



## Grand Chaplain's Easter Message

As we approach the Easter season, there are a few things that all people would do well to reflect upon. Though this is, perhaps, the most sacred time of the year for members of the Christian faith, there are timeless messages that people of all faiths can be mindful of: while these are particularly central to the Christian faith, they can have deep meaning for anyone who chooses to contemplate them carefully.

It is no coincidence that the fundamental message of Easter is related to rebirth and renewal, but rebirth and renewal in an especially interesting context. The earth itself speaks of this important point with the beginnings of spring following the darkest and coldest days of the year. For Christians, rebirth and renewal came from the darkest moment of the nascent religion — at least darkest if one focused solely on the death of Jesus.

So it is with those of us who walk this earthly path. None of us can be certain of the steps that lie before us.

Indeed, one day offers what seems to be the greatest trial we might envision, while the next day presents elements of understanding far beyond what we might have ever envisioned.

Tied inextricably to this observation is the awareness that the Great Architect of the Universe works according to intention and design; there is a purpose to this earthly walk. This is one of the most challenging concepts in religious thought when one considers what appears to be a world governed by capriciousness. For Freemasons, however, the fundamental message of our institution offers very relevant insights to help us with understanding this apparent conflict. That is, symbolism teaches those who understand and use it both the nature and the mechanism of creation — insights that demonstrate how the Divine works in the world around us.

The imagery of building a magnificent edifice is an image worth considering. Think for a moment of the turmoil one

would experience in the quarries as stones are cut and fashioned in the oppressing heat, noise and stifling dust. It would be hard to see the intention and design through all that. And yet we know from our operative brethren that behind all that turmoil was a clear set of plans envisioned and formulated by the Master Architect. It could be no other way.

And so it is with life. As Freemasons, we are given a mechanism, through symbolism and the building of the spiritual temple, to help us understand some of these extremely difficult questions. But they can only be understood by reflection and careful thought. This Easter offers us an opportunity for that reflection.

I trust that each of you will have a safe season if you travel, and additional insights into whom we are as Masons and the impacts we can have on the world around us.

VWBro Cyril A. Abbott  
 Grand Chaplain

## The Man in Masonry

### What Is He Seeking? What Should He Find In The Lodge?

RWBro J. H. Laycraft, PGR, OC, LLD (hon) — *Masonic Spring Workshop 1967, Part 2*

This, then, is the man standing at the door of the Lodge, awaiting the richer world that Masonry should offer him. He is created by God but equally he is created for God. Though he can rise to the heights, so can he grovel in the depths of evil. Why does he stand at the door of Masonry? What is it that he seeks?

The answer to this question at first seems so simple that only on reflection does the duty we have undertaken to him assume its true proportion. He seeks growth. It is part of man's nature as a spiritual being that he must grow in stature. As a social being, the divine in man leads him to brotherhood with all men. As a thinking creature, he seeks growth in the realization of his intellectual potential. But, above all, as

a spiritual being he seeks to realize the Fatherhood of God.

Thus it is a vital moment for him who stands at the door of the Lodge, and it should be a solemn moment for us who sit within to await his coming. First, we must admit our shortcomings, for we have allowed Masonry to fail some men and our venturer at the door of the Lodge is aware of it. He has seen many a good man who honours his title as a Mason: let us hope that is why he is there. But he has also seen men who do not honour the Craft. He has seen those who are only nominally Masons and can conclude that we offered them too little to keep them. He will be taught that each of us is the brother of all men, but he knows that bigotry is not unknown among us.

He has come to take us on faith, for

he knows little about us or of the teachings of our Order. It is said that faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things unseen. This is so for him who waits. The fact that he is there at all speaks of the need within him.

The Craft appeals to him as a social being. He will join a brotherhood that is interested in him as an individual. He seeks to achieve brotherhood first, and most simply with those nearest to him. In a larger sense, he seeks brotherhood with all mankind in a world bedevilled by strife and bigotry. It is the divine in man and his belief in the Fatherhood of God

See **The Man**, page 2.



## Editorial

# We're Richer For It

Yes we are — in Alberta — and we are the envy of many a sister jurisdictions. What are we talking about, here? Alberta's annual "Masonic Spring Workshop," of course. It all started when MWBro W. Jack Collett, Grand Master in 1964/65 and Principal (President) of Mount Royal College in Calgary, and the then Assistant Grand Secretary (later Grand Secretary) Mel Dunford concluded that the Craft would benefit from informal discussions of the basic principles of Freemasonry.

After a pilot meeting at the College, in 1965, which strengthened the hopes for something more than worthwhile, the first "Workshop" was called for Friday to Sunday, 22-24 April 1966, the venue being the (then) Banff School of Fine Arts. Would the Brethren come? Oh, did they ever! Four hundred and thirty-four Masons attended. Theme speaker was Bro Rev. Dr. J. Gordon Jones, OBE, of Perfection Lodge No. 9. Those were the

## The Man, from page 1.

which must create brotherhood.

The story is told of a beggar in a time of want who cried his need to a man passing by. But the man too was without bread and he said to the beggar, "My Brother, I have none." Then through his distress the beggar's face brightened for he had been given a great gift. There had been bestowed on him something more than bread — the accolade "My Brother."

So we too have much to offer in the simple title, "My Brother."

He who comes to us in darkness also seeks growth in his intellectual attainments. Masonry with its use of symbols will lead him to a concept of ethics — to the contemplation of that which is good. The good man achieves the fullest development of his faculties, but happily he finds it a receding goal for as he increases in knowledge, he increases his capacity for knowledge. He

days of breaking into discussion groups between sessions, sharing the meals from bowls at the tables, and of marching to bagpipe music, happily singing, throughout the hotel corridors at an ungodly hour. Did they enjoy themselves and did they profit for the benefit of their home Lodges? The answer is obvious.

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## Masonic Spring Workshop 20-22 April 2007

### Delta Lodge at Kananaskis

www.masonicspringworkshop.ab.ca

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Incidentally, the registration fee was \$5.00, an extra \$1.50 when arriving in time for supper on the Friday, and \$14.00 when staying at the Banff School for two nights. Well...

From the beginning, it was established that the "Workshop" was not a function of Grand Lodge and was self-sustaining, and that the Planning Committee would only report to Grand Lodge as a

seeks an opportunity to reflect, to study, to contemplate, to seek wisdom.

There lived a wondrous good and wise man named Socrates whose name has lighted all ages though he was executed as a criminal. When he received the news that he was to die, he smiled. But they said, "You should prepare for death." He answered, "I have been preparing for death through all my life for I have learned that true virtue is inseparable from wisdom. We must search for them but we will find them together."

So, he seeks growth as a social being and embraces the brotherhood of men; and he seeks to grow in intellectual stature, but that which comprehends the whole is to grow in the knowledge of him as a spiritual being. It is the inner spirit of him, though a little less than divine, which is the great gift of God. He must learn the need to feel that above all creation is intelligence and love.

courtesy and for information. Also, from Day One, regalia have not been worn and titles have not been used, except when the Grand Master addressed the audience — a tradition in true Masonic brotherly equality and affection which has continued to this day.

Since those early days, great theme speakers came and offered themes that led to fruitful discussions, from the UK, the USA, and elsewhere in Canada as well as "our own boys." Slight adaptations to the scheme of things have taken place over the last 42 years, no doubt, but what is so important has remained the same: the wonderful camaraderie, the exchange of ideas, always learning something new, and so forth. Those who regularly or at least repeatedly attend know the true value of this annual retreat, and they agree that, because of Alberta's Masonic Spring Workshop **we are richer** in all matters Masonic and in matters of human relations. It follows that those who never avail themselves of what the "Workshop" has to offer, are **the poorer for it.** rej

Doubters do not achieve; skeptics do not contribute; cynics do not create. Faith is the driving force and that we must help him to perceive. He will not begin to climb the heights without the conviction that life is eternally important and that work well done, in whatever sphere, is part of the unending plan.

The moment before admission to the world of Masonry is a solemn moment for him. How much more is it for each of us lest we bear the burden that we blocked his path? His search will be barren if we make light of the ceremony or do not use the symbols of the Craft, in all their beauty, to instruct and inspire. Unthinking men may use the ritual as though only its form was important and to be letter perfect merely in its words, a goal in itself. Unthinking men may have made the whole search more difficult by misleading him about the nature of the experience which is before him. Above all, each of us may fail him because we

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**The Committee on the Grand Lodge Bulletin**  
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# COMELY Program

RWBro Robert A. Drury, Deputy Grand Master  
"Calling On Masons of Each Lodge Yearly"

This program has three main thrusts, i.e.:

1 A Mason moves into our Jurisdiction from another Province and his home Jurisdiction sends ours a notice stating his name, Masonic affiliation and intended place of residence, as well as other pertinent information. Our Grand Lodge office sends this information to the nearest area or District for follow-up by a Lodge, to not only welcome this Brother, but also to supply any information that he may require to settle in.

2 A Mason moves from our Jurisdiction to another Province or another area in our Province, and our Grand Lodge office, when informed, will send the same kind of information to his new Jurisdiction (or if within Alberta, District), so that he too can be contacted, welcomed and assisted.

3 Locally, on the Lodge level, to call on any and all Lodge members to insure

fail ourselves.

We await him on a foundation built by centuries of tradition and service, and so we will wait in confidence. That should not deter us from a constant and troubled re-examination of that for which we stand so that our Order will ever be a living force in a changing world. The lessons of our Order may be shouted to the world; it is the symbols by which we are taught that are secret.

It is fitting then that almost the first words we will hear in Lodge are a prayer — a petition for assistance. Let each of us there present echo that prayer that we fail him not and that we will meet our responsibility to him as he does to himself.

Man is an eternal being. This let us help him to know. There is divine in man "though thou hast made him a little less than divine." This let us help him to know. He is made by God; he is made for God. This let us help him to know.

He is as old as his doubt. He is as young as his faith. By his faith he will surmount the doubts which besiege him on his journey. By faith he will make the search for that which endures in time and eternity. This is what he seeks. Let us not fail him.

*From Alberta Workshop, Calgary: Masonic Spring Workshop, pp 20-22, 1990 available from the MSW Committee.*

their well being, state of health, whether they require a ride to Lodge, etc. This is especially important when a member has not been seen for a while and the reasons are not known. It takes only a few moments to ascertain if all is Okay, and why he may not be attending. Unless we try to find out, we will never know.

To date we have only 77 Lodges that show having a "COMELY Representative." The other Lodges are asked to seriously consider this aid to our Brethren.

### Please Consider This:

Take this example: A Brother who has been chosen as COMELY Representative of his Lodge is calling the members on his list and comes across one whom he hasn't seen for some time. Asking if there is a problem and if the member would like to attend his Lodge, he is told that the Brother's wife is not too sure of her footing and that he won't leave her alone.

Asked again if he would like to attend Lodge, the Brother replies "Yes." So this Representative asks his wife if she would like to sit with that Brother's wife a few times during the next several months. His wife says "of course," and the date is set for the first visit. As it turns out, this Brother's lady is very good at crocheting, and the Representative's wife says she would like to learn. So now, several times during the year, both of these ladies have something to look forward to and can enjoy each other's company.

Here is a win-win situation for all concerned, and this can happen so easily, if we only adjust our thinking and show our Brothers that we really care about them.

In many of the Lodge summonses that I receive, there are empty areas where "COMELY Representative" would fit in nicely, which would also give another Brother something of importance to do. An old saying says, "if we don't care about them, why should they care about us?"

Lots of food for serious thought here!

## PGMs Honoured Outside the Craft

• **MWBro James R. Crawford**, Grand Master 1992/93, is about to be honoured by the town of Forestburg which will hold a **Tribute to James R. Crawford** in recognition of his many hours of volunteer work in the community.



The celebration, which includes a supper at the Forestburg Community Hall, will take place on **Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> April 2007**. Proceeds will go to the formation of a Legacy Fund, in his name, of the Forestburg Community Hall.

Anyone interested in attending can call Laurie Melnyk at 780-582-3962 (e-mail: lamelnyk@hotmail.com) or Keith Brennan at 780-582-2243.

MWBro Crawford will certainly appreciate a presence of his Masonic Brethren.

• **MWBro Robert E. Juthner**, Grand Master 1987/88, has, with the consent of Rideau Hall, been awarded the **Decoration of Merit in Gold of the**

**Republic of Austria**, by Heinz Fischer, the President of Austria, dated 24 May 2006 and presented to him on 3 February 2007 by Consul Robert Sinnhuber of the Austrian Embassy in Ottawa, before an audience of over three hundred ball patrons, scholarship recipients, debutantes and cavaliers, musicians and special guests at the annual Johann Strauss Ball at the Westin Hotel in Edmonton. Mayor Stephen Mandel had warm words of congratulations for the volunteer so honoured.

MWBro Juthner has recently also been recognized by other Austrian entities: in September 2006, in Klagenfurt, Austria, with the Golden Decoration of Honour by the World Federation of Austrians Abroad (AÖWB); and in October in Vienna on the floor of the Grand Lodge of Austria with the Ribbon and Jewel of a Long Term Grand Representative (Bro Juthner has represented the GL of Alberta since 1978).



# HONOUR ROLL

## Recognition by Long Service Awards — January to December 2006

The following Brethren were awarded the indicated jewel or bar, and are to be congratulated on their many years of loyalty and on their contributions to their respective Lodges in particular and to Freemasonry in general. Should you see one of these Brethren, be sure to congratulate him.

### 70-Year Jewel

Lang, B.P. Saskatchewan Lodge No. 92

### 60-Year Bar

Brown, T. Cascade Lodge No. 5  
 Butterwick, G. Medicine Hat Lodge No. 2  
 Campbell, S.F. Vulcan Lodge No. 74  
 Elliott, J.R. Lethbridge Lodge No. 39  
 Geldreich, R. Medicine Hat Lodge No. 2  
 Goodrich, J.E. Bassano Lodge No. 55  
 Housley, Ernest Diamond City No. 65  
 Hughes, E.L. Mayerthorpe Lodge No. 148  
 Lyster, J.W. King George Lodge No. 59  
 McIntosh, R.B.

King Solomon Lodge No. 41  
 McLaws, D.P. Perfection Lodge No. 9  
 McMillan, J.S.  
 Highlands Unity Lodge No. 168  
 Milligan, W.A.

Saskatchewan Lodge No. 92  
 Rodger, J.H. Lethbridge Lodge No. 39  
 Shillington, R.T. Zetland Lodge No. 83  
 Smith, G.A. Patricia Lodge No. 91  
 Smith, T.R. Cascade Lodge No. 5  
 Vickers, B.H. Symbol Lodge No. 39  
 Vickers, B.W. Symbol Lodge No. 39

### 50-Year Past Master Jewel

Springer, B. Granite Lodge No. 127  
 Turner, W.F. Mizpah Lodge No. 35

### 50-Year Jewel

Anderson, R.E. Camrose Lodge No. 37  
 Baker, E.G. King Solomon Lodge No. 41  
 Beauchamp, E.

Mountain View Lodge No. 16  
 Bengtson, O.V. Buffalo Park No. 44  
 Berg, W.G.H. Peace River No. 89  
 Berkenkamp, B.B. Eureka Lodge No. 10  
 Berry, J.E. Dominion Lodge No. 117  
 Boyd, W.J. Exemplar Lodge No. 175  
 Burson, T.P. Avon Glen Lodge No. 170  
 Caines, R.T. Crescent Lodge No. 87  
 Campbell, S.F. Vulcan Lodge No. 74  
 Carlson, D.A. Ivanhoe Lodge No. 142  
 Christian, J.A. Mystic Tie Lodge No. 188  
 Clayton, S.J. King George Lodge No. 59  
 Cowie, M.F. Lethbridge Lodge No. 39  
 Dobson, E.G. St. George's Lodge No. 169  
 Dobson, J.B. Zetland Lodge No. 83  
 Doepel, H.G. Balmoral Lodge No. 185  
 Doerr, W.G. Glenbow Lodge No. 184  
 Dowdell, K.N. Vermilion Lodge No. 24  
 Duke, R.M. Eureka Lodge No. 10  
 Eddie, A.C. Evergreen Lodge No. 166  
 Elliott, A.G. King Solomon Lodge No. 41  
 Fedun, J. Tawatinaw Lodge No. 71  
 Fraser, W. (Wally) Edmonton Lodge No. 7  
 Gardner, D.I. Dominion Lodge No. 117



Gavinchuk, G. St. George's Lodge No. 169  
 Ginter, A.L. Excelsior Lodge No. 80  
 Girvan, R.P. Exemplar Lodge No. 175  
 Hamilton, H.G. Medicine Hat Lodge No. 2  
 Hazlett, S.W. Commercial Lodge No. 81  
 Hook, J.R.

Highlands-Unity Lodge No. 168  
 Hrynyk, N. Temple-Centennial No. 167  
 Hunt, J.F. Evergreen Lodge No. 166  
 Hutchins, D.L. Whitecourt Lodge No. 153  
 Ingraham, A.H. Gleichen Lodge No. 36  
 Irving, G.A. Ivanhoe Lodge No. 142  
 Jardine, J.D. Glenbow Lodge No. 184  
 Jeffrey, J.H. Balmoral Lodge No. 185  
 Larsen, K.L. Gleichen Lodge No. 36  
 Lawrence, G.E. Victoria Lodge No. 13  
 Livingstone, W.M. Renfrew Lodge No. 134  
 Lougheed, E.P. Perfection Lodge No. 9  
 Lyons, M.G. Balmoral Lodge No. 185  
 Mair, L.J.G.  
 Highlands-Unity Lodge No. 168

Martin, J.W. Evergreen Lodge No. 166  
 McNamara, G.D.

Temple-Centennial No. 167  
 Meakins, G.K.  
 Gratton-Connaught Lodge No. 144  
 Murray, J. Edmonton Lodge No. 7  
 Nielson, O. Kitscoty Lodge No. 131  
 Paul, G.G. Peace River No. 89  
 Phillips, R.G.

Mountain View Lodge No. 16  
 Pointer, K.D. Excelsior Lodge No. 80  
 Porter, R.H. Medicine Hat Lodge No. 2  
 Powell, E.J. Balmoral Lodge No. 185  
 Powell, K. North Star Lodge No. 4  
 Riddell, J.A. Evergreen Lodge No. 166  
 Roberts, J.C. King Solomon Lodge No. 41  
 Robinson, J.H. Evergreen Lodge No. 166  
 Rodger, J.H. Lethbridge Lodge No. 39  
 Runte, D.G. Highlands-Unity No. 168  
 Shearer, D.I. Peace River Lodge No. 89  
 Sims, R.B. Evergreen Lodge No. 166  
 Somerville, D.J.

Grande Prairie Lodge No. 150  
 Soneff, C.R.

Gratton-Connaught Lodge No. 144  
 Sooley, D.G. Balmoral Lodge No. 185  
 Steiner, W.H. Gleichen Lodge No. 36  
 Stuparek, K.I. Eastgate Lodge No. 192  
 Suggett, I.C. Eureka Lodge No. 10  
 Switzer, S. Perfection Lodge No. 9  
 Tharp, B.J.S. Zetland Lodge No. 83  
 Trynchy, P. Mayerthorpe Lodge No. 148  
 Wallis, John H. Camrose Lodge No. 37  
 Wanless, W.A. Avon Glen Lodge No. 170  
 Ward, G.A. Gleichen Lodge No. 36  
 Ward, J.F. Gleichen Lodge No. 36  
 Woolsey, A.H. Mystic Tie Lodge No. 188

## Technology Expands Lodge Meeting

Internet Lodge of Research in Calgary used the internet to receive a paper from Subscribing Member WBro John Belton, PM of Internet Lodge No. 9659, EC. Belton and John Acaster, Past President of the Manchester

Association for Masonic Research, were in the Belton home at Brook Bottom in rural England. Shown are WBro Kim Parkyn of ILoR (I) and WBro Belton projected in real time on the wall. After a brief summary of his paper, "Communication and 'Research versus Education'...", a lively discussion ensued between the two locations on the role of a Research Lodge in Masonic Education



## **Alberta Miscellany**

*Original thoughts from the Lodge Summonses selected by Bro Trevor Morris*

### **Highlands-Unity Lodge No. 168**

Masonry, as I see it, is not about ritual. It's not about food. It's not about the history of the Craft, nor is it about the esoteric meanings to be drawn out of the symbols we use. It's not about charity, nor even less about philanthropy. And it's not about brotherhood, nor is it about visiting. Anyone who says it's about "so and so" is, in my opinion, **wrong**, because it's about **all of these things**, and having all of them in balance.

WBro R. John Hayes, WM

### **Crossfield Lodge No. 48**

Every petitioner for Freemasonry has two Master Masons on whom rests a responsibility for the proper conditioning of that petitioner to our precepts.

The **two** Master Masons who sign the petition have a responsibility that does not end with their signatures on the petition. If you invite a guest to a gathering in your home, you make sure that he meets all your guests and is made welcome and comfortable. Isn't the man whom you recommend to Freemasonry entitled to the same courtesy?

It is your duty to assist him with his work and take an interest in his progress. It seems to us that you should see to it that he fully understands the fine lessons of our degrees. If you recommend a man to the Craft, satisfy yourself that he is receiving that for which you recommend him. To do so is but a Masonic courtesy and it is also your duty as a Mason.

Bro Dave Boyer, JW

### **Evergreen Lodge No. 166**

Recently I talked to a young fellow, now in his twenties, who was a child in Bosnia during the conflict. He now resides in Calgary. I asked him what single thing he enjoyed the most about living in Canada. His answer surprised me. It was not about having enough to eat, or clean water to drink and bathe in, or warm clothing, or a warm house. It was about being able to go to bed at night and sleep without fear. He no longer had to worry about being shelled at night by artillery. Or trying to sleep fully dressed while holding a bundle of worldly possessions and ready to flee at a moment's notice.

Let us count our blessings. Suddenly, things that may seem important to us are, by comparison, quite trivial when we look at the problems of others.

WBro Angus Stewart, WM

### **Calgary Lodge No. 23**

There is no question that there will be challenges; life is a never-ending series of challenges requiring us to make decisions and attempts to solve them every day. But without such challenges, where would we be? We live in the most prosperous age in history due to those who have faced challenges and found solutions. Now it's our turn.

How shall we face the challenges before us? We could run away, we could ignore them in the vain hope that they would just go away, or we could apply our skills, talents and tools, and face them. We may not devise the best solutions, but as Freemasons with all of the tools of our Craft at our disposal, we owe it to ourselves and our Craft to make the attempt.

Indeed, can we call ourselves Craftsmen with a pristine

collection of new, shiny and unused tools, or shall we know ourselves to be such with tools that have the patina of experience and use?

We have work to do.

WBro Barry S. K. Gurnsey, WM

### **Gratton-Connaught Lodge No. 144**

We are offered an opportunity to renew our commitment to our fellow man. To remember and assist those who need our help, not only in a material way but also by giving of our time and talents. Remember the peculiar manner in that we were received into Masonry, and once again pledge ourselves to live and act by the great principles to which we are obligated. We will then know the satisfaction of having served our fellow man and truly deserve the approbation of our Brethren.

RWBro Robert T. Cormack, WM

### **Saskatchewan Lodge No. 92**

We have an unprecedented number of candidates beating down our doors. They are eager and excited to take it all in, to learn and to make themselves better men. I hope we will not let them down. I hope that we are not going to be too busy memorizing and reciting lines which most of us already know, but I hope that we will find the time, the drive and the motivation within ourselves to really show them what true Masonry is all about. If we keep their fire burning by making Lodge educational, informative and fun, not only are we going to retain these new candidates, but we will make them active and contributing members of the Lodge. This should be our goal with each and every new candidate.

WBro Tomek Wala

## **Grand Master's Itinerary**

### **April**

- 29 March to 1 April; All Canada Conference; Winnipeg, Manitoba
- 10 Red Deer No. 12, Kenilworth No. 29 & Beacon No 190, Fraternal Visit, Red Deer Masonic Hall
- 17 Mizpah No. 35, Fraternal Visit; Medicine Hat Masonic Hall; Ban 18 00 h; Tyle 17 30 h
- 19 Especial Communication to Consecrate the new Lodge Hall of Acme No. 60; Acme Community Centre Lodge Hall; Oyster Supper; 19 30
- 20 to 22 Masonic Spring Workshop; Delta Lodge at Kananaskis
- 26 Millennium No. 2000, Fraternal Visit; St. George's Table Lodge; Fort McMurray
- 29 Royal Arch Masons, Service of Re-affirmation; Holy Trinity Church, Edmonton

## **Words in the Ritual**

"...we use words that can be described as odd, old, archaic, etc., and there are some that can only be described as, outside the context of our rituals, as obsolete..."

"...Make no assumptions about the words in the ritual. Perhaps they have shifted in meaning since they were penned. Or they have depths hidden beneath their common meanings, which may enlighten us in the paths of morality and science. Or they may mean exactly what they seem. But we make assumptions about words at our own peril."

*From "Some thoughts on words used in Freemasonry" by Brother R. John Hayes, Masonic Magazine 5: 10-13, Fall 2006.*

# Raising the Bar for the Common Good

In late 2005 I first heard our Grand Master, MWBro J.R. Malcolm Berry, introduce what was to be his theme for his year in office: **Raise the Bar**. As a new Mason I listened to his message, and heard the words eloquently conveyed that expressed the sentiments that were pivotal in making me want to become a Freemason in the first place. The talk of morality, virtue, and raising the bar of our standards as Freemasons made me truly and absolutely believe that Freemasonry was, and is, an organization that would bring back some of my values and beliefs, most of which are all too commonly absent in today's society. I was inspired by the Grand Master's message and by his drive and ambition; I hoped that I would be able to live up to the high standards and the challenge, and moreover to contribute myself to raising the Masonic bar.

I teach Culinary Arts at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology and, in late March 2006, I learned that a 27-year-old former student, Benjamin Towers, who had been battling cancer, had lost his effort to regain his health and had met with an untimely end. As a culinarian and tradesman, Benjamin had been struck down before having the opportunity to leave his mark and raise his own bar. I knew right then that I would try to raise the bar in Benjamin's honour.

I decided to try to set up an endowment scholarship in his name. Having asked my Department Dean for permission to use SAIT facilities, I then set about finding how funds to help memorialize this young man could best be raised. After talking to industry colleagues, Benjamin's former colleagues who had become Chefs in their own establishments, and to friends, we decided to offer the gift of our time to a fundraising dinner. We worked toward having ten chefs, ten courses and ten wines to sell as our offering for this event. Although our ticket sales started slowly, through media exposure such as local television, radio and newspaper, they quickly started to gain momentum. We sold 90 tickets at \$250.00 per ticket and through silent auction donation, private donations, and donations of food and wine we were able to raise the sum of \$30,270.00 to be placed in a memorial scholarship in Benjamin's name. We will now award this scholarship at

every graduating class, to candidates who show the most promise and are "The Most Likely to Succeed" from our culinary programs here at SAIT.

As a group of ten industry professionals, we raised both funds and our "spiritual bar" and made an enormous impact on the tragic loss of an individual's short life. We made his passing easier for his family, who had understandably experienced an enormous loss, by helping their son to leave a legacy behind. We came together as a "band of brothers" — the moniker given to us by the local media and a fitting one due to my affiliation to my Masonic brothers. This was the first time that we would perform this task for the greater good and not because it fell into our roles in our daily jobs. Our future plan is to form into a collective

group known as the "Union of the Blade." Through the union of our profession we will attempt to spearhead a movement to raise funds for our community's collective benefit.

I for one will continue to push myself in honour of what being a Freemason means to me, and to honour that great cause for higher moral and spiritual virtues. Camaraderie breeds united spirit. Through our unity towards the common good and taking up the Grand Master's challenge to Raise the Bar," just imagine how much we, as a band of some 8,000 Brethren across this jurisdiction, could accomplish. Imagine the might and power of our united fraternal spirit.

Bro Simon Dunn  
The Very Worshipful The  
Grand Standard Bearer  
Glenbow Lodge No. 184

## Workshop Weekend — Great Getaway

For the past 41 years, Brethren from all around the province, and from outside Alberta, have been gathering for a weekend of Masonry celebrated in almost all its aspects from instruction to fellowship. This year, the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Masonic Spring Workshop continues that tradition. Our theme is *Storytelling— Who are we and Where did we come from?* Traditionally,

the answers to these questions lie in the stories that are passed to us down the ages from the older to the younger generations. That's how we learn about who we are as families, communities, even nations. Stories have always been a large part of our Craft. They are the basis of our rituals, our symbolism and our fellowship. (What festive board doesn't include stories?)

The event kicks off Friday evening, 20 April, with Nelson King, our Keynote Speaker, who intends to challenge you, albeit in a relaxed manner, to question and to think. Saturday will continue with several select-a-sessions covering officer training, general interest and stories about our Craft. Details of the developing agenda are posted on our website as sessions are developed or changed.

Not everything, of course, is work. In fact, anyone who regularly attends the workshop will tell you that fellowship is the most important "event" of the week-

end. "Seminars" go on for hours into the night. Discussions continue through the meals, in the pool, or while walking on many of the paths of the resort. By the way, did I mention that the food is terrific and plentiful?

The last few years, a growing number of Brethren have been bringing their ladies with them. There is no ladies program at the Workshop itself — Masonry is a men's organization. However, Kananaskis is one of Alberta's premier resort destinations and the ladies come to enjoy its many attractions or the peace of the mountains after the hectic pace of the city. To bring her, a Brother first registers as a single (we guarantee not to put a Brother in the next bed), then he informs us his spouse is coming (the hotel must know for safety reasons). The Brother's meals are included with his registration, but hers are not and are purchased separately.

Finally, if you wish to arrive early or stay an extra day or so, we can arrange for you to receive our special room rate. Simply let us know when you wish to arrive or depart and we'll make arrangements. You will "square up" with the hotel.

You can register online or download a mail-in form at our official website: [www.masonicspringworkshop.ab.ca](http://www.masonicspringworkshop.ab.ca)  
Stuart LeVoguer, Chairman



Masonic Spring Workshop

20–22 April 2007

Delta Lodge at Kananaskis