District 'C'hronicle

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Hamilton Masonic District C

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Our District Deputy Grand Master

Brethren,

Spring is upon us and my term as the last District Deputy Grand Master of Hamilton C District is winding down. It's hard to believe that it has gone by this quickly. I would like to personally thank the members of Landmarks Temple No. 324 for rearranging their March Regular meeting night so that they could support brethren the of Westmount Lodge No. 671 on my OV. It was a true act of fraternal brotherhood. They were rewarded with claiming



the District Travelling Gavel for their efforts. Well done my brethren.

My last Official Visit in District C will take place on Tuesday April 8th, at Seymour Lodge No. 272. I hope as many of you as possible will be able to attend to support the brethren of the lodge. It will mark the last OV of Hamilton C District as well.

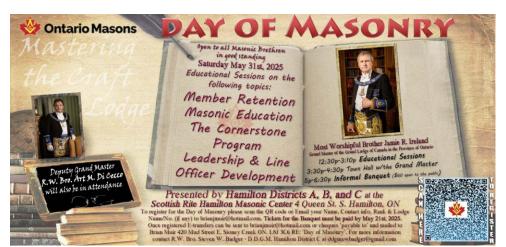
There are a couple of events in April that you should mark on your calendar: Saturday morning the 19th, Hugh Murray Lodge No. 602 will be hosting an Easter egg Hunt at the Masonic Centre of Hamilton. It is open to all lodges and their families. The Hamilton Districts Board of Relief Spring Divine Service will take place on Sunday the 27th at 7:00 PM at the Masonic Centre of Hamilton. Let's make an effort to attend this event with a strong showing.

The 3 Hamilton Districts will be sponsoring a Role of the Worshipful Master workshop delivered by a team of Grand Lodge officers on Saturday June 7th at the Burlington Masonic Centre. Doors open at 8:30 AM, workshop runs from 9 – 12:15. I would suggest all line officers take this course, no matter where they are in their line progression.

Fraternally,

R. W. Bro. Steven William Badger FCF District Deputy Grand Master Hamilton C District

> Save the Date A Day of Masonry Saturday May 31st Masonic Centre Hamilton



The **DISTRICT 'C'HRONICLE** is published monthly in Hamilton, Ontario and is available for download on the district website at <u>http://www.hamiltondistrictcmasons.org</u>. Please forward submissions to this newsletter through the contact details on our website. Please note: The opinions and views expressed in any article in the District 'C'hronicle are those of the writers and therefore do not necessarily reflect the opinion of Grand Lodge. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions

Grand Master's March Communique

Brethren,

A warm welcome to March and the latest edition of the Ontario Masons Magazine! The OMM team, led by V.W. Bro. Dan Dignard, continues to do a fantastic job bringing this valuable Grand Lodge publication to our Jurisdiction. If you want to contribute to this magazine, and would Ι encourage that, please send your educational document, your community or Lodge/District picture, or your event promotion to V.W. Bro. Dignard for posting.



March is a month when many of our members consider how they can contribute to the future of our great Fraternity. I commend those Brethren who are exploring their opportunities to serve their Districts and our Grand Lodge.

The role of District Deputy Grand Master is vital, and we encourage qualified Brethren to step forward. This position offers a unique opportunity for you to lead and inspire within the District, acting as the Grand Master's To support those aspiring to this representative. important role, Grand Lodge offers two excellent pathways for development, one of which is required by our Constitution: the Past Master's Course from the College of Freemasonry and the District Deputy Grand Master Preparation Committee presentation. Both offer invaluable insights and tools for success, and I encourage all candidates to consider participating in both. I believe that taking both ways is the only reasonable way to go. Yes, I've heard the debate about which pathway is better. I could give my opinion on the pros and cons of each, that being said, please find the time and commitment to proceed with both. We recognize that experience is key to effective leadership. In Districts where a Brother may benefit from additional time to prepare for the DDGM role, I would encourage exploring the option of a Past District Deputy filling the position for a year. This ensures continuity and strength within the District while providing an opportunity for future leaders to develop.

The question of how best to select our DDGMs – whether through open vote or a rotation system, is an important one, and I look forward to discussing this further. As the Constitution prescribes for an open vote, that is what I will focus on. My priority, and I believe yours, is ensuring that we elect the most capable, dedicated and qualified Brother, regardless of the selection process. The Grand Lodge officers are here to support you in this endeavor. While we offer guidance, ultimately, the strength and vibrancy of each District depends on the active engagement of its members. I ask that each District puts the best name forward to keep the District strong, putting a name forward that isn't ready or prepared to lead is only hurting the District. Please keep the health of the District at the highest priority, we owe it to the membership.

For those considering service on the Board of General Purposes, I wholeheartedly encourage you to explore this opportunity. The Board plays a crucial role in shaping the future of our Grand Lodge, and we need energetic and dedicated members committed to positive progress. Completion of the Past Master's Course from the College of Freemasonry is a prerequisite for Board of General Purposes membership, demonstrating a commitment to Masonic betterment. Grand Lodge committees also offer a wide range of opportunities to contribute to, and your unique skills and experience are valuable assets. The Board of General Purposes needs people that aren't afraid to get tasks completed. Being able to post pictures on social media in large quantities does not mean that you are prepared to be a Board member.

Mentorship is essential for leadership development, and we are committed to supporting all Brethren who aspire to leadership positions. Strong District Deputies are vital to the success of our Districts, and engaged Brethren on Grand Lodge committees are essential to our overall progress. If you are ready to serve, you have my support. If you need more time to prepare, I applaud your commitment and look forward to your future leadership.

If you have questions about any of these roles, please don't hesitate to contact the Grand Secretary or myself. We are happy to provide information and support. Nomination forms are available from the office as well as on the Grand Lodge website for your use. Do your best to put the best names forward, and do your homework to decide who those best names are.

I also want to tell our membership that I recently represented our Grand Jurisdiction at the Annual Conference of Grand Masters of North America and it was a great gathering of Masonic leaders from Canada, Mexico and the United States. It's a trip loaded with information that we can use for the benefit of our Districts and Lodges. The one part that makes me feel like we're on the right track is that we have already been working on many of the topics that other Jurisdictions are just discovering. A positive and exciting presentation that I sat in on was on technology that is widely used by many other Grand Lodges, in fact 42 American and 2 Canadian Jurisdictions so far. As I have asked the Grand Secretary for a costing proposal of getting our current technology to a useable level, the tech platform that I viewed at the Conference would meet all of our current needs well into the future and it is already developed, and it actually works. Yes, we are having trouble getting our technology to work, it's deficient, it's not allowing us to conduct business, it's super expensive and we need to address it. We were sold a platform that doesn't work and it's, I believe, cost prohibitive. The Management Committee is going to look at this issue with a common sense approach, decide on the best path forward and commit to putting our Jurisdiction where we need to be. More news to come on this topic in the very near future. I also am pleased and very proud to say that at the Conference, I put our Ontario Masons Branding into the hands of over 60 other Jurisdictions. What a great feeling that was, over 60 other Grand Masters have my business card and one of the best writing pens ever produced, both having Ontario Masons displayed on them.

Brethren, let us embrace the opportunities before us with enthusiasm and dedication. Let us nurture the vibrancy of our Lodges, spread a blanket of positivity wherever we travel, and work together as a team to build a bright future for Freemasonry in Ontario. Remember, even on a cloudy day, the sun is still shining. Let us be that shining light for our families, our Lodges, and ourselves. Carry and rub your shiny penny and hopefully you are as proud to be an Ontario Mason as I am.

Thank you, Brethren. May you have safe travels and God Bless.

Jamie R. Ireland

Deputy Grand Master's March Message

Greetings Brethren,

We find ourselves in a time where social and corporate structures are evolving more rapidly than ever before, and the continued success of any organization now hinges on its flexibility, and ability to adapt to the shifting dynamics of our society. The apparent challenge we now face is to carefully evaluate the modern methods of effective communication, outreach, and leadership, while concurrently safeguarding the foundational tenets of our Craft.



We find ourselves with the unique opportunity to promote the fundamental principles of our Order in balance with the speed of our evolving society.

As one progresses on his Masonic journey, it soon becomes clear that leadership and Freemasonry are synonymous. That the art of leadership is intrinsic to our Craft. Our emphasis on progressive development has the underlying purpose of preparing one to lead. The subtle lessons of leadership enable us to navigate the issues, and to keep confrontation in check. A challenge we face is determining where and how Freemasonry fits into today's popular culture. Where instant gratification, validation, and rapid advancement appear to be the primary social and corporate norm. As contemporary leadership models continue to adapt to keep up with today's fast-paced activities and timelines, the development of today's leaders is expected to parallel the speed of social and corporate expectations. The concern is that if essential elements of effective

leadership are abbreviated or overlooked, this trend not only affects individual growth, but the need for effective leader is often overshadowed by personal or political agenda.

This attitude cannot and should not be promoted or endorsed within our Craft. It not only affects individual growth, but it also undermines and jeopardizes the fundamental values of our core. When we examine Freemasonry and its progressive structure, it is clear that Freemasonry was designed as a meritocracy, where advancement is based on individual progress and merit. This concept encourages self improvement, dedication, with an emphasis towards awareness and knowledge. It also fosters an environment where personal growth is valued and encouraged, while promoting a culture of excellence. Our advancement is not intended as a reward for the marking of time, or for time served, nor is it about fast-tracking for title or rank. By it's intended design, progress in our craft is measured by merit, not entitlement.

Our structure follows the same timeless principles of the trade guilds, which are still practiced and upheld in many societies around the world. Similar to the tradition of our trade guilds, we are required to prove our proficiency before we are qualified to move forward. There is a distinct yet subtle purpose for this methodology. This progressive structure of advancement is to instill a sense of pride and achievement in the development of our skill, our ability, and our nature. The lessons learned are appreciated only through time and the experience it brings.

At the heart of our leadership development, our goal is to provide guidance, and to create opportunities that empower individuals to better themselves. Leadership is not only about directing others, but also about fostering an environment where trust is built through consistent actions and by setting a positive example. In doing so, we must learn to appreciate the things we like to do, and endeavor to embrace those things we do not like to do, but we know must be done. It is the depth of our actions, and how we support and guide others that will reinforce our credibility as leaders. This commitment to merit ensures that true leadership is demonstrated through actions and deeds measured by the contributions we make and the character we display, rather than by mere visibility or recognition.

In summary, Freemasonry by design prepares men to lead. A commitment of progression through time. It prepares us to recognize what is truly important to those whom we have the privilege to lead. It is about honoring the trust that has been placed in us to act with accountability, integrity and purpose, not for our own ambition, recognition, or self-promotion, but for the advancement and benefit of those who rely on us.

With my best fraternal regards,

R.W. Bro. Art Di Cecco, Deputy Grand Master

Dates to Remember

April 2025

Official Visit Seymour Lodge Lodge No. 272 Tuesday April 8th, 2025 Tyle 7:30 pm Ancaster Temple



Brethren. In coordination with the Scottish Rite Club, the 2nd Annual Easter Egg Hunt & Breakfast for kids and families will be held **Saturday**, **19th of April 2025**.





Hamilton Districts' Board of Relief Spring Divine Service

Sunday April 27th 7:00 pm Masonic Centre of Hamilton, Hosted by: Wellington Square Lodge No. 725

Please arrive with your regalia at 6:15 p.m. Light refreshments will follow the service. All are welcome including family and friends.

May 2025

Installations

Buchanan Lodge No. 550 Tuesday, May 6, 2025 Lodge tyles at 7:30 p.m. Hillcrest Temple, Mohawk West.

Landmarks Temple Lodge No. 324

Tuesday, May 13, 2025 Lodge tyles at 7:30 p.m. MCH 4 Queen St. South

Around the District



Meridian Lodge No.513 Official Visit



W.Master James Robinson Bro. Kevin Riley R.W.Bro. Steven W. Badger





Westmount Lodge No.671 Official Visit

W.Master Andy Wagner R.W.Bro. Steven W. Badger W.Bro. Jimmy Crow

District Blood Donors!



R.W.Bro. Steven W. Badger donating blood & a \$100 cheque from Meridian Lodge to **Canadian Blood Services**

W.Bro. Gary McLean and our District Secretary Bro. Adrian Haigh manning the volunteer table

New Master Mason



The Electic Valley Lodge No.100 3rd Degree R.W.Bro. Steven W. Badger Bro. Macneal Lashley W.Master Chris Boivin

Fraternal Fun



pictures submitted by Bro. Jeff Currey

Buchanan Lodge No. 550 Wings, Pizza and Suds



On March 19th Buchanan Lodge held a social fraternal gathering to enjoy Wings, Pizza and Suds while watching the Leafs play the Avalanche on the big screen. The event was well attended and we had 4 gentlemen join us who were interested to learn more about Masonry.

Submittied by R.W. Bro. Robin Colville

Masonic Education The Musical Mason



Brother Irving Berlin 1888-1958

Sources: This day in Masonic History & the Grand Lodge of Ohio

Submitted and edited by V.W.Bro. Barry D.Thom Phoenix Masonic Forum

Israel Isidore Beilin (Irving Berlin) was an American composer and lyricist, born in Tyumen, Russia. For the first five years of his life in Russia, Berlin claimed to have little memory. Irving was part of a large Jewish family with seven brothers and sisters. His father was highly involved in the community with his role as the cantor at the village synagogue. Unfortunately, when the Russian pogroms invaded their village, the violent persecution against Jews forced his family to flee the country. They ran, but not before they watched their house burned down. Although Berlin claimed to have no real memory of Russia, one of Berlin's biographers claimed his father was devout in his religious beliefs to the point if young Berlin did not put on his shoes as proscribed in the Talmud, he beat him.

After losing the family home, Berlin's family made their way to New York City. When they entered the United States the family name was changed to Baline. At the age of 13, Berlin's father passed away and Berlin was forced to help support the family. He sold newspapers for a time, while walking the streets he heard the sounds of popular music coming from the bars along his route. Before he was fourteen, Berlin realised he was helping the family less than his younger sisters, so he ran away from home. Once on the streets he formed a singing group with other street children. They traveled around, singing popular songs hoping to get some pennies.

By the time Berlin had turned 18, Berlin was working as a singing waiter in Chinatown. He sang popular songs to customers. He also altered the songs to make them more "blue" much to the delight of his patrons. At night Berlin taught himself to play the piano. Despite his inability to read music, he had a natural gift for composing hits. It was here Berlin wrote his first song, "Marie from Sunny Italy" which he wrote in collaboration with the regular piano player. The sheet music when printed had a typo on it stating it was written by I. Berlin and Beilin had officially become Berlin.

In 1910 Brother Berlin was raised a Master Mason in Munn Lodge No. 190 in New York City. He immediately took to the fraternity, going on to become a Scottish Rite Mason and Shriner within the same year. In 1911, Berlin composed his first big hit "Alexander's Ragtime Band". Initially it was used in Jesse Lasky's follies without lyrics and it only lasted for a very short time. Once Berlin added words to the song it took off. Berlin himself was stunned by the popularity of the song and felt the lyrics he wrote were silly. Regardless, the song propelled him into the limelight.

In 1917, Berlin was drafted into the United States Army. His drafting into the Army made headline news. The Army was not looking for the 30 year old Berlin to fight, they had a more important role for him to which he was much better suited, composing patriotic songs. At one point several songs Berlin composed were put into a musical review, "Yip Yip Yaphank", which earned \$150,000 for the camp service center. One of the songs Berlin composed at the time didn't make it into the review, in fact it wasn't heard for nearly 20 years, "God Bless America."

After World War I Berlin continued to compose. He released "God Bless America" in 1938. The royalties to the song were assigned to the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts who have earned millions from the royalties. After the attack on the United States on September 11th, 2001, a group composed of members of congress sang it on the steps of the Capital building. When Broadway turned it's lights back on members from a variety of Broadway shows joined together for a chorus of what many consider to be the second national anthem.

In 1941, after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, again Berlin set himself to write patriotic songs. A collection of those songs became the play "This is the Army." Berlin took the play around the World for a three and a half year tour. During the tour, Berlin took no money or expenses, all money taken in by the play was given to the Army Relief Fund.

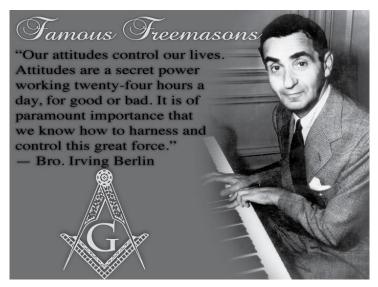


Irving Berlin performing aboard USS Arkansas, 1944

Although he had gained some popularity before the war, it paled in comparison to the acclaim he achieved when he returned home. He wrote hit after hit, over a dozen musicals, and provided the score to nearly 20 movies. The cumulative result was hundreds of songs, including notable pieces such as "Anything You Can Do I Can Do Better," "There's No Business Like Show Business," and "Puttin' on the Ritz", and "White Christmas".

Being a Freemason meant a lot to Brother Berlin. He lived out our core values, giving generously to charity and using his stature as a celebrity to raise money for noble causes. By some estimates, Irving helped raise over \$100 million for charity during his life. Additionally, he was proud of his Jewish heritage, working to rid the world of religious conflict as best he could. For this, he received an honour in 1944 from the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

In 1954, President Eisenhower granted him the Congressional Gold Medal for his patriotic compositions. Endless covers of his work have been recorded, with notable renditions by Elvis Presley, Lady Gaga, Frank Sinatra, Bob Dylan, Willie Nelson, Billie Holiday, and Ella Fitzgerald. During his lifetime he composed 1,500 songs. Berlin passed away at the age of 101 in 1989.



Irving Berlin as a Mason

Irving Berlin became a member of the Freemasons in 1910 when he was a young man. He was raised a Master Mason in Munn Lodge No. 190 in New York City on June 3, 1910. He joined the Scottish Rite and received the degree of Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret, 32°, on December 23, 1910. A month later, he joined the Shriners and became a Noble of Mecca Temple, A.A.O.N.M.S. on January 30, 1911. By 1936, he was designated a lifetime member of both organizations.

As a Mason, Bro. Berlin committed himself to our core principles and worked diligently to help others. He had an immensely generous spirit, with some estimates projecting he was responsible for raising over \$100 million for several charitable initiatives in his lifetime. In honor of his humanitarian efforts, he was honored in 1944 by the National Conference of Christians and Jews for "advancing the aims of the conference to eliminate religious and racial conflict."

https://scottishritenmj.org/blog/irving-berlin

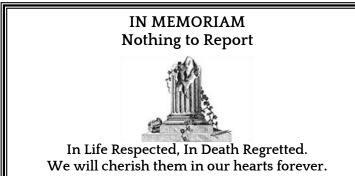
Editor's Page

Happy April Fools A sampling of pranks from the past

- <u>Spaghetti trees</u>: The BBC television programme Panorama ran a hoax in 1957, purporting to show the Swiss harvesting spaghetti from trees. They claimed that the despised pest, the spaghetti weevil, had been eradicated. A large number of people contacted the BBC wanting to know how to cultivate their own spaghetti trees.
- In 1962, Swedish national television broadcast a 5minute special on how one could **get color TV** by placing a nylon stocking in front of the TV. A rather in-depth description on the physics behind the phenomenon was included. Thousands of people tried it.
- Smell-O-Vision: In 1965, the BBC purported to conduct a trial of a new technology allowing the transmission of odour over the airwaves to all viewers. Many viewers reportedly contacted the BBC to report the trial's success. In 2007, the BBC website repeated an online version of the hoax, as did Google in 2013, in tribute.
- In 1969, the public broadcaster NTS in the Netherlands announced that inspectors with remote scanners would drive the streets to detect people who had not paid their **radio/TV tax** ("kijk en luistergeld" or "omroepbijdrage"). The only way to prevent detection was to wrap the TV/radio in aluminium foil. The next day all supermarkets were sold out of their aluminium foil, and a surge of TV/radio taxes were being paid.
- In 2008, the BBC reported on a newly discovered colony of **flying penguins**. An elaborate video segment was even produced, featuring Terry Jones walking with the penguins in Antarctica, and following their flight to the Amazon rainforest.
- Canadian three-dollar coin: In 2008, the CBC Radio program As It Happens interviewed a Royal Canadian Mint spokesman who broke "news" of plans to replace the Canadian five-dollar bill with a three-dollar coin. The coin was dubbed a "threenie", in line with the nicknames of the country's onedollar coin ("loonie" due to its depiction of a common loon on the reverse) and two-dollar coin ("toonie")

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/April_Fools Day Jokes







Dear Readers,

Editon 200. And so many pictures our district events ran past one page. I wonder how many pages of fraternal events we could fill if you all took some time to send me your events. To all the readers, feel free to send them in.

I do want to remind people that the Chronicle is "untyled" so as an editorial team we are careful with what we include. That being said, I recently received some postcards from R.W. Bro. Robert Kliaman and would be interested in any stories or explanation of the significance of the Goat in our past history.

Spring is here and the masonic year feels like it is winding down. Planning proceeds on our farewell edition to Hamilton C. but we are still looking for submissions from our readers to celebrate the almost 50 years of our District.

Happy Easter, Passover and Arbor Day to everyone, and don't forget April Fools!

Glen, gnotman@hotmail.com



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