

Hiram's Lighthouse

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

Grand Lodge Website: - www.grandlodge.on.ca/index.htm
Toronto East District Website: - www.torontoeastdistrict.com
D.D.G.M.: R.W. Bro. Leyland Anthony Muss Email: - leylandmuss@gmail.com
District Secretary: W. Bro. Gerry Newall Email: - geraldnewall@yahoo.com

March 1 2011

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page</u>
District Events	4
Around and About (News & Notices)	6
Book Review	n/a
... by the Lighthouse Beam	23
Administration (It's all about US!)	28

In the nineteenth century, few institutions within the British Empire could rival the importance and prestige of Freemasonry. The list of prominent Masons read like a roll call of military and administrative icons: Nelson, Wellington, Dalhousie, Carnarvon, and Kitchener. As a woman, Queen Victoria herself could not be a Mason, but her father, her uncles, and her sons were. Ambitious men throughout Victoria's realm sought to join the

Masons; according to one estimate, the number of lodges across the empire increased from 1,350 at Victoria's accession to 3,650 just fifty years later.

*- Jessica L. Harland-Jacobs, Builders of Empire:
Freemasonry and British Imperialism, 1717-1927-2007*

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

Brethren,

My Official Visits are continuing and we have very good attendance from some lodges. Two of my talks at two lodges were entitled "Civility in Masonry" and "Cathedral Lodge." On civility, I pointed out that I'm finding that discourse in our membership has become polarized at a time when we are far too eager to lay blame at those who think differently than we do. I concluded that we need to find common ground to resolve our differences and we can surely question each other ideas without questioning our love for our lodge and the fraternity.

I also brought members up to date on why the operation of Cathedral Lodge had been suspended and its warrant arrested. The Grand Master had indicated that there were long standing unresolved issues, the cancelling of a regular meeting by the Master without dispensation and in direct disobedience to the Grand Master's direction. This displayed contempt for Masonic authority and violated the by-laws of the lodge. Consequently, the Grand Master decided that the lodge had become dysfunctional and in accordance with Sec. 85 the warrant was arrested and the operation of Cathedral was suspended.



Of the seven (7) Official Visits we've had, Wexford has won the Travelling Gavel thrice, Doric twice, Friendship and The Beaches once. There are five (5) lodges that have had three (3) or less members attending, including one lodge who has never attended an Official Visit.

I have made some changes to Official Visits in February and March. E-mails were sent to your lodges as to the new dates and also included in this newsletter, our website and the Builder. Please update your diaries.

Lodge of Discussion:

A Lodge of Discussion was held on February 12. The topic was "What do new Masons want from Masonry." There was a lively two and a half hour discussion. Arising from the discussion, it was generally agreed that sponsors do not follow through on their responsibilities to candidates and some of them sign the application form without knowing or meeting the candidate. Chris Christie, District Chairman, has been requested to compile the "Duties and Responsibilities of the Sponsor" which will be sent to Masters and Secretaries for dissemination to their membership.

Long Range Planning:

The fundamental reasons why any organization undertakes the development of a Long Range Plan is to reaffirm why it exists and what it has determined to accomplish in the foreseeable future. A long range or strategic plan also provides an opportunity to restate guiding principles, beliefs and values. At the official visit to Imperial-East Gate lodge I mentioned that it was vitally important for our lodges and district to have a Long Range Plan and we should start the discussion now.

To this end R.W. Bro. Greg Seale, District Chairman, Long Range Planning, has prepared a draft road map for preparing a Long Range Plan for lodges. Greg and I will finalise the draft shortly and send to all lodges for them to begin the process. During my official visits, lodges indicated that they had a Lodge Chairman responsible for Long Range Planning and a few lodges had a written Long Range Plan. These Lodge Chairmen should be taking the lead and with assistance from other members start the process.

Greg will also be drafting a template for a District Long Range Plan and we will form a small committee to discuss the template and start discussing the District's vision, mission and strategic themes in order to achieve the vision and mission.

Officer Progression and Degree Proficiency Workshop:

Arrangements have been completed for us to hold the above workshop on **Saturday April 9th starting at 8:30 am at Chisholm**. This workshop, conducted by Grand Lodge Team Leaders, is for Masters and all current officers; also Master Masons who will like to become officers should attend.

The first workshop will explain the "**When, What, Who and How**" in terms of improving your proficiency in the mechanics of the work. The second workshop will be on **Officer Progression** and will include **Duties and Responsibilities, Best Practices, Officer Learning Curve and the Master's Chair**.

During my official visits, I have seen the need for this type of workshop and I am expecting see if not all, most of the lodge officers and potential officers. Even more important, this workshop will help the officers whose official visits are in April and May to show their proficiency in the Mechanics of the Work.



Grand Master's Reception:

V.W. Bro. Ed Russell, our ticket coordinator, has advised me that the sale of tickets has picked up since my last message. Ed still has fifty (50) tickets for distribution. This reception is not only for Masons, but also our spouses, significant others and friends are also welcomed. This is also an excellent opportunity for applicants into Masonry and recent initiates to attend as they will see the pomp and ceremony and what Masonry is all about.

Masters of 2009/2010 and 2010/11 will have their pictures taken with the Grand Master. Toronto East has been asked to attend at 4:00 pm to have their pictures. If they are not there at the appointed time, they have to wait until the other four districts are completed. Masters who are attending, please advise Ed Russell so that the photographer can complete their cards for them to secure their pictures and to be introduced to the Grand Master.

Your district has been honoured by having W. Bro. Prince Selvaraj give the Toast to the Queen and the Craft and I have been asked to give the Toast to the Visitors.

See you at the Official Visits starting on March 2nd with West Hill.

VISITATION + EDUCATION = RETENTION

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

R.W. Bro. Leyland A. Muss
District Deputy Grand Master
Toronto East District



TORONTO EAST DISTRICT EVENTS:

March 2011						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u> * West Hill – Official Visit Guests-7:30 pm ← EA Degree East Toronto * Rainbow Girls – Pancake Supper See below Doric Pickering	<u>3</u> * The Beaches – Official Visit EA Degree 50 & 60 year pin presentations Guests-7:30 pm ← York	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u> * TED - Mechanics of the Work - Week 4 / 6 See below East Toronto * West Hill – Oldies Dance See below East Shore	<u>6</u>
<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u> * Todmorden – Official Visit Date changed See below	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u> * TED - Mechanics of the Work - Week 5 / 6 See below East Toronto * DeMolay- Conclave See below Scottish Rite	<u>13</u> Daylight Saving Begins at 2:00 am Set your clocks ahead 1 hour. 
<u>14</u> * Scarboro – Official Visit Guests-8:00 pm Doric Pickering	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u> * Cathedral – Official Visit cancelled	<u>17</u> St. Paddy's Day everywhere	<u>18</u> → * TED – Habitat for Humanity Build Day 1 See below 4572 Kingston Rd.	<u>19</u> * TED - Mechanics of the Work - Week 6 / 6 See below East Toronto * Heritage Lodge – General Meeting See below York	<u>20</u> Spring Starts at 7:31 pm ☺☺☺ * Pledge Group – Rainbow Girls See below Doric Pickering
<u>21</u> * Caledonia – Irish Night See below York * Acacia – Official Visit Date changed See below	<u>22</u> * St. Aidan's – Official Visit cancelled	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u> * TED – Blood Donor Clinic See below St. Aidan's Anglican Church	<u>26</u> * TED – Master Mason Workshop See below Doric Pickering * Doric – Mardi Gras Night See below Doric Pickering	<u>27</u> * Mimosa – Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament See below East Toronto
<u>28</u>	<u>29</u> * Toronto and York Districts – Grand Master's Reception See below Crystal Fountain Banquet Hall	<u>30</u>	<u>31</u>			



April 2011						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				<u>1</u> * Wexford – Official Visit Date changed See below	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>4</u> * Mimosa - Official Visit Date changed See below	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u> * Brougham Union – Official Visit Date changed See below	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u> * TED - Officer Progression Seminar See below East Toronto * Irish Constitution 3rd Degree See below Streetsville	<u>10</u> * Rainbow Girls - Church Service See below Pickering Village United Church
<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u> * Coronati - Official Visit Guests-8:00 pm Doric Pickering	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u> * The Beaches – Ladies Night See below School of Fine Dining	<u>17</u> * Pledge Group – Rainbow Girls See below Doric Pickering
<u>18</u> * Caledonia – Official Visit Guests-8:00 pm York	<u>19</u> * Riverdale-JRR – Official Visit Guests-7:40 pm ← East Toronto	<u>20</u> * Markham Union – Official Visit Guests-8:00 pm Claremont	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u> Good Friday – a Christian day or mourning	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u> Easter – a Christian day of celebration.
<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u> * Toronto and York Districts Masters' Dinner * Past Grand Senior Wardens' Annual Reunion See below University Lodge	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u> * TED – Spring Business Meeting Registration and coffee – 9:00 am Toronto East * TED – Habitat for Humanity Build Day 2 See below	



AROUND AND ABOUT:

Toronto East District Charity

WindReach Farm strives to enrich the lives of persons of all ages with disabilities and/or special needs by providing opportunities to enjoy experiences in farming, nature, outdoor recreation and other activities and to share those experiences with family and friends. Project 2441.

Make cheques payable to The Masonic Foundation of Ontario, include the Project number and your lodge on the cheque and mail to the Masonic Foundation - 361 King St W., Hamilton ON, L8P 1B4.



Contact: Todd Owens @ 678@yrp.ca or 416.722.0843, or
David Neave @ davidneave@rogers.com or 905.725.8032

The ways of Virtue are beautiful. Knowledge is obtained by degrees. Wisdom dwells in contemplation; there we must seek her.

- Grand Lodge of Alberta, The Work: Ancient York Rite-1999

Blood Donor Clinics



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

If you wish to be a donor and can't make it to any of the indicated Blood Donor Clinics, find yourself a clinic at the website indicated below and go and give blood. Take your family and friends. Be sure to let your lodge Blood Donor Chairman know that you have donated to get credits for your lodge. The Toronto East District 'Partners For Life' number is **TOR0009781** and any donation registered under that number goes in our totals count.

For information regarding the location of blood donor clinics, go to

www.blood.ca/centreapps/clinics/InetClinics.nsf/CVSE?OpenForm&CloseMenu

Contact: John Katz @ johnkatz@sympatico.ca or 416.264.7399
Doug Gray @ douggray@rogers.com or 416.266.0783

Upcoming Blood Donor Clinics -

Friday March 25 2011

3:00 pm – 7:30 pm - Clinic Hours

St. Aidan's Anglican Church

70 Silver Birch Ave. (S of Queen)

416.691.2222

Friday May 27 2011



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

Be Aware of Some Official Visit Date Changes

Conflicts between personal necessities and Masonic events have resulted in several Official Visit date changes. Please change your calendars.

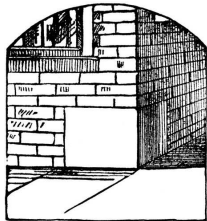
<u>Lodge</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Todmorden	March 10 2011	May 12 2011
Acacia	March 21 2011	May 16 2011
St. Aidan's	March 22 2011	cancelled
Wexford	April 1 2011	May 6 2011
Mimosa	April 4 2011	May 2 2011
Brougham Union	April 6 2011	May 4 2011

The Scarboro Lodge Official Visit was originally changed to May 9th but that change has been scraped and the Scarboro Lodge Official Visit has reverted to its original date of March 14th.

St. Aidan's Goes Dark

In a vote taken on Tuesday February 22 2011, the members of St. Aidan's Lodge #567 with great courage but with much regret decided to extinguish their light and go into darkness. A closing ceremony is expected in which the members of St. Aidan's Lodge and the district will remember the history and highlights of the Lodge.

Is Your Lodge a Cornerstone Lodge?



The Toronto East District in conjunction with Grand Lodge has been running the Cornerstone Project since 2009. To date we have two lodges in the District who are putting their best foot forward in trying to complete the Project. The significance of being able to complete the Cornerstone Project and being able to state on your summons or on any literature that the lodge produces that they are indeed a CORNERSTONE LODGE is immense.

When members see that a lodge has the Cornerstone designation, it means that that lodge is a leader in the District and is well prepared in its leadership and membership, and that the regular members of the lodge have put forth a lot of extra effort to achieve these goals. It means that Grand Lodge notices these lodges as having achieved something of significance.

Material available and any lodge that wants to get started can contact the Grand Lodge website or the District Coordinator shown below and apply for the information.

It is hoped that many more lodges become aware of the CORNERSTONE PROJECT and apply to get started.

Contact: Ed Russell @ ajaxruss48@yahoo.ca or 905.619.3167



Now, What Can We Do?

Even for the busiest of lodges, an evening arises when there is absolutely no degree work that can be performed. For some, panic sets in. What can we do? Education is so difficult to organise. Maybe not. The following was unashamedly stolen from the Friendship summons. Thanks go to R.W. Bro. Elroy MacKinnon.

“The usual business meeting was followed by an evening of education. Bro. Michael Morris from Birch Cliff Lodge spoke to us about the programs being offered by our District chairmen for the interest of the brethren. They include a Fellowcraft Workshop, a Brother to Brother and Mentoring Workshop and Mechanics of the Work sessions held on Saturday mornings. (Further information can be found in **Hiram’s Lighthouse**.) V.W. Bro. Michael Ikonmidis led a discussion about Protocol and Etiquette from which we all learned a few things. An explanation of the Junior Warden’s Tracing Board on the wall closed out this portion of the evening.”

Sounds like a very interesting evening! You would almost think it had been planned.

Masonic Talks on the Internet

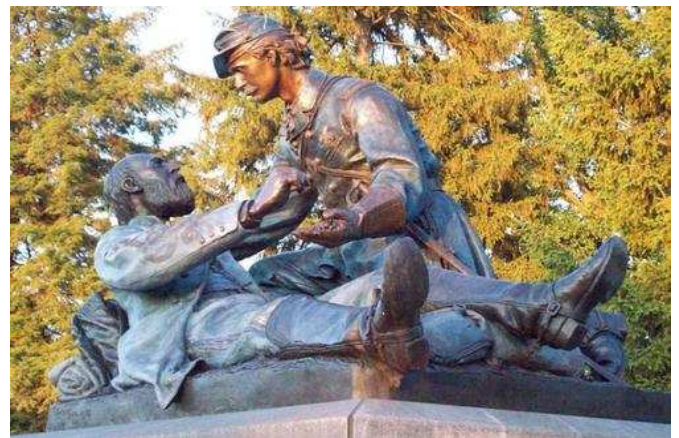
The Worldwide Exemplification of Freemasonry has appeared in **Hiram’s Lighthouse** before. It is an arm of the education program of the Grand Lodge of Indiana and the Dwight L. Smith Lodge of Research U.D. It looks as though every week they put up another lecture. “The presentations that are forthcoming are from some of the most talented and gifted Masonic minds our Fraternity has to offer. It is hoped that this endeavour will help to raise the Masonic knowledge of all our Brethren and inspire discussion and debate that will lead to Further Light in Masonry.”

The Home page contains the current lecture - The Old Charges Revisited - by Professor Andrew Prescott. If you go to Video, you will find previous lectures you can watch. A great source of Masonic Education on a great variety of topics.

www.weofm.org

Friend to Friend Memorial

(With thanks to Alex Hunter and Robert Jewell.) The Friend to Friend Masonic Memorial is a monument located in the annex of the Gettysburg National Cemetery in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Built by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, it commemorates Confederate Brigadier General Lewis Addison Armistead entrusting Union Captain Henry H. Bingham with his personal effects, most notably a pocket watch, on the third day of the Battle of Gettysburg, during Pickett’s Charge.



Pickett's Charge was an assault upon the Union Army center on the last day of the Battle of Gettysburg. The charge, the high tide of the Confederate States of America, was repulsed. Confederate General Armistead, under George Pickett's command, personally led his men up the hill to the Union position. Armistead was shot twice. Severely wounded, and fearing that his personal effects would be stolen by Union soldiers, he "gave a Masonic sign asking for assistance." Union Captain Bingham, an aide to Major General Winfield Scott Hancock, a personal friend of Armistead, then came to his aid as he lay wounded: Armistead, Bingham, and Hancock were all Freemasons. After ensuring Armistead that his possessions would be sent to his family, particularly his pocket watch, Bingham took Armistead to a field hospital, where Armistead died two days later on the George Spangler farm.

The monument's sculptor was Ron Tunison of Cairo, New York, who was himself a Freemason. The sculpture is made of polychrome bronze. The statue was dedicated by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania on August 21, 1993

February 3 2011 - Kandahar

Just because Bro. Joe Curry is no longer serving there does not mean that Canada Lodge U.D. in Kandahar does not have anything going on. Canada Lodge held a meeting on this date. You can see the attendees here. There seems to be more of them every time.



In the centre, you can see the Master holding a Volume of the Sacred Law. This sacred book was presented to Canada Lodge U.D. by Lebanon Lodge #139 of Ontario District in Oshawa. Here is a picture of it held by V.W. Bro. Rick Fulford, WM of Canada Lodge U.D. in Kandahar.



The inscription reads – *Presented to Canada Lodge U.D. Afghanistan by Lebanon Lodge No. 139, Oshawa, Ontario this 17th day of December 2010.*



February 2011 - Masonic Week

During this session, a Concordat between Order of the Secret Monitor (OSM) Canada and Allied Masonic Degrees (AMD) U.S.A. was signed which will allow the Order of the Secret Monitor Canada to recognize the members of the Allied Masonic Degrees U.S.A. It was an historic moment.



True Grit – The Latest Shoot-Em-Up



You no longer need an excuse to go and see the newest version of this story – it has Masonic content. You are seeing it to get your daily advancement. In one of the early scenes, the heroine, 14-year-old Mattie, tells the undertaker she wants her murdered father buried in his Mason's apron. Later, at the boarding house where her father stayed, she is given his belongings and we see his Square and Compasses along with his handgun and other items.

Those of us who saw the original with John Wayne playing Rooster Cogburn may believe this version of the story is not as good. After all – it was John Wayne. John was a Freemason. *“Fill your hands!”*

Now, Here Is A Lodge In . . .



San Antonio de los Baños, about 45 min. SW of Havana



The Lodge there, like many others, has suffered great neglect but is still in use. Apart from the shortages of materials, Masonry there is suffering from the economics of its income being geared to the Cuban Peso while it has to pay for most things in CUC at an exchange of 25 CP = 1CUC. CUC stands for Cuban Convertible Peso – their hard currency arbitrarily pegged about \$1 USD + 10%, just to thumb their nose at Uncle Sam – and also to extract more money from tourists! It's worth practically nothing on international markets.

(ED: Picture gratefully received from Iain Henderson, the young fellow in the doorway.)

Do you have a picture of a Masonic building in downtown Some-Place-Else? Send it in. Let everybody see.

The economics of the exchange rate thing is why you see regular appeals here for contributions of medical products. Here is a recent missive thanking contributors in that regard –

“I have received a package from Nelson King. I have received: glucosamine (I have to see the doctor to know for what it is). I imagine is for diabetic. Another of acetaminophen, two hundred diabetic syringes for insulin and a package of sterile cottons with alcohol (I have not seen this in my entire life!) Tremendous, my brother. Say thanks to Nelson King, first because of his charity work to our needy Cuban Masons; second for giving us the opportunity to use new things in the field of medicine that always surprise us. We praise the GADU for having brothers as Nelson, that take care of the needy brothers in Cuba.

“He also commented on the quality of the syringes. He says that yours don't sting as the one they have there.”

As you can tell, medical products we take for granted are unknown in Cuba. As anyone who has been to Cuba will attest, Cuban Freemasons are strong in Masonry. If you can contribute ANYTHING medical, even aspirin and vitamins, let me know.

Joseph Fort Newton



An ordained minister who served churches in Texas, Missouri, Illinois, Iowa, London (England), New York and Philadelphia and who was the revered Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Iowa wrote a book in 1914 - *The Builders*.

Perhaps those who wish to quote Dr. Newton might benefit from reading some of his words.

Apart from its rites, there is no mystery in Masonry, save the mystery of all great and simple things. So far from being hidden or occult, its glory lies in its openness, and its emphasis upon the realities which are to the human world what light and air are to nature. Its mystery is of so great a kind that it is easily overlooked; its secret almost too simple to be found out. “We know as much as

we do.” said Francis of Assisi. It is not enough to enact a truth in ritual; it must become *both an incarnation and an act*.

- *The Builders - A Story and Study of Freemasonry*

No, there are no short cuts, no mass production techniques that can make a perfect ashlar out of a rough ashlar.

- *Bro. Dwight L. Smith (1909-1993)*



Wednesday March 2 2011

Rainbow Girls – Pancake Supper and Open Meeting



Before you go to that West Shore Official Visit, come and chow down on some delicious pancakes, sausages and syrup. The cost is negligible. The people are nice. The Girls will appreciate your support. If you can't go to the Official Visit, stick around and see how the ladies do it. Please **RSVP** to ensure enough supplies.

Time: 6:00 pm
Location: Doric Pickering Masonic Hall
Cost: \$5 each
Contact: Barbara McGregor @ barb.mcgregor@rogers.com or 416-282-4254

Saturday March 5, March 12 and March 19 2011

Toronto East District – Mechanics of the Work

These classes are open to all Masons, regardless of their office, rank or Home District. It doesn't even matter if you've missed any or all of the previous sessions.

The format will be the same as our previous sessions with the brethren gathering for doughnuts and eye opening, high octane coffee at 9:00a.m. A \$2.00 donation is requested for the continental breakfast but the classes are free; being sponsored by Todmorden Lodge #647.

In the lodge room, we'll open and close in all three degrees, usually twice, giving those desiring it the opportunity to practice their work in the chair they are either in or the one they're about to enter. Our classes are quite informal as open books in the group are welcome and dress code is similarly relaxed as well (no regalia).

Over the course of the gatherings we will cover:

- the collection of the PG and PW,
- calling off and calling on,
- the JW's duties if there be no IPM in the lodge,
- the IPM's duties in the ritual,
- the Grand Honours,
- entering and leaving an open lodge,
- emphasis on the Deacons' work and receiving GL officers into lodge.



We will also review those pieces of the ritual that have been specifically requested by the attendees on the given morning.

Even those Brethren who are not yet officers or those who are EAs, FCs and recently raised MMs can get a great benefit from these sessions. If any 1st or 2nd degree Masons are present, we will tailor the work for their needs both inside and outside of the lodge room. A note here to Sponsors and Mentors of these new men; encourage them to attend with us and come out with them to assist with their getting comfortable in the openings and closings. Masons who have recently affiliated from outside of our jurisdiction and aspire to become an officer in their new home are enthusiastically urged to join us to become versed in the 'Ontario' way.



We'll answer any and all questions as they come up and encourage discussion on those points raised. We're flexible, within the confines of what's in the 'Book of the Work', as to what we'll cover and answer. We use the 2009 issue in our training. The whole intent is to help class members become as competent, at ease and satisfied with their work as they possibly can with an eye to what will be expected of them in the coming months and years.

Our gathering normally finishes before noon in the banquet room with more coffee, doughnuts and the practice of that truly Masonic endeavour; fellowship. Come out; visit, for as with all Masons we are anxious to have you join us because we're always "Happy to Meet. Sorry to Part. Happy to Meet Again."

Time: 9:00 am – to Noon
Location: East Toronto Masonic Temple
Cost: \$2 for coffee and stale sticky buns
Contact: Les Armitage @ 416.598.4794, or
Dennis Rankin @ kdrankin@pathcom.com or 416.691.1704

Saturday March 5 2011

West Hill - Oldies Dance



You don't have to be an 'oldie' to attend. Great people, great music, great food. This annual gem features that fabulous 50's, 60's and 70's music by the one and only DJ Jimmy Mac. Dinner, catered by the great Triple G Catering, features roast beef and chicken. Food, prizes, and dancing to that good ol' time Rock n' Roll! The kind of music that will sooth your soul. Dress is casual. This is traditionally a sold out event. Arguably the best dance in the district. Tickets are limited. Get them fast!

Time: 5:30 pm - Social
6:30 pm - Dinner
11:00 pm - Dessert Table
Location: East Shore Community Centre
910 Liverpool Rd., Pickering
(west side of Liverpool, south of Bayly, lots of easily accessible parking)

Cost: \$25/ea Cash Bar
Contact: Steve McClymont @ stefann44@hotmail.com or 416-226-6792

Saturday March 12 2011

Toronto East District – Mechanics of the Work – Session 5 of 6

These classes are open to all Masons, regardless of their office, rank or Home District. It doesn't even matter if you've missed any or all of the previous sessions. See above for details.

Time: 9:00 am – to Noon
Location: East Toronto Masonic Temple
Cost: \$2 for coffee and stale sticky buns
Contact: Les Armitage @ 416.598.4794, or
Dennis Rankin @ kdrankin@pathcom.com or
416.691.1704



Saturday March 12 2011

Order of DeMolay – Semi-Annual Conclave and Conferring of DeMolay Degree followed by a Dinner and Dance



The degree is conferred in the form of a play, depicting the final tribulations of Jacques DeMolay, last Grand Master of the Knights Templar. The Degree is performed by the youth of the various Chapters around the province and is always well done and well worth seeing. All Master Masons are welcome to attend, dress is business suit and regalia may be worn. Attendance is free.

This event is of particular importance for Knights Templars who are planning on attending in full regalia as it provides an opportunity to see a degree/play which is central to their Order.

Come and see if a young man you know would benefit from an organization such as this. See all the pomp and ceremony. The meeting will be followed by a dinner and dance with a cost associated. The agenda is as follows:

Time: 1:30 pm - Conclave Meeting
2:30 pm - Reception of Delegations (and reception of general visitors)
2:45 pm - DeMolay Degree

Time: 5:00 pm - Social - Main Foyer
6:00 pm - Dinner - Ballroom
8:00 pm - Dancing

Location: Scottish Rite Cathedral Ballroom
4 Queen St. N., Hamilton

Cost: \$35 ea for Dinner and Dance

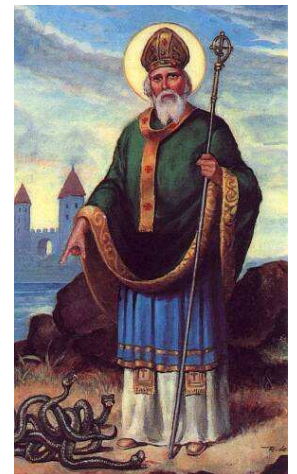
Contact: George Ingraham @ dad_ingraham@demolayontario.org

Thursday March 17 2011

St. Patrick's Day

Saint Patrick (Latin: Patricius) (Irish: Naomh Pádraig) (c. 387-493 [dubious]) was a Romano-Briton and Christian missionary, who is the most generally recognised patron saint of Ireland (although Brigid of Kildare and Columba are also formally patron saints).

Two authentic letters from him survive, from which come the only universally accepted details of his life. When he was about 14 he was captured from Britain by Irish raiders and taken as a slave to Ireland, where he lived for six years before escaping and returning to his family. After entering the Church, he returned to Ireland as an ordained bishop in the north and west of the island, but little is known about the places where he worked and there is no contemporary evidence for any link between Patrick and any known church building.



By the eighth century he had come to be revered as the patron saint of Ireland. The Irish monastery system evolved after the time of Patrick and the Irish church did not develop the diocesan model that Patrick and the other early missionaries had tried to establish. In some forms of Christianity, a diocese is an administrative territorial unit administered by a bishop.



Most available details of his life are from later studies of saints from the seventh century onwards, and these are not now accepted without detailed criticism. Uncritical acceptance of the *Annals of Ulster* would imply that he lived from 340 to 440, and ministered in what is modern day northern Ireland from 428 onwards. The dates of Patrick's life cannot be fixed with certainty, but on a widespread interpretation he was active as a missionary in Ireland during the second half of the fifth century.

Saint Patrick's Day (17 March) is celebrated both in and outside of Ireland, as both a liturgical and non-liturgical holiday. In the dioceses of Ireland it is a both a solemnity and a holy day of obligation and outside of Ireland, it can be a celebration of Ireland itself. (*As if we NEEDED a reason to drink beer!*)
- Wikipedia.com

Saturday March 19 2011

Toronto East District – Mechanics of the Work – Session 6 of 6

These classes are open to all Masons, regardless of their office, rank or Home District. It doesn't even matter if you've missed any or all of the previous sessions. See above for details.

Time: 9:00 am – to Noon
Location: East Toronto Masonic Temple
Cost: \$2 for coffee and stale sticky buns
Contact: Les Armitage @ 416.598.4794, or
Dennis Rankin @ kdrankin@pathcom.com or
416.691.1704



Saturday March 19 and Saturday April 30 2011

Habitat for Humanities

This year's Toronto East District Habitat for Humanities project will be at 4572 Kingston Rd., just across the side road from Sisters Restaurant.



We currently have capacity for five to eight brethren on Saturday, March 19th 2011 and additionally on Saturday, April 30th 2011. These weekends were the only weekends left until the end of June. They filled up very fast on the first day of booking! I endeavoured to book these dates keeping in mind that summer is when we all get far busier in our personal lives, and they would not be ideal for participation.

And as a reminder to the lodge Masters and Secretaries, if you have not already, please contact me regarding your liaison / appointee to the project (using the form which was emailed out in October) so I may communicate with them directly to organize the participation in this worthy cause.



Both of these dates will be interior work and we will not be subjected to the elements. Hooray! We do have the ability to add a weekday event if more participants request, currently there has only been one request for a weekday event - if we can get another three bodies, we can book one weekday. Weekdays as of November 22nd are pretty much wide open.

Start time for each build is 8:00 am sharp, and the day normally ends somewhere around 4:00pm. Pizza and pop lunch will be provided and volunteers also receive a Habitat for Humanity T-Shirt.



Dates: Saturday March 19 2011
Saturday April 30 2011
Time: 8:00 am until the union says to go home ☺
Location: 4572 Kingston Rd.
just across the side road from Sisters Restaurant.
Contact: Michael Morris @ mkmorris@gmail.com or 416.931.2954

Saturday March 19 2011

The Heritage Lodge – General Meeting – Hosted by The Beaches

All Masons are more than welcome to attend. Graeme Boyce of The Beaches will be speaking on “The Timely Evolution of the Craft.” A light lunch will be served followed by the meeting.



Time: 11:30 am – Lunch
1:30 pm – The Heritage Lodge Opens
Location: York Masonic Temple
Contact: Prince Selvaraj @ prince.selvaraj@sympatico.ca or 416.269.9909

Sunday March 20 2011

First Day of Spring!

Spring starts today at 7:31 pm. This is the March or Spring Equinox. You’ve noticed the days getting longer. That is because the sun has inexorably been making its way back north again. Today it will reach the Equator on its way to the Tropic of Cancer, which is at 23.5° North. When it reaches that point, it will be summer. Kiss that snow shovel goodbye. It’s an illusion there is snow out there. Oil up your lawnmower. You’re going to need it.



Sunday March 20 2011

Rainbow Girls – Pledge Group



Do you have or know of girls who would benefit from the teaching of our Craft? If you know of any girls between the ages of 7-11, Toronto Assembly #2 has re-opened their pledge group.

Time: 3:00 pm
Location: Doric-Pickering Masonic Hall
Contact: Catherine Benoit a @ benoithome@sympatico.ca

Monday March 21 2011

Caledonia - Irish Night

Listen to the great music of the Ulster Accordion Band. Marvel at Irish Dancing. Enjoy Irish Culture and Humour. Delight in a Banquet of Gourmet Corned Beef and Cabbage.

You enjoyed Scots Night - now revel in our Irish Night.

CEAD MILLE FAILTE



Time: 7:30 pm Lodge opens
8:00 pm visitors received
Location: York Masonic Temple
1100 Millwood Rd.
Cost: \$25
Contact: Brian Black @ briancblack@rogers.com or 905.824.0032

Saturday March 26 2011

Toronto East District – Master Mason Workshop

All Master Masons, particularly recent Master Masons as well as their sponsors are welcome to attend this workshop. Discuss the ceremony and its symbolism. Learn something new! Please **RSVP**.

Time: 8:30 am – coffee!
9:00 am - 12:00 noon - workshop
Location: Doric Pickering Masonic Hall
Cost: \$2 for coffee and sticky buns
Contact: Bruce Palanik @ thepalanikgroup@rogers.com or 905.839.7342

Saturday March 26 2011

Doric - Mardi Gras Night



You don't have to go to the time and expense of travelling all the way to the Big Easy - New Orleans. Right here in our very own district, you can experience almost (well maybe something remotely near) the same thing.

Doric will be holding a Mardi Gras Night. All the beads you can collect! Drinks in plastic cups! Music! Dancing! A late night Cajun buffet! Plan on enjoying give-aways, door prizes, draws and more. What more can you ask?

Time: 7:30 pm 'til you can't take it any more
Location: Doric-Pickering Masonic Hall
Cost: \$20
Contact: Scott McDonald @ smcdonal60@rogers.com or 905.428.7756

Sunday March 27 2011

Mimosa – Texas Hold ‘Em Poker Tournament (no limit)

Come and try your luck with some real card sharps! (Are the red cards better than the plain black ones? And the diamonds have to be great - right?)

Enjoy an afternoon of camaraderie and cards along with a glass of liquid refreshment of your choice. The only things missing will be cigarette smoke and dancing girls. But if you win big - maybe your girl will dance! Check your guns at the door. No gun fights, please. ☺

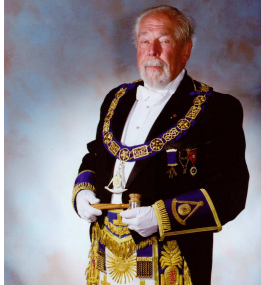


There are only 77 spots with the top 7 spots paid (based on 50 players). 20 minute blinds. Other draws as well i.e. 50/50. All are very welcome - men, women, and Masons as well as non Masons. Portion of the proceeds benefitting WindReach Farm.

Time: 11:00 am until you run out of money
Location: East Toronto Masonic Temple
Cost: \$50 for entry includes pizza, chilli, toast and raffle ticket. One re-buy for \$25. Cash Bar
Contact: Doug Tetreault @ uprightinvestments@gmail.com or 705.241.9072 or
Ryan Bailey @ rbailey1292@hotmail.com

Tuesday March 29 2011

Toronto and York Districts - Grand Master's Reception



Honouring Most Worshipful Bro. Raymond S.J. Daniels. The Worshipful Masters of 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 will have their pictures taken with the Grand Master. Toronto East District has been asked to attend at 4:00 pm to have their pictures. If they are not there at the appointed time, they have to wait until the other four districts are completed.



No tickets will be available at the door. Ladies most welcome.

If requesting tickets by email, please supply your full name and address, your postal code and the name associated with each ticket.

To pay for your Tickets to the Grand Masters Reception by Email Money Transfer, please follow the following instructions, as well as those specified on your bank's On-Line System.

1. Log on to your bank's On-Line Site.
2. Go to "Make a Transfer" or "Email Money Transfer."
3. Register yourself as "The Sender," and register to whom you are transferring the money to as "The Recipient" (The email address of the Recipient is tydgmr@hotmail.com).
4. You will then be asked to register a "Security Question" The following is to be used:
The Security Question will be: "What is your Grandfathers Occupation."
The "One Word Answer" is to be listed as "mason."
5. In the "From" section fill out the following:
Name/email: enter your name and email address.
Account: enter or select the account your funds will be taken from.
Amount: enter the amount to be transferred from the account you selected. (\$55.00 x no. of tickets).
6. In the "To" Section, fill out the following:
Recipient: enter tydgmr@hotmail.com.
Message: enter your Name, Lodge and Number, District, the quantity of tickets being purchased, along with the names to be associated with each ticket.
7. Click on "Next" at the bottom of the Page/Screen or Section.
8. Confirm the Transaction by clicking on "Finish" or "Send" at the bottom of the Page/Screen or Section.

You will be asked if you wish to print a copy of this transaction, and we strongly urge you to do so as a confirmation/receipt for your records, and as back-up documentation, should any questions arise.



As each Financial Institution has slight variations of these procedures, this guide should help you along the way. We will email you back, to confirm we have received your funds, for your peace of mind. We thank you for using this service.

Time: 5:30 pm – Social
7:00 pm – Dinner
Location: Crystal Fountain Banquet Hall
60 McDowell Gate, Markham
Cost: \$55.00 per person
Contact: Ed Russell @ ajaxruss48@yahoo.ca or 905.619.3167, or
your District Deputy Grand Master while on his travels

*Always err on the side of doing right. You and only you are responsible for your ethics.
- Griffin Bell (1918-2009)*

Saturday April 9 2011

Toronto East District – Officer Progression Seminar

This seminar is for all current and future Officers. It also provides some great input for those who wish to do the ritual better. The workshop is run by Grand Lodge Team Leaders from the Officer Progression and P&E Committees. The program will include: -

- | | | | |
|------------|------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| • 9:00 am | <u>Proficiency in the</u> | • 10:30 am | <u>Officer Progression</u> |
| Lodge Room | <u>Mechanics of the Work</u> | Banquet Hall | Duties and Responsibilities |
| | When, What, Who and | | Best Practices |
| | How | | Officer Learning Curve |
| | | | Managing and Leadership |
| | | | The Master's Chair |

A light lunch will follow sponsored by Mimosa Lodge.

Time: 8:30 am – Registration and Coffee and cookies
9:00 am to 12:30 pm - Seminars
Location: East Toronto Masonic Temple
Contact: Gerry Newall @ geraldnewall@yahoo.com or 905.728.7388

King Solomon's Temple

When Solomon had matured his design of a temple to be consecrated to the Most High, he found it impossible to carry that design into execution without foreign assistance. The Hebrew nation, constantly struggling for its material existence, and just rising to the condition of a civilized people, had made little proficiency in science and architecture, and especially the ornamental arts. There were few artificers and no architects in Judea. Solomon, consequently, applied to Hiram, King of Tyre, for assistance, and that monarch sent him a company of Tyrian architects, under the superintendence of Hiram Abiff, by whom the temple was erected. It was an oblong stone building, 150 feet in length, and 105 in width. On three sides were corridors, rising above each other to the height of three stories, and containing rooms, in which were preserved the holy utensils and treasures. The fourth or front side was open, and was ornamented with a portico ten cubits in width, supported by two brazen pillars - Jachin and Boaz.



The interior was divided into the most holy place, or oracle, 20 cubits long, which contained the Ark of the Covenant, and was separated by a curtain, or veil, from the sanctuary or holy place, in which were the golden candlestick, the table of the shew bread, and the altar of incense. The walls of both apartments, and the roof and ceiling of the most holy place, were overlaid with woodwork, skilfully carved. None but the High Priest was permitted to enter the latter, and only the priests, devoted to the temple service, the former.

The temple was surrounded by an inner court, which contained the altar of burnt offering, the brazen sea and lavers, and such instruments and utensils as were used in the sacrifices which, as well as the prayers, were offered here. Colonnades, with brazen gates, separated this court of the priests from the outer court, which was likewise surrounded by a wall.

This celebrated temple certainly reflected honour on the builders of that age. It was begun on the 2d day of the month Zif, corresponding with the 21st of April, in the year of the world 2992, or 1012 years before the Christian era, and was completed in little more than seven years, on the 8th day of the month Sul, or the 23rd of October, in the year 2999, during which period no sound of axe, hammer or other metallic tool was heard, everything having been cut and prepared in the quarries or on Mount Lebanon, and brought, properly carved, marked and numbered, to Jerusalem, where they were fitted in by means of wooden mauls. So of Freemasonry, it has always been the boast that its members perfect the work of edification by quiet and orderly methods, “without the hammer of contention, the axe of division, or any tool of mischief.”

The excellency of the Craft in the days of our Grand Master Solomon was so great, that, although the materials were prepared so far off, when they were put together at Jerusalem, each piece fitted with such exactness that it appeared more like the work of the Great Architect of the Universe than of human hands. The temple retained its pristine splendour but thirty-three years, when it was plundered by Shishak, King of Egypt. After this period it underwent sundry profanations and pillages, and was at length utterly destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, A. M.¹ 3416, BC 588, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem carried as captives to Babylon.

- Albert Mackey

Saturday April 9 2011

Irish Constitution Master Mason Degree

Mark this Education Event on your calendar. The Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario permits only two lodges in the province to use a ritual that is not The Canadian Work. This is one of those lodges. If you want to know why, you have to read Whence Come We. St. John's Lodge #20 of London Ontario will be performing the degree. If you have never seen their version of the Master Mason Degree, you are in for a treat. This event is for **Master Masons only**. **Regalia is required**. After the presentation, there will be a light lunch and an opportunity to meet the degree team.

Time: 9:00 am – Registration
10:00 pm – Lodge Opens and Presentation Begins
Location: Streetsville Masonic Temple
11 Thomas St., Mississauga
Cost: \$10.00 per person for lunch
Contact: Jan (John) Kawenka @ johnkawenka@rogers.com or 905.712.0352 or 416.388.0352 cell

¹ Anno Mondii – Year of the World



Sunday April 10 2011

Rainbow Girls – Church Service

These young ladies will be holding a church service. All are invited. They will be more than glad to have your support.

Time: 10:30 am - Service
Location: Pickering Village United Church
Contact: Barb McGregor @ barb.mcgregor@rogers.com or 416.282.4254

Saturday April 16 2011

The Beaches – Ladies Night Gala



Once again The Beaches Lodge is hosting our annual Ladies Night Gala. This year it will once again be held at our very own Bro. Nick Zarafontis's restaurant, The School of Fine Dining, at a bargain price for a lovely meal at such an establishment. You can not get a better deal. Each table will have 2 complimentary bottles of wine. The menu for the evening will include

1st course soup - squash chowder,
2nd course salad - mixed spring greens with citrus vinaigrette,
Main course beef medallion with a port wine sauce; there will also be a fish option for main course
Followed by dessert coffee, tea.

There will be a cash bar and of course a DJ and dancing. A whole night of dancing, door prizes and other entertainment. Your special Lady will be very impressed. There are only 110 tickets available so reserve yours today and don't be disappointed.

Time: 6:00 pm – Social
7:00 pm – Dinner
Location: The School of Fine Dining
4121 14th Ave, east of Birchmount Rd.
Cost: \$50.00 per person
Contact: Christian Giles @ christiangiles@hotmail.com or
Graeme Boyce @ gboyce@civilizedproductions.com or 416.402.8591
Ed Crosier @ newfser@hotmail.com or 289.240.4913

Thursday April 28 2011

Past Grand Senior Wardens' Annual Reunion

A degree team comprised of the Past Grand Senior Wardens of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario under the direction of R.W. Bro. John P. Logan, Grand Senior Warden will confer the Fellowcraft Degree (by permission of the W.M. of University Lodge W. Bro. Frank Veri). All are welcome.

Time: 6:30 pm – Banquet
7:30 pm – Lodge opens
Location: University Lodge No. 496
151 Annette St., Toronto



Contact: Norman Mathie @ grandsw2009@yahoo.ca or 416-993-6177

The truth is a trap: you cannot get it without it getting you; you cannot get the truth by capturing it, only by it's capturing you.

- Soren Kierkegaard (1813-1855), Journal-1854

Saturday May 7 2011

Canada – Ladies Night

Canada Lodge is trying a new venue this year. Come and impress your favourite lady with your thoughtfulness - the day before Mother's Day. There will be a cash bar and of course a DJ and dancing.



Time: 6:00 pm – Social
7:00 pm – Dinner
Location: Ajax Convention Centre
550 Beck Cres., Ajax (Salem and 401)
Cost: \$55.00 per person
Contact: Greig King @ kiltedmapleleaf@rogers.com or 905.683.6834

Thursday May 19 2011

Scottish Rite - Master Masons' Night

A special evening open to all Master Masons who wish to learn more about Freemasonry. Witness the portrayal of the Colourful and Impressive 16th Degree. We invite all Master Masons to be our guests. A ticket is required for admittance. Contact your Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry of Canada, Valley of Toronto Lodge Representative or District Chairman.

Time: 7:30 pm
Location: Rameses Masonic Centre
(3100 Keele St.)
Contact: Elroy MacKinnon @ elroy@sympatico.ca or 905.839.5789, or
Prince Selvaraj @ prince.selvaraj@sympatico.ca or 416.269.9909



... by the Lighthouse Beam

Saint John, The Letter 'G' and The Blazing Star

The Lodge of St. John

- Why has the symbolic lodge, that is the first three Masonic degrees, although generally called upon to work to the glory of the Grand Architect of the Universe, received the name of the Lodge of St. John?
- Why is the Volume of Sacred Law frequently opened on the Book of John?

It seems difficult to give a simple answer to either one of these questions. What one can say, however, to try to enlighten the reader, is that St. John is mentioned in the Masonic catechisms at the beginning of the eighteenth century, and even, for certain authors, in much older operative texts. Thus, Paul Naudon points out, in a book entitled 'The Lodges of St. John,' that at the time of the celebration of St. John the Baptist's Day in 1427, a large assembly of masons was held at York in order to protest against a decision of Parliament limiting their activities. Another date mentioned by the same author, December 27, 1561, the feast day of St. John the Evangelist, marked the annual meeting in York of the confraternity of masons that Thomas Sackvill chaired.

It is also possible to recall that the Schaw Statutes were signed and promulgated by the Master of Work of King James VI of Scotland on December 28, 1598 and December 28, 1599, that is to say shortly after the feast day of St. John the Evangelist on December 27. The oldest text clearly linking the Masonic lodge and St. John is the Sloane Manuscript, which is generally dated about 1700. One reads there: -

Question: Where were you made a Mason?

Answer: In a just and perfect, or just and lawful lodge . . .

Q. Where did they first call their lodge?

A. At the holy Chapel of St. John. (The questioned brother gives a handshake to his instructor while declaring: "Brother John greet you well.")

About ten years more recent, the Dumfries Manuscript states: -

Q. What lodge were you entered in?

A. In the true lodge of St. John.

Other details will also supply contributions . . . complicating the question previously asked: -



- The celebration in 1717 of St. John the Baptist's Day by four London lodges.
- The decision taken on St. John the Baptist's Day in 1721 to have James Anderson write a "Book of Constitutions."
- The organization, according to that same book, of an annual communication and an annual feast "on St. John Baptist's Day, or else on St. John Evangelist's Day."
- Finally, the election of Louis Pardaillan de Gonfrin, Duke of Antin (1706-1743) on June 24, 1738 as Grand Master General and Perpetual in the Kingdom of France.



Is the Lodge of St. John that of St. John the Baptist or St. John the Evangelist? That of the prophet who announced the arrival of the Messiah, or that of the beloved disciple of Jesus? And if St. John was another saint, for example St. John of Jerusalem called the Almoner, as some believe . . .

In this respect let us read again 'The Manual of the Freemason,' published in 1812, by Etienne-François Bazot: -

"The Masons celebrate, as an obligation, the two festivals of St. John, that of summer on June 24, and that of winter on December 27. It is obvious that these two festivals are nothing other than the solstice festivals . . ."

As for the St. John that the Masons took as a patron, it can be neither John the Baptist nor John the Evangelist, which have, neither the one nor the other, any relationship with the philanthropic institution of Freemasonry.

"One must think with the most philosophical and the most enlightened brothers that the true patron of the lodges is St. John the Almoner, son of the King of Cyprus, who, at the time of the crusades, gave up his homeland and the hope of a throne, to go to Jerusalem to lavish the most generous relief on the pilgrims and knights."

It will be forgiven that Bazot, in his reflection, mixed up the Patriarch of Alexandria (died about 619) with Gérard Tenque, founder (about 1080) of a hostel in the Holy Land and the Order of the Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem.

And it is regrettable that two centuries after the publication of this Manual, one still cannot decide on the 'St. John' of the Masonic Lodges, which one may without shame associate with Janus, the god with two faces, celebrating both the winter and summer solstices.

For in matters of tradition, all the theories are valuable, especially if one regards as reliable, or partially reliable, a Templar origin of operative Masonry.

Paul Naudon on this subject stresses "the solemn importance of the feast of St. John in the domains of the Temple" which survived, according to him,

"After the dissolution of the Order [of the Templars], all the more so because the Hospitallers [their successors] were under the same patronage of St. John."

And our Masonic author notes that,

"Until the [French] Revolution, the fire of St. John's Day was lit at the Temple [in Paris] by the Grand Prior of Malta.

The Gospel of John

If it is necessary to decide, in spite of uncertainties, on the identity of the St. John of the Masonic Lodge, in the final analysis common sense carries the doubtful one towards the Evangelist, because if this one were not the patron of the Lodge, why would his Gospel be used on the altar of obligation?

Did not John write (1:5): -

"And the light shineth in darkness, and the darkness comprehended it not."

The word Light is quoted in the text twenty-two times, including four in opposition to the word Darkness.



For the Apostle, the light is the source of the life of men. It inspires them with the Divine Spirit; it leads their way towards death and redemption; it is brotherly love; it is faith in the future of man; it is Truth. If one wants to wonder about the appropriateness of opening the Volume of Sacred Law, in the Masonic Temple, one cannot, it seems, come to any other conclusion: it is through the Gospel of John the Evangelist, the Initiator, that the Mason - if he is a believer, or at the very least attached to the tradition - can leave the darkness of the profane world to fully reach the light of initiation.

The Letter 'G'

No student of Masonry can advance the exact date of the appearance of the Letter 'G' in Masonic symbolism. One approaches this at the beginning of the eighteenth century as regards ritual, but certain earlier dates can nevertheless be noted.

Thus Paul Naudon mentions, in his book 'The Lodges of St. John,' a manuscript of the fourteenth century, held by the Ashmolean Library of Oxford, in which there figures a pentacle to be used to obtain "supreme knowledge," and in its centre is the Letter 'G'. The same author refers to a German woodcut of 1472 showing Christ crowned, surrounded by various personages, among them St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist, and between the two saints is lying a lamb bearing in a nimbus two letters . . . Gamma. However, the seventh letter of the Greek alphabet (gamma) gave rise to the Latin letter 'G,' which makes it at the same time a symbol of light and knowledge.

To understand the first ritual significance given to the Letter 'G,' it is necessary to refer to the work of Samuel Prichard, 'Masonry Dissected,' published in London in 1730. One reads there in the instruction given to the Fellowcrafts: -

- Q. Are you a Fellow-Craft?
A. I am.
Q. Why were you made a Fellow-Craft?
A. For the sake of the Letter 'G.'
Q. What does that 'G' denote?
A. Geometry, or the fifth Science.

A similar explanation was given to the Letter 'G' in 'L'Ordre des Francs-Maçons trahi,' [The Order of the Freemasons Betrayed] of l'abbé Pérau, published in Paris in 1745: -

- Q. Why were you made a Fellow?
A. For the sake of the Letter 'G.'
Q. What does that letter signify?
A. Geometry, or the fifth Science, the symbol of Geometry.

But the study of the Letter 'G' by the French Masons did not fail to modify or supplement its significance; while their English-speaking brothers were satisfied to see there only God - as God, the Supreme Being, they [the French Masons] expressed concepts of: -

- Geometry - Harmonious proportions, coherent construction of the universe, the Temple, and man;
- Generation - The ability to create on all levels, physical, intellectual, psychological;
- Gravitation - The reciprocal attraction of all the elements of the universe, assuring cohesion to it;
- Genius - The intelligence that can rise to the most transcendent designs;
- Gnosis - The integral knowledge of the Truth, the union of man with the Divine.

These concepts, more philosophical than spiritual, were accepted by the French Masons, whatever their religious affiliation, and integrated into the symbolism of the rank of Fellowcraft.



Note however, that one became a Fellowcraft only when, and because one saw the “Blazing Star.”

The Blazing Star

Because it is the five points of the Pentagram of the Pythagoreans, or the Pentacle of the Hermeticists, that are allotted the five major concepts of the letter ‘G’ - which quite naturally takes place at its centre.

“My Brother Member Elect,” the Venerable Master of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite declares on this subject: -

“upon your elevation from Apprentice to the rank of Fellowcraft, attentively consider this mysterious Star, whose blazing rays for the first time strike your vision. At its centre shines the Letter ‘G’.”

This is the great symbol of the Fellowcraft, and like all symbols it can be interpreted in various ways. We will initially mention the interpretation given by the ancient rituals: -

“the Grand Architect and Contriver of the Universe, or He that was taken up to the top of the Pinnacle of the Holy Temple.”

“Let us understand well that the Supreme Principle that we translate by this symbol is inexpressible, and that to give it a human name (God, Jehovah, Allah, or any other) is to reduce it to a human measurement, therefore to profane it.

“This same symbol of the Blazing Star can represent the perfect initiate that we desire to become. Man, indeed, while being tiny compared to the Universe, carries within himself a reflection of the Great Light.

“Seeing in the layout of the Blazing Star the symbol of the Microcosm, ‘of man regarded in himself as a counterpart of the Macrocosm,’ Edouard Plantagenêt places there an upright man, the arms making a cross, the legs drawn apart, to make of it ‘the emblem of the initiate, the home of the living spiritual thought, of free thought and of free will.’”

“One can say,” he states, “that the Blazing Star symbolizes the subjective basis of the interior energy of the Fellowcraft who, by spending it in the tireless search for Truth, transforms it into the potential of spiritual resources which will facilitate the access of this higher plan to him for whom the clouds of the Delta mark the threshold.”

As is still claimed in certain rituals, the Blazing Star is the symbol of the union of all truths, reconciled by the Light, at the same time as the personal clarification of the interior life.

Each person creates his Star by his thoughts, his feelings, his conscience and his acts.

Between the Square and the Compass

The Blazing Star did not find an appropriate place in the symbolism of the Emulation Rite (British) and the York Rite (American), although it was displayed in the centre of the Masonic Temple. Their followers, however, introduced the Letter ‘G’ between the Square and the Compass, recognizing in it the sacred attributes of the Divine, that is of God, the Supreme Creator of man and of all things.



The picturesque thing is, however, that the Letter 'G' was not placed there - about 1850, it is thought - for purely spiritual reasons, but only to satisfy the artistic and inventive taste of a jeweller in the throes of creation.

The author of a universally respected Masonic encyclopaedia, Henry Wilson Coil (1961) comes out strongly, in his opinion, against an esoteric interpretation: the place of the Letter 'G,' the symbol of spirituality, being according to him in the East, while that of the Square and Compass, the operative tools par excellence, being among the workmen of the Lodge.

There are confusions which must not be made: The French 'étoile flamboyante' (a pentagram, with its five points) is not the 'Blazing Star' of English-speaking Freemasonry, which, if one refers back to the Masonic instructions reported by Samuel Prichard in 1730, is described in this way: -

"The Mosaic Pavement is the ground floor of the Lodge, the Blazing Star the centre, and the Indented Tarsel [tessellation] the border round about it."

Symbolically, the Blazing Star is placed here, in the Lodge of the Apprentice - and not that of the Fellowcraft - as Divine Providence, as the Star that appeared to the Magi at Bethlehem, or again as the sun, dispenser of life and light. There are nuances of meaning, depending on whether it is in the York Rite (American) or the Emulation Rite (English).

One reads in a modern French ritual of the York Rite:

"The ornaments of a Lodge are the Mosaic Pavement, the Indented Border, and the Blazing Star. The Mosaic Pavement is a representation of [the ground floor of the Temple of] King Solomon, the Indented Border a representation of the magnificent mosaic edging which surrounded it. The Mosaic Pavement is a symbol of human life, chequered with good and evil. The Indented Border is the symbol of the many blessings and comforts which surround us constantly, and which we hope to enjoy eternally, by firmly placing our trust in Divine Providence, represented by the Blazing Star in its centre."

While in the Emulation Rite, as it is practiced in France, it is affirmed, with respect to the same ornaments, that:

"The Mosaic Pavement may be justly deemed the beautiful flooring of a Lodge of Freemasons, by reason of its variegation and its regularity . . ."

and that:

"The Blazing Star, Glory of the centre, refers us to the sun that lights up the earth and, by its benign influence, dispenses its blessings to all humanity."

(The author is a French Masonic author, a Freemason for over 35 years, and the text itself is a part of a book to be published in the future on the Officers of the Masonic Lodge.)

Author: Guy Chassagnard
Publisher: Masonic Light Email Forum
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/masoniclight/>



ADMINISTRATION:

Hiram's Lighthouse is your newsletter. It is published on the last day of every month. If **Hiram's Lighthouse** does not have the content you would prefer, it is because the editor does not have that content available. With 21 lodges currently in the district, including grip-and-grin pictures of the Official Visit, Installation and Ladies Night of each lodge would dominate the content. If you want something more, please submit it. Please feel free to offer suggestions, submissions for ... **by the Lighthouse Beam**, book and film reviews, and topics of Masonic interest.

We also ask all Secretaries and W. Masters to inform their members of the existence of the newsletter and how to subscribe to it.

Anyone wishing to get on the subscription list please send a message to hramslighthouse@rogers.com including your full name, with a subject of Newsletter.

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

To get a notice into the newsletter at least one month before the event, send a message to hramslighthouse@rogers.com with all the information and we'll run it every month until the function is past. *Please! Please! Please* make sure you have Grand Lodge dispensation before asking for a notice to be inserted.

Moving? Changing ISPs? Remember to send in your new snail-mail and email addresses to both your lodge secretary and **Hiram's Lighthouse** - hramslighthouse@rogers.com

FYI – There are currently 235 names and growing on the **Hiram's Lighthouse** subscription list.

Terry Spalding-Martin F.C.F.
Toronto East District Newsletter Editor
Doric Lodge #424 G.R.C.
hramslighthouse@rogers.com

If this newsletter was received at your email address in error, please inform the newsletter editor and delete the message.

