



Edmonton's Paige Abrahamson installed as Supreme Bethel Honoured Queen, Job's Daughters International

Bro Michael Loraas, Ivanhoe Lodge No.142

Please join me in congratulating Paige Abrahamson from Bethel No. 13, Edmonton, Job's Daughters International, who has been installed as the Supreme Bethel Honoured Queen 2016–2017 (SBHQ) during Supreme Session, held at Grand Rapids, MI, on 26–30 July. Paige joined Bethel No. 13 in November 2008, progressing to Bethel Honoured Queen in September 2013. She was crowned Jr Miss Alberta 2013–2014 and Miss Alberta 2015–2016. Paige has been very active with Job's Daughters over the year, and this role was a dream come true for her! She is the first Supreme Bethel Honoured Queen from Alberta ever selected.

Paige has started her Bachelor of Arts major in psychology as a prerequisite to a Master of Science in speech and language pathology at Concordia University in September 2015, but will have to take a break this year with her new duties in Job's Daughters International.

During the year she will be a part of the Job's Daughters 2016–17 Supreme Team, including the Supreme Guardian, Associate Supreme Guardian

(both are adult leaders) as well as the newly crowned Miss International Job's Daughter, Taila Gouge from Queensland, Australia. Paige and Taila will provide leadership and encouragement to the membership and work to inspire confidence and be positive role models to the daughters and members of the Supreme Bethel. There will also be visits with other Masonic organizations and other promotion opportunities.

The Supreme Team will visit thousands of members across the United States, Canada, Australia, the Philippines, and Brazil. They will go to most jurisdictions in five countries while preparing for Supreme Session 2017 in Valley Forge, PA. Only a small portion of Paige's travel costs are covered so there will be fundraising around the Province this year to help her defer costs.

Job's Daughters offers a limitless array of opportunities. If you know a young lady between the ages of 10 and 20 and would like more information go to www.iojd.ca or www.jobsdaughtersinternational.org.



Paige Abrahamson, Supreme Bethel Honoured Queen, 2016–2017

And in all the land were no women found so fair as the Daughters of Job; and their Father gave them inheritance among their brethren.

Time to say goodbye

Judy Rivers, Immediate Past Executive Secretary, The Grand Lodge of Alberta

Well, here it is. Time to say goodbye. I'm sure some of you wondered if I would ever leave the Grand Lodge Office. I have to admit there were days when I thought, "This is it. I'm out of here." But then I would talk to one of you and I would forget whatever was bothering me and I'd be back on track. Jerry and I have worked together longer than some marriages last. But there were times, I'm sure, when we both thought that maybe it was time for a divorce.

It's scary to realize that I've been working for Grand Lodge longer than some of you have been alive! Don Millar was the first Grand Master I worked with. I remember my first warning was

"Don't ever spell his name wrong, it is MILLAR, not MILLER". Today I consider Don a very dear friend. Thank you, Don, for your patience with the new girl way back then.

When I started at Grand Lodge, I didn't know a dispensation from a by-law, or what the Constitution was all about. There were Canadian and Ancient York Rituals, and I was told that Rituals were off limits to me. Oh no! What would happen if I tried to read one? Like I ever had time to even try to decipher what they were all about. There were aprons! So many kinds. There were so many jewels. What did it all mean!

Of course, I also had to learn the

ranks: MWs, RWs, VWs, WMs, PMs, and then there were the good old Bros. I would go home at night completely overwhelmed. It didn't help that the lady I thought I would be working with and learning from gave her two weeks' notice the day I started. What had I gotten myself into?

I've worked with five Grand Secretaries. I was working on number six, but I decided I was too old to break in another one (just kidding, Bill) — your new Grand Secretary, Bill Kostenuk, is another wonderful Mason.

Over the years I've met so many wonderful people, so many gentlemen, mentors, role models and very special

friends. Also, in meeting your ladies I discovered that they are every bit as special as the Masons. You've all inspired me to be a better person. Leaving you means leaving my family.

Some of you may know that my father was a Past Grand Master and Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Quebec. My Dad, MWBro Ken Aldridge, and I had

a very special kind of father-daughter bond. We shared a unique connection that most don't and I thank you all for that.

I want to extend my appreciation for your kind well-wishes, lovely comments and the thoughtful and generous gifts I've received. You have touched my heart and I will treasure my memories

of the time spent with the Freemasons of Alberta.

In closing, **Please keep Masonry strong!**

... trust that you have but one aim, to please each other and unite in the grand design of being happy and communicating happiness.

To all Arizona Snowbird Masons — Second Call

From RWBro Brian Ireland, Strathmore Lodge No. 53

A number of Brethren from Alberta, British Columbia and Saskatchewan winter in Arizona, where they attend various Lodges in their area over the course of the winter.

As we are aware, the Arizona Brethren practice the Arizona F&AM Rite, which is similar to our Ancient York Rite. During the course of their education in District 10, we Canadians have been asked to demonstrate the opening and closing of a Canadian Rite Lodge and have explained some of the differences (which are many). The Arizona Masons are VERY interested in seeing an exemplification degree in the Canadian Ritual and have asked if we could possibly arrange to do one next winter. They are looking at two evenings, one in Casa Grande, which is

about 45 minutes South of Phoenix for the Southern Brethren, and one in Mesa for the Phoenix area Masons.

I winter in the Casa Grande area, along with three or four other Canadian Brothers. Obviously we need more. What I'm seeking is contact with any Canadian Rite Mason (or Ancient York Rite Brother who is willing to work in the Canadian Rite) who winters in Arizona and would be interested in assisting with putting on a degree. Which degree to perform is still open, as are all Chairs from the WM down and all parts for whichever degree. We would also need one of our own for a candidate for the proving up portions unless we do the First Degree, where we have no shortage of volunteers from Arizona including a PGM.

I would appreciate any Brother who is

interested contacting me with the dates you would be down South, the work you do in each degree and what station you would want to fill. From the gathered information, we would tentatively be able to determine the time frame, the degree and who would be doing what. I am working with a Brother from BC who is also canvassing his jurisdiction. (We would use the Alberta Canadian Ritual)

Obviously, we want to do a super job, hence as much time as possible is needed to put this together. A couple of Lodges are willing to hold an emergent meeting solely for this Education night.

Anxiously awaiting your reply, I remain,
Fraternally yours,

RWBro Brian Ireland
brian@brimarconsulting.com

Report of the Masonic Medal of Merit Committee

MWBro Calvin D. Shaver, PGM, Chairman

Thank you once again for permitting me to present this Committee's report. During the 2015-2016 Masonic year, your Committee has received some questions regarding the submission and presentation of the Medal, which we trust were satisfactory answered.

In addition, as a follow-up to our prior report, we are undertaking to have a full list of recipients posted on the GLA website. Unfortunately, due to my oversight, funding had not previously been budgeted. It has now been received, and we will be submitting an updated list for inclusion on the website.

In addition, the nomination form has been revised (an on-going process) and we ask everyone to refer to the available forms on the website when completing nominations (currently Forms 182.2 & 182.3 — both are required).

Brethren, this year's recipients continue to clearly display the meaning of a Freemason. They put into practice those positive virtues that Freemasons are known for.

It is evident many individuals take this philosophy into their life's actions, before and certainly subsequently to actually becoming a Freemason. This is

apparent from the recipients this year, from being a member since 1962 to one as recent as 2010. But all have clearly been active for a considerable time in their community, family and Lodge.

Including the three recipients this year, there has now been a total of 87 recipients from 51 Lodges. You have heard the requests and other suggestions from this Committee in past years. This year I am only going to refer you to past reports, which are available in either the *Annual Proceedings* or *The Alberta Freemason*.

As always, this Committee remains

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<p>The Grand Lodge of Alberta, A.F. & A.M. 330 – 12 Avenue SW, Calgary, Alberta T2R 0H2 Tel 403-262-1140 www.freemasons.ab.ca</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Grand Master</td> <td>MWBro James Ratchford</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Deputy Grand Master</td> <td>RWBro Gordon Berard</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Senior Grand Warden</td> <td>RWBro Kenn Culbertson</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Junior Grand Warden</td> <td>RWBro Ken Cheel</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grand Secretary</td> <td>RWBro Bill Kostenuk</td> </tr> </table>		Grand Master	MWBro James Ratchford	Deputy Grand Master	RWBro Gordon Berard	Senior Grand Warden	RWBro Kenn Culbertson	Junior Grand Warden	RWBro Ken Cheel	Grand Secretary	RWBro Bill Kostenuk	<p>Editor: RWBro George Tapley 339 Whitefield Dr NE, Calgary, AB T1Y 5S2 Tel 403-280-6776 e-mail: editor@freemasons.ab.ca</p>
Grand Master	MWBro James Ratchford											
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ready and willing to assist in any way we can regarding the Masonic Medal of Merit. Do not hesitate to contact us should you desire to have someone attend a meeting to answer your questions.

To the DDGMs, please remind the Lodges not to hold back in nominating those worthy members who qualify for this prestigious award.

As in past years, I take this opportunity to sincerely thank the Com-

mittee members for their dedication, willingness and endeavours to keep this individual in line, thus making my role as chairman very easy on this very rewarding and satisfying Committee.

Bro Robert Earl Morrell was initiated into Freemasonry in Lochearn Lodge No. 151, Rocky Mountain House, on 9 April 1970, passed to a Fellowcraft on 14 May 1970 and raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason on 11 June 1970.

It was exposure to Freemasons from other trades while working on different projects in Rocky Mountain House that aroused his interest and encouraged him to join the Craft. He remains an active member, performing the duties of



Bro Robert Earl Morrell

the Stewards, and while declining to progress through the chairs, he is still 100 per cent involved in activities. He regularly steps up to volunteer in the maintenance of the Lodge and the updating and repair of furnishings as required.

Bro Morrell has always desired to be involved wherever he may reside. When the length of a project allowed, he would take part in the community's affairs as, for example, an active volunteer fireman (Rocky Mountain House, Hudson Hope, Ponoka) and a

member of the Royal Canadian Legion (56 years), Moose Lodge (50 years) and the Elks Lodge (15 years).

He has been happily married to Arlene for 56 years and they have three children and six grandchildren. He enjoys his retirement, spending quality time with his siblings at his home in Red Deer and cottage at Buffalo Lake.

Bro Morrell joined the Royal Canadian Air Force (regular, then the Reserves) where he acquired a career as an electrician, in which he holds a Master's Ticket. This took him on a nomad's path, as he worked on major projects from the Queen Charlottes to Oshawa and from Norman Wells to Pincher Creek. He has been project manager and consultant to Enbridge on several of their projects.

Bro Knut Dagobert "Bert" Seehawer was initiated into Freemasonry in Bow River Lodge No. 1, Calgary, on 15 November 1961, passed to a Fellowcraft on 17 January 1962 and raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason on 21 February 1962. He affiliated with Carstairs Lodge No. 20 in 1991.

He has been a long-standing stalwart member who readily helps wherever a hand is needed. He assists in various offices and in organizing Lodge activities (for example, Lodge Christmas Dinners) and many fundraising events, always working tirelessly to see events have a successful conclusion.

He has been married to Jeannie for 59 years, with three children (one deceased) and two grandchildren. His hobbies include camping, trail bike riding and competitions with his children, with one daughter having been in three World Cup trail bike competitions. In addition, he participated in tractor pull competitions for many years, although due to his health he is no longer an active participant.

Bro Seehawer has been active within his community for most of his life, serving the Cremona Volunteer Fire department as a volunteer fireman for over 20 years, and for many hours a week keeping the office and files in order. He supports the local police in administration duties, and as the Cremona emergency services are co-located, volunteers are needed to keep the small support group operating smoothly. He has been enmeshed in the intricacies of the tractor-pull competitions in southern Alberta, spending considerable



Bro Knut Dagobert Seehawer

time in supporting and coordinating this annual activity. Bro Seehawer served a term as Mayor of Cremona and tirelessly worked in his community to support the needs of critical activities and also those little things that make life for others more valuable.

Bro Seehawer was employed by Esso as a mechanic, and was a Service Manager upon retirement.

Bro Allen Leach was initiated into Freemasonry in Meridian Lodge No. 129 in Stony Plain on 10 March 2010, passed to a Fellowcraft on 14 April 2010 and raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason on 12 May 2010.

He is very active in Meridian Lodge, as well as McAllen Lodge No. 1110 in Texas, where he winters. For the past five years he has served as Senior Steward, with all the related duties, plus evaluating and recommending individuals for the Lodge's Scholarship Bursary, and is selflessly involved in all activities (for example, various renovations, clean-up, and the installation of an automatic chair lift). Aside from regular Lodge duties, he can be found assisting candidates, visiting the sick, driving widows to Lodge festivities and volunteering for Lodge events and celebrations. He is also a very active visitor to many neighbouring Lodges.

He has been married to Shelly since 1977, and they have two daughters. Amber lives in Calgary and is married with one son. Stephanie lives in Edmonton and is finishing her fourth



Bro Allen Leach

See **Bro Leach**, next page.

The Universal Mason

Why are you a Mason?

Bro Edward Hartman, Ashlar Lodge No. 610 G.R.C. (London, Ontario); *The Ontario Mason Magazine*, Spring 2016
Winner of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario's first Masonic Essay Contest

I love being a Freemason for many reasons. Freemasonry has been the conduit through which I have received many of my life's great experiences. One of the superficial benefits of being a member of the Craft is that it tends to cloak you with a certain amount of mystery and intrigue in the eyes of some non-Masons. It feels good when someone on the street or at the bar, or wherever, notices your ring and asks, "Are you a Mason?" All Masons have at one time or another been in this situation and have tried to appear as humble as possible as they answer, "Yes I am," all while desperately ignoring that internal voice that yells, "I'm special, I'm special." That feeling of pride, however, will quickly abandon you if the non-Mason is inclined to continue his line of questioning beyond the realm of curiosity and into the sphere of general interest. That feeling of pride may even briefly turn into panic if the non-Mason asks you, "Why are you a Mason?" At this point, for a terrifying moment,

Bro Leach, continued from page 3.

year apprenticeship as a journeyman pipe fitter and plumber and looking forward to getting her Red Seal.

Bro Leach's worthiness does not stop within the confines of Freemasonry. Each year he participates in several functions of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (for example the Walk for the Cure, Denim and Diamonds Gala Even and the annual golf tournament) and volunteered his time for the 2015 Senior Summer Games in Stony Plain.

He was a communications electrician (Rogers and Telus) by trade from 1974 and is currently semi-retired. He also worked as a project manager, with PPM certificates from the University of Alberta and George Washington University.

To quote his nominators: "This Brother is the embodiment of Freemasonry: Brotherhood, Relief and Truth. This Brother is always available to talk, assist, support or just help out where needed. He displays honour and virtue in his personal life and temperance, ethics and Masonic values in his work life. He is a trusted confidante and embodies the spirit and essence of what a Master Mason should be."

the Mason must rack his brain for an answer that can somehow summarize the experiences of his life that lead him to the door of the Lodge and also an answer that can somehow express the many intellectual, emotional and even possible spiritual experiences he has received since becoming initiated, passed and raised. This is no small task indeed.

driven by curiosity

I believe my experience has been shared by many other Masons when they first joined the Craft. The reasons I joined and the reasons I stayed are very different. When I joined Freemasonry I was driven by curiosity, some vague preconceptions of the Order and a desire to be part of something bigger than myself. It appears as though my life had led me in the direction of the Lodge without much conscious input from myself, almost as if somehow through my general interest and curiosity I just happened to find myself outside the doors of the Lodge, nervously awaiting my initiation. From this fact, I suppose, the argument can be made that sometimes in life your path chooses you, or at least steers you in the direction that would most benefit you, if you are only smart enough to see it. Whether or not your destiny is predetermined or entirely left up to chance, circumstance and blind luck cannot be known for sure, but what is a concrete fact is that it is up to the individual to accept and to passionately pursue the opportunities that life presents.

an intense desire to learn

I found this to be the case with my Masonic journey. Once a member for a short time my heart was filled with an intense desire to learn all I could from the Craft's beautiful system of symbols and rituals. I studied with feverish interest the philosophy and doctrines of all the great thinkers, reformers, mystics and visionaries who proudly called themselves Brother Freemasons. The depth of knowledge, wisdom, understanding and insight displayed by what I lovingly call the Prophets of the Craft can have a sincerely profound and life changing effect on the Mason who not only studies but also applies them to his life. Freemasonry is a perfect system of not only social moral virtue, but also enough of the ancient mystery tradition woven

into it as to keep not only the intellectual but also the spiritual appetite of man full.

all mankind should be viewed as a universal brotherhood

Still, there is one special function that Freemasonry performs which should be the pride of all who call themselves Masons. That function is its constant promotion of the idealistic teaching that states that all mankind should be viewed as a universal brotherhood. It was the great mystic Mason, Manly P. Hall, whose words resounded in my soul when he wrote,

The true Mason is not creed-bound. He realizes with the divine illumination of his Lodge that as a Mason his religion must be universal. Christ, Buddha or Mohammed, the name means little, for he recognizes only the light and not the bearer. He worships at every shrine, bows before every altar, whether in temple, mosque or cathedral, realizing with his truer understanding the oneness of all spiritual truth.

This magnificent quote is meant to inspire the idea within all Masons that all creeds, religions and traditions carry a portion of truth and are all different expressions of the same, shared goal. This goal is the attempt to understand the nature of God, and all nations throughout time have sought in some form or another to answer this mystery. How can one philosophy be considered greater or lesser than another when they all work towards knowing what is unknowable?

their higher spiritual pursuits

I believe the essence of Manly P. Hall's beautiful statement can be taken further still. Not only is mankind united in its desire to worship and understand the Divine, for all societies have formed systems to express their higher spiritual pursuits, but more commonly mankind is united in its daily, civil and common desires. No matter what position a man holds in society he yearns to be free and he desires Liberty for his loved ones and for himself — Liberty in the form of freedom to do what he pleases, worship as he pleases and associate with whom he pleases. No matter what culture or traditional background a man comes from he wishes to be treated fairly and

he desires Equality — Equality in the form of the protection of his right to exist as others exist. No matter what religion a man practices or associates with he wants to feel as though he is a member of the broader accepted community and he desires Fraternity — Fraternity in the form of support and brotherly love from his neighbours and fellow men. There exists a universal desire that spans the entire globe. This desire is man's want and need to be safe, protected, free and prosperous.

The Lodge is a place that aims to magnify the similarities of men, as opposed to the all too common practice in society of amplifying their differences. It is a place where those who would have remained strangers otherwise meet not

only as equals but as Brothers. It is a place that teaches its students the lessons of universal brotherhood. When our time here is over we will then see for ourselves that all mankind truly are brothers of the dust.

it is a force for good in this world

The question still remains, "Why am I a Freemason?" I am a Freemason because I believe in its lessons and I believe in its philosophy. I am a Freemason because I believe it is a force for good in this world and that it has the power to make society better, one man at a time. I am a Freemason because I believe that the ultimate goal of universal brotherhood is possible. However, if I was asked by a non-Mason, "Why are you a Mason?" I would most likely respond by saying,

"Because it is a great organization and I've gained much through my involvement with it."

The true Mason is not creed-bound. He realizes with the divine illumination of his Lodge that as a Mason his religion must be universal: Christ, Buddha or Mohammed, the name means little, for he recognizes only the light and not the bearer. He worships at every shrine, bows before every altar, whether in temple, mosque or cathedral, realizing with his truer understanding the oneness of all spiritual truth.

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Wisdom, Strength and Beauty

Masonic wisdom offers beauty to adorn "all great and important undertakings"

John L Cooper III, Past Grand Master, Grand Lodge of California; *California Freemason Magazine*, August-September 2016

Freemasonry teaches its initiates that the Fraternity is supported by three great pillars, "denominated wisdom, strength and beauty." Wisdom is needed to contrive, strength to support, and beauty to adorn "all great and important undertakings."

The importance of the first two pillars seems obvious. In order to create something valuable, intelligence — wisdom — is needed. And if something of value is to endure, it must be strong. There is no doubt that this symbolism was first called to the attention of our stonemason ancestors by the very nature of the building craft. In order to erect a building, a plan is necessary — the intelligence, the wisdom, to bring together the disparate parts in a harmonious whole. And, for such a building to endure, it must also have strength. It must have a strong foundation, strong walls that are true and upright, and a means of keeping the whole building together. This requires the use of geometry, which is both one of the seven liberal arts and sciences and the "foundation upon which the superstructure of Freemasonry is erected."

But why beauty? Creating a structure that is attractive may be desirable to an architect, but is it necessary that buildings are beautiful? Why would our stonemason ancestors have added beauty to the trilogy by which they defined "all great and important undertakings?"

To answer this question we need to turn to the history of architecture itself. The great aim in antiquity for the construction of any building, especially a building composed of stone, was how to make the structure endure for years into the future. In early days, the creation of temporary structures — tents and huts — did not pose this problem. But in the creation of a "permanent" building it was a matter that required attention. Stonemasons' earliest answer to the dilemma of endurance was to use the balanced weight of the construction materials to ensure a building's permanence. Columns of stone were topped with lintels of stone laid across these pillars at frequent intervals. The result was a strong building, but a very dark one, with little interior space. And while the buildings thus created may have had their own "beauty" of a sort, it was chiefly that of external adornment: the columns and lintels were painted in various colours that created a striking, if not exactly beautiful, structure.

The next step was to create more inner space, so that the structure could accommodate more people. The

arch was invented, followed by a collection of arches that created the dome. When properly constructed, a dome not only allowed for great interior space, but it could also add a luminescence to the building. The Pantheon at Rome is one example from antiquity, as is the dome of St. Sophia's in Istanbul, Turkey, the ancient city of Constantinople. The dome of the latter seems to float over the space it encloses, with a lightness and airiness that belies its great weight.

But it was the development of Gothic architecture that really created the beauty of interior space in a stone structure. Through the use of columns, arches and flying buttresses, the interiors of Gothic cathedrals were flooded with



The dome of the Pantheon in Rome. The coffered concrete dome has an oculus or opening to the sky to let in sunlight. Like a sundial, it illuminates different parts of the interior as the day passes while the rest of the space remains in relative darkness.

light, reflecting the beauty of the stonework from which the building was made.

There is every reason to believe that “Freemason” is a shortened form of “Freestone Mason,” referring to the stonemasons who had the skill and ability to construct these magnificent creations of “frozen poetry.” And the light that these buildings enclosed became their most significant feature. Unlike the massive buildings of antiquity that had dark interiors (even those with the architectural genius of the Pantheon and St. Sophia’s), the buildings the freestone masons constructed were flooded with light. It may well be that this interior light was what our stonemason ancestors referred to as “beauty.”

In speculative Masonry we speak of “light” as the subject of active pursuit by a Freemason. Masonic light is often thought of as knowledge — the search for truth. However, I would suggest that it is something more than that. Just as our stonemason ancestors were fascinated with the interplay of light streaming through the vast windows of Gothic cathedrals, speculative Masons today

are also intrigued with the splendor of light, which is the goal of our Masonic quest. There is some important symbolism here. As light is made up of all colours of the rainbow, so is Masonic light made up of “all sorts and conditions of men.” Race, creed, or other conditions are all blended together into one harmonious whole — the light of Freemasonry’s brotherhood. When we are seeking “further light in Masonry,” it is not necessarily more knowledge that we are seeking. What we are searching for is that glorious light of brotherhood, which a society of “friends and brothers” shines upon all our activities. Masonic light is truly the beauty that we are seeking, and it is a beauty that each of us has committed to create within our lives.



The Nave of Chartres Cathedral. The flying buttress construction allows the walls to be opened up, flooding the interior with natural light.

