

THE ALBERTA Freemason



Editor: RWBro
George Tapley

Vol. 73, No. 7

Grand Master's Inaugural Address

MWBro John D. Hart

Brethren, when I was elected your Junior Grand Warden in Medicine Hat I thanked each and every one who voted for me (and my wife thanked those who didn't). Today I thank you again, this time for the honour you have paid me by extending that vote of confidence for the past three years, and allowing me to become your Grand Master. Marilyn, my wife, thanks you as well, except for those winter nights spent travelling home. The support of our spouses is essential for our development as Masons.

My Brethren, the office of Grand Master has been the fortune of but a few. It is that same fortune that brought us to the door of the preparation room. The key to our joyous future lies within our Masonic hearts, and from that joy may we never roam. May the love that we share be the judge of our worth, for our hearts are our one true home. Bring your Masonry home.

The fortune to stand here before you, my peers, I credit to my Lodge and my sponsors. My first sponsor, a "paper Mason," was the same person after his degrees as he was before. He should never have been a Mason, and as we associated professionally he taught me a great deal about what a Mason should not be. I thank him for that, and regret he never allowed Masonry into his heart. He never brought his Masonry home.

My second sponsor brought me from darkness into the light of human fellowship and the gift of Brotherhood in our Lodge. I thank him for that, and rejoice in the fact that his Masonic heart was brought home and shared with all who passed his way.

Perfection Lodge No. 9 has been steeped in Masonic history for over a century and has had many Grand Masters, Grand Lodge officers, and Brethren past and present who inspire one to seek this high office. Their support and encouragement continues to be an example for me, even though I do not make many meetings lately.

I extend my warmest fraternal and



Photo by Glacier Valley Photography Inc.

MWBro John David Hart Grand Master 2008-2009

personal greetings to the Brethren visiting from other Jurisdictions. You have honoured us by your attendance. Our interprovincial visits, conferences, and social intercourse have been an inspiration in the knowledge you have displayed in your Masonic hearts. I know you have brought Masonry home, not only in your Jurisdiction and throughout your travels, but also to this Grand Communication. The internet may tell us all about Masonry, but your presence here tells us about what it **means** to be a Freemason. I thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules.

In most organizations the officers change every year, but our Grand Lodge office staff provides us with the knowledge and dedication required to run this Craft on a firm and steady base from year to year. Grand Masters have different ideas each year, and it is the staff's duty to incorporate those ideas into a working plan for the next year. My hat goes off to Mrs. Sue Woods as she returns part time to administer the daily accounting. Her pleasant attitude and smiling face

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Biography

MWBro John D. Hart

MWBro John D. Hart, who was installed as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Alberta on 14 June 2008, was born in Regina, Saskatchewan on 31 May 1943. He received his primary and secondary education in Regina. Upon graduation he went to work for the *Yorkton Enterprise* as a printer. A few years later, realizing the need for further education, he attended Ryerson Polytechnical Institute in Toronto, Ontario and graduated in Graphic Arts Management in 1968. Moving to Alberta, he worked in the printing industry and in 1977 purchased his own printing plant, which he sold when he retired in 2005. He was active in the Calgary Club of Printing House Craftsmen, holding many offices, and served as their President in 1999-2000, receiving an award of distinction from the International Association of Printing House Craftsmen. For five years he served on the advisory board of the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology in Graphic Arts.

His community saw his good works as he coached fastball and soccer, was Treasurer of the Parkland Community Association, Vice President of Parkland Block Watch, and Director of Park 96. He also sang in the church choir, until they discovered he couldn't carry a tune, even in a bucket.

John married Marilyn on 17 May 1969. They have two daughters and four grandsons. Trent, the youngest grandson, was born on the same day as John.

Brother Hart received his three degrees in Masonry in the spring of 1991 in Perfection Lodge No. 9 and served as their Master in 1997. He served as District Deputy Grand Master of Alpha District in 2002-2003 and was elected Junior Grand Warden in 2005. He is an Honorary Life Member of Bow River Lodge No. 1, served on and was Vice President of the Masonic Higher Education Bursary Committee, and serves as a member of the Trial Commission. He

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Editorial

Springtime For Masonry

Spring is the season we usually associate with rebirth, regrowth, and renewal. In many Masonic jurisdictions, however, springtime doesn't really begin until September, when new Grand Officers and their various committees begin to put their particular stamp on the present and future of our Craft. This year is no different.

You will see some changes in this issue of *The Alberta Freemason*. There's a new name on the masthead, but MWBro Juthner will continue to be a member of the Committee on the Grand Lodge Bulletin as Editor Emeritus. The traditional blue print (and the green print for the December issue) will revert to black and

white, in order to provide more contrast when printing pictures as well as easier reading and copying. For those who access the publication through the Grand Lodge website, however, the pictures (when possible) and masthead will now appear in full colour.

In order to continue to effectively provide information and education to the members of the Craft who receive *The Alberta Freemason* every month, we must make sure the publication is actually read. It won't be read if it's not interesting. There is certain content that is expected to appear: messages to the members from Grand Lodge and the Grand Lodge Office, the Masonic Higher

Education Bursary Fund, the Masonic Foundation, seasonal messages. We will continue to publish book reviews and excerpts from Lodge bulletins. You will soon see a series of short columns on specific Masonic topics on a "semi-regular" basis. But you can help too. What's happening in northern or eastern Alberta that would be (or should be) of interest or concern to southern and western Alberta? What's working well for your Lodge? What's **not** working? Who's presenting interesting education? Let us know. Send us pictures.

On a sadder note, just as MWBro Hart's Masonic journey was reaching its pinnacle, MWBro Bob Costigan's journey came to an end. His passing marks the end of an era. His energy, enthusiasm, and fervency for all things Masonic will be missed.

Hart Bio, from page 1.

recently has been asked by the Freemasons of the Medicine Hat Burns Society to be their Patron.

He is a 32nd degree member of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite Valley of Calgary, a member of Al Azhar Temple AAONMS and the Foothills Shrine Club, and a member and past Pasha and past Grand Vizier of the Oriental Band of Al Azhar.

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is a true asset to the office. Speaking of smiling faces, Mrs. Judy Rivers humours me regardless of the number of times I call or visit the Grand Lodge office. She has been in the office longer than I have been a Mason and, Brethren, we could all take a lesson on Masonry from her. This brings us to the last person in the office, RWBro Jerry Kopp. Our Grand Secretary, that "pile of bones," is one of the most dedicated Freemasons I have been associated with. We have logged many miles this last year and spent many hours together, and I have learnt much from him. I made many mistakes last year and he saw them through in a true Masonic fashion. (Jerry, I promise

to only make half as many this year.) He keeps this Grand Lodge running smoothly to our eyes, but I have seen the work required to accomplish this feat. Your exterior masks a true Masonic heart that is honoured and respected by all, and more particularly by myself. We all thank you and your staff for all that has been accomplished in keeping us on the level.

Brethren, wherever I am I represent you; wherever you are you represent me; together we represent the finest fraternal organization of the past, present, and future. Just as our Brethren did, so we must do, by living up to the difficult obligations we undertook as a member of this Craft. We obligate ourselves in the name of our Supreme Being to become the best that we can become. Many do not achieve this goal, but they never stop trying.

We have the tools to help us. The Holy Book of our faith: are there any better words for us than the words of our God and the value contained within? The ritual which assists in our search for perfection: it teaches the importance of independent thought, the improvement of knowledge, and that success only comes from perseverance. We stand on


a foundation of principles, morals and ethics that have served us and mankind for centuries.

Brethren, many men have found their way to our Altar, yet often we neglected to introduce Freemasonry into their hearts. Years ago we had a production line, and raised Masons by the thousands, but we only got Freemasons by the score. We were too busy with degrees to worry about teaching anything, and in time they demitted or were suspended. The catechism of our ritual made them paper Masons. We abandoned those Masons who carried the title but were not Freemasons. We gave them nothing and we are to blame.

Regrettably, MWBro Bob Drury left us last year to sit at the right hand of the Great Architect. This brought a challenge to the Grand Lodge office, the officers of the day and the Craft in general. The heart of Masonry came home with support, encouragement, and a force to rally for. It came from the youngest Entered Apprentice in the Northeast corner, to the Past Grand Masters in the East. It came from the heart, and from the Masonic principles that we live each day by, and it has brought home to you this year's theme.

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Your Masonic Heart. Bring Your Masonry Home

As a young boy my mother told me home is where the heart is, but I didn't grasp the concept at that time in my life. Years later, as a grown man returning home with a family, the realization was brought home each time we arrived. Today our children bring the grandkids home, home to our hearts.

Let me convey a story I read the other day about a man who owned a house by the river. As the river's waters flooded in the spring, the water came up to the porch. A canoeist came by and asked the man if he wanted a lift. The man said, "My faith is in the Lord and he will save me." The waters continued to rise to the first floor. A rower came by asking again if the man wanted a lift to be saved. He again stated that, "My faith is with the Lord and he will save me." As the waters rose to the third floor a powerboater came by with the same offer and got the same reply. The floodwaters were now at the roofline and a helicopter flew by and its crew offered the man their help. His reply again was, "My faith is with the Lord and he will save me." Well, the man drowned and he appeared before the Lord. He asked, "Lord my faith was with you, why did you not save me?" The Lord said, "What do you want from me? I sent three boats and a helicopter."

Are you this same man? Are Masonic hearts dying and demitting while you wait for some miracle to save them because you have faith in what Freemasonry stands for? Brethren, faith alone will not save you; the Masonic degrees alone only make you a paper Mason. Like the man in the story, your Masonic heart begins with faith in what we stand for, but unlike the man in the story we must do something.

Brethren, the Masonic order is like a family. When one member of our family is not well, you will do everything in your power to save that life. Yet, my

Brethren, we are sitting idly by while both Lodges and membership die. Yes, Brethren, many Lodges are not well and could die. Look at the number of Lodges that cannot fill chairs or are going years without a new candidate. Are you going to make an effort to save this patient? Well, are you? Or are you one of those who sit by the bedside of the patient and hold his hand, wondering why someone won't do something, while you sit waiting for him to die? Can our Lodges and membership be saved? Are you a hand holder, or are you willing to give the Lodge artificial resuscitation until they can breathe on their own?

Let us set the standard that will raise our Lodges above the mediocre to a new level of excitement and interest. It is up to us to see that our young Freemasons are not left standing alone before Lodge, in Lodge, or at the festive board. It is our duty to assign a Brother to watch over them and introduce them around, take them visiting, mentor them with Brethren their own age, and involve their family in their Masonic life. Let them see that Freemasons love one another and care for each other. Freemasonry is a step that should never be regretted, because the road lit by a Masonic heart is a road of happiness, blessed by peace and harmony. The Masonic heart is built around the individual, with the erection of a moral and social edifice directed at making a Brother wiser, better, and consequently happier.

Brethren, you can do this. You can do this by encouraging better programs, conferring better degrees, studying the meaning of our ritual, presenting inspiring talks and motivating presentations. This is not for the membership and education committees to do. This is something each and every Brother must do. What contribution can you make for your Lodge? Show your Masonic heart outside the Lodge and project it into the communities, so those you come in contact with will see the quality of men

associated in this great fraternity, and so others can see what Freemasonry has to offer them. Brethren, have you ever asked your ladies who of your friends and neighbours they think would make a good Mason? Because you know, Brethren, women have a better sense of character than men — after all, they picked you didn't they?

Now is the time to bring your Masonry home to your heart, because that is where we learn the basic values. We learn what a Mason should be, how a Mason should treat others, how a Mason should live. We learn what it means to become a Mason. We learn the importance of committing ourselves as officers at any level, of raising our level of volunteerism, of dedicating ourselves to the task we have accepted. Those of you assembled today I know have Masonry in your hearts, and have brought it home to this Communication. Now is the time for you to pass that inner feeling, that knowledge and experience, on to other Brethren, that they too can bring their Masonry home. Brethren if we have taught our Master Masons well, and if we live the lessons of Freemasonry in our daily lives, we will have Masonry in our hearts and we will have brought it home.

In conclusion, I thank all Masons who have taught me, and continue to teach me, to live my life as a Master Mason. Freemasonry is made from the inside out, from the heart: an inner feeling, a way of life. "*Brethren, when anyone is said to be a Mason the world at large may know that he is one to whom the burdened heart may pour forth its sorrow, to whom the distressed may prefer their suit, whose hand is guided by justice and whose heart is expanded by benevolence.*" (General Charge.) Your heart is your one true home. Bring your Masonry home.

Thank you all for this Grand Communication, and...

**Happy Trails, my Brethren,
'Til We Meet Again!**

Job's Daughters Appear in Stampede Parade

Members of the four Calgary Bethels of Job's Daughters International made an appearance in the Calgary Stampede Parade, cheering on the Order and their official charity, HIKE Fund Canada. HIKE stands for Hearing Impaired Kids Equipment, an initiative which the girls have supported since 1995. During the year the girls raise money for HIKE at cake walks, car washes, raffles and bottle drives. CBC 1010 Radio also interviewed the girls as part of the station's pre-parade coverage. Transportation for the Parade was provided by WBro Bill Sheppard and Bro Hans Pollhaus, both members of Crescent Lodge No. 87 and the Al Azhar Shrine Antique Auto Club.



In Memoriam

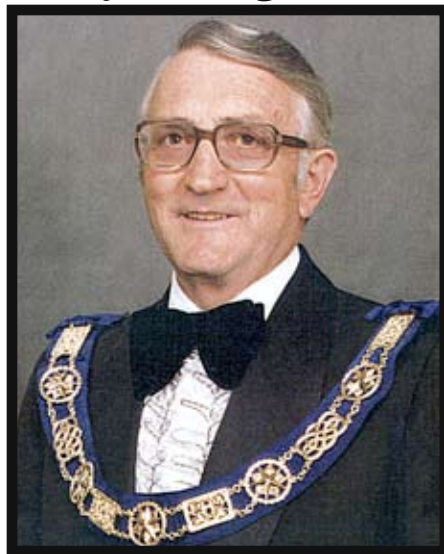
MWBro Robert Lefley Costigan

MWBro Robert Lefley (Bob) Costigan passed to the Grand Lodge above 7 July 2008. He fell ill in Lethbridge on the final morning of the Annual Communication and returned to Calgary, where he was admitted to hospital. He is survived by Lois, whom he married on 8 July 1947, his daughter Debra Lee and son-in-law Don Whalen, sister Gladys Keeble and family, and brother-in-law Lee Green.

Bob was born in Calgary on 16 December 1923. He lived in Morrin, Alberta for some time and received his education in Morrin, Drumheller and Calgary. During the Second World War he served in the RCNVR as a telegraphist, and for more than 30 years afterwards worked in the oil industry, first with Royalite Oil and then with Gulf Oil, retiring in 1980. He was proud of his Naval service. He was a member of the Royal Canadian Navy Veterans Association, and had been a member of the Royal Canadian Legion for more than 60 years. When Veterans' licence plates were issued, he made sure his said NAVY.

From the moment he was initiated into Masonry in Corinthian Lodge No. 22 in Okotoks on 7 July 1953, he fervently embraced every facet of the Fraternity. He was Corinthian's Worshipful Master in 1963 and 45 years later was again installed as its Master for 2008. When Elbow River Lodge No. 180 was chartered in March 1959, he was one of the Charter members and became its Worshipful Master in 1965. District No. 6 elected him as DDGM for 1968–1969, and he was installed as Grand Master in June 1978. He held many other positions in Grand Lodge over the years: member of the Board of General Purposes and the Board of Benevolence; Grand Treasurer and Grand Historian; member of the Committee on the Grand Lodge Bulletin (responsible for photography) and Editor of the *Bulletin* 1984–1985. Bob was a Charter Member of Fiat Lux Lodge of Research No. 1980 and of Internet Lodge of Research, and was an Honorary Life Member of many Lodges across Alberta.

Bob was a member and officer of most of the Masonic bodies, and the leader of many of them at the local, provincial, and national levels. A long-time member of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, Valley of Calgary, he was coroneted an Honorary Inspector General 33° in 1988.



Grand Master 1978–1979

Among his other honours and achievements were: Grand First Principal, Royal Arch Masons of Alberta (1988); Grand Inspector General for Alberta, Cryptic Rite Masons of Western Canada (2003); Provincial Grand Prior, Sovereign Great Priory (2000); Grand Sovereign, Red Cross of Constantine (1996); Grand Governor for Alberta, York Rite College (2000). He was a Knight of the York Cross of Honour; a member of Al Azhar Temple's Oriental Band and Legion of Honor; a member of Bow Valley Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star; and a staunch supporter of the Order of DeMolay.

He loved his gadgets, from the Palm Pilot on which he kept his calendar and address book, to his computer, and lately a GPS unit, but most of all his cameras. Bob took photographs of everyone, everywhere, and on all occasions. His smile and outgoing personality made him a friend of all who met him. He could be counted on to faithfully attend the meetings of all the bodies to which he belonged, and he missed only one of the Masonic Spring Workshops since its beginning in 1966.

He touched the Masonic life of many young (and not so young) men across this Jurisdiction, encouraging, mentoring, and supporting them. His funeral service at Knox Presbyterian Church was attended by hundreds of his Brethren and friends.

*His work was not finished,
but his column is broken.
His death was untimely
and his Brethren mourn.*

Grand Lodge Welcomed To Lethbridge



The Masonic Flag is raised at Lethbridge City Hall to honour the 103rd Annual Communication

The City of Lethbridge honoured the holding of the 103rd Annual Communication in their City with a flag-raising ceremony at City Hall on the afternoon of Thursday, 12 June.



The Brethren are formed into parade by the Grand Secretary for the march to City Hall.

Some 50 Masons, led by the Grand Standard Bearer, paraded from the Lethbridge Masonic Hall to City Hall, where they were welcomed by Mayor Bob Tarleck and the Masonic flag was raised to fly over the City until the close of the Communication. The ceremony was covered by local television, and the *Lethbridge Herald* published an article on Freemasonry (and the Masonic Higher Education Bursary Fund), based on interviews with MWBro John Hart and RWBro Jerry Kopp.

This year's Grand Lodge Communication was held at the Lethbridge Lodge Hotel on 13 & 14 June. The annual Communication was last held in Lethbridge in 1977, at the El Rancho Motel.

Fellowship Is the Goal of the 2009 Masonic Spring Workshop

Since its inception, Chairmen of the Masonic Spring Workshop have been challenged to select a theme and keynote speaker, to consider how the two are mutually harmonious, and to see that they deliver a fulfilling message. In 2009 with the theme of **Freemasonry: The Joy of Fellowship** and Keynote Speaker **RWBro Earle Sharam**, DDGM of Athabasca District for 2008-09, VWBro Murray Pay, Chairman of the 2009 edition, has found the right formula.

The Masonic Spring Workshop has always been a forum for Brethren from around the province to come together for education, enlightenment and enrichment. However, when asked why they come together for the 3 "Es" at the Delta Lodge at Kananaskis, many Brethren identify the camaraderie as a principal reason why they return year after year.

For emphasizing this year's theme, no better choice of a keynote speaker could be made than The Rev Dr Earle Sharam. With his gift as a teacher of the faith, this Dean of Religious Studies at the University of Alberta will guide you through a journey of mirth, joy and merriment as we extol the social virtues found in the General Charge.

In celebrating the **Joy of Fellowship**, we will be honouring MWBro Jim Roberts, a truly dedicated Brother who



17, 18 & 19 April 2009

presided over the Devotional Service of the Workshop for many years. Jim will be assisting one more time at the Sunday service.

Look for a few changes to the agenda. In 2009, as well as the main theme being delivered on the Friday evening, the final presentation by the keynote speaker will be given at the Saturday evening banquet.

To test the mettle of the attendees, we are having two competitions. One is **Masonic Idol!** Yes, that's right. Rules? Definitely no singing, but a competition challenging your memory and delivery skills using a piece suitable for an Entered Apprentice to witness from the First Degree of either Rite or from the Installation Ceremony (no Obligations or related signs or secrets). You have up to two minutes to show your worth in front of a panel of three judges. And watch out! We will have our own "Simon Cowan" as the main critic!

Next there will be an **Iron Chef**

competition. You are challenged to bring your best team of "Junior Warden and two Stewards" to prepare lunch for us. Your Lodge does not have to use the existing officers as you may already have a top notch chef in place. The teams will have a limited time to dress their booth and get the assigned ingredients ready. And you will be given the opportunity for lunch to taste and judge for awards. (Hint: According to the Delta Lodge Sous Chef, the kitchen staff can be bribed!) Entry forms for **Masonic Idol** and **Iron Chef** competitions are being mailed to all lodges and can be downloaded from www.masonicspringworkshop.ab.ca

Finally we revamped the registration procedure. Visit the website for the new 2009 registration format. For the first time we are offering booking on line now for 2009. As an incentive we are offering an **Early Bird** rate when you book on or before 1 December 2008. Also when you book now, you have the best advantage of your room selection. Registration on line is open now! We still will offer mail in forms for those who are not on a computer system.

As we scour the province for presenters, it is the intention of the Workshop Committee to present you not only with a fresh, varied program of education but also it will be mixed with social mirth and, of course, with merriment. Join us next year on 17, 18 & 19 April 2009 at the Delta Lodge at Kananaskis.

VWBro Murray Pay, 2009 Chairman

Stampede Breakfast

The 3rd Annual Masonic Stampede Breakfast was held at Calgary Freemasons' Hall on Saturday, 5 July 2008. The event was again hosted by the Grand Lodge Office, the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite Office and Freemasons' Hall. Bro Jerry Schmidt (Canadian Red Eye Dee Jay Sound Systems) provided the music, while the Latin American Women's Association of Calgary entertained the crowd with Latin American dances. More than \$300 was donated to the Calgary Rite to Learn Foundation, the Scottish Rite's initiative to establish a school for dyslexic children. MWBro John Hart and RWBro Brian Shimmons attended the Breakfast, with MWBro Hart demonstrating his skill at serving baked beans to a hungry audience.



Masons Join the Stampede Parade

A group of Masons from the Calgary area walked in this year's Calgary Stampede Parade. Masonic participation was originally organized in 2005 by Bro Ed Ashby from Bow River Lodge No. 1 specifically for the Grand Lodge's Centennial. In 2007 responsibility was taken over by the Masters, Wardens, and Deacons Association and the tradition has continued.



The People of the Book

VWBro Tim Thomas, Grand Chaplain

The VSL sits at the center of all of our Canadian Rite Lodges. According to Daniel Béresniak, who wrote the book *Symbols of Freemasonry*, the VSL may be any book of importance to the individual or the Lodge, and in our Lodges other books of sacred writings are often placed on the altar beside the *Bible*.

There is another phrase which alludes to that same inclusive and tolerant nature that the term VSL signifies for all of us. Within Islam the phrase “the People of the Book” refers to the sacred writings of all of the children of Abraham. Scholars sometimes refer to Christians, Muslims and Jewish people as “the People of the Book” because we share a common spiritual ancestry and all trace our theological roots back to the covenant that God established with Christians, Jews and Muslims through Abraham. The phrase “the People of the Book” communicates the respect that Muslims feel for those people (Christians and Jews) whose scriptures represent God’s revelations to Christians and Jews which preceded the divine revelation which Mohammed eventually received from God.

I mention this because the month of

September marks a very holy time for both Muslims and Jewish people. For Muslims the entire month of September is **Ramadan** (Ramadhan). For Jewish people **Rosh Hashanah** occurs on 30 September and begins a period of ten days concluded by the holiest day in Judaism, which is Yom Kippur. This year Yom Kippur begins with sundown on 8 October and concludes on the night of 9 October.

Ramadan is a period of fasting during which Muslims abstain from eating anything during the hours of daylight. Ramadan is a holy time for Muslims because it recalls and commemorates the revelation of God given to Mohammed that is preserved in the Qur’an (Koran). Fasting during Ramadan is an act of atonement and is one of the Five Pillars (or duties) of Islam. The other pillars include the profession of faith in the one God and in his Prophet Mohammed, prayer five times a day, the care of the poor, and the pilgrimage to Mecca. Fasting during the month of Ramadan can be understood as a symbolic action during which sins are burned away. The discipline of fasting or the burning of sins is found in the root of the word Rama-

dan. It is a time of repentance, during which the past is examined and the future is prepared for as the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) approaches. In ancient times Yom Kippur was the day when all of the sins of all the people were laid upon the back of a scapegoat that was then sacrificed to propitiate God for the sins of the people.

Rosh Hashanah is also a time to remember and celebrate the creation of the world and to give praise to the Creator. Rosh Hashanah marks a time of deep introspection into one’s attitude towards God and one’s fellow man. Yom Kippur marks a time of fasting and discipline as one rededicates oneself to honouring the Creator of all life and serving one’s fellow man.

In Western European tradition the old year ends with a great deal of feasting and merry-making because our European ancestors believed that the new year would imitate the old year. Therefore if the old year was celebrated with great prosperity the new year would also be a prosperous one.

While Rosh Hashanah is a solemn time of the year it recalls a similar tradition, because it is a time to eat fruit or bread dipped in something sweet, like honey, in the hope that the year ahead will also be blessed with the sweetness of life that is given to us by the Creator.

As Freemasons we might recognize many similarities in our symbols and rituals that we share with “the People of the Book.” The most important beliefs are tolerance, care for our fellow man and showing due respect to the Creator of all life. If you are fortunate enough to have Jews or Muslims in your Lodge (or among your associates) you may want to take time to wish them well during these holy times.

I hope that this all too brief overview of some of the practices of some of our Brethren inspires us all to learn a little bit more about “the People of the Book” and all of those beliefs that we ultimately share with them.

As people of faith whose lives are guided by serving God in whom we place our trust, we are constantly encouraged by the Masonic respect that we show for each other’s traditions and beliefs.

As Masons we acknowledge the joys that bind us and we celebrate the reality that as we learn more about our Brethren we always discover much more about ourselves.

Last Chance To See This!



The Wu Gorge on the Yangtze River.

The Yangtze River is in its final stages of flooding. You still have an opportunity to come aboard with MWBro John and Lady Marilyn Hart on the *Grand Master’s 2008 Mysteries of the Orient Tour*, 6–22 November 2008 and view this

marvel. Cruise for 4 days and 3 nights, visit Beijing’s Forbidden City, Xian for Terra Cotta Warriors and see the many other lifetime wonders of the world... *and all with your Masonic Friends!* We have a small window of opportunity to include you. To join this inclusive first class tour, you must book and pay in full by **22 September 2008**. We will look after all the details as well handle your Chinese Visa, book your seats on Cathay Pacific and get your documents to you. Sorry we will not pack your bag for you. To view the tour, go to www.mvptravel.ca Download the Itinerary and you can view a slide presentation of the tour from the website as well. You can see all the sites, centrally located 5-star hotels and the 5-star premier cruise ship, *Katarina*. Call Murray Pay, 403-286-8506 for all the details. It’s not too late!

dan: “ramd” which literally means to burn.

Rosh Hashanah is the beginning of the New Year in Judaism and it announces 10 days of introspection which conclude with Yom Kippur. In our secular culture, the New Year is a time when people often make New Year’s resolutions. We might resolve to give up some bad or annoying habit or we might resolve to try and live better lives. Jewish people begin the year by looking back over the past year and examining the sins that they might have