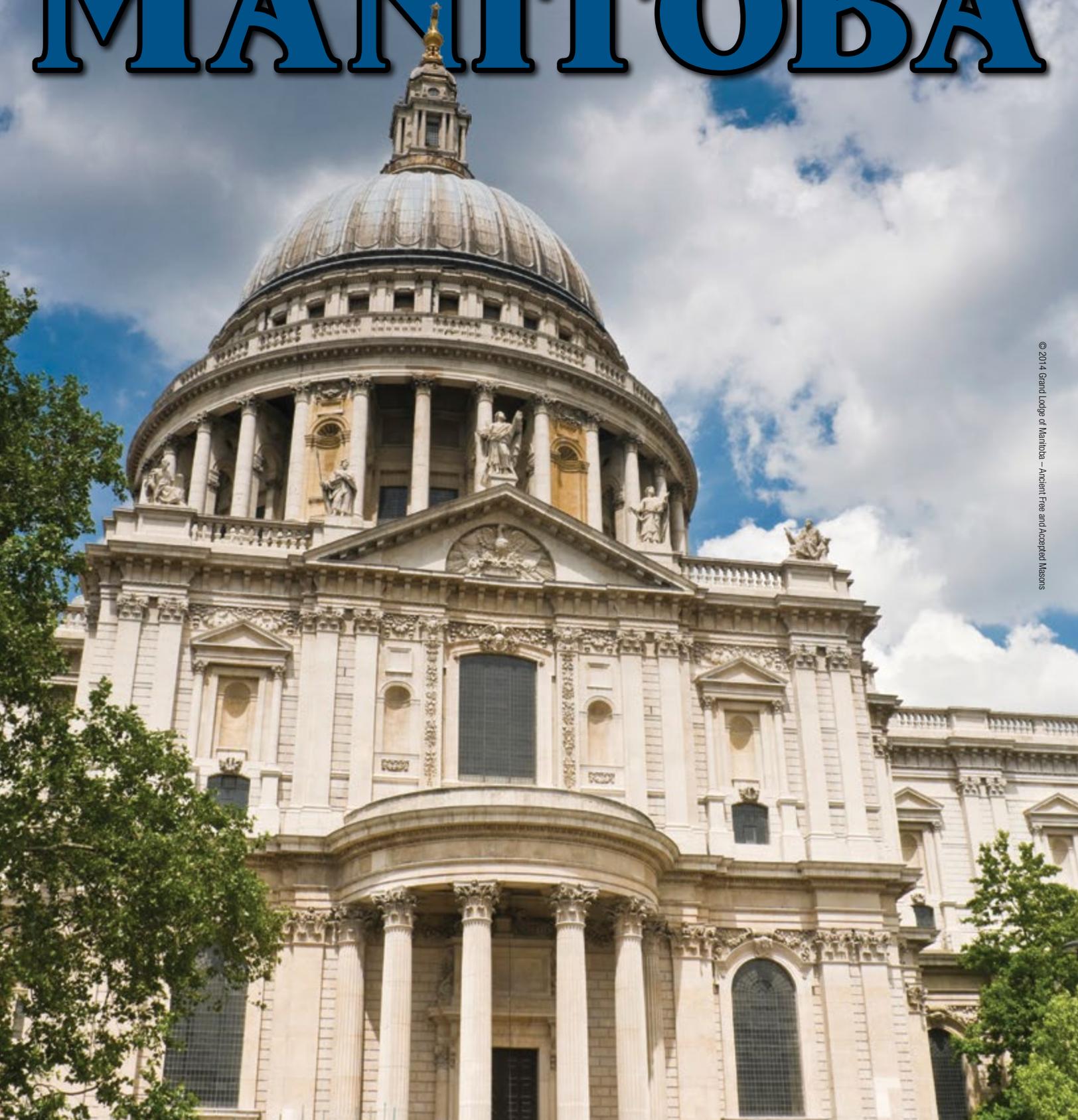


SPRING EDITION
2014

MASONRY *in* MANITOBA



A Golden Handshake

Just over 30 years ago, a Past Grand Master and Past Grand Secretary, M.W. Bro. Reesor Bingeman was instrumental in forming the relationship between the Freemasons of Manitoba and the Canadian Cancer Society, whereby we would eventually be recognized as a **gold sponsor** of their transportation program. This involves picking up patients from their homes, delivering them to the treatment facility and then returning them, safe and sound to their residences. Many of the patients consider the drivers and this program as important in their recovery as any of the treatment they receive. Their appreciation is real and heartfelt. This is charity in its finest form!

There is a lot of confusion between the Canadian Cancer Society and Cancer Care. Cancer Care Manitoba operates the treatment facilities and is government funded, although they do some fund raising, for example they sponsored the Bears on Broadway a few years ago. The Canadian Cancer Society on the other hand is a not for profit organization and so receives no government funding. They are active on many fronts, promoting healthy life styles in attempts to reduce the occurrence of cancer and also assisting those living with that dreaded disease. As with so many other organizations, Manitobans continually punch above their weight. The Canadian Cancer Society competes with the world for research dollars and much of today's cutting edge research is taking place here in Manitoba. They are responsible for great advances in treatment, specifically the provision of free drugs for cancer patients in Manitoba, and believe me those drugs are fantastically expensive. We should also mention the Relay for Life which is another of their fundraising events which the masonic family is increasingly becoming involved in.

Currently we provide six vans to the Canadian Cancer Society, four in Winnipeg and two in Brandon and as far as possible we provide the drivers to keep these vehicles on the road 5 days a week, 52 weeks a year. Lately there have been a number of non-masons operating these vans and that is simply because not enough of our brethren



volunteer to drive. Several of them drive more than one day a week in support of the cause but we desperately need more drivers. At a recent meeting of the Board of General Purposes we agreed to continue our sponsorship of this program and the Grand Master will sign a **memorandum of understanding** formally committing us to a further five years of support. A part of the special

projects which we are all asked to support on a yearly basis is devoted to the purchase of a new van each and every year. By the way, all we do is purchase the van, all the operating expenses, maintenance and insurance costs are the responsibility of the Canadian Cancer Society.

In recognition of our long term support to this transportation program, the countless hours, the endless miles, the dedication of the drivers who report for duty regardless of weather and road conditions, the positive effect this outpouring of support and friendship have on the patients, and probably a number of other reasons the Canadian Cancer Society recently hosted a driver appreciation luncheon at their headquarters on Sherbrook Street. The executive director, Mark McDonald presented the grand master with a pair of brass hands, clasped in a handshake, the eternal symbol of friendship and partnership, working together to assist those less fortunate in their battle to overcome cancer. ∴



Left to right: R.W. Bro. Stano Spina D.G.M., M.W. Bro. Doug Webster G.M., Mr. Mark McDonald Executive Director of the Canadian Cancer Society, R.W. Bro. Ron Church S.G.W., R.W. Bro. Stan Barclay J.G.W.



The topic of virtually every conversation must inevitably get around to this never ending winter, yet we should be thankful that we do not live in the Maritimes as they have endured and are forecast to continue dealing with an endless series of low pressure areas with numbers we can scarcely fathom: hurricane force winds and snow fall measured in feet, not centimeters and far too often freezing rain which makes driving treacherous and threatens the disruption of power. On a global scale the intensity of weather continues to exceed the norm.



We conducted a very successful officers' workshop with 58 brethren gathering at M.M.C. to learn of the responsibilities of those holding the leadership positions within the lodge. There was also a session dealing with protocol, explaining the proper way to perform many of our activities, such as conducting a ballot, receiving visitors, including grand lodge officers and even the more common activities such as sharing those casual signs, tokens, and words which we substitute for that which was lost.

The J.R.C. Evans lecturer, W. Bro. Don Murray delivered his address over the lunch break. He talked about the evolution of the craft over the period of time that he has been involved. When he was initiated, fellowship seemed to be the most important aspect of Freemasonry, we were still in the post war era when the Craft served as a focal point for friendship and brotherly love. Then slowly over the years, charity became more important and grand lodge joined forces with the Canadian Cancer Society to support their transportation program and the Masonic Foundation of Manitoba was formed to support our activities at the International Peace Gardens. Today the young men who are knocking upon our door are looking for the spiritual mysteries that we profess to have. This often becomes problematic as the *truth* has been largely ignored for many years and there are precious few of the brethren who feel comfortable or qualified in attempting to link the clues within the ritual to the ancient mysteries which speculative Freemasonry was intended to perpetuate.

The quest for those esoteric mysteries form the basis of our annual retreat, which will be held again in Assiniboine Lodge's facilities in Portage la Prairie on September 26th and 27th. This year we will be focusing on the master mason degree with a highlight being the presentation of this degree as developed, but never presented, by the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry. I'll

tempt you by reminding you that to enter the middle chamber of the temple, according to the Ancient York Rite involves ascending a winding stair of 3, 5 or 7 steps. Those of us following the Emulation work have 3, 5, 7 or more steps to climb. Here you will discover what the extra "or more" steps involve. Those who have attended know we start with a table lodge on Friday evening, visit long into the night at the CanadInn and then spend Saturday involved in a number of interactive presentations, climaxing with the exemplification of the master mason degree and a discussion of the similarities and differences between that and what we commonly practice and the lessons which are contained within. We will have further information and registration sheets available at grand lodge's annual communication in June and on our website after that. We do look forward to this event yearly and anticipate your attendance!

Speaking of the master mason degree, I have often puzzled over the ornaments on the master mason's tracing board, in particular the dormer window which we are told was designed to admit light into the Sanctum Sanctorum, the Holy of Holies, the location of the Ark of the Covenant, the dwelling place of the Jewish God, Yahweh. The holy book is emphatic that this sacred space was in perpetual darkness and so there would not have been a dormer window to admit light. This fact would have been well known by those who wrote the ritual so if this was not an actual architectural feature of the temple then it must have been included to convey an allegorical message about light from above, about a knowledge or understanding of the nature of the Creator which illuminates and animates the spirit of those who know and comprehend the true nature of mankind. This light from above forms the basis of the front and back covers of this issue of Masonry in Manitoba.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the anticipated formation of a research lodge in this jurisdiction and the amendment to the regulations, which has been circulated to the lodges, is the first step in making this a reality. More information to follow in due time but this too promises to offer an opportunity to delve deeper into the mysteries of the Craft.

We await further communication from the Canadian Museum for Human Rights dealing with their grand opening on September 20th. Certainly the part that Freemasonry has played in spreading the respect for human rights, dignity and potential cannot be over stated and you will read elsewhere in this publication about the actions of a few master masons to focus on that part of our heritage by supporting the Global College of the University of Winnipeg in their human rights course with an annual award. ∴



An interesting book appeared under the Christmas tree, entitled *People who Changed the World*. Interestingly, ten individuals who lived in the area of the Mediterranean basin prior to the first century CE were therein identified, then all is quiet until a movement referred to as the Renaissance developed in Italy during the 13th and 14th centuries. Again there is a time of relative quiet until the Enlightenment began in the 18th century. Let's look at some of those early thinkers who laid down the foundation for our knowledge of the liberal arts and sciences...

We will begin with the ancient Greek philosopher, **Socrates** (471–399 BCE) who lived by his own adage "*the proper study of mankind is man.*" The son of a stonemason, his education included geometry, mathematics, astronomy, music, and the development of moral character. A man of principles he refused to moderate his thinking and was sentenced to death by the senate and true to his belief, approached death, by ingesting hemlock, with cheerful confidence.

Hippocrates (470–348 BCE) was the ancient Greek "*Father of Medicine*" and was very much ahead of his time. Prior to this time it was believed that sickness was caused by the wrath of the gods or by supernatural events. He believed in the healing power of nature and that proper diet and exercise were essential for good health. He insisted that the work of a doctor be separate from that of the priest, a revolutionary idea at that time. His *Hippocratic Oath* is a treatise on medical practices and the Hippocratic Oath is used today as a guideline for the proper moral and ethical behaviour to be followed by doctors. It has been shortened to simply: "First, do no harm".

Plato (427–348 BCE) was the founder of modern philosophy whose theories on religion, politics and knowledge shaped Western thought for over a century and continue to exert a profound influence, even today. He was a student of Socrates and taught Aristotle. He left a substantial body of writings and his *Theory of Forms* had a critical effect on Western religion and philosophy. His universe consisted of the visible and that which exists beyond the senses, the latter Christian concept of heaven. He echoed Pythagoras' notion that man consists of a mortal body which encloses an immortal soul which Christian theologians would later develop in their dogma.

Aristotle (384–322 BCE) was one of the greatest philosophers of this classical period. He was one of the most influential figures in the development of Western ethics, logic, science, and politics. His study of the physical sciences zoology and biology remained the accepted norm for over a millennia. He studied and later taught at Pla-

to's academy and at one time was a tutor to Alexander the Great, until his ascension to the throne in 336 BCE. His works not only influenced Western philosophic and scientific traditions but also Islamic culture which the Templars would later carry into Europe.

While **Alexander the Great** (356–323 BCE) may be best remembered for his military prowess he did spread Greek culture not only to all the lands surrounding the Mediterranean but as far east as India. He founded the city of Alexandria on the Nile River delta which would in due time become the repository of the greatest collection of knowledge at that time. This library was opened during the reign of Ptolemy I or II and employed many scribes who borrowed books from around the world, copied them onto papyrus scrolls and then returned them. The destruction may have been orchestrated by Pope Theophilus, the 32nd Pope of Alexandria at the time of conflict between the newly dominant Christians and the pagan establishment at Alexandria. He has been described as the perpetual enemy of peace and virtue, a bold, bad man whose hands were alternately polluted with gold and with blood. There are also other theories but regardless the fires raged for what seemed an eternity and this site of learning and education was reduced to ashes. The books discovered at Nag Hammadi doubtless were taken from the library, sealed in a clay container and buried in the dessert with the hope that one day they would be discovered. And some 1500 years later they were!

Our next man is referred to, albeit briefly, in our ritual and is a Greek mathematician, the "*Father of Geometry*" called **Euclid** (330–220 BCE). He may have studied at Plato's academy in Greece and later founded a mathematics school at Alexandria during the reign of Ptolemy (323–283 BCE). He is most famous for his book *The Elements*, which is based on the works of Aristotle, Hippocrates, and Pythagoras. This book remained fundamental to the teaching of mathematics and geometry until the 19th century and is still relevant today!

Archimedes (287–212 BCE) is probably the most famous mathematician of the classic world whose formulas relating to spheres and other solids remain at the basis of all mathematical knowledge. He developed the *Archimedic Screw* which was a practical irrigation device which we still see today adapted to become a grain auger. He also developed the law which relates to the buoyancy of objects in water. Like Pythagoras, the exclamation "*Eureka!*" heralded this revelation. He established the principles of the lever. Unfortunately much of his works have disappeared during the ensuing 2000 years.

Julius Caesar (100–44 BCE) was one of the most outstanding generals of all time and an ambitious Roman

statesman whose impact upon the Roman Empire was immense, increasing it to include Gaul and Britain. He introduced political reforms and established the 365 day Julian calendar. Some 350 years later, Constantine the Great would rule this vast empire and move its headquarters from Rome to Byzantium (modern day Istanbul). He would adopt the fledgling movement of Christianity as the state religion and build a cathedral, the original Hag-gai Sophia in this city.

No history of the nations surrounding the Mediterranean at this time would be complete without making a reference to the most famous queen of ancient Egypt, **Cleopatra** (69–30 BCE). She was a descendent of one of Alexander's generals, Ptolemy, whose dynasty would rule Egypt for over 300 years. A femme fatale, she courted the political elite of the day yet eventually Rome was successful. Recognizing defeat, Anthony fell upon his sword and she clasped a poisonous viper to her breast. Upon their demise the once mighty Egypt was reduced to a Roman province.

Our final champion from this era is **Ptolemy** (100–168 CE). He may or may not be a descendent of the line derived from Alexander's general who became a ruler of Egypt from 323–283 BCE. In 305 he demanded to hold the Egyptian title *pharaoh*. He sponsored the great mathematician Euclid and aspired to learn his wisdom but was told: "Sire, there is no royal road to geometry!" The Ptolemy we are looking at lived some 400 years later. He wrote a book which was translated into Latin and republished a thousand years later under the title *Almagest*, which has enjoyed numerous reprints since. Although he held the common belief that the earth was at the center of our system he did develop a system to explain and forecast the movement of the planets and other heavenly bodies. He did know that the earth was not flat but spheroid in shape. His star catalogue listed some 1,200 stars. The title *Almagest* is from the Arabic words "the greatest!"

This period of unprecedented growth was to be followed by a dark period which would last until the 14th century when there would be a movement to return to learning based upon classical sources which came to be referred to as the Renaissance. There is a wide belief that this movement actually began in Florence, Italy and was centered upon three giants who would jump start the cultural development of mankind.

The first one we will look at is **Leonardo Da Vinci** (1452–1519), who Dan Brown made a household name in his recent best seller *The Da Vinci Code*. He was a great artist and his *Mona Lisa* and *The Last Supper* are amongst his best known works. This latter work does seriously

question the position of Mary Magdalene as one of the followers of Jesus Christ. His anatomical and botanical drawings are equally important. His memorials includes some 13,000 page of scientific diagrams, architectural plans, inventions including such futuristic items as a helicopter and a battle tank, and theories regarding tectonics, the movement of the Earth's plates.

He was closely followed by another artistic giant, **Michelangelo Buonarroti** (1475–1564), a pre-eminent painter and sculptor of the Renaissance period. His marble statue of the *David* displayed his talent in making marble seem to come to life and his painting of the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel is magnificent both in terms of its beauty and also his interpretation of nine episodes from the Book of Genesis. Three decades later he was commissioned to paint, in fresco, *The Last Judgement* behind the altar in the Sistine Chapel.

This part of the world was not finished in supplying us with great men as **Galileo Galilei** (1564–1642) (who was named by Stephen Hawking as perhaps the man most responsible for the birth of modern science) would be born in the same year that Michelangelo died. He was supposed to study medicine but mathematics and science fascinated him and while teaching mathematics he studied motion, especially pendulums which would eventually be used to regulate clocks. He also challenged one of Aristotle's laws of physics, proving that gravity works equally on all objects, regardless of weight. After learning of the development of the telescope he build his own and was able to prove conclusively that Copernicus' theory of the sun being at the centre of our system was indeed correct! He was a religious man but he openly questioned the Church's position and in 1633 the Inquisition found him guilty of heresy and while he escaped the normal penalty he was confined to his home where he continued his research. He died in 1642 with a tarnished name and reputation. It was not until 1992 that Pope John Paul II expressed regret for how the Galileo affair was handled and issued a declaration acknowledging the errors committed by the Catholic Church tribunal that judged the scientific positions of Galileo Galilei.

With the world poised to enter the industrial age, those who began speculative Freemasonry resolved to restore to the modern world the traditional mystic wisdom and science which were a part of the mysteries, which during the oppression of the Roman Empire had been forced underground where it smouldered for some 1500 years before bursting into flames once again. The light from that fire, assisted by that light which is from above, quickly spread across the face of the globe, carrying with it democracy, the respect for human rights, and the quest for truth and knowledge. ∴

Wayne W. Cash Award

R.W. Bro. Wayne Cash was a member of Stony Mountain Lodge No. 134 whose passion was donating blood. He had set a goal of 500 donations and was at 452 when he was called to the grand lodge above on November 8th, 2010. He was making double donations of platelets. That is a record for the province of Manitoba.

In recognition of his efforts R.W. Bro. Stan Barclay decided that we should institute an award in his memory and thus the Partners for Life program and the Wayne W. Cash award were born. The concept of the award would be a medal presented for 30 donations, then a further pin is presented at the 50 and 70 donations level and then every 30 donations thereafter another pin is awarded.

The medal consists of a tear drop shape representing a drop of blood suspended on a red ribbon. This has been approved as an item of Masonic dress and can be worn in conjunction with other medals and awards.

The first medal was presented to Bro. Wayne posthumously and was received by his widow Lois, on June 2nd, at the 2012 annual communication.

For 2013 we made a commitment to make 200 donations but the brethren, recognizing the importance of this service, finished the year with just over 300 donations!

At the last meeting of the board of general purposes, our grand archivist, R.W. Bro. Al Brock was recognized for his many donations over the years with this medal. It was presented by the grand master.



An interesting fact is that each donation of a pint of blood has the potential to benefit three people and there is only one way to obtain blood, it can't be manufactured synthetically so we have to roll up our sleeves and donate. Remember: *"it's in you to give!"* ∴

Short Talk Competition

By R. W. Bro. Brian Rountree



It is time for the annual Short Talk competition. It is open to all Freemasons of Manitoba regardless of rank. Up to three winners will be chosen.

The rules are simple:

1. Essays may be on any masonic topic.
2. Essays are to be typed, double-spaced, on one side of a sheet of paper (if you print it out.)
3. A margin of one inch (2.5 cm) should be left on each edge.
4. Limit your paper to no more than five pages.
5. A bibliography should be added (not counted as one of those five pages.)
6. Do not put your name on it anywhere.
7. On a separate paper give your name, address, phone, email and lodge connection.
8. Entries must be submitted no later than Tuesday 15 April 2014.

Entries may be mailed to the grand secretary's office or emailed to: mrc@grandlodge.mb.ca. ∴

Stony Mountain Stonewall Lodge No. 12

Presents their annual

Casino Night Fundraiser

Quarry Park Heritage Centre in Stonewall, MB

Saturday, April 12, 2014

Doors open at 7:00 PM and gaming starts at 8:00 PM

Tickets: \$15.00 each

Includes Door Prizes, Luncheon, Snacks, Casino Money, Silent Auction, and 50/50 Draw

The proceeds from this event will be used to support charities, schools, and special services in our local communities. The success of this fundraiser depends on your attendance and your donations.

Stony Mountain Stonewall Lodge No. 12 would like to thank you in advance for your support.

To purchase tickets and to make a donation to the silent auction, please contact one of our members below:

Rey Laferriere	204-781-5170
Bob Hunter	204-467-2788
Robert Cuddy.....	204-467-5325

The Allied Masonic Degrees: An Honourary and Invitational Body Dedicated to Masonic Research

Membership in a council of the Allied Masonic Degrees is by invitation and is predicated on the brother holding a membership in a chapter of the Holy Royal Arch.

The Allied Masonic Degrees are detached degrees which, many years ago, were conferred under Craft warrants and formed a part of the loosely governed Freemasonry. Later, as Freemasonry became more organized, it eliminated all except for the three Craft degrees: Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft and Master Mason, and the Royal Arch with its three degrees: Mark Master Mason, Most Excellent Master, and Royal Arch Mason. Eventually the Royal Arch would be separated to form their own body and Craft Freemasonry would include only the three established degrees.



In Winnipeg the Allied Masonic Degrees are represented by Keystone Council No. 172 which is governed by their installed master, Venerable Bro. Chibu Uson.

Under the direction of the sovereign master of each council and in accordance with the constitution of the order they confer an administration degree titled the Installed Master of St. Lawrence, St. Lawrence the Martyr. There are a great number of optional degrees: Knight of Constantinople, Grand Tyler of Solomon, Excellent Master, Masters of Tyre, Architect, Grand Architect, Superintendent, and Sovereign Master's Degree.

Under the direction of the enlightened knight commander, the Knight Degree is performed at the Annual Assembly of the Order or by the D.D.G.M. of each district. Optional degrees here include: Man at Arms, Esquire, Knight, Knight Commander, Knight Grand Cross, and Supreme Grand Cross.

There are two degrees that are conferred exclusively at the annual assembly of the Allied Masonic Degrees and are purely fun degrees. They are the Masonic Order of the Bath and Ye Antient Order of Corks.

In addition to perpetuating these degrees the Allied Masonic Degrees organization has another, equally important purpose. Its underlying function is to bring together, in small groups, Freemasons who through the medium of study and research have prepared themselves to better serve the Craft as a whole. The primary focus of the council is to have members prepare and present papers on all branches of the Craft in order that all may profit and grow from the experience. They feel that by securing members by invitation only they may form themselves into a small congenial

group more able to fully enjoy the fellowship when meeting together.

There is no intention on the part of the Allied Masonic Degrees to detract from any organized and established body of Masonry. They seek only to stimulate their membership to a greater study and involvement in the great work. ∴

The Power of the Word

By Bro. Adam French

Words are a very special and complex kind of act, affecting people in strange and peculiar ways. With most actions the laws of cause and effect are clear, but words act upon our mind, that complex machine we only vaguely understand in general and rarely comprehend in the individual. Words can embolden people or destroy them and not only people but whole nations. Particularly powerful words continue to resonate throughout the ages.

One may ask what gives words such power and the clear answer seems to be the spirit they evoke. When we look at things like politics, our legal system or advertising it is easy to see the delicate nature of communications at work. Words ignite our imagination and we interpret them based on what we understand about our world. What we choose to hear and believe becomes the power they exert over us.

Our ritual is like this and it was written with that purpose in mind. The ideas it was designed to convey provide us with the very foundation of our brotherhood because in our brotherhood we believe in the spirit it represents to each of us individually. Our secrets which we use to identify ourselves to each other as men who believe in altruistic virtues and to the best of our human ability we apply these virtues to our lives.

The spirit of the work is the ideas which we know because we have each studied it. Observing a fellow brother recite a long and complex passage of the ritual convinces us that he had mediated upon the work enough to now understand its real meaning. The process of memorization demands a certain comprehension of the ideas being expressed, as each time it is recited it reminds us of the power and serenity those words can and do provide.

Memorizing the work is a very important thing to do, if anything it allows you to reference an idea quickly, like knowing the multiplication table. But it is equally important to consider the spirit of the words and determine what they mean to you. By the study and meditation of words we're given power to infuse our own spirit with them and in so doing those words become something immutable, they become our heart, soul and the inspiration for our actions. ∴

CLANS '14

Gathering of the Clans



Saturday, April 5th 7:30 PM



Featuring
Colleen
McGregor-Furlan

Scottish entertainment with guests from the Winnipeg Police Competition Pipe Band: Pipe Major Nathan Mitchell & Drum Sergeant Dave Bowman. Also featuring Khartum Pipes & Drums. Traditional Scottish fare with Jimmy Little providing the address to the Haggis served with a wee dram of Scotch!

**Hurry!
Sold out
last year!**

Net proceeds to the Shrine Hospitals for Children (Montreal) and the Khartum Patient Transportation Fund

Shrine House 1155 Wilkes Avenue

Tickets (not available at the door): \$20

Tickets available from any member of Khartum Pipes & Drums

Rick Culbertson: 204 791 9240 Rick_Culbertson@cpr.ca Rick Jones 204 894 2521 rhjones@shaw.ca

