAMENT

06 NOVEMBER 2010

TEMPLE SINAI

71 GRACE AVE PARKHILL GARDENS  
GERMISTON

*Hosted by the EA's and FC's*

*R300.00 buy in (incl. playing chips and finger snacks)*

**WINNER TAKES THE POOL AND DONATES 50%  
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## 2010 ROYAL ARCH CONVOCAATION

Rivonia Recreational Club  
7 Achter Street.  
Paulshof.  
Sunninghill

S 26° 01' 48" E 28° 03' 27"

Date: 20TH. NOVEMBER 2010

Time: 14h30 FOR 15h00

BANQUET DINNER: 18h30 FOR 19h00

Banquet Cost - 3 Course Dinner (Carvery - 2 Meats )  
Cash Bar

Masons Gents	R150-00
Masons Ladies	R150-00
Public Gents	R180-00
Public Ladies	R180-00

Please Note: General public Most Welcome to attend the Dinner Dance!

Dress Code: Black Tie

For payment details, BOOK ONLINE, or phone District at (011) 683-8314 for Direct Transfers.

## Pipe Band & Highland Dancing Contests 2011

- 20 March - Eastern Cape Highland Gathering - Port Elizabeth
- 16 April - Lyttelton Manor Gathering - Pretoria
- 30 April - South Coast Highland Gathering - Amanzimtoti, Kwazulu Natal (Championship)
- 1 May - South Coast Highland Gathering Solo Piping and Drumming Championships
- 14 & 15 May - Celtic Fest - Johannesburg
- 21 May - Fort Nottingham Highland Games - Nottingham Road, Kwazulu Natal
- 28 May - De La Salle Gathering - Johannesburg
- 11 June - Pretoria Boys Gathering – Pretoria (Championship)
- 18 June - Natal Scottish Gathering - Durban, Kwazulu Natal
- 25 June - Transvaal Scottish Highland Gathering - Johannesburg
- 17 July - St Benedict's Gathering - Johannesburg
- 30 July - Benoni Gathering (South African Championships) – Benoni (Championship)
- 27 August to 4 September - South African Tattoo - Johannesburg
- 15 October - Midrand Honorary Rangers Gathering

## MASONS LOSE BID OVER CHARITY STATUS

By HAMISH RUTHERFORD - [www.BusinessDay.co.nz](http://www.BusinessDay.co.nz)  
Last updated 05:00 29/09/2010

Freemasonry's national executive is conceding defeat in its battle to maintain the charitable status it has held for decades.

Last year, the secretive society's highest body in New Zealand, the Grand Union, lost the tax-exempt status it had held since 1933.

Responsibility for determining charitable status was passed from the Inland Revenue Department to the Charities Commission in 2008, forcing thousands of organisations to reapply for tax exemptions.

High-profile organisations including Greenpeace and the Sensible Sentencing Trust have had their applications rejected.

Freemasons New Zealand appealed to the High Court last month, arguing that the Grand Lodge's primary activities were "beneficial to the community" and therefore charitable.

As well as directly charitable activities such as university scholarships (which the commission conceded were charitable), the lodge also teaches public speaking and lessons on ethics to its members, which it argued should also be considered charitable.

Acting for the Crown, Tania Warburton argued that many of the activities of the Grand Lodge were primarily for the benefit of its members, not the entire community. She said its membership, limited to men over the age of 21 who reached the rank of master mason, was too exclusive for a charity.

Judge Simon France rejected the Freemasons' appeal. He concluded that the activities of the Grand Lodge, and freemasonry in general, "do not benefit the public other than indirectly and intangibly by seeking to produce members who are better citizens".

Laurence Milton, the grand secretary for Freemasons New Zealand, said the decision meant the Grand Lodge would have to apply for separate charitable status for its Fund of Benevolence, which did most of its charitable work. The administration and other activities of the Grand Lodge would now be subject to tax.

"We'd have liked the decision to have been in our favour, but it really won't affect our charitable activity all that much at all. It just means a bit more work for me and my office," Mr Milton said.

The organisation spent \$3 million to \$4m on charity in New Zealand each year.

## MASONIC DIARY

NOVEMBER 2010		
Scotia		Orange Grove
Energy		Secunda Pretoria
2	Jakaranda 1st Degree	Willows
	Turffontein	Rewlatch Boksburg
3	Ophirton Installation	North
4	Balmoral Installation	Kempton
	Welcome-Rondezvous	Bothaville
4	Caledonian Installation	Germiston
	Athol	Boksburg
	Randfontein	Krugersdorp

	Northern Province		Orange Grove
	St John in South		Barberton
8	Alberton	1st Degree	Germiston
	Discoverers		Roodepoort
	Border		Vereeniging
8	Sound Memory		Orange Grove
	Glen Douglas		Rewlatch Boksburg
9	Heredom	1st Degree	North
	King Solomon		Germiston
10	Piet Retief	Rehearsal	Vereeniging
	Nelspruit United		Nelspruit
	Douglas		Germiston
	Alpha Crucis		Rewlatch Boksburg
	Benoni Kilwinning		North
10	North West Bedford	Rehearsal	Orange Grove
13	Bloemhof-Fontein	Installation	Klerksdorp
13	Peglerae	Installation	Rustenburg
17	<i>Masonic Services</i>		<i>Park Lane</i>
	Tvl Volunteer		Park Lane
	The Pilgrim		Lydenburg
	Liberty		The Willows
	Florida		Roodepoort
	St Andrew		Kensington
16	Cairngorm Republic	Masonic Play	Orange Grove
	Nigel		Nigel
	Gordon		Rewlatch
	Caxton		Orange Grove
	Caxton		Orange Grove
	Unity		Pretoria
	Robert Burns Mem		Germiston
27	Blyde	Installation	Pilgrims Rest
	Orpheus		The Willows
	Middelburg United		Middleburg
24	Argyll	1st Degree	Roodepoort
24	Somah Herber	2nd Degree Quiz	Park Lane
25	Brixton	Evening	Norwood Boksburg
	East Rand Scots		North
	Sabie		Nelspruit
30	The Century Lodge of Research	Installation	Orange Grove