

Hiram's Lighthouse

PROVIDING MASONIC LIGHT FROM TORONTO EAST DISTRICT SINCE 2003

Grand Lodge Merit Award Winner for District Newsletter - 2008

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Merely to know certain facts about the hidden side of life profits nothing, unless the knowledge is allowed to influence and adapt our method of living to the truths disclosed.

*- Bro. Walter Leslie Wilmshurst (1867-1939),
The Meaning of Masonry-1927*

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

Greetings Brethren,



It's February, marking among other dates, the observance of Groundhog Day. This reminds me of the 1993 Bill Murray film of the same name. In this story, we follow the misadventures of an obnoxious Pittsburgh weatherman, who really treated people with a certain disdain, and is assigned to cover the Groundhog Day festivities in the small town of Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. During his trip, he meets the girl of his dreams and sets out trying to win her heart, but his personality being what it is, it turns out to be a disaster by the end of the day. But something happens during the story and every day when he wakes up, it is Groundhog Day all over again. Our protagonist wakes up again and again and each attempt to win her love ends in disaster. For him, every day is a do over and slowly but surely, he begins to learn his lesson. His personality begins to improve. He starts to change as he begins to treat people pleasantly and he starts to respect this girl for whom he has fallen. Eventually all of his hard work pays off, as at the end of the story he wins the heart of the girl and the respect of all those around him. I relate the story to you because it really can be applied to us as Masons. We come to Masonry rough around the edges, not unlike the character in the film; in many cases unaware of how we treat those around us, or our full potential and us as members of our communities. Masonry gives us the tools to find ourselves. As we pass through to the higher degrees, acquiring better understanding through repeated efforts and daily advancement, we gain knowledge and confidence to pursue the principles of Masonry and apply them to our lives and in our communities. Many of us hardly notice ourselves doing this, but we slowly and surely change our own personalities, gaining confidence, treating people with civility and respect and conducting ourselves with pride in who we are and who we can be. These are some of the great benefits that we derive from Masonry. As the tools of the first-degree teach us, labour is the lot of man. But if we work hard and persevere, we will earn the respect of our families, neighbours and the community.



This month we will have five Official Visits:

- Alpha-Tuscan Lodge on Thursday, February 2nd,
- Canada Lodge on Tuesday, February 7th,
- The Imperial East Gate Lodge on Wednesday, February 8th,
- Birch Cliff Lodge on Friday, February 10th, and
- Universe Lodge on Tuesday, February the 14th.

I ask you to adjust your calendars and attend as many of these Official Visits to support your Brethren, as you are able. As mentioned before, if you support them they will support you. This is the Masonic way.

On Sunday, January 15th, our District Charity Chairman, W. Bro Malcolm Parish accompanied myself and a good number of T.E.D. Masons to the Installation Ceremony at Toronto Assembly #2 of International Order of the Rainbow for Girls. We took the opportunity on behalf of the entire District, to present the Worthy Advisor, Miss Rebecca Corby, a cheque for one half of the funds raised for our Youth Groups during our Leafs Ticket Raffle. It was wonderful afternoons watching these young people conduct their Installation Ceremony. Those who were not able to attend will want to come out in June for the next Installation ceremony and see these young people at work.

Arrangements have also been made for our District to visit the Horace Mundy Chapter, Order of DeMolay on Sunday, March 25th, 2012, from 2 to 4 p.m. for their "Masonry Connects With DeMolay" Event at the Doric Pickering Masonic Temple. We plan to present the balance of the funds raised at that time.

The Masonic Youth of today, may very well become the Masons of tomorrow and on Thursday, January 19th, I was in attendance at Doric Lodge to see the Initiation of Bro. Andrew McDonald, Past Provincial Master Councillor of DeMolay Ontario. The degree team was made up of DeMolay alumni and Advisors. These keen young men who come into the Craft from the DeMolay today will certainly be the leaders of the Craft in years to come.

On Saturday, February 4th I invite all of you and your families to join me at the Claremont Winter Festival Parade. This is a wonderful event where we can dress in full Masonic, Royal Arch or Shriners regalia and participate in this annual event. R.W. Bro. Lou Lombardi and Bro. Wayne Lord have worked very hard to coordinate this event. Brougham Union Lodge will once again have a float, so those who do not wish to walk can ride along. Let's have a great turnout and show the community that Masonry is alive and well. We gather at the Claremont Masonic Temple starting at 9:00 a.m., participate in the parade at 11:00 a.m. and return to the Temple for refreshments.

I have sent out a notice to the Lodge Secretaries for distribution among the membership, reminding you to mark your calendar for the Provincial Masonic Blood donor Week. February 20th - 25th, 2012. V.W. Bro. Douglas A. Gray, who wears many hats, happens to be the Regional Chairman for the 5 Toronto Districts, G. L. Blood Donors Committee. He is more than willing to assist you at one of your clinic locations. If you are able, please donate!

In the coming months, W. Bro. David Neave and W. Bro. Bill Willis will be talking about the District Awards and promoting the 1st Annual Black & White Gala, scheduled for Saturday, June 2nd, 2012 at the Ajax Convention Centre. I hope you will support what we believe to be a very important event for Toronto East District.



To keep up to date on the events within our District, please remember to read the Trestle Board and make note of the dates, or visit our District web site managed by Bro. Michael K. Morris, www.torontoeastdistrict.com and check the calendar.

May the G.A.O.T.U. watch over you and yours and may we all strive to live up to our obligations.

Fraternally,

R.W. Bro. Keith Jones
District Deputy Grand Master
Toronto East District



TORONTO EAST DISTRICT EVENTS:

February 2012						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		<u>1</u>	<u>2</u> Groundhog Day - does he see his shadow? * Alpha-Tuscan - Official Visit Visitors - 7:45 pm East Toronto	<u>3</u> * Heritage Lodge 27th Annual Black Tie Banquet → see below Rameses Shrine Temple	<u>4</u> Mawlid an-Nabi * TED - Mechanics of the Work - 2/6 see below East Toronto * TED - Claremont Winter Carnival Parade	<u>5</u> ← * Markham Union - Annual Robbie Burns Night see below Cedarbrae Golf & Country Club
<u>6</u>	<u>7</u> * Canada - Official Visit Banq - 6:30 pm ← Visitors - 7:40 pm Doric Pickering	<u>8</u> * The Imperial East Gate - Official Visit Banq - 6:00 pm ← Visitors - 7:45 pm East Toronto	<u>9</u> * TED - Blood Donor Clinic see below Doric Pickering	<u>10</u> * TED - Habitat for Humanity - Build Day 1 of 2 see below Macey Ave. & Dunstan Dr. * Birch Cliff - Official Visit Visitors - 8:00 pm Doric Pickering	<u>11</u> * TED - Mechanics of the Work - 3/6 see below East Toronto	<u>12</u>
<u>13</u>	<u>14</u> Valentine's Day * Universe - Official Visit Visitors - 8:00 pm East Toronto	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>
<u>20</u> Family Day - 1 st Long Weekend of the year	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u> * Ontario - 68th Annual Hunter's Night see below Port Hope	<u>24</u> * Rainbow Girls - Murder Mystery Dinner see below Doric Pickering	<u>25</u> * TED - Mechanics of the Work - 4/6 see below East Toronto * TED - Lodge of Discussion see below Doric Pickering	<u>26</u>
<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>				



March 2012						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			<u>1</u> * The Beaches - Official Visit Visitors - 8:00 pm York	<u>2</u> * TED - Officer → Progression Workshop- Session 2B see below Doric Pickering	<u>3</u> * TED - Mechanics of the Work - 5/6 see below East Toronto	<u>4</u> ← * West Hill - Oldies Dance see below East Shore Community Centre
<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u> * West Hill - Official Visit Visitors - 8:00 pm East Toronto	<u>8</u> * Todmorden - Official Visit Visitors - 8:00 pm East Toronto	<u>9</u> → * TED - Mechanics of the Work - 6/6 see below East Toronto	<u>10</u> * TED - Habitat for Humanity - Build Day 2 of 2 see below Macey Ave. & Dunstan Dr.	<u>11</u> Daylight Savings Begins 
<u>12</u> * Scarboro - Official Visit Visitors - 8:00 pm Doric Pickering	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u> St. Paddy's Day 	<u>18</u>
<u>19</u> * Acacia - Official Visit Visitors - 8:00 pm East Toronto * Caledonia - Irish Night see below York	<u>20</u> 1st Day of Spring Here comes <i>summer!</i> 	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u> * TED - Blood Donor Clinic see below St. Aidan's Anglican Church	<u>24</u> * Doric - Spring Dance see below Doric Pickering	<u>25</u> * TED - Horace Mundy Chapter - Masonry Connects With DeMolay 2:00 pm Doric Pickering
<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u> Toronto and York Districts - Masters' Dinner see below School of Fine Dining	<u>30</u>	<u>31</u>	



AROUND AND ABOUT:

Toronto East District Charity

Supporting Local Masonic Youth Initiatives

Future projects and expectation to financially helping our youth are the traditional Lodge donations at our DDGM's Official visits and W. Bro. David Neave has offered to put on CPR and Defibrillator training at each of our District Temples, the cost being a donation to our District Charity.

Contact: Malcolm Parish @ malcolm_parrish@hotmail.com or 905.213.9858

CPR and Defibrillator Classes

Help support the District Charity and learn some life saving skills. W. Bro. David Neave will be holding CPR classes in each of the District Temples through the months of January and February. Cost will be on a donation basis, however if you require a certification, a fee will apply.

If, as a Lodge, you are interested in hosting one of these information nights, please contact W. Bro. Neave.

Contact: David Neave @ davidneave@rogers.com or 905.391.5900

Charity means Love. It is called Agape in the New Testament to distinguish it from Eros (sexual love), Storge (family affection) and Philia (friendship). So there are four kinds of love, all good in their proper place, but Agape is the best because it is the kind God has for us and is good in all circumstances. There are people I mustn't feel Eros towards, and people I can't feel Storge or Philia for: but I can practice Agape to God, Angels, Man and Beast, to the good and the bad, the old and the young, the far and the near.

- C. S. (Clive Staples) 'Jack' Lewis (1898-1963), Letter to Mrs. Ashton-1954

Blood Donor Clinics



Below you will find the district scheduled Blood Donor Clinics, but if you cannot attend them find yourself a clinic at the website indicated below and go and give blood. It is necessary to book an appointment by calling 1.88.todonate (1.888.636.6283). Take your family and friends. Be sure to let your lodge Blood Donor Chairman know that you have donated to get credits for your lodge. The Toronto East District 'Partners For Life' number is **MASN011058** and any donation registered under that number goes in our totals count.

For information regarding the location of blood donor clinics, go to www.blood.ca/centreapps/clinics/InetClinics.nsf/CVSE?OpenForm&CloseMenu

Contact: John Katz @ johnkatz@sympatico.ca or 416.264.7399



Upcoming Toronto East District Blood Donor Clinics -

Thursday February 9, 2012

10:00 am - 2:00 pm - Clinic Hours
Doric Pickering Masonic Hall
457 Kingston Rd. W. (at Mill St.)
905.683.0365

Friday March 23, 2012

3:00 pm - 7:30 pm - Clinic Hours
St. Aidan's Anglican Church
70 Silver Birch Ave. (S of Queen)
416.691.2222

Thursday April 12, 2012

10:00 am - 2:00 pm - Clinic Hours
Doric Pickering Masonic Hall
457 Kingston Rd. W. (at Mill St.)
905.683.0365

Friday May 25, 2012

3:00 pm - 7:30 pm - Clinic Hours
St. Aidan's Anglican Church
70 Silver Birch Ave. (S of Queen)
416.691.2222

Thursday June 14, 2012

10:00 am - 2:00 pm - Clinic Hours
Doric Pickering Masonic Hall
457 Kingston Rd. W. (at Mill St.)
905.683.0365

Friday September 28, 2012

3:00 pm - 7:30 pm - Clinic Hours
St. Aidan's Anglican Church
70 Silver Birch Ave. (S of Queen)
416.691.2222

Friday November 23, 2012

3:00 pm - 7:30 pm - Clinic Hours
St. Aidan's Anglican Church
70 Silver Birch Ave. (S of Queen)
416.691.2222

Toronto East Masonic Centre (T.E.M.C.)

I am happy to report, as a result of much communication and countless discussion, we are now close to resolving the issue of selecting a new piece of property and building a resplendent new temple in our district. As you will recall, the board last met at the end of November and scheduled our next meeting for January 30. During this period, our Property Development Committee devoted time, energy and effort to explore immediate opportunities for properties within our defined geographical parameters that will meet the needs of Masons past, present and future.



From Day One, it has been agreed by all board members that the temple, its development and subsequent management, cannot be a financial burden for our lodges and chapters moving forward. Thus, ours simply cannot be a stand-alone structure, as has also been determined elsewhere in our own Grand Jurisdiction. The board thus tasked the Property Development Committee, recognizing the need for a complementary commercial component, to consider our anticipated overall Return On Investment related to the forthcoming involvement of strategic partners moving forward.

At this meeting on January 30, 7:00 pm, the recommendations of the committee, chaired by Bro. George Papas, will lead directly to the launch of a due diligence process, and the tendering of other professional services. Due to land costs and other considerations, our plan is to develop not horizontally but vertically and, to achieve our goals, we expect to attract both sufficient investment and consistent revenue flow in the future to assure our growth and success.

With the continued support, advice and input of the brethren in the district and beyond, I am quite certain the TEMC and our new temple, being located squarely in Canada's biggest city, will continue to meet the needs of Freemasonry and I envision the new temple will be proudly positioned as such for decades to come.

- Graeme Boyce
President SMTC & TEMC



Books

You may be aware of the current legislation going through the mill in the U.S. that would prevent books, music, etc., from being made available on the internet. Something to do with copywrite laws. I can understand that. I want good writers to make a good living producing the books I like to read. Recording the books digitally and making them available for free takes food out of the mouths of those writers. On the other hand, sites like Wikipedia, Google, Yahoo etc., cannot be responsible for every scrap of information that gets posted to their sites. There are valid points on both sides of the arguement.



It is possible that if the legislatrion carries, all peer2peer sites, those that permit you to download a book, newspaper or magazine article, or music could become illegal. I think this is very unlikely but possible.

Here is a website that features *MANY* Masonic books for download, probably in the thousands. Whether any of the literally thousands of books are covered by copywrite is unknown. Let your conscience govern your actions. To download, you need to become a Premium Member of 4Shared - 1 month is \$4.55/month. Their pricing implies an “auto renewal” feature, so beware. (Other than perusing the thousands of books and articles available, I have never used the site, so I don’t know anything about it.)

This is a directory of the Masonic book, articles, etc. available -
<http://www.4shared.com/dir/21405406/2601a395/sharing.html>

I will publish more sites as they become known. If there is one you have found and you like, please let me know.

Top Ten Books List

There are numerous lists of ‘favourite’ books on Freemasonry. Grand Lodge has several such lists on its web site. Find the lists if you can!

HERBOLD’S LIST - Ralph A. Herbold is the editor of the Southern California Research Lodge publications.

(In order of preference)

1. The Craft and Its Symbols, Allen E. Roberts, 1974
 2. A Comprehensive View of Freemasonry, Henry Wilson Coil, 1973
 3. Born in Blood, John J. Robinson, 1989
 4. William Preston and His Work, Colin Dyer, 1987
 5. Workman Unashamed, Christopher Haffner, 1989
 6. A Pilgrim’s Path, John J. Robinson, 1993
 7. House Undivided, Allen E. Roberts, 1961
 8. Masonic World Guide, Kent Henderson, 1984
 9. The Freemason at Work, Harry Carr, 1976
 10. Miracle at Philadelphia, Catherine Drinker Bowen, 1966
-

How To Say It

Deviation	<u>dee</u> -vee-ay-shun
Devolve	dee- <u>volv</u> (‘o’ as in ‘dog’)
Diffuses	diff- <u>yoo</u> -zez



Dilate	die- <u>late</u>
Diligence	<u>dill</u> -i-jense ('i' as in 'it')
Diligent	<u>dill</u> -i-jent ('i' as in 'it')
Diminutiveness	dim- <u>min</u> -yoo-tivv-ness
Director	die- <u>reck</u> -tore
Discern	diss- <u>urn</u>
Dispassionate	diss- <u>pash</u> -un-it
Dispensation	<u>diss</u> -pen- <u>say</u> -shun
Dissenter	diss- <u>sen</u> -ter ('er' as in 'her')
Doric	<u>dore</u> -ick
Edict	<u>ee</u> -dickt
Edifice	<u>ed</u> -if-iss
Effaced	<u>ee</u> - <u>faced</u> or <u>eff</u> - <u>faced</u>
Effected	<u>ee</u> - <u>feck</u> -ted
Ejaculation	<u>ee</u> - <u>jack</u> -yoo- <u>lay</u> -shun
Elect	<u>ee</u> - <u>leckt</u>
Election	<u>ee</u> - <u>leck</u> -shun

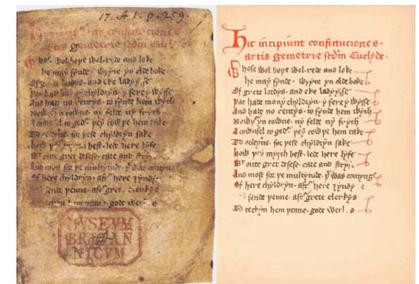
- Functional Pronouncing Glossary of The Work



What's That All About?

What is the Regius Poem?

Sometimes called the Halliwell Document, it is, loosely speaking, the oldest of the “Manuscript Constitutions” of Freemasonry. Dated approximately 1340 A.D., it is in old Chaucerian English and difficult to read without a translation. It is preserved in the British Museum.



It is not, accurately speaking, a “Constitution,” although it has within it much that is found in manuscripts. It is more a document about masonry than for masons. It is discursive, rambling, wordy and parts of it are copies of contemporary documents, notably “Urbanitatis” and “Instructions to a Parish Priest.” Within the Regius, thirty-eight lines are devoted to “The Four Crowned Martyrs,” who are not referred to in any of the manuscript Constitutions.

The book is approximately four by five and one half inches, the pages fine vellum, the letters in red and what was probably once black but is now a rather drab greenish brown colour.

Its most curious feature is that it is written in verse, which is why it is often called the Regius Poem, although it is much more doggerel than poetry.

It is important to Masonic students for many reasons; to the average Mason its most salient feature may be that it ends with what are, so far as is known, the oldest words in the Masonic ritual.

Why does the ritual use so many repetitions, as in “hele and conceal,” “duly and truly,” “worthy and well-qualified,” etc.?

Several “word pairs” in Masonic ritual make interesting studies; “duly and truly,” “worthy and well-qualified,” “free will and accord,” “parts and points,” “hele and conceal.” At first glance it



may seem that these are so arranged only for emphasis. In Middle English writing, especially in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, when Freemasonry was in the process of formation, England had two languages. One was Norman-French, the other Anglo-Saxon. To make sure of understanding, word pairs were much in use, a word of similar meaning being taken from each language.

The apparent redundancy of expression in a number of places in Masonic ritual may be traced back to these Middle Ages. The perpetuation of such usage now, when clarity of thought and understanding might be served as well with one word, is one of many proofs that Freemasonry delights to cling to the ancient and venerated because it is venerated and ancient.

Why are Square and Compasses more important than other working tools?

Without compasses, no accurate square can be made: without a square no building can be erected. Square and compasses are universally the symbol of a Master Mason; of Freemasonry. Symbolists have read many meanings into both these tools of a Mason. Both symbols are much older than Freemasonry; Chinese manuscripts give them a Masonic significance (although there was no Freemasonry in that country) two thousand years ago. No symbols in Freemasonry offer so many possible interpretations. But many symbols mean different things to different men; each interprets according to his best light.

In modern Masonic rituals, the compasses are “dedicated to the Craft” and are emblematic of the restraint of violent passions. Here “passions” refers to any over-emotional lack of control. It is passions in the larger sense; intemperance, temper, unjust judgment, intolerance, selfishness, that the spiritual compasses circumscribe. The positions of the square and compasses in the three degrees are universally symbols of light, further light, more light. (Compasses becomes compass in six United States Grand Lodges.)



Why is a Master addressed as “Worshipful”?

Few Masonic matters are less understood by the non-Masonic public than this. The word “worchyppe” or “worchyp” is: Old English and means “greatly respected.” In the Wycliffe Bible “Honour thy father and thy mother” appears as “Worchyp thy fadir and thy modir.” English and Canadian mayors are still addressed, “Your Worship.” In some of the Old Constitutions of Masonry is the phrase, “Every Mason shall prefer his elder and put him to worship.”

“Worshipful,” therefore, in modern Masonry continues an ancient word meaning “greatly respected.” A Grand Master is “Most Worshipful,” that is, “Most greatly respected” (except in Pennsylvania, where the Grand Master is “Right Worshipful,” as are Pennsylvania’s and Texas’ Past Grand Masters).

What is the symbolism of the Ashlars?

In architecture, an ashlar is a squared stone. Masonically, the ashlars are “rough” - not dressed, squared, or polished - and “perfect” - ready for use in wall or other structure. The information given in most rituals is scanty and does not include the greater meanings which symbolists find in



these two stones. Students direct attention to the fact that the perfect ashlar is made from the rough ashlar entirely by a process of taking away, removal of unwanted material. Nothing is added to a rough ashlar to make it perfect. The analogy to the Mason, who is a building stone in the spiritual temple of Masonry, is that the perfect man is within the rough man, and that perfection is to be obtained by a process of taking away the “vices and superfluities of life.” Every beautiful statue ever carved from stone was always within that stone, needing only the tool of the artist to take away the material not wanted and leave the statue, which was there since the stone was first formed. Compare Luke XVII:21: “The kingdom of God is within you.”

Is there further information to be obtained of the Working Tools of a Fellowcraft than is to be found in the ritual?

Decidedly so; it is half concealed, half revealed in the association of the level with the Senior Warden, the plumb with the Junior Warden and the square with the Master.

In a lodge, all brethren meet on a level of exact equality, which is not concerned with brains, or education, or wealth, or position; men are equal in a lodge in manhood, and in Masonic right and Masonic character. “We meet upon the level” means just what it says; Masons trust each other, believe in each other, help each other because they are Masonically, level with each other.

We “act by the plumb” in accord with Amos VII - the plumb line God said He would place “in the midst of my people Israel.” In other words, they were to be judged by their own plumb line, not another’s. Masons are to judge their fellows, if at all, by their fellows’ plumb lines, not their own. One brother must not condemn another by personal standards; only when a brother is false to his own standards can he judge him.

To “part upon the square” signifies that while a square points in different directions, and men “part” to go each his own way, it is a known way, not a devious way, or a wrong way, a bad way, but a “square” way. The Mason who goes his own way, so it is the square way, is never alone, even if out of sight of his lodge and his brethren.

The square is the fundamental tool of the operative Mason; without its use, no building would stand. It is the fundamental tool of the Speculative Mason; without square thoughts and actions, no spiritual building can stand.

What are “High Twelve” - “Low Twelve”?

Noon and midnight. These expressions are but two of Freemasonry’s many emphases on time, which thus becomes an important symbol, if one seldom considered by ritualists.

The Entered Apprentice divides his time with the twenty-four inch gauge; both Apprentice and Fellowcraft wait a certain time before further advancement; geometry enables the astronomer to “fix the duration of time and seasons, years and cycles.” Ecclesiastes XII begins with “days of thy youth.” Job and the adaption of his words form the Master’s prayer, in which is “man that is born of woman is of few days.” His “days are determined;” “the number of his months is with thee;” “turn from him that he may rest till he shall accomplish his day;” the time of the construction of the Temple of Solomon is taught in the Master Mason degree; the Master’s carpet has three steps, which, signifying youth, manhood and old age are themselves symbols of time. The hourglass and scythe are instruments for the measure of time and the bringing of human life and its time to a close.



As in all life, time in Masonry is important; whether it is a symbol of life, of immortality or the unsolved puzzles of the universe, let each brother decide for himself.

- One Hundred and One Questions About Freemasonry

Now, Here Is A Lodge In . . .



Frontenac Lodge, Kingston ON,
John A. MacDonald's Mother Lodge
Thanks to Steve Hudson, Doric Lodge, Ajax, ON

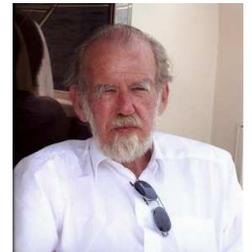
Do you have a picture of a Masonic Hall in downtown Some-Place-Else? Send it in and let others see.

Masonic Authors

Tim Wallace-Murphy

I doubt that Tim Wallace-Murphy is a Mason. He is one of those writers who write about Masonry from the outside.

He is an international best-selling author known throughout the world for his deep knowledge of Rosslyn, the Knights Templar, Sacred Geometry and Rex Deus - the real bloodline of Jesus Christ and the sacred continuation of esoteric and Gnostic knowledge. Many of his ideas and theories have morphed into popular culture.



He has been the expert consultant to many scholars and authors on these subjects most notably Dan Brown, the author of the Da Vinci Code. His best selling books include The Mark of the Beast, Rosslyn: Guardians of the Secret of the Holy Grail, Rex Deus: The True Mystery of Rennes-Le-Chateau, Cracking the Symbol Code and many more. He is a doctor of medicine and psychology and has spent decades researching the ancient traces of the wisdom tradition.

Tim Wallace-Murphy is renowned for his books which delve into the mysteries surrounding the Knights Templar, Rosslyn, sacred geometry, and especially Rex Deus. His latest book encompasses all these and much more, broadening the scope to include the philosophies that were perpetuated and propagated by the guardians of the Western Mystery tradition.



Tim Wallace-Murphy's mammoth Hidden Wisdom is an ambitious and determined attempt to wrench the "secret knowledge" of the Western tradition out of the shadows of neglect and into the light of historical consciousness, where its wisdom, which is all too needed today, will no longer be hidden. Hidden Wisdom begins in prehistory with the dawn of civilization and finishes in modern times, encompassing the intertwined currents of history and esotericism.

Books by Tim Wallace-Murphy include -

- Rosslyn: Guardian of the Secrets of the Holy Grail - with Marilyn Hopkins
- Rex Deus: The True Mystery of Rennes Le Chateau
- Rosslyn
- Rosslyn: Guardian of the Secrets of the Holy Grail - with Marilyn Hopkins
- The Knights of the Holy Grail: The Secret History of the Knights Templar
- The Enigma of the Freemasons: Their History and Mystical Connections
- Cracking the Symbol Code: Revealing the Secret Heretical Messages within Church and Renaissance Art
- What Islam Did for Us: Understanding Islam's Contribution to Western Civilization
- The Mark of the Beast: The Continuing Story of the Spear of Destiny - with Trevor Ravenscroft
- Freemasons
- Cracking the Symbol Code
- Hidden Wisdom

Strong feelings do not necessarily make a strong character. The strength of a man is to be measured by the power of the feelings he subdues not by the power of those that subdue him.

- William Carleton (1794-1869)

Thursday February 2 2012

Groundhog Day



Groundhog Day is a day celebrated on February 2nd in Canada and the United States. According to folklore, if it is cloudy when a groundhog emerges from its burrow on this day, it will leave the burrow, signifying that winter-like weather will soon end. If it is sunny, the groundhog will supposedly see its shadow and retreat back into its burrow, and the winter weather will continue for six more weeks.

Modern customs of the day involve celebrations where early morning festivals are held to watch the groundhog emerging from its burrow. In south eastern Pennsylvania, Groundhog Lodges (Grundsow Lodges) celebrate the day with fersommlinge, social events in which food is served, speeches are made, and one or more g'spiel (plays or skits) are performed for entertainment. The Pennsylvania German dialect is the only language spoken at the event, and those who speak English pay a penalty, usually in the form of a nickel, dime or quarter, per word spoken, put into a bowl in the centre of the table.

The largest Groundhog Day celebration is held in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. Groundhog Day, already a widely recognized and popular tradition, received worldwide attention as a result of the 1993 film of the same name, Groundhog Day, which was set in Punxsutawney and portrayed Punxsutawney Phil.



Not to be outdone, here in Ontario in the beautiful Grey Bruce Peninsula, in the bustling metropolis of Whiarton, 2012 will see the 56th annual Whiarton Willie (the only albino groundhog prognosticator) Festival running from February 1st through February 5th. The festival has an array of diverse social, recreational and fun events ranging from a Prime Rib Dinner (Ummm! Food!) to comedy shows and plays. Willie invites you to spend some time listening to fabulous live entertainment, performing in the Wee Willie Idol contest, or winning at Monte Carlo night.

- Wikipedia and the Whiarton Willie Website

Saturday February 4 2012

Mawlid an-Nab

Mawlid an-Nab, Qur'anic Arabic: "Birth of the Prophet" is a term used to refer to the observance of the birthday of the prophet Muhammad.

This observance is a good example of the differences in the Islamic faith. Depending on which country or which language or Arabic dialect is being used, the event is called by a variety of names or not recognised at all. Also, the Sunnis observe the event on February 15 while the Shi'as hold it on February 20 2011.



Islamic scholars are divided on whether observing Mawlid is necessary or even permissible in Islam. Some see it as a praiseworthy event and positive development, while others say it is an improper innovation and forbid its celebration.

A number of Islamic scholars subscribing to the Sufi (generally understood to be the inner, mystical dimension of Islam) movement, and the primary scholar of the Muslim Brotherhood movement, have given their approval for the observance of Mawlid. They cite where Muhammad recommended fasting on Mondays, as that was the day he was born and also the day prophecy descended on him. They suggest that fasting on Mondays is also a way of commemorating Muhammad's birthday. However, there is division among them on the lawfulness of the methods of the celebrations. Most accept that it is praiseworthy as long as it is not against *sharia* (i.e. inappropriate mingling of the sexes, consuming forbidden food or drink such as alcohol, playing music etc).

Where Mawlid is celebrated in a carnival manner, large street processions are held and homes or mosques are decorated. Charity and food is distributed, and children narrate stories about the life of Muhammad with recitation of poetry. Scholars and poets celebrate by reciting Qasida al-Burda Sharif, the famous poem by 13th century Arabic Sufi Busiri.

Mawlid is celebrated in most Muslim countries, and in other countries where Muslims have a presence, such as India, Britain, and Canada. Saudi Arabia is the only Muslim country where Mawlid is not an official public holiday. Participation in the ritual celebration of popular Islamic holidays is seen as an expression of the Islamic revival.

Among non-Muslim countries, India is noted for its Mawlid festivities. The relics of Muhammad are displayed after the morning prayers at Hazratbal shrine on the outskirts of Srinagar. Thousands attend nightlong prayers held at the shrine.

During Pakistan's Mawlid celebration, the national flag is hoisted on all public buildings, and a 31-gun salute in the federal capital and a 21-gun salute at the provincial headquarters are fired at dawn. The cinemas show religious rather than secular films.



In some countries, such as Egypt and Sudan, Mawlid is used as a generic term for the celebration of birthdays of local Sufi saints and not only restricted to the observance of the birth of Muhammad. Around 3,000 Mawlid celebrations are held each year and attended by tens of thousands of people. These festivals attract an international audience, with the largest one in Egypt attracting up to three million people honouring Ahmed el-Bedawi, a local 13th Century Sufi saint.

- Wikipedia.com

As with any religion, some followers do and some followers don't. And as with all things religious, whether you do or don't, someone is going to consider what you did or didn't do a bad thing.

As-alamu-alaiku

Saturday February 4 2012

Toronto East District - Mechanics of the Work - 2/6

The Mechanics-of-the-Work classes are for designed for any Mason, whether a seasoned veteran or the newest of new Entered Apprentices. There will be something on offer for each participant. Anyone who attends will enjoy themselves as we not only practice the ritual from black book of the work (2009 version only of course) to get you relaxed and comfortable with it and its intricacies but we do it within a easy going atmosphere of profit and pleasure.

We always have coffee on and the donuts and conversation after the sessions can be as illuminating as the work itself. Come out and enjoy our fellowship, you'll be glad that you did!

These classes are open to all Masons, regardless of their office, rank or home district. If you miss one or more classes, it doesn't matter although you'll get the most out of attending them all.

Time: 9:00 am - to Noon
Location: East Toronto Masonic Temple
Cost: \$2/ea for coffee and doughnuts
Contact: Les Armitage @ 416.598.4794, or
Dennis Rankin @ kdrankin@pathcom.com or 416.691.1704

Saturday February 4 2012

Claremont Winter Carnival Parade

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

Brougham Union is again entering a float and inviting all Masons and their families to join them. You may wish to march in the Parade or ride one of the wagons. Among the guests in the Parade will be ambassadors from WindReach Farm, the Shrine Hillbilly Troop and the Shrine Drum Corps, the Rainbow Girls and DeMolay.



Please note that the Toronto East District DDGM has 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 colour 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: 9:00 am - Assembly
11:00 am - Parade
Location: Claremont Masonic Temple
Contact: Lou Lombardi @ loulombardi@xplornet.ca or 905.649.3003 or 416.518.2242
Wayne Lord @ lord.wayne@hotmail.com

Saturday February 4 2012

Markham Union - Annual Robbie Burns Night



Thrill to the skirl of the Pipes and Drums by York Region Police Pipe Band accompanied by the York Region Police Highland Dancers.

Enjoy the Immortal Memory to Robert Burns Address and Toast to The Haggis followed by a Full Scottish Buffet.

All who enjoy the pipes are welcome. Bring your special lady, friends, neighbours and perspective members.

Time: 5:30 pm - Social
7:00 pm - Dinner
Location: Cedarbrae Golf & Country Club
1st lights east of Markham Rd, on Steeles Ave., turn south on Staines Road, and then turn left onto Mac Frost Way. First intersection on your left.
Cost: \$40/ea
Contact: Bruce Grimbleby @ bgrimbleby@gmail.com or 905.472.8124

Saturday February 4 2012

The Heritage Lodge - Annual Black Tie Banquet

A good meal, great guys and an interesting talk. Also the presentation of the William James Dunlop Award to V.W. Bro. Iain Mackenzie. Dress is Black Tie (preferred) or Business Suit. Ladies most welcome.

Tickets are required. Tickets can be purchased from David Mackey at 40 McKittrick Dr., Kanata, ON K2L-1T7.

Topic: Geologic Journey World
Speaker: Professor Nick Eyles, Ph.D., D.Sc., P.Geo.
Social: 5:30 pm
Banquet: 6:30 pm
Location: Rameses Masonic Centre (Keele St.)
Cost: \$30/ea



Garden Design as a Further Expression of Masonic Principles

Coinciding with the rise of Speculative Freemasonry in England came the birth of the landscape garden. Just as the Vitruvian concept of architecture, all other studies became a fundamental tenet of Enlightenment Freemasonry, so too did the notion of garden design as a further expression of Masonic principles. Many of the foremost garden designers of the day were Freemasons, so it is not surprising that they utilized a vast vocabulary of Masonic symbols in their creations.

Enthusiasm for the new art of gardening was not confined to England - it spread to France, Germany and other parts of Europe, just as ideas and ideals of Freemasonry itself were disseminated. In Europe as in England, the new gardens were deliberately intended to evoke the ideal of uncorrupted Elysium. Such gardens, it was felt could play their part in bringing about a new golden age of increasing social harmony and perfection. This was a prime Masonic ambition. The idea was to shape the landscape to expound an explicit moral lesson.



For Masonic garden designers, architecture and garden ornament were just as important as the planning of the garden itself - indeed the two were inseparable. Again, the links with Freemasonry and Masonic symbolism are specific. Great “gardens of allusion,” as they came to be known were created at Castle Howard in Yorkshire; Strawberry Hill near London, home of Horace Walpole (1717-1797) the 18th century writer and wit and English Member of Parliament; Stowe House in Buckinghamshire; and at the philosopher Jean-Jacques

Rousseau’s (1712-1778) home in Ermenonville, France.

Circular rotundas began to feature in garden architecture - these temple-like buildings had various Masonic and allegorical properties attributed to them. Sphinxes made an appearance, along with pyramids, obelisks and other features influenced by the Egyptians. These were also an expression of Masonic traditions, notably the notion of a direct link between the Craft and the ancient Egyptian Mysteries. One of the famous ‘inventors’ of the English landscape style was William Kent, (1685-1748), who for instance, placed a stepped-pyramid over the central block of the Temple of British Worthies he erected at Stowe, setting a bust of Mercury within its oval niche. Mercury was an important figure in Masonic legend.

His earlier name had been Hermes Trismegistus and he was linked with Euclid, Pythagoras and the supposed Egyptian foundation of the Craft.

The German poet Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1832) was a prominent Freemason who made the creation of a new garden and its buildings along the Masonic lines a major theme in one of his novels - Die Wahlverwandtschaften (1809). The text has plenty of Masonic imagery, with a reference to “lime mortar” in which the stones are to be embedded. Lime mortar was important in Goethe’s day because of its binding force. The parallel, as he pointed out, is the way in which law acts as a social cement within human society.

Funerary gardens, as they were so called, began to be designed along the same lines. Probably the grandest and most influential of them all is the great cemetery of Pere-Lachaise, Paris, created by French Freemason Alexandre-Theodore Brongniart (1739-1813) and opened in 1804. In the cemetery, dignified



classical tombs lined the avenues, each of which had its own distinctive planting of limes, chestnuts, poplars and above all, acacias. The acacia has long been esteemed as a sacred tree and acacias are extremely important in Masonic context. Not only did the plant have historic Egyptian associations, but in Masonic symbolism is a token of the immortality of the soul. Lilies have also long been associated with Freemasonry - the capitals of the two pillars of King Solomon's Temple were decorated with them.

see also - <http://www.freemasonrytoday.com/33/p11.php>

Author: Nigel Gilmore
Publisher: Masonic Light Email Forum
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/masoniclight/6010>

February 8 through 12 2012 **Masonic Week**



This week can be defined as an “In-Gathering” of Masons of National Appendant Bodies for the purpose of conducting Annual Meetings. It provides an excellent opportunity to meet and “converse on the level” with many well known Freemasons, especially of the York Rite. It is also a time to enjoy excellent banquets and even “fun degrees.” (*Ed: Again this year, Ye Antiente Order of Corks, Most Worthy Paul Newhall, Grand Bung for the Americas will be attending. I always wanted to be a Grand Bung!*)

Masonic Week is a great opportunity to renew old friendships and make new ones. The Hospitality Rooms are sponsored by a variety of groups meeting during the event to enable the attendees to do just that - Make New Friends!

Prince Selvaraj of The Beaches and a few friends have attended this week for a number of years. They are planning on doing so this year as well. Prince has nothing to do with the event other than as an attendee.

Check the website shown below for the abundance of meetings and feasts scheduled so far.

www.yorkrite.com/MasonicWeek/index.html

Reservations: 800.HILTONS or 703.845.1010.

Location: Hilton, Alexandria, Mark Center
5000 Seminary Rd.,
Alexandria, VA 22311

Contact: Prince Selvaraj @ prince.selvaraj@sympatico.ca or 416.269.9909



February 10 though 17 2012

Quinte St. Alban's - 3rd Fraternal Visit to Holguín, Cuba



One week Vacation and Masonic Discovery: - Participation in the Tenth Anniversary Celebration of the Logia Roberto Luís Ferrer Rodriguez. Attendance at the regular meeting of the Logia Calixto García Iñiquez, the Logia Holguín, and Logia Roberto Luís Ferrer Rodriguez.

Accommodation at the Playa Pesquero Beach Resort last-minute one-week deals.

- All Inclusive, Double Occupancy Price:
 - Departing February 7 - \$875.00 plus \$190.00 (taxes) = \$1,065.00
 - Departing February 9 - \$885.00 plus \$190.00 (taxes) = \$1,075.00
 - Departing February 10 (with the group) - \$967.00 plus \$276.00 (taxes) = \$1,243.00
 - Departing February 11 - \$965.00 plus \$190.00 (taxes) = \$1,155.00

To Book, contact Yani - Tel 416-646-0890-ext 268

All are welcome - Masons, friends, ladies and children. Group Rates and Masonic Activities Package - For more see -

www.quintestalbans.com/news-20101025.php

For more information on activities of previous visits of 2009 and 2011 visits:

www.quintestalbans.com/fraternal-visit-cuba-january-2009.pdf

www.quintestalbans.com/fraternal-visit-cuba-february-2011.pdf

Contact: Vince Lombardo @ vince.lombardo.to@gmail.com or 905.731.0504

Friday February 10 and Saturday March 10 2012

Habitat for Humanity - Build Days

Homeownership changes lives in many ways. Not only do families escape substandard housing that is overcrowded and unsafe, they are able to break the cycle of poverty and gain financial stability and dignity. Children grow up in safe neighbourhoods, knowing that they can accomplish their dreams. Please help make these dreams come true by volunteering or sponsoring a volunteer with Habitat for Humanity Toronto.

<http://my.e2rm.com/personalPage.aspx?registrationID=1322696&langPref=en-CA>



This year's Toronto East District Habitat for Humanities project will be at 21 - 31 Macey Ave. and 32 & 36 St. Dunstan Dr., just west of Victoria Park and Danforth Ave.

Able bodies are needed. Construction experience is not required.

Start time for each build is 8:00 am sharp, and the day normally ends somewhere around 4:00 pm. Pizza and pop lunch will be provided and volunteers also receive a Habitat for Humanity T-Shirt.



Dates: Friday February 10 2012
Saturday March 10 2012
Time: 8:00 am until the union says to go home ☺
Location: 21 - 31 Macey Ave. and 32 & 36 St. Dunstan Dr.
just west of Victoria Park and Danforth Ave.
Contact: Chris Zmozynski @ chris.zmozynski@beacheslodge.com or 705.768.7734

Saturday February 11 2012

Toronto East District - Mechanics of the Work - 3/6 - Deacon's Day

The Mechanics-of-the-Work classes are for designed for any Mason, whether a seasoned veteran or the newest of new Entered Apprentices. There will be something on offer for each participant. Anyone who attends will enjoy themselves as we not only practice the ritual from black book of the work (2009 version only of course) to get you relaxed and comfortable with it and its intricacies but we do it within a easy going atmosphere of profit and pleasure.

The particular session will be a special Deacon's Day for everything that a Deacon is responsible for in the First Degree.

This day will prove beneficial to all Masons from the Entered Apprentice through to the Worshipful Master! Let your Deacon's know as this will be an interactive and informative morning for them particularly.

We always have coffee on and the doughnuts and conversation after the sessions can be as illuminating as the work itself. Come out and enjoy our fellowship, you'll be glad that you did!

These classes are open to all Masons, regardless of their office, rank or home district. If you miss one or more classes, it doesn't matter although you'll get the most out of attending them all.

Time: 9:00 am - to Noon
Location: East Toronto Masonic Temple
Cost: \$2/ea for excellent coffee and fresh, light, fluffy doughnuts



Tuesday February 14, 2012

St. Valentine's Day

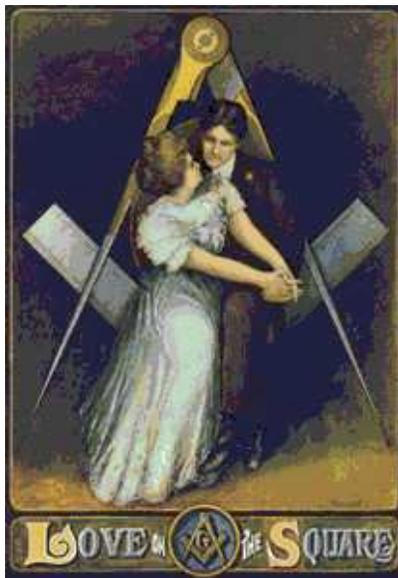
St. Valentine's Day is a holiday celebrated on February 14 by many people throughout the world. In the English-speaking countries, it is the traditional day on which lovers express their love for each other by sending Valentine's cards, presenting flowers, or offering confectionery. (*Ed: Notice that nowhere in there does it say anything about giving her a big honking diamond!*) The holiday is named after two among the numerous early Christian martyrs named Valentine. The day became associated with romantic love in the circle of Geoffrey Chaucer (1340-1391) in the High Middle Ages, when the tradition of courtly love flourished.

It is a common opinion that the Christian church may have decided to celebrate Valentine's feast day in the middle of February in an effort to Christianize celebrations of the pagan Lupercalia, and that a commemorative feast was established in 496 by Pope Gelasius I, of those "... whose names are justly revered among men, but whose acts are known only to God," among whom was Valentine, was set for the useful day. Alternatively, William M. Green argues that the Catholic Church could not abolish the deeply rooted Lupercalia festival, so the church set aside a day to honour the Virgin Mary.



Lupercalia was a very ancient, possibly pre-Roman pastoral festival, observed on February 15 to avert evil spirits and purify the city, releasing health and fertility. The Lupercalia was believed in antiquity to have some connection with the Ancient Greek festival of the Arcadian Lykaia (from Ancient Greek: "wolf", Latin *lupus*) and the worship of *Lycaean Pan*, the Greek equivalent to Faunus.

In the good old days that some of us remember as only being a little while ago, there were numerous Masonic Valentine cards. Here are a few.



Monday February 20 2012

Family Day

Family Day is the name of a public holiday in the Canadian provinces of Alberta, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Prince Edward Island, in the American states of Arizona and Nevada, in South Africa, in Vanuatu in Vietnam and (as “Family & Community Day”) in the Australian Capital Territory. Get out and enjoy the 1st long weekend of the year. You could get out the lawn mower and sharpen up the blades.

Thursday February 23 2012

68th Annual Shuter Haskill Hunters’ Night

The Degree Team will all be comprised of hunters dressed in their camouflage, vests and boots. This event was started in the ‘dirty thirties’ when a group of brethren, including Shuter, were hunting to put meat on the table. One of the hunters suggested that the brethren among the hunters put on a degree - and a tradition was started. The Banquet afterwards will feature the best of whatever those old hunters brought down, if road kill is unavailable. ☺



Location: Ontario Lodge #26, Port Hope, ON

Friday February 24 2012

Rainbow Girls - Murder Mystery Dinner



Mrs. Peacock killed Col. Mustard with a noose in the library!

All are invited for an evening of Fun, Friends and a little *mystery*! Support our youth groups. Please **RSVP** to reserve a seat for an evening of adventure.

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Doric Pickering Masonic Hall

Cost: \$15/ea and children under 6 free

Contact: Barb McGregor @ barb.mcgregor@rogers.com or 416.282.4254

Saturday February 25 2012

Toronto East District - Mechanics of the Work - 4/6

The Mechanics-of-the-Work classes are for designed for any Mason, whether a seasoned veteran or the newest of new Entered Apprentices. There will be something on offer for each participant. Anyone who attends will enjoy themselves as we not only practice the ritual from black book of the work (2009 version only of course) to get you relaxed and comfortable with it and its intricacies but we do it within a easy going atmosphere of profit and pleasure.

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Time: 9:00 am - to Noon



Location: East Toronto Masonic Temple
Cost: \$2/ea for excellent coffee and fresh, light, fluffy doughnuts
Contact: Les Armitage @ 416.598.4794, or
Dennis Rankin @ kdrankin@pathcom.com or 416.691.1704

Saturday February 25 2012

Toronto East District - Lodge of Discussion

Come and talk Masonry in an informal environment. If you appear at 8:30 am, breakfast will be available. After breakfast, stick around for interesting questions and answers about Masonry. Please **RSVP** if you plan on attending for breakfast.

Time: 9:00 am - to Noon
Location: Doric Pickering Masonic Hall
Cost: \$5/ea for coffee and breakfast (net proceeds to the DDGM's charity)
Contact: Bruce Palanik @ thepalanikgroup@rogers.com or 905.839.7342

Thinking is easy; acting is difficult, and to put one's thoughts into action is the most difficult thing in the world.

- Bro. Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1832)

Saturday March 3 2012

Toronto East District - Mechanics of the Work - 5/6

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Contact: Les Armitage @ 416.598.4794, or
Dennis Rankin @ kdrankin@pathcom.com or 416.691.1704



Saturday March 3 2012

Toronto East District - Officer Progression Mentor Workshops - Session 2B



The second and last workshop of the 2nd and last session. There are no more of these workshops planned for this year.

The topics and materials for the 2012 program will be a combination of those prepared by Grand Lodge's Lodge Resources Committee Officer Progression Team as well as those developed within Toronto East District specifically for this program.

Objectives

- To help Officers in Toronto East District plan their progression through the chairs
- To provide a discussion forum for considering best practices for Lodge Officers
- To assist attendees in developing action plans to be better prepared as WM in their Lodge

Time: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Location: Doric Pickering Masonic Hall

Cost: \$25/ea

Contact: Bruce Palanik @ thepalanikgroup@rogers.com or 905.839.7342

Saturday March 3 2012

West Hill (Club 670) - Oldies Dance

You don't have to be an 'oldie' to attend. Great people, great music, great food. This annual gem features that fabulous 50's, 60's and 70's music by the one and only DJ Jimmy Mac. Dinner will be handled by a new caterer this year. Food, prizes, and dancing to that good ol' time Rock n' Roll! The kind of music that will sooth your soul. Dress is casual. This is traditionally a sold out event. Tickets are limited. Get them *fast!*



Time: 5:30 pm - Social
6:30 pm - Dinner
followed by - Dessert Table

Location: East Shore Community Centre
910 Liverpool Rd., Pickering
(west side of Liverpool, south of Bayly, lots of easily accessible parking)

Cost: \$25/ea Cash Bar

Contact: Walter Drane @ wallyjd@rogers.com or 416.755.3734 or
Brian Marcano @ marcab@rogers.com or 905.728.9939

Saturday March 10 2012

Habitat for Humanity - Build Day 2



Homeownership changes lives in many ways. Not only do families escape substandard housing that is overcrowded and unsafe, they are able to break the cycle of poverty and gain financial stability and dignity. Children grow up in safe neighbourhoods, knowing that they can accomplish their dreams. Please help make these dreams come true by volunteering or sponsoring a volunteer with Habitat for Humanity Toronto.

<http://my.e2rm.com/personalPage.aspx?registrationID=1322696&langPref=en-CA>



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Date: Saturday March 10 2012
Time: 8:00 am until the union says to go home ☺
Location: 21 - 31 Macey Ave. and 32 & 36 St. Dunstan Dr.
just west of Victoria Park and Danforth Ave.
Contact: Chris Zmozynski @ chris.zmozynski@beacheslodge.com or 705.768.7734

Saturday March 10 2012

Toronto East District - Mechanics of the Work - 6/6

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Location: East Toronto Masonic Temple
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Contact: Les Armitage @ 416.598.4794, or
Dennis Rankin @ kdrankin@pathcom.com or 416.691.1704



Monday March 19 2012

Caledonia - Irish Night

Come and enjoy a great evening of Fun, Fellowship, Food and lots of Blarney. Bring along a fellow Mason. And don't forget that friend who is not yet a Mason. Let us show him what the spirit of Masonry is all about. Ladies are most welcome.



Entertainment to include:

- Irish Dancing
- Great Food
- Irish Sing along
- Guest Speaker

CEAD MILE FAILTE
A Hundred Thousand Welcomes

- Time: 6:30 pm - Lodge Opens
- 7:00 pm - Visitors Received
- Time: 7:30 pm - Non Masonic Guests Received
- Location: York Masonic Temple
- Cost: \$25/ea - No Ticket Sales at the Door
- Contact: Norm Mathie @ grandsw2009@yahoo.ca or 416.993.6177, or
Alex Wilson @ alexedwilson@gmail.com or 905.823.8638

Saturday March 24 2012

Doric - Spring Dance



No details available at time of publication.

- Time: 8:00 pm to closing
- Location: Doric Pickering Masonic Hall
- Cost: \$20/ea
- Contact: Terrence Doyle @ tmdoyle@rogers.com or 905.839.3823

Thursday March 29 2012

Toronto and York Districts - Masters' Dinner

The Masters of the 4 Toronto Districts and York District along with their Ladies will be attending a dinner.

- Time: 5:30 - Social
- 6:30 - Dinner
- Location: School of Fine Dining
- 4121 14th St., Markham (west of Kennedy Rd.)
- Contact: Brian Sale @ bsale@look.ca or 905.686.7421

No one ever excused his way to success.
- Louis Dedek (1918-2001)



Friday April 13 2012

Doric Lodge - Annual Family Curling Night



All are invited - brethren, family and friends to come and show us how you toss your rocks. Definitely not your competition grade event. Even *you* can do it. Kids are very welcome. A really fun family evening. Dinner will be roast beef on a bun with gravy and fries. The bar will be open for those who wish to partake at their own expense. Now we know that some of you think of ice as a bad thing. For those, there is a special price for just the meal with none of that nasty ice stuff. Come watch your buddies fall on their . . uh . . keister! Some will know what they are doing. There are killjoys everywhere!

Time: 5:00 pm until you go home (about 9:30 to 10:00 pm)
Location: Annandale Golf and Country Club
Church St just north of Bayly St.
Cost: \$20/ea for the whole deal. \$12.50/ea for just the meal.
Contact: Terrence Doyle @ tmdoyle@rogers.com or 905.839.3823

Saturday April 21 2012

The Beaches - Ladies Night Gala

The Beaches Lodge is hosting its annual Ladies Night Gala. It will be held, once again, at their very own Bro. Nick Zarafonitis' restaurant, The School of Fine Dining, at a bargain price for a lovely meal at such an establishment. You can not get a better deal.



Each table will have 2 complimentary bottles of wine. There will be a cash bar and of course a DJ and dancing. A whole night of dancing, door prizes and other entertainment. Your special Lady will be very impressed. Tickets are limited so don't be disappointed.

Time: 6:00 pm - Social
7:00 pm - Dinner
Location: The School of Fine Dining
4121 14th Ave, east of Birchmount Rd.
Cost: \$50.00 per person
Contact: John Holmes @ joholmes@adt.ca or 416.659.7023

*Success is not the result of spontaneous combustion. You must set yourself on fire.
- Arnold H. Glasow (1905-1998)*

Saturday June 2 2012

2012 Conference on Masonic Education

Theme The timeless vitality of Masonry, for the Past, Present & Future Mason.
Educational, Communication, & Spiritual issues relating to this.

- Dealing with the "why" questions
- Answering the question, "Why is there apparently no time in which to learn the true essence of Masonry?"
- 8 papers will be presented: participants will choose 4 presentations & discussions



Outline of the Conference

- 8:30 am - Registration
- 9:00 am - Plenary session in the lodge room. An invited Masonic speaker
- 10:00 am - 8 papers and small group discussions. Participants will attend 2
- to 12:00 noon - sessions of their choice
- 12:30 pm - Lunch
- 1:30 pm - The same 8 papers and group discussions. Participants will attend 2
- to 3:30 pm - sessions of their choice
- 3:30 pm - Plenary session: Reports from Small groups. Conclusions drawn from
- the day's groups
- 4:30 pm - Attitude adjustment time
- 5:30 pm - Dinner followed by an after dinner speaker

All the details have not been established as yet. Registration will be limited to 150. The registration fee will include lunch, dinner and all conference materials. This will include the proceedings of the conference, which will be sent after the event. An official hotel will be chosen for the event. An informal dinner may be held at the conference hotel on the evening prior to the conference.

A registration form will be forthcoming.

Call for papers:

Participants are invited to submit abstracts of papers for presentation at the conference. Each presentation will be of 30 minutes or less followed by 30 minutes of questions and answers. Please submit abstracts of papers prior to March 15th. Abstracts should be less than 50 words. Should the paper be selected for presentation at the conference, it will be published in the proceedings in full. The abstracts of those not presented will also be published with the permission of the author.

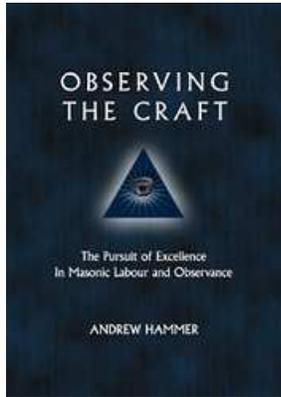
Time: tba
Location: The Ottawa Masonic Centre
2140 Walkley Rd., Ottawa
Cost: \$tba
Contact: John Forster @ forster.john@me.com or 613.271.8610



BOOK REVIEW:

Observing The Craft: The Pursuit of Excellence in Masonic Labour and Observance

Author: Andrew Hammer
ISBN: 0981831613
Publisher: Mindhive Books
Published: 2010



Observing the Craft is a manifesto of sorts for the observant Mason, who seeks quality over quantity in every aspect of Masonry.

It is a stringent argument for the Symbolic (Blue) Lodge as the ne plus ultra of the Craft, asking that Masons put actions behind their statements that 'nothing is higher than the third degree.'

It is a book that calls for nothing but the utmost personal effort and commitment to be put into the operation of a Masonic Lodge, and the experience of a Masonic meeting, in search of the transformational experience which Masons define as 'making good men better'.

Praise for Observing The Craft

'In an engaging and balanced style, Andrew Hammer presents a compelling rationale for a more thorough observance of Masonry's best traditions within today's lodges. At a time when Freemasons are clamouring for education and quality events, Observing the Craft is an ideal sourcebook for lodge leaders who desire to realize positive and lasting change.'

- Shawn Eyer, Editor, Philalethes: The Journal of Masonic Research & Letters

'Brother Hammer has issued an extraordinary call to arms. Brethren young and old who believe that there must be more to lodge than paying bills and approving the minutes need to read his compelling argument. The future of the Craft is in good hands with those who advocate such excellence.'

- Robert Wolfarth, Editor, The Plumline: Journal of the Scottish Rite Research Society

'Andrew Hammer's new book Observing The Craft - The Pursuit of Excellence In Masonic Labour and Observance is a celebration of the pre-eminence of Craft Masonry. This book describes the elements of an Observant Lodge and how implementing those elements yield a transformer experience for each of its members. Observant Masonry has its distractions and Brother Hammer points out that Freemasonry is diminished when emphasis is focused away from its mission of promoting self awareness and self improvement. Observing The Craft is a must read for those men who value Craft Masonry and are seeking a method to restore its greatness.'

- M. W. John 'Bo' Cline, Past Grand Master of Alaska

'This treatise, written with passion and conviction, leads the reader back onto the true Masonic path, one from which he will never again be tempted to stray. Every Lodge should read it, and have a copy available for study. The results could lead to re-generation of the Craft and to richer and more meaningful Masonic pursuits for all.'

- Julian Rees, Past Junior Grand Deacon, United Grand Lodge of England;
Contributing Editor, Freemasonry Today; Author, So You Want To Be A Freemason?



‘If “blessed are the peacemakers,” there is surely also a blessing for those who nudge us out of our zone of comfort and encourage us to think and re-evaluate. Such a one is Worshipful Brother Hammer. This book is edgy in some ways, controversial in others; but no one can doubt the pure and bright sincerity which shines through its pages. It is well written, thoughtful, and even genteel in its tone. Above all, it fulfills the highest challenge of a book. It makes you ponder.’

- Jim Tresner 33°, Grand Cross; Book Review Editor, The Scottish Rite Journal

This book was strongly recommended on a number of Masonic Email forums

Mindhive - <http://mindhivebooks.com/MB5110CDN.html> for about \$20.00 CAD



. . . by the Lighthouse Beam

Positivism versus Negativism

Yet another negative and / or critical report about Freemasonry came through my e-mail. And I am getting tired of them. These reports generalize and preach. If ONE ABC-lodge in XYZ-country is a model Lodge, then it is inaccurate to generalize.

What does the author want? Elitism? 7-Year apprenticeships? Publishing a number of papers prior to becoming M.M.? If that is the norm is a certain District or in a foreign country, it does not have to become the norm here. What does the author want? Masonic Uebermenschen?

If something is wrong with a Lodge or District, then quietly approach the W. or R.W. or M.W. and suggest something doable: e.g. - try and improve attendance by 10% by the end of this year; - try and follow through with E.A. / F.C. / M.M. Masons for a period of x months; - try and better the floor work - etc.

Our Religions are - in most cases - inherited from our parents. As to Freemasonry, we become members by our own choosing and are “immigrants” into our beloved craft. So . . . do adapt, adjust and integrate. Our brand of Freemasonry is “across the board,” open to all ranks. In order to be a good Mason, it is enough to adhere to our tenets: Brotherly Love - Relief - Truth; and to Fortitude - Justice - Prudence and Temperance. If a Mason can find himself to observe a due medium . . . by reminding himself “I am a Mason,” then he is a good Mason. If he attends his lodge meetings only once a month, he very likely has a good reason: family - work - church - volunteering - etc. He does not have hear / read about ALL THAT IS WRONG within and with his fraternity.

Visiting lodges is great, if one can do it because of available time - mode of transportation - and without disturbing the harmony in home life or volunteering duties. Let the author of CRITICAL MATERIAL not use his multiple visits or lectures (here or abroad) to proselytize, how great THEY are and how lacking WE are. Whatever works over there (through selection or elitism) does not have to be accepted here.

Our lecture on the Working Tools tells it so beautifully: NOT TO BE AN ENTHUSIAST AS TO RELIGION (by saying “My religion is better than your religion”), thereby also implying NOT TO BE A MASONIC ENTHUSIAST either. We must not SLANDER anyone’s religion; nor should we slander (a strong word, but you know, what I mean) our brother’s Masonic practice.

The Final Charge at the Master’s installation says something about the ideal Mason being modest - quietly and unobtrusively doing his duties. In the WORKING TOOLS (i.e. how to work in and live with our Craft) it talks about humility; about life’s simple times: prayer - labour - refreshment - sleep. Negative reports by high-ranking Masons may scare the h*ll out of candidates. The candidate may be led to believe that Masonry is a full-time (or at least a part-time) occupation; or an intense hobby, to the exclusion of family - work - church - . . .



Let's be proud of the amazing array of Masonic celebrities (statesmen - royalty - scientists - actors - . . .). But let's not elevate them to saints. That is a church thing: praying to saints for intercedence - guidance - protection. These brethren were and are just men, who were placed on a higher spoke of fortune's wheel. These celebrity brethren performed their duties to the best of their Masonic abilities. So do we. They were / are oranges; we are apples.

Our Mason is allowed to be a simple Mason, who says that his knowledge, grounded on accuracy (i.e. facts), aided by labour (hard work) and promoted by perseverance . . . will establish happiness in the path of SCIENCE. So, brother author, let's encourage him with THAT (not with handshakes with celebrities - not visits abroad - not comparing our jurisdiction with "foreign" ones). !! Let us advocate " . . . to regulate our lives and actions by the Masonic rule . . . "

Books are good. But don't forget: books are foremost written to make money. Probably most of us do enjoy Masonic history, research and speculations. But devouring books is not necessary in order to become / be a sincere Mason. All we must do is TO RESPECT each other's Volume of the Sacred Law.

Some of these negative reports smack of medieval Protestantisms (plural). It leads to divisions and hard-core Masons and maybe hard-core lodges. Maybe the author advocates a COMMANDO lodge??

I see Freemasonry as a positive movement, which fits in with Family - Work - Church - Other duties. Freemasonry must never dominate. In my lodge I see the secretary with his unending, rotten and delicate job (that nobody else wants). I see my lodge's (repeating) Master, who lives and works WAY OUT of the district, but knows he is needed. I see the brother, who keeps the cupboard and paraphernalia in good shape and repair . . . an ongoing job. I enjoy the pleasant atmosphere in my lodge; the willingness of my brethren. I observe all the charitable and social Masonic committees; the seminars. And I see this in the lodges I have the pleasure to visit.

We have sincere brothers, who are hard-working fathers and husbands. They carry with them camaraderie. Sure, one year's "generation-through-the-chairs" may need some tweaking; and then - in a following year - things are smoother. We know and do this ourselves. We do not need a sledge hammer to make us aware.

When statistics show a downward trend, is it the fault of the brethren? Do not forget, Brother author, that we are not allowed to canvass. It is a sign of the times: numbers go up and down. Let's maintain our upbeat attitude. What good does it do to read about a lodge in Upper Slabovia with a helter / skelter ritual; but nothing is done about it by the author?

One more thing: Brother authors of critical and negative reports . . . please tone it down. Do you want to give us a minority complex? Must our lodge become a boot camp?

I love my craft - my brethren - their positive attitudes - their camaraderie - their hard work and humour - their discreet tweaking.

Author: Jan Jansen
Publisher: **Hiram's Lighthouse**
6012



ADMINISTRATION:

Hiram's Lighthouse is your newsletter. It is published on the last day of every month. If **Hiram's Lighthouse** does not have the content you would prefer, it is because the editor does not have that content available. With 19 lodges currently in the district, including grip-and-grin pictures of the Official Visit, Installation and Ladies Night of each lodge would dominate the content. If you want something more, please submit it. Please feel free to offer suggestions, topics to be covered, submissions for ... **by the Lighthouse Beam**, book and film reviews, and topics of Masonic interest.

We also ask all Secretaries and Worshipful Masters to inform their lodge members of the existence of the newsletter and how to subscribe to it.

Anyone wishing to get on the subscription list please send a message to hiramslighthouse@rogers.com including your full name, with a subject of Newsletter.

Be aware that **Hiram's Lighthouse** DOES NOT respond to any email security messages. It is the subscriber's responsibility to ensure that **Hiram's Lighthouse** is white listed.

To get a notice into the newsletter at least one month before the event, send a message to hiramslighthouse@rogers.com with all the information and we'll run it every month until the function is past.

Moving? Changing ISPs? Remember to send in your new snail-mail and email addresses to both your lodge secretary and **Hiram's Lighthouse** - hiramslighthouse@rogers.com

FYI - There are currently 245 names and growing on the **Hiram's Lighthouse** subscription list.

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