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Unity within diversity

MW Bro. Brian Tuckey

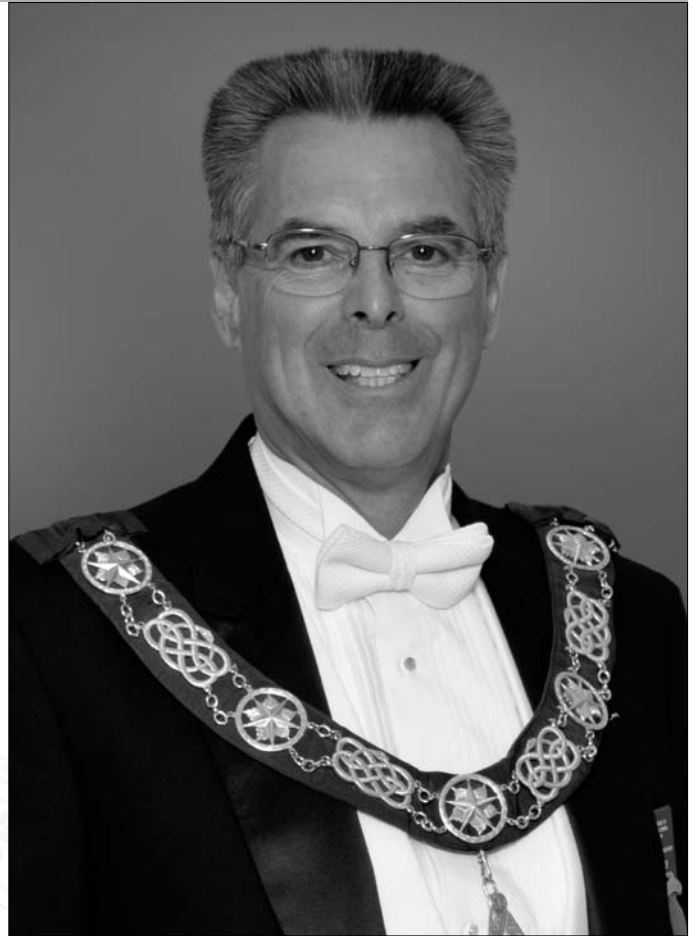
I stand before you a most humbled and privileged brother; a brother who started his masonic journey in an Ancient lodge, a man, freeborn, coming under the tongue of good repute and well recommended. As I continue my journey, I promise I will serve you to the very best of my ability as your Grand Master.

I would like to thank those brethren who have contributed to my growth in the Craft. Many of these brethren have passed to the Grand Lodge above, one in particular being my father who was also my brother. Many of you have contributed to my growth in ways you cannot imagine. Your comments and criticisms, observations and questions, recommendations and suggestions plus the many conversations over many festive boards and many miles have made me the freemason I am today. My mother lodge, the then Union

Lodge No. 9 in New Westminster, which is now Union Solomon Lodge No. 9, and its core of brethren allowed me the luxury to grow in the Craft, on my timetable, not theirs. I furthered my education when I affiliated with Mount St. Paul Lodge No. 109 in Kamloops and then again through my affiliation with that historic lodge in Barkerville, Cariboo Lodge No. 4. I would like to thank the brethren and the Past Grand Masters who have gone before me. Your commitment, dedication and love of the Craft have set the bar high and I hope I can measure up to those standards.

I would not be here today if it were not for my wife Wendy. Her love, support and understanding have nourished me for the past thirty-nine years and will continue to do so until time shall be no more.

I am referred to as a Baby Boomer, many of whom are recognized by more than just



M.:W.: Bro. Brian Tuckey
Grand Master 2009-2010

graying hair. We actually have values, some of which are optimism, teamwork, personal gratification, personal growth, health and wellness. I certainly recognize within myself some of these values, especially teamwork. It is with this in mind that I offer the following: I am a team player and I have had the luxury and the latitude in positions I held in my former vocations to operate through this management philosophy. It is very simple: you seek input from those you work with and

after hearing different opinions and sometimes opposing views, you make what I refer to as an informed decision.

This year we will follow the Five Pillar Plan, which includes Leadership, Education, Communication, Membership and Community. As long as I can remember, I have been following a plan. It may not have been a written plan but goals were set, objectives were made and successes followed. Short and long term planning

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Grand Master's address from page one

also leads to continuity and consistency which are essential for our growth. A meeting on the Five Pillar Plan was held in Kamloops on 28 August. The plan will be furthered in subsequent years by the current Grand Line, which includes the Deputy Grand Master, Senior and Junior Grand Wardens, Grand Treasurer and the Grand Secretary. This past year the Grand Line decided the Five Pillar Plan is the responsibility of the Senior Grand Warden and for each Senior Grand Warden thereafter.

Education...topics to stimulate your mind and to stimulate discussion

We need to foster education in the ancient usages and established customs of the Craft so that we no longer bring the integrity of Freemasonry into question by allowing the reading of ritual in our lodges. We have a proud history in our lodges, yet we are allowing our customs and traditions to be eroded. I ask you to guard your west gate in order to preserve your history so that your customs and traditions remain intact.

I would like to see a ceremony for the investiture of the Immediate Past Grand Master, therefore I have asked the Committee on Rituals to work on this initiative, which has been done and reported in our *Advanced Proceedings*.

Leadership...mentoring tomorrow's leaders today

A Lodge Officers' Conference was held at Sun Peaks near Kamloops in April 2008. It was considered a success by those attending. As a result, it was agreed by the principal officers that a lodge officers' conference should be held every two years in different locations within our jurisdiction. Our Leadership Committee, currently chaired by RW Bro. William R. Cave, is planning to hold the next

conference on 16-18 April 2010 at the Tigh Na Mara resort in Parksville.

I have struck an *ad hoc* committee under the leadership of MW Bro. Stephen Godfrey to conduct an organizational analysis of Grand Lodge, which will include: the rôles and responsibilities of the Grand Line; expectations of these officers and of Grand Lodge; service to the brethren and lodges; length of term of office for these officers; number of districts or regions needed in our jurisdiction. The work of this committee will be conducted over the next three to four years. Your principal officers have agreed to this initiative and the committee will seek your participation.

Communication...the basis for success

The electronic age is upon us: however we have not adapted well. For many of us, change is a tough concept to embrace, yet embrace it we must. Our times in the paper world are changing so quickly it is hard to keep pace. Online banking, travel arrangements and payments for our many activities occur without us leaving our homes. Can the same be said for Freemasonry? I think not. We continue to live in a paper world. However, this is about to change. Grand Lodge must communicate with you, the brethren, and our lodges, in a timely manner. We must be efficient and effective and keep each other informed. In order to do so, I have asked RW Bro. Michael D. Yule to chair a committee called "Electronic Communication – Enhancing our Working Tools". The purpose of the committee is to examine the manner in which we can reduce costs, access Grand Lodge forms and other materials, provide timely educational materials, provide informative newsletters and offer blogs. This will dovetail nicely with RW Bro. Aidan C. Gordon's report from the Research Committee regarding

electronic communication. We have brethren who have difficulty in attending meetings yet they wish to be involved. What can we do for them? I urge you to make your concerns known to this committee so that we can benefit from today's technology.

I have asked the District Deputy Grand Masters to encourage the following:

- To improve communication within a district by the formation of a District Masters and Wardens association.
- Establish a widows programme for each lodge.
- Participation with the Lodge Officers' Leadership Conference.
- Electronic communication between the DDGM and his lodges.
- Mentorship for tomorrow's masonic leaders.

Membership...tomorrow's Freemasonry is today's candidates

The new generation, the new millennials, enjoy the Craft for reasons much like us. However, they want "good value for time". They enjoy our ritual, symbolism, masonic values and yes, memory work, however they will not return should they attend a communication that lacks meaning to them. They enjoy a festive board before lodge, meaningful education and fellowship with the young and not so young.

I am concerned about the manner in which we conduct an investigation with a potential candidate. We have many brothers leaving us after a few years. Are we asking the right questions? Are we asking the partner about the commitment we expect the man to make? Should we be including one of our wives with the investigation team? Is this something to consider? I have asked RW Bro. Donald E. Stutt to chair an *ad hoc* committee to conduct an electronic survey of Master Masons who have

been in the Craft for fewer than five years. This will parallel the study he conducted in 2007-2008 for MW Bro. Godfrey. We learned from that study that many freemasons did not complete the survey because they had not heard of it. This survey will be computer based and will be available this fall.

Community...recognizing freemasons

We must have a presence in our communities. Bursaries, both from the lodges and Grand Lodge should be a consideration for all of us to initiate and continue. Participation in community events such as parades, open houses and volunteering in the community, as well as sponsoring youth activities or something similar should be a priority. Perhaps it is time for us to make a presentation to other groups about the Craft.

My theme this year is "Unity within Diversity". I ask you to consider the following:

- We are united as brothers in a fraternity called Freemasonry, which has three principles: Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.
- We practice four rituals or works: Ancient, Canadian, Emulation and Australian.
- Our membership has the young and the not-so-young.
- We are from different backgrounds and different vocations.
- We are composed of four generations: traditionalists, baby boomers, generation X and new millennials
- We have 149 lodges in 27 districts which stretch from desert-like conditions in the southern Okanagan to the Arctic tundra, from the mountains to the seas, urban and rural.

I am proud to be a freemason for the reasons stated. Words fail me when I walk into a lodge and I see multiple Volumes of the Sacred Law on the altar. From time



Orion Lodge No 51's centennial legacy project, a square column of ebony granite rising eight feet to its broken top.

immemorial, man has been at war with his fellow man over religious differences yet we as Free and Accepted Masons can sit in lodge, side by side, Jew and Muslim, Catholic and Protestant, sitting in peace and harmony.

We have much to be thankful for. Let us take the opportunity to thank those brethren who have gone before us and left for us the legacy of Freemasonry. Let us go forward with enthusiasm and excitement. Let us celebrate the diversity we have in our Craft.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Transcribed from an address presented at our Annual Communication held in Prince George on 20 June 2009.

In the news

The magazine of the Grand Lodge of New South Wales and ACT recently reported the generous donation of \$2,000 by the brethren of our **Cloverdale Lodge No. 168**, Langley, to assist the victims of the Victorian bushfires.

This past spring, Cloverdale Lodge also used the occasion of

its fiftieth anniversary to garner a full page article in the *Surrey Leader*. The article was a positive piece, promoting the benefits of masonic membership, and ending with a contact phone number. Kudos to Cloverdale!

Lodge notes

Selkirk Lodge No 55, Kimberley, will be celebrating its centenary the weekend of 16-18 October with a casual meet-and-greet on the Friday evening at the lodge hall.

A Saturday afternoon meeting will be held, featuring a presentation of the lodge history starting with its first days in Moyie. This will be followed by an evening banquet at the Kimberley Curling Club, with a live band and other entertainment. If that still leaves you wanting for fellowship, the members will be hosting a buffet breakfast on Sunday morning.

For more information, please contact W Bro. Will Nixon at 250-427-2783 or wjnxon@xplornet.com.

Vimy Lodge No. 97 has

lost a Past Master's jewel originally presented to the late W Bro. D.S. (Stew) McWilliams, Worshipful Master of the lodge in 1979. Anyone knowing its whereabouts is asked to contact RW Bro. Peter Adams at 604-581-6668 or email adams114@telus.net.

On 21 May, a vanload of brethren from **Cumberland Lodge No. 26** braved "The Hump", to return **Euclid Lodge No. 158's** travelling gavel to its original home in Port Alberni. The gavel had made its first foray outside District 5 when it was presented to Cumberland Lodge by **Barclay Lodge No. 90**.

A small park adjoining City Hall in Penticton is the high profile site of **Orion Lodge No 51's** centennial legacy project, a square column of ebony granite rising eight feet to its broken top.

The pillar is set in a curving walkway with one of its two gleaming surfaces facing east, towards Main Street.

The masonic emblem and the slogan, "Making Good Men Better" are etched into the east face along with the centennial years, 1909-2009. The west and south faces of the column are rough cuts, intended to represent the rough ashlar. Together with the polished surfaces, they signify the freemason's symbolic journey of moral improvement.

The broken top alludes to the Hiram legend and to the work that is yet to be done.

Principal architect and business agent for the legacy project was W Bro. Gordon Kerr, who encouraged the Lodge to adopt a legacy project that was at once useful and beautiful. Such thinking resulted, noted MW Bro. Brian Tuckey, in creation of a symbol of Freemasonry that will endure, "as long as granite lasts."

One of the highlights of the weekend was the visit of 93-year-old RW Bro. Art Fuller

Have you researched a masonic topic?

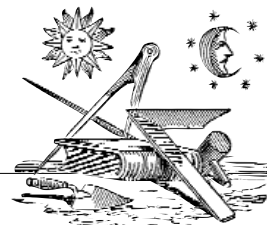
Speakers are required for the Grand Masonic Day in Langley on Saturday, 6 March 2010.

Contact :

VW Bro. John Keirstead

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Volunteer to drive a Cancer Car

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English Masonic Processions

from the 18th to the 20th Century.

Bro. John Stephen Wade

2009 Prestonian Lecturer

Thursday, September 17th

Victoria Lodge of Education
650 Fisgard St. ~ 8:00 pm

Friday, September 18th

Excelsior Lodge No. 195
915 W. Hastings St. ~ 8:00 pm

Saturday, September 19th

Kamloops Masonic Centre
343 Nicola St ~ 7:30 pm

(now in Victoria) who was Worshipful Master of Orion Lodge during the fiftieth anniversary. The weekend wrapped up with a formal banquet and a garden breakfast.

This year marked the tenth anniversary of **Rainbow Lodge No. 180's** sponsorship of a children's fishing derby at Port Hardy's annual Filomi Days Parade. Their home-made trophy is composed of two pillars, with globes and a base depicting the Volume of Sacred Law, square, level and plumb. ■

Online

A keyword search on the internet for "freemasonry" will return a list of over 2.6 million websites. Our Grand Lodge website, freemasonry.bcy.ca, is seventh on that list. With over 2,500 visitors a day, it is important that our website be accurate. Please report any spelling errors, design problems or errors of fact to admin@freemasonry.bcy.ca. ■

DeMolay

Attempts have begun to revive DeMolay in Vancouver, and they will be conferring both degrees on ten candidates on 26 September at 7:00 pm at 1495 West 8th Ave., Vancouver.

Any Senior DeMolays who are freemasons and would like to help should contact RW Bro. Jim Bennie at jgbennie@vcn.bc.ca.

The group hopes to reinstitute Beaver Chapter later in the fall. Beaver was the first DeMolay Chapter in British Columbia, having been formed in 1937. After a break for World War Two, it carried on until low membership forced it to stop meeting in January 2002. ■

Education

Our congratulations are extended to RW Bro. James G.

Bennie, whose research into the 1901 stage production of *Are you a Mason?* was recently published in *Heredom*. Those brethren without subscriptions to *Heredom*, the Transactions of the Scottish Rite Research Society, can read his paper online on our website at freemasonry.bcy.ca. ■

Heredom, volume 16, 2008.

Because...

Because I am a freemason, I believe that freedom of religion is an inalienable human right and tolerance an indispensable trait of human character; therefore, I will stand in my lodge with brothers of all faiths, and respect their beliefs as they respect mine, and I will demonstrate the spirit of brotherhood in all aspects of my life.

I know that education and the rational use of the mind are the keys to facing the problems of humanity; therefore, I will bring my questions and my ideas to my lodge, and strive to advance the growth of my mind alongside my brothers.

I know that the rich tradition of Freemasonry and its framework of ritual are important platforms for growth and learning; therefore, I vow to stand upon these platforms to improve myself as a human being, and I vow to help in the mission of the Craft to provide tools, atmosphere, challenges and motivation to help each brother do the same.

I know that charity is the distinguishing human virtue, and that personal community service is the best demonstration of one's commitment to humanity; I acknowledge that words without deeds are meaningless, and I vow to work with my lodge to provide service to the community, and to promote charity, friendship, morality, harmony, integrity, fidelity and love.

I know that my obligation to community extends beyond my local sphere and is partly



GRAND MASTER'S ITINERARY SEPTEMBER 2009

8	T	District 14	Zion 77	Vancouver
8	T	Board General Purposes	Grand Lodge	Vancouver
8	T	Principal Officers	Grand Lodge	Vancouver
12	S	District 7	Harmony 37	Grand Forks
17	Th	Annual Convocation	Royal Arch Masons	Penticton
18	F	Prestonian Lecture	Excelsior Lodge	Vancouver
19	S	Supreme Queen	Gizeh Shrine Centre	Burnaby
23	W	District 4N	Mackenzie 186	Mackenzie
26	S	District 12	Tsimpsean 58	Prince Rupert

fulfilled in my patriotism: love of my country, obedience to its laws and celebration of the freedoms and opportunities it symbolizes.

I know that leadership is best demonstrated by commitment to serving others; I will therefore participate in, and help work at improving individual leadership skills, and serve the brothers of my lodge to the best of my ability. I know that friendship, fidelity and family are the foundations of a well-lived life; I therefore vow to be a faithful friend to my brethren, as I expect my lodge to respect my personal obligations, and to treat my family as though my family were their own.

I know that the last great lesson of Freemasonry — the value of personal integrity and the sanctity of one's word — is a lesson for all people in all times; I therefore vow to be a man of my word.

I know that Freemasonry's power is best exercised when its light is shared with the world at large; I therefore vow to bring the best of myself to my lodge, in order that my growth might be fostered and nurtured, and to present myself to the world as a working freemason, on the path to building a more perfect temple.

Because I am a freemason, these values and aspirations are guideposts for my progress through life. ■

From the Empire State Mason, Fall, 2005.

Charity

The Masonic Community Charites Fund (Cancer Car) was the recipient of a generous donation in excess of \$228,000 this past summer from the estate of W Bro. Richard N. Troyer. Equal amounts were bequeathed to the Shrine for their transportation fund and also the BC Children's Hospital in Vancouver. The total amount was just short of \$800,000.

Over sixty years a member of **St Andrews Lodge No. 49**, **Perfection Lodge No. 75** and **DeWolf Lodge No. 78**, W. Bro. Troyer was one month short of being one hundred years old when he Passed to the Grand Lodge Above on 26 November 2008. ■

FYI...

Freemason in its original form denoted a stonemason who worked principally on freestone, a kind of limestone which can be freely cut and carved with elaborate ornamentation. ■