

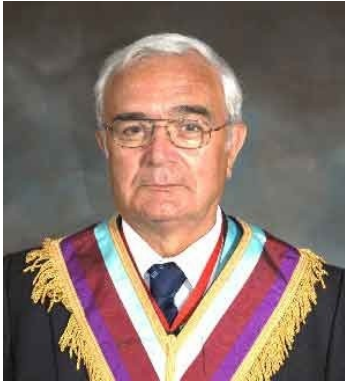
THE KEYSTONE



Publication of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of British Columbia and Yukon

Grand First Principal's Message

Volume 12, Issue 3



Companions,

Once again we are approaching that time of the year when we give thanks and count our blessings for all that we have received in the previous year.

It is time to come together with friends and family and to reflect on our good fortune. It is also a time to extend a helping hand to those less fortunate in society. The greatest thing we can do at Christmas is to look beyond our own immediate sphere and lend a helping hand to those less fortunate. This selfless act embodies the true spirit of Christmas, which is one of the basic tenets of Freemasonry, and that is Charity.

At this time, my wife and I wish all Companions and their families a Joyous, Peaceful and Healthy holiday season, and may 2013 bring you continued happiness.

Yours in the Faith,

MEC Tony Brown

A Note on Movember:

During the month of November, Royal Arch Masons from across British Columbia and Yukon joined other Masonic Brethren in 9 different teams of Mo Bros to raise money in support of Prostate Cancer Canada and men's mental health. Over \$19,000 had been raised by teams on Freemasons of BC and Yukon Movember Network as of the end of November. While many of us who were part of the campaign have now shaved our moustaches, you can still donate through the month of December. And more information is available through Movember Canada at ca.movember.com and Prostate Cancer Canada at prostatecancer.ca

Thanks to all of those who participated in the campaign and all of those who donated in support of this worthwhile cause. We will look forward to increasing participation next year.

VEC John McIntosh, Editor

<i>Also In This Issue:</i>	Page
<i>Grand Chaplain's Message</i>	2
<i>Grand Chapter Cruise</i>	3
<i>The Seven Liberal Arts and Sciences: Astronomy</i>	4

Grand Chaplain's Message: Masons Without Aprons



We have come a long way since this time last year: We have travelled 939,889,369 km around the sun; almost one billion kilometers.

What have we accomplished in that time and after that distance? Have we improved our lot? Have we increased our love for each other? Have we striven to be better than we were last year? Have we helped the needy? Have we striven to be a servant to others?

We have all celebrated birthdays - within our immediate family and some beyond our immediate family. Some have received great wealth - health, friendships, love, and peace. Some have travelled to new destinations around the world. Our bucket list has had several items checked off.

And some of us have had to solve problems which we never thought would arise. Others have found themselves worse off than this time last year. Devastation has come to many lives - loss of a family member or friend - loss of health. Some have lost jobs and the guarantee of income to survive. Some may have lost property through fire, flood, or accident. Not one was predicted.

In Masonry, our lessons tell us how to live, how to support, how to aid, how to do that which is right. We strive and struggle with our personal crusade to make life better, to help and support any who are in distressed circumstances. How have we done during the last year? Are we doing what we have been asked to do; what has been expected of us? Are our obligations still fresh in our minds and our duties from them just as acute?

The last Sunday before the beginning of a new Church calendar is called the Reign of Christ Sunday. The Sunday following is the first Sunday of Advent - the beginning of a new calendar year for the Christian church. Advent, like New Year, is a time for making resolutions. Advent is a season of longing, longing for peace, for right relationships, for love and joy. And following the fourth Sunday in Advent, we come upon Christmas.

Christmas time is a wonderful time of year. If for nothing else, this season brings us to think of others before ourselves. We gift each other. We make donations to a Salvation Army kettle, or take food for the food bank. We offer monetary gifts to good causes, Heart and Stroke Foundation, Canadian Cancer Society, Leukemia and Leprosy Eradication, Women in Need, Boys and Girls club; the list seems

endless. Our society speaks loud and often to remind us of the great need still in our midst. And Christmas time seems to give us that awakening. Many of us seem to feel this as a time for giving.

Consider this Christmas time as a time of awakening, of awakening our minds to the service to mankind in a different way, of offering more than a token gift at Christmas to a need charitable group, perhaps a year of support instead. Consider being awakened for the full year of giving rather than just one time each year.

May this Christmas be for you and your family a renewal of our love of family. Acknowledge the comforts we so often take for granted, and take time to see the other side of Christmas, especially of those who will not be enjoying the love of family as you will. A Merry Christmas to you all.

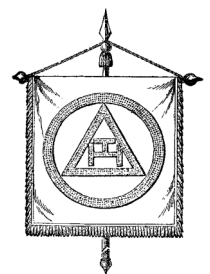
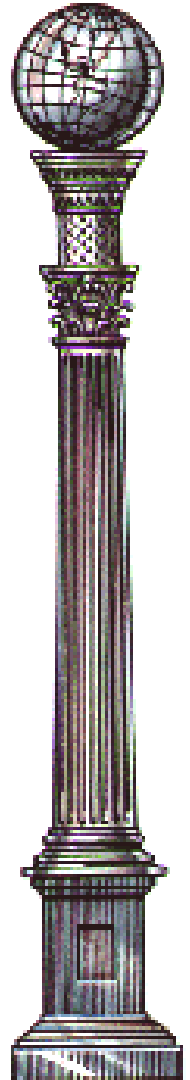
Awaken your hearts and minds.

Comp. Stephen Godfrey
Grand Chaplain

**Spring Board of
General Purposes**

April 6, 2012

Nanaimo Yacht Club



Panama Canal Cruise
with
MEC Tony Brown and his wife Sue

28 September - 18 October, 2013

Holland America Line
aboard
ms Zuiderdam

hollandamerica.com

Ports of Call:

**Vancouver, Astoria, San Francisco, Santa Cruz, Puerto Chiapas,
Puerto Caldera, Panama City, Cartagena, Half Moon Cay, Fort Lauderdale**

Prices (for cruise only) in Canadian funds:

Inside Cabin \$1,866.69 + taxes and port charges (\$809.69)
Category F Outside Cabin \$2,185.96 + taxes and port charges (\$809.69)
Category G Outside Cabin \$2,365.51 + taxes and port charges (\$809.69)
Category VD Balcony Suite \$2,924.81+ taxes and port charges (\$809.69)

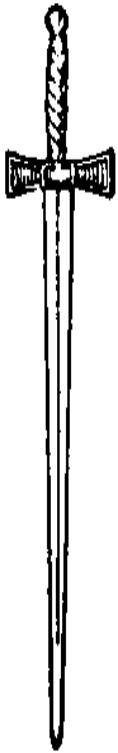
For more information or to make a deposit to hold your place, contact

Lynn Radbourne

604-524-5675 or lynnradbourne@shaw.ca

(Make your deposit as soon as possible to reserve a place)

Liberal Arts & Sciences: Astronomy



This article is the seventh in a series describing the seven Liberal Arts and Sciences and their context within Freemasonry.

The fourth of the *Quadrivium*, the part of the Seven Liberal Arts and Sciences concerning science and the learning of the mysteries of the universe, is Astronomy. It is to Pythagoras, chiefly, that we owe the definition of the four "ways" or branches of science: arithmetic, geometry, music and astronomy.

Not only is the celestial sphere atop one of the twin pillars of a craft lodge, but the Lodge itself is a representation of the world, with the arch of heaven above. And astronomy figures widely in the work of the

Holy Royal Arch. The sun is a frequent symbol in our work, as is the moon.

The Jewish encyclopedia observes that the constellations corresponding to the 12 zodiacal signs represent the 12 tribes of Israel. Thus, the 4 distinguishing bearings of the principle armies would be arranged so that Leo, Virgo and Cancer (corresponding to the tribes of Judah, Issa-cher and Zebulum) would be beside one another in the East; Tarus, Gemini and Aires (corresponding to the tribes of Ruben Simeon and Gad) would be together in the South; Aquarius, Pices and Caricornus (corresponding to the tribes of Ephraim, Manasses and Benjamin) would be grouped in the



South; and Scorpio, Sagittarius and Libra (corresponding to the tribes of Dan, Asher and Nephthali) would find themselves together.

Sources:

Castells. F.deP. 1927. *Antiquity of the Holy Royal Arch: The Supreme Degree in Freemasonry*

Mackey, A.G. 1949. *Lexicon and history of Freemasonry*. T.A. Maclure: Philadelphia. 570.p.

All Things Beautiful



"Masonic books on a variety of subjects"

Brenda Holden
 P.O. Box 1050
 Invermere, B.C. V0A 1K0
 Phone/Fax 250-342-7010
atbworld@live.com

www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/pages/all-things-beautiful-masonic-world

Companions or businesses may purchase from Grand Scribe Ezra a business card ad, running for 3 issues of the Keystone at a cost of \$20. Please include a copy or electronic file (jpg preferred) of your card. to Grand Scribe Ezra at the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of BC and Yukon.

The Keystone is a publication of
 The Grand Chapter
 of
 Royal Arch Masons
 of
 British Columbia and Yukon

Editor
 V.E.C. John McIntosh

Grand Scribe Ezra
 R.E.C. Les Robinson

5561 Turner Road
 Nanaimo, BC V9T 6B3

Phone : (250) 729-0190

