



DGGL NEWS

DISTRICT GRAND LODGE of CENTRAL SOUTH AFRICA

Volume VI Issue VII

Jan/Feb 2011

FROM THE EDITOR

Greetings Brethren,
I hope that this year is going to be a good one for all!

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

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A BURNS SUPPER GUIDE



from [Burns Night: My Supper With Rabbie](#)

*And there's a hand, my trusty fiere!
And gie's a hand o' thine!
And we'll tak' a right guid-willie waught,
For auld lang syne.*

The annual celebratory tribute to the life, works and spirit of the great Scottish poet, Robert Burns (1759-1796). Celebrated on, or about, the Bard's birthday, January 25th, Burns Suppers range from stentoriously formal gatherings of esthetes and scholars to uproariously informal rave-ups of drunkards and louts. Most Burns Suppers fall in the middle of this range, and adhere, more or less, to some sort of time honoured form which includes the eating of a traditional Scottish meal, the drinking of Scotch whisky, and the recitation of works by, about, and in the spirit of the Bard.

Every Burns Supper has its own special form and flavour, though there are probably more similarities than differences among these gastro-literary affairs. Individual tastes and talents will determine the character of your Burns Supper. Some celebrants may contribute the composition of original songs or poems; some may excel at giving toasts or reciting verse; while others may be captivating storytellers. A particular group of celebrants will, over time, develop a

unique group character which will distinguish their Burns Supper celebration from every other.

Our core group has been meeting for 14 years. We started off on a whim, without any notion of traditional form, other than the idea that we would eat haggis, read Burns, and drink whisky (not necessarily in that order). [An itinerary](#) evolved that has lots of traditional elements, but leaves room for personal or topical additions. Feel free to add a few unique conventions of your own.

With a little bit of planning anyone (well, almost anyone) can enjoy a Burns Night celebration. All that's needed is a place to gather (gracious host), plenty of haggis and needs to go around (splendid chef), a master of ceremonies (foolhardy chairman), friendly celebrants (you and your *drouthy* cronies), and good Scotch drink to keep you warm (BYOB). With these ingredients, at least a few celebrants will be able to make prattling fools of themselves, trying to do justice to the words and spirit of Robert Burns. And if everyone brings along a wee dram and a bit of poetry, prose or song then each, in turn, may become an object of mirth and amusement to the gathered throng. Be prepared to enjoy yourself beyond all expectation. With good cheer and gay company we all may, in short, be able to ring in the Bard's birthday fou rarely.

I've found that most people, although they may be unaware of it, love to attend Burns Suppers. They may feel a little intimidated at the idea of attending a participatory event, but are attracted by the idea of a ribald literary soiree. (They may perceive a Burns Supper to be some sort of droll intellectual exercise - it has hip cachet and doesn't sound too threatening.) These people are often wonderfully appreciative guests and end up having a great time. And therein lies a dilemma for all Burns Supper organizers: Motivating guests to be *active participants*, rather than *passive appreciators*. Everyone should feel comfortable taking part with verse, anecdote or song, but they may need a little help and encouragement. So as a Burns Supper chairman it is highly recommended that you come prepared with plenty of [literary ammunition](#) with which to arm any unprepared, or reluctant, celebrants. It helps if you know your guests and can match them with a suitable reading. Better still, you may be able to gently motivate them, in advance, by including an informal listing of sources along with your charming (I'm sure) Burns Supper invitation. Hopefully that, along with the good vibes and good whisky, will be all the encouragement anyone will need to lower their inhibitions to a level that Burns, himself, would appreciate.

DISTRICT GRAND STEWARDS COLUMN

By Bro. Bill Craig-District Grand President of Stewards

Due to the festive season the DG. Stewards have had a quieter time than usual in their fundraising activities for our new **FLAGSHIP TEMPLE** and **DISTRICT GRAND LODGE HEAD OFFICE**

The DG Stewards would like to thank the RWM and Brethren of:

LODGE KING SOLOMON
LODGE ALPHA CRUCIS
LODGE MO DACHAIDH

for their support and participation at the raffle during their recent installation harmony.

At the DGL instruction meeting held in December, the D. G. Stewards sold Scotch sausage, haggis and black pudding. The total proceeds of **R1,200** went to our building fund. Well done to Bro. Ian Ritchie for this initiative. The DG. Stewards once again encourage all our Lodges, Brethren, non Masons and companies to get involved with our **"BUY A BRICK"** fundraising.

A sponsorship of R1,000 gives the sponsor a brass plaque (with their own wording) mounted in our new temple for a period of 10 years. Plaques are currently being mounted in our existing temple in the meantime.

The Stewards have been informed that there is a D. G. L. of instruction on 18th February. The Stewards will once again be selling **haggis, black pudding** and **scotch sausage**. Ready to eat and in bulk. All proceeds to the building fund.



Mrs F Gray, wife of RWM Bro. Gray, presents Bro. A. Thornton with his raffle prize at Lodge Mo Dachaidh installation.

DG. Stewards building fund is currently, 23 weeks = **R22,008=00**

Our target for the year to July 2012 is **R50,000=00**

Bro. Bill Craig

District Grand President of Board of Stewards

TEN REASONS TO BECOME A MASON

By Bro John A. Grant PM, lodge Braemar 1469.

1. Masonry is a place where you can confidently trust every person, and entrust your family with them.
2. Masonry is a place where, within moral and civil guidelines; free thought, free speaking and the spiritual growth of man can grow into its fullest potential.
3. Masonry is a place which provides the opportunity to meet, know, and call brother, outstanding individuals from all walks of life that I would not otherwise have met.
4. Masonry is a place to be a part of an organization that has for its principle tenets ---Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth.

5. Masonry is a place that provides self-development opportunities, leadership training and experience, and to improve public speaking skills.

6. Masonry is a place you can go to give support as well as seek it.

7. Masonry is a place where moral virtues are taught and through these teachings a regular reinforcement of the moral virtues is experienced.

8. Masonry is a place to spend time with a group of brothers, who, by acting as good men, make me want to be come a better man. Not better than others, but better than I would otherwise have been.

9. Masonry is a place to become better prepared to serve church and community.

10. Masonry is a place to meet with established members of the community and to become a part of the community.

A New Year BB, So. . .

With all of this in mind, let's try and make 2012 a time of sharing, not just fund raising but of building brotherhood between each other, and then each others Lodges, and then each others area of Johannesburg, North, East, West and South and then, pick a country Lodge and try to give them support for at least three meetings in a year, by rolling it forward we can give strength to workings and support to each other that way we can make a candidates evening all the more memorable and create a feeling of pride and joy to becoming a Freemason. It's just a thought for 2012 and I'm sure if your Lodge is keen to assist other Lodges, a little discussion through the District Grand Lodge and we can find a Lodge that is battling along and give them a boost, **"All for one and one for all"** leading Masonry forward.

DGL INFO:

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District Grand Lodge: www.dgl-sa.com	
District Grand R A Chapter: www.dgrac-sa.com	

ON A LIGHTER NOTE!

An 80-year-old Scotsman went to the doctor for a check-up. The doctor was amazed at what good shape the old fellow was in and asked: 'How do you stay in such great physical condition?'

'I am Scottish and I am a golfer,' said the old fellow: 'and that is why I am in such good shape. I am up well before daylight and out golfing up and down the fairways. I have a wee glass of whisky, and that's it.'

'Well,' said the doctor, 'I am sure that helps, but there has to be more to it. How old was your Dad when he died?'

'Who said my Dad died?'

The doctor was amazed. 'You mean you are 80 years old and your Dad is still alive? How old is he?'

He is 100 years old,' said the old Scottish golfer. 'In fact he golfed wi' me this mornin', and then we went to the topless beach for a walk and had another wee dram and that is why he is still alive. He is a Scot and he is a golfer, too.'

'Well,' the doctor said, 'that is great, but I am sure there is more to it than that. How about your Dad's Dad? How old was he when he died?'

'Who said my Grandad is dead?'

Stunned, the doctor asked, 'You mean you are 80 years old and your grandfather is still living! Incredible, how old is he?' 'He is 118 years old,' said the old Scottish golfer. The doctor was getting frustrated at this point: 'So, I guess he went golfing with you this morning too?' 'No. Grandad couldnae go this mornin' because he is getting married today' At this point the doctor was close to losing it. 'Getting married!! Why would a 118 year-old bloke want to get married?' 'Who said he wanted to?'

POINTS TO PONDER:

There are 4 things you can never recover:
 The stone... after the throw.
 The word... after it's said.
 The occasion... after it's missed.
 The time... after it's gone.
 So mind what u say and seize every moment and opportunity, make it count and live each day to the fullest.

POEM

A Red, Red Rose

by [Robert Burns](#)

O my luve's like a red, red rose,
 That's newly sprung in June;
 O my luve's like the melodie
 That's sweetly played in tune.

As fair art thou, my bonnie lass,
 So deep in luve am I;
 And I will luve thee still, my dear,
 Till a' the seas gang dry.

Till a' the seas gang dry, my dear,
 And the rocks melt wi' the sun;
 O I will love thee still, my dear,
 While the sands o' life shall run.

And fare thee weel, my only luve,
 And fare thee weel awhile!
 And I will come again, my luve,
 Though it were ten thousand mile.

THE DUTIES OF A MASON TO HIS BROTHER

by *Masonic Vibes.*

A Mason is bound to consult the happiness and to promote the interests of his brother; to avoid everything offensive to his feelings; to abstain from reproach censure and unjust suspicions; to warn him of tie machinations of his enemies; to advise him of his errors; to advance the welfare and reputation of his family; to protect the chastity of his house; to defend his life, his property, and what is dearer to a roan of honor, his character, against unjust attacks; to relieve his wants and his distress; to instill into his mind proper ideas of conduct in the department of life which he is called to fill; and, let me add, to foster his schemes of interest and promotion, if compatible with the paramount duties a man owes to the community. If such are the obligations which a man owes to brother, they are precisely the duties that one freemason ought to perform to another. Our Order enjoins

them as rules from which nothing can justify a deviation, and considers their infraction a violation of honor; conscience and religion; a prostitution of all that is deemed sacred and venerable among men. But Masonry does not confine the benignity of her precepts to her followers; she rises higher in the scale of excellence, and enjoins the observance of honor, honesty and good faith to all men; she espouses the cause of universal benevolence and virtue; she declares as unworthy of her patronage those who violate the laws of rectitude, and her votaries exemplify in their lives the truth of the remark that, although there are vicious men in the fraternity, yet they are better, than if they were not Masons.

NEW YEAR SPECIALS!!! **while stocks last!**



Masonic Coin R180.
Masonic Pen R30.
Masonic Socks R35
Masonic Coaster R10.

Call Bro. Dave Kennedy 083-2945530

MY MASONIC NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

Posted on **January 1, 2012** by **BeeHive** [sent in by **Bro. Andy Kiloh PM, Lodge St Andrew No.954 SC.**]



Do you believe in coincidences? I don't.
 Do you believe in Angels? I do.
 Guess you know where to classify me now.

Before I went to bed on New Year's eve I read a piece from a friend and Brother who said that he was going to spend his New Year's day in contemplation of what he had done in 2011 and what he had failed to do and how he could make 2012 Masonically better. Did he visit and help Brothers in need often enough? Did he listen and think about those Brothers who had asked his advice and those that had whispered in his ear? Did he walk the extra mile, did he let anyone down?

He asks himself:

Did I hold true to my values all year-long? Did I lose a friend through lack of communication to too much of it? Did I do all that was required of me in time of need? Did I make new friends? Did I create any enemies? Did I leave something undone that I could have finished, and many more questions that I ask of myself.

These are some of the things that he was going to cogitate on.

On New Year's morning I read a piece from Canadian Brother Wayne Anderson's Masonic Newsletter – Sunday Masonic Paper No. 611 – where Brother Doug Gray pondered:

As we approach the count down toward the end of 2011; and the beginning of a New Year, it is a time many use for some reflection! I just wanted to remind everyone that although Masonry is well known as a "Progressive Science"; it should also be remembered as a "Reflective Science."

The true purpose and value in Masonry is to gain knowledge of ones self; and his own relationship with God.

We must use our Lodge time as a place to think, to consider our fellow-man, to become "Human" and to gain "Wisdom". Looking inward is the place to begin, evaluate shortcomings with respect to our obligation, our charges and our commitment to the working tools of each degree.

Brotherhood is our vision in Masonry. How well do you know your Lodge and District Brothers?

Buddha taught: Man is so entangled in the "Tragedy of Life", they are bound together out of sympathy in a "Brotherhood of pity..." Zoroaster taught: That Men are Brethren because warriors in battle between "Light and Darkness" a "Brotherhood of Battle..." Confucius: Brothers because of "common obligations", a "Brotherhood of Service."



In my practice of religion I am quite familiar with "centering prayer" which is much like meditation. You take a symbol, a phrase, an idea or a short scripture reading and you meditate on it for hours, making sure you clear your mind of all else. You contemplate the thought you have chosen, repeating it over and over and listening for an answer. If your mind wanders onto something else you force it back often by repeating out loud your chosen thought. Over and over, hour after hour until you have an answer. Where the answer comes from I am not going to get into. That is up to your own personal belief system.

So not believing in coincidences and getting pushed by my Angel I decide to do some Masonic centering prayer/meditation on the Masonic symbol of the Point Within A Circle.

I cleared my mind of everything but the Point Within A Circle and began. Soon I found myself in a closed maze where I went around and around. At one end I bumped into [St. John the Baptist](#) at another end the Holy Scriptures and at a third point [St. John the Evangelist](#). But what was the message, what were they trying to tell me? Over and over I pondered and meditated.

After some time it was clear to me that I was being strongly urged to make a Masonic New Year's Resolution – a commitment to accomplish something in the coming year.. But further meditation yielded no clue as to what that Masonic New Year's Resolution should be. This was not going to be as easy as I thought.

Maybe this is where free will comes in. It's all up to me. But I am not sure what I should choose. Perhaps you have some suggestions.

MASONIC FOB WATCH

Sent in By Bro. Darren Bell, Lodge Sound Memory No 1655 SC



WEBSITES TO CHECK OUT:

http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=MZ35SOU9HTM - Scottish song

www.robertburns.org/ - The *Robert Burns* works archive, with full text indexed and searchable online.

<http://freemasonsfordummies.blogspot.com/2011/12/masonic-society-journals-available.html> -

QUOTABLE QUOTES:

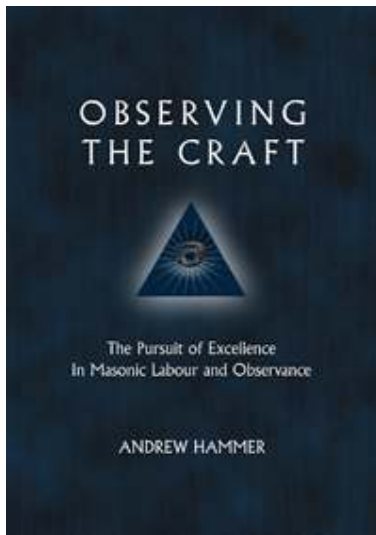
People forget what you say and people forget what you do but they never forget how you make them feel- **Maya Angelou**

"Those who think it is permissible to tell white lies soon grow color-blind."-- **Austin O'Malley**

Any dead thing can go with the stream; it takes something ALIVE to swim against it.-**Anon**

"A book is like a garden carried in the pocket." **Arab Proverb**

BOOK REVIEW



OBSERVING THE CRAFT [L1619]

By: Andrew Hammer

Publisher: **Lewis Masonic**

Product Code: **L1619**

ISBN: **978-0981831619**

Observing the Craft is a manifesto of sorts for the observant Mason, who seeks quality over quantity in every aspect of Masonry.

It is a stringent argument for the Symbolic (Blue) Lodge as the *ne plus ultra* of the Craft, asking that Masons put actions behind their statements that 'nothing is higher than the third degree.'

It is a book that calls for nothing but the utmost personal effort and commitment to be put into the operation of a Masonic Lodge, and the experience of a Masonic meeting, in search of the transformational experience which Masons define as 'making good men better'.

The book addresses the state of Freemasonry in general as it pertains to how it has been practised in recent years, how the author feels it was intended to be practised, and therefore should be practised today. The Preface puts the argument squarely down on the table that quality cannot be compromised for the sake of quantity, and asserts the position of those Lodges and brethren who seek to pursue Masonry as a more restrictive and philosophical experience. Speaking to the American innovation of 'one-day conferrals', the author maintains that such an innovation cannot make true Masons, and calls for Masons to defend the qualitative basis of their Craft by seeking to observe its core philosophy of the search for spiritual and intellectual light.

DIARY

INSTALLATIONS - FEBRUARY

Date	Lodge	No.	Venue
4	Cosmos	1723	Witbank
11	Brakpan	1113	Brakpan
13	Sound Memory	1655	Orange Grove
21	Cairngorm Republic	1539	Orange Grove
23	Brixton	982	Norwood
28	Orpheus	1537	The Willows

WORKINGS - FEBRUARY

1	Ophirton	1st Degree	Boksburg North
7	Jakaranda	2nd Degree	The Willows
8	Piet Retief Golden	2nd Degree	Vereeniging
9	Thistle	2nd Degree	Park Lane
13	Alberton	Lecture	Germiston
20	St Andrew	2nd Degree	Orange Grove
20	Florida Somah	2nd Degree	Roodepoort
22	Herber	3rd Degree	Park Lane

NOTICE

"LODGE OF INSTRUCTION"
for all the District Grand Office Bearers, all our
Rt Wor Masters and Masters Elect.

Date: Saturday 18th February 2012
Time: 09h00
Venue: Temple Sinai 71 Grace Street Germiston
Dress: Casual

*It is of utmost importance that all the District Grand Office Bearers, our Rt Wor Masters and Masters Elect attend this instruction.
Refreshments on sale after meeting.*