

ON THE LEVEL

VOLUME 4 – No. 12

CORNERSTONE LODGE # 19 NEWSLETTER

SEPT 2006

GRAND LODGE UPDATE

Calgary was the scene of the 101st annual Grand Lodge of Alberta Convocation held this past June 8-10. It was very well attended, thanking those who had served for the previous year and welcoming, with a show of support, those who have committed for the 2006-2007 year. Most Worshipful Bro. Malcolm Berry was installed as the Grand Master for this jurisdiction. (See the Grand Lodge website for Malcolm's incoming address) Malcolm is no stranger to Cornerstone since he is an Honorary Life Member of the Lodge for his work with our 1765 Degree Team. We wish him the very best. He will be making a fraternal visit in November, a real honor for our Lodge. In addition, R. Wor Bro Norm Ingram was installed as our new DDGM, V. Wor Bro Jamie Becksted was invested as Grand Organist while V. Wor Bro Cyril Abbott was installed as Grand Chaplain. We wish each of them the very best for the coming year.

HERITAGE PARK

Back in the 1960's Heritage Park opened an exhibit portraying a Masonic Lodge room from the early 20th century. Donations were given by many lodges from around the province to outfit this wonderful tribute to Alberta Freemasonry. Cornerstone donated a Bible for the altar and a beautiful Masonic carpet that had been given to the Lodge by the Prince of Wales. The carpet itself is worth the price of admission.

Each summer Lodges from the area are asked to send volunteers on a daily basis to man the exhibit and to answer any questions that the many visitors might have. It is a great experience for anyone that has had the chance to do it. This year, Cornerstone filled its quota of volunteers and from what I have heard it was a fun time as usual. Thank you to all those who pitched in. If you have not had the chance to see the exhibit it is worth the effort. The whole park experience is a wonderful family day.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

This section is intended to provide an avenue for some thought-provoking ideas or quotes. It is open to any Lodge member who finds something that is interesting, inspirational or that causes reflection. I would like this newsletter to have more input from Cornerstone members and encourage you to be on the lookout for items that you feel might be useful or helpful. Thanks.

“To study and seek to interpret correctly the symbols of the Universe, is the work of the sage and philosopher. It is to decipher the writing of God, and penetrate into His thoughts.”
Albert Pike, Morals and Dogma, p. 7

CORNERSTONE EDUCATION

Over the summer we had two sessions with our new Masons to see how they were doing as far their advancement is concerned. It was a new effort for Cornerstone and seems to have worked fairly well. We are intending to have at least one such session per month directed towards our newer members but certainly open to all who would like to attend.

As mentioned last notice, part of our requirement for new members is giving a short paper of their choosing (we are encouraging a type of autobiographical format) before advancing. Bro. York gave the first such paper in June and it was very well received by the Lodge. Thanks Jordie for leading out.

- Sept. 21 Cornerstone Regular Meeting
EA presentations
- Sept. 23 Fiat Lux Lodge of Research – Calgary
Bro. Cyril Abbott – “Is Freemasonry a Religion?”

J.M. LONGSON SCHOLARSHIP

A few years ago Cornerstone Lodge started a scholarship for Highwood High School. It was a \$500.00 prize to be given to one or two students at the discretion of the school scholarship committee. This year the local Eastern Star kindly matched our donation so that two students were each able to receive the \$500.00 to assist them with their future studies.

VW. Bro Bill Holmes was on hand at the night's festivities to give scholarships to Randy Groenwold and Mikala Abbott. I know that this money will be greatly appreciated by both these young people. Congratulations.

Out of the Minutes

Regular Comm. Of Cornerstone Lodge #19

Thursday, June 15, 2006

- Lodge tyled at 7:30 by WM Mark Toon with 25 members and 11 visitors present
- Lodge lowered to EA to allow FCs and EAs to enter
- Sickness and Distress - Wor. Bro. Mike Dougherty sends regrets as he is not feeling well. V. Wor. Bro Cyril Abbott's mother passed away and he is at the funeral.
- Unfinished Business: We still need volunteers to man the Heritage Park Masonic Temple. This is a commitment we make as a Lodge each year and we encourage anyone who can attend to do so.
- New Business - a discussion was had pertaining to Cornerstone pursuing Casino funds as a possible source of fundraising. There was good discussion with all brethren present voting not to pursue this option. There was also discussion about raising our dues by \$100.00 to raise the funds needed. This will be brought before the Lodge at a later time.
- Education - WBro Mark Toon gave a power point presentation on the structure and history of masonry and the historical development of the Grand Lodge of Alberta.
Bro. Samit Clidiali, from Lebanon, gave an interesting presentation on Masonic activities in Lebanon in general and the Syro American Lodge in particular.
Bro. Jordie York gave an overview of his life and how he was led to Freemasonry. It is the first in a series of new EAs presenting similar presentations in Lodge.
- Visitors welcomed form Syro American Lodge no. 1, (Lebanon), St. Marks 118, Nanton No17, Calgary No 23, Concord No 124, and Canada No 165
- Lodge closed in harmony at 9:54 pm

A STEP BACK IN TIME

90 YEARS AGO – June 1916

RW Bro Gould, DDGM, W. Bro R.E. Russell, WM, and W Bro J.F. Casteel, D of C, attended the 11th annual meeting of the Grand Lodge held in Banff. W. Bro Casteel was elected as one of the Grand Stewards at the meeting. \$50.00 was sent to the Grand Secretary for the relief of Masonic sufferers in the San Francisco disaster (earthquake and fire).

50 YEARS AGO – June 1956

Regular communication. Attendance: 19.

25 YEARS AGO - June 1981

An interesting group of slides depicting the symbols of Masonry were presented by Bros. McCartney and King. Attendance: 22 members and 3 visitors.

The Open Book

Book Review by J.B York

Title- *Turning The Hiram Key - Rituals Of Freemasonry Revealed* By Robert Lomas
Fairwinds Press, Gloucester, MA 01930, 2002,
376 pgs. ISBN # 1-55267-760-5

After co-writing “The Hiram Key”, “The Second Messiah”, “Uriel’s Machine” and “The Book Of Hiram” with Christopher Knight, Robert Lomas goes solo with “Turning The Hiram Key - Rituals Of Freemasonry Revealed”.

Clearly written and enjoyable to read, this treatise details the author’s personal journey from his introduction to Freemasonry, through the three basic Masonic degrees and then finishes with his thoughts on the purpose and effects the rituals have on the participants.

While reading “Turning The Hiram Key”, Freemasons may wonder if too much is being revealed but afterwards, they are rewarded with a sense of enlightenment and an inspiration to learn more. Meanwhile, others who read it will gain a more realistic view of the craft and both are good things.

MEDIEVAL FEAST

Knights, Ladies, Jesters, Monks etc. were on hand for our wonderful Medieval feast. Though numbers were not high, those who were present enjoyed an evening of great food and friendship. Many thanks to all those who helped, especially our Junior Warden, Blake Sluth.

NOTICE OF MOTION

As noted in our minutes, there was good discussion at our June meeting concerning the use of Casinos for the raising of much needed funds for a number of projects. The question revolved around whether it was appropriate for a Masonic body to use this method to raise money. While there were a lot of good points raised on both sides, in the end, all the brethren present agreed that we not pursue this end for fund-raising. It was recognized, however, that we still need to come up with the money from somewhere.