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# Decorum of the Craft

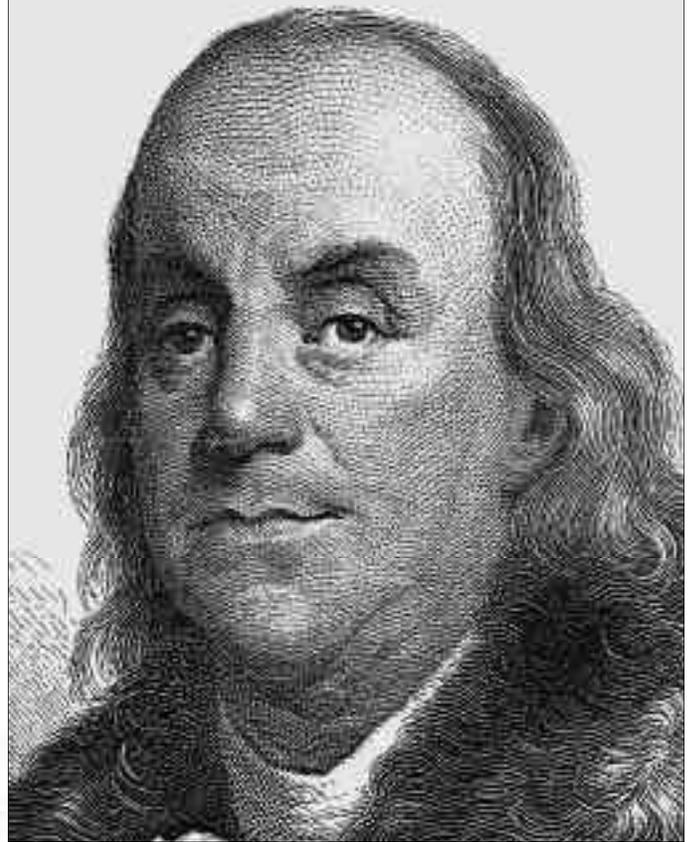
by VW Bro. Rev. William S. Boland

How does the word "decorum" relate to Freemasonry? The dictionary tells us that it means "conformity to accepted standards of conduct, orderliness, propriety." I submit that it is most important that we as free-masons pay close attention to our personal conduct both within the lodge room, at refreshment or in society. We were judged as good men when we were accepted as candidates for initiation, and we learned early that a freemason aspired to the highest moral principles and would ever strive to become a better family man, citizen and contributor to society; a person others would look up to and if knowing that man to be a freemason, would have a favorable impression of the Craft.

It is most important as well that we conduct ourselves properly when in the presence of new brothers who are going through the degrees and after

being raised. Their impression of our fraternity can be greatly influenced one way or the other by the conduct and actions of other brothers. And sometimes we "talk the talk" but we do not "walk the walk" We desperately need to make new Master Masons active members for life. Nothing we do should discourage this.

Sadly, it has been my personal experience that in some lodges cursing and swearing is heard, both before lodge is in session and at refreshment and then afterwards in the banquet hall. On occasion the filthiest of jokes are told. There is absolutely no room for this in Freemasonry. They offend the brother, whether a member or a visitor, who prides himself in good conduct; they disillusion the new brother at whatever stage he may be in going through the degrees. Further, Grand Lodge condones such conduct in no way. If reported and the situation is not



MWBro. Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790), a self-educated printer, author, publisher and diplomat, was Grand Master of Pennsylvania in 1734. A founder of what was to become the University of Pennsylvania, he was active in forming the first police force in the Colonies, starting the Philadelphia fire department, introducing hospital services and assisting in many civic projects. He found time to print the first North American edition of Anderson's Constitutions of Freemasonry, assist in the initiation of Voltaire into the Loge des Neuf Soeurs at Paris, and receive honorary degrees from Oxford and Edinburgh. A Fellow of the Royal Society, he is believed to also have been a member, or at least a guest, of the Order of the Friars of St Francis of Wycombe, better known as the Hell-Fire Club.

corrected, it could ultimately, by due process, lead to a warrant being revoked.

I would urge that each one of us remember who we are and what we represent. We should watch our language and deportment always. As reminders, let us each review our obligations, lectures and charges from time-to-time. If we have a funny story to tell,

let it be a clean one and never racist or sex related and certainly not on a Degree Night when the candidate has obligated himself seriously to the highest moral principles.

Let us all rededicate ourselves to those moral principles of our beloved fraternity. In doing so, we are contributing in no small way to its preserva-

**continued on page 2**



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## Decorum in the Craft from page one

tion. We are also making ourselves better men, which is the process of a lifetime. ■

*The late VW Bro. Rev. William S. Boland was Grand Chaplain for this jurisdiction in 1998.*

## Cuba

by W Bro. Douglas McColl

In Feb. 2004, while on a trip to Cuba and with the permission of Grand Lodge of B.C. and Yukon, W Bro. Lorne Donaldson and I visited the Grand lodge of Cub to donate forty Master Mason aprons to be distributed to the brethren.

I would like to acknowledge and thank those lodges that contributed used aprons for our trip to Cuba: Vancouver island Lodges, Sidney Lodge No. 143, Goldstream Lodge No. 161 and Camosun Lodge No. 60 contributed thirty-two aprons and the balance came from Lower Mainland lodges.

After a bit of research and with the help of our tour agent we determined it would be best to deliver the aprons to the Grand Lodge in Havana.

The Grand Lodge of Cuba, located on Salvador Ave., is an eleven storey building in good condition. On top of the building is a square and compasses prominently displayed above a globe.

We were introduced to the Deputy Grand Master, MW Bro. Francisco J. Eymil Fernandez, and, after we explained our mission, we presented the aprons. He thanked us very much, informed us that the

aprons would be distributed, and asked us to return fraternal greetings to all the brethren of our Grand Lodge and lodges.

Why take aprons to Cuba? Bro. Lorne Donaldson was informed that there was a need for aprons by the freemasons in Cuba because they are not readily available to them, low incomes prevent the brethren from purchasing aprons and most Canadian lodges have surplus aprons that have been returned to them.

Cuba has a total of 314 lodges with approximately 28,677 members.

If any of our brethren are visiting Cuba and wish to contact the Grand Lodge they should first contact our Grand Secretary. I know that any way you can assist our brothers in Cuba is very much appreciated by them. ■

*W Bro. Douglas McColl is a member of Camosun Lodge No. 60.*

## Sacred Law

It is most important that a candidate feel comfortable when taking his obligations. If there is any doubt about the most appropriate Volume of Sacred Law to use, the sponsors should ask the candidate what book he considers most sacred. Obligations taken on a personal Volume of Sacred Law are often more compelling and more meaningful.

In this regard Lodge Singapore No. 7178 EC is an interesting study, as six different Volumes of Sacred Law are found in the lodge room.

1. The Holy Book of the Sikhs, being the *Sri Guru Granth Sahib*. There have been relatively few initiations of Sikhs in this lodge and, until this volume was presented to the lodge, the *Holy Bhagavad Gita* had been used.

2. In addition to the four Vedas, the *Bhagavad Gita* is

considered the holy book of the Hindus, and this Volume may be opened and touched by hand but not by the lips.

3. The *Khordeh Avesta* or *Gathas of the Prophet* of the Zoroastrian faith, being the holy books of the Parsees, may be treated in the same way as the *Holy Bible* of the Christian faith.

4. The *Holy Koran* of the Muslims. With regard to touching and sealing the *Holy Koran*, an overall picture is somewhat difficult to convey as the customs vary in different

countries. The Imam of Kedah has, however, stated that the *Holy Koran* should be held above the head of the person taking an oath, and that such a person may neither touch nor seal it.

Another accepted method of dealing with this problem is for the VSL to be treated in exactly the same manner as with the *Holy Bible*, but with the difference that the *Holy Koran* should be covered. Obviously, it is the duty of the sponsors to ascertain the

## Charities

The following charities are supported by the masonic family of this jurisdiction:

### **Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation**

Alzheimer's Research and Dyslexia  
Scottish Rite Hospitals

### **Red Cross Of Constantine - Scottish Constitution.**

Annual Charitable donations to various masonic charities.  
2002 Gizeh Shrine Crippled Children

### **Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons Of British Columbia & Yukon.**

Keystone of Life  
Royal Arch Masonic Home Society  
Royal Arch Masonic Home Funding Society  
Society of Royal Arch Masons  
Royal Arch Bursary Annual Fund  
Royal Arch Bursary Capital Fund

### **Shriners Of British Columbia & Yukon.**

Shriners Hospitals for children (22 hospitals)  
Care Cruiser programme for transportation of children to Shriners Hospitals, BC Children's Hospital and Sunny Hill Hospital

### **Order Of Amaranth**

Diabetic Research (Internationally)

### **Order Of The Eastern Star**

ESTARL Bursary—Religious Studies  
Medical Library at V.G.H. Cancer Centre  
Elizabeth Bentley Bursary—Oncology training to upgrade nursing  
Cancer research  
Cancer dressings

### **Job's Daughters**

HIKE (Hearing Impaired Kids Equipment Fund)

### **Van Zor Grotto**

Children for Orthodontic Surgery

### **Grand Lodge Of British Columbia And Yukon.**

Masonic Foundation  
Benevolence Fund  
Bursary Fund  
Community Charities Fund - Cancer Cars. We can Help Project

### **Demolay**

Juvenile Diabetes Research

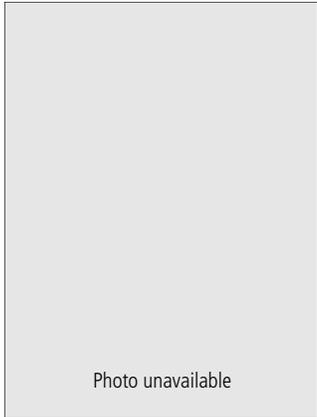
### **Daughters Of The Nile**

Shriners Hospitals



W Bro. Palmer Cox

# Our candidates for Junior Grand Warden



**RW Bro. Lawrence W. Link**

RW Bro. Link, born in Auburn, California on September 3, 1944 and educated at Newark State College, New Jersey, is a heavy equipment operator, tradesman and transportation coördinator for School District No. 8 in Nelson. He served in the US military from 1962 to 1966.

Initiated in Nelson Lodge No. 23, Nelson in 1970, he served as Master in 1977, and later was made an honorary member of Granite Lodge No. 154. He served as Grand Marshall in 1989 and District Deputy Grand Master for District 4 in 1998.

Married to Sandra Elizabeth Cotterill, they have a son and daughter and two grandchildren. ■



**W Bro. Herbert F. T. Chow**

W Bro. Chow, born in 1935, joined Blue Mountain Lodge No. 182, Port Coquitlam, on 15 April, 1980. He has since been Worshipful Master of Blue Mountain Lodge, a charter member of Dogwood Lodge No. 192 and an affiliated member of Landmark Lodge No. 128 and Cascade Lodge No. 12.

In 1995 he was Grand Superintendent for District No. 12 of the Royal Arch. In 1998 he was elected a Grand Council member of the Sovereign Great Priory of Canada, Knights Templar. In 2001 he was Grand Sentinel of the Scottish Rite.

He is an active member in several other concordant bodies, three Shrine Clubs and the Oriental Band. ■



**RW Bro. Stephen Godfrey**

RW Bro. Godfrey, born in St. Albans, Hertfordshire in 1944, has been a teacher and education administrator.

Initiated in Elk River Lodge No. 35, Fernie in 1972, he affiliated with Haida Lodge No. 166, serving as Master in 1981 and 1984. He served as Grand Steward in 1989 and District Deputy Grand Master for District 21 in 2000.

Active on the Committee on Education and Research (Leadership) for fifteen years, he was chairman in 1994 and 2002 to 2004. He was a member of the Craft Review Committee for 1992, District Education Officer for 1986 to 1988 and either chaired or co-chaired the Leadership Workshops for 1995-03. ■

method appropriate for our particular purpose.

5. The *Holy Bible* of the Christians, which comprises two parts, i.e. the Old Testament and the New Testament. As regards the Craft, it is the Old Testament which is acted upon. The books of the Old Testament, which are contained in the *Holy Bible*, are treated by those of the Jewish faith in the same manner as by the Christians.

6. There are two main streams of Buddhism, i.e., the Theravada and the Mahayana.

The former are from India, Ceylon, Burma, Cambodia and Thailand, and the Mahayana (Northern) generally hail from China, Korea and Japan. The Theravada do not recognize a Supreme Being, but there may of course be exceptional cases. The Mahayana generally acknowledge a Supreme Being. The holy book for both groups is the *Dhammapada*—being the first book of the original twelve containing 423 Dhamma stanzas—although the words of Buddha contained in the *Sutras* would be a more acceptable

book. On good authority, it is understood there would be no objection to using the *Holy Bible* for the purpose of obligating the candidate, should these not be available.

*Excerpted, in part, from our Masonic Bulletin, June, 1972.*

## Letters

### Motorcycles

Currently recovering from a motorcycle accident, I took particular interest in the recent article regarding the formation of a masonic motorcycle

Grand Lodge 133rd Annual Communication

June 17-19, 2004

**Salmon Arm**

Our online registration form can be found at: [freemasonry.bcy.ca/gl2004](http://freemasonry.bcy.ca/gl2004)

[freemasonry.bcy.ca/masonic\\_bulletin](http://freemasonry.bcy.ca/masonic_bulletin)

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*The Library at Grand Lodge*

club (February 2004).

Although motorcycle clubs are a good idea because they promote safe riding, I have some concerns about forming a masonic motorcycle club.

With the recent increased public awareness of motorcycle gangs and their illegal dealings, I am concerned that the public views the phrase motorcycle club and motorcycle gang as virtually synonymous terms. Has our Grand Secretary, and those interested motorcycling brethren considered this?

As this club grows, I envision legions of motorcyclists with the square and compasses or skull and crossbones, stitched on their jackets.

Does the Grand lodge of BC have experience with motorcycle clubs? Do we have information on masonic motorcycle clubs in other jurisdictions? Has there been a committee formed to study this, and to set up some general guidelines? Have the Masonic Motorcycle Club International (MMCI) or the Canadian Masonic Riders (CMR) been consulted, and would we be obligated to affiliate with either organization?

Just a few concerns that should be addressed before this project proceeds further.

Bro. Ian Furstrand, Mount Lebanon Lodge No. 72



The eye of the master will do more work than both his hands.

Benjamin Franklin,  
Poor Richard's Almanac

## Masonry and Religion

I found the article on Freemasonry and religion (March 2004) profound and thought provoking.

It is possible that in our innocence we attract these attacks simply by the use of such terms as masonic Bible, masonic charities, masonic funerals and the like.

The *Authorized King James Bible* often presented to our candidates will have the masonic emblem on its cover and much masonic information. To some this may appear that we have our own bible and religion.

With regard to charities—these are not necessarily masonic charities but charities which freemasons support.

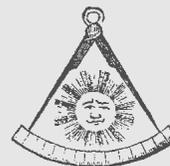
With regard to funerals—it is not a masonic funeral but a service requested by the family in addition to the regular service and performed by masonic brothers to honour a brother.

Do these terms cause more problems than they're worth?  
*RW Bro. L. B. Feenie*

## Cancer Car donation

Hosted by **Comox Lodge No. 188**, on 13 March, 2004, our Grand Master paid his official visit to District No. 22. Some months prior to the visit our DDGM, RW Bro. A. "Butch" Montreuil, had received approval to conduct an auction after the conclusion of the official dinner, with all proceeds being donated to the Masonic Cancer Car Project.

Much time and effort was necessary to collect donations from each lodge in the district. Without exception every lodge responded by donating something of more than minimum value as did many individual freemasons and businesses in the Comox Valley. Fifty separate auction lots were collected and went up for bid. Comox Lodge is fortunate in



## GRAND MASTER'S ITINERARY MAY, 2004

1	Sat	1765 Initiation	Steilacoon No. 22	Tacoma WA
4	Tue	District No. 10	Orion No. 51	Penticton
8	Sat	District No. 24	Mt. Elphinstone No. 130	Roberts Creek.
10	Mon	District No. 9	Prince Charles No. 153	Kelowna.
13	Thu	Board of General Purposes	1:00 pm	Vancouver
13	Thu	Crab Night	Joppa No. 112	White Rock
14	Fri	Principal Officers Meeting		Vancouver.
15	Sat	District No. 27	Admiral No. 170	Ganges
25	Tue	District No. 11	Whitehorse 46	Whitehorse
29	Sat	District No. 19	Peace No. 126	Dawson Creek

one of its members, W Bro. Colin Day, who is a professional auctioneer and the maximum possible was extracted from each bidder.

At the end of the evening a total of \$3,962 was received from the auction. In addition a cheque for \$500 was presented to our Grand Master at the banquet by Muriel Behan, Worthy Matron of Komoux Chapter No. 99, OES. The addition of a cheque for \$500 from the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 160, in Comox permitted RW Bro. Montreuil to forward a total amount of \$4,962 to our Grand Secretary.

Truly this was a worthwhile project worthy of consideration by other districts in our jurisdiction.

Submitted by RW Bro. B. K. "Bud" Tarling, Lodge Historian, Comox Lodge No. 188.

## Masonic family

### Bethel Guardian birthday

Mrs. Grace Dawkins, Past Bethel Guardian for Bethels 15 and 34 of the Job's Daughters celebrated her ninetieth birthday this past February and writes, asking that her thanks be extended to the almost 400 attendees at her birthday party for their cards and good wishes.

### Thank you

The family of RW Bro. G. Gerald Holmes would like to thank the many members of the masonic family who attended his recent celebration of life.

### Job's Daughters

The Annual Grand Session of Job's Daughters for BC was held in Richmond this past March. On Friday night, at the pageant, Sarah McMurchie of Bethel 22 in New Westminster was crowned Miss BCJD by the outgoing Miss BC Job's Daughter, Meghan Lorentsen, of Bethel 7 New Westminster. The First Runner Up was Ashley Rushton of Bethel 34 North Burnaby. Saturday night the New Grand Guardian Council, led by the new Grand Guardian Mrs. Peggy Dowling and Associate Grand Guardian Mr. Bill Allen, was installed. Our congratulations goes out to the new Miss BCJD and the Grand Guardian Council.

## Nota bene

This Grand Lodge is insured by a policy that may be considered a 'Master Policy'. Members of the masonic family, including holding societies, are able to purchase insurance under that policy with a possible saving in premiums. Please contact the Grand Secretary's Office for details.