



MASONRY IN MANITOBA

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**May the spirit of peace be with you
this holiday and throughout the year**

From M.W. Bro. Ted Jones
and the Officers and Staff of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba

THE GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE

Welcome to winter Brethren. With all the crisp white snow covering the ground it certainly looks like winter has definitely arrived.

Since we last touched base, we attended Remembrance Day Services to remember both the men and women who served our country during past wars and also to honour and pray for those serving today in foreign lands and often under unimaginable conditions. As well, we have had the opportunity to attend a number of official visits, enjoyable dinners and social events held by our Masonic Family Members.

The Western Canada Conference held in Canmore was another rewarding experience. The Grand Lodge Officers and their Ladies of British Columbia and the Yukon, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba have become very much like a family through the past few years and are very supportive of one another. We had a number of interesting papers presented and it is to be noted that "Freemasonry, its Dignity and Importance to Today" presented by RW Bro. Kris Goodmanson was exceptionally well received. In fact, the Grand Masters from the other jurisdictions requested a copy so that it could be presented to all their Lodges.

We had the pleasure of attending the Potentates Ball "It's a Small World" to honour Khartum Temple Imperial Sir Morley Kabernick and his Lady Kathy and then the following day to attend the

luncheon with the visiting Supreme Queen of Daughters of the Nile, Muriel Knapp.

The Lodge Meeting "Hands Across the Border" held in Brandon provided an opportunity for us to spend some time with our Brethren from Saskatchewan. RW Bro. Craig Barwick and the members of the Assiniboine District organized the afternoon proceedings and we thank them for an enjoyable time. As well, thanks to W Bro. Blair DeMond for his inspirational message. Both the Brethren and their Ladies in attendance enjoyed the Table Lodge held in the evening. We thank MW Bro. Del Alvord, Past Grand Master of North Dakota for his interesting presentation on the George Washington Memorial. Thanks also to MW Bro Rick Porter for organizing the evening.

The Shrine Membership Seminar, held in Tampa, gave us a great opportunity to gain a much broader understanding of the three R's, Restoration, Retention and Recruitment. The Guest Speakers were dynamic and had much to offer. Although the information on the three R's was presented through a Shrine initiative the ideas and messages are applicable to the entire Masonic Family and members of the Membership Committee will circulate and present much of this information during the coming months.

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During the month of December, many of our Lodges will have their Installation of Officers for the coming year. We wish each of you well and trust you will have a successful and rewarding term.

The following "Recipe for a Worshipful Master" is borrowed from the February 1975 edition of Masonry In Manitoba and the ingredients and baking methods still seem applicable today!

- Take an exceptional amount of **ENTHUSIASM**.
- Mix with extraordinary **I N D U S T R Y A N D P R E P A R A T I O N**.
- To this mixture add sufficient **SENSE OF PURPOSE**.
- Simmer gently, stirring in good measure of **KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE**.
- Beat in an extract of **COMMON SENSE**.
- Sprinkle with **GOOD HUMOUR**.
- Knead the mixture until it

acquires a **FAIR, FIRM, FRIENDLY ATTITUDE**.

- Bake well to produce a **YEAR YOUR BRETHREN WILL NEVER FORGET!**

During the month of December as we enjoy the festivities of the season with our families and friends let us remember the men and women of our armed forces who are so very far from home and as well, support those in our own communities who are so very less fortunate than we are.

To all the Brethren and their Families of the Jewish faith let us remember Chanukah, which this year will be celebrated from December 22nd to 29th.

To all the Brethren and their Families, we wish you a wonderful Christmas and all the very best in the coming New Year.

May Peace be with you all during this coming holiday season.

Ted Jones, Grand Master

GRAND MASTER'S ITINERARY				
DECEMBER 2008				
6	Condition of Freemasonry	Portage Temple	10:00 am	
8	Langdon Lodge	Langdon ND		
9	Brandon Lodge No. 19	Brandon Temple	8:00 pm	OV
15	Ancient Landmark Lodge No. 3	MMC	7:30 pm	
16	Doric Lodge No. 36	Boissevain	8:00 pm	OV
18	Scottish Rite Lodge of Perfection	MMC	7:30 pm	
JANUARY 2009				
12	Charleswood/Red River Lodge No. 184	Charleswood Temple	7:30 pm	OV
24	Robbie Burns Gala	MMC	6:30 pm	



DEGREE WORKSHOPS

One of today's realities is that young men seeking admission have visited several websites and read book dealing with the subject of Freemasonry. They come with the expectation that the mysteries we purport to possess will be shared with them after they become members of the Craft. Sadly, too often they are disappointed as we fail to live up to the expectations. Unfortunately the reason is not that we don't want to satisfy their hopes but that we are unable for as well as we know the ritual we possess precious little of the allegorical mysteries it alludes to.

The Fellowcraft Degree sets the stage for the astounding revelations of the Master Mason Degree. A number of brethren who have read and studied extensively are prepared to share their knowledge at the upcoming FC and MM workshops. Plan to attend so that you will not only be enriched yourself but be in a position to share this knowledge with our uninformed brethren. Freemasonry truly can be a journey of self discovery. Begin your quest on January 17th at the Fellowcraft degree workshop. Lodge Secretaries have more complete information as well as registration forms.

RETREAT '08



Despite old man winter's stormy blast, all those who had registered for Retreat '08 carefully wended their way over the icy highways to the Lakeview Conference Centre. Inside the atmosphere was, in vivid contrast, warm, caring and enthusiastic. A delicious supper was followed by a Table Lodge in which the toasts were warm and sincere, the cannons were fully charged and the drill was executed with accuracy and precision. It was a lot of fun and the festivities continued long into the evening.

The esoteric nature of the workshop began with a lesson in gematria, by which letters of the Hebrew alphabet are assigned a number. Words with equal numerical value are deemed to have similar meanings. In this case the cover of our booklet had a view of the centre of our solar system as viewed through the constellation Sagittarius. The words 'heaven' and 'soul' both have letters totaling 396 and so are related. Hence the picture of the heavens related to our theme 'Awaken my Soul.' Later in the day we

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discovered that the ineffable name of the deity, as revealed to Moses has that same value so that 'soul' and 'God' are also related.

Bro. Stephen presented his 'keynote address' in which he debunked the belief that in the good old days almost everyone was a Freemason. Even at out heyday only five of every hundred men were members of the Craft. Today it is about one and a half. He also used our Manitoba statistics to demonstrate that if we could eliminate those lost by Suspension we would be doing very well.. His message was that through a balance of excellent ritual, meaningful education and sincere fellowship we could solve not only our 'suspension' difficulty but ultimately our membership problems. Today's young man who seeks admission has likely explored several websites and has a desire to learn of the 'mysteries' which we purport of possess. He then related a story in which a young man was pleading for Freemasonry to awaken his soul. Our aim for the Retreat was to uncover some of those mysteries.

Bro Steve Kane talked to and about his paper dealing with our origins. He concentrated on the beginnings of Freemasonry in Manitoba. Our jurisdiction at that time was vast, extending into the Yukon and we heard stories of the difficulties in visiting across the seemingly endless prairie and even beyond. We even had a lodge in Morocco for a short while.

Bro. Ken Sweet introduced the ancient mysteries. In a preamble it was explained how information revealed quite recently in the Dead Sea Scrolls and the Nag Hammadi manuscripts tended to give credence to the earlier teachings of men like Albert Mackey. He left us with this question to ponder: "Are we human beings on a spiritual journey or spiritual beings on a human journey?" We then explored the Five Points of Fellowship and the Master's Word for some message beyond the obvious. At lunch Bro Kris Goodmanson presented the paper which he had delivered to the Western Canada Conference in Canmore recently. It was again very well received and will be shared throughout the jurisdiction.

Bro. Al Brock brought up a display from the Archives. We were all impressed with the quality and the scope of the items. We really do not appreciate the vast amount of Manitoba's history which was written by the Craft.

The afternoon concluded with Bro Victor Popow's Powerpoint dissertation of the symbolism of the Manitoba Legislature. A complete study of Freemasonry would include most of the features Vitruvian which are incorporated in this unique structure which embodies many of the classic Vitruvian temple features culminating with the '*Holy of Holies*' and the '*Ark of the Covenant*.' Like ourselves, it duplicates that Temple which is the focal point of our ritual.

Completed assessment forms indicated an overwhelming approval of the event. Buoyed by this enthusiastic support we are already setting in place the plans for Retreat '09.

MW Bro. Don:

Wanted to drop you a quick line to let you know I am home safe and sound after a wonderful and inspiring weekend.

You had asked me to prepare a talk about awakening the soul, but I find it is my soul that has been awoken or re-awoken by the great hospitality and overwhelming display of hope that I saw in the Manitoba Masons. Please pass on my thanks to M. W. Bro. Ted for his friendship and kindness over the weekend.

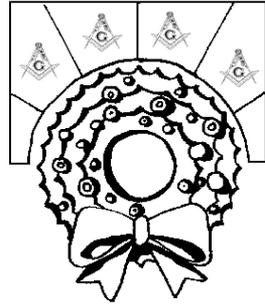
Sincerely and fraternally

Stephen Dafoe

A Masonic Christmas Story

Twasnigh afore Christmas at the Freemason's Hall
 Our lodge's regular, the order was tall;
 Reams from Grand Lodge, a notice of motion,
 A ballot or two and a pause for devotion
 To brethren departed of the year 'zero two',
 Plus a candidate who would walk the floor soon.

Our own Junior Warden, when faced with the crunch
 Said, "Let's all call off and go upstairs for lunch."
 The Master replied, as Masters all do,
 Intoned in a voice reserved for the few,
 "Before we partake of the fellowship there
 Is the summons to read and a ballot to clear.
 Not to mention the candidate, he's quaking with dread
 At the stories of whether the goat has been fed."



The Master, exhorting the brethren to work,
 A firm grip on the gavel, he turned with a jerk
 To the Secretary, putting a shine to each lens,
 Polished both to a lustre and reached for his pens.



"It's half past the hour," the Master then winced
 At the stuff left to do and remained unconvinced
 That the evening would go as smooth as he'd hoped
 Since he'd gone to the trouble of feeding the goat.
 "Though the ballot's behind us, the notice is gone,
 Grand Lodge is finished, the work still goes on."

The Inner Guard knew as the Tyler did too
 That knock, knock and knock was the right thing to do.
 Sidebenchers slept soundly and were only stirred
 When the crack of the candidate's knuckles was heard
 The slight groan that penetrated lips that were pursed
 Appeared to the Deacon as just a light curse.



Onward they travel, the guide and the man
 Seeking truth and enlightenment wherever they can
 The secrets were given, the grip and the token,
 Obligation was offered, the words then were spoken.
 Though never, not once, was one heard to gloat
 As the Entered Apprentice never did meet the goat.

The evening now ended, the candidate clear
 Junior Warden entreats from the South us to hear
 The oath we look forward to right from the start,
 "Happy to meet and sorry to part."

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Christmas had come to our Lodge that night
 As men came together under the light
 Giving freely of time as a labour of love
 As we bent to the task of the Most High above.



To Stewards, to Deacons, the Tyler, the 'Guard; The Wardens, the Master, who all
 work so hard; To Past Masters steady, Sidebenchers too; To Treasurer, Chaplain, the
 D. of C. who; Help carry the Lodge, year in and year out; Season's greeting to you
 and without a doubt; To your family extended, a warm Christmas time.

Thank the G.A.O.T.U. we've run out of rhyme! - *W. Bro. C.S. Laurie Lund, G.R.S.*

COMING SOON: GALA ROBBIE BURNS NIGHT

Don't forget to get your tickets soon for the Gala Robbie Burns Night, Saturday January 24th at the Masonic Memorial Centre. This will be a first class evening with the Address to the Haggis, a prime rib dinner, wine on the tables, Scottish entertainment, dancing and, other than a few obligatory toasts—no speeches!

The preferred dress will be Highland or formal attire. Festivities will commence with a cocktail hour at 6:00 pm with the haggis to be piped in at 7:00 pm. Dinner, entertainment and dancing to follow.

Tickets available from most Winnipeg lodge Junior Wardens or from the Grand Lodge Office (453-7410 ext. 30) at \$50 each. Last year's gala was a smashing success and this year we are looking forward to an even better evening!

Coordinators - Steve Kane (837-4955) or Bruce Taylor (663-5155)

THE WINTER SOLSTICE AND FREEMASONRY

Preceding the ancient Roman holiday Dies Natalis or birthday of the Sun, Christmas or Hanukah and the festival of fire and light (the triumph of light over darkness) through the use of candles, the yule log, tree decorations we have the period of the seasons that are the most spiritual of all. In ancient times the period of the autumnal equinox (Sept 21st) was the time when the sun began to grow old and weak in its battle with the forces of darkness. The god of the sun, light, illumination was about to perish to be reborn at the shortest day of the year the winter solstice or December 25th and that is why that day became the birthday of all the gods from Mithras to the Christ.

The ancient Egyptian god Horus (the Egyptian Christ), son of the widow Isis (the prototype of all Freemasons) was depicted as a vigorous young man (the sun in the first six months) or as a decrepit ugly old man (the sun in its declining months), the underlying symbolism is solar in origin. The inner meaning, known to the enlightened ancients was that imbedded in nature are powerful re-occurring themes which Freemasons have long understood displayed symbolically in their rituals. The dying sun was a time of willingness or sacrifice for the world of the living's behalf, to die daily in the west the spirit was descending into matter (matter or mother) which is then hidden for a time before the great solar birth at Christmas.

Our Freemasonic circumambulation or rotation about the Lodge tells of this eternal story of the seasons from the JW position in the south (youth, summer of the seasons, vitality) to the SW in the west (old age, wisdom) to the place of secrets in the north (winter season, the north is seen as the place of death and sleep, the underworld, the womb) to the time of resurrection in the east where the sun or spirit has reemerged (the Master or symbolic King as wise and responsible Ruler over himself and others) and presides or as otherwise triumphed over the material worlds darkness and death.

- RW Bro. Victor Popov

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