



# Grand Lodge Bulletin

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DECEMBER 1987

## YEAR END GREETINGS

What a wonderful time of the year this is for it affords us the opportunity to send greetings and best wishes for the New Year. Of course we can send greetings at other times, but in our society, and with our calendar, this season adds an extra spark of earnestness and poignancy to such greetings. So, on behalf of Grand Lodge and myself - MERRY CHRISTMAS and A HAPPY and PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!! To Brethren of every faith: MAY THE GOD OF ALL MANKIND RICHLY BLESS YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES!

The Grand Master gave a thoughtful and challenging address at his inauguration last June, wherein he set forth particulars of his theme for the year "Brotherly Love Exemplified - The Freemason As A Role Model". In my opinion it is well worth recounting, at this time of the year, our duties as role models.

When we were asked the question, 'In whom do you put your trust?', we have all responded by saying, 'In God'. Since that response should be a true statement and not just a perfunctory answer, we must realize our additional responsibilities accepted at that time. Added to our normal duties as citizens of the communities in which we live, and to our duties as citizens of the communities in which we live, and to our duties as worshippers in our various faiths, we assume the moral duties of being Masons both in and out of the lodge.

Christians can accept this analysis of their scriptural background and add to it the role of Jesus Christ as teacher and preacher and healer divine. This is the Christ Christians are to model their lives after. However, the precedent of role model does not end there, for in the book "Islam" by John Williams we read: "The Prophet (Muhammad) is not only the founder and legislator of the community; he is the model for Muslims. It is accepted as axiomatic that every act he made after the beginning of the Revelation was preserved by God from error had it not been so. Then the Revelation itself would be cast into doubt, a thing God could never have permitted. Therefore, Muhammad's slightest act was rightly guided, and of moral value. For traditional Muslims, everything the Prophet did is a part of his 'sunna' (form, way)."

These encouragements for us to become role models, come from but three of the world's great religions "Brotherly Love Exemplified - The Free Mason as a Role Model" is not only our Grand Master's theme

for this year but is a responsibility we have assumed both in our religion and in our lodge duties. Having already assumed this, may we practise with renewed fervor our obligations in the New Year and throughout our lives. Fraternal Greetings to All! Donal R. Stewart, Grand Chaplain

## HANUKKAH

The story of "Hanukkah" commemorates the restoration and rededication of the temple in Jerusalem by the Macabees. The temple was destroyed by the Greek King Antiochus in the 2nd Century B.C.E. As part of this rededication it was necessary to rekindle the Temple lamp (Menorah) which was always kept burning in the Holy Place. Only one small flask of sacramental oil could be found. This was usually sufficient to keep the lamp burning for one day only. Miraculously, the lamp burned for 8 days. Hence, the holiday lasts for 8 days and is called "The Festival of Lights."

After the Greeks conquered Israel, they Endeavored to "Hellenize" the country. This aroused the resentment of the religious elements of the Jewish Population. They refused to surrender to the Greek practices of paganism and the acceptance of Hellenic Deities. The Jews led by Mattathias and his five sons and a few hundred followers, revolted. Eventually, the Jews, led by Judah the Maccabees son of Mattathias routed the enemy and reentered the Holy City.

Hanukkah is celebrated in accordance with the lunar calendar starting on the 25th day of Kislev - the day the Maccabees entered the Holy Temple. This falls on a different day each year but usually in the month of December.

In the spirit of the festival, small presents are given to the children, homes are decorated with Hanukkah motifs and dairy foods are generally eaten. The most widespread food eaten during the holiday are potato "latkes" (pancakes). Prayers are said both in the home and in the synagogue and the candles are lit on the menorah. One candle is lit each successive night until the last night when all eight candles are lit.

Considering the historical background of Hanukkah, it is most remarkable that Jewish tradition hardly mentions the military exploits of the Macabean warriors. A successful revolution was immortalized as a religious triumph.

Seasons Greetings. David Dworkin, Zetland No. 83.

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**QUESTION OF THE MONTH**

When should the Stewards carry white wands?

**ANSWER TO THE OCTOBER QUESTION OF THE MONTH**

In answer to your 'question of the Month' on Grand Honours. The correct answer is one stamp with his RIGHT foot with each of the single claps at the end of Grand Honours. The correct way to receive visiting dignitaries is written quite clearly in PART VIII page 104 of the 'Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Alberta'.

S. Wheatley, P.M. Jubilee Lodge No. 173.

**MASONIC SPRING WORKSHOP BOOKSTORE**

Please contact the Grand Lodge Office if you know of any books that you feel are of value and which have not been available at the Banff Workshop in past years. The Committee will give serious consideration to adding additional titles. The time is growing near to order the necessary books.

**THE POINSETTIA**

The appellation of this Christmas flower is derived from the name of the man who introduced it, Joel R. Poinsett, a Past Master of Recovery Lodge, Greenville, S.C., and of Solomons Lodge No. 1, Charleston. He was Secretary of War and Ambassador to Mexico.

California Freemason

**1988 WINTER OLYMPICS**

Volunteers required from the Olympic area for the period February 14-28 1988.

The 1988 Winter Olympics Committee requires volunteers to drive Masonic visitors to meetings. If you are willing to assist on one or two evenings in the period specified, please contact Bro. Doug Clark at 284-0823.

Emergency accommodation may be required for a few brethren who find problems with their prebooked space. If you could share a room in your home with a brother in difficulty, please phone Bro. Neil MacDonald at 281-5531.

Volunteers are needed to assist at the Calgary Masonic Temple to man phones, to welcome visitors, to give information, to assist with refreshments, etc. If you have some spare time and can share your time with other Masons, please contact W.Bro. Max Malden at 282-6011.

**BURSARY FUND**

After the disbursement of funds to those applicants who meet the criteria established for a bursary, many letters of thanks are received. Two excerpts are shown to let brethren know how much it means to the recipients. Please continue to send in your contributions as the fund is open all year.

\* \* \* \* \*

I really appreciate knowing that an institution like yours is out there willing to help students pursue future careers. I know it has helped me!

I really appreciate the financial assistance you have given me, but you have also given me a "road to travel on, a future".

Laura Stefanich

\* \* \* \* \*

We wish to express our gratitude for the bursaries that we received from Grand Lodge last week. We can assure you they will be put to good use.

Karen and Sharon Jensen

**CANADIAN ORDER OF DEMOLAY**

This youth group for young men of ages between 13 - 21 requires its applicants to be of good character, believe in a Supreme Being and have a Masonic sponsor. Its purpose is to improve young men by providing an environment for the development of leadership skills and good character through a broad range of activities from the serious to those for pure fun. The adults associated with the organization are all Masons. If you know of any young men who would enjoy this youth association which has no direct requirement of a Masonic relationship for its applicants, please contact any of the Brethren listed below for more information.

- Bro. Gary Shantz, Stampede Chapter, Calg. 281-3172
- Bro. Ken Dyrch, Calgary Chapter, 293-2030
- Bro. Norman Johnson, Edmonton Chapter, 487-8998 or
- Bro. Dennis Dickens, Jubilee Chapter, Edm 456-8262

Masons are invited to attend DeMolay Chapter meetings at any time.

**QUOTATION OF THE MONTH**

The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.

Edmund Burke (1729 - 1797)

**FROM THE NOTICES**

Isn't it strange that princes and kings,  
And clowns that caper in sawdust rings,  
And common people like you and me  
Are builders for eternity.

Each is given a bag of tools,  
A shapeless mass, a book of rules,  
And each must make ere life has flown,  
A stumbling block or a stepping stone.

Rocky Summit Lodge No. 30.

**BENEVOLENCE FUND**

**What do you do if you learn of a Brother or a relative of a Brother who may be in financial difficulty?**

You as a Mason:

1. Contact the Worshipful Master immediately and advise him of whatever information that you might have.
2. If you are 'close' to the Brother, or a relative, approach him directly - keeping in mind the pride that many people have in these situations - and attempt to find out the nature of his problems.
3. Keep the Worshipful Master informed of any findings that you may obtain.
4. If you are able, provide any short term immediate assistance that you possibly can.

The Lodge's Responsibility:

1. Immediately upon being advised that any Brother, or relative, might be in need of assistance, the Worshipful Master should, either on his own or through a 'committee' appointed by him, make direct personal contact with the Brother, or relative, and attempt to determine the nature and extent of the problems - REMEMBER - THE FEWER PEOPLE INVOLVED DIRECTLY THE BETTER - PRIDE AND EMBARRASSMENT CAN OFTEN PREVENT BRETHREN FROM SEEKING ASSISTANCE OR FROM PROVIDING THE INFORMATION THAT YOU NEED IN ORDER TO HELP. Large 'committees' have a way of compounding the problem.
2. Make sure that the immediate requirements of food, clothing and shelter are met. DO NOT WAIT FOR THE COMPLETION OF STUDIES OR FOR A RESPONSE FROM THE BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE.
3. From among the membership of the Lodge, the Worshipful Master should draw on the expertise that he has available. If the problems arise out of money management problems, then involve a member who is an accountant or a banker who might be able to offer simpler solutions than can the Master as an individual.
4. If banks or other credit institutions are involved, go to them with the Brother, or relative, and see if arrangements can be made to either reduce or delay part or all of the debt involved.
5. If Social Assistance has been involved then proceed carefully to ensure that whatever the Lodge or Board of Benevolence might do, does not create additional problems for the applicant.
6. The Worshipful Master, or his committee, should be aware that benevolence is not always in the form of money - sometimes a Brother in trouble needs only to have someone to talk with in order that he can sort out the best actions to take to alleviate his situation.

7. If the amounts of money and/or the requirements of the situation are beyond the ability of the Lodge and its membership to meet, then the Worshipful Master should immediately arrange to get together with the Brother, or relative, and complete a copy of Form #53, "Petition For Assistance". Ensure that this Form is filled out completely. THE BOARD IS THERE TO HELP BUT AT THE SAME TIME AS "TRUSTEE" OF THE BENEVOLENT FUND, AND AS SUCH, MUST HAVE FULL INFORMATION IN ORDER TO BEST ASSIST ANY APPLICANT. The information required on page 1 is strictly for the information of the Board of Benevolence. That on page 2 is intended to help the Board to understand the situation of the Lodge in making a request. Pages 3 and 4 are to provide a proper and complete outline of the situation of the Brother, or relative. From the information compiled here, the Worshipful Master should determine the amount and type of assistance required and be prepared to make a request, in the form of the motion shown on page 1 to his Lodge that the Board of Benevolence be requested to help.

8. REMEMBER: At no time in the presentation of a request to the Lodge for assistance should the name of the Brother or relative be revealed. The name should not matter and if the Worshipful Master has done his preparations properly, then the Lodge, having elected him to govern, should trust his judgment.
9. The Worshipful Master, working with his Secretary and/or Finance Committee should determine to what extent the Lodge and/or its membership can provide assistance and then determine the amount to be requested from the Board of Benevolence. CONTRARY TO POPULAR BELIEF - THERE IS NO FIXED RATIO OR PERCENTAGE THAT THE BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE IS PREPARED TO CONSIDER - The first responsibility for Benevolence lies with the Lodge - The Board reviews each case on an individual basis, and in doing so, reviews the financial situation of the Lodge. From the Financial Statements filed with Grand Lodge, the Board determines whether or not the Lodge is attempting to provide a fair percentage of the funds required.

Once the Lodge has voted on the motion as required on page 1 of Form #53 it should be sent to the Grand Secretary as quickly as possible.

The Grand Secretary will immediately contact the President of the Board of Benevolence who does have the power to make emergency grants between meetings of the Board.

The President of the Board will determine if immediate assistance is required and if this is the case, and if the Form is in order, he will authorize the Grand Secretary to issue all or part of the requested funds.

At the next meeting of the Board, the membership will discuss the ratification of any actions taken by the President and vote to provide any additional assistance which might be required.

**BENEVOLENCE FUND (CONT'D)**

The Grand Secretary will issue any cheques authorized, but please note that all cheques are issued to the Lodge. It is the responsibility of the Lodge to ensure that any grants issued as a result of their request are properly applied to any outstanding debts. **DO NOT SIMPLY HAND OVER A CHEQUE FROM THE BOARD TO THE BROTHER OR RELATIVE - YOU MAY COMPOUND THEIR PROBLEMS EVEN MORE.** It is also the responsibility of the Lodge to maintain contact with the Brother or relative and keep the Board advised as to his situation. The Board will not terminate any ongoing grant without a direct request from the Lodge.

In order to protect the confidentiality of anyone receiving assistance, it is requested that all correspondence regarding any recipient be done using the Case Number assigned. This will be provided to the Lodge at the time of the first grant being issued.

**1988 WINTER OLYMPICS COMMITTEE**

The Committee now operating under the chairmanship of R.W.Bro. Alec Richardson is acting as the coordinating body for all Craft Lodge activities as well as those bodies with which we are in amity, and the two youth organizations. The principal activity will be to have help and information available to Masons on a sixteen hour basis (8a.m. - midnight). There will be transportation available for visitors wishing to attend meetings and there will be information on all meetings for which the committee receives details. The information phone number will be widely published in the New Year together with a comprehensive list of meetings.

Alberta Masons are as welcome to use the service as are Freemasons from across the world.

The Committee which was originally struck by the then Grand Master, Claude Green, PGM, was initially chaired by M.W.Bro. Robert Juthner. The Committee was then continued and actively supported by the next three Grand Masters, M.W.Bro. Graves, M.W.Bro. Oslund and currently by M.W.Bro. Juthner.

**AREA MEETINGS**

The Grand Master has requested there be four area meetings during the 1987-88 Masonic year. The meeting will be held as follows;

January 16,	King George Masonic Hall,	Calgary
February 6,	Lethbridge Masonic Hall,	Lethbridge
March 5,	Central Masonic Hall,	Edmonton
March 12,	Red Deer Masonic Hall,	Red Deer

The meetings, to which ALL Masons are invited, will go from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with soup and sandwiches served from 11:30 to 12:00.

These will not be tyled meetings; therefore, regalia will not be worn.

**IN MEMORIAM**

GEORGE WALTER BALDWIN was born at Vegreville, Alberta, on July 18th, 1928. He grew up in the nearby village of Lavoy where his father was a grain buyer and at one time Master of St. John's Lodge No. 25 in Vegreville.

His high schooling was completed in Mission City, B.C. Following that he attended the University of British Columbia where he graduated with degrees in Arts and Law in 1951. He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force which led to his commission as a Second Lieutenant.

He petitioned Nechako Lodge No. 86 at Prince George, where he was initiated in April, 1958.

He was called to the Bar of British Columbia in September 1954. A week later he married Daphne Syson of Victoria. They have four children.

He served as Master in 1968, and Senior Grand Deacon in 1972. He affiliated with Cariboo Lodge No. 4 and later with Yukon Lodge No. 45. He was a founder member of Prince George Lodge No. 178 and Mackenzie Lodge No. 186.

He served in the concordant bodies and was P.T.P.G.M. of Cariboo Lodge of Perfection, P.M.W.S of New Caledonia Chapter of Rose Croix and an Honorary 33rd degree A.A.S.R. He was Past First Principal of Fort George Chapter No. 36, R.A.M.

In addition to this, he was also a member of a number of research lodges and correspondence circles including Fiat Lux, Lodge of Research No. 1980, G.R.A. He became Grand Master of British Columbia in 1985.

Most Worshipful Brother Baldwin was a regular visitor to Alberta at both Grand Lodge functions and also regular Lodge meetings. He was guest speaker in 1986 at the Grand Communication in Grande Prairie. He was a speaker at the 1987 "Banff Conference" and was an Honorary Grand Master of Alberta.

Most Worshipful Brother Baldwin was killed in an automobile accident at McBride, Alberta on September 29th 1987 after a visit to Alberta.

He was a well loved brother who will be sorely missed by all who knew him.