



# DGL NEWS

## DISTRICT GRAND LODGE of CENTRAL SOUTH AFRICA

Volume II Issue X1

March 2009

### Greetings Brethren,

If you have never been to a Donkey Derby, then now is your chance! Lodge Gordon is hosting one on the 28<sup>th</sup> March and Roodepoort Masonic Centre is also having one on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May. Come along! You'll have lost of fun and don't forget, they are both for good causes! [See the enclosed attachments].

To subscribe, or to unsubscribe, just send an e-mail to [rhoda@absamail.co.za](mailto:rhoda@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.*  
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### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hi Brethren,  
I found the following on [www.Facebook.com](http://www.Facebook.com) and thought you may enjoy it. I don't know who wrote this. Just thought I would post it for you to read ...

### A WARM MASONIC TALE

A tale of Masonic men surrounding a campfire in the Old West, at night, discussing the Fraternity and its teachings. One old man listened patiently, and finally spoke up: "I can tell you more bout Masonry in a little example than some of the great Masonic philosophers can in books. Everybody stand up, and gather in a circle around the campfire ."

They did that.

"Now, everybody hold hands with the man next to him."

They did that, too.

"Now, what do you See looking ahead ?"

"The face of a brother through the flames."

"What do you Feel in front of you?"

" The warmth of the fire, and the comfort it brings on a cool night."

" What do you Feel at your side?"

"The warm hand of a brother."

"OK. Now drop the hands, and turn around." They do so.

"Now what do you See, looking ahead?"

"Complete darkness."

"What do you Feel, looking ahead?"

"A sense of loneliness, of being alienated".

"What do you Feel at your side?"

"Nothing at all."

"What do you Feel on your backside?"

" The warmth of the fire."

"So it is with Masonry," said the old man. "In Masonic gatherings, you can feel the warmth of Masonic interaction, you can see the face of a Brother through the light Masonry brings to you, and you can always feel the warm hand of your Masonic Brother. When you turn away from Masonry, and are out in the world , you see darkness, feel alienated and alone, and do not feel the warm hand of your Masonic Brother. But Masonry, and the warmth and light it brings, are just a turn away from you.

Fraternally,

*Bro. Andy Kiloh RWM Lodge St. Andrew No. 954*

### NOTICE to all DGL OFFICERS

All Officers from the rank of Steward upwards must be familiar with the Installation Prayer and the three working tools as well as the perambulations of the Deacons.

Bro. T Gorman PM, DGSW, Preceptor to the District.

### IMAGINE YOU'RE ...

Imagine you're sitting in one of London's fine West-end theatres. Let's say you're waiting, in great anticipation, for Shakespeare's Hamlet to begin. You've left the comfort of your home, you have driven ten miles or so in the cold rainy weather, you paid money for the tickets, but you needed the break. You just want to relax for a while.

The curtain goes up, the scene from a small town in Denmark is set, the actors appear, the props are all there, Bernardo cries out, "Who is there" ... Silence ... He cries out once more, but louder, "WHO IS THERE?" ... Silence ... Francisco has forgotten his lines. No problem! Someone in the audience just happens to have a copy of Hamlet with him. So he yells out to the actor who plays Francisco that his reply ought to be, "Nay, answer me: stand, unfold yourself." "WHAT" Replies the actor, "Shout louder, I can't hear you!" "You must say," 'NAY, ANSWER ME: STAND, UNFOLD YOURSELF' then, almost inaudibly –

almost inaudibly, but not quite, he adds, “You twit!!” One is tempted to ironically say, “Something’s rotten in the state of Denmark,” because *something* is definitely wrong.

If the above scenario makes us feel a tad uncomfortable, then it is perhaps needful that we extrapolate from this situation lessons we can learn when we do a “working” in the Lodge. To be sure we are not professional actors. And yes, we have full-time jobs. Most certainly we are all doing the best we can. But as many-a golfer will tell you – there isn’t a “comments” section on the scorecard. We may not be professional Masons, but there is no reason why we can’t be COMMITTED Freemasons. As the saying goes, “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

The way we do our “floor-work” is comparable to the way actors perform on stage. Yes, it has always been a sensitive issue, and that is understandable. Freemasonry is not a compulsory organisation, it is totally voluntary. But that does not mean we must settle for anything less than our very best. The point is: people come to watch us do a role-play of one of Freemasonry’s many beautiful legends. So the better we “perform” it, the better the Masonic Truth will be driven home. Moreover, very few people, if any, are born good ritualists. Those brethren who excel at it have spent countless hours rehearsing their part over and over and over again.

In conclusion, being effective at floor-work has nothing to do with intelligence. The definitive characteristic of a good ritualist is not I.Q., but “I will.” There’s a difference between interest and commitment. When you’re interested in doing something, you do it only when circumstance permit. When you’re committed to something, you accept no excuses, only results.

*By Bro. Zak Theron P.M. Unity Lodge, 1006*

## **ALWAYS IN OUR MEMORY**

### **POEM**

#### **A Distillation of Masonic Philosophy**

Since one of the cornerstones of our philosophy is the never ending pursuit of self perfection, here are a few verses which, I think encompasses a lot of that thought. At worst, it’s a lot of New Year’s resolutions to break.

*By Roger Edmed PM, Golden Thistle Lodge 744*

**The good you do today  
People will often forget tomorrow**

**Do good anyway.**

**If you are successful  
And win some false friends and  
Enemies  
Succeed anyway.**

**If you are kind  
And people accuse  
Of being selfish or  
Having ulterior motives,  
Be kind anyway.**

**If you spend years building  
Something that someone will  
Destroy in a matter of seconds,  
Build anyway.**

**If you are honest and frank  
People will cheat you  
Be honest anyway.**

**Give the world the best you have  
It may not be enough  
But give it anyway.**

**If you find serenity and happiness  
Others are going to be jealous,  
Be happy anyway.**

**You see in the final analysis  
It’s between you and God  
It was never between you and others  
Anyway.**

*By Anon*

## **POINTS TO PONDER**

Men are four:

He who knows not, and knows not he knows not

– he is a fool – shun him.

He who knows not, and knows he knows not

– he is simple – teach him.

He knows, and knows not he know

– he is asleep – wake him.

He who knows, and knows he knows, is wise

– he is wise – follow him.

*–Lady Burton [I also have seen attributed as an "Arabic proverb"]*

## **FREEMASONS AND THE ILLUMINATI**

The Austrian philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein once said, “Whereof man cannot speak, thereupon man must remain silent.” Wise words indeed. Yet, very few people are actually able to abide by his counsel. Take, for instance, the Conspiracy Theorists’ belief that Freemasons are, or harbour, the Illuminati. To many misguided souls – like the strange Mr. David Icke, Freemasonry is a secret society, and

secret societies obviously have something to hide. It must be a terrible handicap being ignorant.

First and foremost, Freemasonry is **not** a secret society. It's a society with secrets. There is a difference. And, quite frankly, those "secrets" can easily be obtained via the Internet. But the reason Freemasons have secrets is simply because the ability to keep your mouth shut is a definitive quality of men of men of character. Moreover, it is often supposed that the "secret handshake" is used by Freemasons to identify other Freemasons. Why on earth would anyone want to do that? If you want to know whether or not someone is a Freemason, check the membership list of any Lodge or Grand Lodge. Besides, what good would it do any Freemason to know that someone else is also a Freemason? There are, contrary to popular opinion, no material benefits to be gained from being a Freemason. Besides, Freemasons are proud of the fact that they are Freemasons, so there is no reason to conceal that fact. Also, any Mason can – and they often do – wear a signet ring, or a lapel badge, or some other identifiable label to tell the world they are Freemasons. There is no reason to resort to cloak and dagger tactics.

Next, one has to ask, "If Freemasons are so very secretive, how come **you** happen to know what those secrets are?" And, if Freemasons, or the Illuminati, wanted to "take over the world" wouldn't they have done so eons ago - long before you and I arrived on the scene? Why wait? Actually, this sounds all too much like the cartoon called "Pinky and the Brain." Readers who are familiar with this excellent series will recognize the line frequently used by the Brain, "With this Pinky, we can take over the world." Apparently, it hasn't happened yet. And if there was a secret plot to take over the world, how come you know about it? So what if several of the presidents of the U.S.A. were Freemasons? Some of them were Roman Catholics or Protestants, too. What does that prove? Alexander Fleming was also a Freemason, but that will not stop anybody from taking Penicillin. Rudyard Kipling was a Freemason, but that doesn't make the beautiful poem, "If," a satanic verse.

But the dull and the ignorant have to brighten their days with Don Quixote-ism. They have to chase imaginary entities, spooks. The fact is, many Freemasons are Christians, and devout Christians at that. Some are Zionists, some Muslims, but no Freemason is an Atheist. You have to believe in a Supreme Being of some description if you want to become a Freemason. And while some read something menacing in the fact that Masons refer to the Supreme Being as The Great Architect of the Universe, they overlook the fact that this appellation is but one of several employed by Freemasons. They also refer, amongst other things, to the Most High, which many Christians and Jews also do.

That there were people who thought of themselves as Illuminati is a historical fact. And that the term Illuminati occurs in Freemasonry is also a fact. But there is a difference. Illuminati (plural of Latin illuminatus) simply means "enlightened," and the name refers to several groups,

both historical and modern, and both real and fictitious. Historically, it refers specifically to the Bavarian Illuminati, an Enlightenment-era secret society founded on May 1st, 1776. In modern times it is also used to refer to a purported conspiratorial organization which acts as a shadowy power behind the throne, allegedly controlling world affairs through present day governments and corporations, usually as a modern incarnation or continuation of the Bavarian Illuminati. In this context, Illuminati is often used in reference to a New World Order. Many conspiracy theorists believe the Illuminati are the masterminds behind events that will lead to the establishment of such a New World Order. But regardless of whoever they had been, or may be, Freemasons are not part of them. And once again the dictum, "Whereof man cannot speak, thereupon man must remain silent," holds true.

*Bro. .Zak Theron P.M. Unity Lodge, 1006*

## QUOTABLE QUOTES:

"Everyone thinks about changing the world, but no one thinks about changing himself." -**Leo Tolstoy**

"Tolerance implies a respect for another person, not because he is wrong or even because he is right, but because he is human." - **John Cogley**

If we had no faults of our own, we would not take so much pleasure in noticing those of others.  
-**Francois de La Rochefoucauld**

Two things are bad for the heart - running up stairs and running down people.- **Bernard Baruch, 1870 - 1965**

The ultimate measure of a person is not where one stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where one stands in times of challenge and controversy: **Martin Luther King**

## BLOGSPOT

<http://intotheduat.typepad.com/>

## WEBSITES TO CHECK OUT:

<http://www.arionline.info/index.php>- Interactive learning centre for the study of Kabbalah.

<http://mastermason.com/clipart/> -For all your Masonic clipart needs.

<http://www.hawaiifreemason.org/>- When you are tired of the beaches.....

<http://www.freemasons-freemasonry.com/>- The premier Masonic site-to be visited often!

## UNDERSTANDING OUR LAWS AND BYE-LAWS

### Regalia

**Law 283** [continued]- All Grand Office-bearers, Honorary and Past Grand Office-bearers, members of Grand Committee, Grand Stewards, Office-bearers, Honorary and Past Office-bearers of Provincial and District Grand Lodges, Grand Superintendents, Past Grand Superintendents and Office-bearers of Daughter Lodges shall be entitled to wear the regalia of their rank at any regularly constituted Masonic meeting.

Brethren acting in office in Grand Lodge, Provincial or District Grand Lodge or a Daughter Lodge shall wear the regalia of that office. Brethren taking part in a Deputation shall wear the regalia of their own office irrespective of any office occupied in such Deputation.

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## NEWS FROM THE NORTH

### UNITY LODGE, PRETORIA – ANNUAL PICNIC

On behalf of the RWM of Unity Lodge Bro. Raymond Cross, a very special word of thanks to all those who made our annual picnic on Sunday 22 February, a resounding success.

More than 70 people “chilled out” on the lawn, under the lapa, or under their own portable marquees, doing what South Africans do best – having a braai and quaffing a few pints of ale under (partially) blue skies and glorious sunshine. What was particularly encouraging was that 5 different Lodges in the Pretoria area were represented. Brethren of all races ranging in ages from 23 to, would you believe it, 90-something attended together with their wives, girlfriends, children and even grandchildren.

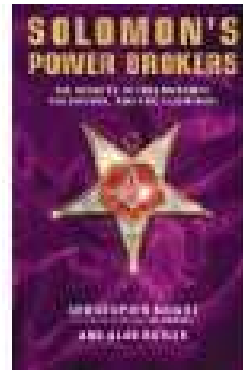
No doubt the highlight of the day was the game drive – absolutely free of charge – to Ray’s neighbour’s private game farm.

A VERY special word thanks goes to Lyn Cross, Ray’s better half who has been simply fantastic in the way she supports the RWM, but more especially, for being the gracious hostess she always is.

Hopefully, by next year February Ray and Lyn would’ve recovered sufficiently for us to continue this 10 year-old tradition.

**By Bro. Zak Theron P.M. Unity Lodge, 1006**

## BIBLIOPHILE-Book Review



**Solomon’s power brokers : the secrets of Freemasonry, the Church and the illuminati / Christopher Knight & Alan Butler. – London : Watkins, ©2007.**

I have never yet been able to get past page 20 of a Knight & Lomas concoction – though Lord knows I’ve tried. Often, Knight with another collaborator is a different story ... Although I still have problems with his exegesis and rather facile understanding of St Paul’s writings, he hasn’t misquoted to anywhere near the extent that I have wanted to throw the book at the wall. In fact, this book is most readable and very interesting.

His central argument is nothing new – you’ll find parallels with *Rex duces* and *Holy Blood : Holy Grail*. His construct is a group of Israeli families, related to the High Priestly office, working tirelessly through the centuries to create the “New Jerusalem”.

Although I’ll pass judgement on the “Star Families” issue, Knight & Butler have amassed a lot of very interesting arguments which enlighten and kindle interest in a large number of very interesting areas of esoteric and historical thinking.

They talk about the Shekinah, and what it means in political/astrological symbolism – from early Israel to modern times, incidentally enriching things I had read previously, in studies relating to the RA.

They talk about Templars and their passion for the “New Jerusalem”, adding to information that has been reviewed in this newsletter.

They go into the post-1717 history of Freemasonry – again with fascinating little vignettes, like the Hellfire Clubs; the Antients vs. Moderns spat; the founding of America; the design of Washington DC, and so on.

They have a lot to say about Venus, and the Venus/Virgo subplots in Masonic symbolism.

All those details make the book so worthwhile that its possible flaws are completely irrelevant. It’s a goldmine for follow-up reading and study for the next ten years. It’s highly recommended; I might even have another go at *The Hiram key* – out of doors.

**By Bro. Dai McClymont PM, Lodge Alberton, No. 1651**

## MASONIC DIARY

2	Towerby	3rd Degree	Rewlatch
3	Jakaranda	Installation	The Willows
4	Turffontein	Installation	Rewlatch
4	Ophirton	Lecture	Boksburg North
5	Caledonian	1st Degree	Germiston
5	Balmoral	1st Degree	Olifantsfontein
5	Randfontein	?	Randfontein
6	Athol	3rd Degree	Boksburg
6	Scotia	1st Degree	Orange Grove
7	Cosmos	?	Witbank
9	Sound Memory	2nd Degree	Orange Grove
9	Discoverers	3rd Degree	Roodepoort
10	King Solomon	1st Degree	Germiston Boksburg
10	Heredom	1st Degree	North
11	Alpha Crucis	Mark Degree	Rewlatch
11	North West Bedford	?	Orange Grove
12	Golden Thistle	2nd Degree	Park Lane
12	Roodepoort Caledon	2nd Degree	Roodepoort
12	Brakpan	?	Brakpan
12	Peglerae	?	Rustenburg
13	Northern Province	?	Orange Grove
16	Zion	?	Orange Grove
16	Florida	Quiz Evening	Roodepoort
16	Liberty	3rd Degree	The Willows
17	St Andrew	Lecture	Kensington
17	Cairngorm Republic	2nd Degree	Orange Grove
18	Gordon	3rd Degree	Rewlatch
19	Unity	1st Degree	The Willows
19	Western Star	Lecture	Roodepoort
19	Far East Caledon	1st Degree	Springs
20	Tvl Volunteer	3rd Degree	Park Lane
23	Braemar	Installation	Rewlatch
23	Pretoria Celtic	Lecture	Olifantsfontein
24	Orpheus	?	The Willows
25	Argyll	2nd Degree	Roodepoort
25	Somah Herber	Installation	Park Lane
26	Glen Douglas	?	Rewlatch
26	Brixton	Open Evening	Norwood
26	Pythagoras	Installation	Park Lane
27	Robbie Burns Mem	3rd Degree	Germiston
28	Virginia	?	Riebeeckstad
31	The Century Lodge of Research	Installation	Orange Grove

