

The District Light

The information bulletin
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Consider the Candle



Candles really are an amazing lighting system – the fuel itself is the package.

There are two parts that work together in a candle: the fuel, made of some sort of wax; the wick, made of some sort of absorbent twine.

When you light a candle, you melt the wax in and near the wick.

The wick absorbs the liquid wax and pulls it upward. The heat of the flame vaporizes the wax, and it is the wax vapour that burns in a reaction which yields light and heat.

So?

Let's use the image of the candle and apply it to the concept of Masonry.

If we assume that a man is like the wick of the candle, then the wax is . . . what? (You're right.)

The burning of the wax vapour (masonic ideals?) produces light (masonic spirit?)

One candle can light another just as one man can affect another.



And the more candles you have lit, the more light.

What was that?

That was a metaphor – we found similes (a candle wick is like a man) and realized that the way a candle functions is somewhat similar to the way Masonry works.

But if we created a story that is symbolic of the process of Masonry, that would be an allegory.

Do One Yourself

Here are the materials for you to create your own allegory:

Suppose that you have a number of flat metal plates of various sizes and thicknesses. Each has holes drilled through at different places. Your job is to collect and secure the plates with a single bolt.

Of course it can be done. The challenge is to try to make the resulting product compact and aesthetically pleasing.

Now consider the idea that each metal plate is a man. Each is an individual and unique in his qualities. The bolt is Masonry, and the combined unit is the lodge. The strength of the bolt and the composition of the plates determines the character of the whole grouping.



The allegory continues when you consider whether the large bolt is fastened tightly or allows some freedom of movement, and that each plate (man) wants to be a part of the whole, but also to be recognized as a distinct member, or that each plate can be joined to some of the others if their holes align, so you can have smaller grouping, such as committees.

An Allegory is a story which can be interpreted as identifiable with another situation. Realizing the intent often clarifies the message – we get a better understanding of the concept or process being illustrated.

There, wasn't that fun?

Illustrated By Stories

Every culture has created stories to define their beliefs and to teach their cultural ideals.

We have parables and fables and 'fairy tales' to instruct the beginners in the way of our moral code. Even our jokes establish the norms of our society.

But let's look at one more story . . .

The Health of the ‘Body’ of the Lodge

Regardless of the reasons for visiting my Doctor’s office, I am always subjected to having his assistant take my pulse and blood pressure. I tell him it is entirely unnecessary as I am very much alive.

He grins and reminds me that the purpose of such a test is not to establish the ‘if’ but rather the ‘how’: *How* well am I doing? *How* well is my heart functioning?



By interpreting the readings on the heart monitor, the doctor is able to make adjustments to improve my overall well-being.

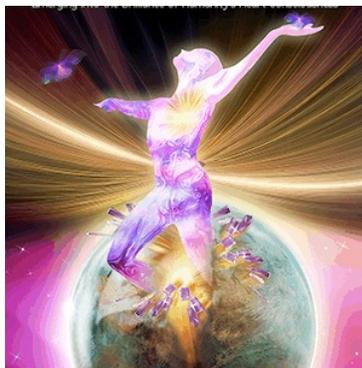
A lodge, in the grand scheme of things, is very much like the human body. It has a pulse and is perpetually in need of care and attention. Adjustments are frequently needed to maintain a lodge’s optimum health.



A Worshipful Master is in many ways the heart of the lodge. His brethren will always return his efforts in proportion to the skill and ability to which he manages the lodge’s affairs. The challenge for any Worshipful Master of course

is to take the pulse of his lodge and to determine the effort and focus required to sustain a perfect balance.

Using the resources of our Grand Lodge and applying just the right amount of pressure and skill is, to the lodge, like taking vitamins for the body. Regardless of whether a lodge has a ‘broken leg’ or merely a ‘scratch’, it is encouraging to see that the Masters and Brethren of our District can pull together and take action to improve their lodge’s health and long-term viability.



[Based on an address given by R.W. Bro. Geoffrey S. Allan, D.D.G.M. of Hamilton C District]

A View of Our Place

History is never made in the abstract; always it is something which someone has done. History is ever a solid mass achievement; it is a mosaic of countless parts, each one perfected by the sacrificial devotion of some particular person.

The forces which have made history and which will continue to make it are the undying ideals that men cherish, the strong-willed plans they discipline themselves to achieve, and the daring hopes by which they activate their souls.

Although it may not be our personal destiny to stand at the cross-roads and to direct the traffic of history, still we can choose to become integral parts of a determined group which has espoused some high cause and dedicated its all to that end.

Thus are our lives enlarged. They begin to count for something beyond our years. No longer do we live in the limited enclosure of our own efforts and achievements, but instead we become part of that creative life by which the world is born into new and more glorious existence.

[author unknown]

Charity of Spirit

The word ‘charity’ evokes the idea of the giving of money, but masonic charity is something else. It ministers to a man’s heart and mind rather than to his body. It is the charity of thought. The greatest relief it can render is relief of the spirit.

It is charity of thought and act rather than charity of money and material things that demands a Mason’s attention. Here the field is as wide as the world and activities have no limit.

The most common opportunity given to us all is that of visiting the sick. Only a brother who has been ill, especially if in a hospital or in a strange city who, because of their common brotherhood, has received visits from men he has not previously met, truly understands the beneficial effects of such examples of Masonic charity. Doctors tell that such visits have often done more than all their medicines. There is nothing more heartening to a man, feeble and ill, than the thought that someone cares.

Our Charity by David Plyley, Chairman of the Masonic Foundation

The Masonic Foundation of Ontario was established by Grand Lodge in 1964 to help to direct Masonic Benevolence to public programs.

The Foundation regularly supports Bursaries for students, Youth Programs, Hearing research for children, The VOICE program (helping young children deal with hearing loss), Prostate cancer, and various District Projects.

Prostate Cancer Research, as mentioned above, is Most Worshipful Brother Donald A. Campbell's project for his tenure. This year our District Deputy, Right Worshipful Brother David T. O'Neill has directed his support to this effort by making this our District B Charitable project for this Masonic year.

Medical Research is always a costly venture, but cancer research is especially so! Fighting cancer is not as clear cut as with other diseases, where a virus or bacteria can be identified and eliminated. Genetic flaws causing cell mutations can lead to tumor growth. How to combat them has been one of the greatest challenges medical science has ever tackled!

We can help! Funding for research is the aim of our District project, and District Deputy Grand Master David O'Neill kicked off our year with a very successful hockey draw! \$2500.00 was the final tally, an excellent start!

District Lodges have upped the amount by \$600.00 so far, and I invite all Lodges to help with any amount. Donations to The Masonic Foundation are tax deductible, and receipts are provided at the close of the project.



Prostate cancer research is a project of great importance to all of us, as this is the most common cancer found in men! Therefore donations to this project are really donations to our own good health!

Why I Became a Mason by Bruce McQuiggin of Merritt Lodge

I don't know why for sure, but one evening while at work, I had a sudden inclining to investigate how one became a Free Mason. Oddly, it seemed almost like a Calling.

I remembered that my father used to get dressed up in shirt and tie every Thursday evening and, joined by his American friend, they headed off to what was explained to us as 'Lodge'. No further details were ever given.

I also remember that my dad had a gold ring with a black stone mounted with what I recall was a compass. I remember no further details.

Anyways, armed with 'Google', I began to find out what this Masonry stuff was all about.

To my surprise, the first link that I clicked on presented me with a picture of Tom McClellan in full regalia. Tom is my current supervisor and I both like and admire Tom very much.

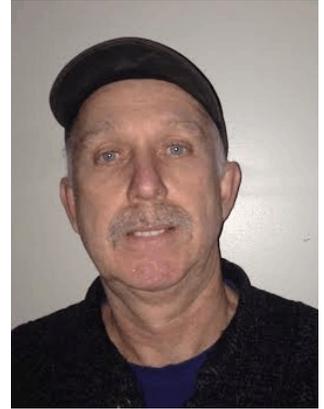
We have known each other only through my employment, but I took an instant liking to his sense of humour and his reserved demeanor. It seemed to me that this was some sort of 'sign' to follow through on my investigation.

Subsequently, I contacted Tom about becoming a Freemason and he put me in touch with Ron Muha. Now when Ron called me and left a message on my machine I said to wife "That couldn't possibly be Mr. Muha from Eastdale Secondary School?"

She said, "No, the voice was that of a young man, perhaps his son."

Well, as you know, it was "Mr. Muha" from my old high school and it seemed to me that this was just another plus.

Ron came to interview me and set up my investigation. After discussion with those men, I knew that masonry was for me, and this is where I am today.



What's Happening?

Last month, 33 masons from our district went to Vienna Lodge in Wilson district to witness the presentation of a 75-year pin to Ken Emerson, the uncle of R.W.Bro. Larry Williams.



M.W.Bro. Donald A. Campbell, R.W. Bro. Ken Emerson, M.W.Bro. Allan J. Petrisor

When he was a boy, Larry Williams used to help his grandmother clean that lodge.

To get a sense of the length of service involved, consider that the three Emerson brothers have belonged to the lodge for a total of 218 years.

Our Grand Master reflected that he was born the year that R.W.Bro. Ken Emerson was the District Deputy.

Chili Cook-Off

Palmer Lodge will be hosting their annual chili cook-off at their building on Saturday, February 22, at 2:00. For \$5, you get a bowl and a spoon.



The chili is free.

The Sanke Lecture

This annual gathering to hear a learned person give a masonic talk will be held again at the Brock University. The date will be Sunday, March 30, at 3:00. Tickets are needed, but free. Your secretary has more information.

Friend-to-Friend

A Friend-to-Friend event gives interested people a chance to learn about our organization. Such a gathering will be held

Saturday, April 5, 2014,
11:00am – 3:00pm
Masonic Memorial Temple
23 Centre St., St. Catharines

Masons are invited to bring along friends who may have an interest in freemasonry in order for them see presentations and ask questions in a friendly environment.

The day will start at 11:00 am with coffee and introductions. At noon there will be a hot luncheon before going to the lodge room where a variety of presentations about freemasonry will take place followed by Q & A sessions. Then the group will return to the banquet room for dessert, coffee, and socializing. Literature will be made available.

A Secret Revealed?

A reporter was interviewing S. Brent Morris, the author of *Freemasonry for Dummies*. He asked, “What would happen if I found out the secret handshake and I weren't a Mason? Would you have to kill me?”

“We might take you out and buy you a beer,” said Morris. “The secrets of a Mason represent my integrity as a man. I took a promise that I would not tell you what the secrets of the Mason are. I didn't take a promise that I would care if you know what they are.”

Every culture has expressions and gestures that could be copied by others, but the reproduction would be empty of the emotional or intellectual ‘message’. When such ‘secrets’ are taken out of context, they become misunderstood and meaningless.

