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Ritual is not the main thing

By Rabbi E. Geffen, 32°

There are many Freemasons who know nothing about the morality of Freemasonry, or what their duties are, for the reason that they are only interested in the ritual. The ritual is only a small part of Freemasonry; steps should be taken to call the attention of the craftsman to the morality of the Craft, and to what their duties as good and true Freemasons are, and the nature and extent of their obligations.

The ritual is undoubtedly not to be neglected, inasmuch as it is the medium through which we acquire our lessons of symbolism, by translating the mystical to real conduct of life. The ritual is also important, because by its means we separate ourselves from the rest of the world, and obtain the means of mutual recognition.

But it is, after all, the weakest part of Freemasonry.

The ritual alone will no more make a true Freemason than the manual exercise will

make a true soldier.

The moral and intellectual teachings of the Order, its intention as a great philosophical institution, occupied in the search after Divine Truth, should always engage the attention of the masonic student, and form a prominent part of his studies.

We unfortunately, know too many Freemasons who are completely ignorant of the history, the nature, the design and the true symbolism of the Order, as if they had never entered within its portals, regardless that they are familiar with the exact phraseology of the ritual.

Freemasonry has its science and its literature, and to these the attention of the masonic student should be directed. The ritual is its alphabet. A knowledge of it is, therefore, it is true, necessary to a full comprehension of its language. But he who has gone no further than the alphabet,



On behalf of the Masonic Foundation of BC & Yukon, MW Bro. G. Murray Webster recently received a plaque from Mary-Ellen Canning of Saint Paul's Hospital for their "Lights of Hope".

however competent he may be to instruct others in the same rudiments, can hardly discharge the duty of a teacher of the science.,

Such ritualists, who do not know the history and morality of our Order, are like some ignorant servitor in a public library, who can readily point out the shelf or spot occupied by every book, and even give from memory a correct rendition of its title-page, and yet who knows no more concerning the intellectual treasures contained within its locked leaves than the binder who put them together.

It is time that Freemasons should come to the conclusion and realize that something more than a mere knowledge of the words of a ritual are necessary to make a "bright" Freemason or a competent teacher in Freemasonry. ■

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Lodge notes

Your editor doesn't know if it's a record for oldest serving Worshipful Master but we have

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Grand Treasurer statements of availability



W Bro. Mark G. Forster

Raised into Prince Charles Lodge No. 153, Kelowna, in 1995, in 1999, W Bro Forster affiliated with Perfection Lodge No. 75, New Westminster, where he served as Worshipful Master for 2004-2005. He has served as Treasurer, additional terms as Junior Warden, and is currently Senior Warden.

W Bro Forster serves as the Treasurer for the Westminster Masonic Holding Company and, for the past four years, as chairman of the Grand Lodge Committee on Finance.

A Certified General Accountant with more than 25 years of business and consulting experience, he has worked in banking and trusts, manufacturing, and has many years of consulting for Fortune 500 companies including banking, telecommunications, internet, and consumer industrial products.

He is currently self-employed, providing technical and administrative support in the health care industry as well as working part time as the CFO and controller for several junior exploration companies.

W Bro Forster is married to Pauline, and has four children, Nicolas (13), Emma (15), Riley (20), and Christopher (22).

W Bro. Forster enjoys many outdoor family activities, including skiing, ATVing, and RVing. ■



W Bro. B. A. 'Bernie' Magnan

Born in Montreal in 1948 and educated across Canada, W Bro. Magnan was raised in DeWolf Lodge No 78, Port Coquitlam, in 2006. He served as Worshipful Master for 2010-2011 and currently serves as Director of Ceremonies.

A trained economist, he specializes in project management, turnarounds, strategic planning and economic planning and also lectures on Canadian Economics.

He is a Certified Management Consultant (CMC), a Certified Management Accountant (CMA) and was awarded a Fellow CMA (FCMA) by CMA Canada in 2008. He is presently a director of CMABC and has also served as a director for CMCBC, Vancouver Opera, The Vancouver Board of Trade and Bard on the Beach Theatre Society.

While serving as board member on various non-profit organizations, especially in the performing arts sector, he served on their respective audit committees. He has also served as treasurer of several of these organizations.

This past year, he worked with the current Grand Treasurer to reconcile the Lodge Annual Returns. W Bro. Magnan is also a member of the CGMNA 2015 Organizing Committee. ■



W Bro. Dieter Steimecke

W Bro. Steimecke was born in Germany in 1946, emigrated to Canada in 1962, and is married to Ann *née* Brake, with two children. He completed BSc Agriculture Economics and post-graduate business courses from the University of Saskatchewan.

Freemasonry: Raised into St James Lodge No. 80 in 1996, Worshipful Master, 2003-2004, current Lodge Treasurer, Grand Lodge Finance committeeman 2001-2004, past Volunteer Cancer Driver for eight years.

Entrepreneurship: Private equity ventures in Germany, Asia, USA and Canada such as larger manufacturing, import-export and service operations.

Governance: Corporate, managing- or advisory director at management, holding companies, manufacturing and trading groups based in Canada, Germany and Hong Kong.

Finance: Managerial rôles (credit, operations) first at Scotiabank as Manager, then HSBC Bank in Canada as Assistant Vice President and internationally at HSBC Hong Kong as Senior Manager and Division Head, European Companies.

Administration: National and regional positions for the Federal Department of Agriculture and University of Saskatchewan. ■



W Bro. John A. Taggart

A graduate of Simon Fraser University, majoring in Economics and Commerce, W Bro. John A. Taggart has enjoyed a varied career in finance, first tutoring bookkeeping students and later as a Bank Manager for the Bank of Nova Scotia, and the Business Development Bank.

After assisting with the establishment of a Schedule B Bank operation in Vancouver for Soci t  General S.A. Canada Ltd. he returned to the Business Development Bank as Director of the Bank's Venture Capital Division for Ontario and finally as Assistant Vice President, "responsible for" the bank's lending for the Province of BC.

He then took on responsibilities as president and CEO for Aqua Clean Ships Group of Companies until retiring in 2002.

He served as Vice President of The Venture Capital Association of Canada 1983-1985 and has served as treasurer and president of several community associations including Richmond Gateway Theatre.

A member of St. James Lodge No. 80, he served as Master in 1990 and 1991 as well as Treasurer for over ten years.

He is also the current Worshipful Master. ■

Lodge notes
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three contenders in this jurisdiction.

W Bro. Ronald S. Holcroft, born 15 November 1916, was installed as Master of **Admiral Lodge No. 170** on 18 April 2009, making him 92 years, 5 months when he was installed.

W Bro. John D. McDonald born on 3 July 1920, was installed 26 September 2012 as Master of **Elk River Lodge No. 35**, making him 92 years, 3 months on the occasion.

RW Bro. Clayton Matthew, Worshipful Master of **Yukon Lodge No. 45**, was born on 2 December 1922 and installed 1 September 2012, making him 89 years, 9 months when he

was installed.

Several lodges are proudly noting their members who have received the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Award. Bro. Martin J. Packer of **Pacific Lodge No. 16** was awarded this medal by the Canadian Navy this summer. VW Bro. Floyd L. Verge, Grand Sword Bearer, and W Bro. Marko Shehovac of **Columbia Lodge No. 38** are recipients of this honour as well: VW Bro. Verge for service to the community in assisting youth and their families in need, and W Bro. Shehovac for his service to the community as an RCMP officer.

In **District 7**, Bro. James Harrison of **Harmony Lodge 37**, commanding the RCMP

detachment in Grand Forks, RW Bro W.S.A 'Sam' Brown and W Bro Glenn T. Hodge of **Corinthian Lodge 27**, received the award, as did Mrs Dorothy Hearn, wife of MW Bro. Edward B. Hearn of **Ymir Lodge No. 31**, Salmo.

From north of sixty, RW Bro. James Smith of **Atlino Lodge No 42**, as well as RW Bro. S.B. 'Bert' Hadvick and W Bro. Alan C. Hubley of **Whitehorse Lodge No. 45** were also honoured.

Bro. H.H. 'Hal' Singleton of **Ionic-Kent Lodge No. 19** unfortunately was unable to receive his award, given for services rendered during his time as Fire Chief of the Canadian Armed Forces. The Fire Chief of Chilliwack presented it to his son, Greg Singleton as Bro. Singleton is in a coma in Cascade Hospice and, unfortunately not expected to recover.

This past January the brethren of **District 9** took advantage of the Grand Master's matching funds programme to donate a total of \$2,346 to the Salvation Army Food Bank in Vernon. At the same time they also collected a truckload of food.

The *Vernon Morning Star* reported these donations under the headline, "Masons Lend Helping Hand"

District 28 held a highly successful Open House this past February in Port Coquitlam, presenting Freemasonry to a packed house of, mostly, non-masons. ■

Junior Grand Warden-elect RW Bro Ian J. Bowman



Born in Scotland in 1951, I began my career in electrical engineering with the National Coal Board. My wife and I immigrated to BC with our two young children in 1979 and now enjoy four grandchildren. I was initiated and raised in Redwood Lodge 193 in Edmonton before returning to BC in 1987.

I affiliated with Langley Lodge in 1988, became WM in 1993-94 & 94-95. Served as District education officer and appointed DDGM of District 23 in 1997.

As president and owner of SOFTAC Systems and past

president of the Western Canadian Export Association I am no stranger to business concepts and the challenges of making sound business decisions. Exposure to both government and private business sectors has broadened my awareness of what it takes to be part of and lead a successful team.

I believe in the solid principles of the fraternity and that the world needs Freemasonry more today than it ever did. I believe the foundation laid down by the current Grand Line officers will carry us forward with vision into the future.

I was inspired to seek election as Junior Grand Warden and become part of a team that will move forward recognizing change as positive growth for the benefit of the Craft.

It is my goal to provide leadership and build on the success of those who have gone before me. ■



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the art and
science of
right living

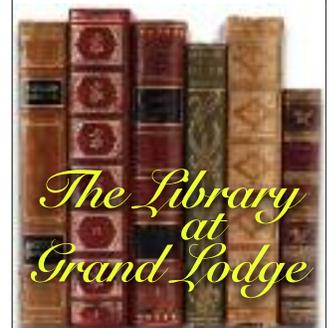


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The Masonic Bulletin

The survey to determine the future of the *Masonic Bulletin* is now complete. Eighty two lodges participated in the survey. 67 voted in favour of discontinuing the printed version and 15 were in favour of keeping it. The Grand Secretary has announced that

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The Masonic Bulletin
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the final edition of the *Bulletin* in print form will be June 2013. He is seeking the services of an editor for the electronic version of the *Bulletin* and invite those interested to contact the Grand Secretary. The current editor, VW Bro. Trevor W. McKeown, has cheerfully donated his skills since 1998 and now wishes to return to other projects. ■

Lessons of a lifetime

By Jessica Burch

They came to my house, three poised, well-dressed young women. I was 11 years old, and the 3 to 5 year age gap between me and these elegant creatures seemed insurmountable. I was so intimidated that I hid at the top of the stairs, refusing to do more than periodically peer around the corner, even though the young ladies were technically my guests. Eventually, my parents lured me down with the promise that everyone present could have a can of

pop (a rare treat). My shyness defused, I finally got up the nerve to speak to them.

A few months later, I was giving a speech from memory in front of six hundred people. A year or so after that, I was planning and hosting multiple large scale events. By the age of 16, I was running business meetings in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order. What happened? I joined Job's Daughters. The three young women had come to tell me about this organization, and it was amazing how quickly I became one of them.

Job's Daughters is a young women's leadership organization connected to Freemasonry. Members develop social skills, self-confidence, and civic awareness. In an era where many Canadians struggle to remember all the words to 'O Canada', I grew up gaining insight into different cultures (learning multiple national anthems in the process). I'd look forward to the big annual provincial gatherings (called Grand Session – the occasion on which I'd made my aforementioned speech), at



GRAND MASTER'S ITINERARY APRIL 2013

4-5	F-S	All Canada Conference	Winnipeg
11	Th	District 10 Hedley Lodge No. 43	Keremeos
12	F	District 7 Masonic Ladies Dinner	Christina Lake
13	S	Districts 6 & 7 Nelson 23 & Harmony 37	Nelson
21	Su	Districts 13, 14, 16, 25, 26 Church Parade	Vancouver
27	S	International Day Creston 54 & Bonner's Ferry 43	Creston

which I would get to meet people from all over the world.

My experience is not unique. Many young women share memories like mine and have found, as I have, that the skills and confidence gained during their time in Job's Daughters have continued to pay dividends years into the future.

For more information on Job's Daughters please contact Suzanne Stark on 604-897-8598 or visit www.bcmd.org ■

Longevity

Bro. John A Walker, born 27 February 1865, joined Shuniah Lodge No. 287 in Port Arthur, Ontario, on 16 December 1889. Living his later years in Kelowna, by 1970 he had served 81 years in the Craft.

The longest serving member on record appears to be Bro. Cyrus E. Hill, initiated 23 March 1852 in Hampton Lodge, Massachusetts who died 83 years and nine days later.

Currently, our senior member is RW Bro. Donat R. McMahon of Burrard Lodge No. 50, born 20 October 1908 and initiated 16 May 1930. ■

TO ALL MEMBERS OF GRAND LODGE

You are hereby summoned to attend the One Hundred and Forty-second Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of British Columbia and Yukon, to be held at the Hilton Vancouver Metrotown Hotel, 6083 McKay Avenue, Burnaby, on Friday and Saturday, the twenty-first and twenty-second days of June, 2013 at the hour of 9:00 am, for the transaction of General Business.

Short Talks

The publication of a complete collection of *Short Talk Bulletins*, the most widely distributed masonic publication in the world, has been announced by the Masonic Service Association of North America.

Those who purchase before 1 September 2013, will get a special pre-publication price. To order online, go to msana.com, where a sample chapter can be previewed. ■



In 1717, the Premier Grand Lodge of England was formed. In 1751 a rival Grand Lodge was founded. Its members, believing that they practiced a purer form of Freemasonry called themselves the "Antients".

On 1 June 2013, King Edward Lodge No. 28, Greenwood, will perform an Entered Apprentice degree as it would have been performed by the "Antients" in 1760.

Seating for this Table Lodge event is limited to 40 brethren. Tickets are \$35. Contact VW Bro. Peter Smith at msmith9@telus.net or 250-442-5769 for details.