

# *The District Light*

**The information bulletin  
of Niagara B District**

**September, 2017**

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## **Another Year**

Before we begin again to plan our masonic activities, let's look back a bit to remind ourselves about some of the events that made 2016-2017 memorable.

R.W.Bro. Nick Andras and his secretary, Bro. Chris Wright visited the district lodges many times.

Several lodges report an increase in the numbers of candidates for membership.

Van Alstyne Place in Niagara Falls was sold. The three lodges that met there have moved to the King Edward VII building in Chippawa.

The Scottish Rite has a new home in a church in St. Catharines. They have renovated the space to make it into a dedicated masonic hall.

## **A New Divine Service**

In April, Niagara Districts A and B met for the first combined Divine Service. Bro. Sheldon Kofsky arranged to have us meet in a barn at Ball's Falls for an old-time revival service. His wife, Judy, led a short children's service and presented each with a gift. The Kofsky family served food and refreshments after the service.

Rev. Bro Kofsky's message echoes our masonic ideals:

*Go placidly amid the noise and haste,  
and remember what peace there may be in silence.  
As far as possible without surrender  
be on good terms with all persons.  
Speak your truth quietly and clearly  
and listen to others,  
even the dull and the ignorant;  
they too have their story.*

*Nurture strength of spirit to shield you  
in sudden misfortune.*

*But do not distress yourself with dark dreams.  
Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness.  
Beyond a wholesome discipline,  
be gentle with yourself.*

*You are a child of the universe,  
no less than the trees and the stars;  
You have a right to be here.  
And whether or not it is clear to you,  
no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.  
Therefore be at peace with God,  
whatever you conceive Him to be,  
and whatever your labours and aspirations,  
in the noisy confusion of life keep peace  
with your soul.  
With all its sham, drudgery, and broken dreams,  
it is still a beautiful world.  
Be cheerful.  
Strive to be happy.*



Reverend Bro. Sheldon Kofsky and Judy Kofsky.  
Both are masons.



### MS Bike Tour



To raise money and awareness for muscular sclerosis, Bro. Larry Peyton has ridden the 75 km bicycle route for nine years.

Bro. Peyton, who is now 79, continues to ride his bike for his

son, Jeff, who was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 2005.

Each year he raises pledges which are donated toward research to find a cure for MS, a disease which affects a person's nervous system.

To date he has raised more than \$20,000 for MS research.

Our DDGM has chosen MS as the district's charity this year.

### Ch.I.P

This year Macnab Lodge hosted a Child Identification program during Port Colborne's Canal Days marine heritage festival which celebrates the history of the city and its relationship to the Canal.

12 volunteers assisted in processing 80 children during the 5 hours.

Pictured:

Craig Rohe  
John Manwaring  
Brandon MacPherson  
Ross Hiseler  
Ron Jordan  
Barry Bitner  
Mike Dodds  
Trevor McSween

Other helpers:

Barrie Wilson  
John Rolph  
Kim Randall and  
wife Cathy  
Aubrey Foley



The next Ch.I.P. event will be hosted by Palmer Lodge on September 16 during Fort Erie's Community Safety Days.

### The Danger is Real

Here is a short segment which illustrates how easy it is for someone to distract and entice a child: <https://youtu.be/gGIDHrYKJ2s>

### Our New DDGM

R.W.Bro. Ronald Jordan will begin his visiting schedule immediately, appearing for fraternal visits to all but one lodge in September. His itinerary is listed on the next page.

He also intends to witness and participate in every milestone pin presentation and to be present for every initiation and third degree.

R.W.Bro. Jordan will promote retention of our members with talks on the general theme of "Do not lose".

His charity of choice for this year is MS. His target is for each lodge to support the cause by donating at least \$100.



### **DDGM Visitations**

The Official Visits are usually well-attended by the other lodges of the district, but we have a special opportunity this year to join our DDGM for less formal gatherings at the various lodges. What a good time to arrange car pools for our members, especially the newer ones.

| <b>Date</b>    | <b>Lodge</b>    | <b>City</b>   | <b>Address</b>    |
|----------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Sept. 5, 7:30  | Palmer          | Fort Erie     | 203 Jarvis Street |
| Sept. 6, 7:30  | King Edward VII | Chippawa      | 8020 Portage Road |
| Sept 11, 7:30  | Merritt         | Port Colborne | 422 King Street   |
| Sept. 12, 7:30 | St. Mark's      | Chippawa      | 8020 Portage Road |
| Sept. 13, 7:30 | Clifton         | Chippawa      | 8020 Portage Road |
| Sept. 18, 7:30 | Adoniram        | Chippawa      | 8020 Portage Road |
| Sept. 19, 7:30 | Macnab          | Port Colborne | 422 King Street   |
| Sept. 21, 7:30 | Copestone       | Fonthill      | 1394 Haist Street |
| Sept. 26, 8:00 | Myrtle          | Port Robinson | 10 River Street   |
| Oct. 16, 7:30  | Phoenix         | Fonthill      | 1394 Haist Street |

Dominion Lodge will receive the district deputy at his Official Visit on Thursday, October 5, in Fort Erie at 203 Jarvis Street.

#### **Masonic Reflections**

With the start of a new masonic year, let us review some basic ideas about the fraternity.

These passages may remind you to put more focus on masonic education.

#### **What is a Rite ?**

A Rite is an established ceremonial, usually religious, act. Rites can fall into three categories: rites of passage, communal rites, and rites of personal devotion.

Freemasonry by its nature is a Rite. Freemasonry is a ritual-based society. Understanding the rites of a ritual-based society allows you to better understand and better describe to others the ideals and principles inculcated (taught) by the organization.

#### **Who Started Freemasonry ?**

Just as no one man discovered, designed or invented democracy, philosophy, or science, Freemasonry is the result of growth. Many Masons had a part in it; it has taken to itself teachings from religions, philosophies, systems of knowledge, symbols.

The most generally accepted orthodox belief as to those who "began" Freemasonry is that the Craft is a descendant of Operative Masons. These Operatives inherited from unknown beginnings, many practices and forms of ritual.

Speculative Masonry, reaching back through Operative Masonry, teaches its principals by the use of symbols as old as mankind and therefore universal, and not the product of any one people or time.

[One Hundred One Questions about Freemasonry, MSA 1960]

### Why is Masonry of today called "speculative"?

The word is used in the same sense that the Masonry of today is theoretical, not practical. It is a pursuit of knowledge, not the construction of edifices.

Speculative Masonry begins with the practice of admitting to membership in operative lodges men who were not practical builders, stonecutters, architects, etc., but who were interested in the moral, ethical and philosophical teachings of the Fraternity.

### What is Special about the Grip?

The words grip, grope, grab, grasp, and gripe come from the same roots. The Anglo Saxon gripe meant to clutch, to lay hold of, to seize, and to grasp strongly. A grip means to clasp another's hand firmly. It differs from a mere hand clasp, which may be a meaningless formality, in that it is done earnestly, and for a purpose, for what purpose in our fraternal system every Mason knows. A grip should be given as if one meant it; half of its meaning lies in the way it is done.

### Why do we use "So mote it be" instead of "Amen" ?

'Mote' is old English for 'may'. Masons have used the phrase since the beginning of written history of the Craft. Freemasonry includes many other words, now obsolete, which bring the sanctity of age and continuity of ritual from ancient days to modern times.

[One Hundred One Questions about Freemasonry]



"You're supposed to say 'I do,'  
not 'So Mote It Be!'" - JSN



### Grief

We encounter many directives that counsel us to embrace life and to find satisfaction and happiness in our lives. Less is said about how to endure sadness and loss.

This is one insightful passage:

Grief never ends, but it changes.  
It's a passage; not a place to stay.  
Grief is not a sign of weakness  
nor a lack of faith;  
It is the price of love.

### Other Thoughts

Here is one of the worst things  
about having someone you love die;  
it happens again every single morning.

Grief is love with no place to go.

The bravest thing I ever did  
was to continue to live when I wanted to die.

Courage does not always roar;  
sometimes courage is the quiet voice  
at the end of the day, saying,  
"I'll try again tomorrow."

I want to see what happens if I don't give up.

