



## Rosh Hashanah and Ramadan

VWBro Louis Fradette, Grand Chaplain

Rosh Hashanah and Ramadan have come and gone for another year, having given us another opportunity to reflect on the ability of Freemasonry to bring us together in fraternal understanding.

Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, is a two day holiday which falls on the first and second day of the month of Tishri [for 2009, from sunset 18 September to sunset 20 September]. This celebration starts off a ten-day period leading to Yom Kippur known as the “ten days of penitence.” This is an important event for the Jewish people, both spiritually and intellectually, because it provides an opportunity to assess one’s actions and thoughts over the past year and to question one’s existence, choices and options in life. For Jews, prayer – especially the prayers of these two holidays, known as The Days of Awe – are best understood as a form of reflection and self judgement. The Days of Awe, *Yamin Noraim*, are Synagogue based and essential. They confront every Jew with the fact of his or her own mortality, and

thus an appreciation of life.

The Fast of Ramadan is one of the five “Pillars of Islam”, or required observances prescribed in the Qur’an that all practicing Muslims accept and follow. The Fast of Ramadan occurs once each year during the month of Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic calendar and the month in which the First Revelation of the Quran came to Muhammad [for 2009, from 22 August to 19 September]. This month-long fast from dawn to sunset is intended to stimulate reflection on human frailty and dependence upon God, to focus on spiritual goals and virtues, and to identify with and respond to the less fortunate.

Like Jews and Christians, Muslims are Monotheists. They believe in one God, the Creator, Sustainer, Ruler and Judge of the universe. Muslims see themselves along with Jews and Christians as children of Abraham, belonging to different branches of the same religious family. Muslims believe that God sent Revelation first to Moses (as found in

the Hebrew scriptures), then to Jesus (the Gospel), and finally to Muhammad (through the Islamic scripture, the Qur’an).

Freemasonry is far from indifferent to religion. Freemasonry supports religion. Without interfering in religious practice it expects each member to follow his own faith. Freemasons believe in religious freedom and that the relationship between the individual and his God is personal, private and sacred. In this troubled world there are issues, concerns and perceived grievances that serve to divide us, to drive nations and faiths and peoples apart. But there are also times and occasions when we can be drawn together, to celebrate and honour in our own way, perhaps, but also celebrate and honour our shared humanity. Freemasonry gives us a shining example of its beneficial influence by bringing together in fraternal understanding men of different ethnic and religious backgrounds who find in the harmonious setting of the Lodge a suitable framework to express their feelings of humanity, charity and tolerance.

This is a time to cherish.

## 2009 Masonic Medal of Merit Awards

MWBro Calvin D. Shaver, Committee Chairman

Once again we are given the opportunity to recognize worthy Brethren who have not been installed Masters and who exemplify the General Charge in every way within the walls of their Lodges and elsewhere in their daily lives. From its inception in 1993 through to the current year this Grand Jurisdiction has recognized 59 worthy recipients from 40 different Lodges within all 14 Districts with the Masonic Medal of Merit.

While each potential recipient has commendable merits, based on the nominations received, this Committee carefully reviews each application using a weighting of several factors to finalize the selection process. While this is a “Masonic” award, the Committee looks at many facets for consideration towards being a recipient. Involvement,

particularly inside their Lodges—where it is hoped all members work diligently—is necessary, followed by involvement with other Masonic bodies. Non-Masonic activities are considered significant as this is where we put our genuine tenants and principles to the test in front of our family, friends and neighbours. Accordingly it is important to be sure to include details on non-Masonic memberships, community involvement and volunteer activities that may have special importance to the Brother being nominated. It is also

of interest to have information on his family and vocation. It could be argued each and every one warrants being a **Medal of Merit**, page 2.



Medal of Merit recipients: Bro Edward Lyka (l) and Bro Michael Ledig.

## From the Editor

The recipients of the 2009 Masonic Medal of Merit have traditionally been recognized for their achievements in this October issue of *The Alberta Freemason*. Regrettably, MWBro Shaver is again reduced to asking the Brethren to submit nominations for this prestigious award. This should not be necessary. His Committee should continually be receiving nominations for the Medal from across this Jurisdiction. As he points out, surely we must know Brethren in our Lodges who deserve recognition at this level. If you have forgotten the beautiful words of the General Charge, read it again. Re-read the portrait of the ideal of a Freemason contained therein. Look around your Lodge at the Brethren who represent the foundations of our Craft. Don't wait until the last minute to try to gather material for a nomination. Do it now!

October is also Masonic Higher Education Bursary month. Echoing RWBro Batty's comments elsewhere in this issue, we should be proud of our individual and collective efforts to raise money for the Bursary Fund. But we can't rest on our

laurels. The Bursary program is a fundamental and important contribution by this Grand Lodge to the young men and women of this province and through them to the future of Alberta and it deserves every bit of support we can provide. This year's recipient of the Ross Sheppard Memorial Bursary was Megan Modin, from Ardrossan in Strathcona County, who will be attending the Nursing program at Grant MacEwan College. For the benefit of those who could not be present for the award, her acceptance speech is included.

Historically there has been a strong academic interest in Freemasonry in England and across continental Europe. Centres for the study of Freemasonry or wider topics such as fraternalism have been established; courses on Masonic-related subjects are offered in many universities; there are regular conferences and symposia. There have been several attempts in the United States to "kick start" a serious program of research and teaching about Freemasonry without much success. The new partnership between UCLA and the Grand Lodge of California described on page 3 looks promising.

## Medal of Merit

from page 1. recipient, but the Committee members remain committed to ensuring the Medal of Merit remains very prestigious. While nomination forms are not held over for consideration from year to year, individuals can again be nominated in subsequent years.

Brethren, please keep submitting those nomination forms for those members who apply the fundamentals and teaching of Freemasonry in all their dealings with mankind. I am certain that each and every one of us knows of at least one member of his Lodge who could be considered for nomination. Your Committee remains ready, willing and able to work on your behalf to recognize those Brethren who meet the requirements for the Masonic Medal of Merit. If any individual, Lodge or District requires information, please do not hesitate to contact me and arrangements will be made for a member of the Committee to attend a meeting to assist in any discussions or during the special recognition of a recipient at the Lodge level.

## Bro Michael Ledig

Bro Michael Ledig was initiated into Freemasonry on 15 January 1969, passed

to the Degree of a Fellowcraft on 19 February 1969 and raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason on 3 March 1969. He is currently a member of Avon Glen Lodge No. 170.

Bro Ledig is noted as a loyal and dedicated Mason who continues to be an active member, very capable of filling any position in the absence of an officer and carrying out his duties in a most proficient manner.

In addition to his Lodge he is an active member of the Scottish Rite and is a director for some of its degrees. He is always in tune to the feelings of others and when working with the candidates he makes them feel comfortable and at ease. He is a member of the Al Shamal Shrine, past President of the Motor Corps, and a participant in parades, casino fundraising and various tasks at the Shrine Circus. He works in the background of the various groups, is one of the most capable men in the Masonic family and can be relied upon to do an excellent and thorough job of any task he undertakes.

He is a member of the Pillar Senior Citizens Society and served on its Board of Directors from 1995 to 2002. Bro Ledig readily volunteers with many non-Masonic organizations including

Northland Exhibition, TELUS Open Golf Tournaments, LPGA golf and casinos for various charities. He gives of himself to the public in so many ways without being asked. This gentleman is an exceptional person and is the epitome of a true Mason in the eyes of its members and the general public. He always has concerns for the well being of others and their welfare. You have to know and have met Bro Ledig to see the personification of a true man's man.

He and Deloris celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in August 2008. They have two daughters, one son and two grandchildren.

Bro Ledig retired from General Body and Equipment in 1992 after having been in the truck body manufacturing business for 18 years.

## Bro Edward Lyka

Bro Edward Lyka was initiated into Freemasonry on 1 April 1974, passed to the Degree of a Fellowcraft on 29 April 1974 and raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason on 3 June 1974. He is currently a member of Norwood Lodge No. 90.

Bro Lyka has been an example of Masonic qualities. He attends almost all Lodge meetings, practices, social

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**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](http://www.freemasons.ab.ca)

Grand Master	MWBro Brian Shimmons
Deputy Grand Master	RWBro Gerald Waldren
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**Editor: RWBro George Tapley**  
339 Whitefield Dr NE, Calgary, AB T1Y 5S2  
Tel 403-280-6776 — Fax 403-290-0671  
e-mail: [editor@freemasons.ab.ca](mailto:editor@freemasons.ab.ca)

### The Committee on the Grand Lodge Bulletin

RWBro George Tapley (Chairman);  
MWBro Robert E. Juthner, Editor emeritus;  
WBro Garth Cochran; WBro Loren Kline;  
Bro Trevor Morris; Ex Officio: Grand Master,  
Deputy Grand Master & Grand Secretary  
Annual subscription rate for non-members of the GLA is C\$10.00 plus mailing costs. Republication rights are granted to other Masonic Jurisdictions, but acknowledgement of the source is requested. The Editor reserves the right to accept, reject and re-write material submitted for publication. Deadline for copy is the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the month, two months prior to the month of issue.

## Postdoctoral Fellowship at UCLA

The Department of History at UCLA has advertised an open Faculty position for a postdoctoral fellowship with an emphasis on Freemasonry:

The University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) and the Masonic Grand Lodge of California [sic] are pleased to announce a one-year postdoctoral fellowship at UCLA from September 15, 2010 through June 15, 2011. The position is open to a recent Ph.D. with a strong interest in the history of civil society, fraternalism and Freemasonry.

This second postdoctoral fellow will teach one course in either American (North or South) or European history with emphasis on Freemasonry, designed in consultation with Prof. Margaret C. Jacob, Distinguished Professor of History, and work with a graduate student research assistant with an interest in any aspect of the field. A \$50,000 stipend, office space for the nine-month period, and a modest relocation fee will be provided. The postdoctoral fellow must remain in residence while classes are in session...

*"Freemasonry is the world's first and largest fraternal organization. The Ma-*

**Medal of Merit**, concluded.

events, fund raisers and Easter visitations to widows. He willingly fills vacant chairs and takes on significant degree work (assigned or as back-up), with presentations made in a meaningful and sincere manner. He is free with his gifts of assistance, encouragement and his smile. Honesty and integrity are part of his character.

Bro Lyka has been a dedicated member of the Strathearn United Church for over 18 years, giving of his talents in property management, maintenance and renovations. Since 1991 he has volunteered as a learning coach (especially reading) at the Norwood School reading program, helping many students with their skills, confidence and enjoyment of their school experience. Every year he helps to coordinate the Lodge sponsored picnic for the students. In addition, he is a member of the Federal Super-Annuities organization and has served on that board.

This Brother is spoken of highly by his wife of 56 years, Maria, by his two children and four grandchildren, by his many colleagues in the armed forces, where he served for 27 years, and by fellow employees in Consumer & Corporate Affairs — Weights & Measures department.

*sons of California have supported public education since 1850 and are proud to advance academic research and study in the field of Freemasonry and fraternalism". (<http://www.history.ucla.edu>)*

This is part of a larger partnership between UCLA and the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of California:

Across countries and centuries, Freemasonry has shaped governments and societies. But only limited academic research and coursework has been devoted to the subject — until now.

Thanks to the Grand Master's Project to Advance the Study and Understanding of Freemasonry, the Grand Lodge of California has cemented a partnership with the University of California at Los Angeles. The academic world is now positioned to define Masonry's history in credible, fact-based terms.

Project funds will be used in one or

more of the following ways at UCLA:  
**Faculty research in the history of Freemasonry**

"Support the costs of research related to the history of Freemasonry and democratic society; establish a permanent chair for Masonic studies  
**Curriculum development\***

"Support development of a course in the history of Freemasonry and democratic society

**Graduate student support**

"Support graduate student work and interest in the history of Freemasonry and democratic society

**Lectures on the topic of Freemasonry**

Support public lectures on topics related to Freemasonry delivered by invited scholars

\*A spring 2010 curriculum is already being developed for two separate classes, led by Dr. Margaret C. Jacob, professor of history at UCLA and one of the world's foremost Masonic scholars.

(*The Leader*, July 2009,

<http://www.freemason.org>)

## Prof Jacob Keynote Speaker at 2010 Masonic Spring Workshop

Margaret C Jacob, Distinguished Professor of History at the University of California, Los Angeles (see above story), will be the keynote speaker at the 45<sup>th</sup> annual Masonic Spring Workshop next April. The theme of the 2010 edition — *Enlightenment: The Soul of Freemasonry* — is right up her alley as she has published several books on the relationship between "the enlightenment" of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and Freemasonry. Prof Jacob is an internationally acknowledged Masonic scholar who has addressed Masonic history conferences plus Masonic societies and Lodges around the world.

Ed Jakubowsky, 2010 Chairman, chose the theme. He points out: "Historically, 'The Enlightenment' was our beginning. Today, enlightenment is how we make daily progress in our Masonic art. Enlightenment is the process by which we make better, more rational decisions for the advancement of our interests, our society, even of humanity. Enlightenment, reaching the innermost recesses of the heart, can be a soul-changing experience. And that is the gift of our Craft."

Already the Committee has put together an exciting program for the



coming event. The workshop will be held at the Delta Lodge at Kananaskis from 23–25 April 2010. Again this year, the Committee is offering a discount for early registrations and for "The Great Rate for 8." You can check out details and register on the MSW website [www.masonicspringworkshop.ab.ca](http://www.masonicspringworkshop.ab.ca)

# Masonic Higher Education Bursary Fund

Extracts from reports presented by RWBro Chris E. Batty, Committee Chairman

Congratulations Brethren! You have really helped to make 2009 a banner year for the Masonic Higher Education Bursary Fund: this year up to 100 Bursaries of \$2,000 each were made available.

Little did MWBro Ross Sheppard know when he paved the way for the Masonic Higher Education Bursary in 1957, followed by four \$500 Bursaries in 1959, that 50 years later the Grand Lodge of Alberta, Ancient Free & Accepted Masons would have provided 2,703 Bursaries in an amount exceeding \$2.8 million to the young men and women of this Jurisdiction.

Alberta is rich in resources, but our greatest resource is not the oil sands, it is not our great agricultural industry, it is not our great Rocky Mountains to which people travel from all over the world. Alberta's greatest resource is its young men and women! However, like any resource, whether it is the oil sands, our agriculture or our tourism industry, our young men and women need to be developed so that they can become a true asset. It is by education that we can make our greatest resource into our greatest asset.

When we as Freemasons provide a Bursary to our young men and women we stop the cycle of poverty that ignorance creates. We permit them to aspire to fulfill their dreams, hopes, and wishes. While we may never know the full results of our actions, we know that helping someone to improve his or her self worth on the exciting journey of life will be compounded with time. As with Warren Buffett's great wealth, which came about by sound investment compounded with time, so our investment in Alberta's youngmen and women compounded with time will result in great wealth for Alberta.

In 2008 the Masonic Higher Education Bursary Fund received \$171,541.28 in donations. Institutional and Concordant groups donated \$98,076.71 and Freemasons and Lodges in the Jurisdiction donated \$73,464.71 or \$9.58 per capita, as apposed to \$10.79 per capita in 2007. The District with the highest per capita contribution was Phoenix, with \$20.17 per capita. (See Table below.)

Endowments from the Estate of Mary Thomson Barrie Cameron, the Estate of Blake Springer and the Estate of Wiley

Vernon Bentley have also been placed into our Endowment Fund. We will be forever indebted to them for their parting wishes, and may they rest in eternal peace.

The Bursary Fund also received generous support from the following bodies:

Calgary Temple Board	\$51,838.57
Tuscan Society	\$24,000.00
Mighty Peace	\$13,653.87
Nanton Hall Society	\$5,000.00

Ongoing promotion of the Masonic Higher Education Bursary included the conversion of the Masonic Higher Education Bursary video cassette to digital video disc (DVD), which is now available via the Grand Lodge Office; a display regarding the first 50 years and the number of Bursaries at the Masonic Spring Workshop and a presentation, including information manuals and the Masonic Higher Education DVD, to the District Deputy Grand Masters elect in April.

Every year the Committee receives many letters, cards and pictures from grateful Bursary recipients, which are in reality addressed to you. One recipient said:

*I would like to thank all those involved in issuing the Masonic Higher Education Bursary. I am writing to make you all aware of how immensely appreciative I am to receive this bursary. These funds have made my financial situation a lot more stable with regards*

*to my education. I am currently in my third year working towards a general BSc degree with a major in Biological Science. Once again, thank you very much.*

October is the Masonic Higher Education Bursary month, and while the Masonic Higher Education Bursary will receive donations at any time of the year, October is the month that we ask all our members to consider making a donation to the Masonic Higher Education Bursary. Each Lodge is sent Masonic Higher Education Bursary donation envelopes in the fall of the year so that the various Lodge Secretaries can disseminate them to all the Brethren.

Please consider the Masonic Higher Education Bursary the premier charity of your choice and send a gift this October, for a young man or woman who wishes to improve their education, to the Masonic Higher Education Bursary as an investment in their and Alberta's future.

## Highest Average Contribution by a Lodge for Each District

District	Lodge	\$ Per Capita
Alpha	Ashlar No. 28	10.32
Palliser	Bassano No. 55	32.21
Yellowhead	Edmonton No. 7*	15.12
Central	Kitchener No. 95*	38.13
Battle River	Camrose No. 37*	24.44
Calgary-Highwood	Granite No. 127	26.67
Chinookarch	Vulcan No. 74	51.56
Lakeland	Acacia No. 11*	23.65
Northern Lights	Saskatchewan No. 92	14.19
Mighty Peace	Peace River No. 89*	51.10
Dinosaur	Irricana No. 137	26.81
Phoenix	Crescent No. 87	75.99
Athabasca	Westlock No. 114	42.30
Beaverhills	Avon Glen No. 170*	29.97

\*Lodges who were leaders in 2007.

## Ross Sheppard Memorial Bursary Address

By Megan Modin

First of all, I would like to say that it is an honour that I have been selected as the representative of all this year's Masonic Higher Education Bursary recipients. I am not only honoured to personally thank all the members of the Grand Lodge of Alberta, but to also speak on behalf of the other Masonic Higher



Megan Modin, one of the 2009 Masonic Higher Education Bursary recipients.

Education recipients. Tonight I would like to take a few moments of your time to extend my heartfelt and sincere appreciation and reflect upon how the Masonic Higher Education Bursary has helped to open a door to my future.

In the fall of 2007 I began my journey of post-secondary education at Concordia University College, with the pur-

suit of obtaining a degree in Psychology. While studying long hours, completing lab assignments, and making sure papers were handed in on time put pressure on me, financial limitations also played a major role on stress, a characteristic which is already found in abundance in many college and university students. When I found out I was receiving the Masonic Higher Education Bursary I felt as though a huge weight had been lifted off my shoulders. I remember the evening Fred Bowker called to tell me I had received the Masonic Higher Education Bursary. He began the conversation by telling me that I could reapply again next year, and immediately I felt despair as I thought, "Oh no, I haven't been selected." However, not only was I selected to receive the Masonic Higher Education Bursary, I was also chosen to represent all the other recipients and to personally thank you here tonight. Shortly after I got off the phone with Fred, I ran into the kitchen to tell my grandma the exciting news, although I had to repeat it a couple of times as I was

so thrilled my speech wasn't making a whole lot of sense. My dream to become a psychiatric nurse and one day earn my PhD in psychology has now become much closer and attainable — a dream which at one point seemed beyond my reach is now within my grasp, and has taught me how important it is to never give up on your dreams.

When I started my first year of college, I was still a little unsure of what I wanted to make with my life, however I have always had the dream to pursue a career in the medical field. I have to admit that during my childhood, the idea of getting to look in people's ears or listen to their heartbeat seemed like fun aspects of being a doctor or nurse. There were countless times that I would get my doctor play set out and check my dad's blood pressure or ask if I could listen to his heartbeat with my stereoscope.

Throughout my two years of post-secondary education, as well as my job as a health care aide at a Sherwood Park nursing home, I have recognized that it

is not these aspects which I find most appealing, but rather my strong desire to help those in need as well as the feeling of great fulfillment that comes with being able to make a difference in someone's life. I truly believe that it takes a special person to be not only willing but motivated and eager to work with those who are in need of psychological assistance.

In closing, I would like to thank all the members of Alberta's Grand Lodge for giving me this wonderful opportunity to continue my dreams. While a simple thank you does not seem ample to show my gratification, I would like everyone in this room to know just how grateful and humbled I am to be receiving this bursary. Your willingness and desire to help those in need of financial assistance in order to further their education and make their dreams come true makes you very special people. So on behalf of myself and the other recipients of this year's Masonic Higher Education Bursary I would like to give a genuine and sincere thank you.

## The Little Bethel That Could

Amber McComb, Director of Epochs, Bethel #19, Job's Daughters

Some of you may have heard of Bethel #19 through Lillian Sellers and her famous catering, but this little Bethel has been going through some major changes. Over the past few years our membership had declined due to daughters reaching the age of majority (20 years) and no new members being initiated. Our membership dropped to a drastic four members and our Bethel was placed in reorganization by the Grand Guardian Council of Alberta (our constitution states that a Bethel must have a minimum of seven members).

However, this spring we felt a change in the wind. On 8 June we increased our membership by one when a daughter from another Bethel affiliated to Bethel

#19. Then on 22 June we held an initiation (with assistance from members of other Bethels) and initiated four additional girls! So in one month we were able to more than double our membership! A big "Congratulations" goes out to all of the daughters and adults who worked so tirelessly to restore our numbers.

But our struggle is far from over. In order to fill all of the offices in a Bethel, a total of 19 girls are required and our membership currently stands at nine. Unfortunately, in the New Year we will be back to seven daughters, due to additional members reaching the age of majority. **This is where you can help. Do you have daughters, granddaughters, nieces, etc. between the ages of 10 and**

### 20 who may be interested in joining our fun and rewarding fraternity?

We are excited! We had an action packed summer planned, which included attending the Great Canadian Barn Dance, a day at Calaway Park, shopping for our adopted soldiers overseas and many more fun activities. This fall will be the start of a new term and our Bethel held an open Installation of Officers on Saturday 26 September 2009 at King George Masonic Hall. This was closely followed by an activity we were all anxiously awaiting: a chocolate factory tour!

If you would like to learn more about Job's Daughters or would like to have our Daughters attend one of your meetings and perform an exemplification please contact our Bethel Guardian, Bridget Sellers at 403-764-7492.

## Alberta Miscellany

Thoughts from the summonses, selected by Bro Trevor Morris

### Exemplar Lodge No. 175

You've known him — that extraordinary man who once was a beacon in the fraternity. His time was given freely to his Brethren; a gift that was known to burn away the anxiety of the untested initiates who sought his counsel. His wisdom drove back the shadows so the rest of us could see the path we should follow. We watched with fascination as

he rose through the Masonic ranks, fired by a thirst for discovery and all that the brotherhood might offer.

Then we watched him die...

There are many forms of death and most of them elicit sadness in some form. In this case, I speak not of the physical death, but the Masonic. And still it is sad.

Today, doctors are quite able to de-

termine the cause of physical death, but there are no practitioners to ascertain why a Freemason loses interest in the brotherhood. This is a particularly disturbing phenomenon when it happens to be an elder in the organization — a once passionate Brother who took his place in the East and was committed to leaving his mark as best he could on the Lodge he loved. He was always eager to take on new responsibilities and he provided sage guidance to anyone who needed it. He was an inspiration.

When it happens, we are intrigued by the change. We sit not knowing how to respond when his attendance begins to drop off. We are bewildered when he slowly withdraws from the main body of the Lodge to take a place in the back corner of the room with the others who have already begun to falter. As our connection with him begins to break, we are at a loss to intervene. We know not the cause or the remedy.

Freemasons are quick to proclaim that the young will keep our fraternity alive, but that is only a half-truth. We cannot hope to preserve stability without having our elders engaged in our business. After all, these are the men who provide the experience, wisdom and continuity that will secure the future of our Order. They are the foundation of our institution and we must remain attentive to any change of heart they might present. If we maintain close relationships with them and provide opportunities for them to remain active in their Lodge, we will have done our part. The rest is up to them.

Let us never fail to remember that a Masonic death is a symbol of mortality for the entire brotherhood, and it will be our action or inaction that will determine the future.

WBro Daniel Boyco

## Calgary Lodge No. 23

All day, formless fleeting thoughts have been swirling around in my head as I made my way through a day marked with disappointment, sadness and loss, and I've started and deleted many drafts of this month's message because none of them really captured the experiences of this one day. I started and subsequently

deleted numerous rough drafts as being somehow not quite "it." While they may have been able to stand on their merits some other time, today they just seemed so inadequate. Just as I was about to throw in the towel and go to bed in hopes of finding some enlightenment tomorrow, the theme I had been seeking made itself known in one word.

That word is "Fidelity"— a simple word that comes from the Latin noun *fidelitas*, meaning faithful — and yet, I think it sums up in four syllables the very foundation of Masonry. We use the word in our ceremonies and rituals, and, perhaps because of that, have lost sight of what that word means to us as Masons and as the men of integrity and character that we are supposed to be. It is a promise that we *will* be faithful, that we *will* do and be those things that we said we would. Not that we would only

do it when convenient or when someone was watching, but all the time, every time, within the scope of our abilities. And sometimes those abilities have limitations, as I have discovered. Feelings of helplessness, combined with feeling completely unprepared for the task I have agreed to undertake, make for a fine old time of wallowing in the pit of self pity. So many things to be organized, plans to be made, even messages to be written. So easy to become paralyzed with indecision.

That is until that word came to me and the way became clear with the understanding that I am a Mason because I chose to live with fidelity. And all the ceremonies, lectures and regalia in the world could not make me, or anyone else for that matter, a Mason without it.

Today just got better.

WBro Barry Gurnsey

## Grand Master's Itinerary

### October

- 6 Fort McMurray No. 195, Fraternal Visit; All Saints Church Hall; 19 30 h
- 7 Aurora Borealis No. 201, Fraternal Visit; Fort McMurray Seniors' Activity Centre; 19 30 h
- 8 Millenium Lodge No. 2000, Fraternal Visit; Fort McMurray Seniors' Activity Centre; 19 30 h
- 14–16 Western Canada Conference, Annual Meeting; Canmore, AB
- 17 Selkirk No. 55, GRBC&Y, 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary; Masonic Hall, Kimberly, BC; 19 30 h
- 19 Empire No. 63, Fraternal Visit; Edmonton Freemasons' Hall; 19 30 h
- 24 Grand Lodge of Alberta Especial Communication to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Palestine Lodge No. 46; Tofield Masonic Hall; 14 00 h

- 29 Chinookarch District; Claresholm Community Centre; 19 00 h
- 31 "Hands Across the Border"; Masonic Hall, Yorkton, SK, 14 00 h

## District Meetings

### October

- 3 Palliser; Oyen Hall; Reg 11 00; Lun Noon, Mtg 13 30, GSec
- 3 Yellowhead; Drayton Valley Hall; Reg 11 00, Lun Noon, Mtg 13 00; DGM
- 17 Northern Lights; Fort Edmonton Masonic Museum; Reg 10 00 h, Mas Ed 11 00, Lun Noon, Mtg 13 00; SGW
- 22 Phoenix; King George Hall, Cgy; Reg 19 30, Ban 18 30, Mtg 19 30; DGM
- 23 Dinosaur; Irricana Hall; Reg 19 30, Din 18 30, Mtg 19 30; DGM
- 29 Chinookarch; Claresholm Community Centre; 19 00 h; GM
- 30 Calgary-Highwood; Okotoks Hall; Reg 19 30, Din 18 00, Mtg 19 30; JGW



100 Anniversary of King Solomon Lodge No. 41, held Saturday 27 June 2009 at the Cochrane Ranch House