

Hiram's Lighthouse

PROVIDING MASONIC LIGHT FROM TORONTO EAST DISTRICT

Grand Lodge Website: - www.grandlodge.on.ca/index.htm

Lodges of the Greater Toronto Area: - www.gtamasons.ca

Toronto East District: - www.eol.ca/~freemason/lodge

D.D.G.M.: R.W. Bro. Elroy J. MacKinnon: - elroy@sympatico.ca

District Secretary: W. Bro. Moffat L. Kiloh: - xamdama@sympatico.ca

February 1, 2008

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Masons have more need to read than men in almost any other society or organization; to pursue Masonic studies for the joy of it or even for the fun of it.

- Bro. Harry LeRoy Haywood

From the desk of the D.D.G.M.,

My Brethren

“Promoting Pride in Our Craft.”

In my past messages I have focussed on our personal roles as Masons and as Brethren committed to the Craft and have referred to our meeting places as sanctuaries of solace, respite and camaraderie. I have also looked to our younger generation and to the importance of preserving our legacy by instilling its values and precepts in those who follow.

How well are we equipped to pass on this legacy? What are our Lodges doing to ensure the future? We hear mutterings as to the relevance of Masonry in our society. How do we respond?

We are living in the midst of the most rapid changes in history and it seems that we have lost our focus; lost our sense of mission! We have not built into our practices the management of change. We spend a lot of time naval gazing, Brethren. But we are not yet irrelevant!

Masonry has never been afraid of the future, nor should it be now! It is time to Take Responsibility!

Lodges are the Foundation Stones of Masonry. The Craft's Future rests in them. What are the problems facing your Lodge? They do exist! And they do need to be addressed.

Make a list. You, as a brother, MAKE A LIST!

Take Responsibility.

Act on your list. As a new member, have your say. You may be new and inexperienced but you are fully a member and you represent the future. Don't be hesitant.



As a Past Master, hold your tongue. Listen and consider. You are experienced. You are the mentor and you must pass the torch to someone who cares as much as you do. Don't be too judgemental. Change will happen. Guide it. Take responsibility.

By the time you read this, the Long Range Lodge Vitality Workshop will have presented some challenging ideas for the future of your Lodge and mine. Consider them seriously and choose to do something to improve your Lodge as a strong entity in the future. We do matter. Our society needs us.

Let's each say, "I am responsible." All together now, "I AM RESPONSIBLE."

Fraternally,

Elroy

R.W. Bro. Elroy J. MacKinnon
District Deputy Grand Master
Toronto East District



Toronto East District Events

February

Tuesday February 5, 2008

Canada Lodge – **Official Visit**
Visitors - 8:00 pm
Doric Pickering Masonic Temple

Wednesday February 6, 2008

Brougham Union Lodge – **Official Visit**
Visitors - 8:00 pm
Claremont Masonic Temple

Thursday February 7, 2008

Dentonia Lodge – **Official Visit CANCELLED**
Extinguishing the Lights – April 3, 2008
See notice below

Friday February 8, 2008

Birch Cliff Lodge – **Official Visit**
Visitors - 8:00 pm
Scarborough Masonic Temple

Saturday February 9, 2008

Doric Pickering Masonic Temple - **Lodge of Discussion**
Breakfast – 8:00 am- Discussion – 9:00 am
Doric Pickering Masonic Temple

Tuesday February 12, 2008

Universe Lodge – **Official Visit**
Visitors - 8:00 pm
Scarborough Masonic Temple

Wednesday February 13, 2008

The Imperial East Gate Lodge – **Official Visit**
Banquet - 6:00 pm <=
Lodge Opens - 7:30 pm
Scarborough Masonic Temple

Friday February 15, 2008

Tuscan Lodge – **Official Visit**
Visitors - 8:00 pm
East Toronto Masonic Temple

Saturday February 16, 2008

Brougham Union Lodge - **Claremont Winter Carnival Parade**
See notice below.
Claremont Masonic Temple

Friday February 29, 2008

Doric Lodge - **Leap Day Family Spaghetti Dinner**
See notice below.
Doric Pickering Masonic Temple

March

Saturday March 1, 2008

West Hill Lodge – **Oldies Dance**
See notice below.
West Shore Community Centre

Sunday March 2, 2008

Greg Dickson – **Ordination**
See notice below.
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

Tuesday March 4, 2008

Toronto East District – **Protocol and Etiquette Presentation**
See notice below.
East Toronto Masonic Temple

Wednesday March 5, 2008

West Hill Lodge – **Official Visit**
Visitors - 8:00 pm
Scarborough Masonic Temple

Thursday March 6, 2008

The Beaches Lodge – **Official Visit**
Visitors - 8:00 pm
Scarborough Masonic Temple

Monday March 10, 2008

Scarboro Lodge – **Official Visit**
Visitors - 8:00 pm
Scarborough Masonic Temple

Thursday March 13, 2008

Todmorden Lodge – **Official Visit**
Visitors - 8:00 pm
Scarborough Masonic Temple

Saturday March 15, 2008

Doric Lodge – **Cruise Ship Island Dance**
See notice below
Doric Pickering Masonic Temple

Monday March 17, 2008

Acacia Lodge – **Official Visit**
Visitors - 8:00 pm
East Toronto Masonic Temple

Tuesday March 18, 2008

St. Aidan's Lodge – **Official Visit**
Visitors - 8:00 pm
Scarborough Masonic Temple



Wednesday March 19, 2008
Cathedral Lodge – **Official Visit**
Visitors - 8:00 pm
East Toronto Masonic Temple



AROUND AND ABOUT:

Toronto East District Charities



AutismONTARIO *Spectrum*
Disorder) To ensure that each individual with ASD is provided the means to achieve quality of life as a respected member of society.

FOCUS: Advocacy and Support: Research: Best Practices: Gov't Relations: Public Awareness

*Support for
Families with
Members with
ASD (Autism
Spectrum*



WindReach Farm is holding a "2008 Donate To Skate" event on Saturday February 23rd from 1:00-5:00 pm at Legends Centre, 1661

Harmony Rd. N., Oshawa, ON. The city of Oshawa is donating the ice time and Brougham Union Lodge is sponsoring the skate-a-thon. It would be great if there were District support. Pledge forms are available from Lou Lombardi at 905-649-3003 or loulombardi@sympatico.ca or contact *WindReach* at 905-655-5827.

Please use the Toronto East District Charity Project Number for contributions made through the Masonic Foundation of Ontario. The number for the **Toronto East District Charity Project** is **2352**.

Contact: Todd Owens at 905-852-7880 or 678@yvp.ca

If you want to build a ship, don't drum up people together to collect wood and don't assign them tasks and work, but rather teach them to long for the endless immensity of the sea.

- Antoine de Saint-Exupery (1900-1944)

Blood Donor Clinics



CANADIAN BLOOD SERVICES

The blood donor clinic we are trying to set up at the Doric Pickering Masonic Temple is still in the planning stages. More to follow next month.

I would like to say a few words about the brethren of Alpha Lodge and their efforts to support the work of the Canadian Blood Services. For three years now, the brethren of Alpha have provided volunteers to work with the professionals of the Canadian Blood Services in ensuring that the regular clinics that are held at St. Aidan's Church located on Queen St, just west of Victoria Park operate efficiently.

The Canadian Blood Services provides all the equipment, technical staffing and nurses at the clinics. The volunteers from Alpha, usually 8 Masons working in two shifts of 4, meet and greet the donors as they arrive, conduct them to the collection teams, escort them to the recovery area after their donation, provide them with juice and cookies and hopefully get an opportunity to talk with them and possibly discuss the Masonic connections.

The Canadian Blood Services 'credits' the volunteers with the number of units collected at the clinic. Last year, Alpha Lodge was credited with over **500 units** of blood donated.



Fred (Norval) Bryant, Bryant_nf@yahoo.ca has taken the lead in ensuring a continuing supply of Masonic volunteers for future clinics. He has requested the brethren of Toronto East District help to meet this need by offering their services at future clinics. Any credits given by the Canadian Blood Services will be equally divided between the Lodges of the volunteers. This is an excellent way for those of us, who like myself, are unable to donate because of reasons beyond our control. Upcoming dates for these clinics are: -

- March 12th, Confirmed
- May 16th, Pending
- July 18th, Pending
- September 19th, Pending
- November 21st, Pending

This is not only an excellent way to give, or assist someone in giving the gift of life; it is also an opportunity to demonstrate one of the fundamental principles of Freemasonry in action - Charity. It presents an opportunity to open a conversation regarding the Masonic ideals and possibly provide a good man an opportunity to embrace our great fraternity.

Finally brethren, if you have donated recently please send me an email at ted2donate@aol.com (**TorontoEastDistrict2DONATE**) so I can keep my records current.

For information regarding the location of blood donor clinics in your area call **1-800-2DONATE** or http://www.bloodservices.ca/centre*apps/clinics/InetClinics.nsf/CVSE?OpenForm

Contact: Bob Steenson at 416 697 0822 or bob.steenson@ontarioair.com

PLEASE!

Do the survey!

The Grand Master has asked that the cut-off date be extended so he can mention the survey in his January 2008 Communiqué. Please take 2 minutes to fill out the survey located at the Toronto East District website.

<http://www.torontoeastdistrict.com/>

There have been more than 1,000 responses so far. It's completely anonymous. The new survey cut-off date is Feb. 29/08.

This survey is **DEFINITELY NOT RESTRICTED** to members of Toronto East District.

Have your say!



MASONIC KENTUCKY RIFLE



Rising Sun Lodge #85 A.F. & A.M. G.R.C. of St. Lawrence District commissioned the creation of a fully functioning Flintlock Kentucky Rifle and raffled it off. The winning ticket was drawn on Dec. 27th, 2007 during their Installation night. The winner is Mike Blanchard, Tamsworth.

Thank you to all who purchased tickets.

Express Your Joy In Freemasonry

Every day from May to December, the world comes to Black Creek Pioneer Village to see the way life used to be. There, in a small, un-prepossessing white building over the friendly tinsmith's shop is a lodge room, the way it was. Through this lodge room come men, women and the young. They walk into that lodge room and see a lodge room any of us would instantly recognize. Many are Canadian but a lot are from the British Isles, Europe, the Middle and Far East, all the way to Australia, and all places in between. Many of the visitors come from countries where Freemasonry is not as 'visible' as it is here. Or as free. Many want to know who we are, what we are and why we have been around for more than 300 years. Many have incorrect perceptions of our Craft. Almost every one of them has some question to ask, and even if they don't, the Interpreter will tell them of the history of the building, or the history of Freemasonry.

None of these questions will be answered; opportunities will be lost, if there is no Interpreter to make the guests welcome.

The task of Interpreting is not onerous. It can be as frequent as you want, or as infrequent as you want. It can be a great deal of fun! It is interesting. It is talking to the young. It is meeting and talking to people from down the street or around the world.

Give Mac McCausland a call. He'll be glad to hear from you. You will be glad you did.

Contact: Arnold (Mac) McCausland at 905-567-4856 or mccaus@istar.ca

... and this is How It All Began

This year will mark the 81st year of visits between North Gate Lodge No. 591 in Toronto and Faithful Brethren Lodge No. 77 in Lindsay.

In the mid 1920s, some members of North Gate Lodge visited Verulam Lodge No 268 in Bobcaygeon quite regularly. One member of North Gate Lodge, a Percy Loney, had a cousin in Lindsay, Robert G.



Robertson, and he called on him while passing through town. On one of these occasions Bro. Robertson, who was an active member of Faithful Brethren Lodge suggested to his cousin Percy Loney who was Senior Deacon in North Gate Lodge that he bring some friends to his home for dinner and later attend Past Masters' Night at Faithful Brethren Lodge, which at that time was quite an Institution and one of the big nights of the year.

The invitation was accepted, and on October 28th 1927 Bro. Loney arrived, accompanied by a number of then current and past Grand Lodge Officers and Officers and brethren of North Gate Lodge. The Robertsons entertained their guests at dinner and later the men attended lodge. Members and visitors numbered 136 and were witness to the Initiation of Mr. Haystone Storey by the Past Masters of Faithful Brethren Lodge. The banquet afterwards consisted of a fowl dinner, and of course, there were the usual toasts.

An invitation was extended by the brethren of North Gate Lodge to the officers and members of Faithful Brethren Lodge to come to North Gate's "Northern Night" held in the spring. This invitation was confirmed and accepted in early 1928, and nine brethren from Lindsay made their first visit to North Gate Lodge.

There was no Highway 7, no paved roads, the cars were not smooth riding or stream lined as we know, and the route was via Oakwood, Little Britain, Seagrave and Port Perry to Whitby via a "gravelled" road. They travelled in 3 cars, leaving at 3 pm to get to Toronto for the 8 pm entry at North Gate Lodge. They departed from Toronto at 11.40 pm and happily arrived home at 3 am in the morning.

Thus began the many years of friendship between our Lodges that has survived to this day.
- shamelessly 'borrowed' and edited from North Gate's February summons

College of Freemasonry

Every three or four months I have something promoting this excellent course. Very few take advantage. It seems we would rather complain about the lack of opportunity for Masonic Education than to actually do anything to get some. So be it.

Let me quote something from the recent brochure of the Masonic Leadership Institute of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts.

This program costs about \$950 per person, with the Grand Lodge absorbing \$550 of the cost. Participants, their Masonic bodies or employers are expected to pay the remaining \$400. The next class will be held on three weekends ...

Sort of puts getting something primarily the same for \$80 without having to give up your weekends with your family into perspective, doesn't it?

The course can be found on the Grand Lodge website - <http://www.grandlodge.on.ca/index.htm> - under the heading G.L. Education.



Tuesday January 29, 2008
Lodge Vitality Presentation



The Toronto East District Lodge Vitality Presentation in the Banquet Hall of the Toronto East Masonic Temple on Chisholm Ave. was a great success for the Long Range Planning Team (Gary Fitzpatrick, Stephen Brash, Graeme Boyce and Martin Skulnick).

They expected 50 or 60 brethren to take the questionnaire. More than 1,300 responded. They expected Toronto East District and maybe one or two neighbouring Districts to be involved. Many Ontario Districts took the survey. They thought maybe 40 or 50 brethren would show up for the Presentation. About 140 were there and the room was filled to capacity. Almost all of the Toronto East District Lodges were in the audience who were treated to an excellent program concerning Freemasonry in our community.



The program began with a brief review of the changes in our society during the past half century followed by an analysis of how the pace of today's living is affecting younger men particularly in our communities. This picture was then overlaid with explanation as to the relevance that Freemasonry has to offer in this demanding lifestyle and outlining Masonry's capacity to make a difference in the lives of men in the 21st century.

Following the break, some preliminary results of the recent online survey on Lodge Vitality were shared. Preliminary because the survey does not close until later this month, so if you haven't taken it, there is still a chance to have your say (see notice above). The most frequent of these were summarized to illustrate the concerns and passions expressed.

The final part of the presentation offered a Lodge Vitality Roadmap outlining initiatives for both individual Lodges and District levels to consider in revitalizing the impact of Freemasonry in today's circumstances. These focussed on Lodge Administration, Engaged Membership and Craft Stewardship. The team accompanied its presentation with well-chosen text and graphic illustrations. Example: *The Vitality in a Masonic Lodge is like the energy stored in a battery - it is only effective when we use it to create positive Momentum forward, driving the Lodge into the future.* Momentum was explained in comparison to a huge flywheel which takes a great deal of focussed energy to get going, but maintains that momentum in the course to which it is directed.

Vitality + Momentum = Long Term Sustainability!



Before the meeting closed, the brethren were encouraged to assess the components of vitality in their Lodges, and, following that assessment, plan to invest in programs that would revitalize the involvement of their members. Initiatives for enhancing membership experience and for community involvement were suggested.

Following the presentation, the Long Range Planning Committee were roundly applauded, congratulating them for their exhaustive work in planning for the future and for the effective and positive presentation.

The evening program was an excellent roadmap for potential Masonic direction. It will, however, only have a positive effect on our Craft if and when Lodges translate these or similar suggestions into active programs. The future lies open!

For a copy of the 2007 Vitality Survey and the material presented send an email to –
events@torontoeastdistrict.com

The aim of life is self-development. To realize one's nature perfectly - that is what each of us is here for.

- Bro. Oscar Wilde (1854-1900)

Saturday February 9, 2008

Doric Pickering Masonic Temple - Lodge of Discussion

There are usually a dozen or more for most of our meetings and the brethren have enjoyed these get togethers. Why not come out and join us? The brethren have requested a breakfast to precede the discussion ... and as usual, we ask you to indicate whether you will be attending to ensure the “cooking team” has enough vittles to feed all who attend.

There is no chosen topic for the discussion. If you have one, let Bruce know.

Time: Breakfast – 8:00 am
Discussion – 9:00 am to 10:30 am
Location: Doric Pickering Masonic Temple
Cost: \$5 for breakfast
Contact: Bruce Palanik – 905- 420-2340 or bruce@thepalanikgroup.com

A Statement Issued by the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE) Several Years Ago

“There exist in England and Wales at least two Grand Lodges solely for women. Except that these bodies admit women, they are, so far as can be ascertained, otherwise regular in their practice. There is also one which admits both men and women to membership. They are not recognised by this Grand Lodge and intervisitation may not take place. There are, however, discussions from time to time with the women's Grand Lodges on matters of mutual concern. Brethren are therefore free to explain to non-Masons, if asked, that Freemasonry is not confined to men (even though this Grand Lodge does not itself admit women). Further information about these bodies may be obtained by writing to the Grand Secretary.”



Thursday February 14, 2008

St. Valentine's Day

Our significant others, those that make life go easier and better, put up with our incessant babble about lodge with nary a complaint. Take some time to get her a 'little something' to show your appreciation.

Once upon a place and time, Freemasonry was viewed in a way to which we would all probably like to return. The general public saw us as honourable, upstanding pillars of the community and we were proud to be Masons. We may still be proud, but the general public, if they know of us at all, think we've got *The Treasure!*

In those by-gone years, there were many different post cards on Freemasonry. Imagine sending one of these to your wife!

This is a Valentine's card from the **1890s**, submitted by Frank Mackay. He didn't say if he'd bought it to send or received it.



Here are a couple more vintage Masonic cards.



Saturday February 16, 2008

Claremont Masonic Temple - Claremont Winter Carnival Parade

The Claremont (Brougham Union) Masonic Temple will open at 9:00 am with hot drinks. By 11:00 am we will assemble at the parade marshalling area on William St. At the end of the parade we will all assemble at the Masonic Temple for a bowl of hot chili and hot drinks, with ice cream and cookies for the children.

Brougham Union Lodge is again entering two floats and inviting all Masons and their families to join us. You may wish to march in the Parade or ride one of the wagons. We are happy to report that the Shrine



Hillbilly Troop will be with us again. Among our guests in the Parade will be ambassadors from WindReach Farm (Toronto East District Charity) and town crier, Bill McKee.



Please note that the Toronto East District DDGM has requested dispensation for all Masons to wear Regalia for the occasion. If you are a member of a Masonic concordant body, you may wish to wear those Regalia to add color and diversity.

It is always a great winter family outing and we cordially invite you to share this annual fun get-together with us.

Time: Building opens - 9:00 am
Parade at 11:00 am
Location: Claremont Masonic Temple
Contact: Lou Lombardi – 905-649-3003 or 416-518-2242 or loulombardi@sympatico.ca

Tuesday February 19, 2008

Downtown Masonic Luncheon - Masons Talking Masonry

Please **reserve** to give an idea of the number of meals. Preferred Dress Code - **Jacket and Tie**.

Topic: The Canadian Flag and the Masonic Overtones
Speaker: Mike Ikonomidis
Time: 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm
Location: Royal Canadian Military Institute
426 University Ave., Toronto (St. Patrick - University & Dundas subway station)
Cost: \$25 (soup, sandwich, dessert, coffee/tea/soft drink)
Contact: Pat Piccione at 416-341-7938 or pat_piccione@hotmail.com

NOTE: If you are interested in sharing a Masonic subject at one of the luncheons, please contact Pat.

Tuesday February 19, 2008

Oakwood Chapter of Royal Arch Masons - Master Mason Night

Celebrating the 150th anniversary of *Royal Arch Masons of Ontario* – April 2008

Bring your Master Mason friends to learn about completing your masonic journey. After a speaker from Grand Chapter, a film accompanied by hot-dogs and pop will be shown.

Time: 7:00 pm
Location: Doric Pickering Masonic Temple
Contact: Dushan Surovy – 416-816-1363 or dushan_surovy@hotmail.com
Peter Nuttall – 416-283-8056 or pnuttall@idirect.com



Thursday February 28, 2007

65th Annual Shuter Haskill Hunters' Night

The Degree Team will all be comprised of hunters dressed in their camouflage, vests and boots. The Banquet afterwards will feature the best of whatever the hunters have brought down, if road kill is unavailable. ☺

Location: Ontario Lodge #26, Port Hope, ON

Friday February 29, 2008

Doric Lodge - Leap Day Family Spaghetti Dinner

Doric Lodge is holding a Family Spaghetti Dinner on "leap day". Dinner will be served continuously from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Sponsored by the Doric Lodge Jamaican Visitors Committee.

Time: 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Location: Doric Pickering Masonic Temple

Cost: \$15 Single

\$25 Couple

\$7 Child 6 – 12

Contact: Bruce Palanik at 905-839-7342 or bruce@thepalanikgroup.com



*Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.
- Thomas A. Edison (1847-1931)*

Saturday March 1, 2008

Club 670 (West Hill Lodge) – Oldies' Dance

Dance, prizes, and food. This is traditionally a sold out event. Tickets are limited. Get them fast!

Time: 7:00 pm – wee hours

Location: West Shore Community Centre

1011-1015 Bayly St.

South side of Bayly St. between Liverpool Rd. and Whites Rd.

Cost: \$25/ea Cash Bar

Contact: Basil Dias at 905-479-2099 or diasb@aol.com

Sunday March 2, 2008

Greg Dickson – Ordination

Greg Dickson will be well known to the brethren of the old District 3. For many years, Greg has been working towards the ministry of the Presbyterian Church. Greg has extended his researches and has been invited to come and preach for the Call by the Session, Members and Adherents of New Westminster Presbyterian Church, Hamilton on January 27th. This is the final step before Ordination.

The Service of Ordination to the Ministry of Word and Sacraments in the Presbyterian Church in Canada will be held at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Scarborough at 6:30 pm on Sunday March 2nd.



Induction is planned in Hamilton on March 9th.

This is an invitation for you and your family to honour one of our own and celebrate with Greg and Melanie.

Time: 6:30 pm
Location: St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
115 St. Andrew's Rd., Scarborough
Contact: Greg Dickson at gdickson@peloruscorporation.com

Monday March 3, 2008

The Heritage Lodge – Education Presentation

Kilwinning Lodge #565 will be hosting Heritage Lodge #730 for an interesting talk on the future of Freemasonry. Refreshments to follow.

Topic: Freemasonry and Sustainability - The Middle Path
Speaker: Kris Stevens
Time: Visitors 8:00 pm
Location: West Toronto Masonic Temple
151 Annette St. Toronto
Contact: Mike Ikonomidis at gayandmike@sympatico.ca

Tuesday March 4, 2008

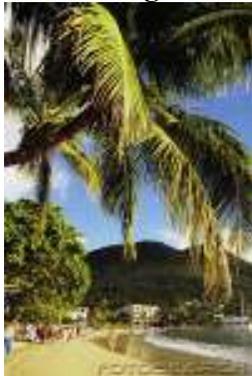
Toronto East District – Protocol and Etiquette Presentation

Hosted by Riverdale - John Ross Robertson Lodge. All Masons are welcome.

Time: 7:30 pm
Location: East Toronto Masonic Temple
Contact: Gerry Campbell at 416-469-1072 or gerry_campbell@msn.com

Saturday March 15, 2008

Doric Lodge – Cruise Ship Island Dance



Doric Lodge invites you to dig out that top that can only be worn one week in 52 because it is so bright it sets off alarm bells, put on your shades, wear that stupid hat, flash those pale, skinny legs in your shorts and come out to our Cruise Ship Island Dance. We gon' have Jump-Up! Prizes, raffles, cash bar, and a late night 'island' buffet.

Time: 800 pm to the wee hours
Location: Doric Pickering Masonic Temple
Cost: \$20 Single
\$35 Couple
Contact: Bruce Palanik at 905-839-7342 or bruce@thepalanikgroup.com



Tuesday March 18, 2008

Downtown Masonic Luncheon - Masons Talking Masonry

Please **reserve** to give an idea of the number of meals. Preferred Dress Code - **Jacket and Tie.**

Topic: tba
Speaker: tba
Time: 12:00 Noon to 1:00 pm
Location: Royal Canadian Military Institute
426 University Ave., Toronto (St. Patrick - University & Dundas subway station)
Cost: \$25 (soup, sandwich, dessert, coffee/tea/soft drink)
Contact: Pat Piccione at 416-341-7938 or pat_piccione@hotmail.com

NOTE: If you are interested in sharing a Masonic subject at one of the luncheons, please contact Pat.

You know my views about some regulations - they are written for the obedience of fools and the guidance of wise men.

- Harry Day, Reach for the Sky-1954

Thursday April 3, 2008

Dentonia Lodge – Extinguishing of the Lights

Dentonia Lodge No. 651, Toronto East District, has decided to wind up its affairs. The Surrender of Charter, (Extinguishing of the Lights) will be held on Thursday, April 3, 2008, 7:30 P.M. at the East Toronto Masonic Temple. Please attend with us to celebrate over 77 years of fellowship.

Thankfully, these ceremonies don't come too often! The other side of the coin is they are a rare occurrence. Witness one when you can!

Time: 7:30 pm.
Location: East Toronto Masonic Temple
Contact: Brian Bond at bondtor4@sympatico.ca

Saturday April 19, 2008

The Beaches Lodge & Friendship Lodge – Ladies Night

A fine spring dance! Both lodges are once again uniting for our Annual Ladies Night. Dinner, dancing and a silent auction for our District Charities. All Masons and non-Masons welcome. It will be an exciting and fun filled evening. Only 125 tickets in total. This is an outstanding venue and was sold out last year so get your tickets early, as no tickets will be sold at the door.

Time: 6:00 pm – Social
7:00 pm – Dinner
Location: Four Seasons Golf and Country Club
Cost: \$50/ea
Contact: Mike Enns at 416-275-6391 or mike-enns@hotmail.com
Ed Crosier at 289-240-1883 or newfser@hotmail.com



Friday April 25, 2008

Birch Cliff Lodge – Table Lodge Event

This evening is open to all Masons and their significant others and promises to be a truly fun-filled night.

Time: 7:30 pm
Location: Scarborough Masonic Temple
Cost: tba
Contact: Jim Pickett – 416-282-9373 or j_o_pickett@yahoo.ca

Man needs freedom, but few men are so strong as to be happy with complete freedom. A man needs to be part of a group, with accepted and respected relationships. Some men join foreign legions for adventure; still more swear on a bit of paper in order to acquire a framework of duties and obligations, customs and taboos, a time to work and a time to loaf, a comrade to dispute with, and a sergeant to hate - in other words, to 'belong'.

- Robert A. Heinlein (1907-1988), Between Planets-1951

Saturday May 3, 2008

Caledonia Lodge and St. Aidan's Lodge - Ladies Night

Caledonia Lodge and St. Aidan's Lodge will again have a joint Ladies Night. We look forward to many old and new faces joining us. Mark your calendars.

Time: 6:00 pm
Location: Scarborough Masonic Temple
Cost: \$45/ea
Contact: Alex Wilson at alex_wilsonca@yahoo.com

Thursday May 22, 2008

Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry - Valley of Toronto - Master Mason Night

Expand your knowledge of Freemasonry beyond the Craft Lodge. Witness the portrayal of the Colourful Sixteenth Degree.

Free and Open to all Master Masons - **but admission to this event is by ticket only.**

Time: 7:30 pm **sharp**
Location: Rameses Masonic Centre
3100 Keele St., Toronto
Contact: Allan C. Dvorak - 905-509-7218 or acdvorak@sympatico.ca or
your Scottish Rite Lodge Representative

Saturday May 31, 2008

Toronto East District Gala

The District Gala, presented by the Alpha Masters Group, will be held at the Sister's Great Buffet Restaurant Banquet Hall on Old Kingston Rd. Sister's Banquet Hall has hosted many Masonic events,



all of which have been well received by the brethren and their wives. They have a reputation for good quality food and an attention to detail that ensures a first class evening for all. This year's formal attire event will be a served meal, and is restricted to 100 persons so the tickets are sure to sell fast. Support your district and DDGM by joining us for a fabulous evening. Remember to have the better half mark Saturday May 31st as booked so you may join the many old and new acquaintances you have made this year. Dancing to the music of DJ Jimmy Mack!

Time: 6:30 pm - Social
7:30 pm - Dinner
Location: Sister's Great Buffet Restaurant
Cost: \$50/ea
Contact: Alex Wilson at alex_wilsonca@yahoo.com or
Bob Steenson at 416-697-0822 or bob.steenson@ontarioair.com

*I don't believe the accident of birth makes people sisters or brothers. It makes them siblings ...
Sisterhood and Brotherhood is a condition people have to work at.
- Maya Angelou [Marguerite Ann Johnson]*

Saturday July 12, 2008

Caledonia Lodge and Georgina Lodge – Toronto Harbour Dinner and Dance Cruise

Caledonia and Georgina Lodges are again putting on a joint sunset boat cruise on the Jubilee Queen. There will be a DJ and a dinner, door prizes and raffle. Come and join us for a scenic and romantic evening. It was a smooth ride last year, so no problem with dancing up the night. Contact either Lodge for further information.



Time: Board – 6 pm
Disembark – 11:30 pm
Location: 539 Queens Quay W., Toronto
between Bathurst St. and Lower Spadina Ave at the Marina Quay West
Cost: \$60/ea
Contact: Harold Clarke at tcsnetworks@excite.com or
Alex Wilson at alex_wilsonca@yahoo.com or
Brian Oram



This Month

February

February comes either from the Latin, 'Febris' (meaning the fever of love), from the old-Italian god Februus or else from februa, signifying the festivals of purification celebrated in Rome during this month.

The number 'two' is unlucky, and as 'one' denoted light and the good principle or God, 'two' denoted darkness and the evil principle. Hence it was that the Romans dedicated the second month of the year to Pluto, the god of hell, and the second day of that month to the manes of the dead.

February's birthstone is the amethyst, the gemstone used in the rings of Catholic Bishops, and in many rosaries. It symbolizes spirituality, faithfulness, spiritual attunement, temperance, peace, and quietude. The name comes from the Greek 'a' (not) and 'methustos' (to intoxicate), a reference to the belief that the stone protected its owner from drunkenness. The ancient Greeks and Romans wore amethyst and made drinking vessels of it in the belief that it would prevent intoxication. It is the stone associated with the 7th Chakra, and has been used as an amulet for breaking bad habits and addictions. Amethysts were used in hand-fastenings (rings, bracelets), showing faithfulness and stability.

Valerian, the herb associated with February, quiets the nerves, allays pain, and promotes sleep.

The number of days in the month has varied over the ages. Apparently, Februarius, when adopted, had but 23 days. Traditionally the 23rd day of the month was the end of the calendar year. That indicates Februarius may have been observed in pre-Romulan times when months had as few as twenty days. Also, adding five days at year-end (to extend February's length to 28) is similar to the change made by many other peoples who, around the time of Rome's founding, added five days to their own calendar, but considered them to be unlucky and not part of the normal year.

Romans always reconciled differences between calendar and solar year lengths during that 'Month of Purification.' Whenever and however Roman calendars were modified to correspond to year length, it was always done after the 23rd day of February, traditionally the last day of the year. Even in our time, leap year is observed with a 29-day February. To purists, 'leap day' is February 24th, not the 29th.

"Numa...added an intercalary month, to follow February, consisting of twenty-two days, and called by the Romans the month Mercedinus. This amendment, however, itself, in course of time, came to need other amendments."

- Plutarch

"February was named after Februaria, the ritual for atonement. It was originally 29 days long, but at one point, one day was transferred to the month of August. It is now 28 days long with a 29th day being added in leap years."

- Livy

Midway between the four points of the solstices and equinoxes are the Cross-Quarter Days, the fixed points of the natural year, represented in the Catholic Church by the four Gospels, and symbolized by a man (Aquarius), a bull (Taurus), a lion (Leo), and an eagle (Scorpio). These correspond to the four Pagan fire festivals. About halfway in the Sun's journey through the fixed sign of Aquarius, is the man-point. The Cross-Quarter Days are all 15 degrees of fixed signs, and support the eighth harmonic division of the Earth's orbital year. In concept, this correlates to the Lunar cycle, which is an eighth



harmonic division of the Moon's orbital month. The timing of the Moon's orbit around the Earth varies from the timing of the Earth's orbit around the Sun, which accounts for the offset of the calendar systems.

February 1st is the first cross-quarter festival in the Celtic or Pagan calendar: Imbolc, or Oimelec (both pronounced 'ee-melc'). It is also known as Brigantia, which corresponds with the festival of the Norse goddess, Brigid (in Ireland, the virgin goddess Bridhe) who embodies the three-fold nature of the goddess, and their powers of healing, smith craft, and poetry/divination. In Greco-Roman mythology, the triune nature of the goddess is maiden, mother and crone, and at the cross-quarter, the goddess is transformed from the barren hag of winter back again to the vibrant virgin bride of spring. Imbolc, which means 'ewe's milk', refers to the first lactation of the year, promising new lambs and a blessed spring. Imbolc is a time of commitment to the waxing Light of the coming spring, and dedicated to purification and cleansing. In ancient Greece, the three-day Lesser Eleusinian Mysteries began each year on this day, on February 1st, in honour of the goddesses Ceres, Demeter, Persephone, and Proserpine.

"In the month of Anthesterion (February) the lesser mysteries were conducted near Athens, at Agrai by the Ilissos River, as something of a preparation for the greater mysteries celebrated in Boedromion [September]."

- The Ancient Mysteries: A Sourcebook, - Marvin W. Meyer, Editor

"This sacred month was highly respected - even if a war was on, it would be halted to allow its members to attend the mysteries. A truce was proclaimed, and fighting would cease, for example in Sparta, Thracia, and the Peloponesus, to allow participation. This also occurred, incidentally, with the Olympic games."

- The Still-functioning Greater and Lesser Mysteries - Geoffrey Hodson

February 2nd is Groundhog's day. Tradition tells us if the groundhog sees his shadow, there will be another 6 weeks of winter, a correlation to the 40-day penitence of Lent. Candlemas (February 2nd) is the Christian feast of the purification of the Virgin Mary. A Mass is said for the blessing of the candles and the return of the Light, commemorating when Jesus was first presented in the temple. Many Roman Catholics perform a novena (9 days of formal prayer), ending on February 11th, the festival for The Lady of Fatima (which was the name of Mohammed's daughter). Our Lady of Fatima is said to have appeared in Lourdes near an ancient Celtic healing spring (once in Islamic territory), and is associated with Februa, Greco-Roman goddess of fire, the Sun, and healing.

February 5th is Mardi Gras, which means Fat Tuesday, aka Shrove Tuesday (shrive: to confess and gain absolution), the final day of 'Carnival', which comes from the Latin root, meaning 'farewell to meat'. It is usual to eat pancakes on this day.

The next day (February 6th) is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, the Christian season of penitence and renewal in preparation for the festival of Easter. Lent comes from 'lencten', the Chaldean word meaning 'spring' or 'lengthening' (of days). In Medieval Europe, meat and dairy were to be shunned and only one meal was eaten in the early evening. Good deeds and disciplinary behaviour were offered in thanksgiving for the sacrifice of The Christ, and in acknowledgment of His death and resurrection. This has a parallel in the 40 days of abstinence that precedes the pagan festival of the fire-goddess of the morning star, Astarte. On Ash Wednesday in the Christian tradition, a cross is drawn on the forehead of the penitent with ashes made from palm leaves that were burned on Palm Sunday, as the symbolism of sorrow, regret, and humility, and a reminder of our humanness, and that we are worthy of redemption.



The palm tree is the tree of life in the Babylonian Garden of Eden story, and symbolizes hope for the future. The Hebrew word for palm is 'tamar', their name for the goddess, Ashtaroth, aka Astarte, Ishtar, and Venus-Hesperos (Evening Star). Astarte rescued and healed a palm tree uprooted from the Garden of Eden by a great flood.



The Chinese New Year day is on February 7th, 2008. Because this is a new moon day, it is the first day of the first Chinese lunar month in the Chinese Lunar Calendar system. The traditional New Year's celebration will end on the 15th day of the lunar month. According to legend, in ancient China, the Nián was a man-eating beast from the mountains (in other versions from under the sea), which came out every 12 months somewhere close to winter to prey on humans. The people later believed that the Nián was sensitive to loud noises and the colour red, so they scared it away with explosions, fireworks and the liberal use of the colour red. These customs led to the first New Year celebrations. Guò nián, which means 'to celebrate the new year', literally means 'the passover of the Nián'. This year is the Year of the Rat. People born in the Year of the Rat are noted for their charm and attraction for the opposite sex. They work hard to achieve their goals, acquire possessions, and are likely to be perfectionists. They are basically thrifty with money. Rat people are easily angered and love to gossip. Their ambitions are big, and they are usually very successful.

Gung Hei Fat Choy !

St. Valentine was a Martyred Roman Priest of the 3rd century. St. Valentine's Day, February 14th holds sacred the number 5 (1 + 4). In ancient times, when a woman wanted to attract a lover or husband, five bay leaves were placed under her pillow on St. Valentine's eve. This holiday has an association with lovebirds, and their first matings of the year. St Valentine is associated with Juno, goddess of maternal and married love, and also with the Norse/Teutonic goddess of Love, Sjöfn, who shares this feast day. In Scandinavia, they ran the Labyrinth on this day, as a test of love.

Love is like perfume; you can't give it away without getting a little on yourself.



... by the Lighthouse Beam

Guides for Freemasons



1. I am the representative of my Lodge and of all Freemasons. Whatever I do or say reflects directly upon myself, my fellow Freemasons everywhere and our good works.
2. I am responsible for what my Lodge and Freemasonry represent. They can be no more than what my fellow Freemasons and I make them.
3. I should not criticize what my fellow Freemasons do for Freemasonry unless I have a better suggestion and I am prepared to do it myself.
4. I must remember that the fact that I bear the name, Master Mason or Freemason, is not enough. I must continue to be worthy.
5. My fellow brethren and I are our Lodges and Freemasonry. Without our active support, they cease to exist.
6. My Lodge does me a favour by calling upon me. I am not doing the Lodge a favour by serving. It is both an obligation and a privilege to help the Lodge and Freemasonry.
7. I should treat my fellow Freemasons with the same respect, honour, and understanding that I would like to receive from them.
8. It is not a right to be a Freemason; it is an honour. I should respect that honour by abiding by all of the precepts of my Lodge, my Grand Lodge, and Freemasonry as a whole.
9. Whatever differences my fellow Freemasons and I may have, we are all bound together by the bonds of our loyalty to the GAOTU, our families, the Lodge, and Freemasonry.
10. The willing Master Mason and his understanding family are the lifeblood of the Lodge and Freemasonry.

Author: Anonymous



Book Review

The Knights Templar of the Middle East - The Hidden History of the Islamic Origins of Freemasonry

Author: Michael James Alexander Stewart and Walid Amine Salhab

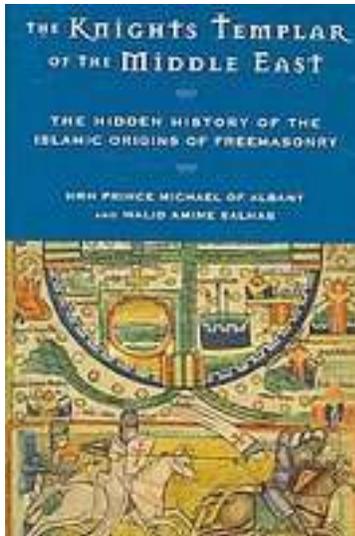
ISBN: 9781578633463

Publisher: Red Wheel/Weiser

Published: 2006

A review of the book

In the hands of actual scholars, the stated premise of this book could have resulted in a work truly worthy of attention. First, the suggestion that Islamic ideas and practices have influenced the creation of the Christian Military Orders goes at least as far back as the 1840s (Jose Antonio Conde, *Historia de la Dominación de los Arabes en España*, Barcelona, 1844) and continues to be the subject of a lively discussion between historians to this day (cf. the various articles in favour of that thesis by the Israeli Professor Dr. Elena Lourie and her supporters, and those of the American Dr. Alan Forey and his followers against it.)



Second, the idea that modern Freemasonry is a direct descendant of the order of the Temple via a group of Templars who took refuge in Scotland after the dissolution of the order in 1307, is one that refuses to die in spite of lack of proven evidence to that effect. Today, most bona fide historians either have declared against it, or, at best, have emitted a verdict of “not proven”.¹

Thus, any research that would have added new information to those well-trodden paths would have been much welcome by those individuals who, like myself, are passionately interested in the history of ideas. Unfortunately, it is clear that the self-styled - and arguably false² - “HRH Prince Michael of Albany” and his collaborator, the filmmaker Walid Amine Salhab, had a different agenda when they wrote their book.

As is often the case with tendentious works, the authors start off from a few true facts, i.e. -

- a. most of us in the West exhibit a serious lack of knowledge and understanding about Islam, its principles, its history, and its development;
- b. Islamic scholars, both through their own original works, as well as through the preservation and transmission of a vast body of classical Greek and Asian philosophical, mystical, mathematical, and

¹ An example of recent scholarship to that effect is the well-researched, well-written, and absorbing book by Robert L. D. Cooper, *The Rosslyn Hoax?*, England, Ian Allan Printing LTD, 2006. Mr. Cooper, the Curator of the Grand Lodge of Scotland Museum and Library, has spent over twelve years researching this work and has made an extensive study of all pertinent original documents, something that most “historians” supporting a different view have not done. In one illuminating statement, Mr. Cooper states: “The myth of a lineal connection between the medieval Order of the Knights Templar in a Scottish context was invented by a Scottish Freemason, Chevalier James Burnes, for his fellow Freemasons who were interested in Creating a Masonic Order which mirrored their own attitudes and their own 19th century chivalric ideas.” (*The Rosslyn Hoax?*, p. 245)

² For a thorough study of the claims made by Mr. Michel Roger Lafosse, aka Michael James Alexander Stewart, aka “HRH Prince Michael of Albany”, see the articles in the Scottish *Sunday Herald* of April 2, 2006, and the *Sunday Mail* of July 23, 2006, as well as the article on Michel Roger Lafosse on Wikipedia. The item in Wikipedia contains, also, links to other websites posting what seems to be conclusive proof against Mr. Lafosse’s claims.



scientific works, were one of the conduits by which Western Europe became reacquainted with the knowledge that, eventually, spurred its own Renaissance; and

- c. the history of most religious organizations (the authors conveniently omit Islam from their list) show numerous examples when some of their leaders, as the flawed human beings they were (are?) engaged in narrow-minded, bigoted, and, at times, downright cruel behaviour. From there on, “Albany” and Salhab proceed to weave a biased, sensationalist and ultimately nasty web of half-truths, unproven facts and self-serving myth.

After wading through a litany of anti-Jewish, anti-Israel and anti-Catholic diatribes (just as the first of frequent examples, see *The Knights Templar*, p. 3) and being subjected to the writers’ thorough disdain for any and all professional historians - who, by the mere fact of disagreeing with them prove their pigheadedness and incompetence - the reader is left with the familiar and unsupported claims expounded by the prolific output of mutually-endorsing writers such as Laurence Gardner, Lynn Picknett and Clive Prince, Tim Wallace-Murphy and Marilyn Hopkins.

With the phenomenal success of Dan Brown’s *The Da Vinci Code* (USA, Doubleday, 2003), those claims have reached mega status. I wonder if Messrs. Michael Baigent, Richard Leigh and Henry Lincoln had any idea of the unwanted progeny they would engender with their 1982 best seller *Holy Blood, Holy Grail* (England, Jonathan Cape, 1982).

In Albany’s and Salhab’s own words: .. and their bid to power [that of the Hasmonean princes who had been displaced by Herod the Great (my parenthesis)] culminated in a marriage, held at Cana, between a descendant of the royal house of David, Jeshua ben Joseph, and a Hasmonean princess, Myriam of Migdal. Today, they are better known as Jesus Christ and Mary Magdalene.

The Knights Templar p. 7

Ironically, this familiar, albeit completely unsupported statement, follows shortly after they had stated: - Roman Catholic Church (sic) promotes a history that is, to say the least, rather edited. In fact, from the point of view of the proper historian, there is little truth to the historicity of the Christian church as a whole.

The Knights Templar p. 6

Who is calling the kettle black?

The first part of *The Knights Templar* is but a reiteration of, and speculation upon, the meaning and implications of the “Rex Deus” genealogy of the supposed descendants of Jesus and Mary Magdalene - which, of course, includes one of the authors, “Michael of Albany” - interspersed with a host of other startling claims, most of which are, again, neither original nor substantiated, such as: Moses was actually the Pharaoh Akhenaton; ancient Israel was located in the Western Arabian Peninsula, the Kabbalah is not Jewish but Persian, Hugues de Payens (one of the co-founders of the Templars and their first Grand Master) was an anti-Catholic crypto-Muslim, as was St. Bernard de Clairvaux, together with the rest of the Cistercian-Templar hierarchy, and the network of “Rex Deus” Royal families (descendants from Christ) who supported him, etc., etc.

The rest of the book deals with the stated - albeit, once again, unsupported - connection between the Knights Templar and Freemasonry, and between Freemasonry and the Royal House of Stewart, both before and after the so-called “Glorious Revolution” of 1688 ousted them from the British throne and replaced them with the House of Hanover.



Regrettably, those matters - which, again, during the last hundred years have been the subject of numerous studies by a variety of serious historians, both Masonic and non-Masonic - are disposed of with the same lack of true scholarship the authors exhibited in the previous sections of their book. (I'd be happy to provide a representative list of "errors" to anyone who wishes to see it)³

From a technical standpoint - and this may not be the writers' fault - the edition of *The Knights Templar* in my hands contains some misnomers (i.e. Aryan instead of Arrian in at least two occasions) and a barrage of typographical errors and misspellings (the list is too long to include here).

In conclusion, current events prove that we need works of serious scholarship, books that adhere scrupulously to proven facts, books that will promote better understanding between members of different cultures, ethnic groups, and religious affiliations. Unfortunately, this is not one of them.

One Mason's views

"HRH Prince Michael of Albany" states that he is a Mason belonging to Edinburgh's "...Lodge Robert Burns 1781, of which I am a member." (*The Knights Templar*, p. 151.)

If that is correct, and what the *Scottish Sunday Mail* asserted on July 23, 2006^(see note 2) - that due to the "bogus" nature of his claims he was obligated to flee Scotland, and his UK citizenship was revoked - if not, for his own good and for the good of the Fraternity, I beseech him to clear his name and reputation. However, if the *Sunday Mail* statements are true, I believe that, regardless of the possible legal ramifications that could derive from those facts, this flagrant breach of the "Moral Law" all Masons are directed to obey would constitute sufficient grounds to terminate his Masonic affiliation.

His published views, though, are altogether another matter. Prejudice and bigotry are not uncommon. Bad scholarship, regrettably, is not a crime. Therefore, one of the inevitable consequences of living in a free and tolerant society, is that every year we see the appearance of a number of biased, tendentious, and selectively "researched" books.

It is, then, up to each of us - exercising the same rights enjoyed by the authors of those books - to buy them or not, to read them or not. Usually I don't waste my time reading or, much less, refuting any of them. However, when someone who declares himself to be a Mason publishes views that, clearly, are contrary to that most basic Masonic code of respect and tolerance for all religious creeds and denominations, I feel compelled to doubt if "HRH Prince Michael of Albany" is, indeed, a Mason. If he is one, I enjoin him to act like one.

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Nelson King, Editor [nelson.king@rogers.com])

³ Once again, for a well-researched study on that subject, see the work by Robert L. D. Cooper quoted above.



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Terry Spalding-Martin *F.C.F.*
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