



CRAFT NEWS

Issue 6 JUNE- JULY 2009

FROM THE PEN OF OUR MPGC

We have settled well into the year. As a country, we are busy with the count-down to the 2010 World Cup Soccer - stadiums are taking shape and the many detours are resulting in an upliftment of infrastructure. Yet alongside positive developments, we also have communities and individuals, even within our Orients, struggling with the effects of the global economic crisis. As we deal with the pressures and stress that this may bring, we must remember that we have a duty to all, but more specifically to our Brethren in Freemasonry.

Take care not to speak in anger. Meditate on the following extract from The Phoenix Vol 9 No. 2 February 2003:

Watch for anger in the body; let the body
Be self-controlled. Hurt not with the body,
But use your body well

Watch for anger of words; let your words
Be self- controlled. Hurt not with words, but
Use your words well

Watch for anger of the mind; let your mind
Be self-controlled. Hurt not with the mind,
But use your mind well

There are men steady and wise whose body,
Words and mind are self-controlled. They
Are the men of supreme self-control

May this world be the fairer for our inclusion

Fraternally
The Very Illus Sister E E Bronner

**“You give but little of yourself when you give
of your possessions.
It is when you give of yourself that you truly give.
“ The Prophet” by Kahlil Gibran**

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CEREMONY OF MOURNING AND REMEMBRANCE

A first for Lodge Dedication will be a Ceremony of Mourning and Remembrance.

On Saturday 15 August we will be remembering and, rather than mourning, celebrating the lives of two of our and the Federation's most beloved senior members who passed to the Grand Lodge Eternal - The Very Illus Bro Margaret Seal 33° (HC) on 10 June 2008, and The Very Illus Bro Sheila Brewis 33° of honour on 17 January 2009.

Both Illus brethren had been masons for nearly 60 years. Margaret Seal was initiated into Lodge

Renaissance No 234 on 13 May 1949 and, due to closure of Cape Town Lodges, had to until 1967 to be raised in the newly formed Lodge Dedication. Sheila Brewis was initiated into Amity Lodge No 220 in 1951 and also had to wait a number of years until she was passed and then raised in 1962. The Brewis family moved to Cape Town and Sheila joined Lodge Dedication in 1981. Both brethren were active members of the Lodge until shortly before their passing. The ceremony is one, which, in the same way as St Johns, lends itself to being opened to family and friends as well as other interested members

of the public. The Lodge will be opened in the usual way by the RWM Bro Madeleine Buchmuller and then admit the visitors.

Some interesting features follow. Gavel heads are covered with violet cloth to muffle the sound.

To the east of the altar will be a table representing a bier, covered with violet cloth on which are laid two unsheathed swords and the jewels and regalia of the two brethren.

This should be a beautiful ceremony - a fitting tribute to two brethren who both earned the highest accolade in masonry.

PERSEVERANCE IS A GREAT ELEMENT OF SUCCESS. IF YOU KNOCK LONG ENOUGH AND LOUD ENOUGH AT THE GATE YOU ARE SURE TO WAKE UP SOMEBODY
Henry Longfellow

THE SMALLEST CHANGE IN PERSPECTIVE CAN TRANSFORM A LIFE. WHAT TINY ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT MIGHT TURN YOUR WORLD AROUND?
Oprah Winfrey

WELCOMING ADDRESS BY AN ORATOR

My Brother

What happened to you at midday?

You knocked on the door of the Temple and it was opened to you. The Portal through which you entered will transform your life forever. It has opened up a sacred dimension where each one follows along a transformation process. Yes, you will never be the same again.

Should you hesitate?

The spark of your hesitation has enabled the change.

The light you received

when your blindfold was removed, allows you to see what is hidden; to see the eternity in short lived things. You will find warm fraternity in our Temple. It nurtures our minds. "Fraternity is the love of differences" (Breytenbach) We welcome you as a gift to our Temple. We are keen to share with you your words and thoughts. New landmarks are ready to emerge.

If you question with your heart, you will surely receive an answer. The Temple is an "Athanos" where thoughts are permanently in a state of

change. I thought of your questions, you listen to mine. What do I find in you that shakes me? What do you feel in me that resonates in you?

The spark of your hesitation will enable you to see what is hidden. Allow yourself to be open to these ideas.

Let us hold your hand and lead you on the initiation path.

This is a beginning that will have no end.

Welcome my Brother.

March 2009

AS LONG AS ONE KEEPS SEARCHING, THE ANSWERS COME
Joan Baez

FRIENDSHIP DOUBLES OUR JOY AND DIVIDES OUR SORROWS
Unknown

CHEESE AND WINE TASTING

Our second annual Cheese and Wine Tasting took place on Saturday 30th May 2009 at the Swiss Hotel School.

We were able to welcome a substantial number of people to our event. Masons and non Masons joined us for a few hours of food and wine and laughter. It also provided a platform for non Masons to interact with people from our Order, to ask questions and to find out more about us.

We started off by tasting three different white wines, a very light

easy drinking Chenin Blanc from Seidelberg, followed by a fruity Sauvignon Blanc and finally a great Chardonnay. The cheeses on offer presented us with a palate of South Africa's best. A lovely white cheese with dried apricots from Fairview, Simonsberg blue cheese, a mature pepper cheese and some others to please many of the palates.

Three red wines rounded off the evening. We decided to serve some of the classic grape varieties and started with a Cabernet Sauvignon, followed by a fruity Merlot and finished off with a Shiraz.

At this stage I would like to thank my students who helped during the evening and washed all the dishes at the end. Thank you. Also a thank you to our MPGC who joined us, coming all the way from Durban. Always a pleasure to welcome her in our Orient.

We look forward to the 2010- not only the World Cup, but also to the 2010 Cheese and Wine Tasting and extend our warm welcome to all of you.
Kuno E Tschumi MM
Sphynx Lodge No 225

OUR WEBSITE!

www.droit-humain.org/southafrica/index.htm

Yes - the South African Federation now has its own website!

The Very Illus Sister Elizabeth Bronner, our MPGC, has long been wanting this - but who could we get to do this for us? Bro Kathy Lemmon-Warde, who recently emigrated to Australia had worked on the website for Lodge Goede Verwachting and was more than happy to do one for us.

Looking at various Masonic websites it was agreed that the British Federation website was well constructed and easy to access. Instead of "recreating the wheel" could we base ours on their concept? We could indeed, came the brotherly response from Britain's MPGC, The Very Illus Bro Brian Roberts. The content would of course be our own.

After many emails back and forth we have finally reached the point where we have been able to launch our very own website.

Access the site and you will see that enquirers are directed to the MPGC. She will do initial discussions and having ascertained where they are living, direct that person to the relevant Triangle member for further discussion and interviews.

All our Craft lodges and days of their regular meetings are listed.

There's a News page in which lodges can promote any fundraising event or meeting open to the public - along with relevant contact details.

We take this opportunity to express our appreciation to Bro Kathy for all her time and energy, for her helpfulness and patience.

In the spirit of our International Order another link between masons in Orients as far apart as South Africa and Australia has been forged

The Very Illus Bro M Raymond 33°

JOY IS

A note struck well, a muted gong,
Silent communication; the long
Row of temple-treading feet,
The soft hymn; the bitter sweet
Incense cleansing; the lighted lamp,
Candles leaping; the long, damp
Shadows fading as the East
Brightens on the most and least.

Joy is

Being the once-rejected stone,
Pillar rising, not alone,
Shaped by temple, temple-shaping,
Falling, rising, mending, breaking
Knowing glory, knowing none;
Finishing the work begun,
Clasping with a secret hand
Brother is an unknown land.

Joy is

Master for the moment's pleasure,
Well earned wages, pressed down
with measure;
Master most, apprentice least,
Brothers at the temple feast.

Bro J Fletcher 1982