Free LBERTA Free Tason



Editor: MWBro Robert E. Juthner

Vol. 69, No. 2

1905 – The Grand Lodge of Alberta – 2005 100 Years — Our "Centennial"

The Masonic year commencing 12 June 2004, and concluding with the Grand Lodge Communication in Medicine Hat in June of 2005 will be a year of celebrations in recognition of the Grand Lodge of Alberta's consecration in 1905.

A variety of events and celebrations, as well as special publications have been in the planning stages for some period of time.

The Communication in Medicine Hat, where Alberta's first Grand Lodge Communication was held, has been deemed our "official" **Centennial Grand Lodge Communication**.

To coincide with this celebration, we can all look forward to the publication of an **Historical Book** covering the first 100 years of the Grand Lodge of Alberta and 110 years of Masonry in what was to become the Province of Alberta.

There will also be a special edition of *The Alberta Freemason*, magazine style, published for the Centennial. The issue, available to everyone, will feature articles and photos from the past 100 years and will be printed on typical glossy paper, extending to 32 or more pages.

The **Public Relations Committee** is hard at work coordinating 135 individual **Lodge Centennial Projects** as well as 15 **District Projects**.

This work will culminate in a **news-paper insert**, to be delivered across the province featuring not only the projects but also our Higher Education Bursary Fund, the Grand Lodge Benevolent Fund, the Masonic Foundation of Alberta, and include features on the two Alberta Shrine Temples, the York Rite Bodies, the Scottish Rite Bodies, the Order of Eastern Star and both the International Order of Job's Daughters and the Order of DeMolay.

The intent of the newspaper insert is to present **our gift of service to the**

Province of Alberta, as it, too, celebrates its Centenary in 2005. Individual Lodges will be highlighted by location, membership numbers, and their community service projects. It is not the intent to portray Freemasonry as a "service club" but rather to report to the citizens of Alberta on the types of community activities undertaken by various groups within the Masonic family.

The message will be that our various Lodges and concordant groups have worked quietly for the citizens of Alberta for over a century, that their work continues today, and that perhaps in another hundred years we will bring a further accounting to them.

Among the major events planned for the year are the **Grand Master's Centennial Tour**, a Caribbean Cruise in January of 2005 including the Panama Canal; 12 days of "Sun, Sand and Sea" in the coldest of our winter months. All Masons, their wives and families as well as friends are encouraged to join us for this once in a lifetime experience.

The Grand Lodge of Alberta will also be **consecrating Far North Lodge in Inuvik**, **NWT** earlyin July of 2004 as well as celebrating **100**th **Anniversaries** of Alpha District and Cornerstone Lodge No. 19 in High River, which was the first Lodge consecrated under the Grand Lodge of Alberta. We also expect to be **laying several cornerstones** for new Masonic buildings during the year.

A number of Lodges, Districts and groups of Lodges in geographic locations are planning Centennial Celebrations.

The next Masonic year will be an exciting, and busy one. Your Centennial Grand Lodge Officers look forward to serving the Craft as Masonry celebrates 100 years of the Grand Lodge of Alberta.

RWBro Rod Ponech Deputy Grand Master Grand Master-Elect



The Grand Standard

On November 22, 2003, on the occasion of the 90th anniversary celebrations of Commercial Lodge No. 81, at the Masonic Hall in Fort Edmonton Park, MWBro Norman R. Thomas, Grand Master, inaugurated the new Grand Standard, which he had donated to the Craft in Alberta. It was solemnly consecrated by VWBro Earle Sharam, Past Grand Chaplain, and entrusted to the care of the first VW Grand Standard Bearer, Bro Ken Armstrong. MWBro Robert Juthner, its designer, explained the details embroidered on the standard. Henceforth, the standard will accompany the Grand Master in office when presiding over Grand Lodge Communications, when paying fraternal visits within the jurisdiction, and on other proper occasions.

Editorial

On Breaking the Barrier to Membership

Soon the Proceedings of the Conference of the Officers of the Four Western Jurisdictions (Alberta, British Columbia and Yukon, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan) of October 2003 will be in the hands of our Lodge Secretaries and, we trust, immediately thereafter in the hands of the Worshipful Masters. Don't file them away! Make immediate use of their valuable contents, the presentations of the four Senior Grand Wardens and ensuing discussions, by generating your own discussions in Lodge, thus substantially enriching your Lodge programming.

Among these presentations you will find the one by our own Senior Grand Warden, RWBro Rex Dawson, which he entitled Break the Barrier to Recruit. Now, before we all get up in arms about the word "recruit," seemingly the antithesis to "of your own free will and accord" and the taboo called "improper solicitation," let us, in our minds, just substitute "winning" or "introducing" for "recruiting," and we'll feel better. This being said, be assured that reading Bro Dawson's article is an absolute must, for Masters, Wardens, all the Brethren. Don't miss it. Here are but a few excerpts:

Our membership has continued to decline for over four decades... There is at this time only one avenue open, and that is to recruit, not by one-day stands, radio and TV advertising. That type of volume initiation is foolhardy, against our Constitution and landmarks, and it is cheap. It even violates the principles of common sense... If every member of our 8400 membership recruited one man every two years, we would increase by 4200 per year. If half, or 4200 Masons, recruited one man every two years, we would increase by 2100 per year. If a measly 1000 Masons recruited one member every two years we'd have 500. That's better than a loss of 300 [per year]. Is this too much to ask? ... It works: Invite six, eight, ten good men and their ladies to your Lodge [open house], and tell them... why and how Freemasonry functions... Good people know good people, they are now the sources of future [Masons].

"Retention is the next issue...Ido know that if you have a project, you will keep the young ones coming. Once you have a substantial group of vibrant young men, they will produce their own good results... Getting [and Retaining] members is no different than getting [and keeping] customers or clients. You have to be a people person... you have to be a leader... It now becomes your duty to go talk to him [the new or older Brother], ask him if you can help. Even though you know you can't, you haven't ignored him... The process involved is very simple.

An article, printed in *St. George's Banner* (Kelowna, BC) Vol. 13(1), Dec 2003/Jan 2004, backs up what Bro Dawson said about retaining members:

The Member who never came back

It amuses me now to think that our organization spends so much time looking for new members when I was there all the time. I'm the one who came to every meeting, but nobody paid any attention to me. I tried several times to be friendly, but everyone seemed to have his own friends to talk to and sit with, I sat down among some unfamiliar faces several times, but they paid no attention to me.

Finally, because of illness, I missed a meeting. The next time I came to a meeting no one asked where I had been. The next meeting

I stayed home to watch TV. When I attended the next meeting, no one asked me where I was the meeting before.

You might say that I'm a good worker, and I like living in my community. You know who else I am? I'm the member who never came back.

Even though the above is just scratching the surface, there still is a powerful message in it, addressing every one of us. It is about increasing our membership on a qualitative basis, and about retaining members by offering them food for thought and by communicating with them, paying attention to them. Is this not what Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth is all about?

Now please return to the first paragraph above, read it again, and take action!

Bring a Friend



Here's a challenge you may find interesting! The Chairman of the Alberta Masonic Spring Workshop Planning Committee is offering a prize to the Lodge that brings the most new Masons to register and attend the Workshop in 2004. The prize for this new promotion for the Lodge with the most new Masons will be a bottle of Scotland's finest 18-year old OBAN. If they prefer, \$100 will be donated in the name of that Lodge to the Masonic Higher Education Bursary Fund. This year, why not expose yourselves and the new members in your Lodge to one of the best experiences of Freemasonry, the Spring Workshop at Kananaskis. Check out our program at

www.masonicspringworkshop.ab.ca and fill in your registration on-line.

Provided to Freemasons of Alberta and the Northwest Territories west of the 4th Meridian who are members of

The Grand Lodge of Alberta, A.F. & A.M. 330 – 12 Avenue SW, Calgary, Alberta T2R 0H2 Tel 403-262-1140 — Fax 403-290-0671 www.freemasons.ab.ca

Grand Master Deputy Grand Master Senior Grand Warden Junior Grand Warden Grand Secretary MWBro Norman R. Thomas RWBro Rodney B. Ponech RWBro Rex Dawson RWBro Malcolm Berry RWBro Jerry W. Kopp



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Ex Officio: Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master
& Grand Secretary

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Yellowknife Concerned

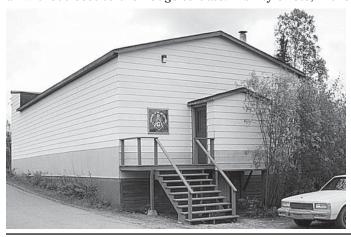
The Masonic Hall of Yellowknife Lodge No. 162 is situated on ground belonging to Con Mine, which is expected to cease operations by 2005 and to surrender its land — at least that occupied by the Lodge — to the City of Yellowknife. The current building was erected ca.1946 and later transported to its present site. If moved again to a new location, it would have to be brought up to the building code, which would be very expensive. Con Mine supplies power and maintains the road, all without cost to the Lodge to date.

The City of Yellowknife's plans are unknown. However, it is notable that many old mine buildings and structures in the immediate area have been demolished and the process is continuing.

The Brethren of Yellowknife Lodge are now weighing all alternatives, such as maintaining the status quo (which may prove to be out of the question); renting or leasing a site or premises elsewhere; renovating the existing building and moving it to a new site; or building a new Masonic Hall. The possibility exists, in theory, of participating

with partners in a condominium development. In that way costs would be shared to a degree and the amount required to "buy in" would be less than that of a stand-alone building. The basic issue, however, is how to pay the monthly charges: condo, mortgage and operating. Whether renting, building or renovating, it will cost money and the Lodge will have to support those costs. Without a method of generating income, all such costs will have to be met by the Brethren.

The pictures show the present building and a view southwest of the interior.





Justified Pride



The Grand Master, MWBro Norman R. Thomas, participated in the third degree ceremony at Jordan Lodge No. 177 on October 7, 2003. Raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason was Bro Lorin McConnell, son of WBro Glenn

McConnell, IPM of Jordan Lodge. RWBro Jerry Kopp was in the East. Also in attendance were MWBro Gordon Macaulay, PGM, RWBro Rod Ponech DGM, RWBro Norm Downs DDGM, RWBro Jim Ellis DDGM, RWBro Frank Thistle DDGM, RWBro Malcolm Berry JGW, RWBro Jim Dickey PDDGM, RWBro Les Jeater, PDDGM, VWBro Richard Hopkins SGD, VWBro David Needham GDC, and VWBro David Trew GPiper-South, as well as forty-eight additional Brethren who contributed to an outstanding Masonic experience for the new Bro McConnell. Shown in the picture are the Grand+ïaster, the new Master Mason and his father.

Alberta Miscellany

Kitchener Lodge No. 95

In reading the Master's Book, *Preparing to be Master*, it has occurred to me that fraternity also depends on friendship and on being friends. I think it is worth quoting some passages from this book: *Few assets are more valuable to a Master than friends. In Freemasonry, as in the profane world, the art of making*

friends is encompassed in one phrase: "to have friends we must be friendly." Millions of men are so at heart; cold of exterior from no better cause than shyness. Many a man wants to extend his hand, wishes to say a cheery word of greeting, desires with all his heart to be "one of the fellows" ... and does not know how. Yet it is so simple! Friendliness begets friendliness. The Brother who is cordial will find hands springing out to meet his; will see smiles begetting smiles;

Letter

As a Master Mason, I find a little humour leads to a smile. Within our bounds, I find we are not rated as Masonic undertakers: gaunt, severe and without expression! Part of Freemasonry is being able to feel the grip, add a quip, and cause a smile. That's all part of Masonic culture. A happy Freemason adds luster to our Craft.

And, by the way: Bro Loren Kline's Book Reviews are superb reading material. I always look forward to *The Alberta Freemason* with my morning coffee and toast.

Bro Reg Smith, Grand Tyler Evergreen Lodge No. 166

will learn that genuine interest in a Brother produces real interest in him.

This quotation I have found to be very true in my experiences as a Mason. Let us all continue to extend a hand of friendship amongst ourselves as Masons, but also to good men who are not members of our Ancient and Honourable Institution, and it will be the first step in expanding our membership.

WBro Earl Giebelhaus, WM

Book Review

Why People Believe Weird Things, Pseudoscience, Superstition, and other Confusions of Our Time

By Michael Shermer

W.H. Freeman & Company, New York, ISBN 0-7167-3387-0

The brief biography on the back leaf of the book provides some details concerning the author's activities. Michael Shermer is the publisher of *Skeptic* magazine, the director of the Skeptics Society, and host of the Skeptics Lecture Series at the California Institute of Technology. He also teaches the history of science, technology, and evolutionary thought in the Cultural Studies Program at Occidental College in Los Angeles.

Webster defines a skeptic as a person who questions the validity or authenticity of something purporting to be factual, or a person who maintains a doubting attitude. In other words this book may challenge a person's long held beliefs. The reason for reviewing this book is that we are enjoined to study nature and science. If one is to seriously study nature and science, one's beliefs may frequently be challenged.

The book is divided into five parts. Part 1 is entitled "Science and Skepticism." The author defines his role as a skeptic and differentiates between science and skepticism. With this introduction, the second chapter discusses the scientific method. It is a very good description. With the understanding of how science works, the author then discusses the differences between science and pseudoscience. The last chapter in Part 1 discusses twenty-five fallacies that lead people to believe what the author considers weird things. Some of these fallacies are also made use of by those trying to discredit Freemasonry. Each fallacy is discussed with examples. One fallacy is entitled "Anecdotes Do Not Make a Science." "Anecdotes-stories recounted in support of a claim do not make a science. Without corroborative evidence from other sources, or physical proof of some sort, ten anecdotes are no better than one. and a hundred anecdotes are no better than ten." Thus, a report of a sighting of a UFO without corroborative evidence or other proof is an anecdote and noth-

Having set the ground rules, informed the reader about how science works and how pseudoscience tries to fool people, and the types of evidence needed to substantiate a belief, Shermer moves to Part 2: "Pseudoscience and Superstition." This section includes an examination of the paranormal, neardeath experiences, alien abductions, witch crazes, and the cult of personality. The material now becomes more challenging as Shermer attempts to debunk these commonly reported incidences. His analysis of the Salem witch phenomenon is interesting, as he maps the areas in New England where the craze started and how it spread. From this he analyses the start and spread of other crazes.

Part 3: "Evolution and Creationism" is devoted to debunking creationism. This may be, for some, the most challenging section. Shermer presents a strong defence of the theory of evolution. He recounts some of his debates with supporters of creationism and applies some of the concepts developed in Part 1 to refute the creationist's arguments. If these types of discussions are not the sort you enjoy, I would suggest you skip this section.

Part 4: "History and Pseudohistory" starts with a discussion of censorship and free speech. Two chapters are devoted to holocaust deniers. The last chapter examines racism.

The concluding section, "Hope Springs Eternal," examines the role of science in today's civilization and whether it can survive today's onslaughts and whether it can solve our future problems.

This book is a heavy read, and it is certainly not 'everyone's cup of tea.' However, if you want to be challenged to think about, or rethink, any of the topics covered by the book, Shermer has a concise crisp writing style. The book is written for the popular audience. A prior knowledge of science is not required to appreciate Shermer's arguments. The book is a handy way to take another look at the mysteries of nature and of science.

Loren Kline.

We Are Responsible!

By RWBro B.A. "Sandy" Sandford Mizpah Lodge No. 35

So often do I hear my fellow Brethren remarking, "What's Grand Lodge going to do about our falling membership?" Almost as if Grand Lodge is some foreign entity that can and will act on our behalf. And yet, Grand Lodge is made up of fellow Masons, such as you and I, acting together for our common welfare and future survival. Our Grand Lodge Officers are not some omnipotent body but rather Brother Masons that have been duly elected at a Grand Lodge Communication to carry out our collective instructions and guard our Constitution and Regulations.

I first became a Mason in Polaris Lodge No. 114 on the registry of the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia in Goose Bay, Labrador. When I was transferred to RCAF Station Trenton, on Lake Ontario, as an Entered Apprentice, I was given something almost unheard of in those times, a booklet containing the questions and answers for the Entered Apprentice examination to be used by a Sister Masonic Lodge in an examination prior to conferring a higher degree on behalf of Polaris Lodge.

As a neophyte Entered Apprentice, not really conversant with Masonry, many of my air force mates, with dark humour, sort of led me down the garden path Masonically. They filled my mind with catch phrases, such as, "How old's your grandmother?" To which one was expected to reply with the Grand Lodge number, name and Grand Lodge of his Mother Lodge. How secretive could you get? But I was easily led, knowing next to nothing of what was secret in Masonry and what was not.

After some research on my part, Franck Lodge in Frankford, several miles north of Trenton on the Trent River, was

More Alberta Miscellany

Jordan Lodge No. 177.



Seated in the picture is WBro Gordon Smith, who had joined Freemasonry when he was 27 years old and who is now 92 years of age. His friends and Brethren from Jordan Lodge and the Scottish Rite gathered to celebrate with him his having completed 65 years in Freemasonry. WBro Andy Pokolinski, the Worshipful Master of Jordan Lodge, presented Brother Smith with a plaque in honour of his having reached this significant milestone.

Lethbridge Lodge No. 39

Do you remember the night when you were initiated an Entered Apprentice Freemason? An awesome experience, wasn't it? It will always remain one of the highlights of my

chosen and accepted the task as a service to a sister Lodge. Following contemporary interlodge practice it was necessary for my Mother Lodge to forward the request to bestow the ceremonies on their behalf through the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia to the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario to Franck Lodge. I guess that they could have sought permission to deal directly but I believe that both Lodges continued to communicate by this roundabout method. Needless to say this process delayed the conferral of my Fellowcraft Degree until one year after my initia-

During this period I was enabled to observe Masonic charity as it was practiced in a rural Lodge in Ontario. Many men of consequence in the community were members of the Lodge; the owner/ operator of the town's only supermarket; the chief of police; the pharmacists, father and son; plus many other men respected for their ethos and moral rectitude. If financial or physical assistance was genuinely required by any member of the vicinity, Mason or nonyoung people's language of today, it really blew my mind! During the years which have passed, I have participated in many degrees. Unfortunately, at some of them there were almost no sideliners present and it has always saddened me for I realized, that at times like these, our eager candidates may have been cheated out of something more precious – the larger community of their new Brothers. And so, Brethren, the next time you see an announcement in your trestleboard about degrees coming up, take a moment, look back, and relive those three nights when you took your first momen-

Masonic journey: the deeply moving lesson of humility; my first exposure to Masonic symbolism; the spirit of brotherly

love that permeated the room; and all those officers and sideliners who dressed up and turned out just for me. In the

tous Masonic steps. Then ask yourself: "How important is this candidate's Masonic future to me? Can I spare a few hours of my time? Or has the salt of my Masonic experience lost its savour?"

Redwood Lodge No. 193

We are part of this century. As Masons, we are not immune from the pressures of the economy, society, sickness, or the weather. However, the values and morality of the Craft are timeless and worth maintaining. Let us put our best effort into supporting each other in and outside of our Lodges.

Supporting each other in the Lodge is fairly straightforward. A summons is sent asking the Brethren to attend a meeting on a specific date. These dates are really not a surprise to any of us, and understandably conflicts will arise from time to time, but a genuine effort to attend is required of all of us.

The value of every friendly face and warm handshake should not be underestimated.

WBro Doug Quaife, WM

Mason, the appropriate support was quietly provided without fanfare or personal credit by the members of the Lodge, either as a Lodge or individually.

At no time was there a need for a recruiting drive by the Lodge, for the Lodge was well known in the town's area and it was an honour to be counted among those who had been accepted for membership. It was known that the Lodge was not a charitable organization; no one really knew or cared what the ceremonial part or ritual of the Lodge really was. But all knew that the main reason for the Lodge's existence was to take men of good character and to help them to become better individuals. Although I was precluded from seeing any of the higher degrees, I was privileged to see several initiations, and that year subtly taught me what Masonic charity really was.

You and I, the Masons of today, are known by the residents of our communities as were the members of that rural Lodge in Ontario. Although we may not be aware of it, our behaviour as husbands, fathers and neighbours is well

known by all who come in contact with us. They all personally form an opinion of our integrity and moral suasion. If they are cognizant of the fact that we are Masons, they will be assured that all members of the Craft have the same moral and ethical standards, positive or negative.

Hopefully they will be impressed favourably by our honourable and above board actions and, just possibly, they may be inclined to query the possibility of becoming Masons themselves. On the other hand, if they are unfavourably impressed, not only we but the Craft to which we so proudly belong, will be tarred with the same brush.

So, my Brother, the responsibility for attracting new members is not that of that separate entity known as Grand Lodge; the responsibility rests squarely on the shoulders of you and me, the Masons of Alberta. For WE are the Grand Lodge of Alberta and for the impressions of Masonry that will be formed by potential new Brothers, We Are Responsible!

Still More Alberta Miscellany

West Edmonton Lodge No. 101

"The Masonic Funeral" — A new Worshipful Master in a small town spent the first four days making personal visits to each of the members, inviting them to come to his first Lodge meeting. The following Thursday the Lodge was all but empty. Accordingly, the Worshipful Master placed a notice in the local newspapers stating that, because Lodge was dead, it was everyone's duty to give it a decent Masonic burial. The funeral would be held the following Monday afternoon, the notice said.

Morbidly curious, a large crowd turned out for the "funeral." In front of the altar, they saw a closed coffin, smothered in flowers. After the Chaplain had delivered the eulogy, he opened the coffin and invited his Brethren to come forward and pay their respects to their dead Lodge.

Filled with curiosity as to what would represent the corpse of a "dead Lodge," all the Brethren eagerly lined up to look in the coffin. Each "mourner" peeped into the coffin, then quickly turned away with a guilty, sheepish look. In the Coffin, tilted at the correct angle was a large mirror

Remember the obligation we all took, Brethren, attend and support your Lodge.

Anon.

Harmony Lodge No. 75

Winter is upon us and with the waning hours of daylight it becomes important to have fraternal light in our lives. It is truly a unique and one of a kind group that we are all fortunate enough to be a part of. I havejust returned from the District Meeting in Irma and I feel lucky to have met as many inspirational

gentlemen as I did this evening. That is the beauty of visiting other Lodges. I find that I tend to get a little bit isolated and forget that the world is bigger than my own Lodge, But it really is. There are fantastic people in Masonry that you would have never had a chance to meet in non-Masonic circles, and if you don't visit, may not meet in Masonic circles. So, Brethren, I propose that if we continue to reap the benefits of visitors to our Lodge, we need to seed the same throughout the District as well. Let us show them what Masonry means to us.

WBro Sean Sheedy, WM

Grand Master's Itinerary

February

- 7 Bow Řiver Lodge, Freemasons' Hall, Calgary
- 12 Board of General Purposes, Red
- 15 Grand Masters of North America, Washington, DC

Masonic Spring Workshop, Kananaskis, 30 April to 2 May 2004 Friday — 30 April 2004 **Keynote Speaker — Karim-Aly Kassam** 8:00 PM - Tolerance: Towards a Pluralistic Society How can Masonry's core value of Tolerance become the basis of a Pluralistic Civil Society? Saturday — 1 May 2004 Walker Room LOCATION **Bronze Room** Silver Room **Gold Room** For Lodge Officers **General Interest Controversial** 9:00 AM Food demo 9:20 AM Keynote Session **Can Freemasonry Drive a Pluralist Society?** to **Kick Your Festive Board** 10:15 AM **Karim-Aly Kassam** Up A Notch David Grav Delta Lodge Chef Coffee Break — **Convention Foyer** Passionate Eye **Techniques Techniques** Presentation/discussion Secretaries' **Run A Great Meeting** Attacks on Freemasonry **Are We Intolerant or** 10:45 AM How best to tolerate the intolerant Clinic In Lodge & Business **Afraid of Being Tolerant?** to Jerry Kopp & Presenters to be determined (Is political correctness a form of intolerance?) Reflections from Native spiritualist Includes how to deal with 12:00 Noon **Hugh Young** controversial issues **Elmer Ghostkeeper** Buffet Lunch — Branders (Back of Fireweed) **Techniques Techniques** Presentation/discussion Information/Education **Planning For The Year** Secretaries' **Adam Wore An Apron** Acceptance vs. Tolerance 1:30 PM A dialogue amongst Christian, A timeline of secret and mystery Clinic Ahead to societies that have influenced Jewish and Islamic leaders Jerry Kopp & **Mahlon** Weir 2:45 PM 'Modern Freemasonry" Presenters to be determined **Hugh Young Moderated by David Stewart Peter Ebdon** Coffee Break -**Convention Foyer** Wrap-up Session 3:15 PM Freemasonry and a Pluralist Society... to Where Do We Go from Here? 4:30 PM Karim-Aly Kassam (keynote speaker) No Host Bar / Banquet 6:00 PM Sunday — 2 May 2004 **Interfaith Devotional Service** 8:30 AM (Followed by a Buffet Breakfast)