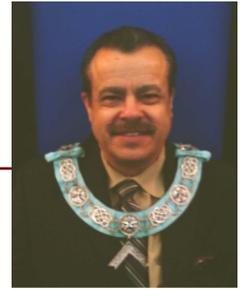




Kilwinning 565 News

From The Chair



The End is Nigh

Greetings Brethren,

Well brethren another Masonic year has come and gone.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank all my officers and everyone else who took part in all the degree work that we had this year and, yes, we had quite a few. Together we accomplished a lot.

Also I wish to congratulate our soon to be newly elected W. M. Marc Decorte and his officers. I wish them all a great and successful year ahead.

Once again brethren thank you for your participation and assistance in making my year as W. M. a most

enjoyable one.

I Remain
Sincerely And Fraternally,

W. Bro. Joe Lisi

Education Update

Brethren,
Hopefully, you have all received and read the Grand Lodge Education Newsletter, which contains a report on the London education conference, a book review (repeated in this newsletter); and a great article by M.W. Bro. Raymond S J Daniels.

The District Education Committee has put on two events recently: A lecture by Yours Truly on the Obligation of an Entered Apprentice; and lecture on the Deeper Meaning of the Master Mason's Degree: an esoteric interpretation.

Fiat Lux!

W. Bro. Rob Lund

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Special points of interest:

- *What's been happening*
- *News*
- *Educational snippets*
- *Book review*
- *Masonic Centre, Michigan*
- *Recipe*
- *What's coming up?*

Book Review by W. Bro. Rob Lund

“A Traditional Observance Lodge” by Cliff Porter

The author discusses his very successful Lodge, which has adopted what has become known as the Traditional Observance model. He describes his lodge as having greater than 100% attendance. Men wait for periods of more than a year to be initiated. They have never lost an Entered Apprentice. There is no member who has not paid dues, nor has there been anyone who was suspended for non-payment of dues. Their dues are much higher than other Lodges (four to five times higher). Brethren are reluctant to leave their meetings, even at 2 am.

How is this possible?

The author describes how, with the help of the Masonic Restoration Foundation (a US organization) they put into practice many Masonic ideals. Every aspect of Freemasonry is *celebrated*. Their background checks on candidates are rigorous, ensuring the right calibre of man. They get to know the candidates very well before offering an application form.

Every Lodge meeting is treated as an *event* and is celebrated as such. Initiation into each of the Degrees is solemn and serious. The ritual is perfect, and the art work and furnishings are set up to create an atmosphere designed for a truly initiatic experience.

Dinner is always treated as a feast (called an Agape, which is the Greek word for divine love). The food is good and is served on porcelain and with good cutlery, linen napkins and glasses. Wine is drunk. Dinner tables are set up in a “U” shape to promote conversation. The Agape starts and ends with a ceremony.

They also have regular Festive Boards, with education sessions and, sometimes, even singing, and lots of toasts.

Business meetings only occur six times a year and are conducted on non-degree nights. Education is an essential part of this Lodge. Can-

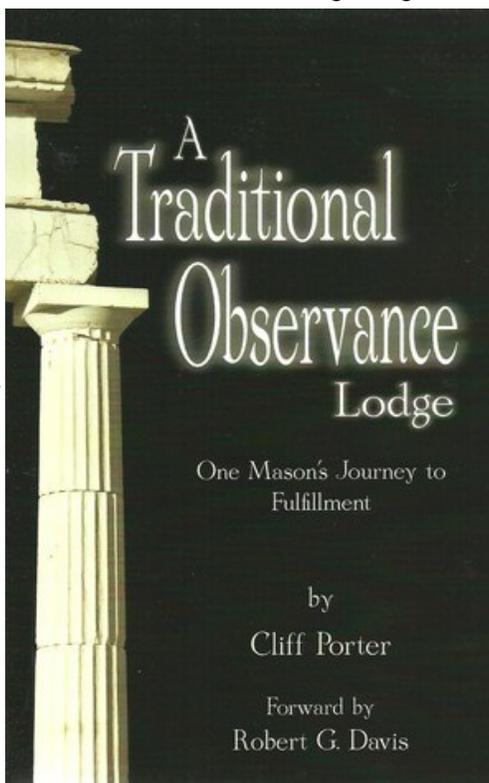
didates have to prepare presentations on their degrees to show understanding before being allowed to progress to the next one. They have a special ceremony before opening and after closing Lodge, which includes periods of quiet meditation. There is no automatic progression of Officers. Officers are elected on merit alone.

This book offers many suggestions as to how to create such a Lodge which, to me, seems to be how things *should* be done, in keeping with the traditions of Freemasonry which we seem to have lost, or lost sight of.

In my opinion, we do not need labels such as “Traditional Observance” to be able to create the ideal lodge - all we need is to remember, or be aware of, the true meaning of

Masonry. We need to ensure that, for every new candidate, joining the institution of Freemasonry should be a life-changing experience.

The success of this Lodge, and there are others like it, should be a model for us all.



Did you know.....?

- Lux in Tenebris Lodge # 3856 in London is for blind Masons. The Latin words mean "Light in Darkness."
- By Ancient custom, the King was always covered while his subjects were never covered in his presence. The American custom of the Master of the Lodge wearing a hat as a symbol of his authority is apparently a result of that ancient custom.

The True Esotery of Masonry

by W. Bro. Rob Lund

I copied the title of this article from one I recently read by an unknown author, published in *The American Freemason* in 1912, which inspired me to write this article.

Freemasonry has been in existence for hundreds of years. It has included in its membership some of the brightest minds on this earth, and some of the world's most important people. It has perpetuated through periods of war and peace. It has survived condemnation of its members by Church and State.

What is it that has enabled this great institution to survive the centuries?

For many of our Brethren, Masonry is about the brotherly bonds made within and between Lodges, and being able to break away from day to day life to socialize and enjoy each other's company, and occasionally help out with some charity, giving the feeling of having done some good. Yet this would make the institution not much more than The Lions or The Rotary Club.

Perhaps it's the added mystique of having so-called secrets, and performing mysterious ceremonies which, we are told, are moral lessons. These ceremonies being meaningless to many, and carried out with robotic monotony and, even worse, in many cases stumbling over the poorly memorized words, or rushed through so as to get it over with and have some dinner and a chat over a drink or two.

If this was all Masonry had to offer, it would not be worth the attention of any thinking man.

Although there is much to interest the curious, seeking to establish the origins of the craft, or reading documents containing the *Ancient Charges*, or the lines of descent of the various ceremonies. But one does not have to be a Mason to do that.

No, if that was what Masonry is about, I would have left long ago. There is one thing that kept me from leaving years ago and that was the following words used in the initiation ceremony: "*the mysteries of Freemasonry*".

As an Entered Apprentice, these words intrigued me, and I could hardly wait to be told what these mysteries were. No-one told me anything. So, I started reading. I went through the Fellowcraft and Master Mason degrees, and was still intrigued by the symbolism and cryptic words and stories. Still no-one told me what they were all about. Asking some of the senior Brethren, I was told that the roots of the rituals were to be found in the ancient knowledge such as the Eleusinian Mysteries. But no-one could tell me what these were. I reads some more. As I spoke to more and more Masons, I realized that most of them knew little more than me. In fact, after more and more reading, less than me.

This is the state, in general, of Freemasonry today. We are, in general, a social club. But our rituals, some tell me, teach moral lessons. This attempt at trying to raise the meaningfulness of the institution is without any worth, since these moral lessons are taught at home, or in Sunday school. No wonder we lose more Entered Apprentices than we keep. With our mechanical ceremonies and emasculated moralities, there is nothing to keep them interested.

What happened? I believe that, through ignorance, *and* deliberate action, Freemasonry has strayed from its original path. Ignorance is a passive crime, but can be more harmful than a deliberate one. All it takes is for a couple of men to be put into leadership roles, who have not looked behind the veil, who have not looked into the secrets of nature and science, who have no understanding of what our ritual is really about, to stifle the light. Knowledge is not passed on and, after a just a few years, the genuine secrets are lost. Grand Lodge, who are supposed to be custodians of the work, have had the same problem. Deliberate action, on the other hand, is a darker menace, since it goes against all the traditions of Masonry. Sectarianism has, to some extent, taken a hand in suppressing the knowledge of the ancient mysteries, due to fundamentalist beliefs.

If the situation continues, the true soul of Freemasonry, that which has perpetuated the Craft for centuries, will be lost. However, as long as I can talk and/or write, I will fight against it. I will spread the light as far as I can. Fortunately, there are many Masons that I have come across who *have* seen the light, who do understand the true esotery of Masonry, and share my feelings and purpose.

Of course, there will be the Mason who will not see the light, or will not be interested, and will not care. *My* purpose is, through me articles and lectures, to lift the covers and provide some light and some direction for those seeking something higher than themselves.

My purpose is *not* to teach the mysteries, as I am not a teacher, and each person has to follow his own personal path. What I will say is that what the true esotery of freemasonry points to is truly profound. In fact, it is the most important thing in this life. It has to do with the nature of the Great Architect of the Universe, the nature of the Universe and all its beings, about the purpose of your life, and what comes after.

Knowing these things will change your life, and that, my Brethren, is what the initiatic experience is all about.

Links

- **Lodge Website:** kilwinning565.com

This site has back issues of the newsletter, and many articles.

- **District Website:** www.torontowestdistrict.com
- Educational articles can also be found on the District web site.
- **Grand Lodge:** www.grandlodge.on.ca

The Detroit Masonic Centre

by W. Bro. Rob Lund

Detroit's Masonic Temple is the largest building of its kind in the world, consisting of twelve million cubic feet of space. Construction began on Thanksgiving Day 1920 and was completed on Thanksgiving Day 1926.



This 1037 room, 14 story building was unique among Masonic buildings because all of the various Masonic bodies were housed in the same structure. As of 2006, it became a York Rite Masonic Temple., and is currently the home to 9 Masonic lodges, 2 Royal Arch Chapters, a Council of Royal and Select Masons and Detroit Commandery No. 1 Knights Templar. The Detroit Ma-



sonic Temple also houses the national offices of the Sovereign York Rite College of North America.

There are seven Craft Lodge Rooms - all having different decorative treatments, the motifs of decoration being taken from the Egyptian, Doric, Ionic, Corinthian, Italian Renaissance, Byzantine, Gothic and Romanesque. The rooms are all true to the period. All of the art work throughout the building, especially the beautifully decorated



ceilings was done under the personal direction of famous Italian artists. There is also a Royal Arch room, and a Commandery Asylum.

The Cathedral has a seating capacity of 1600 and its fully equipped

stage with a width of 64 feet from wall to wall and a depth of 37 feet from the foot lights. The Cathedral is a beauty spot of the Temple, made rich by carvings and color work which is most effectively carried out in the ceiling.



George Mason's unique design included three theaters (one was never completed, but is sometimes used by movie-production crews), a 17,500 square foot drill hall, two ballrooms, office space, a cafeteria, dining rooms, a barber shop, 16 bowling lanes, in addition to a powerhouse that generated all electricity for

the complex. This drill hall is equipped with one of three floating floors in the United States; that is, the entire floor is laid on felt cushions.

The Detroit Masonic Theatre is one of the finest public halls in the United States, having a seating capacity of 4404. Because of its arrangement, there is a



(Continued on page 6)

Chestnut & Turkey Soup with Root Vegetables, & Pot Barley

Recipe by Chef Bro. Phil Horrigan

Ingredients:

- 2 pounds cooked turkey breast (about 6 cups of boneless meat)
- 3 large carrots, peeled and chopped
- 4 large parsnips, peeled and chopped
- 4 large celery stalks, chopped
- 6 ounces pearl onions, peeled
- 1 cup pot barley
- 1 cup coarsely chopped chestnuts
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley

Stock ingredients

- 1 turkey carcass (from at least a 10 to 15 pound bird) or 5 pounds bone in turkey parts.
- 1 large yellow onion, peeled and quartered
- 2 large celery stalks, coarsely chopped
- 2 large carrots, coarsely chopped
- 10 sprigs each fresh parsley and thyme
- 1 large bay leaf
- 12 black peppercorns
- 1 teaspoon salt

Method:

1. Begin by making the stock. Break up the turkey carcass, discarding any skin, and place in an 8-quart stockpot. Add enough cold water to cover (about 10 to 14 cups), and bring to a boil over high heat. Using a ladle, skim off any foam from the sur-

face. Add the remaining ingredients for the stock and return to a full boil.



2. Lower the heat and simmer the stock gently, uncovered, for 1 1/2 hours. Strain and discard the bones and vegetables (you need 9 cups stock). Skim off any fat and return the stock to the stockpot.
3. To make the soup, return the stock to a boil. Remove the skin from the turkey breast and cut the turkey into bite-size pieces (you need 6 cups). Add the turkey to the stockpot, along with the carrots, parsnips, celery, onions, and barley. Simmer the soup, uncovered, until the barley is tender, about 30 minutes.
4. Add the chestnuts and simmer just for about 5 minutes. Sprinkle with the fried sage leaves and serve piping hot.

PREP TIME 45 MINS, COOKING TIME 2 HOURS

If there is anyone who would like to share a recipe they love, please do so by sending it to Phil @ philthymason@gmail.com.

District Calendars are now available!

The cost of these are only \$10 and funds go to the district charity.

Contact R.W. Bro. Steve Armstrong : Tel: 905-820-5486 email: s.armstrong@sympatico.ca



Parducci, in the building's magnificent lobby, which was an adaptation of the interior of a castle he had visited in Palermo, Sicily. Parducci also designed light fixtures and chandeliers,



decorative arches, medallions, plaster decorations, and a myriad of other artistic details that are unique to the many varied spaces in the building.

(Continued from page 4)

very intimate contact between the audience and stage. A great deal of careful study was given to the acoustical treatment of this room which has produced an auditorium



where the hearing qualities are perfect from every seat. The stage of the auditorium is the second largest in the United States, having a width between walls of 100 feet and a depth from the curtain line of 55 feet.



For more incredible photos, go to:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/tudorapmadoc/sets/72157633044625016/>



Mason also incorporated the artistic conceptions of the sculptor, Corrado

Upcoming Events

December

- 7th / 8:00 AM - Warden's Association Meeting at West Toronto Masonic Temple.
- 12th / 7:30 PM - Installation at Mississauga Lodge 524. Banquet before Lodge.
- 13th / 7:30 PM - Installation at General Mercer Lodge 548. Banquet before Lodge.
- 20th / 7:30 PM - Installation at Kilwinning Lodge 565. Banquet before Lodge.

January

4th / 8:00 AM - Warden's Association Meeting at Mississauga

Masonic Temple

- 6th / 7:30 PM - Installation at Lakeshore Lodge 645. Banquet after Lodge.
- 8th / 7:30 PM - Official Visit at Runnymede Lodge 618. Banquet after Lodge.
- 14th / 7:30 PM - Official Visit at Ionic Lodge 229. Banquet at 6:00 PM.
- 21st / 7:30 PM - Installation at Long Branch Lodge 632. Banquet after Lodge.
- 23rd / 8:00 PM - District Theatre Night. Production of musical "Annie" at Meadowvale Theatre.