

# 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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February 1 2016

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*The real secrets of Masonry are never told, not even from mouth to ear. For the real secret of Masonry is spoken to your heart and from it to the heart of your brother. Never the language made for tongue may speak it; it is uttered only in the eye in those manifestations of that love which a man has for his friend, which passeth all other loves.*

*- South Dakota Masonic Messenger-1975*

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

Greetings Brethren of Toronto East District,

January is gone, and most likely with it, those New Year's resolutions we so optimistically started out with. However, we are one month closer to spring, the days are getting longer; the light is starting to push back the darkness. February is a short sprint to March. February 14<sup>th</sup> is also Valentine's Day. Flowers, chocolates, a special card and a nice dinner out with your special lady. Truly, where would we be without their support? Every 4<sup>th</sup> year we add a leap day to the month of February. In 2016, those people born on the 29<sup>th</sup> of February finally get to celebrate, on the actual date of their Birthday. February is also Heart Month. By donating, you're helping to ensure that more survivors come home to the people they love.

Congratulations go out to Canada Lodge No. 532 G.R.C. On Tuesday, January 5<sup>th</sup> 2016, the Grand Master, Most Worshipful Bro. John C. Green of the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario, was present to conduct the Ceremony of Dedication of the Lodge Collars and Working Tools from Silver to Gold. As the Worshipful Master, Worshipful Bro. William McKeown said in his message; "Becoming a centennial lodge simply doesn't just happen with the passage of time, but requires the concerted dedication of many Masons over many, many, years."



It was a wonderful ceremony, a great evening and well supported by the Brethren within and outside of the Toronto East District.

The District Deputy Grand Masters' mid-term meeting with Grand Lodge on January 30<sup>th</sup> will essentially mark the halfway point of my year. Where did it go? From February to mid-May, just 3 plus months, we will do 18 Official Visits and two Installations. The Mechanics of the Work started up on Saturday January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 9:00 am to 12 noon, and continues every Saturday to March 5<sup>th</sup> 2016. Saturday January 30<sup>th</sup> was Deacons Day. (*ED: The next Deacons Day is February 16<sup>th</sup>.*) The correct floor work of the Deacons is an essential part of the Ritual in our Degrees. Practice is the only way to get better, and the better you get, the more confident you become as you progress in your journey to the East and King Solomon's Chair.

On Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup> 1916, R.W. Bro. W.H. Legge, D.D.G.M. of Toronto East District No. 11A made the 1<sup>st</sup> Official Visit to Canada Lodge U.D. and reported favourably.



On Tuesday February 2<sup>nd</sup> 2016, Canada Lodge No. 532 G.R.C. will celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Official Visit of the D.D.G.M. of Toronto East District to this Lodge. It is a tremendous Honour as a Past Master of this lodge and as the D.D.G.M. of Toronto East District to share and to be a part of this historic occasion. I will cherish this in my memory always.

The following Toronto East District Lodges will also be having Official Visits this February; dates and times to be found on our District Website and newsletters.

Alpha Tuscan No. 384

Universe No. 705

Imperial East Gate No. 543

Birch Cliff No. 612

As the majority of Installations in Toronto East District take place before the start of the Official Visit of the D.D.G.M., I can relate to the New Worshipful Masters and the stress and anxiety that I felt as a newly Installed Master when preparing for the Official Visit of the D.D.G.M. In my mind, I could see all kinds of "if anything can go wrong, it will" disasters. Among other things, key Officers or Brethren doing long Ritual pieces not showing up, the last moment cancellation by the candidate, amongst many other possible and imagined worries, most of which never materialized. All you can do is to prepare as well as you possibly can. Start on time, finish on time. If the lodge work is proficient, the degree should not require more than two hours, leaving sufficient time for the visiting Brethren to enjoy the social hour.

For those Past Masters aspiring to the Office of D.D.G.M., you should now be enrolled in the College of Freemasonry Past Masters Course. You must be in possession of your Past Masters Certificate no later than June 15<sup>th</sup> 2016 to be eligible to be nominated for this Office.

Brethren, in addition to the start of the District Official Visits, in the upcoming months there will be Lodge and special events, workshops / seminars, community events, all to be found on the Calendar of Events on the Toronto East District Freemasons Website and also listed on our District Newsletters. Also, please keep in your thoughts, our Grand Lodge Charity, "Prostate Hope for Prostate Cancer #2250".

I encourage you, whenever you can, support your District. Visitation has been immensely rewarding for me in my years as a Mason, and Freemasonry, without visitation, for me, just wouldn't be the same.

As I am writing this message, I have just received the sad news of the passing of M. W. Bro. Raymond S.J. Daniels, Past Grand Master, 2009-2010. A tremendous loss for Masonry, and for everyone who was



fortunate enough to know him and to spend some time with him. I know that there are countless numbers of stories that all who knew him could share, and this is one. At the conclusion of a presentation at Canada Lodge, the Grand Master, M. W. Bro. Raymond S.J. Daniels socializing in the lodge banquet room overheard my lady, Evelyn, wondering aloud to her lady friends if they could see what the lodge room looked like. The Grand Master then introduced himself, escorted the ladies into the lodge room and gave them a brief explanation as to the pictures and furniture of the lodge, along with any questions they may have had. My only regret was that I had missed it.

**“We Cherish His Memory In Our Hearts”**

May the Great Architect of the Universe watch over us all.

***Knowledge = Confidence; Never Stop Learning.***

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

***R.W. Bro. Dean M. Bergerson***  
District Deputy Grand Master  
Toronto East District

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**EVENTS CALENDAR:**

February 2016

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<p><u>1</u></p> 	<p><u>2</u></p> <p><b>Groundhog Day</b> We want more snow and sleet, right? * Canada - <b>Official Visit</b> Banq - 6:30 pm ← Visitors-7:30 pm Doric Pickering</p>	<p><u>3</u></p>	<p><u>4</u></p> <p>* Alpha-Tuscan - <b>Official Visit</b> 1<sup>st</sup> degree Visitors-7:30 pm East Toronto</p>	<p><u>5</u></p> <p>* Markham Union - <b>Robbie Burns Night</b> see below Cedarbrae Golf &amp; Country Club</p>	<p><u>6</u></p> <p>* TED - <b>Mechanics of The Work - 3 of 6</b> Deacons' Day see below East Toronto</p>	<p><u>7</u></p> <p>* TED - <b>Claremont Winter Carnival Parade</b> see below Claremont</p>
<p><u>8</u></p> <p><b>Chinese New Year</b> And I haven't even started to lose weight yet!</p>	<p><u>9</u></p> <p>* Universe - <b>Official Visit</b> Visitors-7:30 pm East Toronto</p>	<p><u>10</u></p> <p>* The Imperial East Gate - <b>Official Visit</b> Banq - 6:30 pm ← Visitors-7:30 pm see below East Toronto</p>	<p><u>11</u></p>	<p><u>12</u></p> <p>* Birch Cliff - <b>Official Visit</b> Visitors-7:30 pm East Toronto</p>	<p><u>13</u></p>	<p><u>14</u></p> <p><b>St. Valentine's Day</b> Flowers. Chocolates. Dinner out. A comment about her weight loss.</p>
<p><u>15</u></p> <p><b>Family Day</b> 1<sup>st</sup> long weekend of the year</p>	<p><u>16</u></p> <p>* Caledonia - <b>Heritage Night</b> see below York</p>	<p><u>17</u></p>	<p><u>18</u></p>	<p><u>19</u></p>	<p><u>20</u></p> <p>* TED - <b>Mechanics of The Work - 4 of 6</b> see below East Toronto</p>	<p><u>21</u></p>
<p><u>22</u></p> <p>* OES - <b>Brothers Night</b> see below Wexford Heights United Church</p>	<p><u>23</u></p>	<p><u>24</u></p>	<p><u>25</u></p> <p>* Ontario - <b>72<sup>nd</sup> Annual Hunter's Night</b> see below Port Hope</p>	<p><u>26</u></p>	<p><u>27</u></p> <p>* TED - <b>Mechanics of The Work - 5 of 6</b> Deacons' Day see below East Toronto * GLCPO - <b>Past Masters Seminar</b> see below Streetsville</p>	<p><u>28</u></p>
<p><u>29</u></p> 						



March 2016

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u> * West Hill - <b>Official Visit</b> Visitors-7:30 pm East Toronto	<u>3</u> * The Beaches - <b>Official Visit</b> Banq - 6:00 pm ← Banquet \$20 ea Visitors-7:30 pm York Temple	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u> * TED - <b>Mechanics of The Work - 6 of 6</b> see below East Toronto * Guardians - <b>Chili Cook-Off</b> see below East Toronto	<u>6</u> * West Hill - <b>Oldies Dance</b> see below St. Dunstan
<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u> * Todmorden - <b>Official Visit</b> Visitors-7:30 pm East Toronto	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u> * Coronati - <b>Ladies Night</b> see below Rembrandt Banquet Halls	<u>13</u> Daylight Savings Begins - Spring forward 
<u>14</u> * Scarboro - <b>Official Visit</b> Banq-6:30 pm ← Visitors-7:30 pm East Toronto	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u> St. Patrick's Day For those who are Irish and those who wish they were Irish. <i>Green beer!</i> 	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u> * GLCPO - <b>Charles A. Sankey 2016 Lecture</b> 3:00 pm see below Brock University	<u>20</u> 1 <sup>st</sup> Day of Spring  I told ya it would happen!
<u>21</u> * Acacia - <b>Official Visit</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Degree Visitors-7:30 pm East Toronto	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u> Good Friday	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u> Easter 
<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>31</u>			



## AROUND AND ABOUT:

### Toronto East District Charity

Masonic Foundation of Ontario 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Project Hope Supporting Prostate Cancer Research  
The Mikey Network



Our Grand Master is continuing the project started by M. W. Bro. Donald A. Campbell, to support three prostate cancer research projects. Prostate cancer is the most common cancer among Canadian men (excluding non-melanoma skin cancers). It is the 3<sup>rd</sup> leading cause of death from cancer in men in Canada.

According to The Canadian Cancer Society, it is estimated that in 2015: -

- 24,000 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer. This represents 24% of all new cancer cases in men in 2015.
- 4,100 men will die from prostate cancer. This represents 10% of all cancer deaths in men in 2015.
- On average, 66 Canadian men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer every day.
- On average, 11 Canadian men will die from prostate cancer every day.

For more information, or to contribute to this cause that has affected so many, please contact  
Maher Eid @ [cici20101998@yahoo.com](mailto:cici20101998@yahoo.com) or 416.723.5507 or  
Eric Lakien: [eric@lakien.com](mailto:eric@lakien.com)

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*[W]ithout Virtue and without Integrity the finest talents of the most brilliant accomplishments can never gain the respect or conciliate the esteem of the truly valuable part of mankind.*

*- Bro. George Washington (1732-1799), 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. President-1789-97*

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### Toronto East Masonic Centre

We continue to move on our Joint Venture Agreement. With the assistance of our lawyers, we are working to finalize the wording and outstanding issues.

Our shareholder, TEMC has scheduled a Board Meeting for Sunday February 14<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm at Chisholm Temple. A fully updated report on the status of the project will be provided by ProjectCo at that meeting.



*2316543 Ontario Limited, a for profit corporation is also known as ProjectCo. It is a wholly owned subsidiary of Toronto East Masonic Centre (TEMC). TEMC is a non-profit organization created by the Masons of Lodges in Toronto East District whose purpose is to build and maintain a new Masonic Temple. The members of its Board of Directors are: Gerry Campbell (Chair) Jim McKinnon (President) Neil Friedman (Treasurer), Michael Morris (Secretary), Maher Eid, Joe Lefevre and Bob Steenson. Our email address is [ProjectCo@outlook.com](mailto:ProjectCo@outlook.com)*

- Gerry Campbell @ [projectco@outlook.com](mailto:projectco@outlook.com) or 416.606.1373

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### **FYI**

**Andrew McNair, a Philadelphia Mason, rang the Liberty bell in Independence Hall of July 8, 1776 to call the people together to hear the reading of the Declaration of Independence. The bell**



developed a crack when it was rung for the death of Chief Justice Marshall, Past Grand Master of Virginia.

- Alphonse Cerza, *The Truth is Stranger than Fiction*, MSA

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**Smile !**



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### **Want To Learn More ?**

The Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Education offers interesting Correspondence Courses on Masonic Education throughout this Jurisdiction that is comprised of nineteen different modules.



Any Master Mason may take any module individually for \$10.00 each or they may wish to complete a course of study for a set fee. If a Brother takes an individual module today, and decides to complete a course of study later in time, he will be accredited with the module he has completed previously. In other words, he does not have to pay for or rewrite what he has already completed in the past. There are three courses of study offered by the College of Freemasonry:

1. The Masonic Arts and Sciences (eighteen modules).
2. The Past Master (six modules as of July 2014)
3. The Worshipful Master (eight modules).

Any Brother looking to run for the DDGM of their District, the Board of General Purposes or Grand Registrar, the course required by the Book of Constitution, Section 50(b) is the **Past Master's Course**. This course is also great for those looking to be a District Secretary.

For those who wish to pay by cheque, please send it to



George Warner  
4010 Chadburn Cres.,  
Mississauga, ON  
L5L 3X2

For those who wish to pay via credit card, just fill in the application form and send it to [masonic.college@gmail.com](mailto:masonic.college@gmail.com), and the Brother will be emailed payment instructions through PayPal (an account is not necessary).

If any Brother has any questions, they may e-mail R.W. Bro. Rick Cadotte, FCF, Principal, College of Freemasonry, [masonic.college@gmail.com](mailto:masonic.college@gmail.com).

You may also get information by going to the Grand Lodge Website, sign in, click "Membership", then "College of Freemasonry".

They also have many electronic books and other resources there. Check it out!

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### **I Did Not Know That !**

The very first bomb dropped by the Allies on Berlin in World War II killed the only elephant in the Berlin Zoo.

- thanks to Bro. Anon Y. Mous

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### **Masonic Essay Contest 2016**

Ontario Mason Magazine and College of Freemasonry announce the Annual Masonic Essay Contest, open to all Masons of the jurisdiction who are members in good standing. Those ineligible include: Current and Past Grand Lodge Officers, Members of Grand Lodge Committees and Teams and Members of the Board of General Purposes.



### **Essay Contest Theme:**

If a non-Mason asked you, "**Why are you a Mason?**" what would your answer be?

- Essays to be submitted to the College of Freemasonry at [masonic.college@gmail.com](mailto:masonic.college@gmail.com)
- Only essays submitted in doc or docx formats will be accepted.
- The essay length is a maximum of 1200 words.
- All quoted sources must be identified in an included bibliography.
- The bibliography will not count towards the word count.
- Submissions will be accepted from February 1, 2016 until midnight on February 28, 2016.

Top 3 essays will be announced in the Spring 2016 issue - Ontario Mason and posted on the Grand Lodge website.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Place Prize:**

- Essay will be presented at the Ontario Masonic Education Conference in 2016.
- The author will be entitled to complete the College of Freemasonry "Masonic Arts and Sciences" course at no cost.
- Receive a copy of the Masonic Manual autographed by the Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master.
- Essay will be published in the Spring 2016 issue of the Ontario Mason Magazine.



## **2<sup>nd</sup> Place Prize:**

- The author will be entitled to complete the College of Freemasonry “Masonic Arts and Sciences” course at no cost.
- Receive a copy of the Masonic Manual autographed by the Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master.
- Essay will be published in the Spring 2016 issue of the Ontario Mason Magazine.

## **3<sup>rd</sup> Place Prize:**

- The author will be entitled to complete either the College of Freemasonry “Past Master’s” course or “Aspiring Worshipful Master’s” course at no cost.
- Receive a copy of the Masonic Manual autographed by the Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master.
- Essay will be published in the Spring 2016 issue of the Ontario Mason Magazine.

For more information contact: [masonic.college@gmail.com](mailto:masonic.college@gmail.com)

### *Ensuring the Timeless Vitality of Freemasonry in Ontario*

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#### **Facebook Fanatic ?**

The Ontario Freemasons group is a private group for Masons in Ontario. Treat the group as a banquet room atmosphere where you can share local information and events happening in Ontario. You must be a member of an Ontario lodge to join. There are currently over 700 member, including PGM’s, current and past GL officers, current and past DDGM’s, WM’s, Master Masons, Fellow Craft and Entered Apprentices.

Listen to what is going on in Ontario Masonry. Give it a try.

[www.facebook.com/groups/OntarioMasons/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/OntarioMasons/)

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#### **They Are Out There !**

##### **FBI: Milwaukee Man Planned Mass Shooting at Masonic Temple**

Catherine E. Shoichet, CNN: Tue. January 26, 2016

A 23-year-old Milwaukee resident charged with illegally possessing machine guns had planned a massacre at a Masonic temple in the city, federal officials said Tuesday.

...

A criminal complaint released by prosecutors alleges that Hamzeh toured a Masonic center in Milwaukee earlier this month with two FBI informants and then detailed plans for an attack in a meeting with them later that night.

[www.cnn.com/2016/01/26/us/milwaukee-masonic-temple-mass-shooting-planned-charges/index.html](http://www.cnn.com/2016/01/26/us/milwaukee-masonic-temple-mass-shooting-planned-charges/index.html)

Ashley Sears, Fox Network: Tue. January 26, 2016

According to the criminal complaint, Hamzeh has engaged in extensive conversations with two confidential sources (referred to here as CS-1 and CS-2). Those conversations, which were in Arabic, were monitored, recorded, and translated by the FBI beginning in October 2015.

During those recorded conversations, Hamzeh explained that he wanted to commit a domestic act of violence and, earlier this month, he settled on a Masonic temple in Milwaukee as his target.

<http://fox6now.com/2016/01/26/fbi-arrests-milwaukee-man-who-officials-say-planned-mass-shooting/>

Statement from the Grand Lodge F.&A.M. of WI and Wisconsin Scottish Rite.



DOUSMAN, WISCONSIN; 27 JANUARY 2016

We are thankful to law enforcement for thwarting a potential tragedy at the Humphrey Scottish Rite Masonic Center in Milwaukee that houses several Masonic organizations as well as the Dyslexia Center for Children. Freemasonry promotes love among all people regardless of religious belief. One of the five tenets of Scottish Rite Freemasonry is tolerance. Indeed, Freemasonry is one of the few organizations in the world that include and welcome those of the Jewish, Christian and Muslim faiths.

Many of the founders of this country were Freemasons and thus our freedoms of speech, assembly, press - and especially of religion - can be traced directly to the tenets of Freemasonry. As a result, Freemasonry over the course of time has been the target of attack by the intolerant zealot. We will continue to promote, protect and defend love for all people regardless of religious belief as we have for over three hundred years. Again, we are so thankful for law enforcement for being vigilant in protection of those we serve.

Franklin J. Struble  
Grand Master of Masons in Wisconsin  
Michael A. DeWolf, 33°  
Scottish Rite Deputy

Thanks to Sandy MacMillan, Wellington Square Lodge, Burlington.

We may have to start arming our Tylers with more than a sword.  
- Alex Hunter, Birch Cliff

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### **I Was Wondering**

In the Masonic Year of 1976 - 1977, with M.W. Bro. C. Edwin Drew as D.D.G.M., the Education Committee of Toronto Masonic District No. 3 Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario under the direction of R.W. Bro. Frank J. Bruce, P.D.D.G.M. compiled 47 questions that were sent to the late W. Bro. Harry Carr P.J.G.D., Past Secretary and Editor of Quatuor Coronati Lodge No. 2076 United Grand Lodge of England. These are his answers. It is to be noted that the answers refer to the Ritual and customs of the Grand Lodge of England in 1976.

*This transcript of the Questions and Answers edited by W. Bro. Nelson King FPS*

### **Distinguish between Hiram, King of Tyre and Hiram Abiff. The Bible refers to only one.**

The question is wrong. Both are mentioned several times in the course of the two Old Testament versions of the building of King Solomon's Temple. Hiram, King Tyre appears in I Kings VI, as Hiram, King of Tyre and several times in the same chapter as Hiram. Hiram Abiff, the "widow's son" appears first in I Kings VII, 13, and again in the same chapter in verse 40, where the name appears with two slightly different Hebrew spellings. This has given rise to a theory that there were two craftsmen named Hiram (Quite apart from Hiram, King of Tyre)



Hiram, King of Tyre appears in the Chronicles version (in II Chronicles II, 3) and he appears again as Hiram, King of Tyre in the same chapter, verse 11. In verse 13, he writes to Solomon saying that he has sent him a skilled craftsman, "a cunning man, endued with understanding, of



Hiram my Father's"<sup>1</sup> these last four words in English are the translation of the Hebrew words "Le-Haram Aviv" and this sentence is the source of our words "Hiram Abiff". It was Luther who first used this name (Hiram Abiff) because he could not make sense of the Hebrew "of Haram my father's."

Note: In II Chronicles IV v11, we find the name of Hiram, the craftsman, again with two different Hebrew spellings, suggesting that there were two craftsmen of the same name, a father and a son. It is impossible to solve this problem more especially because, unlike our Hiram legend - which is pure legend - there is no Biblical record of the death of Hiram, the marvellous craftsman.

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### **Now, Here Is A Lodge In . . .**



Burns' 153, Wyoming ON  
with thanks to Joe Parker - Temple Lodge

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

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***We can only know the fullest joys of Masonry when we truly walk the paths of service and of hard work in the quarries.***

***- Bro. George E. Burrow***

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<sup>1</sup> More correctly "of Hiram his father".



## **Tuesday February 2 2016**

### **Groundhog Day**

Groundhog Day is a day celebrated on February 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 southeastern 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 Wiarton, 2016 will see the 60<sup>th</sup> annual Wiarton Willie (the only albino groundhog prognosticator) Festival, the Diamond Anniversary, running from January 28<sup>th</sup> through February 2<sup>nd</sup>. The festival has an array of diverse social, recreational and fun events ranging from a Pancake Breakfast on Saturday morning, January 30<sup>th</sup> (*Ummm! Food!*) to comedy shows and plays, sports events, Sleigh Rides, Craft Shows and even a Cheap Chili Chowdown at the Masonic Hall. 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 Wiarton Willie Website

What an indication of our culture! The Greeks had the oracle at Delphi. We have as a prognosticator, a groundhog! A rodent! (*Our renowned Greek oracle was very likely wired by a less than competent electrician, or was constantly having flashbacks because of all those drugs taken in the '60s. I'll bet Willy's predictions are just as accurate, although un-veiled in allegory and un-illustrated by symbols.*)

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## **Saturday February 6, 20 and 27 2016**

### **Saturday March 5 2016**

#### **Mechanics of the Work Classes**

These classes are open to all Masons, from the newest Entered Apprentice to the rustiest young timer. The classes are of enormous worth to newer members and especially to those who have aspirations to be lodge line officers. Classes are informal in the normal lodge meeting sense, no regalia is required, and welcome anyone who wants to improve their skills or re-acquaint themselves in many aspects of our ceremonies and rituals. Attendance for the full three-hour class or at every class is not compulsory.



The work is from the **2013 black Book of the Work**.

We cover openings and closings, coming to order, the Five Points of Fellowship, the Grand Honours, entering and leaving a lodge while at work as well as when and how to address the Worshipful Master.

Calling Off and Calling On will be a practical part of the class for a 'Bio Break'. Yup, a genuine necessity sometime in midstream. Then we will finish at noonish to tidy up the lodge room and head back to the banquet room for more fellowship and the other stuff.



Special Deacons' Days will occur on February 6<sup>th</sup> and February 27<sup>th</sup>. These are very popular and informative and aimed primarily at the Deacons but also those who interact with them. Here we will cover the work of the degree, collecting the PG and PW, receiving GL officers under the wands and collection of a ballot.

Hope to see you come visit to partake in and enjoy the sessions that many others have gotten a charge out of over the many years this program has been offered.

Time: 8:30 am - muddy coffee (*coffee!*), day-old sticky buns (*if you are lucky*) and corny jokes  
9:00 am - noon - Classes  
Location: East Toronto Masonic Hall  
Contact: Dennis Rankin @ [kdrankin@pathcom.com](mailto:kdrankin@pathcom.com) or 416.691.1704

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### **Saturday February 6 2016** **Claremont Winter Carnival Parade**



Experience Masonry in a small town atmosphere. The Claremont (Brougham Union) Masonic Temple will open at 9:00 am with hot drinks. By 11:00 am, we will assemble at the marshalling area on William St. The horse drawn wagon will be there. 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 is again entering a float and inviting all Masons and their families to join us. You may wish to march in the Parade or ride one of the wagons.

Please note that the Toronto East District DDGM has been asked for 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](mailto:loulombardi@xplornet.ca) or 905.649.3003 or 416.518.2242

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### **Saturday February 6 2016**

#### **Markham Union - Robbie Burns Night**

Have you ever experienced a full Robbie Burns Night? Have all your friends and neighbours? Even if you have, come on out and enjoy an evening filled with the Scottish heritage. Got a kilt? Wear it. Give those knees some air.

Your dinner will consist of a Full Scottish Buffet, Haggis, Steak Pie and Gravy, Peas, Tatties and Neeps, followed by “Trifle” and “Shortbread”, Tea and Coffee. There is a cash bar.



For Entertainment, there will be Immortal Memory to Robert Burns and the traditional Address and Toast to The Haggis. There will also be a Silent Auction.

Time: 5:30 pm - Social - Cash Bar  
7:00 pm - Dinner  
Cost: \$50.00 ea  
Location: Cedarbrae Golf & Country Club  
55 Mac Frost Way, 2<sup>nd</sup> lights east of Markham Rd, south of Steeles Ave  
Contact: Bruce Grimbleby @ [grimblebybm@gmail.com](mailto:grimblebybm@gmail.com) or 905.472.8124, or  
Mark Ingram @ [ingram75@gmail.com](mailto:ingram75@gmail.com) or 416.420.0291, or  
David Jamieson @ [david.jamieson@rogers.com](mailto:david.jamieson@rogers.com) or 905.294.3654

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### **Monday February 8 2016**

#### **Chinese New Year**

## ***Gung Hei Fat Choy***

The Chinese New Year Day is on February 8<sup>th</sup> 2016. 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 15<sup>th</sup> day of the lunar month. Two weeks of eating and celebrating. You thought one day was tough to survive! It is a time when banquets of as many as 125 courses are traditionally held. No one has invited me yet. My calendar is still open!



Chinese New Year is celebrated round the globe including countries like Singapore, Indonesia, Mainland China, Macau, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Taiwan, and Vietnam. Festivities also take place in different countries with major Chinese ethnic populations. Though Chinese New Year is celebrated with pomp and glory in Japan, Cambodia and Philippines, it is not a public holiday.

According to legend, in ancient China, the Nián was a man-eating beast from the mountains (in other versions from under the sea), that 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’.

Chinese New Year 2016 will be a year of the Monkey. For people born in a year of the monkey (1920, 1932, 1944, 1956, 1968, 1980, 1992, 2004), 2016 is considered a bad year. “Monkeys” are particularly careful about their health, love lives, career, and investments in Monkey years.



People born in a year of the Monkey are witty, intelligent, and have a magnetic personality. Personality traits, like mischievousness, curiosity, and cleverness, make them very naughty. Monkeys are masters of practical jokes, because they like playing most of the time. Though they don’t have any bad intentions, their pranks sometimes hurt the feelings of others. Monkeys are fast learners and crafty opportunists. They have many interests and need partners who are capable of stimulating them. While some like the eccentric nature of Monkeys, some don’t trust their sly, restless, and inquisitive nature. Although they are clever and creative, monkeys can’t always exhibit their talents properly. Monkeys like to take challenges and they prefer urban life to rural.

Traditionally, Red envelopes or red packets are passed out during the Chinese New Year’s celebrations, from married couples or the elderly to unmarried juniors. It is also common for adults or young couples to give red packets to children. Red packets are also known as the money used to suppress or put down the evil spirit during this period. Red packets usually contain money, usually varying from a couple of dollars to several hundred. Per custom, the amount of money in the red packets should be of even numbers, as odd numbers are associated with cash given during funerals.

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### **Wednesday February 10 2016**

#### **The Imperial East Gate - Official Visit**

The Imperial East Gate Lodge has had a bylaw change and their Official Visit will now be February 10 or the second Wednesday in February. There will be an early banquet at 6:30 pm for which there will be a charge of \$10.

Their Installation will now be on April 16. It will always be the Saturday following the second Wednesday of April. There will be a luncheon banquet at 11:30 am, with Lodge opening at 12:30 pm for the Installation. Please update your calendars accordingly.

Time: 6:30 pm - Banquet  
7:30 pm - Visitors received  
Cost: \$10.00 ea. - Banquet  
Location: East Toronto Masonic Hall  
Contact: David Neave @ [davidneave@bell.net](mailto:davidneave@bell.net) or 905.725.8032

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### **Sunday February 14 2016**

#### **St. Valentine’s Day**

St. Valentine’s Day is a holiday celebrated 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. 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.

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**Tuesday February 16 2016**  
**Caledonia - Heritage Night**



Come out and celebrate the cultures of Caledonia Lodge's founding members. Given the name Heritage Night, Caledonia Lodge will be paying tribute to the Scottish and Irish descent that many of its members claim.



Enjoy a delicious dinner, an address to the Haggis, Irish dancers, piper and test the

luck of the Irish with raffles and door prizes.

Everybody is welcome to enjoy the evening. Bring the whole family.

For tickets, contact Torey Williams.

Time: 7:30 pm - Guests received  
8:00 pm - Dinner  
Cost: \$35.00 ea  
Location: York Masonic Temple, Mississauga  
Contact: Torey Williams @ 647.448.9800, or  
Michael Willett @ [michaelawillett@hotmail.com](mailto:michaelawillett@hotmail.com) or 647.999.3166

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**Tuesday February 16 2016**  
**Scarborough Chapter OES - Brothers Night**



Scarborough Chapter #231, Order of the Eastern Star, invites the Masons of the Toronto East District to a Meat Pie Dinner.

Please **RSVP**.



Time: 6:00 pm  
Cost: \$10.00 ea  
Location: Wexford Heights United Church  
2102 Lawrence Ave. E., Scarborough  
Contact: Nefer LePard @ [nefer@rogers.com](mailto:nefer@rogers.com) or 905.686.4247, or  
Lynn Rogers @ [grand3girl@yahoo.ca](mailto:grand3girl@yahoo.ca) or 647.345.1766

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### **Thursday February 25 2016**

#### **72<sup>nd</sup> Annual Shuter Haskill Hunters' Night**

The Degree Team will all be comprised of hunters from all over the area, 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 much needed 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 very best of whatever those old hunters brought down - if road kill is not available. The 401 is close by.



Location: Ontario Lodge #26, Port Hope, ON

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### **Saturday February 27 2016**

#### **GLCPO - Past Masters Seminar**

R.W. Bro. Charles A. Woods, Chairman of the Masonic Education Committee and a mentor with the College of Freemasonry, will be running a seminar on the College of Freemasonry's six-part 'Past Masters Course' at West Gate Lodge in Streetsville, Mississauga.



This seminar is directed to all Past Masters and will be of special interest to potential DDGM's and Grand Lodge Officers who require the Past Masters Course.

Participants must be pre-registered with the College of Freemasonry and supply their student ID number along with their registration. A list of required reference materials, which are available through the Grand Lodge Book Store, will be sent out in advance of the seminar.

Participants will be required to bring these reference books and the most current pre-printed copies of the question sheets for the six modules that they received from the College.

The format of the seminar will be group research, module by module. Teamwork will be an essential element in the completion of this busy day. This seminar will help prepare the participants to more effectively pursue the Past Masters Course.



Each seminar will be limited to eight participants.

Anyone interested in the course, please contact Charles Woods.

Time: 8:30 - Registration  
9:00 am - 6:00 pm - Seminar  
Location: Streetsville Masonic Temple, Mississauga  
Cost: \$20.00 ea for lunch, coffee and pastries  
Contact: Charles Woods @ [charleswoods@sympatico.ca](mailto:charleswoods@sympatico.ca)

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*Nothing is easier than saying words. Nothing is harder than living them day after day.  
- Arthur Gordon*

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### **Saturday March 5 2016**

#### **T.E.D. - 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Chili Cook Off and Trivia Challenge**

Do you have the best Chili Recipe? Do you think you are the most knowledgeable person in the district?

The 2014 Senior Wardens group “The Guardians” are pleased to announce the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Chili Cook Off and Trivia Challenge, a great opportunity to escape the elements and spend a nice, warm afternoon of hot food and socializing.



This year, there will be up to 12 entrants, each securing a spot for the amount of \$20.00. There are now only 6 places left, so get your entry in soon!

ALL PROCEEDS TO BE FORWARDED TO TORONTO EAST DISTRICT'S CHARITY  
PROSTATE CANCER RESEARCH

#### **CHILI COOKOFF**

Each Chili Cook Off participant will bring their delicious dish of chili, pre prepared in a crock-pot (for simplicity) and the Chili will be judged on their own merit to keep things fair.

Trophy (and certificate for The School Fine Dining) to be awarded for Best Chili as well as prizes for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

#### **TRIVIA CHALLENGE**

Plaques will be awarded for 1<sup>st</sup> place in Trivia Challenge for both individual and team, with individual prizes for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize as well. All Trivia Challenge contestants will register at time of event.

So if you would like to taste some delicious dishes of home cooked chili, and maybe give your brain some exercise, why not join us for a great afternoon of socializing while supporting your T.E.D. Charity in the process?

Time: 12:00 noon - 3:00 pm  
Location: East Toronto Masonic Hall  
Contact: Russ Richardson @ [russ-driver@hotmail.com](mailto:russ-driver@hotmail.com) or 647.222.5855, or  
Mark Ingram @ [ingram75@gmail.com](mailto:ingram75@gmail.com) or 416.420.0291



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## Incivility is Permeating Our Society

Freemasonry reinforces our ethical convictions, feelings of brotherly love and our obligations to be civil in our dealings with other people. This mutual respect and tolerance engenders a more caring environment or positive emotional imprint.

Unfortunately, our society is full of uncivil behaviour including spewed hate, slurs, insults, inflammatory media personalities, and explosive violence. Some adults seem to get vicarious pleasure or actually thrive on this negativism and rancour. For most of us, these create a roiling unrest in our soul and psyche. This incivility is as harmful to our society as the toxic pollution in our environment and creates a negative emotional footprint that can breed aggressiveness and demoralization.

This disregard of others has become more commonplace in public among our athletes, celebrities, and people in the media and even in some families when ugly opinions and feelings are expressed. We witness disrespect, rudeness, invective fulminating and incivility in stores, public transportation and other places in the community.

Because we are human there may be times when we are about to be or have been uncivil. As Masons, we can serve as a mentor and model in our family and community and stop our negative or angry attitude and / or behaviour. We can validate with each other the uncivil behaviour we have witnessed in our community and choose to help others be aware of its destructive influence.

These are some of the ways we can help to create a positive emotional footprint in our world. What would you suggest?

Author: Stan Shapiro  
[shapiro.stanley@gmail.com](mailto:shapiro.stanley@gmail.com)  
Publisher: T.F.S. (Three, Five, Seven)  
Ed R. Halpaus  
[erhmasonic@gmail.com](mailto:erhmasonic@gmail.com)  
<http://halpaus.blogspot.com/>  
[www.halpaus.net](http://www.halpaus.net)

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### **Saturday March 5 2016** **West Hill - Oldies Dance**

”Just take those old records off the shelf  
I’ll sit and listen to ‘em by myself  
Today’s music ain’t got the same soul  
I like that old time rock ‘n’ roll”<sup>1</sup>

You don’t have to listen to them all by yourself. Come out to a classic great dance and a perennially sold-out event.

Lots of convenient parking. Dress is casual. A good filling meal. Dancing to the music of DJ Jimmy Mack. Door prize and spot dance prizes. Cash bar. Get your ticket order in early! Don’t miss out.



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<sup>1</sup> Old Time Rock ‘n Roll, George Jackson, performed by Bob Seger, Stranger in Town-1978



Time: 6:00 pm - Social  
7:00 pm - Dinner  
Location: St. Dunstan of Canterbury Church  
56 Lawson Rd., Toronto. (Port Union and Kingston Rd. area)  
Cost: \$30 ea  
Contact: Gerry Ouellette @ [gerry.ouellette@rogers.com](mailto:gerry.ouellette@rogers.com) or 416.412.1572

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### **Saturday March 12 2016**

#### **Coronati - Ladies Night**



Come one! Come all to a fine Dinner and Dance. Enjoy a nice evening with great music and some great friends. Dress is business suit. Get your tickets before they are all sold out!

Proceeds will go to the GM's Charity - Prostate Cancer Awareness.

Time: 6:30 pm - Social - Cash bar  
7:00 pm - Dinner  
Location: Rembrandt Banquet Halls  
930 Progress Ave., Scarborough (south of the 401 on Markham Rd.)  
Cost: \$60 ea  
Contact: Yolando Andrada @ [apoyollyboy@yahoo.ca](mailto:apoyollyboy@yahoo.ca) or 416.540.6661

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### **Sunday March 20 2016**

#### **GLCPO - Sankey Lecture**

Searching for the Apple Tree: What Happened in 1716? - Dr. Andrew Prescott

Dr. Andrew Prescott FSA FRHistS is Professor of Digital Humanities, AHRC Theme Leader Fellow for Digital Transformations, University of Glasgow. Dr. Prescott will be delivering the lecture on work done jointly with Dr. Susan M. Sommers, Professor of History, Saint Vincent College in Latrobe, Pennsylvania. They will be looking at the history of the Apple Tree tavern, Covent Garden, where the first meetings that led to the formation of the Grand Lodge in London were supposedly held.

Tickets are required, but to enable university students to be exposed to this exemplary speaker and program, they will be free.

Tickets will be available in early 2016. There will be a limit of 5 tickets per request.

More information about the Sankey Lecture Series can be found at  
[www.sankeylectures.ca](http://www.sankeylectures.ca)

Time: 3:00 pm  
Location: Brock University - Sean O'Sullivan Theatre  
Speaker: Dr. Andrew Prescott  
Topic: Searching for the Apple Tree: What Happened in 1716?  
Contact: [info@sankeylectures.ca](mailto:info@sankeylectures.ca)

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*How long is your cable tow? It's as long as you want it to be. It will reach as far as your moral principles go, or your material conditions will allow.*

*- Bro. Allen E. Roberts (1917-1997), The Craft and Its Symbols-1974*

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**Saturday April 2 2016**

**GLCPO - Ontario Masonic Education Conference**

Enjoy a variety of interesting and inspiring speakers in the midst of Masonic fellowship and learning!

Leadership Topics

**Team Building**

Dr. Ken Jones, Dean Emeritus,  
Ryerson University, Rogers School of Business

**Emotional Intelligence**

Prof. Nancy Lucas, New York University,  
Steinhardt School of Culture,  
Education and Human Development

Masonic Topics

**Our Masonic Ritual as a Lesson  
in the History of Metaphysical Thought**

R.W. Bro. David Cameron FCF

**The Masonic Life and Times of  
R.W. Bro. Sir John A. Macdonald**

V.W. Bro. Daniel Glenney, Grand Archivist

**1759 - Triumph of Sword and Trowel**

R.W. Bro. Michael Jenkyns, Grand Historian

**The Great Storm of 1913**

Bro. David Yates

There will a mid-morning break and a lunch around noon.

All members, particularly those with an interest in receiving or delivering Masonic Education are strongly exhorted to attend this worthwhile one-day conference. It is early in the spring, so you won't be giving up gardening or holiday time. This will make up your "Entered Apprentice" charge requirement "to make a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge".

There must be a high number of applicants to make the conference reasonable. Registration deadline is March 28, 2016.

Anyone interested in the course, please contact Charles Woods.

Time: 8:00 - Registration  
9:00 am - 3:30 pm approx. - Seminar  
Location: Scottish Rite Building  
4 Queen St S, Hamilton  
Cost: \$35.00 ea for lunch, coffee and pastries  
Contact: Charles Woods @ [charleswoods@sympatico.ca](mailto:charleswoods@sympatico.ca)

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**Saturday April 9 2016**  
**The Beaches - Annual Gala**  
An Unforgettable Night

Come solo, with your significant other, friends or family! However you come, plan for an evening of fine cuisine, dancing and social pleasure with your friends in The Beaches Lodge.

The Beaches Lodge is legendary in Toronto East District for its vibrant membership and excellent social and community events. We welcome Masons and their guests from across the district to join us at our Annual Gala. Proceeds from the evening will be faithfully applied to the Grand Lodge Charity PROSTATE HOPE for Prostate Cancer Research.



Time: 6:00 pm - Social - cash bar  
7:00 pm - Dinner  
Location: The School Fine Dining  
4121, 14<sup>th</sup> Ave., Unionville  
Cost: \$50 ea  
Contact: Joseph Curry @ [joseph.curry1@gmail.com](mailto:joseph.curry1@gmail.com) or 647.893.6298  
Tickets can also be purchased online at  
[www.eventbee.com/v/josephcurry1/event?eid=159030133](http://www.eventbee.com/v/josephcurry1/event?eid=159030133)

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## ... by the Lighthouse Beam

### Education: The Unspeakable Masonic Word

When we speak of “Masonic education,” we are needlessly redundant. Freemasonry is education, simultaneously moral instruction, spiritual enlightenment and intellectual growth so that a man may come to know - and improve - himself. But this isn't supposed to be a solitary activity; Freemasonry also is a brotherhood. The Master Mason Lecture explains the symbolism of the Beehive: “He who will not endeavour to add to the common stock of knowledge may be deemed a drone in the hive of nature, a useless member of society, and unworthy of the care and protection of Masons.” Together the brethren seek “that which was lost.” What was lost? Truth. It is that search after Truth that makes Freemasonry philosophical, and where there is a love of wisdom, education is the act of courtship.



Because Freemasonry's teachings intentionally address the fundamental and perpetual curiosities of man, it can accurately be said that it is education without limit in both appeal and scope. Truly any wholesome field of study or discipline intersects somewhere along Freemasonry's path of learning and much of Masonic teaching coincides with the Humanities. Masonry reveals itself through ritual. These centuries-old ceremonies are a framework, or more accurately, a map that each Freemason may follow in his search for Truth. To summarize just one aspect of this process, as an Apprentice, the newly initiated Mason is taught to subdue his passions while letting the Four Cardinal Virtues guide him toward candid self-awareness. From this ceremony, one finds commonality with Plato and Aquinas. The former saw these virtues as a recipe for a perfect society; the latter adapted the virtues for the betterment of an individual's attitudes, values and behaviour. Next, as a more experienced Mason called a Fellowcraft, he is shown the Seven Liberal Arts and Sciences: Grammar, Rhetoric, Logic, Arithmetic, Geometry, Music and Astronomy guide the Masonic student as they had the thinkers who gave Western civilization its Renaissance, Reformation and Enlightenment, with all the culture contained therein. A proper understanding of the Arts and Sciences empowers Masonic man to make his mind the rational master of his primal Five Senses of hearing, seeing, feeling, smelling and tasting, and so this progress builds upon the Platonic-Thomist foundation. In the Third Degree of Freemasonry, the Master Mason is sufficiently aware of his place in the universe so as to fear no danger, not even death itself. Ultimately, upon exiting the Holy of Holies for the final time, the Master Mason goes gamely “into that good night” knowing that there is no sting of death and no victory of the grave, but only eternal life.

We've dubbed Education “The Unspeakable Masonic Word” because it seems like no one ever talks about it. In my experience, research lodges, study groups and the like are treated like red light districts where only the furtive venture in search of the forbidden. So at first you're pretty much on your own. To get started, think about what you most desire to know about Freemasonry, and then go find the answers. Easy? No, but it shouldn't be. Depending on the subject, a researcher can spend months looking for a long out-of-print book; even years can pass before inadvertently coming across a needed factoid in an unexpected source. Naturally, the internet delivers limitless information, but - even as with books - one must exercise discriminating choice. Again, let the ritual be your map. Choose an unfamiliar word, an odd phrase, a seemingly antiquated idea. Then define it. Identify its Masonic



significance and apply that meaning to a broader context of how it could benefit others; and then translate that idea into your own words so that you take possession and internalize it. Once it is yours, it is there as a tool for use in your growth, and it's there for good. Repeat the process, as needed, for life.

That education is interwoven in Freemasonry is a reality that predates modern Masonry itself. In the Old Charges - the dozens of manuscripts penned over the course of more than three centuries prior to the start in 1717 of the Masonic Order we know today - are found clear procedures on how new members of the building trade were to be schooled in their craft over long spans of time. In the Halliwell Manuscript, believed written in the 14<sup>th</sup> century and the earliest of these documents, are found the "Fifteen Articles for the Master Mason," including: -

3. He must take apprentices for seven years, his craft to learn.
11. He must be both fair and free and teach by his might.
12. He shall not disparage his fellow's work.
13. He must teach his apprentice.

Nor is there anything extraneous about the grave consequence awaiting the unskilled, untested, and unlucky operative builder in the ancient world. The pre-Biblical Babylonian ruler Hammurabi set down a legal code that included: -

If a builder has built a house for a man and has not made his work sound, so that the house he has made falls down and causes the death of the owner of the house, that builder shall be put to death. If it causes the death of the son of the owner of the house, they shall kill the son of that builder.

Clearly, the importance of education in the building arts is indisputable. (Remember, that the funny-looking cap you wore at graduation is called a mortarboard.) Today, Freemasonry's instruction is all presented in allegory and symbolism, but the education is no less crucial to the Speculative Mason's life. Tragically, few seem to understand or want to understand, and this power goes neglected in the quotidian realities of contemporary Masonry. Why? Because it is hard work! In mastering his Craft, Masonic Man spends his life relentlessly scrutinizing himself, the condition of his fellow man and of the world, and the role of the Great Architect of the Universe in it all. It is not by accident that the hard labour of constructing in stone is the metaphor through which Masonry's instruction is imparted. Nor is it by chance that the seeker of the degrees of Freemasonry is repeatedly tested for his willingness to proceed further.

While the teachings of Freemasonry are universal - "Every human being has a claim upon your kind offices." - it was never intended for every human being to enter its temples, and yet its doors have been flung open for many years allowing practically any man to enter. Consequently, the libraries that once were busy beehives have been converted to other, more simple purposes, their books locked away in storage, forgotten. (Indeed the word "temple" itself, as in a place for conTEMPLation, has been abandoned for the monotonous "Masonic center.") Simultaneously, the discussions that once compelled Masons to reconsider their opinions, to re-examine their very lives, and to improve their world have been replaced by charity walk-a-thons and other activities that, while helpful, should be entrusted to our neighbours in the Lions, Kiwanis and Elks organizations. While organizing and staging a charity fundraiser is a big job, it is child's play compared to the vital challenge of metabolizing Masonic thought, and achieving that state of being where the heart of Jerusalem meets the mind of Athens.

In the fundamental duty of educating oneself and one's fellow Masons, we today are not negligent. We are uninformed, and the craziest thing about it is that the ritual tells us what to do. Remember the advice imparted to you upon your first knocks on the Inner Door: "Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." One's search is a personal endeavour, but there



are friends to help you along the way. When enough of us start speaking aloud about Masonic education, we can restore to its rightful place the paramount purpose of Freemasonry: to labour together in replenishing the “common stock of knowledge” in our pursuit of Truth.

Author: Jay Hochberg

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## 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, 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 should personally send a message to [hiramslighthouse@rogers.com](mailto:hiramslighthouse@rogers.com) including your full name, lodge and lodge location 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](mailto:hiramslighthouse@rogers.com) with all the information and we'll run it every month until the function is past.

Moving? Changing service providers? Remember to send in your new snail-mail and email addresses to both your lodge secretary and **Hiram's Lighthouse** - [hiramslighthouse@rogers.com](mailto:hiramslighthouse@rogers.com)

FYI - There are currently 238 names and growing on the **Hiram's Lighthouse** subscription list.

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*Ferry Spalding-Martin F.C.F.*  
Toronto East District Newsletter Editor  
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