

# District 'C'hronicle



October 2020

Hamilton Masonic District C

Edition No.146

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## **From our District Deputy Grand Master**

Thanksgiving  
Faith, Hope and  
Charity

Brethren,

In this message I would like to convey the idea that moments come along in our lives when we are called on to see the needs in others' lives. To see and then feel that need is the definition of the word empathy. As I look about our city at the moment I feel there are many



living a precarious existence: from the groups of tented communities rising up around our city, to the agreed restrictions on our liberty, to the businesses, large and small struggling to survive, to the litany of problems surrounding us in these uncommon times.

**“But, for the grace of God, go I.”**

Could there be any greater moment in our time for the need to give thanks! We could surmise that an uncertain future, a confusing present and a chaotic past test's our Faith. But it's Faith in my view that frames or defines the foundation of Thanksgiving.

The **DISTRICT 'C'HRONICLE** is published monthly in Hamilton, Ontario and is available for download on the district website at <http://www.hamiltondistrictmasons.org>. Please forward submissions to this newsletter through the contact details on our website.

Please note: The opinions and views expressed in any article in the District 'C'hronicle are those of the writers and therefore do not necessarily reflect the opinion of Grand Lodge. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions

**“Hope smiles from the threshold of the year to come,  
Whispering 'it will be happier'...”**

— Alfred Lord Tennyson

Thanksgiving is the hopeful expression and celebration that unites us in the great cycles of harvest, bounty and scarcity and survival. Perhaps we should not lose sight of our ancient origins and that since time immemorial we have hoped and struggled to overcome. In fact hope cannot really exist without the difficulty that struggling inspires.

**“Charity comprehends the whole.”**

Thanksgiving comprehends the whole. Mackey's Revised Encyclopedia of Freemasonry defines Charity as; “a word denoting that kindly state of mind which renders a person full of good will and the affectionate regard toward others.” Bro. Albert Mackey's definition of Charity is very similar to the description of a celebration, or the end of harvest Thanksgiving carnival.

Brethren, this Thanksgiving reflect on those essential characteristics that define Freemasonry and our great Brotherhood. Thanksgiving is another time of year that our principles and values are in perfect alignment with the world at large.

**Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est. From the Latin means;  
“where charity and love are, God is there.”**

Brethren, God bless you all this Thanksgiving and God bless your families. To the sick and shut in Brethren may the G. A. O. T. U. ease your burdens and answer your prayers.

Happy Thanksgiving!

**R.W. Bro. Jason McCulloch**



## From the Grand Master

*...there does a sable  
cloud*

*Turn forth her silver  
lining on the night,*

*And casts a gleam  
over this tufted grove.*

John Milton, Comus,  
1634

Brethren,

As the saying goes, “Every cloud has a silver lining”. We certainly have been experiencing some dark clouds but they will clear eventually. However, we have discovered some silver linings during these times.



Foremost among these is the virtual videoconference. This technology has been around for a while, but who thought it could be put to such use as we have seen lately? In the spring of 2019 our Grand Lodge looked into contracting a platform that committees could use to have some meetings by video rather than simply telephone conference. We felt it would be particularly useful during the winter months when driving long distances can be treacherous. We looked at various platforms and chose GoToMeeting as it met our needs best. However, we never fully used it until COVID struck; we always preferred face-to-face, using it only to have maybe one far-flung participant join us. But here was the first silver lining: when we needed it, we already had researched the options, had everything set up and had some practice with it. The Management Committee and the Board were easily able to swing into using it.

Many lodges have been having social chats over Zoom or some such platform. While not everyone is able to join in, the silver lining is that there are a number of brethren who have joined in that had not been in lodge for years. Sometimes just because someone from the lodge actually reached out to them with a notification, but often because they had moved away and now it was too far to drive to their mother lodge for the evening. Some even sign in from other provinces or countries to visit with their old friends.

We have always talked about how Freemasonry is a world-wide fraternity but save for a few who travel widely, this was not always evident. The pandemic has affected the whole world and Masons the world over have been devising ways to cope with not being able to meet. Videoconferences have sprung up from individual lodges, districts and Grand Lodges. We have been able to meet and chat with brothers from all over the globe.

As almost nobody is doing ritual on-line, education has come to the forefront. In the past we usually had the chance to hear a renowned Masonic speaker only a few times during the year. We would bring one in for the Grand Master’s banquet at the Annual Communication, and a handful of lodges would fly in a speaker maybe once a year. We had invited W. Bro. Robert L. D. Cooper, the Curator of the Grand Lodge of Scotland Museum and Library, to speak at this year’s Grand Master’s banquet but the closure of things both here and in the U.K. prohibited that. Now he has become somewhat of a celebrity with his Zoom talks hosted by places as diverse as the Grand Lodge of California and the District Grand Lodge of Lebanon (Grand Lodge of Scotland). These, and many other sessions, are available on-line. Here are a few links:

<https://freemason.org/speakerseriesarchive/>

<https://freemason.org/speakerseries/>

<https://dgll.org/en/magnus-geometres/>

<https://sites.google.com/view/openlfm/home>

<https://www.lexingtonlodge1.org/resources/10-part-series-virtual-masonic-education/>

I hope as lodges get used to having videoconference education sessions and social chats over the next few months, they will expand from just having one of their own present some education, to inviting Masons from across the province, or the world, to speak. Already a few Ontario lodges and districts have hosted this year’s Prestonian Lecturer, W. Bro. George Boys-Stones!

We will eventually meet again in person, but even then we may want to continue videoconferencing for some things: high profile speakers, keeping in touch with brethren who have moved away, committee meetings. It’s not as satisfying as meeting in person, but it does save on travel and greatly reduces greenhouse gas emissions – another silver lining!

Until we can gather face-to-face, enjoy your window on the world with Zoom, Team, or Grand Lodge’s subscription to GoToMeeting.

**David J. Cameron**



## From the Deputy

My Brethren:

It seems like forever has passed since our last Communique message and even longer since we were able to share each other's fellowship in performing our Work in our comfortable Lodge rooms. I am sure that I am not alone in saying how much I miss your presence around me. I spend most evenings on a Masonic Education videoconference and have enjoyed the opportunity to at least see some of you and hear your voices. If you are having a special Masonic Education videoconference, please don't be shy in inviting visiting Brethren to join you as well – and of course your prospective candidates if the material is appropriate.

As I signed off in the June Communique, I invited all of you back to hear how your Grand Lodge has been capitalizing on the research and marketing done by the Scottish Rite Northern Masonic Jurisdiction in "The Path Forward" and especially the "Not Just a Man, A Mason" via a program called 'BeAFreemason.org'.

Two years ago, the SRNMJ officially rolled out their new program as a gift to the whole fraternity called 'Not Just a Man, A Mason.' It was a new branded advertising and media campaign about Freemasonry that could be used and tailored specifically to meet the needs of a Grand Lodge or individual Lodge. The campaign was designed to educate the public and to inspire members about who we are and what we stand for as Freemasons.

Our Grand Master got copies of these tools, modified the Square and Compasses to conform with Section 3.1 of our Constitution and we have been using them on the Grand Lodge web site and Facebook page throughout the last year. They have been made available to any interested Lodges or Districts within our jurisdiction.

This year, the SRNMJ teamed up with the Southern Jurisdiction and Shriners International to develop a program called 'BeAFreemason.org'. This was created after all their surveys showed that Freemasonry is a resonant and viable fraternal membership option for men today. They did a trend data analysis survey of 1,000 non-Masons from coast to coast, ages 25-65.

The survey showed several things:

Men in society are looking for an identity group, like-minded men with whom to grow and evolve, and pay it forward to others;

79% are interested in joining an organization that enables them to become a better person and helps to improve the quality of life for others; and

75% are interested in an organization where men form deep and lasting friendships regardless of race, religion, or culture.

Men in society are familiar with Freemasonry, they just don't know what it stands for. When presented with messages of fraternity, integrity, becoming a better man, etc., values of Freemasonry still resonate deeply with men across the land.

When values are directly paired with Freemasonry, 57% said they would consider joining.

The foundation of our Craft is as strong as at any time in our history. Men want to join. Men are looking to join. But in many cases, men just don't know how to join.

So, we know men are predisposed to join. What is the first thing they do? Search the internet. They find their Grand Lodge if lucky but most often the results are not local, and they will find many conspiracy theories and information intended to harm Freemasonry.

BeAFreemason.org is a web site that is working its way up the search engine chain to hopefully be the number one hit when you type in Freemasonry. It is a place where the truths and rewards of Freemasonry are presented honestly, inspirationally, and is visually a nice web site.

How does the site work?

A prospective Mason gets on the site and decides to inquire about joining.

The prospect then submits basic contact information that identifies his Grand Lodge jurisdiction and will provide Grand Lodge leadership with the information they need to make initial contact.

It tells them to expect follow up from their Grand Lodge and provides them with a link to their local Grand Lodge website.

Then the contact information is provided to R.W. Bro. Ed Denbeigh and, on behalf of our Grand Lodge, decides which town or Lodge to direct this prospect information to for follow-up. Bro. Denbeigh records this information and follows up after two months to assure something was done and records it as such.

So, if this tool helps us recruit new men into Freemasonry – we must do a better job of keeping them interested and engaged in our Lodges – our biggest failure over time. Your DDGMs have heard how we are planning on assisting the Lodges in this area which I trust you will hear more of soon!

**Thomas W. Hogeboom, Deputy Grand Master**



<https://beafreemason.org/>

# Around the District



Summer Social Distancing. Fellowship in the Parking Lot

## September District Meeting



Zoom Meeting - Keeping the District Moving

### District Charity

The Colours of the HHA Logo

- Green – Colour of growth and rebirth
- Burgundy – International colour of hospice
- Purple – International colour of mourning
- Mustard – Symbolizing the strength and power of something that may appear so small



<https://www.homehospiceassociation.com/>

### Hope in Life, Hope in Death

To have hope means to have faith. To have faith we must have an absence of fear. When we alleviate fear for someone who is facing the end of their life, we allow them to completely commune with their faith.

Your support provides hope to each client they serve. Hope for a good death, secure in faith that comfort, compassion and dignity will blanket the dying and those who love them. Faith that a good death is the best way to help those remaining to continue along their grief journey in the healthiest way possible.

**Cheques for donations may be written out to:  
Masonic Foundation of Ontario Project #2670**

# The Moon and Masonry

W. Bro. Lorne Evans



There are thirteen lunar months in a year, based on the four phases of the moon, from new moon to full moon. The superstitious ancient Babylonians, Egyptians, and Romans all wanted to avoid an inauspicious 13th month. The Romans originally had ten months, December meaning ten, as in decimal. Julius Caesar stuck in an extra month, which he named July, after himself, and his nephew, Augustus, added a twelfth.

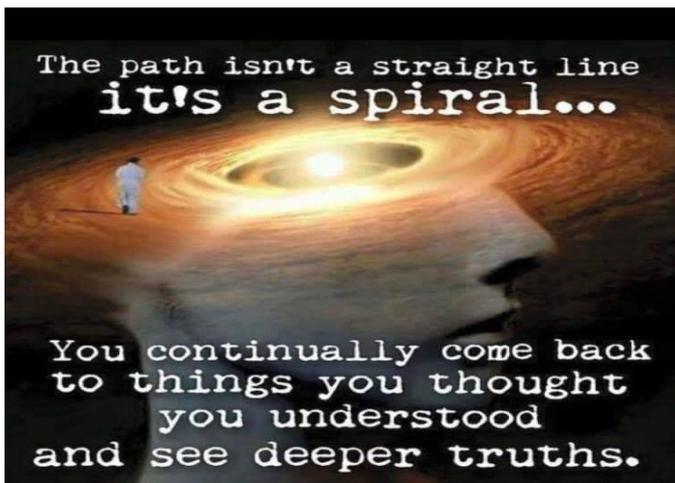
It is recorded in the Book of Genesis (I, 14-19), that the Great Architect of the Universe created two "great lights", the sun to rule the day, and the moon to rule the night, but He forbade their worship, on pain of death by stoning. (Deuteronomy 17, 3).

Two hundred years ago, many pioneer Lodges in North America regularly met during the week of the full moon. The Brethren were glad to have their way lit by the glare of the full moon while going to and returning from Masonic labours and fellowship. Such "Moon Lodges" often made up a majority of the lodges in the district, and some have survived to this day.

There are still hundreds at work in the US, two in Ontario, and one in PEI. It is difficult to track them down, because, when you look up "Moon Lodges", you get fishing resorts!

This month, the full moon will gleam twice, on and around October 1st, and on the 31st- perfect for Hallowe'en. The second full moon in a month is an unusual "blue moon", a synonym for rare.

As you leave the Lodge, look up, and enjoy a practical old Masonic tradition which has its roots deeply planted in antiquity.



# The Moon in Masonic History

James P. W. Goss Grand Historian, Grand Lodge of Vermont

Following the phases of the moon was no trouble at all for the agrarian folk of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and the brilliant "lesser light," provided a beacon that guided our elder brethren homeward along the dirt roads and beaten pathways of early Vermont. Thus, in 1817, 26 of the 40 lodges in Vermont were "moon Lodges," with the bulk of the others being located in areas of higher population and presumably better lighting....Hopefully, the few Moon Lodges left in Vermont will not surrender this old custom to base convenience. They serve as a reminder to modern Masons travelling home by the light of the moon that they are in essence following in the footsteps of their elder brethren for whom the moon was a real as well as symbolic light.

(Many years ago the MSA had a digest entitled "Moon Lodges." It is now out of print but we thought an excerpt from the minutes of a "Moon Lodge" might be of interest....

Walter H. Amende, Secretary of Cassia Lodge, No. 14, writes: Cassia Lodge, No. 14, U.D., held its first meeting at Albion, Idaho Territory, November 25, 1882, and received its charter in September, 1883.

Albion is one of the oldest towns in Idaho and in early days was a way station on the stage route from Kelton, Utah, to Boise. At the time Cassia Lodge was organized, its jurisdiction covered a wide territory extending from 80 to 100 miles in all directions. The members having to come such long distances by horseback or wagon, was the reason for setting the meeting Saturday nights on or before the full moon.

One of the lodge's main social events each year in those early days was a dance or "Grand Ball." One such affair took place on February 14, 1887, and must have been quite an event, judging from the following Committees appointed: Arrangements, 3 members; Music, 3 members; Floor Committee, 4 members; Invitations, 6 members; Reception, 12 members. Entire families came to these dances. One time, as a joke, someone changed the coats and blankets on all the babies present. Most of the mothers picked up what they thought was their bundle and did not discover the mistake until they got home, possibly as far as 30 miles away. They all had to come back to Albion and find out whose youngster they had; quite a mix-up.

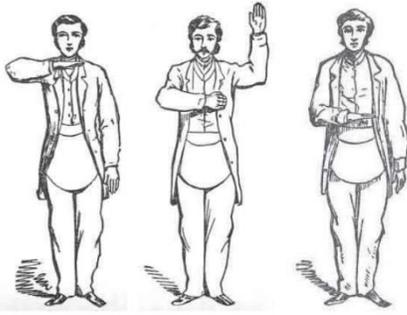
One time there was a candidate for the M.M. degree who did not have his F.C. proficiency. Rather than have him go to a long-distance home and wait till the next meeting, the members voted to waive the test and give him his M.M. degree that evening.

Another time, in the long ago, a member joined under an assumed name and after a regular Masonic trial, it was voted by the lodge that he must take all of the degrees over again under his right name. It did not state in the minutes of that meeting if he had to pay the fees again.

Read the Full transcript of the Moon in Masonic History at <https://freemasonry.bcy.ca/texts/Moon.html>

# Protocol and Etiquette

This P&E article is the first in a series intended to enhance the brethren's understanding of the common protocols associated with almost every lodge meeting



SOURCE: Duncan's Masonic Ritual and Monitor

This article discusses  
**Some of our  
protocols  
pertaining  
to proper saluting**

## Saluting the Worshipful Master

First and foremost, salute properly and smartly: Always take the step of the degree before saluting. (Your FEET move before you move your ARMS.)

If you wish to speak: Stand, take the step of the degree, salute, and say "Worshipful Master". Drop the salute, remain standing, and wait to be recognized by the Worshipful Master.

## Addressing the East

- Whoever possesses the gavel is responsible for the lodge and has it in his care and control. You only need address the person who is in charge of the lodge.
- When another Grand Lodge Officer is present, who by his rank is entitled to assume the gavel, unless that Officer is actually in possession of the gavel, our protocol is that you ONLY address the W.M.
- So it doesn't matter if HRH The Duke of Kent, or the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario, or our Deputy Grand Master, or all 41 DDGM's have shown up as a group, or our entire Board of General Purposes is sitting in the East, you still just address the W.M.
- You do not salute the W.M. again after you have finished speaking and before you sit down. (We call this the dreaded "**second salute**".)
- Masonic salutes are never held. Give the salute, then drop it. **Do not hold your salute** until it is returned by the Worshipful Master. (*If distracted by other brethren or other matters, he may not see you – especially if you are saluting prior to leaving the lodge room.*)

The W.M. **should** (not "must") return all salutes. (See *Meeting the Challenge* and *The Masonic Manual*)

**When to Salute:** *The Book of The Work* directs that a brother shall salute the Worshipful Master ONLY on these four occasions:

- When entering the Lodge;
- When leaving the Lodge;
- When addressing the Worshipful Master; and
- When called for in the Ritual.

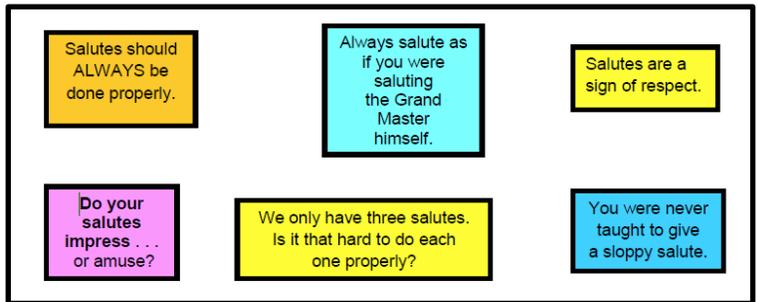
It follows therefore that a salute is NOT required:

- After you have received instructions from the Worshipful Master. (e.g. "Bro. Secretary, you will read the minutes.)
- After the W.M. has extended a personal welcome to you, while you are being received into lodge
- After you have finished speaking

**Neither is a salute required from the Wardens** when responding to instructions from the WM, (unless called for in the ritual/ B. of W.).

e.g. after the WM has given them a command such as the following, the Wardens do NOT salute:

- "Brother JW, ascertain the cause of the alarm."
- "Brother SW, our labours in this D. being ended, you have my command to close this lodge."



## Excerpts from the Questions and Answers Booklet:

**Question:** What if a Bro. cannot physically salute due to age, or infirmity, or injury?

**Answer:** He should simply sit there without making any sign. (It is better to make no sign at all than to give one improperly.) Common sense prevails.

**Question:** What if an infirm brother cannot give the Grand Honours?

**Answer:** Again, he should simply sit (or stand) there without making any sign.

**Question:** Who stands at the S of F while the G.H.s are being given?

**Answer:** A brother receiving the G.H. and anyone else who is accompanying him.

So if an infirm brother is not himself receiving the Grand Honours, He should not assume the S of F.

**Question:** What if an elderly brother needs to remain seated during prayers?

**Answer:** As no step is required with the S of F, a brother could remain seated for OBs and prayers, while giving the S of F at the appropriate time.

For a detailed discussion **why we do not "halt and step and salute" when passing**, see pages 362-363 of *The Freemason At Work*, by Harry Carr, (revised in 1992 by Frederick Smyth).

**R.W. Bro. Gordon Crutcher, Assistant to The Custodian**



## A Lecture by R.W. Bro. Michael J. Kingsley

### On Books and Knowledge

Good Evening Brethren:

Shortly after being installed as the District Deputy Grand Master of our District, Hamilton Masonic District "C", I attended an orientation meeting along with several other newly installed D.D.G.M.s.

During the course of this meeting, please don't quote me on this, I believe it was suggested by our Grand Master "that as soon as these cuffs, the insignia of the office of District Deputy Grand Master were slipped unto each of our respective wrists, each of us obtained instant knowledge".

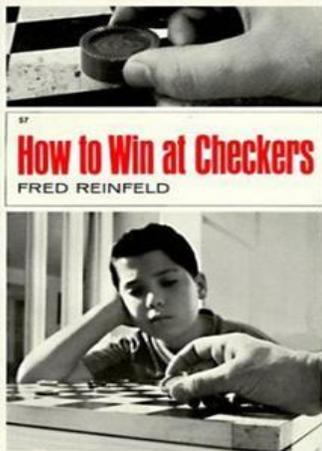
Well following the meeting, I went home, continued on with my daily activities, all the while waiting patiently for this vast Masonic knowledge to alight and infuse me with the knowledge that would be required for me to have a successful year as D.D.G.M. of our District.

After several weeks, I realized that life is not quite that simple and like with most things, we are required to work towards our goals. I am sure the Grand Master was simply telling us to prepare ourselves properly and we will succeed.

I have always enjoyed reference books of all kinds, be it "how to" books, map books, books of instruction, for example: books on chess, books on checkers and so on.

This reminds me of a story, one summer many years ago at a cottage, a friend of mine by the nickname of Saltwater Sam would pull out a checker board and we would spend the afternoon playing checkers to the delight of a retired neighbour.

This gentleman was apparently a Grand Master of checkers way back in the 1940's. Well I never won a game against the Grand Master nor did I win a game against Saltwater Sam. In fact, the elderly gentleman, after beating me seven games in a row, kindly suggested that maybe I should consider taking up some other game.



Upon returning home from our vacation, I was at a bookstore in a mall browsing through the books whereupon I came across a book entitled 'How to win at checkers'. The price of this little book was \$1.50. I did mention that this was many years ago. I purchased the book, took it home and began to read it page by page and was amazed at the fancy traps and exciting moves and strategies it taught me. From that day on, Sam rarely won a game against me.

Years drifted by and anytime we tried something new, if I was successful with it, Sam would always retort "What did you do, buy a book on it?" And of course on many occasions the answer was Yes.

But then why not use the knowledge and dedication of others to further your own knowledge. In fact, I am sure if you were to ask those many experts in their own fields what they enjoyed the most with the success in their field, their reply would almost always be the fun and satisfaction of having the opportunity and the skill of communication to pass their skills onto others.

Which brings me to the point at hand. I believe we all have a thirst, in varying degrees, for Masonic knowledge. It has often been said every time you go to lodge you do learn something new and exciting or at the very least learn to look at something in a new light. On many occasions, we have the thrill of watching the ritual work done in a manner that we could only wish to master ourselves or to watch the officers of a lodge perform the mechanics of the Work in a military and precise manner.

But possibly the secret of some of these worthy brethren, is their ability themselves to draw from the knowledge and expertise of others.

Where do we look? Well of course in the Lodge room, but also in the Masonic books, which are easily available to us by purchasing them at our Grand Lodge's office or by borrowing them from the Grand Lodge Library.

For example, here are some great books:

- Constitution of the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario
- Book of the Work
- Guidelines for Lodge Officers in the Mechanics of the Work
- Ceremony of Installation & Investiture of Officers of a Lodge
- Beyond the Pillars
- Whence Come We?
- The Freemason at Work
- The Masonic Manual
- Meeting the Challenge
- The Memorial Services (large & small size)

Finally, the book that weaves the information drawn from the above books into a thoroughly enjoyable network of understanding is a book compiled by M. W. Bro. C. Edwin Drew – Custodian of the Work

Grand lodge of Instruction - 'Questions and Answers'  
This book contains 250 questions & answers that come up time after time...

Brethren, I do hope that I have sparked your interest in these wonderful books of instruction and knowledge.

**From the speeches archived on the Hamilton District C Website. For R. W. Bro. Michael J. Kingsley**

**<http://www.hamiltondistrictcmasons.org/past>**

## Masonic Education

*Here is a definition of a word found within Masonic ritual that is not common outside of our Lodge rooms.*

Chapters. Posters and paintings of Masonic images often show two free-standing pillars, each with a large sphere or ball on the top. This is odd because most pillars are used as part of a building to support the ceiling or roof. Candidates hearing the lecture of a degree will be told that these spheres or balls are chapters – as if that immediately explains everything. Only within the context of architecture, or the design of great buildings, do we begin to comprehend that a chapter is the top, or head, or even the crown or diadem, of a pillar that has been raised by the working tools of a Fellow Craft. Thus, it is most appropriate that a candidate hears, at the proper time, that two important pillars were topped by chapters which were each adorned, or made beautiful, with certain objects. And these objects convey specific meanings that are shared with the candidate. Thus, the Mason who has experienced our Ritual sees how specific expectations of unity, purity, and plenty, are elevated and placed on the chapters for him to consider as he progresses in his Masonic journey.

*Provided for your daily advancement in Masonic knowledge*

**W. Bro. Marshall Kern, FCF, PM, Librarian & Historian**  
<https://masterseblem.wordpress.com/>

## From the Editor

Brethren,

September was a month of renewal with our District C Zoom Meeting, a small beginning but we came together as Brothers. It was a good and efficient meeting. Business got done, and it was a pleasure to see so many familiar faces.

More archival material from our District Website. With all the free time I have been looking for books to read. Within the speeches on Past DDGM tab, I found some excellent titles recommended in this month's speech from R.W. Bro. Kingsley.

Thank you to our now "regular" contributors, W. Bro. Lorne Evans, W. Bro. Marshall Kerns and R.W. Bro. Gordon Crutcher. Content is always welcome. Please feel free to send in your submissions, comments, pictures or articles.

Lastly, for October, a Thanksgiving Toast...

*We thank Thee, Architect Above,  
For good food and brotherly love.  
Relief for all in need we pray,  
Thy Truth, our Aid from day to day.*

Personally, I give thanks for so much, but especially the Gift of Friendship and Fraternity we all share.

S&F, Glen

**Bro. Robert John Bailey**

**Seymour Lodge No.272**

Initiated - October 14, 1997

Passed - March 10, 1998

Raised - November 10, 1998

Scottish Rite Mason 32nd degree

Passed to the Grand Lodge Above August 31, 2020

## In Memoriam



**In Life Respected, In Death Regretted.  
We Will cherish him in our hearts forever.**

**IF YOUR EYES HURT  
AFTER YOU DRINK COFFEE,**



**YOU HAVE TO TAKE THE  
SPOON OUT OF THE CUP.**



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