



Sudbury - Manitoulin District Freemasons



A.F & A.M OF CANADA IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO



January 2022

Volume 3
Issue 30



Sudbury Manitoulin District Newsletter



A.F & A.M OF CANADA IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

A Message from our DDGM

Another 12 months have come and gone. It seems we mark some days more than others and New Year's Day is certainly one of them. The year has been difficult but not without highlights and reasons for bring grateful.

The Lions CTV telethon showed very publicly our generosity and concern for and commitment to our towns. There were brethren from three Lodges answering telephones. Bro John Miszczak represented the Sudbury Shrine club answering the phone lines. Both Bro Miszczak and I presented the cheques on camera and spoke a bit about our respective organisations.

Our six Lodges gave a total of \$2500. The Shrine club gave another \$1000. Well done, brethren. R. W. Bro. Sam Khoury deserves a special thank you for his work in organizing and seeing the Telethon is such a success.



As we gaze into 2022, it seems more questions than answers arise. The latest direction from Grand Lodge precludes degree work or installations. Masks are to be worn during the meeting. Locally, we do not see our lodges gathering this month.

Yet our hope remains in the Great Architect.

Moses in Psalm 90 gives us sage advice. He reminds us to number our days. To make each day count. Psalm 90:12 "Teach us to number our days that we might get a heart of wisdom." NIV

Wishing every brother and their family health and blessings in the New Year.

Regards,

R W David Spencer

DDGM - Sudbury-Manitoulin



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Remarks from our District Chaplain

Brethren:

Are you one of the ones feeling it? It is quite pernicious. It happens easily at this time of year and can easily creep in. The days are short (or the nights long). Any festive occasions have happened now or are wrapping up soon and those occasions held had a damper on them. Again, there were pandemic considerations about who to have over at your home and how many should come. Having a Christmas party or any sort of get together these days can be like choosing who to invite to a wedding. Are they immediate family or close friends? Should your cousin's new girlfriend be invited? I am noticing that many people, Masons and non-Masons alike, are showing signs of depression.



Maybe it is the time of year, but I think it has more to do with pandemic fatigue. People are weary of more restrictions, more limitations, more variants, more disagreement about vaccines, and ultimately, more delays about getting back to the way things were before most of us had ever heard of a coronavirus.

So much is beyond our control, but that implies that we must do what we can about what is in our control. Here are some considerations:



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Remarks from our District Chaplain

1. How you are feeling can lead a person down a narrow pathway toward maintaining that state of mind. A person feeling down in the dumps will isolate themselves and dwell on the negative. Acting the opposite of the way you feel is often a good way to break the cycle. Recognizing when those negative emotions are creeping in and are trying to remain in place for the long haul should be the warning to take action. If you were not feeling hopeless or depressed, what actions would you take? Going for a walk, contacting a brother, or taking on a new task can be helpful. Sometimes we have to “fake it until we make it” to work toward a more hopeful future.
2. Counting your blessings never hurts. Yes, there will always be negativity and darkness in our world. However, most of us can start by remembering all the goodness in our lives and might even be able to categorize some of what may be bringing us down as “first world problems”. Like the Johnny Mercer song of 1944 promoted during what was undoubtedly a more difficult time than now, you have to “Ac-Cent-Tchu-Ate the Positive”.
3. If your best efforts to get out of that rut of feeling lousy are unsuccessful, consider talking to your doctor or accessing supports for mental health. There are no easy cures for true depression, but people can find themselves trying to cope with long-lasting feelings in unhealthy ways. Maybe it is time to speak with a professional that can help.
4. Taking time to connect with those you love is important. As Masons, we also need to spend time connecting with the Great Architect in whatever way is most familiar. Whether you meditate, pray, attend services, or have some other unique way of getting in touch with a higher power, we need to do this daily - even if for only a few moments. We are reminded to do so in our Work.



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Remarks from our District Chaplain

A proverb reminds us that, “It is better to light a candle than curse the darkness”. Bruce Cockburn sings; “Got to kick at the darkness 'til it bleeds daylight”. And Bible scriptures teach us that, “Neither do men light a candle and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick, and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.” Masons are among the best versions of human beings that I know. It may be challenging for you brother, but I encourage you to continue to be a much-needed light in our world.

Sincerely and fraternally,

W. Bro. David Squarzolo



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Mentors Minute

Brethren

There are certain events in life we have some control over and many events in life we have no control over. This pandemic is one of those events in our lives we have little to no control over. (The coronavirus is going to do what viruses have always done throughout history.)

What we do have some control over is our attitude and how we live through this event.

I have copied the quote below off of the internet for your consideration because even though we are going through challenging times we can still find happiness through living our Masonic principles: brotherly love, charity, integrity to mention only a few.



“In summation, Stoicism was an ancient school of philosophy that taught a particular way of living. Its principal focus was how to live a virtuous life, to maximize happiness and reduce negative emotions. Its value has been tried and tested over much of human history by renowned individuals like George Washington and Thomas Jefferson.”

Stay strong, stay healthy and stay connected with your brothers.

Let's see what adventures 2022 brings our way. Happy New Year!

W. Bro. Tailleur



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Passed to the Grand Lodge Above

No information to share.

Ill & Distressed

W. Bro. Chris Kemp - Nickel Lodge No. 427

V.W. Bro. Bob Storie - Nickel Lodge No. 427

Bro. Ted Taylor - Doric Lodge No. 455

V.W. Bro. Allan Farquharson - City of Lakes Lodge No. 536

And all Brethren who struggle through the hardship of the pandemic.

Lodge Secretaries are asked to forward this information to our District Chaplain by the end of each month for inclusion in the upcoming newsletter.



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Freemasonry behind Auld Lang Syne arm linking at new year

Research has uncovered a Masonic connection to why revellers around the world link arms when they sing Auld Lang Syne at new year.

A study of Robert Burns' best-loved song links the practice to Freemasonry, where singing with arms crossed and hands joined was a parting ritual in many lodges.

University of Edinburgh musicologist Morag Grant - who has published a book about the song - spotted the Masonic link while sifting through the archives of Glasgow's Mitchell Library.



A newspaper report of an Ayrshire lodge's Burns Supper in 1879 describes the song being sung as members formed "the circle of unity" - a common Masonic ritual also called the "chain of union". Dr. Grant said the tradition of singing the song at times of parting, and doing so with crossed hands, emerged in the mid-19th century, not just among Freemasons, but in other fraternal organisations.

Burns was a Freemason all his adult life and the organisation was instrumental in promoting his work during his lifetime and after his death.

Dr Grant studied a range of historical sources - including written accounts, newspaper reports, theatre playbills, printed music and early recordings - to illuminate the song's path to global popularity.

"Auld Lang Syne's sentiments didn't just resonate with Freemasons," she said. "Some of the earliest reports of the song's use at parting come from American college graduations in the 1850s."



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Within decades, the use of the song at graduation had crossed to Japan, where the tune – known as Hotaru no hikari – is still played at the close of business in some shops.

Dr Grant's study shows Auld Lang Syne's global fame predates the invention of sound recording and radio, despite many commentators having previously linked its rise to the dawn of the broadcast era.

Her book records that in 1877, Alexander Graham Bell used it to demonstrate the telephone, and in 1890 it was one of the first songs recorded on Emil Berliner's gramophone. The song's use at new year emerged around the same time, principally through exiled Scots gathering outside St Paul's Cathedral in London, but also expatriates living abroad. By 1929, the tradition was so well established internationally that a line from the song was displayed on the electronic ticker at new year celebrations in Times Square, New York.

The Scouts also played a key role in spreading its fame. The song was sung at the end of the first World Scout Jamboree in 1920 and versions in French, German, Greek and Polish soon followed.

Dr Grant's book, *Auld Lang Syne: A Song And Its Culture*, also explores the song's origins and Burns' role in creating the modern song from older models.

She said: "It's remarkable how this song, written in a language which even most Scots don't fully understand, has become so synonymous with new year the world over. The many traditions and rituals associated with the song - as well as its simple, singable tune - are key to understanding its phenomenal spread, and why we still sing it today. Auld Lang Syne is a song about the ties that bind us to others across the years and even though its appeal is now global, it's very much rooted in the world Burns inhabited."

Written by Laura Paterson, <https://www.scotsman.com/news/people/freemasonry-behind-auld-lang-syne-arm-linking-at-new-year-3510868>



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The Gift of Freemasonry

A brother mason mentioned to me what Freemasonry has meant to him. He alluded to the fact that he had had a speech problem, but because he was somewhat compelled to stand up in lodge and “do work” his confidence grew, and so did his ability to speak in public, and with some practice his speech problem faded away. It gave him the gift of acceptance, friendship, and communication.

As various holidays of the year come and go our thoughts are often focused in part on giving. This mostly takes the form of material goods purchased from some big box store which in turn places a considerable burden on one’s bank account and excites the credit card executives as they watch the power of plastic driven to new heights fuelled by the lack of logic.

Freemasonry happens to be a gift that we have bestowed upon ourselves (along with the benefit of a password and pass-grip).....and it never wears out, it doesn’t require batteries, a bank account or a credit card. Yet the rewards are immense and beyond material value.

Think of the following gifts that you receive the minute you pass through the lodge portals. You are asked if you wish to make yourself more extensively serviceable to your fellow creatures. What a gift of opportunity this is. An endorsement from the Worlds largest fraternity to be of service to others. Of course this can take many forms from assisting your brother masons to helping out at the local soup kitchen, public service or charitable organization.

You are “given” other gifts or privileges. In the first degree you are advised that a mason’s charity should have no bounds - save that of prudence. So we are encouraged to give, and a mason who embraces charity in all its forms is held in high esteem, a gift that rewards the giver and the receiver. You therefore have the opportunity to ‘give’ and hence **receive** the admiration of others but most important of all, the gratitude of the recipient of your charity and giving, and of course divine approbation.



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The Gift of Freemasonry

Your membership in the order means that you have received the gift of fellowship and friendship just about anywhere in the World. There is the priceless smile on a child's face at the antics of a Shriner Clown or the knowledge that a severely deformed child will be healed and the look of gratitude of the troubled parents. The gift of knowing that a scholarship received by a student could lead to a cure for an incurable disease or an inspired initiative to achieve World peace. In the third degree we are encouraged to improve the morals and correct the manners of men in society. This gift is based on what we learn from the allegory of the various lessons of masonry which entitles us to lead by our own example. This gift engenders an aura of comfort, peace and order within the community where we reside.

There is the gift of warmth and tranquility experienced in Lodge or when attending a Lodge function. Then there is the gift of support when a brother aspires to a leadership role within the order or its concordant bodies.

As Spring and Summer, Fall. Winter or Christmas approaches let us rejoice in the wonderful gift of being a Mason that gives the whole year through.

W. Bro. Lionel Rudd. P.M.

December, 2021.



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"Remember to look up at the stars and not down at your feet. Try to make sense of what you see and wonder about what makes the universe exist. Be curious. And however difficult life may seem, there is always something you can do and succeed at. It matters that you don't just give up."

- Stephen Hawking -

But pleasures are **like poppies spread**,
You seize the flower, it's bloom is shed;
Or, **like the snow-fall** in the river,
A moment white, then melts forever.

- Robert Burns





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Masonic Book Recommendation

Espionage, Diplomacy and the Lodge:

Charles Delafaye and The Secret Department of the Post Office

Ric Berman's latest offering provides a fascinating insight into the intelligence war waged by employees of the Whig government against the ever-present threat of Jacobite plots and conspiracies in Britain in the early to mid-eighteenth century. Berman approaches the theme via two related subjects: the freemason, spy-master, Justice of the Peace, Whig and pro-Hanoverian under-secretary for the Northern and Southern departments, Charles Delafaye (1677-1762); and a key tool in the Hanoverian anti-Jacobite arsenal, the aptly named 'Secret Department of the Post Office' and its Deciphering Branch.

Berman begins by demonstrating how Anderson's Constitutions of 1723 saw important changes introduced into Freemasonry, including new Masonic ritual passages that reinforced loyalties to the government and monarchy.

Berman explains how the formation of Grand Lodge in 1717 (a date challenged by some historians) was in large part a political reaction to the extant Jacobite threat and, in particular, to the Stuart's attempted restoration of 1715. The illustrious Horn Tavern lodge (and several other London lodges) are shown by Berman to be bastions of pro-Hanoverian loyalty and he identifies several brethren such as Charles Delafaye, Thomas Pelham-Hollis (Secretary of State for the Southern Department) and John Lefebure (Head of the Secret Department of the Post Office) occupying senior positions within Walpole's Whig government (Robert Walpole was himself a freemason). These posts were concerned with national security, intelligence gathering, counter-surveillance, spying and the opening and decryption of suspected Jacobite or criminal correspondences. In addition, several Postmaster Generals and employees within the Secret Office of the Post Office and the Deciphering Branch were also known freemasons.



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Espionage, Diplomacy and the Lodge:

Charles Delafaye and The Secret Department of the Post Office

Charles Delafaye, a Huguenot, Member of Parliament and Westminster magistrate, a loyal servant to the crown and government, served as under-secretary to the Northern Department (1717-24) and Southern Department (1724-34). He was the conduit between the Secretaries of State and the Secret Department of the Post Office, a covert department created around 1660 for intercepting mail from international and domestic sources which contained suspected treasonable content. Letters would be opened in receipt of a warrant (which was often post-dated), the contents deciphered and copied if necessary, resealed and sent on. Berman shows the successful outcomes of opening suspected correspondence can be measured in the department's substantial contributions to the failure of the Jacobite plots of 1717, 1719, and the abortive but potentially serious Atterbury Plot of 1721. (Atterbury has now been identified by Dr Robert Collis as the 'Great Prelate' of the Jacobite Order of Toboso in England.)

Berman also highlights the important connection between some of Walpole's most trustworthy employees and religion, and most notably the employment of Huguenots within government. This was mirrored in the Craft, most obviously with respect to Delafaye's friend and fellow Horn Tavern brother, John Theophilus Desaguliers, a man instrumental in the founding and direction of the Grand Lodge.

The second half of Berman's study investigates the use of spies by the Whig government, several of whom were known freemasons. It is well-documented that Walpole took the Jacobite threat seriously and ordered the creation of an international spy network to infiltrate Jacobite circles, gather intelligence, create subterfuge and spread disinformation. In this clandestine world, the identification and apprehension of Jacobite spies was a priority as was their turning, if possible, to become double agents. At the centre of the spy network stood Charles Delafaye, the Government's anti-Jacobite spymaster, who in addition oversaw the press. Many spies were freemasons, acting as part-time information gatherers rather than full time government agents. Berman gives examples in William Dugood, Vincent La Chapelle, Charles Labelye, Philip von Stosch and John Coustos.



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Berman relates how Coustos was sent to France in 1736 following concerns from London that Charles Radcliffe, the titular Earl of Derwentwater, a Jacobite and freemason who escaped Newgate Prison following the 1715 Jacobite Rebellion, may have been using Freemasonry to advance the Jacobite cause. Andrew Ramsey's well-known oration of December 1736 gave further concern as it led to a proliferation of additional chivalric degrees with Jacobite associations. Within days of Ramsey's oration, Coustos had set up his own alternative lodge, the Duc de Villeroy, with some initial success. However, it ceased to operate following a police raid in 1737. Coustos then went on to form a lodge in Portugal, before being arrested by the Portuguese Inquisition in October 1742.

In chapter five, Berman looks at the importance and staunchly Whig composition of the Horn Tavern lodge and the lodges convened by the Duke of Richmond at Paris and Aubigny.

The remaining sections of Berman's study examines the combining of diplomacy with Freemasonry, and illustrates how the Craft was used as a pro-governmental tool to obtain allegiances with the aim of promoting national interests and providing security. Francis Stephen, Duke of Lorraine, is one case in point. The Duke of Lorraine was courted by leading aristocrats on his visit in England in 1731, including the dukes of Richmond and Newcastle. It culminated in November with Lorraine raised a Master Mason at an occasional lodge at Robert Walpole's country house, Houghton Hall, in the company of England's Masonic elite.

Berman concludes his study with four useful appendices which lists selected Grand Officers of the Grand Lodge of England; the members of London's Principle Huguenot lodges; the members of the Villeroy-Coustos Lodge in Paris; and the members of the First Grand Charity Committee, the standing committee of Grand Lodge.



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Espionage, Diplomacy and the Lodge:

Charles Delafaye and The Secret Department of the Post Office

Espionage, Diplomacy & the Lodge offers the reader a valuable insight into the associations between politics and Freemasonry in the eighteenth century. Berman demonstrates how passages within the Constitutions of 1723 were in large part a reaction to the extant Jacobite threat, and how leading members of the Horn Tavern such as Delafaye, Desaguliers, Payne and Lennox directed the Constitutions to reinforce the status quo by demanding that a Mason be 'a peaceful subject' who will 'cheerfully...conform to the laws of the country' whilst promising 'not to be concerned in plots and conspiracies against government but patiently to submit to the decision of the supreme legislature' (Constitutions, 1723, p. 51).

Alongside, Delafaye protected the Whig government and the inheritance of 1688's 'Glorious Revolution' through discrete but important surveillance aided by other freemasons intent on defending against the very real plots and threats posed by James Stuart and his Jacobite supporters.



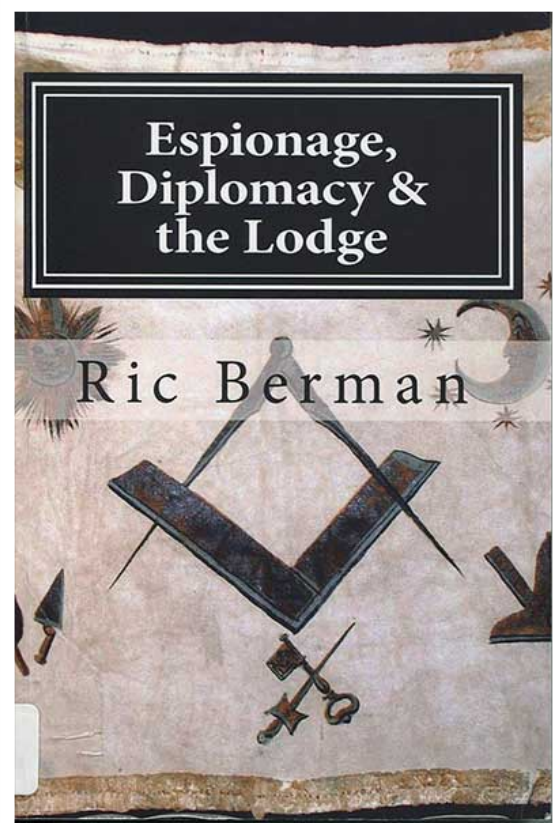
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About the Author & Book Recommendation

Dr. Richard Berman is the author of 'The Foundations of Modern Freemasonry' (2011), 'Schism' (2013), a study of the origins of Antients Freemasonry and its conflict with the first Grand Lodge of England - the Moderns; and 'Loyalists & Malcontents' (2015), which traces the origins of freemasonry in America's Deep South. Ric holds a Masters in Economics from the University of Cambridge and a Doctorate in History from the University of Exeter. He continued his research at the University of Oxford's Modern European History Research Centre as a Senior Visiting Researcher and as a Visiting Research Fellow at Oxford Brookes University. His main areas of study are eighteenth-century British, Irish and North American history. He is the Prestonian Lecturer for 2016.





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NICKEL LODGE NO. 427

COLD WEATHER WINTER CLOTHING APPEAL – 2021 - 2022



COVID UPDATE REGARDING COLD WEATHER – WINTER CLOTHING APPEAL

- PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NO CHANGE TO THE COLLECTION OF THE CLOTHING DUE TO COVID RESTRICTIONS.
- THE CLOTHING WILL BE STORED SAFELY AND DRY IN MY GARAGE WHERE IT WILL BE QUARENTINED.
- PLEASE BE SURE TO PLACE ITEMS IN STRONG PLASTIC BAGS.

*****THERE WILL BE NO PERSONAL CONTACT AND COVID SAFETY PRECAUTIONS WILL BE APPLIED.**

PLEASE bring your donation(s) of clothing to my home on the following dates -

MONDAY 10th JANUARY - After 5 pm.

MONDAY 17th JANUARY - After 5 pm.

WEDNESDAY 19th January - After 5 pm.

PLEASE CALL (705) 522 3886 FIRST!

Clothing will be stored safely and quarantined.

ADDRESS: 2671, MAURICE STREET, (OFF ALGONQUIN ROAD), SUDBURY.

*****The clothing will be delivered to an appropriate agency on Saturday 22nd January. for distribution.**

FOR INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

W.BRO. LIONEL RUDD - Nickel Lodge # 427 Clothing Appeal Coordinator

AT (705) 522 3886 OR lionel.rudd1942@gmail.com



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Sudbury-Manitoulin District Masons # 8571011

Under ordinary circumstances, we would report to you at this time the annual interest earned on the **Sudbury-Manitoulin District Masons**. Due to the ongoing Companies Creditors Arrangement Act (CCAA) proceedings at Laurentian University, NOSM endowments held in trust by Laurentian University are frozen and we were unable to disburse them this academic year or report on the interest earned.

As a temporary measure, NOSM has been able to secure philanthropic support from anonymous donors to honour the disbursement of these awards this year.

We are happy to share that the **Sudbury-Manitoulin District Masons** will provide financial support to a NOSM student in the amount of **\$485** for the 2021/22 academic year.

Once we know the outcome of the Laurentian University CCAA proceedings as it relates to endowments designated for NOSM learners, we will update you.

In the meantime, know that NOSM students and graduates are making a difference every day in the health of communities across Northern Ontario. Your support makes that happen.



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Upcoming Meetings and Events:

No information to share.

(Instructions on how to join the meeting, and the agenda will be circulated in advance)

At this time, no other concordant body or shrine in-person meetings are presently scheduled.





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Sudbury Manitoulin District Lodges

Nickel Lodge No. 427

Meetings: The first Wednesday every month from September-June

Doric Lodge No. 455

Meetings: Second Tuesday every month from September - June

Espanola Lodge No. 527

Meetings: The first Wednesday every month from September-June

City of Lakes Lodge No. 536

Meetings: Second Tuesday every month from September-June

Friendship Lodge No. 691

Meetings: Second Wednesday every month from September-June

Bethel Lodge No. 699

Meetings: Second Friday every month from September-June





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Masonic Resources

Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario Website

<https://grandlodge.on.ca>

Sudbury - Manitoulin District Website

<http://www.smmasons.com>

Sudbury - Manitoulin District Blog

<http://sudburymanitoulinmasons.blogspot.com>

Nickel Lodge Website

<http://www.nickellodge.ca>

Sudbury Shrine Club Blog

<http://sudburyshriners.blogspot.com>

Ontario Freemasons Facebook Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/OntarioMasons/about>

Canadian Freemasons Facebook Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2231516772>





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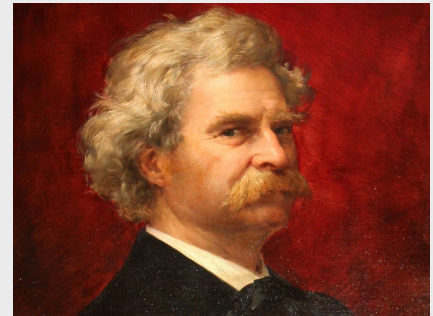
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Words of Wisdom from a Brother Freemason:

“With courage you will dare to take risks, have the strength to be compassionate, and the wisdom to be humble. Courage is the foundation of integrity.”

- Mark Twain



Interested in contributing to the newsletter?

I endeavour to publish the newsletter on the first of each month.

Please forward submissions to: mattdaoust@hotmail.com

Thank you to this months contributors!



Happy to Meet, Sorry to Part, Happy to Meet Again!