



A formula for happiness 1
Lodge notes 2
Shriners' Ball 3
Freemasonry needs freemasons 3
Freemasonry in the news 3
Masonic symphony 4
Grand Lodge finances 4
Grand Master's itinerary 4

A formula for happiness

by MW Bro. Neil Neddermeyer, Grand Master, Minnesota

The first thing we teach our new members is that "the design of the masonic institution is to make its votaries wiser, better, and consequently happier." Happiness is a goal of everyone. It seems, however that the more aggressively we pursue happiness the more it eludes us.

Almost every self-help book or programme on happiness talks about a balance in the improvement of body, mind, and spirit. Every programme offers tools for the advancement of the student towards the ultimate goal of happiness through a step-by-step procedure for success.

Freemasonry has been doing the same thing for hundreds of years. The tools that the Craft uses are symbolic. The steps are called degrees but the goal is still happiness through the improvement of body, mind, and spirit.

In Freemasonry the body is improved through the application of temperance and the

expectation of honest toil. The labouring tool is the gavel that helps form the perfect ashlar. The measuring tools are the twenty-four inch gauge that teaches us to keep our daily lives in order and the compasses that reminds us to keep our actions within due bounds.

The mind is improved through the study of masonic philosophies and the journey from darkness to light. The labouring tools for the mind are the seven liberal arts and sciences. The measuring tools are the square, plumb and level. These tools evaluate our commitment to virtue, our devotion to living honourable lives, and our dedication to treating all of humankind with equality.

The spirit is improved through the pursuit of truth and our proximity to our Creator. The tools used are the Holy Scriptures and the trowel that spreads the cement of brotherly love and affection.



Zenas Winsor McCay (1869-1934), writer and illustrator of Little Nemo in Slumberland, also drew a weekly feature entitled Dreams of the Rarebit Fiend. In one instalment, two panels of which are shown above, he illustrated the results of revealing lodge secrets. The complete comic can be viewed online at freemasonry.bcy.ca/fiction/rarebit.html. McCay also produced the first feature length film cartoon, *The Sinking of the Lusitania* in 1917. McCay's biography notes that he joined a masonic lodge in Chicago sometime between 1889 and 1891 but does not give the lodge name. Unfortunately the early records of the Grand Lodge of Illinois have been lost, but it is documented that Bro. McCay received a masonic funeral in New York.

This may all seem well and good until we realize that self-help programmes, including the Craft, do little good without a commitment on the part of the student to change his life for the better. Freemasonry has the programme and the tools. It has the support group and it has a history of making good

men better, one brother at a time. It is limited only by our lack of commitment to be happy through transforming our own lives.

We can not achieve happiness without the serious reflection that balances our lives and causes us to focus on

continued on page 2



VOLUME 67 / NUMBER 8

EDITED by Trevor W. McKeown for the Grand Secretary's Office and published by the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of British Columbia and Yukon. The VIEWS AND OPINIONS expressed in the *Masonic Bulletin* are those of the individual authors and writers, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of this Grand Lodge. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions. CORRESPONDENCE: 1495 West Eighth Avenue, Vancouver, British Columbia V6H 1C9 Canada. WEB: <http://freemasonry.bcy.ca> TELEPHONE: +1-604-736-8941. FACSIMILE: +1-604-736-5097. EMAIL: editor@freemasonry.bcy.ca

Formula for happiness from page one

our entire being. The necessary effort for success in finding happiness is left up to each of us individually. We can read all the books, join all the programmes or go to lodge all we want, without finding anything that is remotely akin to happiness.

We must study, think, work, play, communicate, love, understand, reflect, and give more. We must show affection to our families, take care of our brothers, and volunteer more often. The more we can identify our concerns with the interests of others, the happier we will be. To be happy we must take care of ourselves in body, mind and spirit, in a generous and straightforward manner. If at any time we should fall short, "we should always remember that when the strength and wisdom of man fails, there is an inexhaustible supply above, yielded to us through the power of prayer."

Reprinted from *Cinosam*, 1/30/03

Lodge notes

A Mediaeval Banquet has been organized for 30 April, 2004 by **King Edward Lodge No. 28**, Greenwood. A magician and court jester have been engaged, dramatics are



If you hope a crown
to gain
You must take the
early train.

W Bro. Palmer Cox

planned and mediaeval costume is encouraged. Call RW Bro. Peter Smith at 250-446-2966 for information and reservations.

This past January, members of the Vancouver and Victoria Units of the Gizeh Shrine Clowns formed a team to confer the Entered Apprentice Degree for **Meridian Lodge No. 108**, disproving the all too common belief that the members of the Shrine don't support the Craft lodges.

While the degree team was composed entirely of clowns whose mother lodges worked a range of rituals, their attire was appropriate for lodge and their work exemplary.

One visitor on this occasion, Bro. Larry White of **St. John's Lodge No. 2**, Halifax, who had not visited a lodge for some years but was encouraged to attend by a local brother he met online, has had his interest in Freemasonry rekindled and his appreciation of the Shrine awakened.

Recent events have left **Marpole Masonic Hall**, 8486 Granville Street, Vancouver, available for rental on the fourth Tuesday and first and third Thursday. Call W Bro. John Dunham 604-266-0626 for details.

The annual Rabbie Burns' night hosted by **Friendship Lodge No. 144**, Trail, brought MW Bro. Robert Van Zee, Past Grand Master of Washington, and some twenty-four of his brethren, across the border this past January.

The evening included dinner at a local restaurant, the piping of RW Brother Andrew J. Cook, who has filled the rôle of our Grand Lodge's piper on several occasions, several talks on Burns' poetry and life, and the singing of VW Bro. Samuel A. Brown.

VW Bro. John Wyman was also recognized by the brethren for being the recent recipient of the *Zerubbabel Key Award* presented by DeMolay International.

The Festive Board following was an international affair with W Bro. Jason Gordon of **Oriental Lodge No. 74** WR, giving the *Address To The Haggis*. This cross-border tradition has been a regular event in Trail for some years and all are invited next year on January 25, 2005.

This past October, W Bro. Maurice Low of **Evergreen Lodge No. 148** was presented with the *Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur* by the Consul General of France in Vancouver, in recognition of his service with the Royal Air Force in World War II. W Bro. Low was interned as a POW from December 1942 to May 5, 1945.

Sponsored by the **Vancouver Lodge of Education and Research**, the Vancouver Grand Masonic Day was a great day of fellowship and education. The **Victoria Lodge of Education and Research** generously donated ten CDs of papers presented in the lodge as door prizes. Visit our Grand Lodge website to see what you missed.

Dear editor

Bringing a brother home

Regarding your recent article "One Step Beyond" (February 2004), I would like to share something that happened to me recently.

Through my church I met Sue, a well educated young woman with a good husband. Sue had lost her father, Frank Pheasant, about fifteen years ago. He had been a freemason.

Bro. Pheasant had been initiated into **Mount Hermon Lodge No. 7** in 1952, along with five other brethren and remained a faithful member until 1972 when he moved from the area and requested his demit.

Sue's mother, Agnes, is getting up there in years and was wanting to return his

masonic apron and some other memorabilia and documents to his lodge. Agnes was holding on to some very wonderful memories. It was taking a good deal of time for Agnes to want to part with these memories. After meeting with her, Agnes gathered up the memories, and entrusted them to me.

I was later given the opportunity to present his apron, certificate and some memories of Bro. Pheasant to the lodge. It was a fitting reward for a brother that he not to be forgotten, for his past contributions to be shared with the brethren of his lodge.

The Worshipful Master, W Bro. Michael Yule, accepted the apron and certificate over the altar in a ceremony befitting a brother who had passed to the Grand Lodge Above. At that moment I knew that Bro. Frank Pheasant, was in good hands, his contributions not forgotten, and his soul amongst his friends and brethren. For an instant Frank had returned to his lodge.

W Bro. Douglas Potter

Landmark Lodge, No. 128,
Maple Ridge

Membership trends

I can't help but feel the recent article on diminishing membership (February, 2004) must be commented on. When one looks around most lodges one sees a great number of elderly members especially ones that may have joined during the spurt of growth in the late forties and fifties. It is easy to assume that Freemasonry is in a critical situation. In many lodges the appearance of the sidelines is not a true indication of the health of the lodge. I have had the opportunity to analyze some of the membership trends in lodge around the world. In general most lodges show a trend to new members joining at younger ages again after a peak in the age at joining curve in the mid 90s. Often a younger member joining seems to act as a catalyst to bring other members of the same

age joining. Just as it took many years for the greying of lodges to be apparent it will also take several years for the reversal to become apparent. This is not to say that every effort should not be made to initiate more young members.

W Bro. Norm Ryder

Manoah Lodge No. 141,

Tofino

Declining membership

I read with a great deal of interest the latest *Gizah Gazette*. particularly the issue on our declining membership. We all have ideas about what would work and what wouldn't, so I want to give you my two bits' worth.

Develop a good speaker corp to motivate the clubs and units. Encourage a brief "history night" to have each member talk about his life and work. Keep the ritual the same. It's important because that is what others follow.

Undoubtedly there are other things that could be done. It takes each of us to help, and it takes effort.

W Bro. A.J.A. (John) Barnes ■

Shriners

All freemasons, their friends and spouses are invited to the Freemason's & Shriners *Spring Ball* on Saturday 24 April, 2004 at the Gizah Shrine Centre, 3550 Wayburne Way, Burnaby, BC. A great buffet and a live band guarantee that this will be a memorable occasion. For tickets, call the Shrine Centre at 604-291-7707 or W Bro. Wally Turko: 604-465-9238, email wcturko@sprint.ca ■

Freemasons needed

Freemasonry needs freemasons more than it needs members. Were every member a freemason in all that the name signifies, were the education that Freemasonry gives thoroughly comprehended by men and established

as the universal system of ethical instruction for human guidance and conduct and its form of government adopted and put into effect by nations and states everywhere, there would be such a forward step in all the uplifting, ennobling and altruistic things of life that the smoke and thunder and savage cruelty of war with the selfishness, bitterness and hatred that have so long nourished them, would disappear, never to return and the first gleaming rays of the millennium would ere long be flashed to every part of the earth and "Peace on Earth, good will toward men" would be made a reality. ■

Reprinted from Masonic Tidings October, 1920.

Globally

Chile

The World Conference of Masonic Grand Lodges will be held in Santiago, Chile this May, with the main agenda topic to be "Masonic universalism and the global society at the beginning of the twenty-first century." Our Grand Lodge is constitutionally prohibited from participating in such conferences, there being a potential for participation by irregular masonic bodies and the passage of resolutions binding on participants contrary to the wishes of our membership.

England

A notice of motion is planned for this April's Supreme Grand Chapter of the Royal Arch in England, revising their ritual to remove the description of the Royal Arch as the completion of the Third Degree. Pro First Grand Principal, Lord Northampton supports this initiative.

New South Wales

The conservative Sydney Anglican Synod has aroused the ire of the freemasons of New South Wales after the Diocese decided to effectively ban freemasons from church

services and from using church facilities.

Australia

The new Governor General of Australia, Major General Michael Jeffrey, who was sworn in on August 11, 2003, is an active freemason. ■

In the news

Freemasonry has received two notable mentions in the *Vancouver Courier* in recent months. In their 10 December, 2003 issue we were featured in a cover story that may not have been flattering but was certainly fair and balanced. In the 21 January, 2004 issue, the masonic section of Mountain View Cemetery was prominently featured in a cover story on the growing trend to cremation rather than interment. Look for these stories online at vancourier.com by clicking on the Previous Issues link.

The Delta Masonic Building Society and their 100 year-old building were highlighted in a recent article in the *Delta Optimist*. **Tsawwassen Lodge No. 185, Ancient Light Lodge No. 88**, the Tsawwassen Shrine Club, Job's Daughters Bethel No. 55 and the Order of the Eastern Star all advertised in the issue, showing off the masonic family. ■

Our value

by Bro. G. E. Lessing

The value of man does not consist in the truth which he possesses, or means to possess, but in the sincere pain which he hath taken to find it out. For his powers do not augment by possessing truth, but by investigating it, wherein consists his only perfectibility.

Possession lulls the energy of man, and makes him idle and proud. If God held enclosed in his right hand absolute truth, and in his left only the inward lively impulse

**Grand Lodge 133rd
Annual Communication**

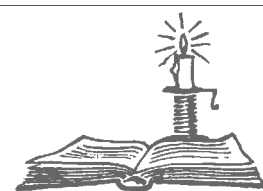
June 17-19, 2004
Salmon Arm

Our online registration
form can be found at:
freemasonry.bcy.ca/gl2004

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

Now
you can
download the
Masonic Bulletin
from our
website!

**Username: user
Password: Ezra**



Turn over a new leaf

Books, tapes and videos;
Masonic education at its best.
Open for your convenience
second and fourth Friday
evenings; 5:00 'til 10:00 pm.

*The Library
at
Grand Lodge*

toward truth, and if He said to me: Choose! even at the risk of exposing mankind to continual erring, I most humbly would seize His left hand, and say: Father, give! Absolute truth belongs to Thee alone. ■

German dramatist and philosopher Gotthold Ephraim Lessing (1729-1781) was initiated into lodge Zu den Drei Goldenen Rosen, Hamburg, on 19 October 1770. His last work, The Education of the Human Race, expressed his belief in the perfectibility of the human race.

Update

A list of masonic research publications in the January 2004 issue has been recently updated. *Ihmbra* and *St Albins* seem to have ceased publication. The *Philalethes* can be contacted at PO Box 70 Highland Springs, VA 23075-0070. ■

Finances

by RW Bro. James Lister, Grand Treasurer

In my years as chairman of the Finance Committee and as a member of the committee, I helped generate the budget and look after the funds allotted to the general operation of Grand Lodge itself. In my new position as your Grand Treasurer, getting a grasp of the whole picture has been quite a task. Many of the questions I receive are income-tax related. While I enjoy the challenge, they often require some time for research and I ask for your patience.

One of the questions I often receive is "Why does the Grand Lodge assessment keep going up when Grand Lodge has over five million dollars?"

The answer is that most of the money in our coffers is money contributed to specific funds for specific purposes. For example, a brother donating to the Bursary Fund gets a tax-deductible receipt. That money has to go into that fund and be invested with other donations.

This fund has \$1.3 million in it and the interest earned is used to provide bursaries. It cannot be used for anything else.

We have several other funds that operate in the same way.

The operating revenue for the office is another story. A budget is struck in May and the total amount for the next operating year is divided by the number of members on our rolls.

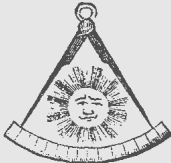
The actual dollars to operate Grand Lodge haven't gone up significantly in the last few years. It is our declining membership that is causing the steady increase in the *per capita* assessment.

Every year we have a goodly number of brethren who Pass to the Grand Lodge Above. Others decide that Freemasonry isn't for them and either demit or are suspended—which is also another story. The Grand Secretary's office is always looking for ways to economize, but there are still base amounts beyond which economies of scale can't work.

With this in mind, the Finance Committee is looking for ways to subsidize the budget. If that is possible, perhaps we can freeze the *per capita* or, miracle of miracles, reduce it. The Grand Master is not Grand Lodge; the Grand Treasurer is not Grand Lodge. We are all Grand Lodge. Put your thinking caps on and make suggestions. We can all be part of the solution. ■

A masonic symphony

In an historic move, the Grand Lodge of Alberta has commissioned George Blondheim and Bernard Zolner, two well known Canadian composers and producers, to compose a three movement masonic symphony called *The Symphonia Masonica*. This symphony, which is intended to be a musical interpretation of



**GRAND MASTER'S ITINERARY
APRIL, 2004**

1	Thu	All Canada Conference		
8	Thu	Maundy Thursday	Scottish Rite	Vernon
11	Sun	Easter Ceremonies	Scottish Rite	Vernon
15	Thu	Inspirational Education Meeting		Kamloops
16	Fri	District No. 26	Dunbar No. 118	Vancouver
17	Sat	District No. 2	Dormer No. 191	Surrey
24	Sat	International Day	Creston No. 54	Creston, Idaho
30	Fri	1765 E.A Degree	Acacia No. 22	Vancouver

the three degrees of Freemasonry will be performed by the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra at the Winspear Theatre in Edmonton on 12 June 2004 after the Grand Lodge Annual Communication is completed.

George Blondheim is well known in the North American music scene for his production of the musical scores to some eight movies including the Hollywood hit, *The Jewel of the Nile*, and the Canadian produced box office hit, *Bye Bye Blues*. In television he is known for his production of the music for *Da Vinci's Inquest* and the *Vicki Gabereau Show*. George Blondheim and Bernard Zolner recently received world wide acclaim for their production of the music associated with the NHL's *Heritage Classic* outdoor hockey game.

The Symphonia Masonica will be a multimedia production with Alberta freemasons providing a narrative to explain our purposes and principles. A big screen is planned so that a continuous collage of images can pass before the audience telling the story of Freemasonry. The performance will be filmed and recorded, and a television release and sale of CDs and DVDs is contemplated after a North American tour is completed.

The Grand Lodge of Alberta stands to gain both from an

increased public awareness of Freemasonry and financially from the distribution of CDs and DVDs. It is hoped that other Grand Lodges will show interest in this world debut and have it performed in their jurisdictions with local freemasons and their local Symphony Orchestra being the key participants.

The Symphonia Masonica will be the first time in modern masonic history that a full symphony will be dedicated to the musical depiction of the three degrees. This is an opportunity for every freemason to take part in creating masonic history. Tickets are to be priced well below the customary prices for a symphony performance and will range from \$40 to \$60 per seat.

For more information on *The Symphonia Masonica*, contact Cameron D. Mace at 219 18830 111 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T5G 0E1 or at mackaylaw@hotmail.com. ■

The heart

by Bro. Arthur Edward Waite

The true mason is made in the heart before he is made in the lodge. "Where were you first prepared?" In the heart truly; but he who is not made also therein will never be made in the lodge, though he may go through all the forms. ■