

# Hiram's Lighthouse

PROVIDING MASONIC LIGHT FROM TORONTO EAST DISTRICT  
(Grand Lodge Merit Award Winner for District Newsletter - 2008)

Grand Lodge Website: - [www.grandlodge.on.ca/index.htm](http://www.grandlodge.on.ca/index.htm)  
Toronto East District Website: - [www.torontoeastdistrict.com](http://www.torontoeastdistrict.com)  
D.D.G.M.: R.W. Bro. Thomas E. Norris Email: - [tom.norris@sympatico.ca](mailto:tom.norris@sympatico.ca)  
District Secretary: W. Bro. Edward H. Russell Email: - [ajaxruss@yahoo.ca](mailto:ajaxruss@yahoo.ca)

November 1, 2009

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*Our ancient Brotherhood is founded upon the principles of love, hope and charity, principles that through many centuries have led to the betterment of mankind. In Masonry one should be taught to search not for transient pleasure, but for a philosophy, for guidance that will aid him to gain the most from the short time accorded here, by contributing the most to his fellow man.*

*- Bro. J. H. Cowles*

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

Brethren,

We are having a very busy month Brethren, which has included –

- eight Installations,
- two Official Visits,
- a 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at Riverdale-John Ross Robertson No. 494 G.R.C., attended by our Grand Master M.W. Bro. Raymond S.J. Daniels,
- a reception for V.W. Bro. Refik Yoney as Mason of the Year in Georgina Lodge No. 343, who is well known in Toronto East that was also attended by our Grand Master.

A Lodge of Instruction held at both Sharon and Renforth Temples under the guidance of M.W. Bro. Donald H. Mumby, Custodian of the Work, while attended by some Toronto East Members should have been better attended. We have also attended receptions for R.W. Bro. Andrew Turk and V.W. Bro. Richard Carveth. Richard is a member of this District and well known for his degree work.

By the time this is published the Police Degree team will have visited Scarboro Lodge No. 653 and Doric Lodge No. 424 will have held their luncheon for their Honoured Ladies.

There are some things we have noted during our visits and that is that the junior officers, especially the Deacons, should be attending the Instructions of Mechanics of the Work under the direction of V.W. Bro. Les Armitage and W. Bro. Dennis Rankin, likewise those Past Masters who ascribe to being Installing Masters should attend those Lodge of Instruction seminars, in both cases to get the current and latest information. I also recommend that all officers and Installing Masters attend Installations within the District, as you will learn a lot of information to help and guide you through your work.



Your District Secretary is still experiencing difficulty in getting the required List of Officers in accordance with bylaw 237 of the Constitution of Grand Lodge, which states “a copy will be sent to the District Secretary and to the Grand Lodge Secretary, immediately after Installation.” Our District Secretary has provided these forms in advance to make it easy. They are also available on the Grand Lodge website and yet a month afterwards, we are still awaiting receipt and/or explanation in spite of our follow-ups. Would you all please be kind enough to get these to us at Installation. Thank you.

We have three more installations in November and I am certain those lodges will appreciate your visit and support. We also have our Remembrance Day Service coming up on Saturday November 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am in Markham at Veterans’ Hall and wreath laying ceremony at 11:00 am. As well we are also at Scarborough Civic Centre Sunday Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> with the parade at 12:30 pm and wreath laying at 2:00 pm. Regalia to be worn. I trust each lodge will likewise remember their brothers who paid the supreme sacrifice at each of their altars as well as offer prayer for those members currently serving in the Middle East.

Remember there is a new Book of Work, easier to read and incorporating the instructions of the mechanics in italics, making it easier to learn the work as well as the perambulations and moves so the ritual goes smoothly and well done. Be sure your secretary has the new books and get one. They are \$8.00, a bargain. As well, you should be using the 2007 version of the Book of Installation. Both these books should be in the hands of the official prompters with no books open in lodge nor the Ceremony of Installation transcribed onto notes.

The Grand Master has thrown us a challenge that consists of our raising substantial funds to purchase Tim Horton’s, quick pay “Tim Cards” which will allow our 2,700 Canadian service men and woman in the Middle East to purchase and enjoy their favourites. We are already accumulating funds through our District Secretary to be sent to Grand Lodge by the end of November. Please make this project uppermost in your fund raising ventures and donations within your respective lodges and get the dollars to the District Secretary who will forward the funds by cheque to Grand Lodge along with a list of the lodges donating.

At this same time, Bro. David Neave, Sr. Warden, Brougham Union Lodge No. 269, an EMS professional is running a CPR course at the Temple in Claremont, on Tuesday Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>, FREE OF CHARGE to those who wish to upgrade or acquire knowledge in saving lives. You may contact David at 905.725.8032 for more information. Donations will be used towards the Tim Cards.

I would remind all Masters to invite some of those brethren who are most absent from lodge to join you at your or other installations and the banquets and renew acquaintances once again. Help them to get to Lodge if need be.

Flu season is coming on us please remember not to spread it about, stay home if you are not well, get your flu shots to help prevent contacting it and be mindful of others as you sneeze or cough.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

R.W. Bro. Thomas E. Norris  
District Deputy Grand Master  
Toronto East District



## TORONTO EAST DISTRICT EVENTS:

### November

Sunday November 1, 2009

#### **Daylight Savings Ends!**

This is to make sure we all know summer (*What Summer ?!*) is over. Set your clocks back the night before.



Thursday November 5, 2009

#### The Beaches - **Reception for V.W. Bro. Donald Shipley**

Banquet at 6:00 pm ←

Visitors by 8:00 pm

Ladies and friends welcome  
Scarborough Masonic Temple

Friday November 6, 2009

#### Wexford - **Installation**

Banquet at 6:30 pm ←

Visitors by 7:30 pm

Scarborough Masonic Temple

Saturday November 7, 2009

#### Toronto East District – **Markham Remembrance Day Service and Parade**

See notice below

Markham Cenotaph

Saturday November 7, 2009

#### Toronto East District - **Mechanics of The Work – make-up session**

9:00 am to Noon

Les Armitage - 416.598.4794

Dennis Rankin - 416.691.1704

East Toronto Masonic Temple

Saturday November 7, 2009

#### West Hill - **Ladies Night**

See notice below

Sisters' Banquet Hall

Sunday November 8, 2009

#### Toronto East District – **Scarborough**

#### **Remembrance Day Parade and Service**

See notice below

Scarborough Civic Centre

### December

Wednesday December 2, 2009

#### West Hill - **Installation**

Visitors by 8:00 pm

Scarborough Masonic Temple

Thursday December 3, 2009

#### The Beaches - **Installation of Worshipful Master only**

Shortened Ceremony

Visitors by 8:00 pm

Scarborough Masonic Temple

Friday December 11, 2009

#### Birch Cliff - **Installation**

Visitors by 8:00 pm

Scarborough Masonic Temple

Saturday December 12, 2009

#### **Hanukkah**

Jewish brethren start celebrating their 8-day Festival of Lights.



Monday December 14, 2009

#### Scarboro - **Installation**

Visitors by 8:00 pm

Scarborough Masonic Temple

Thursday December 17, 2009

#### Doric - **Installation**

Visitors by 8:00 pm

Ajax Masonic Temple

Monday December 21, 2009

#### **First Day of Winter**

Winter Solstice

**BRRRRrrrrr!**



Tuesday November 10, 2009  
Brougham Union – **CPR Training**  
See below  
Claremont Masonic Temple

Friday December 25, 2009  
**Christmas Day**  
Have YOU got YOUR  
Christmas shopping  
done yet?



Have a **VERY MERRY!**

Wednesday November 11, 2009

**Remembrance Day**

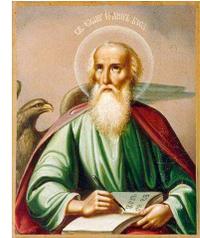
The only day of the year when we are asked to remember those who voluntarily fought, bled and died, and are still doing so, in order that we can live in luxury with the rights and privileges we have. They gave ALL they had. Take a moment.



Sunday December 27, 2009

**St. John the Evangelist Day**

One of the two holy Sts. John who were the original patron saints of Freemasonry and who are represented in much lodge symbolism.



Wednesday November 11, 2009

The Imperial East Gate - **Installation**

Visitors by 8:00 pm  
Scarborough Masonic Temple

Thursday November 12, 2009

Todmorden - **Installation**

Visitors by 8:00 pm  
East Toronto Masonic Temple

Thursday November 12, 2009

Coronati – **Annual Journey of Remembrance**

Masonic Visitors by 7:45 pm  
Friends and Family by 8:05 pm  
Journey of Remembrance followed by Speaker  
W.O. Ron Denham  
Social time follows at 9:05 pm  
Scarborough Masonic Temple

Saturday November 14, 2009

Todmorden – **Lodge of Discussion**

See notice below  
East Toronto Masonic Temple

Saturday November 14, 2009

Birch Cliff - **Ladies Night**

See notice below  
Scarborough Masonic Temple

Friday November 20, 2009

Alpha-Tuscan – **Poker Night Tournament**

See notice below  
East Toronto Masonic Temple

Friday November 27, 2009

Toronto East District - **Blood Donor Clinic**

See notice below  
St. Aidan's Anglican Church



Saturday November 28, 2009  
Doric - **Ladies Night**  
See notice below  
Four Seasons Golf and Country Club

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## AROUND AND ABOUT:

### Toronto East District Charity

*WindReach Farm* strives to enrich the lives of persons of all ages with disabilities and/or special needs by providing opportunities to enjoy experiences in farming, nature, outdoor recreation and other activities and to share those experiences with family and friends.



Contact: Todd Owens @ [678@yrp.ca](mailto:678@yrp.ca) or 416.722.0843  
Bill Utton @ 905.831.6256

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*Charity sees the need, not the cause.*  
*- German Proverb*

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### Blood Donor Clinics



Toronto East Masons are officially a Partners For Life entity with the Canadian Blood Services. Any brother in Toronto East District that may wish to assist at the clinics at St. Aidan's Anglican Church, thus getting their Lodge 'credits' for the amount of donation's made at the clinic may contact the brethren shown below.

If you wish to be a donor and can't make it to any of the indicated Blood Donor Clinics, find yourself a Clinic at the website indicated below and go and give blood. Take your family and friends. Be sure to let your lodge Blood Donor Chairman know that you have donated to get credits for your lodge.

#### Upcoming Blood Donor Clinics -

Friday November 27, 2009  
3:00 pm – 7:30 pm - Clinic Hours  
St. Aidan's Anglican Church  
70 Silver Birch Ave. (S of Queen)  
416.691.2222

Friday January 26, 2010 - tentative  
3:00 pm – 7:30 pm - Clinic Hours  
St. Aidan's Anglican Church  
70 Silver Birch Ave. (S of Queen)  
416.691.2222

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

Contact: Fred Bryant @ [etd.blooddonors@gmail.com](mailto:etd.blooddonors@gmail.com) or 416.421.6762  
Doug Gray @ [dagmortgages@rogers.com](mailto:dagmortgages@rogers.com) or 416.266.0783  
Jim McKinnon Jr. @ [jmckinnonjr@gmail.com](mailto:jmckinnonjr@gmail.com) or 905.250.0190

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## Notice!

All subscribers to **Hiram's Lighthouse** have received a message asking them to renew their subscription. A few have received as many as three such messages. Those that have failed to reply have regretfully been dropped from the subscription list. Surprisingly, the bulk of those who have left have generally been subscribers for less than two years. Most of the subscribers have been on the list for four, five or more years. Their loyalty is much appreciated.

There are currently 204 subscribers, a drop of just 8%, the lowest drop since the practice of requesting renewal of subscriptions began.

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### **Scarborough Masonic Temple Construction Delays**



As you are aware, the Scarborough Temple has to undertake some fairly substantial remodelling work to our storage lockers and fire exits in order to comply with the orders of Toronto Fire Department.

We have been in touch with the contractor to whom the work was awarded and the start date he has committed to is Monday November 9<sup>th</sup> 2009.

***WE DO NOT ADVISE LEAVING ANYTHING IN THE LOCKERS AFTER  
OCTOBER 31<sup>st</sup>, AS THERE WILL BE NO SECURE STORAGE UNTIL THE WORK  
IS COMPLETED.***

**WE APOLOGISE FOR THE INCONVENIENCE.**

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### **Thursday October 29, 2009 - Scarborough Masonic Temple Special General Meeting**

On Thursday October 29<sup>th</sup> 2009, about 100 Masons who call the Scarborough Temple home attended a Special General Meeting.

Each Lodge and Concordant body that meets at the Temple was represented at the meeting that was called to address the ongoing question of where our future lies.

Like most Masonic Temples in the Grand Jurisdiction, Scarborough Temple is suffering from declining membership revenues and increasing cost due to aging buildings and a crumbling infrastructure. At last night's meeting, the Brethren listened to a brief presentation about the past and present condition of the Temple and were given an overview of several possible scenarios for dealing with the issues before them and moving forward to the future.

Bro. Stephen Brash then moderated a question and answer session that was conducted in an atmosphere of true Masonic intercourse and harmony.



The discussion ended with a motion being duly moved and seconded, “Authorizing the Temple Board to prepare a detailed study and cost benefit analysis of the feasibility of relocating the Scarborough Temple to another location and presenting this study to another Special General Meeting within seventy five days.”

On behalf of the executive board, I offer a heartfelt ‘thank you’ to the Brethren who attended last night’s meeting for being a part of this historic moment.

Sincerely and Fraternally  
Bob Steenson, President.  
Scarborough Masonic Temple Corporation

If any Brother would like to receive a copy of the presentation please forward their email address and Lodge No. to -

[bob.steenson@ontarioair.com](mailto:bob.steenson@ontarioair.com)

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### **Now At Your Secretary’s Desk**

Some of us are going to congratulate ourselves for not rushing out and buying one already. Then there are those of us who are going to say several choice expletives. Whichever group you belong to - the new, 2009 edition of **The Work** is now available for only \$8.00. Get ‘em while they’re hot!

It looks as if the rubrics, *all that stuff in italics*, have been greatly expanded. Possibly the red book, The Mechanics of the Work, is no longer required.

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### **Masonic Licence Plates Available**

Available now through Grand Lodge office - a Maple Leaf, Square and Compasses graphic licence plate. This initial release is available directly from the Grand Lodge office.



The format of the licence plate will be available in sequential format after the graphic, e.g. from “01FM01” to “01FM99”

Price: \$120 (including shipping & handling)

[www.grandlodge.on.ca/150thAnniversary/LicencePlate.htm](http://www.grandlodge.on.ca/150thAnniversary/LicencePlate.htm)

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### **Banquet Hall Seating Protocol**

1. The W.M. sits in the centre of the Head Table.
2. The S.W. sits at the W.M.’s extreme right.
3. The J.W. should sit at the W.M.’s extreme left.
4. The guest of honour, (usually the highest-ranking Grand Lodge Officer present), sits on the W.M.’s immediate right.
5. The second highest-ranking Grand Lodge Officer sits on the W.M.’s immediate left.
6. D.D.G.M.’s and Members of the Board would be seated in the remaining seats, to the right and left as space permits.
7. Any Grand Lodge officer who is entitled to assume the gavel MUST be seated at the Head Table.
8. Anyone replying to a Toast should be seated at the Head Table, if space permits.



9. When there is a large group of visiting present Grand Lodge Officers, seat some of them at one or two RESERVED tables directly in front of the Head Table.
  10. All present Grand Lodge Officers in attendance, whether seated at the Head Table or elsewhere in the room, should be introduced.
    - Protocol and Etiquette Essentials, monthly newsletter of the P&E Committee to subscribe, contact Gordon Crutcher, Chairman @ [gordon@crutcher.ca](mailto:gordon@crutcher.ca)
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### **FREE Virus, Spyware and Malware Protection**

Are you getting tired of paying \$29 or \$39 annually so you can protect your PC? Are you hesitant to use any of the various free anti-virus packages that are out there on the Internet? Here is a product developed by the same people that created Windows and Vista. Your PC must run genuine Windows to install this software. Free to download. Free to use. Free regular updates.

[www.microsoft.com/Security\\_Essentials](http://www.microsoft.com/Security_Essentials)

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### **The Mason Who Is In Possession Of This Virtue . . .**

I had occasion to be speaking with the director of one of our social agencies. She spoke of our food banks. She commented on the changes that are taking place for the recipients of the food banks. The clients must be 'vetted' to prove that they are in genuine need. The clients are permitted one withdrawal from the food bank per month. Imagine being able to do your grocery shopping only once a month!

The reason for this is the increase in clients for the food banks. Demand has gone up at least 17% this year alone and the increase does not appear to be slowing down. The economy has forced a large number of layoffs with General Motors being only one of those. Then there are all the companies that used to supply those industries that, through no fault of their own, have been forced to close. Those who have been laid off face a very tough and uncertain future. Many of them are just like us. They have worked all their lives. They have raised their own families and owned their own homes. They have contributed to charities and supported their local schools and churches. The chances of them coming to a lodge and saying they are in financial trouble are slim to none. They are proud men. It is an embarrassment for them to be in financial difficulty. They've always looked after themselves - they will try to do the same now.

Looking at it realistically - these men are probably older. In a normal economy, they would have a hard time getting another job. Any job they might get would definitely not pay what they were getting previously. Now, the number of companies where they might seek a job has been greatly reduced.

Unfortunately, these also the people who have traditionally supported the food banks with donations. When you are out of work and wondering where your next meal is coming from, slipping something into a hamper to be given to someone else falls way down in your priorities. Donations to food banks have fallen off close to 30%. Think of it. The food bank out-go has gone up 17% while the income has gone down 30%!

These are our friends and family. These are our neighbours. These are our lodge brothers.

Next time you have the opportunity to contribute to a food bank or Salvation Army kettle, don't just walk by thinking someone else will do it; don't just give whatever you have lying around; give from your heart.



. . . you may recollect the peculiar moment . . . No matter how small the amount, it will be thankfully received and faithfully applied.

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### **Easily Convert Files from PDF to Word**

Lodge secretaries especially might find this capability useful. Converting those stubborn PDFs into an editable Word document is quick and easy with PDFtoWord, a web-based application that will convert any PDF into a surprisingly accurate Word version. Even better, there's no registration or download required. Simply select the PDF you want to convert from your computer, enter your e-mail address and in several minutes the Word document will be sent to you automatically. This is a great tool if you need to update an out-dated PDF but don't have access to the original Word file.

[www.pdfword.com](http://www.pdfword.com)

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### **Freemasons' Hall - Great Queen St., London**

Most of us will never have the opportunity to visit this headquarters of the United Grand Lodge of England. It has been a Masonic meeting place since 1775. There have been three Masonic buildings on the site, with the current incarnation being opened in 1933, built in the art deco style to the designs of architects Henry Victor Ashley and F. Winton Newman as a memorial to the 3,225 Freemasons who died on active service in World War I.



Take a short 2-minute tour of this great monument to our craft. Imagine standing and delivering a degree lecture in one of the lodge rooms. You think you've experienced pressure before!

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=olIjEnOHuNE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=olIjEnOHuNE)

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### **Harry Leroy Haywood**



A child prodigy, Harry Leroy Haywood became an accomplished minister before the age of 19. While he had some formal seminary training, he was predominantly self-educated. He became a Mason in Iowa in 1915. His first book, *Christian Mysticism and Other Essays*, appeared in 1917. During the same year, at the age of 31, he was appointed the editor of *The Builder*, which would become the nation's most popular Masonic magazine. His qualified hand led the efforts of the National Masonic Research Society for many years. His Masonic books include: *The Great Teachings of Masonry* (1921), *Symbolical Masonry* (1923), *The Newly-Made Mason* (1948), and *The Well-Springs of American Freemasonry* (1953). Unfortunately, W. Bro. Haywood's death in 1956 inaugurated a long period of neglect for serious Masonic education within the fraternity.

- Masonic Authors, Bro. Shawn Eyer

[http://academialodge.org/library\\_authors.php](http://academialodge.org/library_authors.php)

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*The people who get on in this world are the people who get up and look for the circumstances they want, and, if they can't find them, make them.*

- *George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950)*

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**Saturday November 7, 2009**

**Toronto East District – Markham Remembrance Day Service and Parade**  
Parade and wreath laying ceremony. Regalia are to be worn, including Military Decorations.

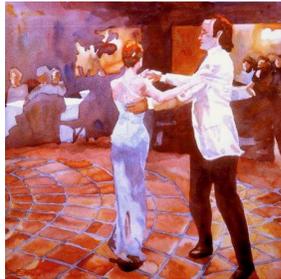


Time: 10:00 am - Service  
11:00 am - Parade and Wreath Laying Ceremony  
Location: Veterans Hall - Assembly  
7 Washington St., Markham  
Markham Cenotaph - Ceremony  
Contact: Bruce Grimbleby @ [bgrimbleby@yahoo.ca](mailto:bgrimbleby@yahoo.ca) or 905.472.8124

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**Saturday November 7, 2009**

**West Hill Lodge - Ladies Night**



Come and enjoy a great night of socializing, dining and dancing.

Time: 6:30 pm - Social  
7:30 pm - Dinner  
8:30 pm - Dancing  
Location: Sisters' Banquet Hall  
4 Old Kingston Rd. and Kingston Rd. West Hill  
Cost: \$50 ea

Contact: Walter Drane @ 416.755.3734 or  
Horst Benoit @ 416.284.0482 or  
Gerry Ouellette @ [gerry.ouellette@sympatico.ca](mailto:gerry.ouellette@sympatico.ca) or 416.412.1572

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**Sunday November 8, 2009**

**Toronto East District – Scarborough Remembrance Day Parade and Service**  
Parade and wreath laying ceremony. Regalia are to be worn, including Military Decorations. The parade precedes the service. Parking is available at 140 Borough Dr. on the west side of the Civic Centre.

Time: 12:30 pm - Parade  
2:00 pm - Wreath Laying Ceremony  
Location: Scarborough Civic Centre  
Contact: Bruce Grimbleby @ [bgrimbleby@yahoo.ca](mailto:bgrimbleby@yahoo.ca) or 905.472.8124



**R.W. Bro. Wm Reiach Award:** will be presented to the lodge with the greatest number of members that have attended both services. Please attend to honour those men and women and Masons that have given there lives so that we can enjoy the life we live today.

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**Tuesday November 10, 2009**

**Brougham Union - CPR Training**



Bro. David Neave, a paramedic with Emergency Medical Services, has graciously agreed to put on a CPR Training session. There will be a donation box for the Canadian Armed Services. Please promote this event within your family and neighbourhood.

David Neave is also offering his services to any lodge that wants to run a CPR training session. He will put it on free of charge, however, he asks that donations be taken for the night, and all funds go to the Grand Master's initiative to send Tim Horton's cards to our soldiers. Toronto EMS have had a similar project running over the last 2 years, and David can tell you the response Toronto EMS gets from the men and women in harm's way is heart warming. Some of the EMS staff have become pen pals with the troops and developed friendships as a result of a simple \$10 coffee card. David hopes every lodge in our district will take advantage of this offer.

Time: 7:00 - 9:00 pm  
Location: Claremont Masonic Temple  
Cost: donations to the Canadian Armed Forces  
Contact: David Neave @ [davidneave@rogers.com](mailto:davidneave@rogers.com) or 905.725.8032

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**Wednesday November 11, 2009**

**Royal City Daylight Lodge No. 742 (Guelph) - Remembrance Day Observance**

An Open Invitation to all Masons and their family members and guests.

M.W. Bro. Raymond S. Daniels will lead the observance of Remembrance Day in Guelph. Regalia and Decorations will be worn. We will assemble at the Guelph Masonic Centre, and then proceed at a comfortable pace to the Sleeman Sports and Entertainment Centre. We will sit together with our wives, family members and friends in a reserved seating area for the public Memorial Service. Following the Service, those who are able will form up on Woolwich St. at the back of the marching units for the parade past the Cenotaph. We will dismiss from St. George's Square and will return to the Guelph Masonic Centre for a very brief address and light lunch.

Time: 9:15 am – Assembly  
Guelph Masonic Centre, 21 Chapel Lane, Guelph  
10:15 am – Remembrance Day Service  
Sleeman Sports and Entertainment Centre  
followed by the Parade to St. George's Square  
Location: Guelph Masonic Centre  
21 Chapel Lane, Guelph

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### Saturday November 14, 2009

#### **Todmorden Lodge – Lodge of Discussion**

It's too soon for Christmas Shopping, so come out Brethren, and "Let's Talk Masonry"!! Past sessions have been lively, entertaining and thought-provoking. Any brother from any lodge can attend, not just those meeting at Chisholm Ave. . . . the more the merrier. (You will recognize the gentleman top and centre as Bruce.)



Time: 8:30 am - Coffee and no-cal Sticky Buns  
9:00 - 10:30/11:00 am - Discussion  
Location: East Toronto Masonic Temple  
Cost: Donations to cover refreshments with remainder to a local charity  
Contact: Bruce Palanik @ [thepalanikgroup@rogers.com](mailto:thepalanikgroup@rogers.com) or 905.839.7342

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### Saturday November 14, 2009

#### **Birch Cliff Lodge - Ladies Night**



Come and enjoy a great night of socializing, dining and dancing.

Time: 6:30 pm - Social  
7:30 pm - Dinner  
8:30 pm - Dancing  
Location: Scarborough Masonic Temple  
Cost: \$50 ea  
Contact: Errol Chin @ 416.778.0369

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### Tuesday November 17, 2009

#### **Downtown Masonic Luncheon - Masons talking Masonry**

Held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month. Please **RSVP** to give an idea of the number of meals. Preferred Dress Code - **Jacket and Tie**.

Topic: Signs And Symbols - What Lies Beneath the Surface  
Speaker: Neil Sinclair  
Time: 12:00 Noon to 1:00 pm  
Location: Royal Canadian Military Institute  
426 University Ave., Toronto (St. Patrick - University & Dundas subway station)  
Cost: \$25 (soup, sandwich, dessert, coffee/tea/soft drink)  
Contact: Pat Piccione @ [pat\\_piccione@hotmail.com](mailto:pat_piccione@hotmail.com) or 905.846.3586

**CHANGE IS ON THE WAY!** As many of you may be aware, the RCMI, which has been the home of the Downtown Masonic Luncheon for a number of years now, will be shutting its doors for an undisclosed length of time as a result of a significant construction project that they are undertaking. We have chosen to use this opportunity for us to revisit the venue, format and future of the Downtown Masonic Luncheon that has been a popular gathering of brethren in the GTA for many years. I am very happy to announce that we are **in the final stages of securing a new location for the monthly luncheon in an exciting and historic venue on the University of Toronto campus.** This change will be effective as of **Tuesday January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010.**



We believe that the changes that we are embarking upon mark a momentous step forward for the luncheon and will significantly add to the overall experience and quality of the monthly event, ensuring that it will continue to be a destination for like-minded individuals for many years to come.

A formal announcement regarding the future of the Downtown Masonic Luncheon will be made at the RCMI on November 17<sup>th</sup>; we hope you can attend in person so that any question that you may have can be answered at that time. We are confident that the exciting changes to be announced will be well received by the brethren whose commitment to the Downtown Masonic Luncheon have made it such a success for these many years. - Pat

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

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### **Friday November 20, 2009**

#### **Alpha-Tuscan – Poker Night Tournament**

Alpha-Tuscan will be hosting another Poker Tournament to which all of Toronto East District, their family and friends are invited. Come and join your friends, both old and new, for an enjoyable evening of cards, camaraderie, and loads of prizes. Please **RSVP** as soon as possible.



Time: 7:30 pm  
Location: East Toronto Masonic Temple  
Cost: \$60 ea – Tournament Fee and Dinner  
Contact: Paul Hatsisavvas @ [hats@rogers.com](mailto:hats@rogers.com)

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### **Thoughts on Anti-Masonic Rhetoric**

Past slandering and libelling of Freemasonry eventually led to shocking persecution in Nazi Germany, Italy, in the 1940's Baltic States and the now defunct Soviet Union and its puppets. It can happen again if our detractors get public opinion on their side.

In Britain, Jack Straw's<sup>1</sup> attempts at suppressing the Order caused concern. So also did the much-publicised launch by the St. Pancras<sup>2</sup> Council of an independent enquiry to investigate corrupt practices among Council officials who were Masons. Several other Councils then announced they planned to do the same. The St. Pancras Council report showed no Masonic naughty deeds but many among other councillors. For some reason, plans of other Councils faded away.

Wales more recently tried to demand registration of Masons in political, police and judicial positions but was stymied by the European Union.

In Australia, the Sydney Diocese of the Anglican Church of Australia launched major attacks but did not start those until they had accepted substantial donations towards their new cathedral from Masonic sources. Freemasons in Australia are being banned from many Houses of God. Christians are being persecuted by their own church.

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<sup>1</sup> A British Labour politician, who has been the Member of Parliament for Blackburn since 1979.

<sup>2</sup> A fairly large city in the United Kingdom.



Some years ago in Brisbane (Aus.), journalists from the local newspaper invaded Masonic premises then devoted an issue in the paper to several lying articles. The major accusation seemed to be deals made at Masonic meetings where, as you know full well, we are too busy in the quarries to do such things.

Why do our targetters not also look at Golf Clubs and exclusive Gentlemen's Clubs where intrigues and deals are commonplace?

- Tom McRea  
Philalethes Email Forum<sup>1</sup>

*(ED: Several African nations are currently coming down hard on Freemasonry and Masons are openly discriminated against. Recently, the Pope once again took a swipe at the Craft. Because Freemasonry is so open and permitted in Canada and the U.S. should not make us forgetful that authorities in many parts of the world are openly hostile to the Fraternity and are making every effort to eradicate it. Several recent, very popular books have denigrated the Craft. We should never forget that The Big Lie has worked many times and in many places in the past and will do so again in the future. Who is to say it cannot happen here? These many slanders are not inconsequential.)*

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### **Saturday November 21, 2009**

#### **The Heritage Lodge - Installation**

For the purpose of Installing and Investing the Officers of the Lodge. There is a rumour that one Kenneth D. Fralick could be installed as Worshipful Master. Louie Lombardi elected Senior Warden and Charles Reid as Junior Warden. The Installing Master will be V.W. Bro. Samuel Forsythe. Please **RSVP** to provide a count for lunch.

Time: 11:30 am - Lunch ←  
1:30 pm - Lodge opens  
Location: Scarborough Masonic Temple  
Cost: \$15 ea - Lunch  
Contact: Ken Campbell @ [heritagelod730@xplornet.com](mailto:heritagelod730@xplornet.com)

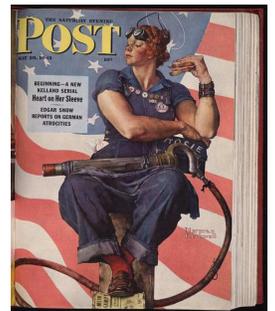
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### **Saturday November 21, 2009**

#### **International Order of the Rainbow for Girls - Celebrate the History of World War II**

All are invited to enjoy a themed luncheon to celebrate the times and the veterans of World War II. There will be a silent auction following the luncheon. Please **RSVP** to provide a count for lunch.

Time: 11:30 am – 2:30 pm  
Location: St. Paul's United Church  
200 McIntosh St., Scarborough  
Cost: \$5 ea  
Contact: Jane Ball @ [baljan@rogers.com](mailto:baljan@rogers.com) or 416.267.0364



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<sup>1</sup> <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/philalethes/>



**Saturday November 28, 2009**

**Doric Lodge - Ladies Night**



Treat your girl to an evening of great people, fine food and dancing in a beautiful Christmas setting.

Time: 6:00 pm - Social  
7:15 pm - Dinner  
8:30 pm - Dancing  
Location: Four Seasons Golf and Country Club  
Cost: \$50 ea

Contact: Mark Sale @ [marksale@sympatico.ca](mailto:marksale@sympatico.ca) or 905.619.9773

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*He who rightly knows that all things follow from the necessity of the divine nature, and happen according to the eternal laws and rules of Nature, will surely find nothing worthy of hate, mockery, or disdain, or anyone whom he will pity. Instead he will strive, as far as human virtue allows, to act well, as they say, and rejoice.*

*- Baruch Benedict de Spinoza (1632-1677), Ethics*

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**Monday December 7, 2009**

**International Order of the Rainbow for Girls - Annual Christmas Dinner and Family Festive Night**

There will be a luscious Christmas dinner followed by a raffle, a 50/50 draw, Carolling and Entertainment. Come and celebrate the season and support one of our Masonic youth groups. Please **RSVP** by November 23<sup>rd</sup>. NOTE – there will be NO TICKETS available at the door.



Time: 7:00 pm  
Location: Scarborough Masonic Temple  
Cost: \$15 – Adults  
\$8 – Ages 6 to 12  
\$0 – under 6

Contact: Jane Ball @ [baljan@rogers.com](mailto:baljan@rogers.com) or 416.267.0364

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**Tuesday December 15, 2009**

**Downtown Masonic Luncheon - Masons talking Masonry**

Held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month. Please **RSVP** to give an idea of the number of meals. Preferred Dress Code - **Jacket and Tie.**

Topic: tba  
Speaker: tba  
Time: 12:00 Noon to 1:00 pm  
Location: Royal Canadian Military Institute  
426 University Ave., Toronto (St. Patrick - University & Dundas subway station)  
Cost: \$25 (soup, sandwich, dessert, coffee/tea/soft drink)  
Contact: Pat Piccione @ [pat\\_piccione@hotmail.com](mailto:pat_piccione@hotmail.com) or 905.846.3586

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

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## **OTHER RITUAL:**

As Freemasonry is spread over the four divisions of the globe, it should not come as any surprise that Masons do things in a different way in different places. For the most part, the ritual varies, sometimes a little; sometimes so much so that it is almost unrecognizable. But the message is always the same.

### **The Morality and Chain**

In some rituals, during the Initiation, there is a lecture in which all the members of the lodge form a chain in the form of a circle, a chain of brotherhood. Sometimes there is only one form of chain; often there are two. The usual chain is formed by the brethren crossing their arms over their bodies in the form of an 'X' and taking the hands of their neighbours, left hand to right. This is called a double chain. The other chain is simply taking the hands of the brethren on either side.

There is a short lecture accompanying the formation of this chain. Once again, the words of this lecture vary depending on where it is done and who is doing it. I present for your enlightenment, one of those lectures.

\*\*\*\*\*

Brethren. Freemasonry seeks the individual improvement of each of its members; but also seeks to raise him to that higher and loftier ideal of true manhood - the spending of self for the benefit of others.

Consequently it affords to its initiates the various opportunities of helping their fellow men; impressing upon them that in the eyes of God, all men are equally his children, all subject to the same wise laws, all equally responsible for the faithful discharge of their daily duties, all fellow pilgrims to the great beyond.

The consciousness that he has performed his duty - the knowledge that he has shed some light on the pathway of others, that he assisted the poor, the fatherless and the widow, championed the cause of the weak and oppressed, cared for the sick, buried the dead, and made glad the heart of the stranger - these are the lofty aims of Freemasons and Freemasonry.

The Brethren will now form a single chain. - Brethren. In this position, that of a single chain, we represent the world - each for himself.

Let us now form a double chain, right over left. - Brethren. In this position, that of a double chain, we represent Freemasons and Freemasonry. - Each for the other.

Brother *Initiate*, in the course of the recent ceremony you were informed of the universality of Freemasonry, with its branches spread over the four quarters of the globe.

Figuratively it represents the continuous chain spread over the whole of the earth's surface, each link of which is dependent on the other and the whole of which has the same strength as that of the weakest link.

You will see to it my Brother, that the link forged tonight, in the person of yourself, proves not a source of weakness to the chain, but that, in the beautiful words of our ritual, it may prove perfect in its parts and honourable to its builder.

On the strength of each link of the chain dependeth the might of the chain. Who knows when thou mayest be tested.



So live that thou barest the strain.

Then join hand in hand,  
T'each other firm stand  
Let's be merry, and put a bright face on;  
What mortal can boast  
So noble a toast  
As a Free and Accepted Mason?

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## **BOOK REVIEW:**

### **The Lost Symbol**

**Author:** Dan Brown  
**ISBN:** 0385504225  
**Publisher:** Doubleday  
**Published:** 2009

*Another take on The Lost Symbol.*

### **Capital Secrets**

By MAUREEN DOWD  
Published: September 30, 2009

The new Dan Brown puzzler is the scariest one yet.

It's not so much the barbarous machinations of the villain, another one-dimensional, self-mortifying hulk, that sends chills down your spine. Or the plot, which is an Oedipal MacGuffin.

No, the terrifying thing about "The Lost Symbol" is that Brown - who did not flinch when the Vatican both condemned the "The Da Vinci Code" and curtailed the filming of "Angels & Demons" in Rome - clearly got spooked by that other powerful, secretive ancient sect, the Masons.

His book is a desperate attempt to ingratiate himself with the Masons, rather than to interpret the bizarre Masonic rites and symbols that illuminate - as in Illuminati! - how the ultimate elite private boys' club has conspired to shape the nation's capital and Western civilization ever since George Washington laid the cornerstone for the Capitol building in a Masonic ritual wearing full Masonic regalia, including a darling little fringed satin apron. If the Masons are more intimidating than the Vatican, if Brown has now become part of their semiotic smoke screen, then all I can say is, God help us all.

Or as Brown, who is more addicted to italics than that other breathless Brown, Cosmo Girl Helen Gurley, might put it: *What the hell?*

Of course, who can blame him? How can you not be frightened by a brotherhood that includes Mel Blanc, *the voice of Bugs Bunny*; Buzz Aldrin; and Dave Thomas, *the founder of Wendy's*?

During the five years he researched this book, did Brown begin to believe those sensational stories about how, if you expose the secrets of the Masons, *they will slit your throat*? Did he discover that the Masons are not merely a bunch of old guys dressed up in funny costumes enjoying a harmless night away from the wives? Could they really be, as a recent Discovery Channel documentary on the ancient order wondered, "Godless conspirators bound to a death pledge who infiltrate institutions and run the world"?

Did Brown decipher the cryptic documents locked in a safe at the C.I.A. - *founded by another Mason, Harry Truman!* - and figure out that some of those wild tales were true? That Jack the Ripper was a Mason whose identity was covered up by the Masonic police commissioner? That Salieri and others murdered Mozart after the young Masonic composer revealed some of the order's secret symbols in "The Magic Flute"?



I was really looking forward to Brown's excavation of Washington's mystical power, ancient portals, secret passageways and shadow worlds. As a native, I've loved the monuments here since I was little. I've often driven past the Scottish Rite Masonic temple with its two sphinxes on 16<sup>th</sup> Street. And my first memory as a little girl was picking up my dad from work at night from the brightly lighted Capitol. I was eager to learn occult lore about our venerable marble temples and access *the lost wisdom of the ages*.

So I happily curled up with Robert Langdon, the author's anodyne, tweedy doppelganger, and suppressed my annoyance that the Harvard symbologist was still wearing his Mickey Mouse watch, hand-grinding his Sumatra coffee beans and refusing to entangle with the latest brainy babe who materializes to help untangle ancient secrets.

This book's looker, Katherine Solomon, is a lithe, gray-eyed expert in Noetic science, the study of "the untapped potential of the human mind." Brown must also want to explore the untapped potential of the human body, since he has made his heroine 50 years old, something that no doubt caused the Hollywood studio suits to spritz their Zico coconut water. Katherine, a few years older than Langdon, may be a tribute to Brown's wife and amanuensis, Blythe, who is 12 years older and helped him write "187 Men to Avoid: A Survival Guide for the Romantically Frustrated Woman."

Emotions are the one thing Dan Brown can't seem to decipher. His sex scenes are encrypted. Even though Katherine seems like Langdon's soul mate - she even knows how to *weigh* souls - their most torrid sex scenes consist of Robert winking at her or flashing her a lopsided grin.

Brown's novels are obviously inspired by Indiana Jones and "Raiders of the Lost Ark." But he can only emulate the galloping narrative drive and the fascination with mythological archetypes, pyramids, Holy Grails, treasure maps and secret codes; he can't summon the sexy, playful side of the Spielberg-Lucas legacy.

His metaphors and similes thud onto the page. Inoue Sato, an intelligence official investigating a disembodied hand bearing a Masonic ring and iconic tattoos that shows up in the Capitol Rotunda, "cruised the deep waters of the C.I.A. like a leviathan who surfaced only to devour its prey." Insights don't simply come to characters: "Then, like an oncoming truck, it hit her," or "The revelation crashed over Langdon like a wave." And just when our hero thinks it's safe to go back in the water, another bad metaphor washes over him: "His head ached now, a roiling torrent of interconnected thoughts."

You can practically hear the eerie organ music playing whenever Mal'akh, the clichéd villain whose eyes shine "with feral ferocity," appears. He goes from sounding like a parody of a Bond bad guy ("You are a very small cog in a vast machine," he tells Langdon) to a parody of Woody Allen ("*The body craves what the body craves*," he thinks).

But Brown tops himself with these descriptions: "Wearing only a silken loincloth wrapped around his buttocks and neutered sex organ, Mal'akh began his preparations," and "Hanging beneath the archway, his massive sex organ bore the tattooed symbols of his destiny. In another life, this heavy shaft of flesh had been his source of carnal pleasure. But no longer."

Brown has always written screenplays masquerading as novels, but now he's also casting. Warren Bellamy, the Masonic architect of the Capitol, is described as an elderly African-American man with close-cropped, graying hair who enunciates his words with crisp precision: "Bellamy was lithe and slender, with an erect posture and piercing gaze that exuded the confidence of a man in full control of his surroundings." *Morgan Freeman, call Ron Howard.*



The Bellamy character provides another opportunity for Brown to burnish the Masons, as when the architect tells Langdon: “The craft of Freemasonry has given me a deep respect for that which transcends human understanding. I’ve learned *never* to close my mind to an idea simply because it seems miraculous.”

The author has gotten rich and famous without attaining a speck of subtlety. A character never just stumbles into blackness. It must be *inky* blackness. A character never just listens in shock. He listens in *utter* shock.

And consider this fraught interior monologue by the head of the Capitol Police: “Chief Anderson wondered when this night would end. *A severed hand in my Rotunda? A death shrine in my basement? Bizarre engravings on a stone pyramid?* Somehow, the Redskins game no longer felt significant.”

My dad always said in his day that the Masons were not welcoming to Catholics. The Catholic Church once considered the Masons so anti-Catholic, Catholics who joined were threatened with excommunication. Now the church hierarchy merely disapproves. (They like secret rites, blood rituals and the exclusion of women only when they do it.) But Langdon suggests to his Harvard students that the Masons are “refreshingly open-minded” and do not “discriminate in any way.” To a student protesting that Masonry sounds like a “freaky cult,” Langdon counters that it’s “a system of morality.” He notes, “The Masons are not a secret society . . . they are a society with secrets.”

He debunks stories of the founding fathers’ supposedly building a Satanic pentacle and the Masonic compass and square into the capital’s street design, scoffing, “If you draw enough intersecting lines on a map, you’re bound to find all kinds of shapes.”

The Masons are represented in the dazzling person of Peter Solomon, Katherine’s older brother, a handsome, wealthy historian and philanthropist who runs the Smithsonian Institution and inspired the young Langdon’s interest in symbols.

In interviews, Brown has said he was tempted to join the Masons, calling their philosophy a “beautiful blueprint for human spirituality.” In the next opus, Langdon will probably be wearing a red Shriner’s fez with his Burberry turtleneck and Harris Tweed.

In this book, Langdon helps stop the villain from releasing a video to YouTube that he has surreptitiously taped during his Masonic initiation rites. The blindfolded initiate drinks blood-red wine out of a human skull and has a dagger pressed to his bare chest; he has to take part in an enactment of his own brutal murder - “there were simulated blows to his head, including one with a Mason’s stone maul” - and hear a biblical reference to human sacrifice, “the submission of Abraham to the Supreme Being by proffering Isaac, his firstborn son.” These are meant partly as warnings about what can befall anyone who leaks the order’s secrets - warnings Dan Brown clearly took to heart.

“Langdon could already tell that the video was an unfair piece of propaganda,” Brown writes, adding that the symbologist thought to himself, “*the truth will be twisted . . . as it always is with the Masons.*” Brown skitters away from giving us the book we expected: one that might have clued us in on which present-day politicians are still Masons and what mumbo jumbo they’re up to.

That job was left to Eamon Javers of Politico, who uncovered a list of Freemasons in Congress that reads like a vast right-wing conspiracy. Joe “You lie!” Wilson is a member of the Sinclair Lodge of West Columbia, S.C. Representative Eric Cantor of Virginia, the House minority whip, who’s trying to suffocate President Obama’s health care plan, is a member of a Richmond lodge his dad and uncle



belonged to. Senator Charles E. Grassley of Iowa, who chimed in against “death panels,” urged Javers: “Don’t judge us by the funny hats we wear.”

Even more ominously, President Obama suddenly left the White House on a recent night and went to the Washington Monument, the obelisk that figures in Brown’s climactic scene, and stayed inside for 20 minutes. If you add the 13 minutes it probably took to walk to the limo and drive back to the White House and return to his residence, you reach *the magic Masonic number of 33!*

In the end, as with “The Da Vinci Code,” there’s no payoff. Brown should stop worrying about unfinished pyramids and worry about unfinished novels. At least Spielberg and Lucas gave us an Ark and swirling, dissolving humans. We don’t get any ancient wisdom that “will profoundly change the world as you know it” - just a lot of New Agey piffle about how *we are the gods we’ve been waiting for*. (And a father-son struggle for global domination, as though we didn’t get enough of that with the Bushes.)

*What the hell, Dan?!*

*Maureen Dowd is an Op-Ed columnist for The Times.*

[www.nytimes.com/2009/10/11/books/review/Dowd-t.html?\\_r=2&nl=books&emc=booksupdateema1](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/11/books/review/Dowd-t.html?_r=2&nl=books&emc=booksupdateema1)

Dan Brown was asked to address the Scottish Rite-Southern Jurisdiction’s annual gathering in Washington DC recently, but because of his schedule, could not be there. You might be interested in his written reply. It reads, in part: -

In the past few weeks, as you might imagine, I have been repeatedly asked what attracted me to the Masons so strongly as to make it a central point of my book. My reply is always the same: “In a world where men do battle over whose definition of God is most accurate, I cannot adequately express the deep respect and admiration I feel toward an organization in which men of differing faiths are able to ‘break bread together’ in a bond of brotherhood, friendship, and camaraderie.”

Please accept my humble thanks for the noble example you set for humankind. It is my sincere hope that the Masonic community recognizes *The Lost Symbol* for what it truly is . . . an earnest attempt to reverentially explore the history and beauty of Masonic Philosophy.

Yours sincerely,  
Dan Brown

Chapters lists a paperback edition of *The Lost Symbol* for \$22.17 CDA. Amazon lists a hardbound edition for \$18.48 CDA. Wal-Mart probably has it cheaper. Some have suggested it would be better to wait until you can get it somewhere for free.



## ... by the Lighthouse Beam

### What We Do To Teach Good Men To Be Better Men



... or, how does Masonry take good men and make them better?

When a man joins Freemasonry, he has no concept of what is about to take place nor any real idea what the organization is about.

How do men become better men? I shall try to answer that with the following random thoughts:

The obligations that are taken in the three degrees instil in us a feeling whereby one would not want to violate his oath.

Fraternizing with other like-minded brethren keeps us on the straight and narrow.

Attending Lodge meetings regularly, learning memory work, planning meetings, sitting on the executive, taking part in the chairs, obligates us to our responsibilities towards the craft in such a way that we have little time for idle thoughts or deeds.

The example set by the brethren that we meet and trying to live up to the expectations of these brethren behoves us to try our best. We do not want to let them down.

Through repetition of the ritual and understanding of the work we, just as in reading the Holy Volume, become more aware of what it is to be a Mason and how one should act as Masons.

Our constitution gives us a pattern for living with our neighbours, our lodge members, our families, our God, and a guide to our behaviour within and without the lodge and our civic responsibilities.

- We are taught to cultivate brotherly Love.
- We are taught that all men are equal.
- We believe in the immortality of the soul.

If one takes to heart and into practice all that one learns both in the Ritual and in the Constitution, then I feel that gradually one cannot help but become a better person.

When you type in “making good men better” in the Google internet search engine, 9 out of the first 10 hits take you to either an article about Freemasonry or to a Masonic Lodge. The same holds true for the Yahoo search engine.

One of the hits is a video on YouTube. It’s a black background with a greyish-white set of a square, compass and the letter ‘G’. A Gregorian plainsong is quietly sung in the background.



One word appears on the screen then fades to present the next word and then the next, and the next . . . and for the next 92 seconds, 19 words are presented.

What are some of the words?

***HONOUR,  
LOYALTY,  
FRIENDSHIP,  
RESPECT,  
VALUE,  
FRATERNITY,  
EXEMPLARY,  
ENLIGHTENMENT,  
TRUTH,  
CHARITY,  
FAMILY,  
KNOWLEDGE,  
TRADITION.***

Brethren, these are some of the words that appear, and are connected to the term “making good men better”.

The phrase “making good men better” has long been associated with our gentle craft. But what is a better man? That, my Brethren, is what Freemasonry attempts to answer and nurture. One who merely passes through the degrees receives little, and will never be a Mason in the truest sense of the word. He must first put something of himself into it, by working at it, studying it, learning its lessons and then put them into practice in his everyday life and actions. He will then begin to receive that for which he began to search as an Entered Apprentice Mason.

By giving of himself, his time, his ability without any kind of fee or reward, a Mason gains many things whether he accepts an office or just works in the lodge.

- He learns how to speak in public.
- He learns how to conduct a meeting.
- He learns how to interact and get along with others.
- He learns reverence for the Great creator.
- He learns how to pray.
- He learns how to walk uprightly and proudly as a Mason.
- He gains a better understanding of human nature, its weaknesses and its strengths under different conditions.
- He makes lifelong friends.
- He shares in the happiness and sorrows of others.
- He improves his habits, and learns courtesy.
- He practices tolerance with a smile.
- He takes part in teaching others the Masonic way of life and in doing so he has learned more than those he has taught.



Hundreds of lessons have come his way and his life is made richer, better, happier and more satisfying in every way. By upholding the basic tenet of Freemasonry, “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you,” he has learned that it is more blessed to give than to receive.

As you know brethren this is how “Masonry Makes a Difference” in a man’s life and how he becomes a better man and the effect shows in our homes, our lodges and in our communities.

A few weeks ago a Master Mason proposed the toast to the Grand Master and Grand Lodge at one of our major receptions. He so wanted to become a Mason that he literally had to stop someone in his car who had a Masonic emblem and that then led to him becoming a Mason. On the night he received his third degree, after the ceremony, he pulled out a crumpled piece of paper with the following poem that he had scribbled on it.

### **Being a Mason**

I approached a man one day  
Whom I had never met before  
To ask if I can be a Mason  
From there, it’s opened doors.

A door that’s opened many facets  
That’s helped me through and through  
It’s shown me how much I can be  
And how much that I can do.

Being a friend, a helper,  
Or even a volunteer.  
The potentials here are endless  
It just depends on where you steer.

If you steer towards pursuit  
And involve yourself in more  
There’s no telling what will lie ahead  
And furthermore, what’s in store.

The pride I have inside a Lodge  
Holds true when I’m outside  
With the rules that govern this beautiful craft  
Forever I will abide.

From Apprentice, to Fellowcraft,  
To what I am today.  
It’s made me stronger as a man.  
What more can I say.

In my brief time as a Mason  
I feel there are no others;  
Knowing how many friends I’ve made  
How many life long Brothers.

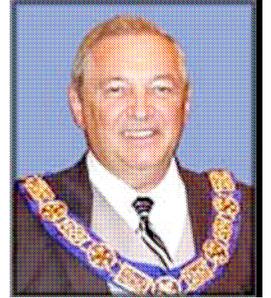


Many Brethren have helped me through  
There's so many Brethren to thank  
Without their guidance and support  
My ship would have sank.  
- Nick Andras

Brethren, in conclusion, it is not the Masons who make the man better, but the man himself when subjected to Masonry's teachings. Thank you.

(Much of the above thought has been acquired over many years and from many great Masonic writers whose efforts are gratefully acknowledged by the Grand Master.)

Author: Allan J. Petrisor  
as presented at the  
Conference of Grand and District Grand Lodges of Canada  
Winnipeg, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009



## 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 20 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 W. Masters to inform their members of the existence of the newsletter and how to subscribe to it.

Anyone wishing to get on the subscription list, please send a message to [tsmartin@rogers.com](mailto:tsmartin@rogers.com) including your full name, with a subject of Newsletter.

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

To get a notice into the newsletter at least one month before the event, send us a message to [tsmartin@rogers.com](mailto:tsmartin@rogers.com) with all the information and we'll run it every month until the function is past. **Please! Please! Please** make sure you have G.L. dispensation before asking for a notice to be inserted.

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

FYI - there are currently 204 names and growing on the **Hiram's Lighthouse** subscription list.

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