

MASONRY *in* MANITOBA

AUTUMN EDITION
2012



Obelisk of Thutmose I at Karnak

The Junior Warden's lecture begins with a tremendously important clue: "The usages and customs of Freemasonry have ever corresponded with those of the Egyptian philosophers, to which they bear a near affinity." Our cover will encourage us to investigate that ancient civilization and learn something of their customs which have been carefully integrated into so much of our culture. There are two symbols which are readily identifiable with ancient Egypt, that is the pyramid and the sphinx however there is another, the obelisk which while less well known is a purely Egyptian symbol. The one displayed on our cover was erected by Tuthmosis I who ruled from 1524-1518 BCE. His was the first tomb constructed in the Valley of the Kings. Over the ages many obelisks have been transported from Egypt to sites around the world. Today, Egyptian obelisks stand in Rome, Paris, London and New York. The last one was erected at a ceremony in Central Park on June 22, 1881 with 9,000 Freemasons in attendance. They follow certain fairly definite construction practices in that their height is ten times their baseline and they are tapered at a rate of a quarter of an inch per foot. The angle of the sloping part or pyramidion at the top is generally 73°. Some were engraved with hieroglyphs and others were left plain. They were formed in one piece from a particular Azwan quarry which featured pink granite and transported by barge to their intended position, where they traditionally stood in pairs at the entrance to a temple. The pillars at the porchway or entrance of King Solomon's temple would have been modelled after this Egyptian practice. Erecting them at the site is a tremendous engineering feat, rivalling the construction of the pyramids. It is interesting to note that Templum Sion Lodge of Freemasons No. 186 use authentic Egyptian obelisks as their Warden's columns.

Towering an impressive five hundred and fifty-five feet, five inches high over Washington DC, the Washington Monument is the tallest freestanding masonry-built structure in the world and also the world's tallest obelisk. It is prominently featured in Dan Brown's most recent best seller, *The Lost Symbol*, in which it was ultimately revealed that the symbol was concealed beneath this magnificent structure. As the original obelisk had a trowel and a plumb bob at its base, the obelisk was adopted by the Masons who recognized the connection to the Craft. Accordingly, numerology would figure prominently in the construction of the Washington Monument when the measurements are converted to inches. Now the height can be rounded off to 6666 inches. The height of the pyramidion is 660 inches making the slope 66 degrees 6 seconds, both of which reveal the hidden number of 666. Many people associate this number with the beast from the Book of Revelations however during the Hermetic revival of the Renaissance this number was identified with the life-giving power of the sun. In ancient times there were 36 constellations and the sum of the numbers 1 through 36 is 666. These numbers can be organized within a magic square which could then be worn to harness the sun's virtuous properties. The cornerstone laying ceremony was presided over by the Grand Master of the District of Columbia in a

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Masonic Memorial Centre, 420 Corydon Ave.,
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3L 0N8
Phone: (204) 453-7410
Fax: (204) 284-3527
Toll Free: (800) 665-2712
E-mail: glsec@grandlodge.mb.ca
Website: www.glmb.ca

Publication & Editorial Committee

Ex Officio..... M.W. Bro. Allan Hadley
Editor..... M.W. Bro. Don W. Beattie
Reporter..... W. Bro. Gervin Greasley
Cover Design & Layout Bro. Chris Pleasants
Photographers Various Photographers

We welcome articles dealing with significant Lodge and personal events. Photos may be printed depending on quality and space available. Please direct submissions to the editor at:

mim@assiniboinelodge7.com

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ceremony held on June 4th, 1848. He wore the apron and sash that Bro. George Washington had worn when he laid the cornerstone of the Capitol Building. The actual cornerstone laying was performed by Bro. James Polk, the 11th American president. Construction was interrupted by the civil war. The aluminum capstone was placed and dedicated with another Masonic ceremony on December 6, 1884. A replica of the capstone is displayed in the visitor centre and was recently rotated so that the East face with its inscription "Laus Deo" (praise be to God) is now visible. ✨

It is good for us to occasionally step back from the busy rush of life and observe nature. When we do this we will notice that the days are slowly shortening, the evenings are cooling off and the mornings are practically chilly, especially when compared to the oppressive heat we have either enjoyed or endured depending upon our circumstances.



The labours of summer are almost over and harvest is underway. Too soon we will feel the icy blast of winter but we can with certainty look forward to the resurrection of life with the return of spring. There is a wonderful certainty about nature and we seem oblivious to the way that we are destroying our fragile little home.

In our Masonic life we are experiencing a new beginning with the installation of a new Grand Master and soon the Lodges will be returning to labour after our summer recess. We will be celebrating a new beginning in this issue. Our cryptic message is somewhat similar to the opening line of Genesis, one that each of us has heard as we knelt at the Altar during our initiation. This line is translated directly as it is recorded in the early Jewish text called the Zohar, or Splendor, which became the central text of the Kabbalah, a centuries, or even millennia old mystical system with its roots in Jewish tradition.

Our cover shows one of the two obelisks which Tuthmosis I who ruled from 1524 to 1518 BC, which are located at the entrance to his temple at Karnak, praising their god Amun. His name means "Toth is born", Toth being the ibis headed god of writing. He was a military man and extended the Egyptian kingdom south to the fourth cataract. He was the first king to be buried in what would become known as the Valley of the Kings. A daughter, Hatshepsut would claim divine birth and would rule as a regent for Tuthmosis III however after her death he would carefully chisel away all records of her reign. He would be succeeded by Amenhotep (Amun is pleased) who greatly enlarged the religious capitol at Luxor where he dedicated the temple to Amun. He also took another name, the "Dazzling Sun Disk of all Lands" indicating the increasing importance of the sun disk, a sign of things to come. Later he established his palace at Thebes although normally the pharaoh would live at the administrative capitol of Memphis.

His successor would drastically alter the customs of Egyptian society. They had honoured the same gods for at least two millennia but Amenhotep would change his name to Akhenaten and institute monotheism for the first time in

the history of the world. His name translates to "There is no god but Aten". He would move his headquarters from Thebes and set up a Holy City in the desert. Akhenaten was a religious leader and a mystic. While in many ways Egypt floundered during his reign, the art produced during his time remains unsurpassed in quality. His heir and greatest legacy was the famous King Tutankhamen (Tut) who tried to follow in his father's footsteps but was probably murdered as the priests and military attempted to restore the status quo.

The next Dynasty, the XIXth begins with Rames who is thought to have been the Pharaoh of the Exodus although that event is difficult to pinpoint in Egyptian history. Nevertheless, the concept of monotheism had been introduced and through Moses the Creator made His name known to mankind and would become the basis of three of the world's greatest religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. ∴

Friends of Masonry in Manitoba

These brethren and organizations have committed to the future of this publication. Thank you!

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Assiniboine Masonic District
Russell Lodge No. 62

M.W. Bro Allan John Leslie Hadley was born in Winnipeg on May 23, 1946. His employment with Manitoba Hydro began immediately following his graduation from Glenlawn Collegiate Institute in 1965. During his 37 years with Manitoba Hydro he earned certificates in Administrative Management, Records and Information Management and Office Computer Operations from the University of Winnipeg. In retirement he has turned his love for the game of golf and his skills as a club maker into a secondary career as a golf club technician.

In 1970 he married Carol Agerbak. Together they raised two sons and are the proud grandparents of Connor, who was born in 2011.

Bro. Hadley was initiated into Red River Lodge No. 172 in 1971 and served as their Worshipful Master in 1982. He played a prominent role in the formation of Corinthian Lodge No. 178 serving as their first Worshipful Master. He was District Deputy Grand Master of the Thirteenth Masonic District in 1990–91 and was appointed to the Board of General Purposes Library and Archives Committee for 1992–94. He was elected as Junior Grand Warden in 2009, beginning his journey to the Grand East.

He joined St. John's Chapter No. 14, Royal Arch Masons in 1973 and was their First Principal in 1978. In 1983 he was anointed and consecrated into the Order of the High Priesthood.

The next year he joined King Edward Preceptory, Knights Templar and also Khartum Temple of the Shrine where he was an active member of the Pipes and Drums.

In 2004 he joined the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry and served as the Thrice Puissant Grand Master for the Winnipeg Lodge of Perfection in 2009. He is presently 1st Lieutenant General of the Manitoba Sovereign Consistory.

Bro. Hadley was accepted into the Royal Order of Scotland in 2006 and is currently serving as Provincial Grand Guard of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Manitoba.

Just last year he became a member of Cyrus Council No. 2, Cryptic Rite Masons, Winnipeg Conclave No. 4 of the Secret Monitor and Keystone Council No. 172 Allied Masonic Degrees.

He and Carol are members of the Order of the Eastern Star where he served as Worthy Patron in 1974.

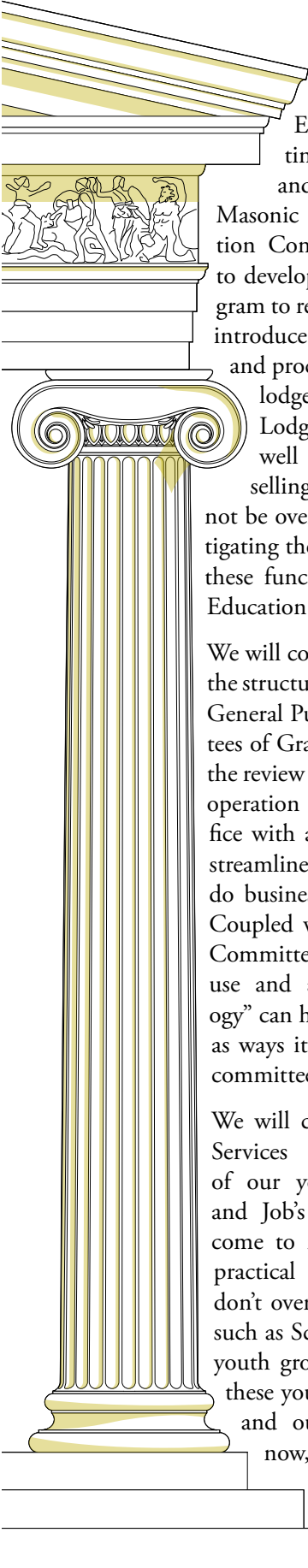
He is active outside of the Craft as well. His service with Scouts Canada resulted in being awarded with the Medal for Good Service in 1993. He is a member of the Royal Canadian Legion, the Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association and is currently the President of the Board of Governors of the Breezy Bend Golf and Country Club. ∴



The Grand Master's Message

My Brethren, it is a very great honour and privilege to be elected and installed as Grand Master in this jurisdiction. It is an honour that has been conferred over the years, on many Masons of great distinction and I am humbled that the Masons of Manitoba have placed into my hands the high office of Grand Master of this Grand Lodge for the ensuing Masonic year. The other Grand Lodge Officers and I look forward to the challenges that lie ahead and I assure you that we will approach any problems or situations that arise with an open mind and search for the best solutions for everyone concerned.

Under Grand Master Uson we had formulated and started plans and programs that all the Grand Line Officers bought into and that would have some continuity into the future. I do not plan to mess with those plans or try to reinvent the wheel to put my own spin or mark on anything. We will continue with those plans and programs for the coming year. Part of what we did last year was to review and revise the Strategic Plan for the Grand Lodge of Manitoba and that revised plan was presented to and endorsed by the Board of General Purposes. The tasks identified in the plan have been assigned to the appropriate Grand Lodge Committees to put into action.



Education is and will continue to be an important and vital component in our Masonic experience. The Education Committee has been tasked to develop a "Back to Basics" program to reinforce and in some cases introduce proper lodge protocol and procedures to the constituent lodges. The importance of the Lodge Education Officers as well as mentoring and counselling of our membership cannot be overstated. We will be investigating the possibility of expanding these functions to include District Education Officers.

We will continue with the review of the structure and size of the Board of General Purposes and the Committees of Grand Lodge as well as with the review of the administration and operation of the Grand Lodge Office with a view to modernize and streamline processes and the way we do business on a day-to-day basis. Coupled with this the Technology Committee will look into how the use and application of "technology" can help in this process as well as ways it can be of benefit to the committees of Grand Lodge.

We will continue with our Youth Services Committee in support of our youth Groups. DeMolay and Job's Daughters immediately come to mind, but if this is not practical or possible in all areas don't overlook other youth groups such as Scouts and Guides, church youth groups etc. Remember that these young people are our future and our interest and support now, may just bear fruit in the future.

We all have concerns about declining membership levels and membership retention and brethren this is not a new concern nor is it unique to this grand jurisdiction. Is there a simple answer or solution? NO. Is there a quick fix? NO. Whatever the answer is, it will take time and patience to achieve. One of my predecessors would often say "Brethren we are dying!" I do not believe that is true. Yes, we may have a virus, but it is not terminal. There is hope and I believe we may have finally turned the corner as evidenced by the significant decrease in the numbers of the membership losses for last year.

I have renamed the Membership Development Committee to the Public Perception and Awareness and Branding Committee. We see and hear of so much negative and erroneous information regarding Freemasonry on television and on the Internet and we do so little to counteract this. We have made a good start in this direction with our "Masonic Tour" at the Masonic Memorial Centre that took place on May 28th that was very well attended. I have tasked this committee to investigate what else we might do in this regard.

Over the summer months your Grand Lodge Officers have been very busy. We have attended the annual communications of the Grand Lodges of Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia and Yukon, and North Dakota, the installation of officers for bethels Nos. 9 & 13 of Job's Daughters, participated in the Dauphin Country Fest, Selkirk, Morris Stampede, Dauphin Ukrainian Festival, Gimli Icelandic Festival and Morden Corn and Apple Festival parades. We re-laid and rededicated a cornerstone at the Union Historical Lodge No. 108 building during the Thresherman's Reunion and got to ride in a show wagon drawn by six Clydesdales. We attended the International Peace Garden Lodge annual meeting and the Mid West Conference of Masonic Grand Lodges. At the time of writing we are eagerly anticipating the 4th Annual Masonic Family Roundup and the annual northern trip.

I am looking forward to meeting many of you in the coming months when we return to labour in our lodges.

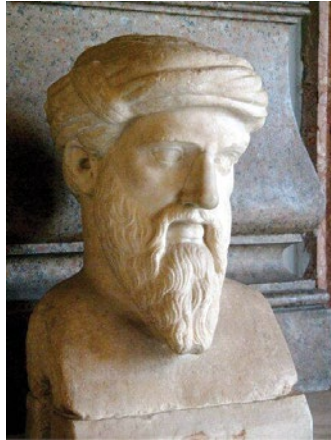
Fraternally,

Al Hadley ∴

The Pythagorean System

One of the great authorities on Freemasonry was Robert Macoy (1815-1895) whose writings continue to be relevant and a source of knowledge for today's masonic scholar. Much of the information for this article comes from his *A Dictionary of Freemasonry* which was originally published late in the nineteenth century and was reprinted in 2000.

The influence of the early Greeks upon the world cannot be overestimated. Their mythology formed the basis upon which the world's great philosophers built their theories. Science too had its origins in their earliest discoveries. Pythagoras (540 - 487 BCE) was born into an enlightened Greek family and his education was calculated to challenge his mind and invigorate his body. At an early age he travelled to Egypt, Chaldaea and India where he was initiated into their mysteries. He returned home after collecting their unique traditions including the nature of their religions and their belief in the immortality of the soul, settled in the south of Italy where he founded the Pythagorean Fraternity which attracted a large number of students. Their curriculum included many of Pythagoras' discoveries in the fields of Geometry, Astronomy and Mathematics.

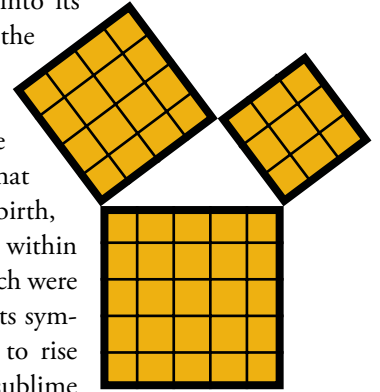


Euclid, who lived about 300 CE founded a school at the hub of intellectual activity of the day, at Alexandria on the Nile River delta was a mathematician whose famous book "The Data" contained 94 propositions dealing with elementary geometry, in which if certain elements in a figure are known, others can be calculated.

Pythagoras developed the solution to the 47th proposition of this book, which explains how to calculate the hypotenuse of a right angled triangle when the length of the other two sides are known. This solution forms the basis of the jewel of a Past Master. He is often considered as one of the fathers of philosophy, or lovers of wisdom. His teachings greatly influenced Plato whose philosophy has had a tremendous impact upon the development of western civilization and culture.

The philosophy of Freemasonry is many faceted; it involves the history of our origin, a calm enquiry into the ideas concealed at its core, an analytical study of the three degrees and the understanding of the concepts illustrated by its legends, myths, allegories and symbols. Over a century ago Macoy stated that Freemasonry had then arrived at a time when its prosperity (we would now claim its future) imperative-

ly demands a deeper insight into its character and teachings. For the past 150 years Masons have concentrated upon the outward and material forms of the institution. Not knowing what ideas the system had at its birth, what truths were symbolized within the rites nor the mysteries which were intended to be illustrated by its symbols, we have not been able to rise to a true appreciation of its sublime nature and profound significance. The superior intelligence and culture of the present age requires, nay demands, more than this. To be an effective agent in elevating and advancing man to a more perfect condition, its philosophy must be studied and its mysteries better understood so that the ageless emblems and symbols may once again relate their ancient and immortal meanings.



While we acknowledge and celebrate his famous right angled triangle he applied a lesson to several other geometric forms. The equilateral triangle was adopted by ancient nations as a symbol of Deity, the principle and author of all sublunary things, the essence of Light and Truth, who was, and is and shall be. The square joins the celestial and terrestrial elements of power. The cube symbolized the mind of man who thought a life spent in acts of piety and devotion, was preparation by virtue for his translation into the society of the celestial gods. The point within a circle symbolized the universe, the circle representing creation and man the point within. Another symbol of the universe was a twelve sided figure, or a Dodecahedron which now represents the twelve zodiacs seen in the night sky. ∴

Lodge Officer's Workshop

The days of recycling Past Masters in order to fill the officer positions are past and today many of our Lodges are being governed by young men working their way through the chairs for the first time. This is absolutely wonderful but it also presents us with the need to properly train these new young officers. To give good and proper guidance to the brethren of our lodges we will be presenting an officers' workshop at the Portage Masonic Centre on Saturday, November 17th. There will be sessions for Worshipful Masters, both Wardens, both Deacons, Secretaries, and Directors of Ceremonies. Full particulars will be circulated to Lodge Secretaries and also will be available on the website.

Please ensure that your lodge sends its new officers to ensure that the brethren of your lodge are performing the ritual as it was designed to be presented. ∴

At the January meeting of Assiniboine Lodge No. 7 Bros. Terry Metcalf and Rick Vanderdine advised that they could obtain the cornerstone from Reston Lodge No. 104's building if we wanted it. The answer of course was 'yes' but then the question: "What would we do with it?" needed to be addressed. One possible course of action would be to re-lay it at Union Historical Lodge No. 108, which is located at the Manitoba Agricultural Museum at Austin. At the spring meeting the brethren of that Lodge unanimously agreed to prepare the front of the building with face brick and ask the Grand Master to perform the cornerstone ceremony during the annual Thresherman's Reunion on Saturday, July 28th.



So, in addition to reshingling the roof and replacing the fascia, Union Historical Lodge was to receive a new look. Used brick was lovingly applied to the front of the building and a new step was poured. Its treads are 15", 12" and 9" wide, which will remind every Freemason who enters the building of three very important steps that he took when he was carefully guided through the initial stages of his initiation into our wonderful fraternity. The uninitiated may look upon this construction feature as an obvious mistake. The treads also carry the name of the Lodge, cast in colored mortar. Renovations also included restoring the original sign and applying a fresh coat of paint. The building looks so much better!

Accordingly, on Saturday, July 28th, the Grand Lodge officers, resplendent in morning suits opened Grand Lodge in the old Lodge room and then, marching to the skirl of the pipes, proceeded to the symbolic Northeast corner of



M.W. Bros. McKay and Hadley setting the cornerstone.

the building and the ceremony commenced. Assisted by M.W. Bro. Morley McKay, who had dedicated the building in 1992 when Union Historical Lodge was originally constituted, M.W. Bro. Alan Hadley proceeded to lay the cornerstone according to our ancient and prescribed ritual. After proving that the stone was actually laid square, plumb and level, the Deputy Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Doug Webster scattered corn on it as an emblem of plenty. The Senior Grand Warden, R.W. Bro. Stano Spina poured wine on the cornerstone as an emblem of joy and gladness and in conclusion the Junior Grand Warden, R.W. Bro. Ron Church poured oil on the cornerstone as an emblem of peace. This newly re-laid cornerstone will serve as a monument to the faith, energy and courage of those early brothers who carried the light of Freemasonry into the prairies.

The ceremony was well attended by brethren, their families and a good number of curious onlookers who watched with rapt attention.

We do have plans for another ceremony next year which will involve a magnificent pair of pillars, representing those at the porchway or entrance of King Solomon's Temple. In an appropriate ceremony they will be capped by two stones which were originally a part of Windsor Castle, constructed in 1475. Put July 27th, 2013 on your agenda and plan to attend. ∴

Manitoba Job's Daughters are *The fairest in all the land!*

In June of this year, Kelsey Fierback was installed as Honoured Queen of Bethel No. 9 and Rachel Albensi was crowned as Honoured Queen of Bethel No. 13. Both of these young ladies have planned terms that include many fun activities for all of the daughters.

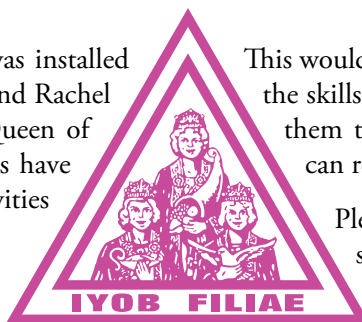
The Installation events were attended by Grand Lodge Officers and their Ladies, as well as numerous Masons and members of Masonic Family Organizations in their regalia. The Daughters of both Bethels were awestruck to see all the support for them on the sidelines.



Julie Anne Navea was crowned Miss Manitoba Job's Daughter 2011-2012 and in her official capacity has been representing all Manitoba daughters at events within and outside of the Province. Julie Anne is 19 years old and has been in Job's Daughters for 8 years. She is also Junior Past Honoured Queen of Bethel No. 13. This September she is entering her second year at the U of M and is hoping to be accepted

into the Faculty of Pharmacy. Julie Anne is traveling to Baltimore Maryland where she will be competing for the title of "Miss International Job's Daughter" against representatives from the United States, Canada, Australia, Brazil and the Philippines.

The Miss International Pageant is not a "beauty pageant", but rather a competition of skills, knowledge and abilities. The pageant events include reciting of ritual memory work, a written examination, interviews, public speaking demonstrations and answering impromptu questions on stage in front of an audience of over 1,000 people.



This would be a daunting experience for any of us, but the skills that our girls learn in Job's Daughters gives them the confidence and interpersonal skills they can rely on to be successful all their lives.

Please join us in wishing Julie Anne the best as she is representing us all!

Over the past year, the Daughters from both Bethels have taken part in many fun activities and events including sleepovers, "rush" breakfasts, bowling parties and the like. They have participated in Masonic Family activities such as riding on floats in parades, participating in the Shrine Circus and Christmas gift-wrapping at Garden City Mall. The Daughters are looking forward to many more fun activities in the upcoming year and are looking for more girls to share the fun with them!



Membership in Job's Daughters still requires a family relationship to a Master Mason, so we need everyone to spread the word to our brethren who have daughters, granddaughters, nieces and the like between the ages of 10 and 20 about the world's foremost leadership training organization for young women.

We guarantee they will meet new friends, socialize, develop public speaking skills, and most of all, have a lot of fun in the process!

Bethel No. 9 meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays at the MMC and Bethel No. 13 meets on 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at Charleswood Temple. There are more than 20 girls between the two Bethels with a very committed core of adult volunteers who are maintaining the interest and enthusiasm of the daughters.

Please contact Valerie Webster for more information:

e-mail: dougweb@mts.net

Ph: 668-6625 ∴

Windsor Masonic Lodge Bursary

Beaver Ionic Lodge No. 25, annually awards a "Windsor Masonic Lodge Bursary" to Glenlawn and Dakota Collegiate. It is awarded to the graduate who has been chosen by their school, and served his/her school and/or the community in volunteer capacities, while having maintained notable scholastic achievement.



Worshipful Master Harold Stacey Presenting bursary to Marissa MacCorby at the convocation the afternoon of 26th June 2012.

Another of the charities they support is "The St. Vital Mustangs" with the sale of 50/50 tickets at all the Blue Bomber Games.

To date they've donated over \$20,000.00 with last year's donation being \$6,834.36. ∴

Phoenix Lodge Famous Pickerel Fish Fry

Shrine Centre, 1155 Wilkes Ave
October 14, 2012
3–6 p.m.

50/50 draws every hour
Fun, camaraderie, good food
Entertainment
Great prizes in the
silent auction

Adults – \$12.00
Under 12 – \$6.00
Under 5 – Free

25% goes to Manitoba Cancer Cars

Come join us & make it a success!

"In the Beginning"

*A Masonic Retreat
Portage la Prairie
October 26–27, 2012*

Sessions

Friday Evening

Table Lodge: A good time will be had by all!

Keynote Address: W. Bro. Jim Christie
*World events which led to the formation of Speculative
Freemasonry*

Saturday

Session 1: R.W. Bro. Victor Popow
"The Mists of Antiquity" early initiatory ceremonies

Session 2: R.W. Bro. Lynn Latozke
"The Cornerstone of the Craft" the symbols of Freemasonry

Session 3: R.W. Bro. Al Brock
Archival Items from Manitoba's infancy

Session 4: M.W. Bro. Don Beattie
*"The Mystery Within" an explanation of the esoteric
teachings of the E.A. Degree*

Session 5: Assiniboine Lodge No. 7
*A display and explanation of the initiation ceremony of
the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry*

Registration forms available on our website:

<http://www.assiniboinelodge7.com/>

The Pythagoreans considered that number 3 was the first true number and represented wisdom, understanding, and knowledge. It is almost universally applied to the deity. In Tarot it is the Empress, the female principle symbolizing the link between Heaven and Earth.

Beaver Ionic Medal Presentations

V.W. Bro. Lou Harmel presented a well deserved 50 year medal to Brother Jim McNaughton, at his residence.

Then the same afternoon W. Bro. Harold Stacey met with Brother Steve Fricker at his residence in Transcona, to present him with his 60 year bar.

Both brothers were very appreciative of the presentations at home as they are unable to attend Lodge. ∴

Our Constitution provides for several awards and honours by which deserving brethren of our jurisdiction can be recognized and thanked for their significant contribution to the good of the Craft.



The “Grand Master’s Award for Merit” was presented to our Grand Secretary, M.W. Bro. E. H. (Ted) Jones. He seriously thinks that he is aware of everything that goes on in the office but this award came as a complete surprise. Congratulations, Bro. Ted!

In order to recognize those Lodges who operate a well rounded range of activities which provide for the wide variety of interests of their brethren the “Lodge Excellence Award” was instituted a number of years ago. This year four Lodges were recognized: Ancient Landmark Lodge No. 3, Seven Stars Lodge No. 180, Millennium Lodge No. 182 and Fil-Can Cabletow Lodge No. 189 and presented with their well earned certificates.

Another item of interest was the presentation of the Charter to Castle Island Virtual Lodge No. 190. It was accepted by the Worshipful Master, M.W. Bro. David Love. This is an exciting venture into the 21st century and possibly a look at Freemasonry of the future!

Each year we offer a Short Talk Competition which really consists of preparing a paper rather than delivering a talk. This year two submissions were recognized for their quality. W. Bro. Richard Lacoursier of Northern Light Prince Rupert Lodge No. 1 and Bro. David Hatcher of Ancient Landmark Lodge No. 3 were successful. Hopefully this heralds a renewed interest in this area of Masonic study and research.



At a recent meeting of the Board of General Purposes a new Master Mason Certificate was approved. The Grand Master presented Bro. Chris Pleasants of Assiniboine Lodge No. 7 with his copy of this new certificate in recognition of his work in designing this very modern, colourful and yet traditional certificate. Thank you Bro. Chris.

By resolution a Lodge may submit the name of a brother who has not attained the rank of Worshipful Brother in nomination for the “William Douglas Medal” which is awarded for exceptional service to the Craft and honours the memory of M.W. Bro. William Douglas. Bro.

A similar award but not quite so prestigious is the “Grand Master’s Certificate of Meritorious Service”. Brethren may be nominated for this award by any Master Mason. This year R.W. Bros. Rudy Weidenbacker, Douglas Webster and Stan Barclay were presented with this certificate in recognition of their exceptional service to the Craft.



Douglas was born in Scotland and was initiated into the Craft in St. John's Lodge No. 4 and progressed through the chairs, being elected as their Worshipful Master in 1910. He served as our Grand Master in 1929-30. He was appointed as Grand Historian in 1939 and as the Editor of Masonry in Manitoba in 1945, serving in both of those capacities until his passing in 1963. He is possibly best known for his history of the Craft in the book *Freemasonry in Manitoba 1864-1925* which is an extremely candid account of our earliest years. We offer our sincere congratulations to Bro. Dennis Deley of Acacia Lodge No. 111 who was awarded this prestigious award for 2012.

Our newest award is the Wayne W. Cash award, given in recognition of a brother's precious gift of life – a donation of blood. In order to qualify a brother must donate 35 times. The first award was presented to Bro. Wayne's widow Lois. Other recipients were R.W. Bros. Stan Barclay, Cliff Hartmier, Tom Love and Gary Parrington. Congratulations, all! ✨

Strategic Plan

John Maxwell's 14th Irrefutable Law of Leadership is "The Law of Buy-in." The difference between leading and managing is examined and we discover an old axiom which applies: "The leader finds the dream and then the people. The people find the leader and then the dream." In an organization which changes its leadership annually it is virtually impossible for one person to introduce a project and see it through to fruition. A team concept is essential and any progress can be obtained most readily by developing and then following a plan and the buzz word today is a Strategic Plan. Members are involved in developing the plan and then buy-in to the plan because it is theirs, they own it! Once approved the individuals and committees develop their own individual plans which fit within the overall aim and work to achieve the stated goals. Their activities become the 'means' by which the 'end' is attained.

Our Strategic Plan addresses four main issues, outlines specific strategies to be translated into action plans and also identifies those individuals or committees who are responsible to execute the design.

The first issue identifies several areas which are adversely affected by our reluctance to change which hampers our ability to adapt to changing social needs, to improve our public image and to utilize the rapidly changing technological options which are available today. Our Board of General Purposes is a good example of the difficulty ex-

perienced when trying to operate an efficient business using an outmoded management model.

The second issue deals with recruiting and retaining members and financing our operations. As younger men join the fraternity in increasing numbers it becomes increasingly important to ensure that we discover their needs and present Freemasonry in a way that addresses those needs. Meetings need to focus on explaining the symbolic and esoteric aspects of the Craft as well as providing social events which ideally will often include spouses and families. Routine business can be dealt with at the Committee of General Purposes or some similar venue.

The third issue continues this thought and deals specifically with education and training. Members want to be a part of a vibrant, interesting and active Lodge and so it is essential that their officers are properly trained to fulfill their responsibilities. This of course includes excellence in ritual. Contrary to the notion circulating a few years ago that young men are no longer able to memorize, today we see our candidates proving their proficiency in an exemplary fashion and it is the older men who stumble through presenting the various lectures and charges. Grand Lodge has traditionally offered workshops covering the officer's responsibilities and also explaining the meaning and mystery of the three degrees. It is critical that more of the brethren attend these workshops and improve the quality of the work within their Lodges.

The final issue deals with increasing and improving our public image. Our flagship program, the Canadian Cancer Society's Transportation Program or "Masons Care" relies upon volunteer drivers and the few that are carrying this program today are hard pressed to fulfill their responsibilities. More drivers are required to keep this vital program operating as it was intended - with the vans supplied and operated by the Freemasons of Manitoba! We have two new programs: the "Partners for Life" Blood Drive and the "Milk for Kids" Program. Certainly these two programs could be supported by those who do not have the time nor ability to commit to driving a van a few times a month. Our concordant bodies operate a number of programs which in their own way support the broad aim. It is critical that we work together so that all of our programs can be successful.

At the January Board meeting the individuals and committees will be presenting an action plan, identifying simple manageable steps, with financial and other support requirements outlined. We need to accept the fact that social values are continually evolving and while the core of Freemasonry must remain constant we can and must evolve to continue to be relevant to today's young Freemason. ✨

Manitoba Masonic Tartan

Several other grand jurisdictions have their own tartan which they wear proudly either as a kilt or a cummerbund and tie. It has been used to advantage in developing and esprit de corps amongst the brethren of those jurisdictions and Manitoba has determined to follow their example. Therefore, this tartan was created by the Grand Lodge of Manitoba Freemasons for use by members. The crimson red represents fire, the symbol of regeneration, and also the first permanent Europeans, the Red River settlers. Blue represents perfection and truth, the endless skies of the prairies, and Manitoba's abundant resources of fresh water. Red and blue intersect to create purple representing loyalty to the British monarchy, the union of the Freemasons and their concordant bodies including Scottish Rite, York Rite, and Job's Daughters. Purple is also found in the Freemason's Universal tartan. White represents purity and the three white stripes the virtues of truth, hope, and innocence. The white stripes are also important to Freemasons, recalling the colour of the lambskin apron and the three degrees. Green is the colour of acacia representing immortality, as well as the rich agricultural and natural resources of Manitoba. Yellow is the symbol of light, the great lights of a masonic lodge and Manitoban grain and farm produce.

Members of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba, or concordant bodies may wear and use this tartan. ∴