



Greetings Brethren,

It's June and that means that it is Annual Communication time again, which is on the 27th June 2009. Lets make this one a truly big event. Looking forward to seeing you all there!

To print this document without colour, select 'File' then click 'Select all' then click on the 'colours toolbar' and click on 'automatic'.

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

Once again, here goes and enjoy reading!

Bro. Neville Boner PM, DGStd Br.

Nevilleb@ispr.co.za

UPCOMING EVENTS

16 June- **Lecture on the Royal Order of Scotland-**

Bro. R. de la Hunt – 082 455 4684

26 June- **Lodge Alpha Crucis Golf Day-**

Bro. G Law 082-4134208

27 June- **Annual Communication-**

Bro. J Fordham WDGS 011-6838314

11 July- **DGL Race Day-**

Bro. T Hair WDDGM-083-2323599

RELIGION IN MASONRY

It is with some concern that I notice that there seems to be an increasing tendency to apply only Christian values to our Masonic philosophy. I have noticed this with various references to the number three in particular, the obvious parallel being the often referred to Christian belief in the Trinity of God. Whilst there is absolutely nothing wrong with this, in terms of one's private convictions, it must be remembered that it is every Mason's duty to be tolerant of every Brother's creed and as such, it is essential that no influence in any form, from any religion should be shown, whether Jewish, Islamic or anything else. The number three has other significations, such as; the candidate knocks three times at the Junior Warden's pedestal and three times at that of the Senior Warden. These three knocks have a profound

significance; they are firstly demanding entrance to the South and West entrances of the Temple; they betoken the three degrees, which in turn represent man's approach to God in each of the three phases of nature: a physical approach, a mental or intellectual approach, and a spiritual approach – in all cases, completely common to all religions. The reason that we call the Holy Bible in our Lodges The Volume of the Sacred Law is that the Book could just as easily be the Koran of the Muslim, the Torah of the Jew or the sacred writings of any religion that recognise a benevolent God whether he be a Hindu, Confucian or as already mentioned, *any* belief system. However, since the majority of Brethren in this part of the world are either Christian or from a Christian background, it is usual to display the Holy Bible at our meetings.

It does not stop there, however, I have also noticed a Christian emphasis placed on other aspects of our meetings, for example, the subtle references to the New Testament or the Bible as a whole, when some representatives of District Grand Lodge welcome newly Initiated, Passed or Raised Brethren during Installations. Craft Masonry is only concerned with the Old Testament and in all the rituals practiced in the three degrees analogous parallels are drawn from this very source. It is an interesting point that since the New Testament is Christian, it should be possible to use a book containing the Old Testament only. I assume that the only reason that the complete Holy Bible is used is for the purpose of oath taking.

In theory, a Masonic Lodge or fraternity is, to my knowledge, the only Order in the world where individuals of any race, ethnicity or creed are provided with a forum for the discussion and debate on any subject at all (except religion and politics within the lodge, but not without), the point being, that one of the very important philosophies and indeed cornerstones of our Order is the teaching of tolerance of other peoples convictions and beliefs. We must absolutely not try to influence, no matter how subtly, another in the way he worships his God. A biased Christian viewpoint must, by its very nature, alienate Brethren of other belief systems, most of who are in the minority. To alienate anyone in a Lodge on the basis of a belief system is emphatically un-Masonic, and must be avoided at all costs.

By R. Edmed PM. Golden Thistle Lodge 744 SC

POEM

THE THOUSANDTH MAN

By Rudyard Kipling

One man in a thousand, Solomon says,
Will stick more close than a Brother.
And it's worthwhile seeking him half your days
If you find him before the other.
Nine hundred and ninety-nine depend
On what the world sees in you,
But the Thousandth man will stand as your friend
With the whole round world against you.
'Tis neither promise nor prayer nor show
Will settle the finding for 'ee.
Nine hundred and ninety-nine of 'em go
By your looks, or your acts, or your glory.
But if he finds you and you find him.
The rest of the world don't matter;
For the Thousandth Man will sink or swim
With you in any water.
You can use his purse with no more talk
than he uses yours for his spendings,
and laugh and meet in your daily walk
As though there had been no lendings.
Nine hundred and ninety-nine of 'em call
for silver and gold in their dealings;
But the Thousandth Man he's worth 'em all,
Because you can show him your feelings.
His wrong's your wrong, and his right's your right,
In season or out of season.
Stand up and back it in all men's sight --
With that for your only reason!
Nine hundred and ninety-nine can't bide
The shame or mocking or laughter,
But the Thousandth Man will stand by your side
To the gallows-foot -- and after!

POINTS TO PONDER

Let's Be Blunt

Let us for a moment be very blunt and even soul searching.
How many of us have visited a sick Brother in the last 6 months. Or even cut the grass of a sick neighbor?
How many of us have invited a Brother who is lonely because his wife has died and he is by himself out to lunch or dinner in the last 6 months?
How many of us have picked up a Mason who does not like to drive at night and taken him to Lodge in the last 6 months?
How many of us have visited a Masonic Widow in the last 6 months?
How many of us have invited a new Mason to come visit us at home so we could discuss Masonry in the last 6 months?
How many of us would rather just write a check than do any of the above. And is writing a cheque true Masonic Relief?

By Bro. Nelson King, FPS, BF, Editor The Philaethes Society

ALMONER'S CORNER

Brethren, I hope that this will be the first of a permanent feature in the DGL Newsletter. In the Almoner's corner, there will be (sadly) an obituary column when necessary, as well as, hopefully, the good news such as new additions to the family, weddings etc.

Of course, the publication of these events depends entirely on the information received from the Lodge Secretary / Almoner or indeed any Brother. It is the aim of the District Grand Almoner's office to provide a forum for a Brother to submit his thoughts on a deceased Brother or his partner, and of course, his congratulations and / or greetings for happier events.

As a Brotherhood, we would all appreciate the opportunity to be a part of and share these very important events in the lives of our Brethren.

Obituary Column

Our condolences go to the families, friends and Brethren of those mentioned below:

Bro Roland Warrender

Bro. Roly as he was commonly known to us all was a very dedicated Mason and more important a very kind person to all that he came in contact with. He will be sorely missed by many. Bro Roly was a Past Master of Lodge Douglas and Golden Thistle as well as a member of Century Lodge Of Research. He was a very dedicated and respected Mason, who served in the chairs of Douglas Royal Arch and Cryptic Council as well as Past Preceptor In the Knights Templar. In the A & A Scottish Rite, he was a 30° degree Mason and Dep. Provincial Grand Master.

Bro Ashton Edward Sparrow

Better known as Ted, a quietly spoken man, who with infinite patience and brotherly love, was always ready to advise other Brethren, a true mentor for many Brethren who now hold many and varied offices in the Craft as well as A & A Scottish Rite. He attained the 32°. Bro Ted was a Past Master in Western Star Lodge where he held the office of Secretary and later, Director of Ceremonies. Bro Ted was a Past Substitute District Grand Master and Hon. Junior Grand Deacon. He will be sorely missed.

Bro Keith Beaton

A dedicated Mason for many years with Lodge Barclay Harvey, where he was a Past Master. When that Lodge closed, he affiliated to Lodge East Rand Scots, where he immediately slotted in as Junior Deacon, once again showing his support and dedication to Masonry in general and his new Lodge in particular. Bro Keith was the Provincial Grand master of the Royal Order of Scotland East Rand. He will be greatly missed.

And so it has come to pass, a Brother having completed all the design's laid down on the Trestleboard of Life, has answered the summons of the G.A.O.T.U. and has entered into the Grand Lodge above. They shall be missed.

Brethren and Families in Distress

- Bro Ian Booth, RWM Lodge Brixton No 962, was admitted to Hospital on Saturday 23rd May, after suffering a heart attack. Any support in the form of visitations or 'phone calls will be appreciated.
- Bro Mike Quist from Kempton Lodge No 1482 and his good lady are both receiving treatment for their recent illnesses and are responding well.
- Mrs Jackson, the widow of the late Bro. Harold Jackson is admitted two weeks ago in the Montana hospital in Pretoria. Receiving rarely any visit as Nelspruit is far and all her family is overseas. Any support in the form of visitations or 'phone calls will be appreciated.
- Bro Eduard Mellaart's ex-wife's daughter, Melanie Stols, passed away on the 15th of May. She battled for about one year with cancer. She leaves her husband, two children and mother behind. My ex-wife has many times catered for the harmony after installations, and is well known by the Brethren in the Lowveld. Brethren, this is a particularly horrible time for a parent, not to mention the children and husband. Please let the family know of your support and compassion.
- Our thoughts and condolences go to Bro Dai McClymont, his wife and family on the passing of Mr Willem van Gass, Bro Dai's father in law.
- Our thoughts and condolences go to Bro Braam Visser, family and friends on the passing of his father.
- Our good wishes go to Bro Des Watts from Lodge Golden Thistle and his wife Marian. Bro Des is recovering from his recent illness and we hope that we will see him back at Lodge meetings soon. Marian is still undergoing treatment and again, we wish her well.
- Bro Bob Wray, also from Lodge Golden Thistle, is making arrangements to move to another establishment and is receiving physiotherapy and showing his accustomed strength of character. Bro Bob, our thoughts are with you.

In conclusion, please submit your message, whatever it is, to the District Grand Lodge .

District Grand Almoners in your area (from 27th June 2009):

Bro Roger Edmed	gentek@mweb.co.za	082 760 1513
	mike@auradeve.lopersconsortiu.m.co.za	
Bro Mike Ioannou	mwkwes@mweb.co.za	082 466 6035
Bro Brian Prinsloo	john.f@districtgrandlodge.co.za	072 277 7459
	c/o	
Bro Nick Haddism	vica@buf-simmers.co.za	083 277 0848
Bro Vic Allen	mellart.e@soft.co.za	082 827 9285
Bro Eduard Mellaart	o.za	083 560 6033

***Fraternally,
Roger Edmed PM, Golden Thistle Lodge No. 744***

IN THE MOVIES

Based on real events, the setting for **Brother's War** is the Eastern Front during the final days of World War II. In the midst of fierce fighting, as the Western Allies and the Russian Red Army make their advance toward Berlin, a British Army Officer attached to the Red Army discovers a secret that can shatter the unity of the Allies.

Seized by Stalin's dreaded Intelligence Service, he finds unexpected help from an enemy and fellow prisoner, a German Captain. A common bond through Freemasonry binds the two Officers by honor, oath and secrets. Joined by Anna, a beautiful Polish nurse cast adrift in the tides of war, the three are pursued by a ruthless Russian Intelligence Officer intent on preventing them from reaching Allied Command with their secret which could change the course of the war and the fate of millions.

Freemasonry is the largest fraternal organization in the world and the oldest, with a recorded history dating back at least as far as the 1400's. When the Nazis took power in Germany in 1933 they outlawed all unions, social societies, Freemasonry and other such organizations. The German Freemasons went underground and abandoned their lodges. They started wearing a "Forget Me Not" flower or a blue flower lapel pin, rather than the traditional Compass and Square, for the purpose of enabling them to recognize each other. Many German Freemasons joined the German Army and blended in, waiting for better times where they again could meet at their Lodges.

As German soldiers invaded the countries around them, the SS raided the various Lodges and sent all the Masonic regalia to the SS Museum in Berlin. An interesting note is that before Adolph Eichmann was put in charge of Jewish affairs in the SS, he served as secretary for the SS museum. Freemasons were rounded up along with the Jews and confined to work and labor camps, only to later perish in concentration camps.

Throughout history, authoritarian regimes have gone out of their way to persecute secret societies, even to the present day, despite the fact that it is well known that Masonic Lodges do not involve themselves in matters of religion or politics. One of the reasons the Nazis gave for this persecution was that the Masons were helping the Jews of Germany in their alleged "world conspiracy." This was supposedly proven by the book "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion", claimed to have been written by a 32 degree Mason, which describes this supposed world conspiracy. The book was later proven to be a fraud created by the Soviet Intelligence Agency to discredit the Jews around the turn of the century.

It is believed that many of the top leaders in Germany during the war had been Freemasons, Heinrich Himmler took a great interest in the organization and it was said that Göring was a Mason as well. When the war ended and the Red Army occupied Berlin, the Soviets took possession of all the Masonic regalia in the museum and send it to Moscow where it was stored until the 1990's, at which time the regalia was returned to the European Lodges from which it had been seized by the SS during the War.

The Freemasons fared little better during Soviet

Communist rule in Eastern Europe, where they were also persecuted and banned as an organization.

See: http://www.brotherswar.info/about_the_film.htm

QUOTABLE QUOTES:

“Learning without thought is labor lost; thought without learning is perilous.”—*Confucius, philosopher and teacher (c. 551 - 478 BCE)*

The difference between ordinary and extraordinary people is that little extra and what they do in their spare time.—*Anon*

“If we work in marble, it will perish; if we work upon brass, time will efface it; if we rear temples, they will crumble into dust; but if we work upon immortal minds and instill into them just principles, we are then engraving upon tablets which no time will efface, but will brighten and brighten to all eternity - *Daniel Webster*

BLOGSPOT

<http://www.kingsolomonslodge.org/en/> - a Masonic Blog Aggregator and Masonic Information Site. "King Solomon's Lodge" is not an actual Lodge, but is a metaphorical title for this site, which attempts to document the life of Freemasonry's past and present by providing accurate and useful information for Masons and others who have an interest in the World's Oldest Fraternity.

WEBSITES TO CHECK OUT:

<http://masonmusic.org/home.html> -website dedicated to the rich history of freemasonry in music.

<http://www.freemasoninformation.com/> - dedicated to the presentation and communication of Masonic knowledge for all who are interested to seek it.

<http://masonickilties.org/Documents/maslinks.htm> - some amazing Masonic links.

<http://www.scotchwhisky.net/> -the most comprehensive, accurate and “up to date” information regarding Scotch Whisky in the world.

UNDERSTANDING OUR LAWS AND BYE-LAWS

Law 183

A Lodge has no corporate identity in law and therefore it can only act in regard to the holding of heritable property and other assets, or for borrowing thereon through the Trustees for the Lodge. Such Trustees must obey the instructions of the Lodge and have no power to act on their own. Unless the Trustees expressly exclude their personal responsibility they are primarily liable under any agreement signed by them and their only recourse is against the Funds [excluding Benevolent Funds] of the Lodge and the individual members of the Lodge instructing the obligation.

GREAT MASONIC SOUNDS

Masonic Network is proud to present our [Brother Harm Timmerman](#)'s music band Freestone and their album "**The**

Temple of Humanity".

Freestone makes pop and rock music based upon different themes that can be commonly found in rock music. Music and artwork are contemporary and the album shows that in the pop community and in the changing music industry, there is still place for something different.

A story not heard in Rock 'n Roll before: progressive and symphonic rock music inspired by Freemasonry. Great music, fascinating lyrics and impressive artwork are full of references to the symbolism of this mystic philosophical tradition. Experiencing Freestone's album 'The Temple of Humanity' is like undergoing a musical ritual and brings forth associations with legendary artists such as Pink Floyd, Mike Oldfield, Marillion, but clearly in a 21st century performance which justifies comparison to present-day rock bands.

The album is composed and produced by someone who is initiated, both in Freemasonry as well as in music. In co-operation with experienced musicians, 'The Temple of Humanity' is a professionally produced authentic and unique album. The packaging and booklet contain fascinating art and artists from different countries (of whom a few are masons themselves) have contributed their work. Discover the mystery and listen to The Temple of Humanity.

For more info please visit **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.** . You can also see their videos and listen to their great songs on Youtube:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gICYmpNEM_8&feature=Playlist&p=14430057BA19C1AA&index=0&playnext=1
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jXZEP0qiBPg>

Sincere Fraternal Greetings, www.masonicnetwork.org

ETIQUETTE WHEN VISITING LODGES OF OUR SISTER CONSTITUTIONS.

It has become increasingly evident that some of our Scottish Brethren, when visiting Lodges of Sister Constitutions are confused as to which signs they must adopt during the various degrees. The answer is really quite simple, you give the signs you were taught in your Mother Lodge or, if applicable, your affiliate Lodge. A Scottish Mason must never give a sign that was not taught to him. For example, during a Grand Lodge of South Africa Installation, the Brethren are asked to salute the Presiding Officer" with seven". The Scottish Mason should give the sign once, hold the Penal Sign until the salutation is complete then return to Fidelity. During the obligation and prayers at the same meeting our GLSA Brethren stand to order with the Penal Sign, the Scottish Mason remains at Fidelity.

When visiting a Lodge holding of the English Constitution, it is not inappropriate to "square the Lodge ", it is requisite that the Scottish Mason ,once again acts as he was taught. There is no ruling or custom in the English Constitution which prevents the Scottish Mason from adhering to this, therefore no insult or infraction is made. The reverse,

however, applies in a Scottish lodge as it is our custom, therefore a Mason from our Sister Constitutions not "squaring the Lodge" is an infraction of our rules. When encountering such problems we should bear in mind "to judge with candour, admonish with friendship and reprehend with mercy".

It is an honour and a privilege to visit lodges outwith our own Constitution and we should be aware at all times as to the protocol and customs required, whilst offering those Brethren who visit our Lodges the courtesy which they deserve.

By *Bro.R.G. Law, RWDGM*

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MASONS AT WORK

In a joint effort between the Brethren of Lodge Sound Memory No. 1655 and the florist, Butterflowers, a bouquet of flowers was presented to all the ladies of Roslin Park and Jafta Home for the Aged to celebrate Mothers Day.

AND ON A LIGHTER NOTE.....

Prince Charles is visiting an Edinburgh hospital. He enters a ward full of patients with no obvious sign of injury or illness and greets one. The patient replies:

*"Fair fa your honest sonsie face,
Great chieftain o the puddin' race,
Aboon them a ye take yer place,
Painch, tripe or thairm,
As langs my airm."*

Charles is confused, so he just grins and moves on to the next patient. The patient responds:

*"Some hae meat an canna eat,
And some wad eat that want it,
But we hae meat an we can eat,
So let the Lord be thankit."*

Even more confused, and his grin now rictus-like, the Prince moves on to the next patient, who immediately begins to chant:

*"Wee sleekit, cowerin, timrous beasty,
O the panic in thy breasty,
Thou needna start awa sae hastie,
Wi bickering brattle."*

Now seriously troubled, Charles turns to the accompanying doctor and asks "Is this a psychiatric ward?"

"No," replies the doctor, "this is the serious Burns unit."

DISTRICT GRAND LODGE

RACE DAY

The District Grand Lodge of Central South Africa are hosting a fund raising Race Day at Turffontein Race Course, Johannesburg, on Saturday the 11th July 2009. The event will consist of 9 races, 8 of which are sponsored. A ticket entitles you to a magnificent Buffet Dinner set in the elegant surroundings of the Aquanaut Room.

There will be various Table Prizes throughout the day and a special prize for the best dressed couple.

Tables consisting of 10 (ten) persons are priced at R3000-00, which includes two free bottles of delicious Temple Roslin Red wine.

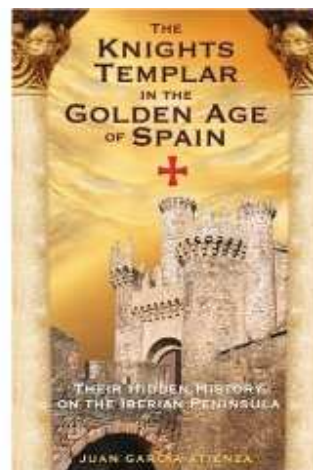
Sponsor Tables at R8000-00, including a Luxury Hamper plus two bottles of wine

Dress: Smart

To book tables, contact:

Tommy Hair	083 232 3599
Gary Talbot	083 653 2654
District Office	011 683 8314

BOOK REVIEW



The Knights Templar in the Golden Age of Spain / Juan Garcia Atienza; translated by Federica E. Rodriguez Guerra. –

Rochester: Destiny Books, 2006.

Hidden gold: that's what this book is. Written in the formal academic dialect of an extremely formal language, the English translation is very wordy and difficult to follow, but, if you make the effort, this is a very worthwhile book. The author shows how the Templars had an agenda which

they hid very carefully: to create a unifying synthesis of Islam, Christianity and the Jewish faith, to bring universal peace to mankind. Their warlike activities were not directed at Islam in general; but against militant fundamentalist Islam.

The very origins of Templarism weren't, as we have always been taught, France, but Spain. Two pre-Templar Christian militias were founded in Spain, later incorporated into the Templars, and it was in Spain that Europe first saw the idea of a religious order of soldiers – among the Muslims. Other things the reader learns include the origins of the Catholic veneration of Mary – Spanish Templars; and the Portuguese state – the Templars again.

Even though we are not permitted by the purists to consider the Templars to be our Masonic forefathers, it is tantalizing to note that the author's concept of "inner history" exactly parallels our idea of the "hidden truths of science and nature", and that our concept of religious tolerance follows faithfully the Templar ideal.

It is a careful, painstaking piece of research, an excellent addition to your library. It also complements the findings of Prince Michael's book, reviewed previously in this newsletter.

By Bro. D McClymont PM, Lodge Alberton No.1651

MASONIC DIARY

JUNE 2009			
1	Towerby	Installation	Rewlatch
2	Jakaranda	2nd Degree	The Willows
3	Turffontein		Rewlatch
3	Ophirton	Quiz	Boksburg North
3	Cosmos		Witbank Boksburg South
3	Eenheid		South
4	Caledonian	1st Degree	Germiston
4	Balmoral	Lecture	Olifantsfontein
4	Randfontein		Randfontein
4	Athol	2nd Degree	Boksburg
5	Scotia		Orange Grove
8	Sound Memory	3rd Degree	Orange Grove
8	Alberton	Quiz	Germiston
8	Discoverers		Roodepoort Boksburg North
9	Heredom	2nd Degree	North
9	King Solomon		Germiston
9	Unison		Carletonville
10	Piet Retief	Installation	Vereeniging
10	Douglas		Germiston
10	Alpha Crucis		Rewlatch
10	North West Bedford	3rd Degree	Orange Grove Boksburg North
10	Benoni Kilwinning		North

11	Kempton		Kempton Park
11	Peglerae	2nd Degree	Rustenburg
11	Roodepoort Caledon	Installation	Roodepoort
11	Brakpan		Brakpan
11	Golden Thistle	Lecture	Park Lane
12	Northern Province		Orange Grove
15	Florida		Roodepoort
15	Zion	3rd Degree	Orange Grove
15	Liberty	3rd Degree	The Willows
16	St Andrew Cairngorm		Kensington
16	Republic		Orange Grove
17	Caxton		Orange Grove
17	Gordon		Rewlatch
17	Argyll	2nd Degree	Roodepoort
18	Unity	1st Degree	The Willows
18	Western Star		Roodepoort
18	Far East Caledon		Springs
18	Pythagoras		Park Lane
18	Virginia		Riebeeckstad
19	Tvl Volunteer	Installation	Park Lane
20	Laeveld		Nelspruit
22	Braemar	1st Degree	Rewlatch
23	Orpheus	2nd Degree	The Willows
24	Somah Herber	1st Degree	Park Lane
25	Brixton	2nd Degree	Norwood
25	Glen Douglas	1st Degree	Rewlatch
25	Sabie		Nelspruit Boksburg North
25	East Rand Scots		North
26	Robbie Burns Mem		Germiston Boksburg South
27	ANNUAL COMMUNICATION		
30	Century Lodge of Research	Lecture	Orange Grove

