



D G L NEWS

DISTRICT GRAND LODGE of CENTRAL SOUTH AFRICA

Volume VI Issue V

November 2011

FROM THE EDITOR

Greetings Brethren,
Please enjoy our latest edition.

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.]

Bro. Neville Boner PM, Lodge Sound Memory No. 1655
neville.boner@imara.co 082-8997441

TO THE EDITOR

Dear Bro. Neville,
There appears to be a lack of enthusiasm in the Brethren as far as submitting articles, or even short letters to the Monthly Newsletter, surely there must be something of interest happening in the District which merits a little publicity.

For example, upon my return from a long overseas trip I found out that the residents of Roslin Park had started an ecological vegetable garden. Ted Dewar, one of the very active residents in the complex, managed to organise funding to purchase a bio system which utilises kitchen waste in making a very good compost in a reasonably short time; trenches were dug in soil that was in a poor condition and the resultant compost put in and mixed with the soil resulting in a very good medium for growing vegetables. There are now about seven of these beds which have been planted with various types of vegetable, spinach, squash, melon, beans, peas etc. The next step is to try and utilise the rain water which, at present, just runs away. Funding to buy water tanks is now required, which, when installed would result in a self-sufficient system of production providing fresh vegetables for the residents and reducing the running costs of the home. If any Lodge wishes to make a contribution towards the purchase and installation of such a tank, please contact either, the District Grand Secretary, Bro. John Fordham, or the Matron, Mrs Engela Guthrie.

By Bro. Bob Stewart, PM Golden Thistle Lodge 744 (and Resident of Roslin Park)

DISTRICT GRAND STEWARDS COLUMN

By Bro. Bill Craig-District Grand President of Stewards

During the month of October the D. G. Stewards have again been extremely active raising funds for our new **District Grand Lodge Head Office** and **Flagship Temple**.

Total to date. 14 weeks = R13,058

Lodge installation raffles

The D. G. Stewards would like to thank the following Lodges for their participation and donation to the building fund at their recent installations:

RWM **Bro. Heritage** and Brethren of **Lodge Nelspruit**

United

RWM **Bro. Morris** and Brethren of **Lodge Randfontein**
RWM **Bro. Scheepers** and Brethren of **Lodge The Pilgrim**
RWM **Bro. Grobbelaar** and Brethren of **Lodge Oranje**
RWM **Bro. Cooke** and Brethren of **Lodge Florida**

Buy a brick

Sponsorship of the first two plaques has been received or pledged and the plaques are complete and will be mounted in the existing Temple until the new Temple is ready. The D. G. Stewards would like to through down a challenge to all our lodges and Brethren to **"buy a brick"** A sponsorship to the building fund of R1,000 will result in a brass plaque being erected in the Temple and will remain for a period of 10 years.



The sponsorship can be from any Lodge, Brother, non Mason or company.

Contact District Grand Lodge or any D. G. Steward for further details or to submit your sponsorship.



Bro. Coole receives his "cool" bottle of fine malt whisky from R. W. M. Bro. Heritage at Lodge Nelspruit United installation.

Ladies Evening & Masonic Ball

Venue: The Wanderers Club.

Brethren, please diarise 24th March 2012 for this elegant and fun evening. A full 3 course dinner will be served. There will be lots of lovely music and of course a proper dance floor. We can only cater for a maximum of 140. Ticket sales will be on a "first come" basis.

Watch this space!!!

Other functions and activities to be announced soon.



Bro Rimer receives his bottle of Johnny Walker Black Label from R. W. M. Bro. Morris at Lodge Randfontein installation.

SOUTH AFRICAN FREEMASONRY DURING THE ANGLO-BOER WAR/VRYHEIDSOORLOG.

By Bro. ©D. McClymont RWM-The Century Lodge of Research No 1745 SC

That war, more than a century ago was the cause of perhaps the most bitter split between fellow citizens of any modern country. Time doesn't look like it's going to heal many wounds any time soon.

And yet, out of pain and bitterness came forth sweetness too; we just don't get to hear much about it.

Some time ago, I wrote that concrete evidence of Freemasons acting as brothers on the battlefield were few and difficult to substantiate. The American Civil War showed Masons paying fraternal tribute to their Brethren on the opposing side – after they had killed them. The issue of Masonic chivalry during that conflict is clouded by the fact that it was possibly caused more by friendships from West Point days, or by family ties, than by Masonic fraternal love. Anecdotal evidence of Masonic fraternal solidarity during our civil war is much easier to come by. But there's a problem with anecdotal evidence: it is unproven, incapable of being tested, and cannot be used in any serious histories.

I am hereby launching an appeal (*though appeals to Brethren have a history of total failure hereabouts*). I want your anecdotes of the Anglo Boer War – with names, places and dates where possible. I also would like to be pointed in the direction of original Lodge minutes and/or attendance registers, where possible. Contact Century Lodge of Research via this newsletter.

Already, from Bro. Richard Laing, I have heard that W. Bro Lord Roberts deliberately encamped on the western side of Pretoria, so that W. Bro. Kruger could use the railway line to the east to make his escape.

I heard from Bro. Flip Naude of a conversation with an old Natal Mason, of his father's Lodge nights with British

Freemasons – where the Brethren agreed to fire their rifles to one side the next day, to avoid hurting their brethren. I have heard from Bro. Roger Edmed that Boer and Brit officers met in Lodge Golden Thistle throughout the war, though their names were not entered in the Lodge's attendance register.

Apparently, Boer Masons sneaked into lodge to sit alongside Bro. Baden Powell et al., at Mafeking.

Bro. John Wilson told me that Bro. Winston Churchill's daring escape across the "mighty Apies river was greatly assisted by Boer brother Masons.

What all these stories need is some corroboration – even if it is just names, dates and places. Photocopies of old documents and photos would be extremely precious and valuable accompaniment, too.

We can then compile an alternative and true history of South Africa which portrays more positive aspects of Bore/Brit relations. Heaven knows that it's high time some of the bitterness was assuaged, and that the image of our Order acquired a bit of polish.

On November 29th, we will be hosting W. Bro. David Lewis of Lyceum Lodge of Research. He will be delivering his paper on Freemasonry during the Anglo Boer War – just to whet your appetites for South Africa's colourful history. Dinner's free; but hire of the knife and fork will set you back a mere R40.00.

FOR SALE



Only 1 left on special at R360-00 reduced from R400-00



Commemorative coins of the Grand Master Mason's visit are now 50% off at R15 each or you can buy the pair for R20.

All cuff links that we have left are going at R230 per pair which is a R50 discount

Call Bro. Dave Kennedy 083-2945530

WEBSITE TO CHECK OUT:

<http://www.historytoday.com/blog/2011/09/dead-sea-scrolls-published-online> Online Dead Sea Scrolls

<http://www.lodge669ic.org/jokes.htm> -some Masonic humour

<http://www.freemasonnetwork.org/home> -USA masonic news and views

THE 'SONS OF ENGLAND'



'Sons of England - Royal Blue Degree' collarette and silver jewel (1904)

The 'Sons of England' were a patriotic and benevolent society for British ex-patriots living in Canada and South Africa. The Society's first lodge was founded in Toronto, 1874 and other lodges were soon established throughout Canada and later in South Africa. Their organisation was modelled on freemasonry so their regalia and customs reflect this. It was quite usual for Benevolent and Mutual Societies of the time to model their organisational structures on the Freemasons. The last 'Sons of England' lodge closed in Canada during 1971.

As a mutual benefit society members would pay their weekly subscriptions and in return they and their families could benefit in times of need, such as unemployment assistance, disability benefits, medical fees and funeral costs. Social evenings amongst member's families and travel outings were also an important aspect of membership that helped engender a strong sense of camaraderie. The ethos of the Society was to keep alive the old traditions of 'home' and celebrate 'England's Greatness'.

This piece of regalia is made of three parts, each fully hallmarked and hung on a blue ribbon. All silver parts were made by the Birmingham Medal Company and carry full Birmingham hallmarks (anchor). The shield and central jewel are hallmarked for 1902 (c) however, the shield itself is unengraved and unfortunately it is not known who this jewel was issued to. The dangle is hallmarked for 1928 (D) so was a later addition to the regalia.

The central jewel is made from die-stamped silver in two

parts, being riveted together. It has three enamels (red, blue & white) but no engraving on the reverse side. The dangle is also made from die-stamped silver with four enamels (red, pale blue, green & white) and no engraving on the reverse. The overall length (3 pieces) is 4 ¾" long (about 122mm). The central jewel is 2 3/8" high x 1 ½" wide (about 61mm x 38mm), excluding the attachments.

QUOTABLE QUOTES:

"We tell lies when we are afraid... afraid of what we don't know, afraid of what others will think, afraid of what will be found out about us. But every time we tell a lie, the thing that we fear grows stronger."- **Tad Williams (1957-)**

"As I grow older, I pay less attention to what men say. I just watch what they do."-- **Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919)**

Never say no to an opportunity or miss an opportunity to say no.-**Carol Mueller**

POEM

Working Tools

By R.W. Brother Edward L Draper, District Deputy Grand Master

Proud to be a Mason?
You bet I am,
And I can tell you why
I am and will be proud to be one,
Till the day I die.
If you look upon that painting there,
Front and center, you'll see a square.
It reminds all of my Brothers and me
That in all our dealings, we should be fair.
The compasses, right by its side,
Remind us that it's best to hide
The feelings we may feel at first
For often, those can be the worst;
To rule our passions, think, and then,
Maybe think just once again
Before we act before we speak.
It is not weakness to be meek.
The gavel, resting on the trowel,
Does not let us rule over all.
We use it to shape our hearts into
A state pleasing to God, and pleasing to you.
It is from the level that all Brothers know
That we are all equals, where ever we go.
It tells us that all destinations are one,
And that we'll meet again when our work here is done.
The plumb helps us try to be upright and straight;
To avoid falling prey to prejudice and hate.
The gauge under these has twenty-four parts.
It helps us to measure, with our minds and our hearts,
How much of our time we should give to others,
To our God, our families, our jobs, and our Brothers.
The apron means innocence, which can't be attained,
But which we will strive for until it's regained.
The Bible supports us, a foundation for all.
Without it our tools would all tumble and fall.
Proud to be a Mason?
You bet I am,
And now I've told you why
I am and will be proud to be one,
Till the day I die.

DISTRICT GRAND LODGE of CENTRAL SOUTH AFRICA

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

POINTS TO PONDER- We Don't Need to Suffer

We do not need to suffer or live in poverty to be a spiritual person.

The idea that we have to suffer or live in poverty in order to be spiritual is an old one and can be found in the belief systems of many philosophies. Most of us carry this idea around subconsciously, and we may be holding ourselves back from financial or emotional well-being, believing that this is what we must do in order to be virtuous, spiritually awake, or feel less guilty for the suffering of others. While it's true that there can be a spiritual purpose to experiencing a lack of material well-being, it is rarely intended to be a permanent or lifelong experience. What we are meant to find when material or emotional resources are in short supply is that there is more to our lives than the physical realm. Intense relationships and material abundance can distract us from the subtler realm of the spirit, so a time of deficiency can be spiritually awakening. However, once we recognize the realm of spirit, and remember to hold it at the center of our lives, there is no reason to dwell in poverty or emotional isolation. In fact, once our connection to spirit is fully intact, we feel so compelled to share our abundance that lack becomes a thing of the past.

If you find that you are experiencing suffering in some area of your physical life, perhaps your spirit is asking you to look deeper in your search for what you want. For example, if you want money so that you can experience the feeling of security but money keeps eluding you, your spirit may be asking you to understand that security is not to be found through money. Security comes from an unshakable connection to your soul. Once you make that connection, money will probably flow more easily into your life. If relationships elude you, your spirit may be calling you to recognize that the love you seek is not to be found in another person. And yet, ironically, once you find the love, your true love may very well appear. If you feel stuck in suffering to live a spiritual life, try to spend some time writing about it. The root of the problem will appear and it may not be what you expected. Remember, the Universe wants you to be happy

WHAT'S ON!!!

BRIXTON LODGE No. 982 S.C. PRESENTS

Marang
House

Rollicking Saturday Lunch

Saturday 5th November 2011 @ 4pm

Rumours Pub, Weltevreden Park

Supporting Marang House, Home for Seriously Ill Children

Come join us for an exciting afternoon of entertainment & good food on Guy Fawkes eve



With comedian Chris Forrest, awesome Live Music by
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lunch; helping Marang House is easy!



Tickets R150 per person, call 083 395 0778 for more info.

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SMS proof to: 082 896 0555 and contact 083 395 0778 for your ticket

If you pay by cash or funds transfer your ticket will be SMSed to you

Easy to get to: Shop 20 Palm Court, Cornelius Street, Weltevreden Park, just off the N1

LODGE BRAEMAR No 1469 SC SCOTTISH COUNTRY & SOCIAL DANCE EVENING

Come and join us at the wonderful tradition of Scottish
Country dancing.

Join in, learn a few steps and have great fun!



Saturday 19th November, 7-30pm, Rewlatch Masonic Hall
Traditional Scottish pies, veg & mushy peas & pudding
Cash bar, R80-00 per person.
Contact: Bill Craig 083-3779919

BOOK REVIEW

By Bro. D. McClymont, RWM, *The Century Lodge of Research No.1745 SC*

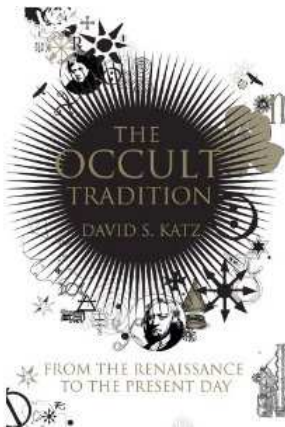
What goes around, comes around.

What follows is a sort of **double book review**: double because I should wear bifocals, and I'm reading them at the same time. It's slow going, but worth the effort.

Whilst thinking about the relevance of the Seven Liberal Arts and Sciences to modern Freemasonry, it first occurred to me to have a look at the history of Western ideas – how we

came to adopt these disciplines as essential to a modern Mason.

I took out a book which had been simmering on the back burner for years: **"THE OCCULT TRADITION FROM THE RENAISSANCE TO THE PRESENT DAY"** by David S. Katz – published by Jonathan Cape, 2005. It is a serious history, not something from the Twilight Zone, and the most significant developments in Western thought are covered – including the Royal Society. Freemasonry also gets a mention. To the author,



"occult" simply means hidden, or thinking which is not part of Everyman's world view. Other people would say "Esoteric". Today's "occult" people would thus number not only sandal-wearing tree-huggers, but any non-mainstream thinkers and people seeking a spiritual refuge from shallow, IT-driven materialism.

What leapt off the page for me was the idea, developed by the Greek philosophers, that everything stems from a single source – primary matter – and remains linked to it. From this grew the idea that Creation is a Unity, and that the Creator was an integral and active component of Creation. In short, they saw the entire world as a living organism. Of course, those guys used weird (to us) terminology.

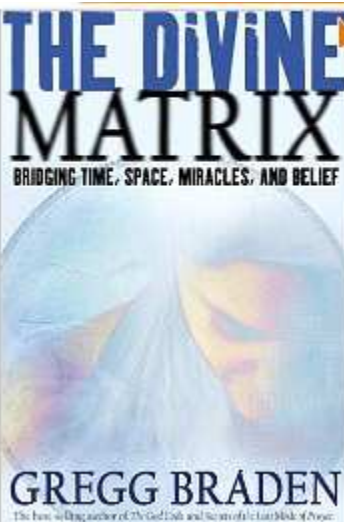
Although Katz is a useful source, he does tend to sneer a bit at the tree-huggers.

The idea that the Creator is intimately entwined with and active in His Creation is Kabbalistic – a tradition on which Freemasonry draws heavily.

Ancient thinking now seems to be closer to the Mainstream than when I did Philosophy I at Rhodes. In those days, it was not the norm to think of the Creator as a part of His Creation, nor to think of bridging the gaps between disciplines. But, from the later Seventies, we started to hear about Ecology, and the interdependence of living creatures. Thereafter climatology and geology got sucked into the interdependence idea, and now it is pretty common to find scientists looking at the entire cosmos as an integrated and interdependent Unitary system. Just like Anaximander (6th Century BC)!

Now for the other book: **"THE DIVINE MATRIX: BRIDGING TIME, SPACE, MIRACLES AND BELIEF"** by Gregg Braden – Hay House, 2007. In this book, he looks at the implications of Max Planck's idea of Mind as the matrix from which all matter from stars to bacteria originates.

This Mind is both conscious and intelligent. 1944AD meets 540BC. Though terminology differs and modern science is much more sophisticated, with 104 instead of a



mere 4 elements, the great thinkers are at one: there is a Creative Mind which is both the cause and effect of Creation: the painter is also the painting, the canvas and the paint. And because the Creator is part of His own Creation, we are both creatures and co-creators of our reality.

In practical terms, it seems the tree-huggers are right. At a quantum level, we are all One. Every material person/object is intimately linked with and affected by everything else. The implications are staggering.

It even explains how the broke American who prayed and laid hands on an ATM (with very effective results) was actually just activating his Unity with the metal and plastic of the ATM. The Bank was therefore in error for demanding its money back – as part of the Unity, it and the money weren't really now separated. (This was an actual court case in the Eighties). It is possible that the ATM just spewed \$24 000 into the man's hands just to get him to stop getting all feely-touchy over it ... [?]

So what's all this got to do with the Festive Board? We are charged to make the hidden mysteries of science and nature our field of study. Many of Freemasonry's heroes are involved in the history of Western Ideas: Pythagoras, Hermes Trismegistus, Dee, Wren, Ashmole, Newton, etc. Modern Freemasonry's evolution is the evolution of Western thought.

It's time we re-established some old acquaintances.

ADVERTISEMENT

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A MASON TO THE RESCUE!

THE STAR NEWSPAPER 19th October 2011

Joburg man badly burnt as gas blast destroys townhouse

An exploding gas cylinder ripped the side off a townhouse in Helderkruin on the West Rand this morning, resulting in one man being severely burnt. The explosion rocked the townhouse complex of Land's End at 6.20am, sometime before the injured man was airlifted to hospital.

Lawrence Ndzanga, who lives next door to where the blast occurred, was woken up by the noise of the explosion and the sound of his neighbour's house falling apart. Ndzanga

ran to his bedroom window and saw the entire side wall of his neighbour's home lying broken next to the building. "You don't see this stuff outside of the movies, I couldn't believe that the house was there one second and then gone." He said.

Only the exposed roof trusses were left standing, and the ground was littered with bricks, roof tiles and debris. Ndzanga immediately called the police for help.

Another neighbour, **Bro. Pieter Magiel Smith, Florida Lodge No. 1092 SC**, made his way into the wrecked unit through the standing side to check if the victim, a family man known only to his neighbours as Zakile, was OK. The large window in the opposite wall had been shattered by the explosion, and appeared to be the most accessible entrance.

"I climbed through it and ran towards the bathroom" said Magiel Smith.

On the first floor he found Zakile. He was conscious and in a state of shock, lying on the floor. His body was covered in burns, the wall between the bathroom and bedroom had been demolished, and the gas heater nearby was in flames. Magiel Smith then kicked the fiery debris over the edge of the building, and began talking to his severely hurt neighbour.

"He said he was OK, and I spent a few minutes reassuring him, but the paramedics arrived quickly." He said "It was such a huge shock, my son was in his car on the way out (to work) when it happened.

"The debris hit his car and made a huge dent." He said Zakile was stabilised quickly and taken to nearby Laerskool Helderkruin, where an ER24 helicopter had arrived to airlift him from the school's helipad to the nearest possible burn unit at Milpark Hospital. According to ER24 spokes-woman, Vanessa Jackson, the man had burn wounds over 30 to 40 percent of his body and was in a critical condition. However he had been stabilised by 8.45am. The man's wife and two young children had not been inside the home when the explosion happened. They were reportedly on their way to the hospital by 9am. The debris flew several metres from Zakile's unit, and tons of bricks and shattered furniture from the home still lay in the complex's large driveway.

The man had been at home reportedly because he had been in recent car accident, and having broken his arm, had taken some time off. The complex consists of almost 30 units. Residents and neighbours were left stunned this morning, and peered curiously at the wreckage.

Investigators were busy on the scene and could not yet say what had caused the massive explosion.

Efforts to get the injured man's full name were unsuccessful at the time of going to press.

DIARY

NOVEMBER 2011			
2	Ophirton	Installation	Boksburg North
3	Balmoral	Lecture	Olifantsfontein
5	Energy	Installation	Secunda
8	Heredom	1st Degree	Boksburg North
9	Piet Retief	Xmas Dinner	Vereeniging
9	Alpha Crucis	1st Degree	Rewlatch
10	Golden Thistle	3rd Degree	Park Lane
11	Alba Gu Brath	Installation	Germiston
11	The Peglarae	Installation	Rustenburg
14	Alberton	Mark	Germiston
14	Sound Memory	Lecture	Orange Grove
15	Cairngorm Republic	2nd Degree	Orange Grove
16	Masonic Services	Meeting	Park Lane
17	Far East Caledonians	Installation	Springs
17	Western Star	Lecture	Roodepoort
18	Tvl Volunteer	Lecture	Park Lane
19	Bloemhof-Fontein	Installation	Klerksdorp
21	Florida	1st Degree	Roodepoort
23	Argyll	3rd Degree	Roodepoort
23	Alpha Crucis	1st Degree	Rewlatch
23	Somah Herber	3rd Degree	Park Lane
29	Century Lodge Research	Lecture	Orange Grove