

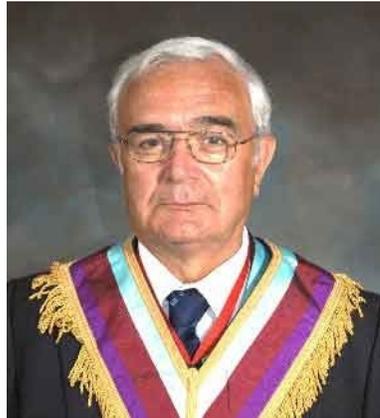
# THE KEYSTONE



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

## Grand First Principal's Message

Volume 13, Issue 1



### Companions,

I was pleased to accept an invitation from the Grand Chapter of Austria to attend their Grand Convocation on March 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of this year. My wife, Sue, and I decided to make it an occasion to see Vienna and meet our Masonic counterparts in Austria and other parts of Europe. The trip was most enlightening.

My pre-trip planning revealed that BC is 17 times the size of Austria, but with half the population. Vienna alone is a city of a million people. The many Masons we met from all over Europe could not get over the size of our Grand Jurisdiction. The Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter of Austria met us and had kindly booked us into a hotel only 3 blocks from the Grand Lodge building where the convocation was to be held. Early sightseeing included a tour of Rosenau Castle, in the Coburg area of Austria. Dating back hundreds of years to the Hapsburg Empire, the castle contains a Masonic Lodge which is still in use. Prince Albert, Consort to Queen Victoria, was born there in 1819.

That trip also included a visit to Salzburg, the home of Masonry's most famous musician, Mozart. We were reminded that the Nazis not only rounded up all the Jewish citizens of Austria, but the Freemasons as well. To this day, Masons are leery of a public profile in Salzburg, where they now met in the basement of a private home.

The Grand Lodge building in Vienna is on 4 levels and is home to 40 different Lodges and appendant bodies. But there is no external sign that it is a Masonic meeting place other than a Lewis hung above the door, nor are any Masonic regalia or insignia worn outside the lodge room. Each lodge room has a grand piano which is played during the conferring of degrees. The sounds of Mozart, Chopin and

Hayden are very moving. A three course meal is served in the dining room at the end of each meeting.

Nomination for initiation is done very carefully in Austria. Only after a potential candidate is vetted is he approached to see if he is interested in becoming a Mason. A potential candidate is visited four times before a decision is reached as to this suitability. All of the Masons I encountered were doctors, lawyers or professional men.

I noted in attending a Mark Lodge that there are neither Deacons nor a Secretary. And, in the Holy Royal Arch Degree, the sojourners discover the Ark of the Covenant in the crypt. It contains a scroll, three squares and a golden triangle on which is inscribed the sacred word.

The hospitality and brotherhood were exemplary. And, although the work was in German and in some cases somewhat different, it is for the most part strikingly similar to our own. The whole trip was a rich example of the far-reaching brotherhood of our fraternity.

I hope that many of you will attend Spring Board and that you will join my wife and I on another journey together as we set sail through the Panama Canal in September and October of this year.

### Most Excellent Companion Tony Brown

#### Grand First Principal

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## *Grand Chaplain's Message: Passion in our Royal Craft*



Companions,

A recent article in the MacLean's Magazine included several charts showing results from students of various Universities about grading their schools (institutions). The results were from four questions asked:

*How would you evaluate your entire educational experience?*

*If you could start over, would you go to the same institution you now attend?*

*What is your level of satisfaction with the quality of teaching you have received?*

*What is your level of satisfaction with the decision to attend this university?*

What would happen if we asked these questions of Companions about their Chapter?:

*How would you evaluate your entire educational experience?*

*If you could start over, would you go to the same Chapter you now attend?*

*What is your level of satisfaction with the quality of teaching you have received?*

*What is your level of satisfaction with the decision to join Royal Arch Masonry?*

Not much change in the questions, you may note. A different spin on

the answers when one considers Chapter. And all of a sudden we may draw in that proverbial breath and think: yes, just how do we look from the outside by a new companion entering the doors of Chapter? One student at a university in the MacLean's (18 February 2013) article said:

**"Everywhere I turned, the faculty was encouraging, dedicated and passionate – it was infectious."**

The student recognized that, without the support of her learned elders, her pursuit of more knowledge would probably not take her beyond that of which what she was capable. The encouragement, dedication and passion for learning were the keys to her continuation to a Master's degree: more knowledge and a deeper study.

I have always firmly believed that, no matter what Masonic body of which we are members, our fraternity is a school. Each body under the umbrella of our Craft Freemasonry is a school; no higher, no lower than previous schools, just more extensive in its pursuit of new knowledge.

As such, members expect to learn. Members expect every meeting to be new and invigorating. It should, therefore, be incumbent upon all companions, from the youngest to the most senior Past 1st Principal, to make our meetings of Chapter encouraging, dedicated, and passionate for all. Members should leave wanting more, and hurriedly return next meeting expecting more. That

requires more than hard work form officer and members alike.

**Encouraging:** That each companion feels the excitement of entering the chapter room for a new experience every time; that companions are there with a genuine welcome,

**Dedicated:** That Companions see dedication from all members, each offering their talents to make the whole experience enlivening: no hiding our talent under the bushel, but freely offering their knowledge and skill for the betterment of all.

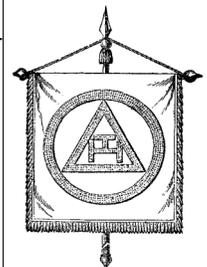
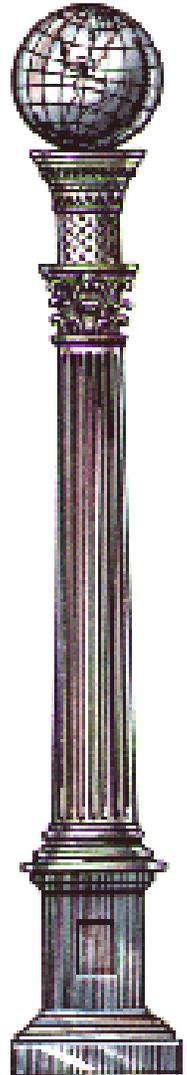
**Passionate:** That Companions all show the zeal and excitement of each meeting, whereby energy abounds. There is a twinkle in their eyes from excitement of being a Companion and coming to Chapter to share the love of the doctrines of the Capitular work.

It therefore demands the questions: What level of encouragement, dedication and passion do you show? What more can you do? What planning do you do between meetings to ensure those three qualities are very present with your attendance next meeting? Do you take time to work out a plan?

I leave you with some quotations about passion (on the following page), especially concerning which of the three characteristics is, for me, the motor which keeps me going.

Blessings,

Companion Stephen Godfrey  
Grand Chaplain



## Quotations about Passion:

Without passion man is a mere latent force and possibility, like the flint which awaits the shock of the iron before it can give forth its spark.

**Henri Frédéric Amiel** (1821-1881) Philosopher and Poet

My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style!

**Maya Angelou** (b. 1928) Author and Poet

Passion, though a bad regulator, is a powerful spring.

**Ralph Waldo Emerson** (1803-1882) Essayist, Lecturer and Poet

There is a passion for perfection which you rarely see fully developed, but...in successful lives it is never wholly lacking.

**Bliss Carman** (1861-1929) Poet

There is an energy field between humans. And, when we reach out in passion, it is met with an answering passion and changes the relationship forever.

**Rollo May** (1909-1994) Existential Psychologist

It is obvious that we can no more explain a passion to a person who has never experienced it than we can explain light to the blind.

**T. S. Elliot** (1888-1965) Publisher, Playwright and Poet

Patience is passion tamed.

**Lyman Abbott** (1835-1922) Theologian, Editor and Author

*Panama Canal Cruise with MEC Tony Brown and his wife Sue*

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**Spring Board of General Purposes**

**April 6, 2012**

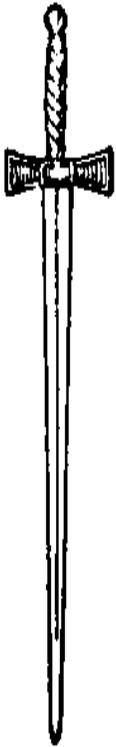
**Nanaimo Yacht Club, 400 Newcastle Avenue**

**7:30 AM Registration opens**  
**9:00 AM Meeting starts**  
**12:00 PM Lunch**  
**4:00 PM Social hour**  
**5:00 PM Banquet (business suits)**

**Accommodations Ramada Inn, 315 Rosehill Street**  
**Room rate \$97.75 plus tax**  
**Phone 250-716-2009 & quote "Royal Arch Masons"**

**Registration forms on line at : [grandchapter-bc-yukon.ca](http://grandchapter-bc-yukon.ca)**

## The Signet of Zerubbabel



*In that day, saith the Lord of hosts, will I take thee, O Zerubbabel, my servant, the son of Shealtiel, saith the Lord, and will make thee as a signet, for I have chosen thee, saith the Lord of hosts.* Haggai (ii,23)

Thus the Lord chose Zerubabel as his signet, for Zerubabel, as governor of Judea and builder of the Second Temple at Jerusalem was the symbol of the searcher after truth. This is also the meaning of the symbol in Freemasonry: It signifies that its recipient has attained certain degrees of truth and assures him that he will advance in his search.

A signet, in general terms, is a symbol of authority recognized as an attestation of

achievement of the bearer. Because a signet ring is engraved, it can be used to leave an impression in a seal. Such rings are also called seal rings. Transfer of the ring to another makes them the representative of the ring bearer.

In specific terms, the Signet of Zerubbabel is a ring bearing a flat, triangular space with the Hebrew letter "Yod" engraved within the triangle. It is the tenth letter of the Hebrew alphabet (which runs from aleph to bet).

Yod is the smallest of the Hebrew letters and the form from which all other letters begin and end. Yod is said to indicate God's omnipresence and is the first letter of the Divine



Name.

The same symbol is used for the 14th Degree of the Scottish Rite.

Sources:

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[hebrew4christians.com](http://hebrew4christians.com)

[Masonic.wikidot.com](http://Masonic.wikidot.com)

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