



MASONRY IN MANITOBA

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THE GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE

Greetings Brethren and welcome to the New Year. We hope that you have enjoyed a wonderful and memorable holiday season with your friends and family as we have.

In late November we had an opportunity to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Corinthian Lodge No. 178. It was gratifying to see two new brothers raised as Master Masons at the afternoon lodge meeting and then to share a wonderful evening of friendship and festivities with the brethren and their ladies.

As well, we were able to enjoy a number of official visits, enjoyable dinners and pleasant social events with our Masonic Family members. It is always a pleasure when we have an opportunity to renew old friendships and make new ones.

The Grand Lodge of Manitoba was extremely pleased to perform the Ceremony of Consecration and to install the Officers of Phoenix Lodge No. 187. Congratulations to Worshipful Master RW Bro. Jack Goods, his officers and all the brethren of the lodge on receiving their Charter. We wish them continued success.

RW Bro. Kris Goodmanson and the Grand Master have met a number of times with staff members of the Canadian Museum of Human Rights to discuss our plans for joining them on their "Journey of Hope". The "Journey of Hope" will give each of us an opportunity to contribute to the building of this magnificent and lasting museum to mankind with our "Just a Buck"

campaign, which is being proposed by RW Bro. Kris Goodmanson. Additional information on this wonderful opportunity to promote both the museum and Masonry will be forthcoming in the months ahead.

Congratulations to all the newly installed lodge masters and officers. We extend our best wishes to you for this coming year and trust that you will do well in your work and deliberations. Always remember "...The Worshipful Master who presides over his Lodge with ability, firmness and decision (for without force of character, there can be no force of expression); whose manner is courteous yet dignified; whose decisions are consonant with reason and Masonic law; and who dispenses light and information among the Craft, will ever be regarded by his brethren as one who is entitled to their highest respect and most fraternal regard." Also remember that the Grand Lodge is here to help and support you anytime you need assistance.

Once again, we wish each of you and yours good health and happiness in the coming months and indeed throughout the year and look forward to seeing you in the near future.

Fraternally,
Ted

"A true friend is someone who reaches for your hand and touches your heart."

Year's end is neither an end nor a beginning but a going on, with all the wisdom that experience can instill in us.

~Hal Borland~

GRAND MASTER'S ITINERARY

JANUARY 2009

6	District 13 Meeting	MMC		OV
12	Charleswood/Red River Lodge	Charleswood Temple	7:30 pm	OV
13	Keystone Lodge	MMC	7:45 pm	OV
16	Board of General Purpose Meeting	MMC	7:00 pm	
17	Fellowcraft Degree Workshop	MMC	9:00 am	
19	Ancient Landmark Lodge	MMC	7:30 pm	
24	Robbie Burns Gala	MMC	6:00 pm	
28	Unity District Annual Meeting	Empire Lodge	7:00 pm	
28	Acacia Lodge	Kimberley Temple	8:00 pm	OV
31	Masonic Family Meeting	MMC	10:00 am	

FEBRUARY 2009

2	Sturgeon Creek Lodge — An evening in honour of MW Bro. John Reid, PGM	Sturgeon Creek Masonic Hall	7:45 pm	OV
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FELLOWCRAFT DEGREE WORKSHOP

The Fellowcraft Degree builds on many of the lessons first presented to the Entered Apprentice and prepares one for the tremendously important Master Mason Degree. This degree focuses on the mature man, the working man and the working tools reflect that fact. However, upon entering the Middle Chamber we realize that we are just beginning our journey. We recognize the need to develop our minds beyond the level of practical knowledge for we are introduced to the intuitive or spiritual levels. There is a vast difference between merely knowing something and really understanding it. Knowledge is the beginning, not the end of this process.

It is estimated that there are as many as 100,000 books written about Freemasonry. Many of these expound upon an individual's interpretation of the allegory and symbolism of the Craft. Often times they repeat what they have read elsewhere but on occasion they introduce a totally new view of the story contained within the ritual. This workshop combines much of the lesser known interpretations and presents it in a unique way. Passing through the two great pillars has a great significance, so too the pass word has a deep and profound meaning. The letter 'G' in our lodges we are told represents the Grand Geometrician but we never pause to consider the sacred geometry which the Creator used in designing our wonderful world and the being which exists in His own image. Even the name He gave to Moses upon the mount can serve as a unifying force among mankind when properly understood.

On Saturday, January 17th those interested in pursuing a fuller understanding of the mysteries of this degree will meet at MMC and share their passion for the quest with other like minded men. Consider joining us.

Lodge secretaries have further information and registration forms.

MASTER MASON DEGREE WORKSHOP

Too few of our brethren truly understand the underlying 'end' of Freemasonry. When Lodges are formed they are consecrated, which implies that have become sacred space. The Master Mason's Lodge represents what was for the Jewish people the most sacred place on earth, the earthly dwelling place of Yahweh, the Holy of Holies of Solomon's Temple. True, Masonry is not a religion but it is deeply sacred, involving itself with uncovering the nature and purpose of mankind. In the lodge room all social distinctions cease to have any importance. Here we are all brothers. It is a place of initiation, of thought, of contemplation, of getting in touch with our real selves and of searching for the meaning of life itself.

This may sound foreign to those who consider the Craft to be merely a social club or a service club with ritual. In the Master Mason Degree workshop we will interpret the meanings of the allegory and symbols. We will search for the reason the ritual was developed as it was and we will become in awe of those who possessed the wisdom to put together this wonderful 'system of morality'.

Truly Freemasonry speaks to those ancient mysteries which are concealed deep within the legends of every culture. It reveals to those who seek it an understanding of the divine nature of mankind.

The Grand Lodge Education and Training Committee will present the Master Mason's Degree Workshop on Saturday, February 21st. Lodge Secretaries will have further information and registration forms prior to your January meeting.

LAST CHANCE! 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)



WANTED

To better serve the membership of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba and to make *Masonry in Manitoba* more interesting to our readers we are looking for human interest stories. Presentations of 50 and 60 year medals provided they include a 'story' may be featured. Every year lodges are celebrating milestones in their history and they may wish to advertise some of their activities to the membership at large. As well stories dealing with the accomplishments of and honours afforded to our members are welcomed. Please submit your articles electronically to the editor at the following address: masonry_in_manitoba@grandlodge.mb.ca

MOTHER PORTER'S HAGGIS

For quite a number of years Treherne Lodge No. 51 used to sponsor a Robbie Burns event to mark the birth of the one of Scotland's most famous sons and a Freemason of quite a reputation. One of their stalwarts at that time was MW Bro. Bruce Porter and it was always hinted but never confirmed that the 'Mother Porter' in this recipe was actually a distant relative.

Since many of their members have sought to continue their Masonic affiliation with Assiniboine Lodge No. 7 we feature this delicacy along with neeps, scones and a touch of the nectar of the gods at our January refreshment hour. We chose to use this recipe with great results and the brethren claim that they actually enjoy it! It is included for those whose culinary tastes include the exotic.

Great Grandmother Porter's Haggis Recipe

During the struggle for the independence of Scotland, Robert the Bruce, deathly ill and leading a small army of a few hundred starving men, camped at the Old Meldrum north of Aberdeen. It was Christmas time 1308 and he came to battle Buchan who was camped at Barra Hill. Legend has it that the King summoned a Grandmother Porter of the famous Porter clan of that region. His request of her was to prepare a feast of her famous Haggis in the hope that it would give renewed vigour and spirit to his starving men. The result was such that the King and his men defeated Buchan at the Battle of Barra Hill and went on to capture the entire northeast corner of Scotland.

This recipe makes one two-pound haggis, serves ten people.

- ½ lb Scotch oatmeal (medium) (Steel cut)
- ¼ lb suet, ground fine
- 3 onions, medium size
- ½ lb beef liver
- 2 teaspoons salt, or to taste
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 tablespoon mixed herbs

Toast oatmeal in 350 degree oven until light brown. Peel and parboil onions. Cook sliced liver until blood does not show. Grate or chop liver until fine. Mix oatmeal, onions, liver and spices using enough liquid from boiling onions to make the mixture moist. Place the mixture in a baloney casing, tie ends securely with heavy string, leaving room for expansion. Prick casing three times with a kitchen fork. Simmer for three hours in water preheated to medium temperature, reduce temperature for last hour. Remove from water, cool, cut off string and excess casing. Wrap in foil, shiny side in, freeze until required.

To serve reheat in 275 degree oven for two hours, thaw before heating. Enjoy!

“Sláinte chuig na fir, agus go mairfidh na mná go deo.”

THE ANCIENT MYSTERIES

These cold winter nights are practically illuminated by the constellation Orion, the mighty hunter, as he strides purposefully across the sky, accompanied by his two hunting dogs. Canis Major and Canis Minor, Sirius and Procyon. Sirius is by far the brightest star in our skies. (Venus is a planet, not a star and so cannot be compared) The three stars at the 'heart' of this constellation form his belt from which hangs a dagger. It is marked particularly by a supergiant star cluster called the Orion Trapezium. By its light it is possible to see the Orion Nebula. Stars are born in the vast condensations of gas which form the nebulas. Following the formation of a star the gas and dust revolving about it may eventually condense into planets. The universe is by no means constant!

This impressive constellation we call *Orion* has been revered by many cultures. In China he was *Tsan*, a mighty hunter and warrior. In Mayan civilization the three stars represented the Turtle, which is also an important part of our local native culture. To the Arabs he is '*Al Jabbar*', the giant while the Jews saw the biblical '*Samson*' blazing forth in the winter sky. The best known is the Egyptian connection where they represent Osiris, the god of the dead. No less than five of the fourth dynasty pyramids on the Giza plateau are placed to represent key stars in this constellation. Another illustration of the age old axiom "*As above, so below!*"

The Junior Warden entices each Entered Apprentice's imagination with hints of an Egyptian connection to those ancient mysteries which we purport to know. But it is only a hint. He also mentions Pythagoras and a little research reveals that he was indeed initiated into the Egyptian mysteries. As he is held in high esteem by the Craft perhaps it would prove beneficial to review some of the early Egyptian legends.

There are many variations to the legends of Osiris and Isis but perhaps the account by the 1st century Greek historian Plutarch is as reliable as any. The earth-god Geb and the sky-goddess Nut had five children. Three are of particular importance. Osiris became king and his sister Isis became his wife and queen. Brother Set was jealous and murdered Osiris, cutting his body into fourteen parts and scattering them far and wide. Isis searched and was able to recover everything except the phallus for which she substituted a golden replica and was able to conceive a son, Horus. Those who were initiated into the Egyptian mysteries were said to represent Horus and were therefore referred to as the widow's son. Sounds familiar doesn't it! To lend some credibility to the legend there is a shaft running from the King's Chamber at the core of the Great Pyramid which would have aligned with the belt-stars in 2700-2600 BCE. A second shaft is aligned to Sirius' position at the same time. This was the star of Isis.

Unless we can interpret this as something meaningful for us today this must remain simply a very short lesson in astronomy and in Egyptian legend. Perhaps we can. The sun god Ra (or Re) was all powerful, ruling the day and was also able to keep the evil forces at bay while he traversed the darkness back to the East where he was magically reborn each morning. By his returning from death to sire Horus, Osiris had conquered death and was now considered as an equal to Ra. The pharaohs were now initiated into this sacred rite and upon assuming their office they journeyed to Orion where they learned the mysteries which were required of their office. Mortal men were now considered as gods, were invested with the ultimate knowledge and had put on the cloak of immortality. Several hundred years later this guarantee of an afterlife, which had heretofore been restricted to royalty was now available to all who had the means to pursue it. Here they developed the 'weighing of the heart' ceremony where the deceased's heart is placed on a balance opposite a feather. A possible interpretation of this is that doing evil in life would give one a 'heavy heart' and therefore exclude him from advancing further.

(Continued on page 6)

Such is the intent of virtually all initiatory institutions. Mortals are initiated into a society where they are taught the greater mysteries, the knowledge of the gods and subsequently learn about and become immortal. To be admitted into Freemasonry it is necessary that each of us acknowledge our belief in the existence of the Great Architect of the Universe and also our belief in the immortality of the soul. Freemasonry, then through its teachings reinforces these basic and fundamental beliefs. In the legend of the death of the principal architect, Hiram Abiff, we figuratively undergo this experience and like the old Egyptian Sun god Ra, are reborn in the East.

GRAND MASTER'S LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Researchers have found that there are a number of reasons people join various associations and organizations such as Freemasonry. First is fellowship along with friendship and a place for family involvement. As well men are looking to make an impact upon their communities and to improve themselves in terms of developing their self confidence, public speaking and leadership skills.

Leadership may be defined as the subtle art of influencing human behavior so as to accomplish the ends of an organization. It is an art which can be learned and when practiced, like so many other skills will develop and flourish. We have long said that we need to be involved with educating our leaders but until now have been unsure as to the means of accomplishing that end.

There have been countless books written on this subject. Those who aspire to positions of influence, whether in business, government or the Craft would do well to study some of them. There is one in particular: "*The Law of Leadership*" by John Maxwell, which has been chosen by the Grand Lodge of Michigan as their reference. A past Grand Master, MW Bro. Bob Conley, who is no stranger to Manitoba is their guru. They conduct a course of six months duration which covers the 21 irrefutable laws as outlined in the text. It has an accompanying workbook with exercises to reinforce the skills and knowledge presented

At the Condition of Freemasonry meeting held in Portage la Prairie on December 6th the DDGMs were tasked to appoint a two-man team for their districts. The team's first task will be to take a special two day course conducted by Bro. Conley which will prepare them to conduct this course within their districts. The course will be conducted at MMC and there will be no cost to the individuals. It will begin with a social evening on Friday, April 24th but the next two days will be devoted strictly to business. The team's responsibility then will be to conduct this course on an annual basis within their districts. Selection for the team will be based upon a three year commitment and also an agreement to train their replacement when the time comes for them to retire.

Individuals selected must be dynamic individuals who can inspire others to rise above their present levels of knowledge and proficiency. The only prerequisite, besides being a MM, is that the individuals must have the ability, desire and the time required to perform this task. It might well become a monumental task as the membership realizes its value to them as individuals as well as future leaders within the Craft.

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