



Editorial

“Selecting the next Administration of the Fraternity”

For decades many brethren have spoken at length as to what is causing the decline of interest in the Fraternity of free and Accepted Masons throughout the world and yet it continues to be an issue amongst the brethren.

One of the major questions is: why are there so few Masons supporting the local lodges when so many of them profess to be dedicated to Fraternity?

It has been estimated less than 25% of those in good standing with a lodge actually attempt regular communications, participate and support lodge activities or adhere to their obligations?

Another conversation one often hears: Brother who is eligible for his 50th year medal? Is he still a Mason? How can that be I have not seen him in lodge for years?

Another disappointing aspect of the behavior of many brethren amongst us is, after years of pursuing a Masonic career they drop out of sight after failing to be elected or appointed to one of the esteem stations within Grand Lodge at an annual communication.

What level of dedication to the fraternity do those brethren display when they consider the lack of position within the Grand Lodge as a failure or a sign of rejection by their fellow brethren?

When one does a review of what is taking place to the Fraternity it is important to consider why new initiations are on the decline but it is vital to look into why the

dedication and enthusiasm for the Fraternity of the present membership has descended to the level it has today?

What is also disheartening is the apparent discord amongst the brethren when it comes to priorities when making decisions on issues pertaining to what is best for the Fraternity, the lodges or the brethren.

A major concern to the incoming administration may be that internal issues within the jurisdiction could eventually do more harm to the existence of the Fraternity than any other difficulties it may face.

The upcoming 2013 Grand Lodge Communication is approaching and a new administration will be elected by the votes of the eligible Masons of the New Brunswick jurisdiction in attendance on 11 May 2013.

It is imperative the voters establish their priorities and concepts as to how they want the future of the jurisdiction to be directed by actually voting for what they feel is best for the Fraternity not what is best for friends and associates.

Finally a high level of attendance by Masons is imperative to give creditability to the present voting process and the new administration which will be responsible for providing constructive, unbiased and informed guidance to the jurisdiction, lodges and the Fraternity as a whole. By having less than 15% for eligible voting membership (as per 2012) participate in the voting process does not lend much support to the new administration and the philosophy with which it will deal with the present day issues pertaining to the Fraternity.

The future of the jurisdiction is in the hands of those who are now Masons, not of those who might become one sometime in the future.

That is what I think, Editor

Mostly Masonry

The Official Newsletter of the Grand Lodge of New Brunswick

OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THIS PUBLICATION ARE THOSE OF THE AUTHORS AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THOSE OF THE EDITOR OR THE GRAND LODGE OF NEW BRUNSWICK.
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Cont'd from front page 1;

I have been deeply impressed, over the past few months, by the Brotherly Love shown to our Lodge in Perth-Andover. I have witnessed large gifts donated by Lodges which, they themselves are in financial difficulty. The desire of Benjamin # 31 to rise from the ravages of the spring flood should set an example to the rest of us. We can, and will succeed.

Following last year's revelation on the Miramichi, where Northumberland #17 and Miramichi #18 occupied new accommodations in Douglastown, we are presently seeing a new experiment in Brotherly Love and Cooperation between two lodges in District # 4.

I am pleased to sanction a program between Tobique Lodge # 48 in Plaster Rock and Colebrook Lodge # 39 in Grand Falls, whereby the two Lodges will consolidate their monthly communications at alternating sites. This is being done to [1] Save heating cost during the cold months and, [2] encourage greater attendance at the meetings

The first meeting was held on Feb. 13th at Colebrook Lodge. From all reports, the new format was a definite success, with good attendance from both Lodges and constructive discussions. At this time, at least two more joint meetings are planned. I congratulate the Brethren for their efforts to increase interest in Masonry in the area, and wish them every success as they go forward.

Brethren, I should take this opportunity to thank you, one and all, for your support of Masonry in New Brunswick, and to the Office of Grand Master. My term has been made much easier by the number of Masons in attendance at both my Official and Casual visits. To those Grand Lodge officers who have supported me through my two years, I say thank you, and I will long remember your contributions.

That's all for now Brethren, and put "Grand Lodge" on your calendar.

Fraternally
MWB Peter Whitaker,
Grand Master of NB



THE ALL SEEING EYE OF GOOD WORK

Over the last couple of weeks I have found myself re-reading the booklets that I was given after I passed through each degree. It was a treat to read them again and reflect on the process.

One thing I got out of it is that at the end of the day if you are doing good work and doing something right the results will be as such.

Trying hard is not necessarily good enough, because ignorance is not compensated in the grand design.

With that being said, if you are trying hard and honing your skills, using your hammer to systematically taking out the rough edges to form your perfect Ashlar, you will eventually reach where you want to go. It seems to me that this is the promise to the Freemason who took the step into the unknown to improve himself.

The creator didn't make it easy, he makes us work for it, but the journey of mistakes and improvements will always be something to reflect on when you take a step back and look at your personal temple.

Submitted by:
Bro. David Hunter



A book review:

What Is Freemasonry?

Interview: Grand Master Gustavo Raffi by Paola Gambi

MWB Gustavo Raffi, along with a significant resume of educational, professional and other accomplishments, has been a Freemason of the Grand Orient of Italy since 1968, President of the College of Venerable Masters of Emilia Romagna, Grand Orator (1990-93) and elected Grand Master in 1999 and reconfirmed in 2004. He has been credited with the recent revival of the Society in Italy.

In this series of interviews, MWB Raffi, the “Grand Master of Spring” shares his philosophy and understanding of Freemasonry. Some of the issues are specific to the political, social and religious environment in Italy but virtually all hold deep and meaningful lessons to those Freemasons who have made a commitment to learning and developing and improving themselves in Masonry.

MWB Raffi is deeply committed to dialogue and views the commitment of the Freemason to be a “doubter” - to listen, to consider, to question and to develop his own philosophy in light of the views of others. It is for this reason that we must never let Religion nor Politics enter into the lodges. His view is that those topics are best left to the realms that exist for them. He sees a Mason’s interest and commitment to these other realms, not as interference to his Masonic life, but as an avenue to fully explore his own life and commitment to society as a whole.

It is, as a Mason, that the distinctions are unimportant. We not only accept those with varying lifestyles, religions, and politics but also encourage their active involvement in our Fraternity. It is only through their involvement that all of the Society and we will have the opportunity to fully develop.

This book is encouraging and uplifting. While some of the specifics to which he refers are not part of our life, they serve as lessons to us. This Grand Master led the Grand Orient of Italy in one of its greatest growth periods when the average age of the membership in the Grand Orient has consistently been lowered. All of this, without active recruiting plans, Friend-to-Friend events or other invitations to become acquainted with the Fraternity. Freemasons are examples to the community as a whole and we should actively participate in that community according to our skills, talents and interests.

He talks of “esoterism, the pedagogy of dialogue, the Great Architect of the Universe, laicism, the eternal conflict between science and faith, the sacrosanct right to the pursuit of happiness, with a critical analysis and proposals for the near future.”

Raffi states that this is the responsibility of a Freemason - to question, consider, reinvent, redevelop, modify, and bring a variety of thoughts and beliefs together into a coherent and developing philosophy of one’s own.

This is a book that will stretch, challenge and open eyes. This is a book that I highly recommend to those Freemasons who are committed to growth through reading, dialoguing, debating and discussing. I found it to be a quick read and one that I was continually saying “Yes! Yes! and Huh?”

Submitted by: RWB Ed Burrige, SGW

To purchase: “What is Freemasonry” by Paola Gambi. Request ISBN 978-88-492-2213-5 at Chapters.ca, Amazon.ca or eBay.ca.



The New Brunswick Masonic Charities & Housing Company Limited
 N.B.M.C.H.C.L

Information for the Brethren

The Annual General Meeting of the New Brunswick Masonic Charities & Housing Company Limited is scheduled for Saturday April 27, 2013 at Zion Lodge # 21 in Sussex. Attendance is open and welcomed for all the Masons in New Brunswick.

On another note, I am sure that many of you remember the Masonic Memorial cards which were placed in Funeral Homes throughout New Brunswick for anyone interested in making a donation in memory of a departed brother and to assist in the programs the Masonic Order is supporting on behalf of children afflicted with health issues of which Camp Goodtime is a prime benefactor – a seven day camping experience for children with cancer. This camp will be reaching a significant milestone in support from this jurisdiction of 25 years in 2014. Although these memorial cards may not be available the funeral homes will, on request place a card with the family on your behalf. The donation amount may be sent to the N.B.M.C.H.C.L and a charitable receipt will be provided for all contributions of \$10.00 or greater. A number of the brethren and the lodges have used these cards as a memorial.

A copy of the memorial card is attached for your consideration and the possibility of adding the forms to the Grand Lodge website is being considered. Submitted by MWB Miles Graham, Chairman



In Memory Of

_____ and as an expression of sympathy in your sorrow

_____ has sent a donation to

New Brunswick Masonic Charities & Housing

Donor's Mailing Address

May the knowledge that this is a gift will help others
 be in comfort to you at this time

Please fill out this portion and return it with your donation to:

The New Brunswick Masonic Charities & Housing Company Ltd.
 P.O. Box 6422, Saint John, N.B. E2L 4R8

Card Placed At: _____
 In Memory of: _____
 Mail Receipt To: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 Postal Code: _____
 I enclose a memorial gift of \$ _____

May the knowledge that this is a gift will help others
 be in comfort to you at this time



From the
Bookshelf

By WG Macx MacNichol



Poetic Thought

Book titles with Masonic themes and/or historical background.

Upcoming Book Release

Author **Dan Brown** is following up his excellent collection of novels with the upcoming release of his next novel titled **“The Inferno”**. Dan Brown masterfully fused history, art, codes, and symbols in this riveting new thriller, by returning to his element and has crafted another anticipated novel on the same level as his novels “The Da Vinci Code”; “Angels and Demons and “The Lost Symbol”.

In the heart of Italy, Harvard professor of symbology Robert Langdon is drawn into a harrowing world centered on one of history's most enduring and mysterious literary masterpieces . . . Dante's *Inferno*. Other excellent novels by Dan Brown are **“Deception Point”** and **“Digital Fortress”** then **“Illuminati”** and **“Diabolus”** as single novels.

**Libraries and Technology Provide low cost
Access to books**

Should you happen to own one of the new ebooks (Kobo and Kindle etc.) and you wish to keep you reading costs down to as low as possible the library can be one way to do so. You can go to the local library and check out the resources that may be available to download books electronically directly onto your eBooks. You must also verify what the policy is as to how long you have to read the book. There may be time restrictions and there hard copy books which are checked out of the library.

To review books amazon.com and eBay are very good locations to review a book you may wish to read regardless how you wish purchase it.

Recommended for Reading

- **“Temple and the Lodge”** by Michael Baigent
- **“The Book of Lies”** by Brad Meltzer.
- **“The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail”** by Michael Baigent and Richard & Henry Lincoln.
- Should anyone want to recommend a book(s) feel free to forward your comments to the editor.

The Builders

All May be joy in the beauty,
All take a part in the plan,
What does it matter what duty
Falls to the lot of Man.

Some must blend the plaster
Some must carry the stone,
Neither man or Master
Ever builded alone.

Forming a roof from the weather
Or building a house for a King,
Only by working together
Haas Man ever accomplished a thing.

Author Unknown Sussex Lodge # 4 archives.



MASONIC LIGHT

With the light of thirty- three thousand suns,
Freemasonry illuminates the darkest corners of the
earth;

The benevolence of our gentle craft,
Is a blessing from the Great Architect Of The
Universe.

To all mankind
Beyond the boundaries of limits
Set only by crippled feeble minds
Through the perils of endless time
Our Masonic brotherhood perseveres
Quietly serving others, sometimes out of sight
For breaking the darkness

Is the illuminated brightness of Masonic Light

Bro. C. Pylate Price

“There is no friend as loyal as a book.”

— [Ernest Hemingway.](#)



The Gallery



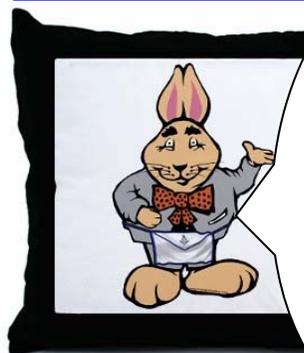
L to R: WB Don Green, D of CR; WB Cecil Stacey receives 60 yr. medal; WM Stuart Foster and RWB Mark Golder, DDGM Dist.# 4, following presentation at Carleton Lodge # 35.

Christmas Charity 03 Dec.2012



L to R: WB Allan Groundwater & WB JJ Leadbetter at Champlain Mall working the Salvation Army Kettle.

Days to Remember



Brethren:

I wish to remind you of your obligations and attend GL on 10 & 11 May 2013

Masonic Rabbit

Before the next edition of Mostly Masonry the following days are important to remember:



Mother's Day



Father's Day



L to R: WB Buddy Trenholm, GDC; Bro???????? and MWB The GM Peter Whittaker