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Our Grand Master

by MW Bro. Isaac Brock Brower-Berkhoven

I wish to thank you all for being involved with the Masonic Fraternity and for participating in this, our 135th annual mandate.

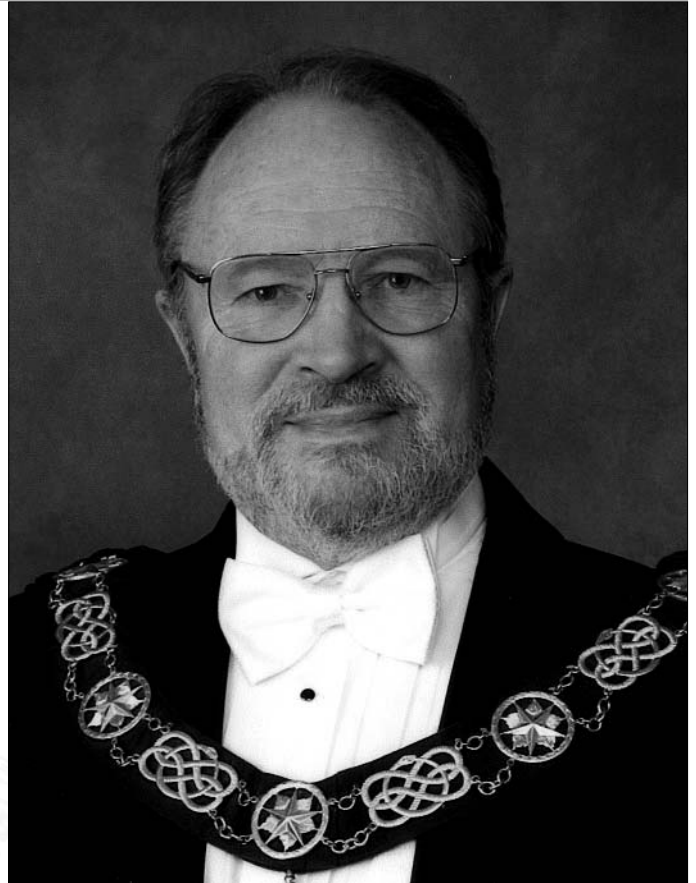
I would like to thank all the brethren who have accepted appointments and most particularly the elected officers, congratulations! I wish to extend thanks: to my wife who has been with me virtually everywhere I've travelled over the past seven years; to my sponsor into the Craft, VW Bro. Nick Wengreniuk and to the two Brethren of North Star Lodge No. 167, RW Bro. Don Wrightman and RW Bro. Peetee Thornburn (the boss Clown) who have continued to sponsor me in this journey to become your 136th Most Worshipful Grand Master.

Many of you already know me from my career as a submariner in the Canadian Navy or from my career as a civilian in a submarine engineering occupation, i.e.,

West Edmonton Mall Submersibles. Others of you know me as a freemason, a Scottish Rite or York Rite freemason, and some of you may know me as a "Brockli" the Gizeh Shrine freemason Clown, Others may know me as a freemason Cancer Car driver or as a guest lecturer in the various lodges where I have been invited to speak. Some of you will have an opportunity to get to know me now as the Immediate Past Grand Master.

I became aware of a masonic relationship in my family when I used to assist my uncle clean up Composite hall and in helping my grandmother and aunts preparing lunches for "Star"—but nobody said a word. Of course I didn't ask either!

Then, through a Shrine freemason in Victoria, who came to my house to extend the helping hand of the Shrine, to my little girl of six who had developmental scoliosis and



MW Bro. Isaac Brock Brower-Berkhoven, Grand Master of British Columbia and Yukon urges you to use your talents and "let your light so shine."

required help. One time when I was home from sea, the Shriner came over to see how things were going and when I asked, "How could I help? Could I give him some money?" "No," he said "one day you'll find a way." Well, I did, but it took me twenty years. Another time when I was working at ISE Ltd. another brother told me he had seen me marching in the Armistice Day parade with the Navy vets and I asked, "How so?" He told me was in the Shrine pipe band—but no one said anything this time either and neither did I ask.

I had been at another Armistice Day Parade in Edmonton, when a brother, with whom I was working, asked me if I knew anything about the freemasons. "No," I responded. "Would you like to learn about them?" "Yes," I said. My application having been accepted, I was initiated, passed and raised in Evergreen Lodge No. 166, Edmonton Alberta. Now then, immediately after being raised I was given an application to join either of the concordant bodies, so I joined the Ancient and

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Our Grand Master

from page one

Accepted Scottish Rite, Edmonton Valley and later Mizpah Chapter Rose Croix and the Alberta Consistory. Directly on becoming a 32 degree Scottish Rite member, I received an application to the Shrine of North America, which I presented to VW Bro. Dick Benzies when I took a job in British Columbia. VW Bro. Dick Benzies, on receiving my application, said "Well, young man, you might as well come and join my lodge in New Westminster. We do the same work as you and we need a Junior Deacon." And so I began my affiliations in BC.

Now, let's talk about what I believe in: I believe in full masonic family participation, which for me includes my mother lodge; Craft lodges; Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite—in which I am a member of the Fraser Valley Lodge of Perfection as PTPGM—the Fraser Valley of Rose Croix and BC Consistory; Royal Arch Freemasonry, Westminster Chapter No. 6; Order of the Eastern Star Royal City No. 7 and Order of the Secret Monitor Conclave No. 7; and Van Zor Grotto.

As well, I have a close association with Job's Daughters as I have sponsored two Honoured Queens from my family, and Daughters of the Nile in which my wife and one sister are members. I am the Shriner of Note.

I have a brother in the Craft as well: my son, Russell, in Goldstream Lodge No. 161

I believe in proper solicitation. Have you considered asking the question: "Have you ever thought of petitioning for membership in Freemasonry?" or "Do you know anything about Freemasonry?" or "Have you ever heard about Freemasonry?"—followed by "Would you like to know something about Freemasonry?"

I believe and participate in

*"Associate
yourself with
men of good
quality if you
esteem your
own reputation
for 'tis better
to be alone
than in bad
company."*

Bro. George Washington

theme nights: Clown degree team, Scottish degree team; RCMP degree; 1765 degree night; Past Masters degree team; and buddy nights in your lodge.

I believe we need three additional Masonic Fraternal Centres: similar to Victoria or Kamloops, one in the Lower Fraser Valley, one in the Upper Fraser Valley and one on the North Shore to give us viable, paying properties which sustain growth and have commercial value for cash flow;

I believe that every brother should be a member of the lodge upon initiation.

I believe we should give Grand Honours in the degree of the lowest ranking brother present.

I believe we should have open installations of brethren in lodge.

I believe in attending and participating in local community parades, with regalia, and having open house, following the parade, at the lodge. This includes November 11th cenotaph ceremonies;

I believe and practice proper marketing and advertising through community and local newspapers.

I believe in a properly run festive board with all the marks of respect paid and responded to and, by all means, always toasting Grand Lodge whether there is a Grand Lodge officer present or not.

I believe in holding open house for New Year's Day levees.

I believe in and support the mentorship programme.

I believe in and support the leadership program and I believe and support life memberships, so we can avoid suspensions for non-payment of dues.

This is what I feel needs immediate and necessary attention:

1. All Entered Apprentices to become full members of the Lodge;
2. All lodges to open through three degrees, pass the word on closing, and conduct business in the degree of the lowest ranking brother;
3. Add education to the order of business early in the evening so that it becomes the number three order of business and thereby the priority piece of business;
4. Remove the penalties or change nomenclature to read "symbolic";
5. Ban Sunday morning practices at least until after the hour of 1300 (after all we do have seven evenings and all day Saturday) so that we are not seen to be competing with religious orders, thereby allowing brethren to spend quality time with their families;
6. Allow only elected officers to be the voting members of

each lodge at all Grand Lodge communications, no grandfather clause for Past Masters .

7. I believe in making adjustments to meet the requirements of the day.

I love the Craft and will do my utmost to serve my Grand Master in his programmes. ■

Our masonic family

Order of DeMolay

On Saturday 7 April, Bro. Jason Hansen called an emergent meeting of the BC Provincial Chapter, Order of DeMolay, in New Westminster. The purpose of the meeting was to share an evening and honour our Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of British Columbia and Yukon, and to confer the Honorary Legion of Honour Degree on Dad Grant Thompson. The Legion of Honour (LOH) or Honorary Legion of Honour (HLOH) is the highest award given within DeMolay and one very much cherished by its recipients.

The LOH team led by Dad Art Pruett LOH enjoyed conferring the degree on a well respected and learned brother.

Van Zor Grotto

The Mystic Order of Veiled Prophets of the Enchanted Realm, whose subordinate bodies are the Grottoes, is an organization by and for Master Masons. While in no way connected with Freemasonry proper, its membership is restricted absolutely and exclusively to Master Masons in good standing.

The first meeting of this organization was held on 10 September, 1889, when it was decided that membership should be confined to Master Masons in good standing.

It is a social organization for the Master Mason and all such are welcome to our Enchanted

Realm. It encourages renewed interest in the Craft Lodge, its activities and attendance.

The ritual is original and unique. It is mysterious, startling and spectacular with a Persian atmosphere. While pervaded with a spirit of wholesome fun, it teaches a serious lesson which lingers with the initiate, instilling in him a spirit of optimism, a kindly feeling for his brother man, and an impression of *Good Fellowship*, which is something devoutly to be desired.

On 9 October, Van Zor Grotto invites all who are interested in learning more of the Grotto to join them for a Master Mason Night to be held at Marpole Masonic Hall. The meeting starts at 7:30 pm and all Master Masons in good standing are cordially invited to attend, ask questions, learn more and have some fun and Good Fellowship. ■

Grand Masonic Day

The current calendar year will feature two Grand Masonic Days, the first of which was held 21 April in Vancouver, and the second, scheduled for 29 September in Chilliwack.

April's event featured provocative and productive discussions led by our Grand Master, MW Bro. Isaac B. Bower-

Berkhoven, on subjects including Grand Lodge voting rights; lodge mergers; district realignment; and the problems facing many of the lodge buildings throughout our jurisdiction.

Luncheon was followed by a presentation by Junior Grand Warden R.W. Bro. Brian Tuckey on the necessity for analysis-based, structured planning and goal-setting if lodges are to survive and grow. It is a tradition at Grand Masonic Day that the Junior Grand Warden give the luncheon address.

The September event, a Vancouver/Fraser Valley Workshop, will be held at the Chilliwack Masonic Hall at 45905 Hocking Avenue, with registration starting at 8:30 am, and official opening at 9:45.

Several presentations on a variety of subjects have already been scheduled, but if anyone has a presentation they would like to give, or a particular subject on which they would like to have a presentation made, please contact committee chair RW Bro. John Keirstead by email at keirsteadjohn@netscape.net or telephone 604-524-1661.

Preliminary programme information will be available at the Grand Lodge Annual Communication in Burnaby, as well as a pre-registration form. Pre-payment of the \$30 fee is not necessary, but an indication of attendance is required for catering purposes. ■

Our conduct

MW Bro. Augustus Hanover, Duke of Sussex (1801-1843)

When the profane, who do not know our mysteries, are carried away by prejudice, and do not acknowledge the value of our society, let them learn, by our conduct, that a good Mason is a good moral man. ■

Lodge notes

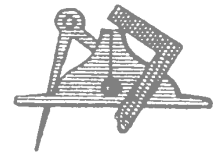
MW Bro. J. Waldie Manion, although a member of several lodges, has been a member of **Ashlar Lodge No. 3**, Nanaimo, for fifty years and the brethren of the lodge—some of whom had been present for his initiation—were proud to have our Grand Master present him with his 50 Year jewel and an accompanying plaque.

The brethren of **District 12** will once again be holding a Masonic Weekend at the Lakelse Lake Kin Kamp on the weekend of 21 to 23 July.

Lots of fun and entertainment will be provided, so bring your musical instruments and your other talents. There will be lots of games, a huge lake for exploring by canoe and swimming off of the sandy beach, a horse shoe competition and presentations by the concor-

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twenty-first
century

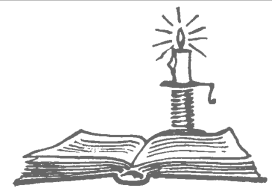
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Grand Lodge of BC & Yukon
**136th Annual
Communication**

June 22-24, 2007
Burnaby

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at
Grand Lodge*



Our Grand Master-elect, RW Bro. Stephen Godfrey (lower right) with the District Deputy Grand Master appointees and seminar facilitators, at the DDGM seminar, held in Abbotsford in April.

dant bodies. All meals are included and a degree may be conferred. There are beds for 180 persons, hot and cold running water, flush toilets, showers, a huge dining area entertainment room, huge kitchen and lots of room for campers. The cost is \$100 per family, no matter the number of children.

To register please contact Bro. Kevin Guest by email at kevin.guest@telus.net or telephone 1-250-632-6320.

RW Bro. David Crawford, DDGM **District 5**, recently travelled east where he had the opportunity to sit in St. John's Lodge No. 1, Charlottetown PEI, with both his son, VW Bro. Rick Crawford, Grand Piper for the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia, and his grandson, W Bro. Duncan Crawford, who is the current Worshipful Master of that lodge. ■

Secrecy

by RW Bro. George Oliver

One of the principal parts that makes a man be deemed wise, is his intelligent strength and ability to cover and conceal such honest secrets as are committed to him, as well as his own serious affairs. And whoever will peruse sacred and profane history, shall find a great number of virtuous attempts, in peace and war, that never reached their designed ends through defect of secret concealment; and yet, beside such unhappy prevention, infinite evils have thereby ensued. But before all other examples, let us consider that which excels all the rest, derived even from God himself. Who so especially preserves his own secrets to himself, never letting any man know what should happen on the morrow - nor could the wise men in ages past divine what should befall us in this age ; whereby we may readily discern that God himself is well pleased with secrecy. And although, for man's good, the Lord has been

pleased to reveal some things, yet it is impossible at any time to change or alter his determination, in regard whereof the reverend wise men of ancient times evermore affected to perform their intentions secretly. The Athenians had a statue of brass which they bowed to ; the figure was made without a tongue, to declare secrecy thereby. The servants of Plancus are much commended because no torment could make them confess the secret which their master entrusted them with. Likewise the servant of Cato, the orator, was cruelly tormented, but nothing could make him reveal the secrets of his master. Aristotle was demanded what thing appeared most difficult to him ; he answered, to be secret and silent. To this purpose St. Ambrose, in his offices, placed among the principal foundations of virtue the patient gift of silence. The wise King Solomon says, in his proverbs, that a king ought not to drink wine, because drunkenness is an enemy to secrecy; and, in his opinion, he is not worthy to reign that cannot keep his own secrets ; he furthermore says, that he which discovers secrets is a traitor, and he which conceals them is a faithful brother; he likewise says, that he that refraineth his tongue keeps his soul. Therefore I am of opinion, that if secrecy and silence be duly considered, they will be found most necessary to qualify a man for any business of importance. ■

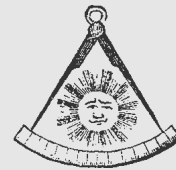
Excerpted from History of Masonic Persecution, London : 1848 p. 205.

Bless you!

by W Bro. Robert Prince, Landmark Lodge No. 128

"Bless you!"

The benediction played in my head as I pulled away from the curb. I glanced in the rear-view mirror to see the middle-aged woman who had offered



GRAND MASTER'S ITINERARY JUNE, 2007

1-2	F-S	Annual Communication	Manitoba	Winnipeg
7-8	Th-F	Annual Communication	Washington	Tacoma
9	Sat	Installation	Melrose No. 67	Vancouver
11	Mon	Outdoor Degree	St. George's No. 41	Oyama
14-16	Th-S	Annual Communication	Saskatchewan	Regina
21-23	Th-S	Annual Communication	Grand Lodge	Burnaby

it trundle up the sidewalk to her apartment.

Immediately my attention was caught by the woman still sitting in the back seat of the car. An older woman, Marie, she was my second passenger of the day.

The first, Nazimbanu, I had just delivered from the Cancer Centre down at 10th and Ash in Vancouver.

Now I was taking Marie to the same building for the beginning of daily visits that will continue for weeks to come.

Nazimbanu was chatty—we talked about all kinds of things as we travelled east on the freeway. She was also extremely grateful for the service I was providing her as a volunteer driver for the Cancer Car Project.

Nazimbanu's take on the project was interesting, to say the least.

As she climbed into the vehicle at the centre, she thanked me for picking her up. While buckling up, she commented on how lucky I was to be able to do such important work.

It was only my third day behind the wheel, but I found myself agreeing wholeheartedly with her assessment. What amazed me from the first day out was how enjoyable it was to be doing this.

The passengers have been a tonic to a weary soul. We chat about everything under the sun, but I have yet to have

someone get into the car complaining about their medical condition.

A couple of folks have even made comments to the effect that their cancer, while devastating in so many ways, has actually given them a whole new outlook on life that is much more positive than the way they once lived. Talk about finding a silver lining in that dark cloud.

As the chauffeur who gets to meet these people, I think Nazimbanu is correct—I am lucky that I can do this.

It's often said cancer makes you take stock of your life. Well, apparently just talking to cancer patients regularly can lead to the same re-checking of priorities and thoughts of change.

Though it's only been a few outings to date, one change I think I'll be making is to continue this for many years to come. Lucky, indeed. ■

Happiness

We cannot gain happiness by seeking it as an end, or by making the pursuit of it the sole business of life. It is not one of the prizes of forethought and exertion to obtain it. It eludes our grasp when we keep it continually in view and make it the chief object of life. It comes when we are not seeking or expecting it, as an incidental result of loving work for others. ■