



MWBro John Slade's Inaugural Address **Stepping Together Into Light**

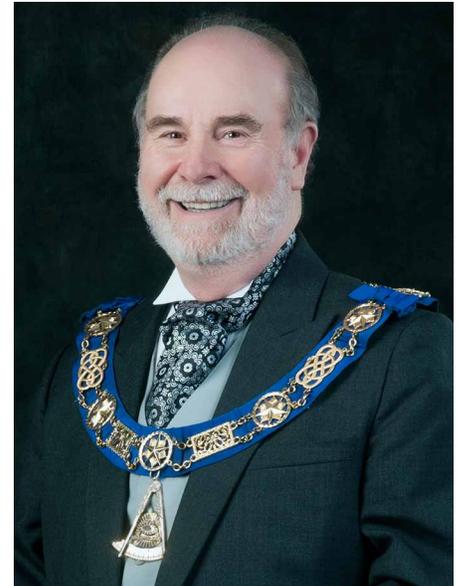
As I stand here and look out over this august body, I am deeply humbled by the honour that you, my Brethren, have bestowed upon me, I fully realize the immensity of my duties to our beloved Craft. I pray that the Great Architect will bestow upon me a goodly portion of his wisdom and strength so I can, to my full capacity, serve our great and gentle Craft and, in turn, you, my Brethren.

I wish to acknowledge RWBro Trevor Hughes, past DDGM of Yellowhead District, who passed to the Grand Lodge above some six years ago, for his guidance and persistence in my path in Freemasonry. Some other Brothers who have been extremely active in my path are Bro Neil Lonsbury, Bro Jim Linton, and Bro David Needham. I also thank

all the Grand Lodge officers past and present and the Grand Lodge office staff for their support and encouragement.

My thanks go to Bro Roth and the team of Past Grand Masters for the Installation ceremony this afternoon. To the elected and appointed Grand Lodge officers, thank you for accepting your individual roles. Working as a team we have the opportunity to strengthen and enhance our great and gentle Order.

In our rapid, hectic and narcissistic world, where the lines between right and wrong are becoming so grey and indistinct and even our governments have become corrupt, it is no wonder that organizations are being fragmented. The lesson our lectures teach is the importance of tolerance and trust



MWBro John Slade
Grand Master of Alberta
2014–2015

Biography of MWBro John Slade

MWBro John Slade was born in Amersham, England on 17 February 1949. He served in the British Army and was awarded the General Service Medal (1962) Northern Ireland Clasp. Prior to completing his engagement in the British Military, he qualified with his degree in Chiropody (the study and treatment of foot disorders). He operated a private practice, both in England and Canada, and is now semi, semi-retired.

John has been married to Barbara for sixteen years. They live in Edmonton and have seven grandchildren, a great-grandson and a great-granddaughter.

They are members of the Alberta St. George of England Society, for which John served as Treasurer for 18 years and President for two years. He is also a member and Treasurer of the Royal Commonwealth Society. For his dedicated volunteer involvement he was an honoured recipient of the Alberta Centenary Medal in 2005 and the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal in 2012.

John began his Masonic career in London, England, where he was initiated into Unity Lodge No. 183 of

the United Grand Lodge of England. On immigrating to Canada he affiliated with Baseline Lodge No. 198 in Spruce Grove and served as Worshipful Master in 1994–1995. On completion of his year as Master he commenced working with Edmonton Chapter, Order of DeMolay, and has served in many offices. He is currently the Executive Officer for Alberta, a member of the Supreme Council and served as President of DeMolay Canada for five years. He was awarded the honorary DeMolay Legion of Honour in May 2003. He is a member of Temple-Centennial Lodge No. 167, an honorary member of Ye Old Craft Lodge No. 196, a member of Stony Chapter No. 41 Royal Arch Masons, a retired member of the Emblems of Mortality Degree Team, a member of the Northern Alberta Veteran's Degree Team, a member of the Legion of Honour, Al Shamal Shriners, and a Past Patron of Areme Chapter No. 11, Order of the Eastern Star.

John was elected Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Alberta in June 2011 and Installed as Grand Master on 14 June 2014.

within the Fraternity, so it is imperative that these virtues are strengthened and practiced by us all. Today, Legions and social clubs are all closing, as are many of the icons we cherish across this great province, due to disinterest and apathy. Yet we do have a beacon that is glowing warm and bright in the darkness. That beacon is Freemasonry, and the excellent work performed by Freemasons is of paramount importance now more than ever.

Appreciating that we are mere stewards of this great Fraternity for a short time, it is of the utmost importance that we understand that Freemasonry will lead and guide us in all our actions. We must remember our obligations, allow Freemasonry to shape us and not force Freemasonry to fit our purposes. It was never designed to be formed by us, but to improve us for a better world. Attempts at making Freemasonry conform to our world cannot and will not work. Ensuring that negative influences from the outside world do not infiltrate our lodgerooms is paramount. We have had men join our ranks who had a vague suspicion that
See **Stepping**, on Page 2.

In memoriam

MWBro William Alexander (Sandy) Milligan

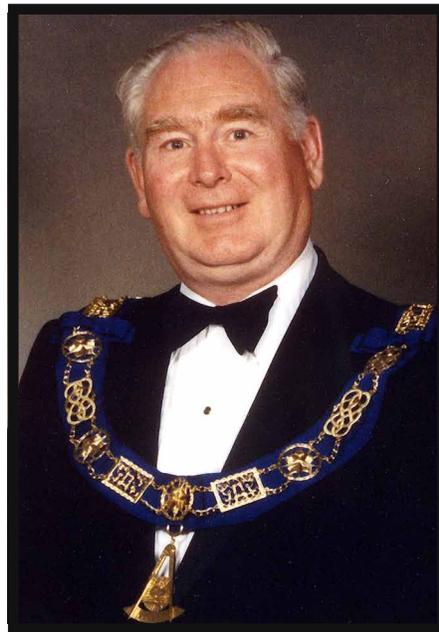
24 December 1919 – 23 July 2014

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of MWBro William Alexander Milligan on 23 July 2014 at Edmonton, Alberta.

MWBro Milligan, known by all as "Sandy," was born in Calgary on 24 December 1919. He attended Public School and part of High School in Calgary, with the remainder being completed in Edmonton.

He joined the Canadian Army in 1941 and served in NW Europe with the North Nova Scotia Highlanders, being discharged in February 1946. Following apprenticeship as a plumber he became a journeyman in 1946. He also obtained his certificate as a Public Health Inspector. He became a Plumbing Inspector with the Provincial Government in 1947 and Chief Plumbing Inspector in 1950 (a position previously held by his father). He held that position until his retirement.

During his lifetime he enjoyed a



**Grand Master
1975–1976**

variety of sports, including tennis, baseball, curling and golf. He served his community well, having been President of both the Pleasant View and Strathcona High School Home and School Associations and President of the Pleasant View Community League.

MWBro Milligan was initiated, passed and raised in Saskatchewan Lodge No. 92 in 1946 and served as Worshipful Master in 1961. He was elected and served as District Deputy Grand Master of District No. 12 in 1967–68. He also served the Craft as General Chairman of the Banff Masonic Spring Workshop in 1971. He was elected Junior Grand Warden in 1971 and was installed as Grand Master of Masons in Alberta in June 1975.

He was very active in the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite and was coroneted a 33° Mason in 1970. He was also a member of the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine and of the Royal Order of Scotland.

Stepping from Page 1.

our mysteries were merely nominal, that our practices were superficial and that our ceremonies were of such trifling import that they could be adopted, changed or disregarded at will. **They cannot!** We have had officers assume positions of leadership within our Order that they were ill-prepared for, thereby allowing our rites, practices, protocols and etiquettes to be eroded away. Thus today we have Brethren either accepting positions with indifference or reluctance, or rejecting them with disdain. The traditions, tenacity and wisdom which our ancestors set down for us and that we enjoy today must be vigorously protected and maintained. It therefore falls to us to ensure that we continue to leave such a legacy for the Freemasons of the future.

The journey of a Freemason is a

combined one. Whilst we all are impacted individually by its teachings, our paths are intertwined like the lily-work of Freemasonry. This ensures a personal contact, so that we are all here for each other. It is the unseen spirit that allows us to step into the light.

It is also of paramount importance that the Brethren who kept our traditions and have gone before us must never be forgotten! We must endeavour to continue to visit with them in the various hospitals, seniors' residences and nursing homes. After all, they have given willingly of their time over the years to preserve our Order. A short visit will make all the difference in their lives and give bountiful pleasure to them.

To cite a parable that you may be familiar with: A man was walking with his young daughter on a beach. Far off in the distance they saw a man bending down

and picking up something and throwing it out to sea. The daughter asked her father, "What is that man doing?" The father did not know, however as they drew closer they could see that he was throwing starfish back out to sea. The young girl asked him why he was doing that. He said, "Saving the starfish." Then she exclaimed, "But the beach is covered with them. You cannot save them all." With that the man threw another starfish and said, "Well, I made a difference to that one!"

Brethren, be the difference in the life of a man, a Brother, a member of our youth groups or any of the concordant bodies. Be that Brother who quietly visits and assists other Brethren.

Freemasonry! Its strong and majestic history of Brotherly love, peace and harmony lays out the principles and life skills we constantly hear in Lodge. Providing we have the right moral

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attitude and ethical spirit, we can be valuable and enthusiastic supporters of our Craft no matter what our age or background. Freemasonry, if we allow it, will guide us in choosing wisely and carefully. Once selected, we should follow the designated path faithfully. We all have accepted the challenge of carrying out a self-assessment and could improve in ourselves those things that may offend us in others.

This year I am appointing two Brothers to the position of youth liaison: Sam Malayang and Will McMillan. Their task is to advise the DDGMs of special functions of DeMolay and Job's Daughters such as installations, degree evenings, even any of their fun events. I am requesting that you all, within the length of your cabletows, make every effort to attend one of these special events. Any time that you can offer these young men and women will be a treasure for them. You will be rewarded, delighted and amazed by the ritual and floor work these young people carry out. I ask for senior DeMolays to rise, all current advisors, anyone who has been an advisor, parents of or assisted the youth groups in any way. I offer you my thanks for all the service you have given and will continue to give in the future.

Since the inception and acceptance of the Strategic Plan in 2009, the workings and opportunities our Fraternity has to offer have begun to improve. It is imperative that we all understand that we are a **team**, and together we can put into practice the teachings of

Freemasonry and make a difference within our Lodges and in society. Our achievements will speak for themselves by what we do individually and by the actions we take in society. All our communications between members, Lodges, Districts and Grand Lodge must improve. We need to implement a central noticeboard where we can post vital information in a members only area.

This year I have chosen from the Strategic Plan *Ensuring Lodge meetings are interesting*, with my theme **Stepping Together Into Light**. STIL Officers, commencing with the Stewards, must lay out a clear vision for their Lodge for the future. The Lodge must become as pleasant as a green oasis, a place of purity, illumination and enrichment. Entertain some ideas on improving Lodge meetings within the Fraternity. We have many actors/dramatists and military personnel who can offer instruction on how to offer the teachings of our Craft, and particularly our ceremonies, with flare. The written word is laid out in our work. However, the re-enactment of the ceremonies are yours to enhance and bring to life by assuming the character's role. Degree teams can demonstrate the presentation of the work.

Within the Lodge, have in-depth discussions of the lectures and teachings of Freemasonry and what it means to each member and how it has affected their daily lives. Education is the cornerstone of our Craft; there must be time for the improvement, enhancement

and stimulation of the Brethren. The use of modern technology for web-based discussions with eminent Masons from across the world can be a great experience.

The business of the Lodge must be completed fully and expediently, improving festive boards by careful and effective planning. The world of Freemasonry is your oyster and whatever you choose to do with it, it is yours to build, to strengthen and to enjoy with enthusiasm and energy, thereby offering more to the members and to the men who wish to join us. By working as a **Team Stepping Together Into Light** and having fun, we can endeavour to be happy ourselves and communicate that happiness to others. We can make a difference in this world. **Stepping Together Into Light** may be so powerful we will all be dazzled by the greatness it beholds.

From the order of DeMolay we learn respect for agape (unconditional love), reverence for sacred things, courtesy, comradeship, fidelity, cleanness and patriotism. That is their beacon. You, my Brethren, can be the **beacon** of Freemasonry. As a team we can be that beacon that burns brightly, and therein will lie our purpose as Freemasons: to have a joyful Lodge and improve this world of ours for us, and all humanity.

On a personal note, when I first joined Freemasonry I never fully realized the enormity of this organization. I have met and had the opportunity to interact with Freemasons in Germany, New Zealand, Australia, Greece, United States, and Canada and from many other places around the globe. It has afforded me the opportunity to meet with men from all walks of life and have advisors, mentors, instructors and teachers on an extremely wide range of topics — something I would never have imagined unless I was a member of this Order.

Brethren you are the beacons of today's society. When do you plan to begin shining your light? Today? Tomorrow? Next week? Next year? My Brethren the time is **now**. **Stepping Together Into Light** you can be the leaders, teachers and communicators. We can, we must go forth with an unfragmented organization and allow the light of Freemasonry to shine before all.

In conclusion, it is a great day, a great time to be a Freemason. Go forth and let your light shine before all. May the Great Architect of the Universe bless and keep you all safe and healthy, my Brethren.

Notes from the Grand Master, MWBro John Slade

Grand Lodge Youth Liaison Officers

I have appointed VWBro Sam Malayang as Youth Liaison, North and Bro Will McMillan as Youth Liaison, South. Their purpose is to enlighten the Brethren on Job's Daughter's International, for young ladies, and the Order of DeMolay, for young men, our premier youth groups in the Province. They will arrange for speakers to attend your Lodge meetings — these young men or women will astound you with their proficiency. The Youth Liaison officers will also keep the DDGMs apprised of special events, such as Installation ceremonies, Degrees and some of their fun events; they in turn will disseminate this information to the Lodges. I would request that, within the length of your personal cabletows, we all make every effort to support these events and the youth of our Province.

If you wish to contact either Liaison officer, they can be reached at:

Sam Malayang sjsm2011@me.com ; Will McMillan Willmcmillan@shaw.ca

2014 Annual Communication and Music in Masonry

Brethren, the music for the Saturday afternoon Installation ceremony was all played through the sound system from an iPhone utilizing Music in Masonry. My thanks go to RWBro Neil Lonsbury, WBro Leam Weir, VWBro Hu Puffer and RWBro Norm Downs for making this all possible. Music in Masonry can be downloaded from the Grand Lodge website, Please avail yourselves of this wonderful opportunity to enhance your own Lodge meetings.

Lauraine Douchet Masonic Bursary for Pharmacy and Medicine

Rami Abu-Zeidan

It is my pleasure to be in your fellowship this evening, and it is a true honour to be chosen as a recipient of the Lauraine Douchet Masonic Bursary for Pharmacy and Medicine.

My name is Rami Abu-Zeidan and I am a medical student at the University of Alberta. I remember 17 June 2013 very vividly. That was the day I received the email from the Faculty informing me of my acceptance. The first thing I did was call my parents. Before my mother could say “hello” I quickly spilled out the good news. My parents were happy because I was happy, and I was happy because my parents were happy. My father, a Mason from Lebanon, immigrated to Canada with his wife and four children in 1994.

While most people came to Canada for the work opportunities, my father decided to leave a successful business behind and come to Canada for its education. After numerous unsuccessful businesses here in Canada, my father lost his financial wealth and his health started to decline. As a child, I would often accompany my father during his appointments with our family doctor. These visits were my first exposure to the profession of medicine. I noticed that medicine was not simply about prescribing medication, but rather a way to connect with patients in such a way that you are a partner for health. This connection intrigued me. It showed me that to understand someone’s disease, one has to understand the context and events leading up to its clinical presentation. I have been always a strong believer in the power of relationships. I believe that a worthwhile life to live is one not based on how much material wealth one accumulates but rather on the impact that one makes on others.

The relationship building aspect is the primary reason I chose to pursue the noble profession of medicine. Having many family members that navigated through the health care system as patients, I realized one important thing from their experiences: a kind word, or gesture, from a physician to a sick patient can go a long way. While possessing a solid understanding of the physiology and treatment of illnesses is a necessary aspect of being a physician, having an understanding of your patient as a person can make the difference between a good doctor and

a great doctor. Sometimes words of encouragement or a simple smile can have more of a positive effect on a patient than a drug prescription.

I started my medical studies at the University of Alberta last September. I quickly realized that, like everything else in life, it has its ups and downs. Medical school is a challenge. Our Dean characterised our plight with the wise analogy of our studies as “drinking from the fire hydrant.” In my opinion, medical students are always thirsty for knowledge and we enjoy that. I’ve learned that nothing in life is easy. To understand the true value of something, one has to work hard, view failures as learning opportunities, stay persistent and, most important, stay true to oneself. I’ve been fortunate that the Brethren at Acacia Lodge are very understanding of my dedication to medical school, so they don’t give me a too, too hard a time when I miss Lodge nights. But jokes aside, I really appreciate the fact that Freemasonry puts an emphasis on education and family first.

One of the most influential moments in my first year was a program called the “Patient Immersion Experience.” This program allowed medical students to pair up with patients in the community and get to know them over two years. My colleague and I visited our patient teacher four times this past year and we got to understand how she navigates the health care system. This program is special because it allows medical students to put themselves in the perspective of the patient — something

Ross Sheppard Memorial Bursary

Ziad Paracha

We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give.

Sir Winston Churchill (1874–1965)

Good evening ladies and gentlemen, friends and family, Grand Master, and all honourable guests here tonight.

As I look at the audience, I see people of different backgrounds. I see unique faces. I see diversity. I even see a difference in style or fashion. Yet



RWBro Chris Batty, SGW (l) and MWBro John Cameron (r) with Lauraine Douchet Bursary winner Bro Rami Abu-Zeidan

I believe is easily overlooked by the medical profession. By engaging with patients on their experiences, it allows us, the medical students, to never forget what it is like on the other side, and the realization that we will soon be on the other side allows us to ground ourselves for when we are practicing physicians. I continue to count my blessings because sometimes it is easy to forget where you came from, how hard you worked to get where you are and the people you meet along the way.

I am grateful for the Lauraine Douchet Masonic Bursary. The Bursary will allow me to focus on what truly matters in this life — gaining knowledge — instead of the financial burden of being a medical student. In Masonry we have the three Grand Principles of Brotherly Love, Truth and Relief. To me this Bursary is not just about the financial “relief” but it’s a message to me that my fellow Brethren support me in the completion of my medical studies so that I may positively contribute to my community and make a lasting change. I am grounded in principal, but ready to soar.

Thank you, Brethren, for the lift.

despite all these differences, tonight we gather for a purpose. I quoted Winston Churchill “We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give.” Tonight, I got started on my living, and perhaps you can say that you’ve made a life.

Now before I begin, I haven't personally introduced myself. Usually when you ask people where they're from they'll say "I'm Canadian" or "I'm Arab" or "I'm Chinese" or "Indian" and so on. As for me, my name is Ziad Paracha and I am a 19-year-old Muslim, Sweden-born, Pakistani Canadian.

I am incredibly honoured to be here with you today. First, I am appreciative of the opportunity to be selected for the Ross Sheppard Memorial Bursary and am exceedingly privileged to receive the Bursary tonight. I am truly touched to feel the support and to know there is a network of individuals and organizations that help students in need to pursue higher education and help me to continue my post-secondary endeavours.

I came to Canada about 11 years ago, unaware of the culture, the language, tradition, weather, people or systems and basically clueless of the lifestyle here. In fact, when we were leaving from Pakistan to come to Canada, I didn't even know where Canada was located geographically. I was comforting my cousins, telling them, "I'll be back tomorrow." When I first started school in Canada, I had lost all faith in myself. Academically I was a failure. Socially I was a disappointment. No matter what I did, it felt as if I was wrong. But my parents put an immense amount of effort to raise me to who I am today. So, can I get a big kind round of applause for my parents.

There was a time where your entire year of studies was under \$500, that's not how it is now. In the world in which we live, we have created a system where a high school diploma isn't sufficient to support a family; where your books are more expensive than rent for your house; where an investment in education could be the debt you owe for the rest of your life.

Your investment helps students like me who desire to seek knowledge through an educational institute, but would otherwise be hindered. You provide us with opportunity. Your investment is an asset to the world, because students like me rise to become leaders who wish to change the world. Your investment gives us hope to achieve that which we might not otherwise. But what's most important it is the reason for our progress.

It's hope that was given me — a dream to chase, a person to become.

I may not be financially able to pay for my own education but I do live my life by giving. This Bursary aids me in more than one way. It keeps me going towards hope — it keeps me doing my best. Thanks to you who support us and enrich us and empower us to get there.

I am entering my third year of my undergraduate degree in biological sciences at the University of Calgary. My plans are to continue studying and enter medical school so that I may become a family doctor. It's been a passion since I was a child playing with my toy stethoscope and putting bandages on my sister's Barbie dolls. At the end of July of this summer, I will be flying to Cameroon, Africa to provide free health care and education to less



RWBro Chris Batty, SGW (l) and MWBro John Cameron (r) with Ross Sheppard Bursary winner Zaid Paracha

fortunate people who travel miles for a glass of water.

We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give. Tonight, you have made my life by giving. And I am most grateful and optimistic that you'll continue to give and change the lives of others as you've changed mine, so that together we can change the world.

Calgary Freemason's Day — 24 June 2014

RWBro. Glenn McConnell



There was no flood this year to dampen high spirits at the Masonic Open House held at Calgary Freemasons' Hall on 24 June to celebrate Freemasons' Day — a day declared by Mayor Naheed Nenshi in 2013. It was well-organized by RWBro David Hochman, Bro Ilya Raykhlin, and many others.

With doors open from 15 00 h to 21 00 h, there were information display tables for Craft Masonry and Concordant Bodies, a vintage film of Freemasons' Hall during construction in 1928, refreshments and tours, including of the Grand Lodge Library.

A steady stream of Masons and the public viewed displays, engaged with Masons, met Mayor Nenshi and enjoyed the charcuterie and cheese plates. Of particular interest was the number of young men seeking information about the Craft.

This important event was cancelled in 2013 due to flooding; its great success in 2014 confirms the value of this connection to the community and it will, no doubt, become an annual observance for Freemasons to take pride in.

Photo (above) Calgary Mayor Naheed Nenshi with Jobies and DeMolay.

Grand Master's Itinerary September

- 7 Potential DDGM Training; Freemasons' Hall, Red Deer
- 9 Harmony Lodge No. 75, Installation of Grand Chaplain, and the Alberta Veteran's Degree Team conferring the FC Degree; Masonic Hall, Sedgewick
- 11 Saskatchewan Lodge No. 92, 50-Year Jewel Presentation; Freemasons' Hall, Edmonton
- 27 Lakeland District Meeting; Masonic Hall, Vermillion