

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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Masonic lodges are . . . associations of men who, closely bound together in a union employing symbolical usages, represent a supra-national spiritual movement, the ideal of Humanity . . . a general association of mankind, without distinction of races, peoples, religions, social and political convictions.

*- Reinhard Heydrich (1904-1942), Gestapo
Second in Command, assassinated,*

Volkischer Beobachter-1938

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

Greetings Brethren of Toronto East District,



On behalf of Carol, Madeline and our family, I wish each of you a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!! For many, this becomes a time of reflection over the past year, as well as anticipation of the new year to come. During this time of introspection and resolution, I encourage you to think about the members of our lodge and consider reaching out to those brethren who have been absent or ill lately. Consider resolving to take on a role of mentorship for our younger members, visiting other district lodges, or approaching the Worshipful Master to inquire as to what assistance he might need to help strengthen your Lodge in the coming year.

As I reflect back on the 16 installations and 2 official visits that have passed during the first half of this Masonic year, I'm grateful to each of you who took time to visit along with me, in a show of support to the brethren of our district. Our Wardens groups have been instrumental in leading the brethren in their travels and I look forward to the formation of our next Wardens group in the weeks to come. If you are a Junior Warden in your Lodge, or about to become one, please set aside time to plan on participating in this most valuable Masonic experience that will help you develop your skills, support you in your travels and also form bonds of friendship that last a lifetime.



As we look forward to the coming months, our official visits start in February, however the month of January still has a lot to offer in terms of Masonic activity within our district. I encourage all newly installed and invested officers to attend the Mechanics of the Work sessions that are starting again in January, offering valuable instruction in the conduct of the Work. Our Long Range Planning Committee, under the leadership of R.W. Bro. Greg Seale, has organized a Long Change Planning Symposium to assist all of our lodges in adopting and strengthening their long-range planning procedures and hopefully ensure stability and viability for many years come.

Doric Lodge will be hosting their 125th anniversary celebration and Robbie Burns Supper on Thursday, January 15, 2015. I strongly encourage all brethren of our district to attend with me in the celebration of this wonderful historic Lodge. I'm aware that other lodges within the district are also planning Burns celebrations, so please watch your TWITE feeds, district newsletters and the district website for dates and times of these events and plan on attending.



We are now entering the final six months of the term of our current Grand Master, M.W. Bro. Donald A. Campbell, whom we all know to be a proud member of Toronto East District. To celebrate our Grand Master and thank him for his many contributions and leadership, the Toronto East District, in combination with the Toronto and York districts, will be hosting the final Grand Master's Reception of this term, on Tuesday, March 31, 2015, at the Crystal Palace Banquet Hall in Markham. Although this event is three months away, the event committee is requesting all ticket purchases be submitted by the end of January. Best seating is assigned to those who purchased their tickets for earlier on, so please contact R.W. Bro. Keith Jones at this time to secure your tickets to this historic event and tribute to our Grand Master.

Remember too that our 4th Annual District Gala and Awards Night is scheduled for Saturday, June 13, 2015 and the committee will be opening up ticket sales shortly. Please organize your group ticket purchases now to also ensure good seating and show your support this wonderful year-end celebration and night out with our ladies. If you know of any brethren that served the craft with the station over the past year or more, please put your mind to nominating them for one of the district awards. You may contact the district awards chairman for further information.

Brethren, my resolution for this year is to hopefully lead the brethren of our district and strengthening our lodges by making the Lodge experience a kinder, more encouraging and rewarding atmosphere for all of our brethren. To this end, I once again ask you to take an active role in the leadership of your Lodge. Offer guidance and support to our younger members, officers and candidates. Support your Committee Chairman and principal officers in their endeavours to advance the interests of your Lodge. Lastly, do your best to be positive in the face of difficulties, trials and errors. Endeavour to embody within yourself, those Masonic principles of brotherly love, relief and truth, so that you may encourage and lead others by your own example throughout the coming year.

May the Great Architect of the Universe grant you and your loved ones, health, happiness and security in the year to come.

With warmest fraternal greetings,

R.W. Bro. Peter J. Sialtsis
District Deputy Grand Master
Toronto East District



EVENTS CALENDAR:

January 2015

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			<p><u>1</u> New Year's Day</p>  <p>Jack Daniel's Law of Motion You can't fall off the floor.</p>	<p><u>2</u> Mawlid al-Nabi</p>	<p><u>3</u></p>	<p><u>4</u></p>
<p><u>5</u></p>	<p><u>6</u></p>	<p><u>7</u></p>	<p><u>8</u></p>	<p><u>9</u></p>	<p><u>10</u></p>	<p><u>11</u> * TED - DeMolay Membership Day see below Doric Pickering</p>
<p><u>12</u></p>	<p><u>13</u></p>	<p><u>14</u></p>	<p><u>15</u></p>	<p><u>16</u></p>	<p><u>17</u></p>	<p><u>18</u></p>
<p><u>19</u></p>	<p><u>20</u></p>	<p><u>21</u></p>	<p><u>22</u></p>	<p><u>23</u></p>	<p><u>24</u> * TED - Mechanics of the Work - Week 1/6 see below East Toronto</p>	<p><u>25</u> Robbie Burns Day * TED - Long Range Planning Symposium see below East Toronto</p>
<p><u>26</u></p>	<p><u>27</u></p>	<p><u>28</u></p>	<p><u>29</u> * Heritage Lodge - 30th Annual Black Tie Banquet see below School of Fine Dining</p>	<p><u>30</u></p>	<p><u>31</u> * TED - Mechanics of the Work - Week 2/6 see below East Toronto</p>	



February 2015

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						<u>1</u>
<u>2</u> Groundhog Day We want more snow and sleet, right?	<u>3</u> * Canada - Official Visit Banq - 6:30 pm ← Visitors-7:30 pm Doric Pickering	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u> * Alpha-Tuscan - Official Visit Visitors-7:30 pm East Toronto	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u> * TED - Mechanics of the Work - Week 3/6 see below East Toronto	<u>8</u> * TED - Claremont Winter Carnival Parade see below Claremont
<u>9</u>	<u>10</u> * Universe - Official Visit Visitors-7:30 pm East Toronto	<u>11</u> * The Imperial East Gate - Installation Visitors-7:30 pm East Toronto	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u> * Birch Cliff - Official Visit Visitors-7:30 pm DDGMs Lodge East Toronto	<u>14</u> St. Valentine's Day Flowers. Chocolates. A comment about her weight loss.	<u>15</u>
<u>16</u> Family Day 1 st long weekend of the year	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u> Chinese New Year Let the banquets begin!	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u> * TED - Mechanics of the Work - Week 4/6 see below East Toronto	<u>22</u>
<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u> * Ontario-71 st Annual Hunter's Night see below Port Hope	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u> * TED - Mechanics of the Work - Week 5/6 see below East Toronto	



AROUND AND ABOUT:

Toronto East District Charity

Masonic Foundation of Ontario 50th Anniversary Project Supporting Prostate Cancer Research The Mikey Network

The Masonic Foundation directors explored opportunities for the Foundation to provide meaningful funding for prostate Cancer research in Ontario. The conclusion was to make funding of prostate cancer the primary activity to celebrate the 50th anniversary. To further highlight the pressing need to make significant advances M.W. Bro. Donald A. Campbell, Grand Master and R.W. Bro. John C. Green, Deputy Grand Master pledged their full support behind this initiative. One component of this unique fund raising partnership will involve the charitable donations made to the Grand Master during his tenure being used to support the selected prostate cancer research projects. The target is to provide funding to the researchers for ten years.

*There is no such thing as a minor lapse of integrity.
- Thomas J. 'Tom' Peters*

Remember the North East Corner



Community Care Durham (CCD), established in 1977, is a multi-service registered charitable organization committed to providing access to a range of services needed to maintain well-being, independence and quality of life. Services are provided free of charge or for a minimal fee and are administered through various service locations across Durham Region.

- **Meals on Wheels:** Nutritious hot or frozen meals are delivered by volunteers to clients in their homes. Online ordering is now available in Ajax-Pickering, Whitby, Oshawa, Clarington, Uxbridge, Scugog and Brock Township.
- **Transportation:** Volunteers provide transportation to clients for medical appointments, shopping, etc.
- **Friendly Visiting:** Volunteers visit on a regular basis to share in activities and companionship with clients.
- **Luncheon Out:** Group outings for clients to enjoy a nutritious meal and entertainment in a social setting.
- **Telephone Reassurance:** Volunteers provide regular contact to check on the well-being of clients.
- **Home Help:** Brokered helpers provide assistance with light housekeeping, etc.
- **Home Maintenance:** Brokered helpers provide assistance with yard work, snow shovelling, etc.
- **Foot Care Clinics:** Services are provided by registered foot care nurses.

Many of us have already had need for their services, and if not, will do in the future. *There is a great need for volunteers as drivers* to provide Friendly Visiting, Transportation and Meals on Wheels. Volunteers find the experience very satisfying as the clients are usually very grateful to receive contact and assistance that otherwise would not be available. Please help, providing charity in the form of personal time and assistance rather than a cheque.

www.communitycaredurham.on.ca/contact.html

FYI

In 1892, the tallest building in the world was the Masonic Temple at Randolph and State Streets, Chicago, IL.



Toronto East Masonic Centre



I am writing this update on December 18th with anticipation of Santa's December 25 deliveries of our wished for gifts. One of my wishes is to see the shovels in the ground for our new Temple in 2015.

The Directors have had face-to-face meeting with potential partners since writing my last report. We continue to meet as we progress to a mutual agreement.

The Directors had a special meeting with Dennis Trimbell, former Minister for Health and Housing for the Ontario Government, and a MPP from 1971 to 1987, to seek his advice on moving forward. We have found this conversation valuable in our negotiations.

The Boards received two written proposals, and are in clarification discussions with both organizations.

The Board has reached out to Wexford Residences Board of Directors once again to see if they have interest in being part of our development. We have a joint meeting planned for early January.

The Board extends our wishes to all Masons for a Happy New Year.

As always, we will answer your questions, just drop us a note.

2316543 Ontario Limited, a for profit corporation is also known as ProjectCo. It is a wholly owned subsidiary of Toronto East Masonic Center (TEMC). TEMC is a non-profit organization created by the Masons of Lodges in Toronto East District whose mission 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.

- Gerry Campbell @ projectco@outlook.com or 416.606.1373

Smile !



Proof that Freemasonry is from time immomorial



Learn Something New This Year

Do you know you can take FREE courses over the internet if you belong to the Pickering Library? Possibly this also applies to other libraries in your area. The list of courses is amazing; I am going to take one of the computer courses. I am not doing too badly at it, but I could use some updating with the constantly changing ways of doing things. Or I may take up Finger Chimes for Fun and Profit.

There are all kinds of courses in every subject. I just spent some time exploring and the variety of courses is extensive! Have a look . . . have fun.

www.picnet.org/learn4life

A Belated Christmas Greeting

As you listened to the sound of reindeer hooves on the roof, the snow blowing against your windows and the sweet notes of a carol being sung, I was enjoying my own little Christmas over here - to the sound of Apache helicopters overhead, sand whipping against my tent, and the call to prayer echoing from the minaret of the local mosque.

Peace on earth and good will to mankind. It's what we still wish each other these two thousand years hence, and for good cause. We can all use a little more peace and good will.

I am thinking of you, and look forward to sharing some good cheer when I get back in the spring.

Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year!

With Sincere Fraternal Regards,
Joseph
Capt. J.F. Curry
Kuwait



Planning to Attend Grand Lodge Communications Next Summer ?

Are you anticipating getting a room at the Royal York Hotel?

As we all know, Toronto is hosting the 2015 Pan Am Games. Oh, yeah! That means hundreds of thousands of people will be flowing into the city to attend and otherwise support those games.

If you plan to get a room, or rooms, today would be better than tomorrow. If not, there could be a convenient room for you somewhere on the west side of Mississauga or the east side of Oshawa. Or maybe not, as those locations are hosting events as well.



Book your rooms as soon as possible.

<https://resweb.passkey.com/go/glafam2015>

I Did Not Know That !

Why are zero scores in tennis called 'love'?

In France, where tennis first became popular, a big, round zero on the scoreboard looked like an egg and was called 'l'oeuf,' which is French for 'egg.' When tennis was introduced in the US, Americans pronounced it 'love.'

On January 1

In 1, origin of the Christian Era;

In 404, the last gladiatorial competition in Rome was held;

In 990, Russia adopted the Julian calendar;

In 1557, Jacques Cartier, French explorer (Canada) died at age 65;

In 1651, Charles II Stuart was crowned king of Scotland;

In 1660, was the 1st entry in Samuel Pepys' diary;

In 1673, regular mail delivery began between New York and Boston;

In 1700, protestant West Europe (except England) began using the Gregorian calendar;

In 1735, Paul Revere, silversmith/U.S. patriot (the British are coming) was born. (*One if by land; two if by sea; three if by limo.*);

In 1772, the 1st traveller's cheque was issued (London);

In 1788, the Quakers in Pennsylvania emancipated their slaves;

In 1801, Ireland and Great Britain (England and Scotland) formed the United Kingdom;

In 1808, the U.S. Congress prohibited the importation of slaves;

In 1818, the official reopening of the White House occurred;

In 1840, the 1st recorded bowling match in the U.S. was held at Knickerbocker Alleys in New York City. (*There is no record of Charlie Harper being in attendance.*);

In 1853, the 1st practical fire engine (horse-drawn) in U.S. entered service;

In 1858, Canada began using a decimal currency system;

In 1861, President Lincoln declared that slavery in the Confederate States was unlawful;

In 1862, the 1st U.S. income tax came into effect (3% of incomes > \$600, 5% of incomes > \$10,000);

In 1863, President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation ending slavery;

In 1880, the building of the Panama Canal began;

In 1922, driving on the right side of the road began in Vancouver, B.C.;

In 1934, Alcatraz officially became a federal prison;

In 1956, Elvis Presley recorded Heartbreak Hotel for RCA in Nashville;

In 1958, BOAC Britannia flew from London to New York in a record 7 hr. and 57 min.;



In 1966, all U.S. cigarette packs must carry “Caution-Cigarette smoking may be hazardous to your health” warning.

The Month of January

When we say Happy New Year, we happily invoke the energy of the ancient Roman god of passage. He has two faces - one for endings and one for beginnings. Janus, for whom January was named, was the guardian of the gateway between the past and the future. Janus, from the Latin root ‘janua’, meaning door, was honoured as the guardian of the door. Trevor Stewart writes, “In the Classical era, Janus was commonly shown as carrying two keys, one of gold and the other of silver, to open and lock each of the two solstitial gates, the Janua Coeli and the Janua Inferni, corresponding respectively to the Winter and Summer solstices (i.e., the two extreme points of the Earth’s annual cycle around the Sun). Janus, as Master of Time, was the Janitor who opened and closed this cycle.



On the other hand, he was also the god of initiation into the Greater and the Lesser ‘Mysteries’. The word ‘Initio’ comes from the root-word ‘in-ire’ - (to enter) and this is clearly connected with the concept of a gateway. According to one rather obscure passage in Cicero’s treatise De Natura deorum, the name ‘Janus’ had the same root as the verb ‘ire’ - (to go) and this root-word has been detected in Sanskrit texts where among its derivatives is the word ‘yana’ - (the way).

According to most linguists, it seems that that word ‘ianus’ is based on the root ‘ia’. This is an extension of an Indo-European root ‘ei’ (to go) and this abstract term signifies ‘passage’ or ‘travelling’.

The ancient Oriental concept of ‘Tao’ means literally ‘the way’ and is shown in Mandarin Chinese by two ideographic characters that are the signs for the head and the feet (i.e., the beginning and the end). Furthermore, you will recall that Jesus proclaimed Himself to be ‘the Way’.

It is interesting, and not entirely inappropriate, that the symbol of the two keys is retained, even to this day, by the Papacy in its Coat of Arms. That is because Peter (the first Bishop of Rome) was said to hold the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven. His standard iconography includes a pair of keys to commemorate this. The keys, of course, we assign to the Treasurer. Incidentally, another symbol for Janus was that of a barque, a vessel that appropriately could move backwards and forwards - corresponding to Janus’ two faces - and this is also retained today as one of the other chief symbols of the Papacy. The “ship of the Church” was also a standard symbol for Peter, along with the inverted cross, which represents his method of execution. The New Testament names Peter as one of the three pillars of the Jerusalem Church, that of Strength. The other two pillars are James the Wise and John the Beloved (Beauty). Early depictions of the ship make it look more like Noah’s ark.

There is one other curious co-incidence that you may care to consider.

Janus was the god of beginnings. His name was assigned to the first month of the Roman calendar. He presided over the so-called solstitial gates, the ‘gate of men’ and the ‘gate of the gods’; i.e., the Summer and Winter Solstices respectively. His solstitial festivals were commemorated by the members of the Collegium Fabrorum (the guild of artisans) whom some would regard as the classical forerunners of the later medieval stonemasons. These solstitial feasts of Janus eventually became, in the Christian tradition, the festivals of the two Saints John, and the medieval stonemasons had both Saints John as their patrons.



Furthermore, in the very early days of speculative Freemasonry (perhaps the inheritor of these medieval traditions) Lodges were known as “St. John” Lodges.

Remember also that according to Cicero at least, the name Janus has the same root as the verb ‘to initiate’, and what is it that Freemasons’ Lodges do except initiate? In other words, they are concerned with ‘beginnings’. Perhaps Freemasons have more to do with Janus than at first glance depending on whatever of his two faces we are looking at!

Janus’ festival, called the Kalendae is from January 1st to 3rd. Sacrifices were also made in January to the goddess Fortuna for favours in the coming year. Nowadays, we make resolutions to sacrifice destructive or useless habits to make room for worthwhile and constructive activities and behaviours that will lead us to good fortune. January 1st, New Years’ Day, also known as Hogmanay, is a Scottish celebration that includes a walkabout around the boundaries of ones property. Also called “first footing”, folklore tells us that the first foot inside your door after midnight, December 31 will foretell the flavour of the coming year’s fortune. This custom of walking the boundaries was standard well outside of Scotland. An annual procession of the entire parish was commonly required to sustain incorporation. These circumambulations, both personal and by groups, were always made clockwise to assert possession and membership. A purchase of property was concluded by the new owner touring the new boundary. Procession in the opposite direction (widdershins) was thought to be unlucky at best. A candidate thus asserts membership and some sense of joint ownership of the lodge by his circumambulations.

Group processions were typically led by one of the local craft guilds, which were responsible for upkeep of the regalia and the presentation of a feast. One of Henry VIII’s first reforms was cutting out all the holidays during planting and harvest, because he thought too much time was wasted on all the feasts and processions.

January 6th marks the Christian celebration of Epiphany. Epiphany comes from the Greek and Latin root meaning appearance, manifestation, or revealment, and to show forth or to manifest. An epiphany today means a meaningful experience wherein a luminous moment occurs that changes the significance of everything in the life. Epiphany is celebrated as a time of consecration, a time of dedication to a better future. The celebration of Epiphany is taken from the story of the three Wise Men from the east, who traveled 12 days and nights to see the newborn Saviour. It was ‘revealed’ to them in a dream, that if they followed the ‘appearance’ of a special star or light in the heavens, they would find a child in whom The Christ was manifested.

The Wise Men or Magi brought special gifts from their homelands - Persia - gifts fit to offer a king. These wise men were astrologers. The gifts included gold (ruled by the Sun), the precious metal of Kings, because of its beauty and rarity. Of all the metals, it is nearly inert - doesn’t easily mix with other elements, and doesn’t break down, but maintains its elemental form. The second gift, frankincense (also Sun ruled), was an aromatic hardened gum resin of the *Boswellia Carterii Thurifera* tree, used as an incense in religious rituals, and represents pure prayer. *Boswellia* is an anti-inflammatory, now used to treat arthritis. The third was myrrh (Saturn ruled), a resin from the *Commiphora myrrha* tree - used in incense, as a holy oil for anointing the dead, as a mouthwash, to combat vermin, and as a painkiller. It is a fragrant but bitter-tasting gum resin used to make incense, perfumes, medicines, and holy ointments for consecration. In many Lodges, we use incense to clear and clean the air. The resins are found in Arabia and Somalia, and are used in protection rites.

January’s gemstones are the garnet and the agate. The word garnet is derived from the Latin, *granatum*, which means pomegranate, which is an important symbol in Freemasonry. Garnet crystals are granular, shaped like the fruits of the pomegranate. The most prized colour of the gemstone is the deep clear



poppy red of the fruit, although garnets also come in many hues (even to red orange and yellow). These gems were reported to bring sleep to their wearers, and to calm a restless brain. Garnets were also associated with constancy and fidelity, and were said to fortify the heart of the owner. The agate is a type of chalcedony, made up of layers of colour. Its history suggests it be worn to clear emotional blockages by piercing the veil of inner levels of consciousness, and allowing remembrance of past lives. Moss agate was worn to balance emotions and as a blood cleanser. Lace agate was worn to release muscle spasms and tension.

January 25th in the runic calendar is Disting, the feast of the Disir, the Norse guardian goddesses. In the Druidic form of this ritual, the Fire Maiden lights the fire of wisdom and love and power, and makes an offering so that the sacred fire burns within us. Then the Keeper of the Well pours water of wisdom and life, and makes an offering so that the sacred waters flow within us. Then the Tender of the Tree dresses the Cosmic Tree, Yggdrasil, symbolic of Life and our connection with the Earth, and asks that the sacred tree grow within us. Symbols of land and sea and sky within and without honour the adage “as above, so below”.

January 26th is Vasant Panchami, the festival of Kites, devoted to Saraswati, goddess of learning and wife to Brahma. She is asked to bestow the wealth of Knowledge to all humanity. Celebrants wear yellow clothing in honour of the mustard fields, symbolic of spring coming to the land. Saraswati is a bit like our ‘Sophia.’

January is the month of Saturn, embracing both of Saturn’s signs, Capricorn and Aquarius when time often weighs heavily. Saturn rules Time, and the hourglass as an object of reflection symbolizes this concept well, a reminder of mortality. Time is most certainly an enigma.

You would measure time the measureless and the immeasurable. You would adjust your conduct and even direct the course of your spirit according to hours and seasons. Of time you would make a stream upon whose bank you would sit and watch its flowing. Yet, the timeless in you is aware of life’s timelessness, and knows that yesterday is but today’s memory and tomorrow is today’s dream. And that which sings and contemplates in you is still dwelling within the bounds of that first moment which scattered the stars into space. But if in your thoughts, you must measure time into seasons, let each season encircle all the other seasons, and let today embrace the past with remembrance, and the future with longing.¹

District Awards

Last year’s awards were presented at the Black and White Gala held in June at the Ajax Convention Centre. This year, the awards are to be presented at the same event to be held on Saturday June 13, 2015.

The six awards are: -

- **M.W. Bro. C. Edwin Drew Award**
to the lodge that exemplifies Masonic principles within the craft
presented to Wexford Lodge #683 in 2014
- **M.W. Bro. Terence Shand Award**
to the lodge that best exemplifies Masonic principles in the Community
presented to Brougham Union Lodge #269 in 2014
- **M.W. Bro. Ronald E. Groshaw Award**
to the Toronto East District Mason of the Year

¹ Khalil Gibran [Gibran Khalil Gibran bin Mikha’il bin Sa’ad] (1883-1931), The Prophet, On Time-1923



- presented to Bro. Steve Hudson in 2014
- R.W. Bro. William Reich Award
to the lodge best supporting Remembrance Services
presented to Markham Union Lodge #87 in 2014
- Blood Donor Award
to the lodge best supporting the Blood Donation Services
presented to Coronati Lodge #529 in 2014
- Travelling Gavel Award
to the lodge best supporting visitation within the District
presented to Wexford Lodge #683 in 2014

It is our aim to make the lodges aware of the awards and to have more competition to earn them. It is our hope the your lodge will try to win one or more awards as Wexford Lodge #683 did as they were presented with two awards. To find out more about the selection criteria for the awards, please contact me for details.

Contact: Jim Johnston @ johnston1946@rogers.com
Chairman Awards Committee

I Was Wondering

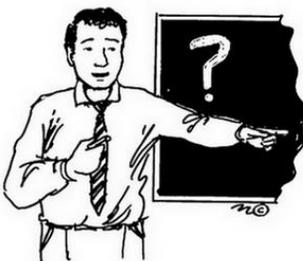
In the Masonic Year of 1976-77, the Education Committee of Toronto Masonic District No. 3 Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario (many of the lodges of which were realigned into the current Toronto East District), under the direction of R.W. Bro. Frank J. Bruce P.D.D.G.M. compiled 47 questions 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

What are the Landmarks of Masonry? How many are there?

The best definitions of the term as applying to the Craft are: -

- A landmark must have existed from "the time whereof the memory of man runneth not to the contrary."
- A Landmark is an element in the form or essence of the Society of such importance that Freemasonry would no longer be Freemasonry if it were removed. With such strict definitions, it would be difficult to compile a list that genuinely conforms to those standards.



The United Grand Lodge of England does not have a list, though many lists have been compiled (ranging from five to fifty items) and adopted by various Grand Lodges. The best-known list in the Western Hemisphere was prepared by Albert Mackey who actually used the two definitions quoted above. His list of 25 items was adopted by several USA jurisdictions, even though the majority of them could not possibly pass the strict test that he had himself prescribed. To illustrate the difficulty, I quote two of Mackey's Landmarks that cannot be Landmarks because we can actually date the period of their first appearance in Masonry. From "*The Freemason at Work*" p. 264, Mackey's No. 1, and Mackey's No. 2).



To avoid a lengthy discussion of the kind of rules, customs and privileges that could never qualify as Landmarks, the following is a Code of Landmarks adopted by the newly formed Grand Lodge of Iran in 1970, which I compiled for them at their request:

- a) Belief in God, the G.A.O.T.U.
- b) Belief in the immortality of the soul.
- c) The V.S.L. which is an indispensable part of the Lodge, No Lodge may be opened without it and it must remain open and in full view while the Lodge is at labour.
- d) Every Mason must be male, free-born and of mature age.
- e) Every Mason, by his tenure, expresses his allegiance to the Sovereign or Ruler of his native land.
- f) The Landmarks of the Order can never be changed or repealed. (For further details, see Carr, *"The Freemason at Work"* pages 263-267).

What is the essential use of Tokens in Freemasonry?

To provide a virtually invisible means of proving oneself a Mason, and of testing a stranger. The ritual says that they can be used "by night as well as by day".

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Now, Here Is A Lodge In . . .



United Lodge #29, Brighton ON
with thanks to Jim Arnold - The Imperial East Gate

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

Remember the line in the Bible about how it's harder for a rich man to get into heaven than for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle?

On the surface, and literally interpreted, the bottom line appears to be that riches and heaven-worthy sanctity can't coexist. But like so much of the Bible, that phrase has to be examined metaphorically and with contemporaneous contextual information or modern readers are led astray.

As you know, Jerusalem was a walled city with multiple gated entrances.



At night, the gates were all closed for safety from attack - all except one extremely narrow gate that remained open for legitimate exit and ingress. This gate was just wide enough for a single camel or other pack animal to slide through, and only then if its owner had removed the panniers (side packs, left and right, to hold luggage or sale goods).

The narrowness of this passage prevented, say, a big company of enemy soldiers from storming inside. The posted guards could handle an individual miscreant easily enough, etc.

Now the name of this gate was the 'Eye of the Needle.'

*A rich man *could* pass through the Eye of the Needle and enter the Holy City. But he had to temporarily divest himself of his goods (by unloading his pack animal) to get through. This was awkward and inconvenient, but doable.*

The takeaway: riches are not an absolute bar to heaven, but having them makes the ascension (entry) process more of a challenge.

Freemasonry helps us get ready for the reunification with Source through the divesting of metals at the door of the temple. Having "material status" and retaining one's integrity can be reconciled, but conscious effort is required. The profane world is asleep to all this, and that's not just a 21st century phenomenon. The splendour of our system is that, through initiation, it wakes us up and, through repetition of the divestiture, it keeps us headed in the right direction.

- Bro. Janet Wintermute

Saturday January 3 2015

Mawlid-an-Nabi - The Birth of Mohammed

Mawlid an-Nabi, Qur'anic Arabic: "Birth of the Prophet" is a term used to refer to the observance of the birthday of the prophet Muhammad. Most Muslim countries, except Saudi Arabia, observe Mawlid as a national holiday.



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 and Shi'as observe the event on different days.

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

Sunday January 11 2015

DeMolay Membership Day

Horace Mundy Chapter of DeMolay has faced depleted membership due to members aging out and members leaving to form other chapters. If you know a young man from 12 to 21, consider bringing him out to see what DeMolay is all about.

We'll start at 2:00 pm and finish just after 4:00 pm. We will provide light refreshments and snacks and have all the equipment needed to enjoy the activity. You just need to show up wanting to enjoy yourself and be ready to ask questions.



Please feel free to bring along a friend or pass this invite to a friend who you think might be interested in joining the best fraternity for young men between the ages of 12 and 21 in the world.

Time: 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Location: Doric Pickering



Saturday January 24 and 31 2015

Saturday February 7, 21 and 28 2015

Mechanics of the Work Class

These classes begin again for the spring session. Classes are open to all Masons, from the newest Entered Apprentice to the rustiest young timer. We are informal in the normal lodge meeting sense and welcome anyone who wants to improve their skills or reacquaint 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 F.P. of F., the Grand Honours, entering and leaving a lodge while at work as well as when and how to address the Worshipful Master.

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 pm - Coffee (*coffee!*) and day-old sticky buns. Honest!
9:00 pm - noon - Classes
Location: East Toronto
Contact: Dennis Rankin @ kdrankin@pathcom.com or 416.691.1704

A Community of Saints

Throughout my adult life, I have, on numerous occasions, heard persons I have known describe a friend of theirs as “a saint if there ever was one.” When those country folk used those descriptive words, they were genuinely sincere, and they were not talking about some unusual person in the community who had done extraordinary things and, as a result, had been beatified by a church and depicted in stained glass windows. Rather, they were talking about ordinary, good-hearted folk with whom they associated on a daily basis.

One day, out of curiosity, I checked the Letters that compose a great deal of the New Testament. What I found was amazing. In one way or another, six of those Letters are addressed “to the saints” in some first-century community. Now, those letters were not written to a small number of special persons who, after accomplishing some extraordinary things, had been singled out for some specific honour. Instead, they were addressed to all of the ordinary, good-hearted people in those communities. So, ordinary, good folk were considered to be saints.

Not long ago, as a beautiful day ended, we sat at the kitchen table with thankful hearts; we had been blessed. Because of the kindness and generosity in the heart of a dear friend, an especially good dessert was in front of us. As we ate, I remembered that, on numerous occasions, that kind and generous person had done so many things for us. During that most enjoyable period, I gave thanks for her, and I thought of a host of other good-hearted people that continually bless our lives through their thoughtfulness and acts of kindness.

That cold winter evening as I tasted the sweetness of that delicious dessert, I recognized that good and caring people surround us and make life good. Therefore, we live in a pleasant community surrounded by saints who, through their acts of kindness and helpfulness, bless our lives day after day.



Author: Howard Coop
Publisher: AN ENCOURAGING WORD
is a column syndicated to nine weekly newspapers, one monthly publication, and one bi-monthly publication.

Saturday January 24 2015
Long Range Planning Symposium
Enhancing your 'in-lodge' Experience

Come join us as three lodges share what they have been doing to enhance the experience of their lodge meetings and functions. Get a first-hand account about getting attendance up. Hear ideas on keeping the Officer funnel filled with Master Masons and future Worshipful Masters. Want to know how they communicate with their lodge members? PLUS how do they identify and overcome perceived threats to the vibrancy of the lodge? One guest will even share some lessons learnt from his lodge going dark.



Come hear what Grand Lodge is doing and have a review of its Long Range Planning Tool Kit. It is a great starting place to kick off any planning process. How is your lodge going to get to where it wants to be in 2015?

Come share your ideas about what we should do in 2017 to commemorate the 300th Anniversary of Masonry.

Time: 9:00 pm - noon
Location: East Toronto
Contact: Gregory Seale @ jgregoryseale@yahoo.ca or 905.477.3502 or
David Neave @ davidneave@bell.net or 905.391.5900

Thursday January 29 2015
The Heritage Lodge - 30th Annual Black Tie Banquet



All are welcome to come and enjoy a good meal, good friends and an interesting talk. The speaker will be Bro. Daniel D. Hrinko, Psy. D. Forensic and Clinical Psychology.

Full gourmet beef, salmon or other meal including wine - to be indicated when ordering tickets.

Tickets deadline - **January 15 2015 - no sales at the door**

Time: 5:30 pm - Social
7:00 pm - Dinner
Location: School of Fine Dining
4121 14th Ave., Markham
Speaker: Daniel D. Hrinko
Topic: The Initiatory Experience and Human Nature
Cost: \$50.00 ea



Contact: Bill Utton @ theuttons@rogers.com or 905.831.6256 or
David Neave @ davidneave@bell.net or 905.725.8032

Be sincere; be brief; be seated.

- Bro. Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1882-1945), 32nd U.S. President-1933-45

Saturday February 7 2015

Claremont Winter Carnival Parade



The Claremont (Brougham Union) Masonic Temple will open at 9:00 am with hot drinks. By 11:00 am, we will assemble at the 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. We are happy to

report that among our guests in the Parade we have invited ambassadors from the Town Criers, the Rameses Drum Corps and the Rainbow Girls.

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 or 905.649.3003 or 416.518.2242

Thursday February 26 2015

71st 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. 😊



Location: Ontario Lodge #26, Port Hope, ON

Success is a journey, not a destination. The doing is often more important than the outcome.



- Arthur Robert Ashe Jr. (1943-1993)

Tuesday March 31 2015

Toronto and York Districts – Grand Master’s Reception

Honouring M.W. Bro. Donald A. Campbell. An opportunity to mix and mingle with brethren and their families from not only your own district, but also the other districts in the GTA. Tickets have been distributed and are selling. To make sure Lodges and Members of Toronto East District have good seats, get your tickets now. Ladies are invited and tables of 10 are the norm.

Time: 6:30 pm - Social
7:30 pm – Dinner followed by entertainment
9:00 pm - Dancing
Location: Crystal Palace Banquet Hall
60 McDowell Gate, Markham
Cost: \$60 ea
Contact: Keith Jones @ kjones@nmdaviscorp.ca or 416.489.6858

The man who goes farthest is generally the one who is willing to do and dare. The sure-thing boat never gets far from the shore.
- Dale Carnegie (1888-1955)

Saturday June 13 2015

Toronto East District – 4th Annual Black and White Gala

You, your lady and guests will enjoy hors d’oeuvres to the sounds of a jazz trio, followed by a four-course dinner in a beautiful setting. Corsages are planned for the ladies. After a sumptuous meal, there will be dancing to the 21-piece George Lake Big Band orchestra.

Brethren, we want to be sure and thank our ladies in a very special way for a year of patience and support and this will be a night for them to remember. We also want to have an award ceremony that truly reflects the stature of the District award winners.



In keeping with promises, all speeches will be short and no raffle tickets of any kind will be sold, nor silent auctions held.

Your committee has also managed to arrange an event pricing from the Hilton Garden Hotel next door. If you book your room before May 13th, the room rate will be \$129, after that date the price will be \$179. Rooms can be booked directly with the hotel, 905 686 9400. The rooms are held under The Toronto East district Black and White Gala.

Time: 6:00 pm - Social
7:00 pm - Dinner
9:00 pm - Dancing
Location: Ajax Convention Centre
550 Beck Cres., Ajax (401 and Salem)



Dress: Formal
Black Tie or dark business suit
Speaker: Bro. Joseph Curry, who is presently deployed in Kuwait
Cost: \$100 ea
Contact: the Senior Warden of your lodge



... by the Lighthouse Beam

The Old Guard

The Old Guard are the foundation of the Lodge and guardians of its knowledge and tradition;
the “old boys’ club” want to get the ritual over as quickly as possible so they can have a drink or a social chat.

The Old Guard instruct and guide young Brethren in Freemasonry;
the “old boys’ club” sit in the Past Masters’ corner and criticize.

The Old Guard try to understand more about Freemasonry;
the “old boys’ club” prefer to confine “Freemasonry” to what they understand.

The Old Guard guide the Stewards in laying out the Lodge Room;
the “old boys’ club” wait until they enter the room before complaining that this or that is two inches too far to the right.

The Old Guard look to a future that will never be theirs, while passing on the lessons of the past;
the “old boys’ club” can’t get beyond “back in my day, we . . .”

The Old Guard says “give someone else a chance”;
the “old boys’ club” says: “they’ll get their chance.”

The Old Guard says “I’ll do that”;
the “old boys’ club” says “I refuse to do that!”

The Old Guard slips the Broken Column a few coins to help a Brother in Need;
the “old boys’ club” complain about rising dues.

The Old Guard want what’s best for the Lodge;
the “old boy’s club” want what’s best for themselves.

The Old Guard have been Freemasons for 25 years;
the “old boys’ club” have been Freemasons for one year, 25 times over, and still haven’t learned anything.

Please don’t confuse the two . . .

And don’t worry about the fallout because inevitably, the boots that are thrown the hardest are the ones that fit best . . .

But then we’re an Idealist Order populated by infinitely, wonderfully diverse, and eminently fallible human beings.



Author: Andrew Bergman
Publisher: UK Mason Email Forum



Toronto East District is comprised of the lodges residing in the Claremont, Doric-Pickering, and East Toronto (Chisholm) Masonic Temples.

<u>Lodge and No</u>	<u>Temple</u>	<u>Reg</u>	<u>Emg</u>	<u>Inst</u>	<u>Off Vst</u>
Acacia #430	East Tor	3 rd Mon	2 nd Mon	Sep	Mar
Alpha-Tuscan #384 www.alphatuscanlodge384.org	East Tor	1 st Thu	3 rd Thu	Sep	Feb
Birch Cliff #612 <i>A Cornerstone Lodge</i> www.birchcliffodge.com	East Tor	2 nd Fri	4 th Fri	Dec	Feb
Brougham Union #269	Clar	1 st Wed		Oct	Apr
Caledonia #637 www.caledonialodge637.com	York *	3 rd Mon	1 st Mon	Oct	Apr
Canada #532	Doric	1 st Tue	3 rd Wed	Oct	Feb
Coronati #520 <i>A Cornerstone Lodge</i> www.coronatilodge520.ca	Doric	2 nd Thu		Sep	Apr
Doric #424 <i>A Cornerstone Lodge</i> www.doric424.com	Doric	3 rd Thu	1 st Thu	Dec	Oct
Friendship #729	Doric	2 nd Wed		May	Oct
Markham Union #87 www.markhamunion87.org	Clar	2 nd Wed	4 th Wed	Nov	Apr
Mimosa #576 www.mimosalodge.com	Aurora *	1 st Mon	3 rd Mon	Oct	Apr
Riverdale - John Ross Robertson #494 <i>A Cornerstone Lodge</i> www.rjrr494.com	East Tor	3 rd Tue	1 st Tue	Sep	Apr
Scarboro #653	Doric	2 nd Mon	4 th Mon	Dec	Mar
The Beaches #473 <i>A Cornerstone Lodge</i> www.beacheslodge.ca	York *	1 st Thu		May	Mar
The Imperial East Gate #543	East Tor	2 nd Wed		Feb	Jun
Todmorden #647 www.todmordenlodge.com	East Tor	2 nd Thu	4 th Thu	Nov	Mar
Universe #705 www.ul705.com	East Tor	2 nd Tue	4 th Tue	Oct	Feb
West Hill #670	East Tor	1 st Wed	3 rd Wed	Dec	Mar
Wexford #683	Doric	1 st Fri	3 rd Fri	Nov	May
Total Lodges:	19				

* With the sale of the Scarborough Masonic Temple, the inhabiting lodges of that building have relocated to the other buildings. Caledonia Lodge #637 and The Beaches Lodge #473 have relocated to the York Temple, which geographically is customarily outside Toronto East District. Mimosa Lodge #576 has moved to Aurora Masonic Temple, which geographically is also customarily outside Toronto East District.



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 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 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

FYI - There are currently 240 names and growing on the **Hiram's Lighthouse** subscription list.

Jerry Spalding-Martin F.C.F.
Toronto East District Newsletter Editor
Doric Lodge #424 G.R.C.
hiramslighthouse@rogers.com

If this newsletter was received at your email address in error, please inform the newsletter editor and delete the message.

