



DGL NEWS

DISTRICT GRAND LODGE of CENTRAL SOUTH AFRICA

Volume V Issue 13

April 2011

FROM THE EDITOR

Greetings Brethren,
Here is a suggestion to all Lodge Secretaries. Please supply the full names of your Brethren on the Lodge Agendas, this would make for a much more friendly document and also help the new Brethren put names to faces.

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
neville.boner@imara.co

TO THE EDITOR

Dear Brother Neville
Thanks a lot for the regular newspaper. It is always informative and interesting piece of reading. I have been a Free Mason for a reasonable time now. Over time I have wondered about the role of Free Masonry and the purpose of our meetings. What do we want to achieve from it? If we look at the typical meeting and what happens there I come to the conclusion that we have lost our direction and purpose. We complain that we lose members and cannot gather interest from prospective candidates. My honest question is that if we don't even know our own Order, how are we supposed to teach our philosophies and mysteries? With knowledge I don't mean to resuscitate a ritual with perfection, because many do not understand, what they are saying or doing. Simply because knowledge has not been communicated to them.

Today I want to raise a point which I have been thinking about for a very long time. Since I joined Free Masonry I have spent a lot of time in reading and developing my knowledge about Free Masonry. Here I not only refer the Craft but also the other so called side degrees. In addition we are also taught to never deviate from usage and custom. Since the introduction of the ritual we have seen many changes. We are also taught to study the seven liberal arts. Un-doubtfully we have a rich history and origin. In all lodges or chapters this history and secrets are displayed. We are taught that hieroglyphics figures were used to communicate the mysteries and through sign and symbols notions are also communicated. In our teachings and philosophy reference is made of Noah, Enoch, Jacob, Abraham, Moses and Solomon. We are also made aware of the Ionic, Doric and Corinthian. The issue at hand then arise, why don't we study those references? When we are not aware of the significance of the signs, emblems and philosophy of the ancient brethren - we would lose our roots completely as these are never discussed, but merely referred to. In years to come the teachings and philosophy will disappear. Many brethren will join Free Masonry without knowing the inner meaning of Free Masonry and change the rituals as they don't understand their meaning. They in time will be our

Grand Lodge office bearers and District Grand Lodge office bearers and Master of lodges. I have observed many brethren of rank and position that revealed their "knowledge" of the said philosophies, signs and teachings. In addition I have also observed the self importance of some brethren. They don't follow our ancient philosophies and understanding of our signs and symbols. Instead it is about what position I have and to hear one's own voice. If we study these we would understand why we as brethren can truly unite in lodge or chapter with brethren of the various religions of this world – uniting as citizens of this world. In conclusion I would like quote the following:

"Freemasonry is a worldwide university, teaching the liberal arts and sciences of the soul to all who will hearken to its words. Its chairs are seats of learning and its pillars uphold an arch of universal education. Its trestle boards are inscribed with the eternal verities of all ages and upon those who comprehend it sacred depths has dawned the realization that within Masonic mysteries lie hidden the long lost arcane sought by all people since the genesis of human reason" Manly P Hall

Your humble fellow brother. **Pieter van Zyl, Lodge Oranje 1603 S.C.**



Guess who is walking in the snow?

SO NEAR. YET, SO FAR.- Masonic Lessons Gleaned from the Sendai

Earthquake/Tsunami.

By Bro. Zak Theron, RWM Lodge Unity, 1006 S.C.

Far out in the uncharted backwaters of the unfashionable end of the western spiral arm of the Galaxy lies a small unregarded yellow sun. Orbiting this at a distance of roughly ninety-two million miles is an utterly insignificant little blue green planet whose ape-descended life forms are so amazingly primitive that they still think digital watches are a pretty neat idea. Douglas Adams, *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*

Sendai, Japan, is a city of 1 million situated 30 minutes inland on Honshu's northeast coast. This city took the brunt of the devastating March 11 tsunami. Flattened by air strikes during the Second World War, Sendai was a modern metropolis, its centre marked by wide, leafy boulevards. These became the focal point of Sendai's famed Tanabata festival, a spectacularly colourful gala held annually in early August when every tree, lamp post, and store awning is festooned with multi-coloured streamers. Festival fireworks and riverside picnics are huge family affairs.

No wonder, then, that the heart-stopping images of the catastrophic destruction will be etched into our minds for many years to come. It is against the backdrop of these images that the striking example of Japan's people emerge: warm, helpful, and respectful of self and others. A radio talk show host spoke of the Japanese as "grace under fire" in their current circumstances. It's an apt description for these gentle folk whose enduring qualities of resilience and goodness ensure that earthquakes and tsunamis can never totally cripple them.

It comes as no surprise that there were no reports of looting, riots or, damage to property as a consequence of human destructiveness. This is in stark contrast to the events in New Orleans after hurricane Katrina struck on 29 August 2005, and the earthquake in Haiti on 12 January 2010. The citizens of the affected Japanese areas were united as one in their hour of heartbreak and need.

We thus ask the question, "What can Freemasons learn about the noble goals of our fraternity from the examples of the Japanese people?" We can labour the point with endless examples, but the gist of it all is simply that the Japanese people understand the principles of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. It did not matter if an individual was the CEO of a major corporation, or simply the janitor at a local school – they were in it together. The stores did not INCREASE their prices, but rather, they DECREASED THEM – or sometimes, they simply gave goods away for free.

I couldn't help but wonder what would happen if, say an asteroid struck our planet – which is not a matter of "if" but "when." Suppose a whole continent or, a few continents are wiped out. How would the Intergalactic Press Association report it? Will they say, "Pres. Obama perishes as an asteroid strikes the major planet, Earth"? Or perhaps, "Pope perishes..." Or even, "Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason dies in asteroid collision"? How about, "Bill Gates loses his life in asteroid disaster"? The brutal truth is this: OUR WHOLE PLANET CAN BE TOTALLY OBLITERATED AND THE UNIVERSE WOULDN'T EVEN NOTICE IT. Hence, we

can be assured that if we lose everything we ever worked for in a catastrophic event, then we have simply worked for the wrong things. In the words of Brother Samuel Langhorne Clemens – aka Mark Twain, "Everything human is pathetic." So, how important are we? Or, how much do our riches count when time is no more? Or our education? Or social status? They are utterly useless. And how sad it is that this is EXACTLY what Freemasonry tries to teach us. We have come SO near. But the application of this truth remains SO far. Will human beings once and for all learn the vital lesson regarding our own insignificance? The short answer is, "Probably not."

Available from DGL:

White gloves @ R 75.00

Grand Lodge Constitution and Laws @ R 180.00

FREEMASONS MEETING ON THE LEVEL IN TIME OF WAR

By Bro. Dai McClymont RWM, The Century Lodge of Research

There is a lot of South African Masonic history in the pages of the GLSA website. Our Brn. have rendered valuable service to the Craft as a whole by this great service. When I consulted Google for information on Freemasonry during the Anglo Boer War (Vryheidsoorlog), one of the most relevant articles was an article from December 2009, entitled "Freemasonry in war time." (<http://www.grandlodge.co.za/?page=News&NewsID=173>)

The article records how Brn. from both sides of the conflict met together on the level in Lodge. The first instance involved Gustav Preller himself. Preller wrote how, whilst a POW in India, a guard who happened to be WM of his Lodge invited him along with other Boer Brn. to a Lodge meeting. Since curfew had already been tolled by the end of the meeting, Bro. Patel put Preller and his companions up for the night and, after a hearty breakfast, drove them back to camp in his own car.

General Piet Cronje was a frequent visitor to two English Lodges on St Helena, and the Installation ceremony at Lodge Old Rock saw Brn. from the English, Scottish, Irish and Netherlandic Constitutions coming together in peace and harmony.

Closer to home, Our own Golden Thistle Lodge did not close during hostilities, and its records show Boer and Brit attending lodge together during the entire war.

These departed Brn. show us the true way of demonstrating Brotherly love, and of meeting on the Level – under the most trying circumstances, and in a conflict which caused bitterness and hatred still felt today.

The Century Lodge of Research will be celebrating their moral leadership at its August meeting (Tuesday 30th August at the Orange Grove temple). It will be performing the McBride ritual's First Degree in period costume.

NEWS FROM THE GRAND LODGE OF SCOTLAND:

REDEDICATION OF FREEMASONS' HALL AND CELEBRATION OF THE 275TH ANNIVERSARY OF GRAND LODGE

The year 2011 is the Centenary of the laying of the Foundation Stone of Freemasons' Hall, 96 George Street Edinburgh, and is also the 275th Anniversary of the formation of the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

To celebrate these significant events a Ceremony of Rededication of Freemasons' Hall will take place on Saturday 9th April 2011 at 11:00 a.m. to be followed by a buffet lunch at Murrayfield Stadium.

On the evening of Friday 8th April a formal Dinner Dance will be held in Freemasons' Hall and on Sunday 10th a Ceremony of Thanksgiving will take place, also in Freemasons' Hall.

Whilst the Ceremony of Rededication on the Saturday morning is for all Master Masons the Buffet Lunch following the meeting will be open to friends and family, and the Grand Master Mason hopes that Brethren will take this opportunity to celebrate with family and friends this significant milestone of the Scottish Craft.

Master Masons in good standing in the Scottish Craft are entitled to make application.

Excerpted from the "CROSS KEYS" monthly newsletter, April edition No. 138 of Lodge Houstoun St. Johnstone No. 242 S.C.

In February, Bro. David Kennedy was invested by the Grand Master Mason, Bro. Charles Wolridge Gordon as a Substitute District Grand Master of Central South Africa. Bro. David's hometown is Johnstone and he is one of our readers; his grandfather, Bro. John Love, was a member of 242. He also visited 242 in 2007 and is hoping to visit again in November to celebrate the Festival of St. Andrew in Edinburgh. I know he will be warmly welcomed into 242 and perhaps there might also be a PGL presence to welcome him into the province.



Bro. David Kennedy is pictured to the right of the GMM while the DGM Bro. Robert Law on the right.

HISTORICALLY SPEAKING:

HOW WE REALLY LOVED THE ROMANS- New research explodes myth that Scots were untameable barbarians

By Juliette Garside

The enduring myth that the Romans left the 'barbarians' of Scotland untouched during their conquest of the rest of the British Isles has been shattered by a new archaeological find. Not only did they settle in Scotland for around 15 years in the first century AD ... they even got our ancestors to swap their beer and lard for wine and olive oil.

For hundreds of years, historians who based their theories on the classical writer Tacitus have always assumed the first major Roman push into Scotland was a brief and bloody affair. The then governor of Britain, Gnaeus Julius Agricola, was supposed to have marched his legions as far north as the Moray Firth and fought a decisive battle there in 84AD, before being immediately recalled to Rome by a jealous emperor Domitian.

History tells that his troops stayed on for a brief 18 months before a quarter of the British legions had to return home to fight at the Danube, in late 86 or early 87AD, and the frontier retreated to northern England, where Hadrian's Wall now stands. The belief had always been that Agricola's stay in Scotland was too short to have had any significant cultural impact on the local population, a Celtic race whom Tacitus referred to as Caledonians. While the English were learning to build villas with underfloor heating and baths with latrines, the northernmost inhabitants of the British Isles fought off the invaders and remained 'barbarians', untouched by Roman civilisation.

Tacitus's history of Agricola's career, made up and put into the mouth of one of the Caledonian chiefs, characterised the

invaders as bringing nothing but destruction: 'To robbery, butchery and rapine, they give the lying name of 'government'; they create desolation and call it peace.' Now the findings of a husband-and-wife team of archaeologists from Manchester University, to be revealed in the BBC documentary series Time Flyers next month, show the Romans were in Scotland for a stay as long as 15 years before their eventual withdrawal in late 86AD. The archaeologists, David Woolliscroft and his wife Birgitta Hoffmann, have excavated along the line of the Gask frontier, a series of Roman forts and watch towers stretching from Perth to Dunblane which marked the line reached by Agricola. They have found that the strong oak forts were rebuilt, in some cases not once but twice, suggesting the Romans stayed much longer than 18 months. The evidence of rebuilding and coins found on the sites have led the team to put the date of the first Roman conquest at around 70AD—a decade earlier than was previously thought. This means it would not have been Agricola, who happened to be the historian Tacitus's father-in-law, doing the conquering, but one of his predecessors, Petilius Cerealis or Sextus Julius Frontinus. If the occupation did indeed last 15 years, a generation of ancient Caledonians grew up alongside the Roman barracks in the first century AD. Far from spending their time at war with the enemy, there is evidence the locals enjoyed an economic boom, with the production of meat and grain increasing in order to feed the foreign army, and luxury goods such as wine, olive oil, pottery and silverware finding their way into homes. 'The famous quote is the Romans make a desert and call it peace—our research is showing probably the opposite,' said Woolliscroft, speaking in advance of the BBC show. 'The picture was the Romans arrived, they broke heads and they left again. We now have evidence that the Romans came and stayed longer than we thought and in certain areas their arrival may have been a benefit and stimulated the local economy.' Excavations this August at a typical Celtic roundhouse near Doune uncovered fragments of glass bottles. These would have been of a square design, and used to hold olive oil or wine. From the recovered pollen, the archaeologists found one well-off family were cattle owners rather than grain growers. And during the period of the Roman occupation, there are signs the number of animals on the surrounding land increased. There were even less trees than there are today, and the type of weeds that don't survive intensive grazing seem to have been killed off for a while. 'We are seeing signs that while the Romans are here agricultural activity really intensifies, either because of taxation or because the locals are supplying the army,' said Woolliscroft. On other Celtic sites, luxury goods such as tableware and trays, amphorae, coins and glass have been found. 'A whole generation grew up alongside the Romans,' said Hoffmann. Far from fearing the invaders, local children would probably have hung about the nearest fort in the hope of getting little treats from the soldiers. 'They would have known that if you went to the fort you could get the equivalent of chocolate. Roman soldiers would have been like the GIs in the second world war.'

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QUOTABLE QUOTES:

A Mason is not necessarily a member of a lodge. In a broad sense, he is any person who daily tries to live the Masonic life, and to serve intelligently the needs of the Great Architect.-Anon

"Be kinder than necessary because everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle"-Anon

"Every generation laughs at the old fashions, but follows religiously the new."- Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862)

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

SCOTLAND'S WORLD HERITAGE SITE CELEBRATION PLANNED



The Antonine Wall is one of the five Scottish heritage sites which the event will involve.

Scotland's five world heritage sites are to link up in a series of interactive events exploring the theme of cultural identity. The events will be part of the World Heritage Day celebrations on 18 April. Edinburgh Old and New Town, New Lanark, Heart of Neolithic Orkney, The Antonine Wall and St Kilda will all participate.

Culture Minister Fiona Hyslop said it was a "fantastic opportunity" for people to celebrate Scotland's "rich heritage and cultural diversity".

The project is entitled 'Shadows of our Ancestors' and will see special events at each of the five sites.

At the Antonine Wall - in the grounds of Callendar House in Falkirk - a light installation and soundscape will recreate the effect of a Roman encampment.

A "storywalk" along Tarbert's Main Street on the Isle of Harris will display a series of light box and video installations showing images of St Kilda.

Other events will be held in Edinburgh's Old and New Town, New Lanark and at the Heart of Neolithic Orkney site.

Ms Hyslop said: "These events are designed to raise awareness of the importance of these truly valuable and unique sites and to recognise each one's contribution to both their communities and Scotland's story as a whole.

"But there is also a wider issue of recognising the vulnerability of some of these sites and the ongoing dedication required to protect and conserve them for future generations."
 The initiative is being run by Historic Scotland in partnership with each of the World Heritage Sites.
 The organisation's head of education Sue Mitchell said: "It's very exciting to be involved in this project.
 "It provides a fantastic opportunity for people to become involved in their local heritage and help to interpret it in a way that can be enjoyed by both the rest of their community and visitors alike." <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-12800371>

POINTS TO PONDER

JUDGE KINDLY

By anonymous

Don't expect perfection in a man because he is a Mason. If you do, you will be disappointed. Masonry makes a man better, but no human agency can make him perfect. If he is a Mason, you have the right to presume he is a fairly good man, but do not condemn Masonry even if a few Masons turn out bad. Even the great Teacher Himself had a Judas. The aim and purpose of Masonry is to receive none but good men, keep them good and make them better. Judge the institution not by a few failures, but by the average of its success. That average is high and it consequently gives standing to its members, but it cannot be an infallible guide.

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THE TEST OF A FREEMASON

By Masonic Vibes

SEVERAL YEARS AGO, the story is told of a Mason who always wore his Masonic ring and lapel pin when in public.
 On some occasions, he rode the bus from his home to the downtown area. On one such trip and when he sat down, he discovered the driver had accidentally given him a quarter too much change.
 As he considered what to do, he thought to himself, "You'd better give the quarter back. It would be wrong to keep it." Then he thought, "Oh, forget it, it's only a quarter; who would worry about this little amount."
 Anyway, the transit company gets too much fare; they will never miss it.
 Accept it as a 'gift from God' and keep quiet.

When his stop came, he paused momentarily at the door, and then he handed the quarter to the driver and said, "Here, you gave me too much change."
 The driver with a smile replied, "I noticed your Masonic ring and lapel pin.
 I have been thinking lately about asking a Mason how to join. I just wanted to see what you would do if I gave you too much change. You passed the test. Can you tell me how to become a Mason?"
 When the Mason stepped off the bus, he said a silent prayer, "Oh God, Grand Architect of the Universe, I almost sold you and my beloved Masons out for a mere quarter."
 Our actions are the only Masonic creed some will ever see. This is a really almost scary example of how people watch us as Masons and may put us to the test even without us realizing it! Always be diligent, whether it is at the theater, restaurant, grocery, service station or just driving in traffic.
 Remember, whether it is a lapel pin, a ring, or an emblem on the car, you carry the name of our great fraternity on your shoulders whenever you call yourself a Mason. You never can tell who might be watching!
Jaycee Compaan - Du Toit 0824352224
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POEM

WILL THE FUTURE REMEMBER?

By Bro. S. Kenneth Baril – 2005

From Bro. Ed Halpaus, for the Education Committee G.L. of MN

Will the future remember?
 What we did here today?
 Will the future remember?
 If it does, what will it say?

Will it say we were humble?
 Will it say we lost sight?
 Will it agree with our reasoning?
 Whether wrong or right?

Will the future remember?
 Of the subjects we spoke?
 Will it defend our actions?
 Or condemn promises we broke?

Will the future remember?
 Will it forget our face?
 Will it understand our methods?
 To make your world a better place?

Will the future remember?
 These men of the past?
 Will the future acknowledge?
 The shadows they cast?

Will the future remember our relief
To brothers in pain?
Will the future remember?
We did it without thought of gain?

Will the future remember?
We did the best that we could?
Will the future remember?
We tried to live as we should?

Will the future remember?
Our oaths on bended knee?
Will the future remember promises made
Between God, you and me?

Whether or not the future remembers
Or shares our point of view,
You are the future, my children
We did it for you!

MY TOP FIVE REGRETS

By Bronnie Ware

For many years I worked in palliative care. My patients were those who had gone home to die. Some incredibly special times were shared. I was with them for the last three to twelve weeks of their lives.

People grow a lot when they are faced with their own mortality. I learned never to underestimate someone's capacity for growth. Some changes were phenomenal. Each experienced a variety of emotions, as expected, denial, fear, anger, remorse, more denial and eventually acceptance. Every single patient found their peace before they departed though, every one of them.

When questioned about any regrets they had or anything they would do differently, common themes surfaced again and again. Here are the most common five:

1. I wish I'd had the courage to live a life true to myself, not the life others expected of me

This was the most common regret of all. When people realize that their life is almost over and look back clearly on it, it is easy to see how many dreams have gone unfulfilled. Most people have not honoured even a half of their dreams and had to die knowing that it was due to choices they had made, or not made.

It is very important to try and honour at least some of your dreams along the way. From the moment that you lose your health, it is too late. Health brings a freedom very few realize, until they no longer have it.

2. I wish I didn't work so hard

This came from every male patient that I nursed. They missed their children's youth and their partner's companionship. Women also spoke of this regret. But as most were from an older generation, many of the female

patients had not been breadwinners. All of the men I nursed deeply regretted spending so much of their lives on the treadmill of a work existence.

By simplifying your lifestyle and making conscious choices along the way, it is possible to not need the income that you think you do. And by creating more space in your life, you become happier and more open to new opportunities, ones more suited to your new lifestyle.

3. I wish I'd had the courage to express my feelings

Many people suppressed their feelings in order to keep peace with others. As a result, they settled for a mediocre existence and never became who they were truly capable of becoming. Many developed illnesses relating to the bitterness and resentment they carried as a result.

We cannot control the reactions of others. However, although people may initially react when you change the way you are by speaking honestly, in the end it raises the relationship to a whole new and healthier level. Either that or it releases the unhealthy relationship from your life. Either way, you win.

Tell people how you feel about them, whether you love them, disagree with them or want to help them.

4. I wish I had stayed in touch with my friends

Often they would not truly realize the full benefits of old friends until their dying weeks and it was not always possible to track them down. Many had become so caught up in their own lives that they had let golden friendships slip by over the years. There were many deep regrets about not giving friendships the time and effort that they deserved. Everyone misses their friends when they are dying.

It is common for anyone in a busy lifestyle to let friendships slip. But when you are faced with your approaching death, the physical details of life fall away. People do want to get their financial affairs in order if possible. But it is not money or status that holds the true importance for them. They want to get things in order more for the benefit of those they love. Usually though, they are too ill and weary to ever manage this task. It is all comes down to love and relationships in the end. That is all that remains in the final weeks, love and relationships.

5. I wish that I had let myself be happier

This is a surprisingly common one. Many did not realize until the end that happiness is a choice. They had stayed stuck in old patterns and habits. The so-called 'comfort' of familiarity overflowed into their emotions, as well as their physical lives. Fear of change had them pretending to others, and to their selves, that they were content. When deep within, they longed to laugh properly and have silliness in their life again. When you are on your deathbed, what others think of you is a long way from your mind. How wonderful to be able to let go and smile again, long before you are dying. Life is a choice. It is YOUR life. Choose consciously, choose wisely, choose honestly. Choose happiness.

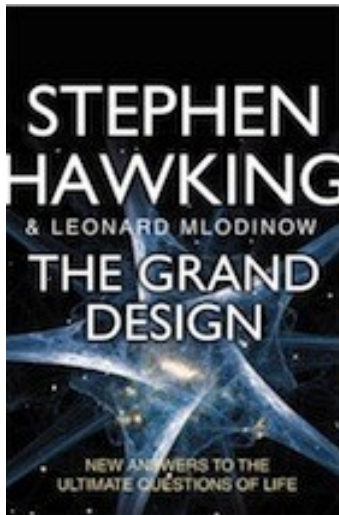
ON A LIGHTER NOTE:

Paddy and Mick were waiting at the bus stop when a truck went past loaded up with rolls of turf.
 Paddy said, "I'm gonna do dat when I win da lottery..."
 "What's dat, den?" asks Mick.
 "Send me lawn away to be cut."

BIBLIOPHILE

Book review by Bro. Dai McClymont RWM, The Century Lodge of Research:

THE GRAND DESIGN: NEW ANSWERS TO THE ULTIMATE QUESTIONS OF LIFE / Stephen Hawking & Leonard Mlodinow. – Bantam, 2010. ISBN: 9780593058305



There are lots of reasons to love this book. One of the more emotional ones is that it presents Quantum Physics in a most understandable manner, so, once you have gotten your head around this topic, you feel like a scientific giant, an intellectual Edmund Hilary (you know, the guy who did for Everest what the *other* Black Caps did to the Proteas). Granted, I have to read each passage twice to get the gist of it, since I am almost dyslexic and still suffer

from Attention Deficit Disorder – but the pellucid writing carries me along with it, and links up with what other writers like Lyall Watson and Sir Peter Medawar said, as well as ideas from the Kabbalah.

A more respectable reason for loving this book is that it is written by an “independent” expert. As an agnostic/atheist, Hawking can be relied on to present the Universe as a *physicist*, not with a hidden agenda. His agenda is what he says it is; nothing more.

[Hawking is widely regarded to be one of the “Oxbridge Atheists”, along with Dawkin and Fry (the comic polymath), but when taxed on his statement that it is not necessary to postulate the existence of a Divine Creator to explain the existence of the Universe, he said in an interview that he did not believe in a personal god. In fact, Hawking’s non-theistic views have excited more raised eyebrows than anything else in the book. There is a delightful irony here: Bro. Colin Browne sent me a cover of the French edition, published under a title which translates as “Is there a Great Architect in the Universe?”]

Other reasons to love the book: it is brilliantly written, accompanied by beautiful coloured illustrations; Hawking’s is the most spectacularly brilliant mind in many generations, and he explains the most complex ideas without condescending to the reader.
 But it is advisable to reconcile yourself to his outrageous

schoolboy sense of humour: every page is littered with horrible wisecracks – HILARIOUS!

So why should a Freemason read this book? I contend that no mason should be without it. To start with, we are all charged to study the hidden mysteries of science and nature. This book takes the reader to the very boundaries of current knowledge – Hawking is actually tackling the Holy Grail of Physics: the ultimate Grand Unification Theory – the *actual* answer to “Life, the Universe, and Everything”.

Secondly, he gives a pretty useful potted history of Thought, from the early Greek philosophers to the present era. He spends some time describing the paradigm shifts navigated by early speculative Freemasons in the Royal Society.

Thirdly, there is a statement which demands Masonic attention: “And so general relativity has transformed physics into geometry.”

If you Google the book, you will see that there is a lot of negative criticism in the reviews; criticism which is basically irrelevant to the actual content and message of the work: the Fundamentalist lobby pillories him for his statement that Divine agency is not necessary to the coming into existence of the Universe. Their criticisms are a bit hysterical and have taken his words out of context: they have only read the book up to that point.

The other critics, who *also* took his words out of context because they only read the introduction, are from the scientific community, who snootily say that the book is useless because M-theory is, as yet, unobserved and unproven.

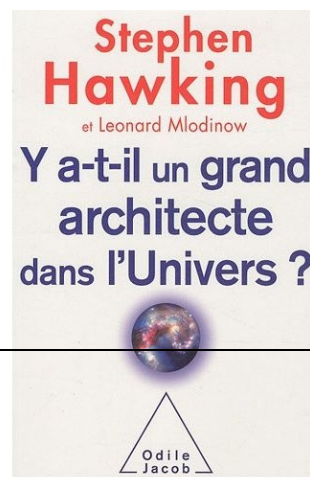
Hawking is not touting a pet scientific theory; he is simply saying that the best place, as far as we now know, to look for the Grand Unification Theory is in one or other version of M-theory.

Read it and be entertained!

EVENTS:

Lodge Western Star No 1450 SC,
 Roodepoort Masonic Centre, on the 21st April

2011.
 There will be an Official DGL visit, a First Degree Working, an Easter Egg



collection for Firlands Children's Home and a Raffle for an Easter Hamper. All support will be welcome.

Call Bro. Sven Smuts-Muller on 072 831 4884,
sven.muller@vodamail.co.za

LODGE DIARY

APRIL 2011

3	Caledonian		Germiston
3	Athol		Boksburg
3	Randfontein		Krugersdorp
5	Jakaranda	Mark Degree	Willows
6	Turffontein	2nd Degree	Rewlatch
6	Eenheid		Boksburg South
6	Ophirton	1st Degree	Boksburg North
6	Cosmos		Witbank
6	Welcome-Rendezvous		Bothaville
8	Unison		Carletonville
8	Glen Douglas		Rewlatch
8	King Solomon		Germiston
8	Scotia		Orange Grove
1			
1	Northern Province		Orange Grove
1			
1	Alberton	3rd Degree	Germiston
1	Discoverers	Installation	Roodepoort
1			
1	Border		Vereeniging
1			
1	Sound Memory	Lecture	Orange Grove
1			
2	Lime Acres		Lime Acres
1			
2	St. John in the South		Barbeton
1			
4	Roodepoort Caledonians		Roodepoort
1			
4	Golden Thistle	Lecture	Park Lane
1			
4	Brakpan		Brakpan
1			
4	Kempton	Installation	Kempton
1			
4	Peglarae		Rustenburg
1			
4	Gordon		Rewlatch
1			
4	Bloemhof-Fontein		Klerksdorp
1			
4	Caxton		Orange Grove

1			
4	Masonic Services		Park Lane
1			
8	Florida	Remembrance	Roodepoort
1			
8	Liberty		Willows
1			
8	Union of Athole		Kimberley
1			
9	Middelburg United		Middleburg
1			
9	St Andrew		Kensington
1			
9	Cairngorm Republic	3rd Degree	Orange Grove
1			
9	Nigel		Nigel
1			
9	Thistle		Bloemfontein
2			
0	Somah Herber	3rd Degree	Park Lane
2			
1	Sabie		Nelspruit
2			
1	Glen Douglas		Rewlatch
2			
1	Western Star	1st Degree	Roodepoort
2			
1	Pythagoras		Park Lane
2			
1	Unity	Recess	Pretoria
2			
1	Mo Dachaidh		Kensington
2			
2	Tvl Volunteer		Park Lane
2			
2	Robert Burns Mem	Recess	Germiston
2			
2	Orpheus		Willows
2			
5	Pretoria Celtic		Olifantsfontein
2			
5	Braemar		Rewlatch
2			
7	Argyll	Lecture	Roodepoort
2			
7	Oranje		Bloemfontein
2			
8	East Rand Scots		Boksburg North
	DGL Official visit		