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# Leadership conference set for April

The 2012 Masonic Leadership and Ladies Conference is set for April 13 - 15 at the Penticton Lakeside Resort, with a full schedule of presentations, panels and discussions on a wide range of topics.

Full schedule details can be found on the Grand Lodge website: [freemasonry.bcy.ca/mlc2012\\_brochure.pdf](http://freemasonry.bcy.ca/mlc2012_brochure.pdf)

Intended for those who are leaders in their lodges — and those who want to be — the programme is divided into four "Table Lodge" sections:

*Anticipating the Challenges*, which includes Lodge Leadership Skills, Grand Lodge Operations and Finance, Communication and Conflict Resolution, Running Effective Meetings, Lodge Planning; *The New Worshipful Master*, which includes Lodge Officers' Roles and Responsibilities, Membership, Lodge Assessment, Origins of Our Rituals, Alternative Lodge Forms and Structures, and the Characteristics of Different Generations; *Success Lodge No. 2012*, a panel discussion on Secrets of Successful Lodges;

and *Personal Planning*, addressing Family Health and Mutual Support.

A "full but not demanding" ladies programme has also been scheduled, which includes an optional wine tour and a lot of time to see and sample the attractions of Penticton.

Keynote speaker at the conference opening and at the Saturday banquet will be RW Bro. Thomas W. Jackson, Past Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, a noted world traveller and masonic philosopher.

According to conference chair W Bro. David Butt, "RW Bro. Jackson has truly travelled from east to west and west to east again, and is known around the world for his



Detail of a stained glass window in Holy Trinity Anglican Cathedral in New Westminster, the work of local craftsmen, Henry Bloomfield and Sons. The window was erected to the memory of the Rt. Rev. Acton W. Sillitoe (1841-1894) who served this jurisdiction as Grand Chaplain from 1886 to 1891. See *Lodge notes* for further details.

promotion of the Craft.

"RW Bro. Jackson has regularly promoted a need for continued improvement in the fraternity, and strongly supports Traditional Observance Lodges in the USA as one method to meet these challenges," W Bro. Butt added.

Deadline for early bird registration is 28 February, with a discounted registration fee for brethren of \$130 (\$150 after that date), which includes a Friday wine & cheese reception, all meals, a Saturday banquet, and coffee breaks.

There are two ladies options

available, at \$118 and \$80 respectively, plus a fee of \$50 for those ladies who choose the Saturday luncheon and wine tour.

Brethren are responsible for arranging their own accommodation at the Penticton Lakeside Resort, and should call 1-800-663-9400 and mention the event to obtain the preferred rates, which range from \$99/night to \$119, depending on location in the hotel (single or double occupancy, free parking included). Further information is available at [mlc2012@gmx.com](mailto:mlc2012@gmx.com).



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# Twitter

Our Grand Lodge officers now have accounts with Twitter. Brethren can follow them at:-

Grand Master: gm\_bcy  
Grand Treasurer: gt\_bcy  
Grand Secretary: gs\_bcy  
Deputy Grand Master: dgm\_bcy  
Senior Grand Warden: sgw\_bcy  
Junior Grand Warden: jgw\_bcy

You can follow our officers by visiting the website [twitter.com](http://twitter.com) and registering your own account ■

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## “Just a buck”

The pursuit of human rights has been described as “a journey from darkness to light” and is consistent with our stated belief in the principle of charity and the virtue of justice to all. The Canadian Museum of Human Rights is currently under construction in Winnipeg, Manitoba and is expected to open its doors in 2012 and take its place as a national museum of world class stature.

Freemasons are those “to whom faith, hope and charity are not mere words.” Freemasons throughout North America are supporting the “Just a Buck” campaign of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba to aid in the development of this important centre for human rights, which is devoted to improving the understanding and recognition of human rights throughout the world. The “Just a Buck” campaign honours the memory of thousands of Freemasons who have, worldwide, been victims of human rights abuses.

We have an opportunity this year to make our contribution to the “Just a Buck” campaign and signify our support for this worthy initiative. Our Grand Master has asked that every brother in our jurisdiction who chooses to do so, join him in making a donation of “Just a Buck” to this campaign. This is

an entirely voluntary initiative (not an assessment) and should be discussed and resolved in each lodge by the brethren.

The amounts collected within each lodge can be given to the Grand Master on his visit to your district or by forwarding a cheque to the Grand Lodge office. Donations should preferably be received prior to the end of February 2012 so that our contributions to the “Just a Buck” campaign can be presented at the All Canada Conference in Winnipeg in March.

For more information see [humanrightsmuseum.ca](http://humanrightsmuseum.ca). ■

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## In England

On 14 November 2011, it was announced that trials into a new drug, alemtuzumab, have been successful—a significant development for those suffering from multiple sclerosis (MS).

The Freemasons, Grand Charity gave £100,000 towards this research in 2010. The grant specifically helped fund research into the side effects of a drug called alemtuzumab for the treatment of multiple sclerosis

Multiple sclerosis is one of the most common neurological conditions among young adults, affecting around 100,000 people in the UK. It is an auto-immune disease, in which the body's immune system mistakes friend as foe. Immune cells mistakenly attack nerve fibres and their protective insulation, the myelin sheath, in the central nervous system. The resulting damage prevents the nerves from “firing” properly and ultimately leads to their destruction, resulting in physical and intellectual disabilities.

Since 1991, research has taken place at the Cambridge University on the development of the revolutionary drug alemtuzumab as a treatment for multiple sclerosis.

It is hoped the drug will be approved by world wide

regulatory bodies in the next two years, concluding the 36 year epic journey from fundamental research to a new, effective treatment for MS. ■

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## Lodge notes

The Comox Valley lodges have again shown their community what Freemasonry is about by sponsoring a turkey dinner for the needy this last Thanksgiving. When asked by the local newspaper why they had organized this dinner, one brother replied, “Because that’s what we do.”

In December, Union Solomon Lodge No. 9 celebrated its sesquicentennial with a tour of Holy Trinity Cathedral in New Westminster, followed by a short service and a banquet. The tour highlighted the rôle of freemasons in the early history of New Westminster and featured an explanation of the symbols found in the stained glass windows.

Comox Lodge No. 188 is in mourning for the recent passing of their youngest member, Bro. David Jonathan Thompson on 15 November 2011. His widow, Sonya, who shared his passion for cooking intends to carry on with The Bakehouse Restaurant.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to a bursary at Vancouver Island University in Bro. Thompson’s memory by calling 250.740.6214. ■

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## Which pillar is it?

Boaz, besides being the name of the male lead character in the story of Ruth in the Bible, was the name of one of the pillars on the porch of the Temple of Solomon, and Jachin was the name of the other pillar. There has at times been some conversation about which pillar is the one on the

right and which is on the left. Well, in 2nd Chronicles 3:17 it talks about the pillars on the porch of the temple. It’s interesting to note that in the King James Authorized Version it says the one on the “right hand is Jachin, and the name of the one on the left Boaz.” More than one brother has asked, is that the right facing as going into the temple or coming out? The answer is found in the New International Version, (NIV,) of the Bible, where the very same text is translated this way: “He erected the pillars in the front of the temple, one to the south and one to the north. The one to the south he named Jachin and the one to the north Boaz.” So that translation should make it much easier for us to remember which pillar is on which side. By the way the New Living Translation, (NLT,) also says north and south.

*Reprinted from Neil Neddermeyer’s Cinosam*

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## Learning ritual

*By RW Bro. Philip Durell*

This article is intended as a guide for experienced and inexperienced freemasons alike because I believe that we can all improve our performance in lodge.

In one survey, public speaking was ranked as the number one fear among men—above the fear of death—so you are not alone if the very thought of giving a lecture in lodge fills you with dread.

The following are the methods by which I and others are able to learn the ritual, overcome our public speaking fears, and perhaps most importantly, perform the ritual to the best of our ability. That last point is very important because it represents the most we can expect out of any brother, to do his best.

In my view this makes

comparisons of one brother's ritual to another a non-issue. But I also strongly believe that we can *all* improve our individual and collective performance of the ritual.

### **Planning and allocating**

Lodges can greatly assist by planning their degrees early—giving two weeks or even less notice to even an experienced ritualist is only acceptable in an emergency, and last minute planning doesn't qualify! In most lodges the Worshipful Master and Director of Ceremonies would be responsible for allocating all the lectures and parts in a degree.

Doing so with three or more months notice gives the brethren ample time to study. It also allows an opportunity for other than "the good old standbys" a chance to be part of the degree. Those that already know the lectures can then be kept in reserve for last minute replacements if necessary. Always call the practice a week before the degree and insist on a full rehearsal of all parts as that will help those doing parts for the first time.

This is important as those participating then know that they have to have their parts ready for the practice. The week between the practice and degree should be used for polishing the performance, not learning the lines for the first time.

### **Memorizing and learning**

There are four main stages to learning ritual:

1. Memorize all the words soon after you are allocated a part.
2. Repeat it aloud often
3. Repeat it aloud often
4. Repeat it aloud often

When accepting a part in a degree, too many brethren procrastinate and don't start learning their parts until it is too late to do it justice. Some men can memorize the work quickly, and for others it is a considerable time commitment. In my experience the more

memorizing you do the quicker the brain will learn.

Before attempting to memorize any words, read your part two or three times over. Our ritual was mostly written over 150 years ago and although the English is exquisite there are many words not in common use today so look them up in a dictionary or online. By reading it aloud you will get a preliminary idea of how to communicate the lecture.

In our busy lives we often find it difficult to set aside time to memorize ritual but we have to make time, otherwise we will end up doing it when we have no choice and that is always way too late. Consider what time of the day you are most alert—for some this will be early in the morning, some later in the day, but it is rarely late at night. Try to get somewhere away from interruptions and on no account try to learn when the hockey playoffs are on.

There are many different ways of approaching memorization. For some making a voice recording of the whole lecture and repeating it at home or in the car works well. Others will write out the whole lecture by hand as this not only reinforces the memory but it also allows time to think about the meaning of the words. I generally use the old fashioned way of covering up the ritual with an old envelope and learning sentence by sentence and eventually paragraph by paragraph. For me it depends on the length of the lecture or the part, but the principal aim is the same: to memorize *all* the words as soon as I am able.

For a relatively short piece, say less than half a page, I simply learn the words sentence by sentence until I can repeat the whole piece. If it's in a couple of paragraphs then I will do it paragraph by paragraph.

For a one to multiple page

single lecture I will learn it paragraph by paragraph, imagining them as a series of smaller lectures. I will spend exactly the time I need to repeat each paragraph roughly right and then move on to the next paragraph and repeat the procedure until I have gone through the whole lecture. Note: I know that I will have forgotten most of the first paragraph by the end of this process. But that doesn't matter because I am going to repeat the process all the way through the lecture and for a third or fourth time if necessary. The brain is a wonderful computer that recognizes that I've been over these words before and each time I go through the whole piece more sticks in my memory until I have it all down roughly right.

The aim here is to spend as much time on the last third of the lecture as the first third. Too often you hear a lecture in lodge where the first third sounds like Lord Lawrence Olivier or Sir Anthony Hopkins, the second third is good with the odd prompt and the final third requires a lot of prompting. Usually this is because the brother has repeated the first paragraphs learned every time he learned a new paragraph, thereby giving far more attention and repetition to the first third of the lecture.

For a major part in a degree, such as that performed by a Worshipful Master, I start with what I consider to be the most important section of my part—in the case of the WM that would be the obligation—and learn that first. As the obligation will be repeated by the candidate it is useful to practice the obligation by repeating both the Worshipful Master's part and the candidate's responses. When you have it down have someone else act the candidate's part. After learning the obligation I will memorize the next largest pieces, until finally I go through



Freemasonry  
:  
the art and  
science of  
right living



## **Volunteer to drive a Cancer Car**

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## **30th Annual Grand Masonic Day**

A full line-up of speakers and a day of fellowship. Tickets available at the door: \$30. Dress code informal - no regalia. Registration opens at 8:30 am.

JANUARY 21, 2012  
VANCOUVER MASONIC CENTRE

all of my part from beginning to end. Remember that all I'm trying to do at this stage is get the words memorized roughly right.

Some people find it easier to memorize the whole degree so that they know their cues, particularly in what I call the Q&A sections (like opening a lodge). What I do at this stage is have another brother 'test' me on the memorization by giving me the previous line to my part.

I intersperse this testing by repeating the whole part out aloud until I know my lines and my cues. Some brethren are good at improvising, but I'm not, so I try and be close to word perfect—never quite achieved but close.

For a long lecture it is important to remember the sequence of paragraphs. Many brethren use cue cards which I think is great for practice but I'd prefer not to see used in lodge unless they are unobtrusive, say on a pedestal but not held in the hand when on the floor of the lodge. Far better to be prompted.

### **Stage fright and nerves**

Most people get very anxious when they are about to perform even if they've done it a hundred times before. There are some pointers to overcoming nerves.

Lay off caffeine, particularly coffee and colas. It may make you feel more alert but it will increase heart rate and heighten any anxious feelings. Maintain normal eating habits and don't skip meals before a big part as the body and brain need energy.

Remember to breathe. If you feel a panic coming on before your part take several deep and slow breaths. You can also imagine how you'll feel after your performance. i.e. relaxed. This will help calm you down. Make sure you learned your lines days before and show up early on the night. A combination of last minute revising and late arrival can be

deadly!

Lastly, remember that all those Past Masters out there are just people and your performance is not a matter of life and death, even if it feels like it at the time.

### **Performance and delivery**

No matter how good your memory, always have a prompter. There should only be one prompter at a time who has no other responsibility, preferably not the Secretary or even the Director of Ceremonies. It is okay to have different prompters for major lectures in the degree provided that this is planned beforehand and the Worshipful Master, Director of Ceremonies and any other prompters are informed.

The prompter should be close to the brother performing the ritual, not at the other end of the lodge. It is important that the prompter have a clear and distinct voice and that you agree on the signals to be made when you need a word. Always speak in a clear and distinct voice loud enough to be heard in all corners of the lodge. You may be addressing a candidate but all the brethren want to hear you. There is one difference between a good piece of ritual and a great piece of ritual and that is the performance and delivery. The first is often characterized by good memorization but to be truly memorable the delivery has to match the standard of memorization. In fact I'd say it is even more important.

That's why it is essential to memorize the words early and repeat the whole piece as often as possible. The more repetitions, the more automatic will become the recall of the sentences and as the repetitions progress you will find yourself beginning to interpret their meaning. This is really important as it is your interpretation of their meaning that you will be communicating in lodge. To truly communicate a lecture we have several tools at our disposal. First is our voice



## **GRAND MASTER'S ITINERARY JANUARY 2012**

6 F	Principal Officers	Grand Lodge	Victoria
7 S	Installation	Victoria Columbia No. 1	Victoria
14 S	<b>District 18</b>	Mount Hope No. 139	Hope
16 M	Burns Night	Discovery No. 149	Campbell River
19 Th	<b>District 16</b>	Grandview No. 96	Vancouver
20 F	Official Visit	Vancouver Education	Vancouver
21 S	Education	Grand Masonic Day	Vancouver
28 S	Burn's Dinner	Garibaldi Lodge No. 27	Squamish

which has a range of options to help us: tone, volume, speed, pauses and pitch. If we are close to a candidate we can also use facial expressions and body language.

The ritual gives us plenty of clues as to what we should emphasize. Take the *Address to the Brethren* where there are key phrases that need emphasis. Phrases like 'fundamental principles of our order' and 'the chief point of Freemasonry' beg for emphasis.

### **Conclusion**

Most brethren are capable of performing ritual and all of us are capable of improving our performance. Remember

1. Plan the degree early and set the practice a week before the degree;
2. Learn the words as soon as you can;
3. Repeat out loud often;
4. Endeavour to interpret the meaning of your part;
5. Be ready to perform your part by the practice date;
6. Control your anxiety;
7. Have one prompter near the performer;
8. Speak clearly & distinctly and loud enough for all to hear. ■

*Presented at the GVRD Grand Masonic Day, 5 March 2011.*

## **Bethel 9**

British Columbia Job's Daughters are hoping to once again open the Job's Daughters Bethel that existed in North Vancouver on Lonsdale.

If you know a young lady who is related to you—or one of the members of your lodge—who is 10 to 19 years old, and interested in joining a group that has a lot of fun making new friends around the city, province and world, we would love to hear from her.

The bonus is she can learn public speaking and organizational skills all while having a ton of fun planning sleepovers, outings to anywhere they can dream up, leadership weekends, mystery trips and so much more

The leadership rôles that she will take on as an adult with this kind of training are full of endless possibilities.

They are hoping to reopen the North Vancouver Bethel in the near future but they need to start with a core membership. Every Job's Daughter *must* be related to a freemason so your help is needed. Visit the Job's Daughters website, [www.bcdj.org](http://www.bcdj.org) to contact their promotion chairperson. ■