





*Louis C. McCray* **GRAND HIGH PRIEST**

**LADY KRISTI**

P.O. Box 483, Hale 48739

989.728.5384 [elcemccray@yahoo.com](mailto:elcemccray@yahoo.com)

***“GREETINGS FROM THE GRAND EAST”***

Where did it all go? The year, I mean. It seems like it was just a few months ago I was installed as Grand High Priest and now, as my year is winding down, I realize this is my final article as your Grand High Priest.

There were some definite “Ups” during the year but unfortunately, there were a few “Downs” as well. Among the Ups were the opportunities to travel to our sister jurisdictions in neighboring states to attend their Grand Chapter Convocations, visits to several chapters around Michigan, as a Senior DeMolay myself, receiving the Legion of Honor award from the Order of DeMolay, just happening to be the Grand High Priest while representing Michigan at the General Grand Chapter Triennial in Buffalo, NY last September, presenting the General Grand Chapter Bronze Medal Award and the Meritorious Service Awards to our worthy recipients, various events with our wonderful youth groups, and a host of other activities too numerous to mention here.

There were three big Down events that I feel were the worst of the year. The first was the resignation of REC William Siebert as Grand Scribe last November and his subsequent ascension to the Celestial Lodge a few months later. Next was the forced consolidations of both York Chapter # 150 with Washtenaw #6 and Capitol #9 with Ingham # 51, with possibly a couple more yet to come. Down event number three was accepting the resignation of MEC Robert Cooper PGHP, who stepped down as Grand Secretary early in July. We knew he did not plan to run for re-election, but his decision to resign early was a shock to many of us. MEC Cooper did a great job as Grand Secretary and he will be missed. Rather than appoint someone for the approximately fifty days remaining before the Grand Chapter Convocation when there is little to do except make the preparations for the Convocation, I have decided to divide the Grand Secretary’s duties between the Grand King, REC Don Galway, and myself.

Now for another UP: We just completed another great week-end with the Annual Jim Sprague Memorial Picnic on Saturday and the York Rite Golf Outing on Sunday. Although there were moments of less than ideal weather, the rain seemed to hold off during both events and only fell before and after the festivities were completed.

The picnic at the Sprague cottage near Gladwin was especially good with great fellowship, a meal consisting of grilled steak or chicken courtesy of PGHP Jerry Vann, baked potatoes, corn-on-the-cob, a variety of pot-luck items for the 35 people attending, and as a special treat, a birthday cake with the 4 names on the frosting of the birthday boys and girls celebrating their birthdays during the week. For those that stayed overnight, for breakfast we had pancakes with real maple syrup, bacon, eggs and American fries. My compliments to the cooks, REC Mike Roberts and Lady Becca for the grillwork, corn & potatoes, and for breakfast, Lady Kristi McCray and PGHP Larry Inscho. Once again we thank Jody and son Jimmy for their hospitality and work in preparing the grounds for our picnic.

Attendance was off a little this year for the golf outing with only five teams but we also had eighteen non-golfers come for dinner and a good time. I haven’t seen the final figures yet but it looks like we will have something in the neighborhood of \$1700 to \$1800 to divide between the Grand Chapter, Grand Council, and Grand Commandery charities. That may not be quite as well as the past few years, but it’s more than we had the week before, so we can still call it a success.

Remaining on the agenda before the Grand Session are the York Rite Sovereign College in Louisville, KY on July 31 and the DeMolay Annual Conclave August 5-7.

As I look forward to the Joint York Rite Grand Session and my leaving the office of Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter, I can’t think of an eight year period in my life that I have enjoyed more than the time I spent as an officer in the Grand Chapter line, especially this last year when Lady Kristi retired and she could travel with me once again (sorry PGHP Kiefer and GK Galway, traveling with you was fun but you don’t quite compare with my wife, after all we’ve got over a million miles together in an area about the size of a walk in closet). I hope to be able to keep in touch with the many friends I have made in the nearby states and the Province of Ontario and see them on a regular basis either here in Michigan or when visiting their jurisdictions.

In closing I will leave you with a few more quotes courtesy of Terry Spalding-Martin through the Canada Masons email group.

It is the sweet, simple things of life that are the real ones after all.

- Laura Elizabeth Ingalls Wilder (1867-1957) “Little House on the Prairie” author

When I let go of what I am, I become what I might be.

- Lao Tzu [Lao Tse] (Old Master) (604-531 BCE)

Become a possibilitarian. No matter how dark things seem to be or actually are, raise your sights and see possibilities - always see them, for they're always there.

- Bro. Norman Vincent Peale (1898-1993)

The thing I hate about an argument is that it always interrupts a discussion.

- Gilbert Keith Chesterton (1874-1936)

Man's desires are limited by his perceptions; none can desire what he has not perceived.

- William Blake (1757-1827)

Some people are so busy learning the tricks of the trade, they never learn the trade.

- Anonymous



**Donald L. Galway**  
**Kings Korner**

22365 N. Latson      Howell 48845  
517.618.7390      [dgalway12000@yahoo.com](mailto:dgalway12000@yahoo.com)

Greetings Companions,

This is my last article that I write as grand King for the Triple Tau. This time next month if the Good Lord is willing and the creek don't rise, too high, I will be writing as the Grand High Priest. I have enjoyed serving as Grand King this year along with learning a lot more of just what the Grand High Priests job is about.

This past weekend was the York rite picnic and Golf outing, which were held at the Gladwin Heights Golf Course and the Jim Sprague cabin. I cannot express enough gratitude to Jody and Jimmy Sprague for allowing us to invade their lives for this weekend along with all of the past years that this event has been held. The event was started many years ago by GHP Paul Howell & Lady Beth with James Sprague, Gr. King, and Lady Jody graciously allowing us to use their cabin as a place to meet and this has become an annual tradition for York Rite. This is a fun filled weekend and I am told that in past years the Sprague's property was turned into a camp ground with tents, campers and motorhomes scattered around the grounds in spots that were chosen by the squatters that laid claim for the weekend, one in particular that was laid claim to by Paul Howell and now taken over by Larry Inscho is prime real estate.

Sunday morning starts with a breakfast that is prepared by the Grand High Priest, which is a tradition that was started by GHP Dennis Sharrow during his year. Then off to the golf course, where the fun really begins. John, our host at the course has to be commended for putting up with us each year. He caters to all of our needs and provides a great meal at the end of the day. The weather this year was great, the course was in excellent shape as always, and the players were ready for the challenge. The only real surprise of the day was that the long reigning champs of the event was dethroned this year by one stroke, so they didn't take home the plaque, but they did take home the lions share of the prize money. I don't have a final count of the monies raised for the charities of the Grand Chapter, Grand Council and Grand Commandery that will be announced at the Grand York session in August.

I would like to thank all of the players, hole sponsors, workers and people who came to support this year's event. Without you, it could not have been the great success that it was. Mark your calendars for next year the picnic and golf outing will be held on July 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. The committee will be sending flyers to all of the York rite bodies in plenty of time for next years events.

Again thank you for allowing me to be your Grand King this year, and I hope to see each and every one at the Grand Session August 19<sup>th</sup> thru 22<sup>nd</sup> in Bay City.

In Service to the Craft



President  
2014  
**TYLER KIMER**  
105 W. Mankato St.  
Duluth, MN 55803

Secretary  
2014  
**JOHN C. WHITE**  
401 Green Ave.  
Stevens Point, WI  
54481

**2015 TRI-STATE CONVOCATION**

**WHEN: AUGUST 29, 2015**

**WHERE: LAKE SUPERIOR LODGE**  
4731 GLADSTONE ST.  
DULUTH, MN 55804

Registration will be available beginning at 9:00 am.  
(Coffee/Rolls provided—(donation accepted))

The festivities will be opened promptly at 9:45 am by  
MEGHP \_\_\_\_\_ (or his representative).

The conferral of degrees will be as follows:

- 10:00 am MARK MASTER – Wisconsin
- 11:00 am PAST MASTER—Michigan
- 12:15 Break for lunch – Soup and Sandwiches \$10
- 1:15 pm MOST EXCELLENT MASTER—Michigan
- 2:30 pm Break and Annual Meeting with Election  
of Officers for 2015-16
- 3:30 pm ROYAL ARCH—Minnesota

\*\*\* Closing immediately following the RAM Degree

Rooms have been blocked off for Friday night August 28<sup>th</sup> and Saturday night at the Holiday Inn downtown at 200 W 1<sup>st</sup> St. at \$229/night. (This time of year can be tricky for hotel rooms on the weekends. The only other place I was able to find that was more reasonable was the EcoLodge at 4197 Haines Rd. for \$155/night. Rooms were not available to block off.)

**MONROE COUNCIL NO. 1 R&SM**

**ALL DEGREE DAY**

**SEPTEMBER 12, 2015**



- Noon      Coffee and Donuts
  - 1:00 PM    Opening
  - 1:20      Royal Master Degree
  - 2:00 PM    Select Master Degree
  - 3:00      Reception of Grand Officers
  - 3:30      Super Excellent Master Degree
  - 6:00 PM    Dinner (\$15.00 each)
- (tours will be available)

Reserve \_\_\_\_\_ Dinners at \$15.00 each  
Total Paid: \_\_\_\_\_

Checks payable to: Monroe Council No. 1 R&SM  
Reservations must be in by September 1, 2015

Monroe Council, 500 Temple, Detroit, MI 48201

**Grand Chapter Web Site:**  
<http://www.grandchaptermi.org>

*Secretary's Scribbles*

Companions and Friends of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Michigan,

It is with much regret that I must announce the resignation, for personal reasons, of MEC Robert E. Cooper PGHP, as Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter effective July 1, 2015. Since then, MEC Cooper has been working with the RE Grand King, Donald Galway and myself to help us get through this year and make the transition to a new secretary as smooth as possible.

Being as there is only a short time between MEC Cooper's resignation and the Grand Convocation in August, I have decided not to appoint a temporary Grand Secretary, to avoid confusion between a temporary G/S and a new one.. Instead, Grand King Galway, Grand Treasurer Sherman Parker, and I will share in the duties of Grand Secretary until the election. As most of these duties between now and the election are preparations for the Grand Session, which we would be involved with anyway, and any potential conflicts of interest could be held off until the offices are again separated later in August, I think this is the simplest solution to the short term lack of a Grand Secretary.

MEC Paul Howell, PGHP, Grand Secretary Emeritus, has agreed to fill in as Grand Secretary during the Grand Convocation to maintain the records in an orderly fashion and we thank him.

MEC Bob, you have been in involved with the Grand Chapter for the entire time I have been in the Grand Line, first as an Officer, then Grand High Priest, then Secretary. You have been a mentor, a sometime traveling companion, and a friend for the entire time. You will be missed but I am sure we will see each other down the road from time to time. In the meantime I wish you every success wherever your endeavors may take you.

Louis C. McCray, MEGHP

**Secretaries and Companions,**

**Calendar:**

August 17-22 – Grand York Rite Sessions of Michigan –Bay City – Double Tree

August 29 –Tri State 4 Degree Day-Duluth MN

See flyer in this issue for more information.

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**Annual Returns for 2015**

Most Annual Returns have come in, but there are still several not submitted. If your Chapter's Annual Return is not in by August 14, your Chapter will not be allowed representation at the Grand Chapter Convocation. Remember to add the \$10 Late Fee. If you are having trouble contact REC Don Galway for assistance.

**Announced for Grand Honors:** (Endorsements on File)  
Repeated from Last Month  
Jeffery A. Heaven – PHP, Mt. Pleasant Chapter #111  
8800 Millbrook Rd, Blanchard, Mi. 49310  
H 989-561-5548 C 989-944-2923 or 231-854-4331  
weoxstan@gmail.com Grand Sentinel

Donald C. Mayville – PHP, Livingston # 30  
148 Belmont Lane, Whitmore Lake, Mi. 48189  
810-874-1637 DDI District #10

Robert B. Powers – PHP, Mt. Vernon # 37  
9304 Lewis Ave., Temperance, Mi. 48182-9307  
powers438@bex.net Former DDI

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**Awards:**

Our Grand Session is coming up quickly so please apply for them, if you have eligible members:

50 Year Pins

Life Membership (30 years service and 65 years old)

Individual Ritual Awards: Awarded thru a point system, The application details out the points earned for each ritual part.

**Membership Awards:**

Lewis Cass Medal – Top line signer on 10 of more petitions

Zerubbabel Apron – Top line signer on 15 or more petitions

Meritorious Service Award – chosen from those applicants, 1 from each Region and 1 state wide.

The Doctor Hudson Award based upon Chapter timing, reporting and membership gains. It is compiled by the Grand Secretary.

The Masonic Heritage Award, (formerly called the Lewis Award) presented to Father-Son(In-Law and step) who are both masons. It can be presented at the raising of one of them, or at any time thereafter. The applications may be downloaded form the WEB Site

**Other Deadlines:**

Deadlines for Grand Chapter Committee reports have passed. If you are chairman of a Grand Chapter Committee and have not yet submitted your report, it is critical that you send it in now for publication in the Advance Proceedings.

Proxy Forms – Available in this publication or by going on the Grand Chapter Web Site. Don't lose your vote Give your Proxy to someone who does not have a ballot, if possible.

# EVERLASTING IMPRESSIONS

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You are cordially invited to a  
**JOINT YORK RITE GRAND OFFICERS RECEPTION**  
HONORING



*Donald L. Galway*  
Most Excellent Grand High Priest  
Grand Chapter RAM



*Edward P. James*  
Most Illustrious Grand Master  
Grand Council R&SM



*Albert F. Johnson*  
Right Eminent Grand Commander  
Grand Commandery KT

**Sunday, October 11, 2015**

**Social 3:30 PM Dinner 4:00PM**

to be held at the: *Crowne Plaza Hotel*

925 Creyts Road, Lansing, Michigan

Social Hour starting at 3:00PM with cash bar

Dinner at 4:00PM

Cost \$45.00 per person

**Dress:** *Grand Officers Tuxedo w/jewel*

**Men:** *Jacket and Tie*

**Ladies:** *Sunday best*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Request Reservations for \_\_\_\_\_ persons @ \$45.00 Per Person

Reservations with remittance no later than October 7<sup>th</sup> 2015

Please make checks payable to : Livingston Chapter #30

R.S.V.P. and Remittance, a must, to :

Don Mayville

148 Belmont Ln.

Whitmore Lake, MI. 48189

**Choice of Entrée:**

Roast Pork Loin \_\_\_\_\_ Broiled Whitefish \_\_\_\_\_

Vegetarian Plate: *Stuffed Portobello Mushroom* \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Remitted: \_\_\_\_\_

Check # \_\_\_\_\_

**Michigan Grand York Rite Sessions – Aug. 19th – 22nd, 2015**  
 Grand Chapter, Wed., Aug. 19; Grand Council, Thur., Aug. 20; Grand Commandery, Fri & Sat., Aug 21 & 22

**Michigan Grand York Rite  
 2015 Sessions Committee  
 Brian K. Himes, Chairman  
 Larry A. Inscho  
 Harry A. Walbridge**

**Hotel Reservations:  
 Doubletree Hotel Bay City Riverfront**

Attn: Reservations Department  
 One Wenonah Park Place, Bay City, MI 48708  
 Phone: 989 891-6000 Fax: 989 891-9680

Group Room Rate: \$105.00 plus 11% tax per room, per night  
Cut Off Date was: July 17, 2015 therefore no longer in effect!!

Check-In Time: 3:00 PM Check-Out Time: Noon

**Please Note:** Reservations request must be received in their office by midnight on the above cut off date in order to guarantee the group rate. Requests received after the above date will be subject to availability and the group rate is not guaranteed. All reservation requests must be accompanied by a first night room deposit, or guaranteed by a major credit card. Rooms will not be reserved unless secured by one of the above methods.

**GUESTROOM PREFERENCE (Subject to Availability)**

- If more than one room is requested, please enclose a list of names and addresses, indicating which guests share rooms.
- If you would like a confirmation sent to you via email, please provide your email address below.

**# of Rooms**

\_\_\_\_\_ Standard Room – 2 Beds      \_\_\_\_\_ Standard Room – King Bed  
 (Limited number of King Bedded Rooms in the Hotel)

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of People in Your Guestroom

**Special Requests (Please Check)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Handicap Accessible    \_\_\_\_\_ Hearing Impaired

**GUEST INFORMATION**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \*\*\* E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Arrival Day/Date :** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Departure Day/Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of Card Holder: \_\_\_\_\_  
 or Check or Money Order (Enclosed) in the Amount of: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**MEAL RESERVATION FORM – GYR 2015**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Lady \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ St. \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Special Dietary requests \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\* Make your reservations from the following selections:

**Grand Chapter RAM – Wed., Aug. 19, 2015**

7 AM Chap. Memb. Breakfast No. \_\_\_\_ @ \$13.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

12 Noon Ladies Luncheon No. \_\_\_\_ @ \$16.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

12 Noon Companions Luncheon No. \_\_\_\_ @ \$16.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

7 PM “Support Your Team” Banquet No. \_\_\_\_ @ \$30.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Grand Council R&SM – Thur., Aug. 20, 2015**

7 AM Comp./Ladies Breakfast No. \_\_\_\_ @ \$13.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

12 Noon Ladies Luncheon No. \_\_\_\_ @ \$16.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

12 Noon Companions Luncheon No. \_\_\_\_ @ \$16.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**GRAND YORK RITE GRAND BANQUET – Thur. Aug 20, 2015**

7 pm New York Strip Steak No. \_\_\_\_ @ \$36.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Roasted Airline Chicken Breast No. \_\_\_\_ @ \$36.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Grand Commandery KT – Fri. Aug. 21, 2015**

7 AM KT Gen Memb Breakfast No. \_\_\_\_ @ \$13.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

12 Noon Ladies Luncheon No. \_\_\_\_ @ \$16.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

12 Noon KT Luncheon No. \_\_\_\_ @ \$16.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**7:30 PM ROUND TABLE DINNER**

Sirloin Steak No. \_\_\_\_ @ \$36.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Pork Chop No. \_\_\_\_ @ \$36.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Grand Commandery KT – Fri. Aug. 21, 2015**

8 AM KT Gen Memb Breakfast No. \_\_\_\_ @ \$13.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Sub Total \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fee: \$ **10.00**

**TOTAL \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Make Checks Payable to: Michigan Grand York Rite Committee**

**Notice: Meal reservations must be postmarked by Aug. 7, 2015. All Meal reservations postmarked after Aug. 7, 2015, are subject to a Late Fee of \$25.00.**

Meal reservation cancellations will be honored prior to August 14, 2015.

**REMITTANCE MUST ACCOMPANY RESERVATIONS!**

Please forward all reservations with remittance To:

**MICHIGAN GRAND YORK RITE COMMITTEE**

c/o Larry A. Inscho, PGHP, P.O. Box 143, Fostoria, MI 48435-0143

**MONROE COUNCIL NO. 1 R&SM**

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1:00 PM	Opening
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Monroe Council, 500 Temple, Detroit, MI 48201



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**Grand Chapter**  
Sponsored  
**York Rite Picnic**

Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
Sprague Cabin  
Southeast of:  
Gladwin, Michigan

*If you missed being able  
to attend, then you  
missed a great time  
of Friendship,  
Fellowship,  
Great Weather  
And even better  
Conversation*

## WHO WAS HIRAM ABIFF?

*By Jim Pullins, Pleasant Valley #531*

Hiram Abiff, we know, was a widow's son. He was the son of a man of Tyre, but his mother was an Israelite, said in one record to have been of the tribe of Naphtal, and in another, of the "daughters of Dan."

His mother was indeed a native of the tribe of Dan, but her first husband was of the tribe of Naphtali, to whom Hiram was probably born. After the death of the first husband, she then married a man of Tyre, and her son was brought up as a Tyrian and fully educated and trained in the arts of that land. Tyre was one of the principal seats of the Dionysiac fraternity of artificers, a Society engaged exclusively in the construction of edifices and united in a secret organization, subsequently imitated by the Operative Masons of the Temple. Hiram Abiff was quite probably a member of this organization, and learned much from this privilege. In assuming his work at Jerusalem, he introduced among the workmen the same exact system of discipline that he had found so advantageous in the Dionysiac Secret Society. From this secret society of operative masons there was evolved the Order of Speculative Masons, of which Hiram Abiff was the first Grand Master.

His mother, being a Daughter of Dan, the fifth son of Jacob, endowed Hiram with characteristics of this tribe. This tribe was said to be bold, courageous, daring and cunning. The banner of Dan was blue. This may be an origin for the choice of blue as a Masonic color.

In Chronicles, Chapter 2, verses 13 & 14, Hiram King of Tyre tells Solomon about the man he has sent to oversee the work of the Temple:

"And now I have sent a cunning man, endued with understanding, of Hiram my father's, the son of a woman of the daughters of Dan, and his father was a man of Tyre, skillful to work in gold, and in silver, in brass, in iron, in stone, and in timber, in purple, in blue, and in fine linen, and in crimson; also to grave any manner of graving, and to find out every device in which shall be put to him, with thy cunning men, and with the cunning men of my lord David thy father."

Obviously a good man to supervise the construction of a building containing all those materials and to manage all the workers.

It appears that Naphtali was also the fifth son of Jacob. The Lord, in Deuteronomy 33:23, says "Naphtali, satisfied with favor, and full with the blessing of the Lord, Possess thou the west and the south." In the same Chapter, the Lord refers to Dan as "a lion's whelp."

All of this together, shows us that our character Hiram Abiff, is a wrapping of many Masonic symbols and characteristics. He inherits possession of the west and south, descended from the tribe that possessed the Lion of the Tribe of Judah (a symbolic reference to Christ) and possesses skills critical to the mastery of his craft. The mystery of who he is still remains, for while there are references to Hiram in his character as a craftsman, there is no Biblical reference to the name Abiff which is uniquely Masonic.

## Getting Older

As I've aged, I've become kinder to myself, and less critical of myself. I've become my own friend.

I have seen too many dear friends leave this world, too soon; before they understood the great freedom that comes with aging.

Whose business is it, if I choose to read, or play, on the computer, until 4 AM, or sleep until noon? I will dance with myself to those wonderful tunes of the 50, 60 & 70 's, and if I, at the same time, wish to weep over a lost love, I will.

I will walk the beach, in a swim suit that is stretched over a bulging body, and will dive into the waves, with abandon, if I choose to, despite the pitying glances from the jet set. They, too, will get old.

I know I am sometimes forgetful. But there again, some of life is just as well forgotten. And, I eventually remember the important things.

Sure, over the years, my heart has been broken. How can your heart not break, when you lose a loved one, or when a child suffers, or even when somebody 's beloved pet gets hit by a car? But, broken hearts are what give us strength, and understanding, and compassion. A heart never broken, is pristine, and sterile, and will never know the joy of being imperfect.

I am so blessed to have lived long enough to have my hair turning gray, and to have my youthful laughs be forever etched into deep grooves on my face. So many have never laughed, and so many have died before their hair could turn silver. As you get older, it is easier to be positive. You care less about what other people think. I don 't question myself anymore. I've even earned the right to be wrong. So, to answer your question, I like being old. It has set me free. I like the person I have become. I am not going to live forever, but while I am still here, I will not waste time lamenting what could have been, or worrying about what will be. And I shall eat dessert every single day (if I feel like it).

## IF, YOU WILL MY BROTHER BE

If you believe in  
A Great Architect,  
And only if;

If you are a man  
Good and True  
And live God's chosen paths;

If you weep at a man's woes  
And his pain is your pain;  
His anguished needs  
You carefully soothe:

If the moons no more  
Your ambition keep  
Or at least the direction know;

If the hard and stony path  
Is but behind  
And not ahead of you;

If your job, its satisfaction  
done,  
And life's a plateau,  
Life its stillness bore:

If you have loved  
And all the joys of love,  
Mellowed to its highest  
heights;

If life's eternal lesson learned  
And have been rewarded  
With God's gifts of joy and  
blessings;

If you have the heart and soul,  
And the precious hours  
To share this joy with other  
fellowmen:

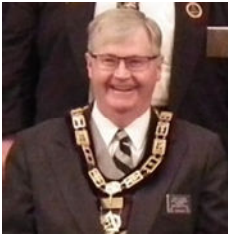
If within you, lies a heart  
That stirs for more,  
And you know not why;

If you ask questions  
That gives no answers;  
Why, what or who am I?

If you ask,  
Is life a tireless search  
With no end?

Then, Time is right,  
My good fellow,  
You are  
And you will, my brother be!





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Many of you already know of my passion for Cryptic Masonry, and in that particular body of York Rite Masonry, one would find a particular component of which I would like to present a few observations in its regard. I'm referring to the number 27. 27 you may ask? Why 27? Anyone who is a Royal and Select Mason should already be somewhat acquainted with this number, and my hope is that we may develop a re-newed desire and on-going curiosity to discover its relevance and meaning.

In religion, philosophy and the occult the number 27 has many meanings. The Greek Strong's number G27 is "Agapetos" which means "Beloved", as found in the New Testament of the Bible and also relates to the love of the beloved to give their life for the Master. The number 27 represents the highest level of knowledge in Buddhism, those who have taken their oath to the Master have gained all knowledge of the world and how it is controlled. Plato and Pythagoras were ahead of their time, I mean way ahead of their time. Why? They say the number 3 cubed (i.e. 27) represent the Cosmos. In the Kabbalah there are 27 letters, corresponding to 27 channels of communication with God and 27 combinations of the names of God and - 13 overt and 14 covert.

Other related meanings of the number 27:

According to Feng Shui, to raise money, keep in the house 27 identical coins- 27 equals wealth. In an ancient Incan culture there were 27 roads to El Dorado- 27 roads to ruin or destruction.

Other General Observations found in the Bible include:

Number of generations from David to the Christ according to the Gospel of Matthew. (Matt. 1, 1-17)

The New Testament of the Bible of Jerusalem contains 27 books.

Length of the cubit "mir" in inch (it is in reality twenty seven inches and half). According to Edgar Cayce, it is this measuring unit which would have been used for the construction of the Great Pyramid.

The last book of the New Testament, the 27th, is the Revelation John and his feast is celebrated on December 27. The primitive Greek alphabet, with which it was possible to write all the numbers from 1 to 900, had 27 letters with the gamma, the koppa and the sampi. Similarly the divine Revelation inspired to the elected people was written on rollers ranks to the 27 signs of the Hebrew alphabet: 22 letters plus the 5 finals (kaph, mem, nun, phe and tzade) those having a form and a different numerical value when they are at the end of a word.

The number 27 is used 6 times in the Bible.

The book of the Acts of the Apostles in the NT uses on the whole 27 different numbers, which are numbers 1 to 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365.

The number 500 is used 27 times in the Bible.

Among the 365 different numbers found in the Bible, 27 of them are prime numbers, counting the number one.

The age of Jesus when he started his active his ministry.

Was everyone aware that there is no such number as 27, not as we know it anyway, in the Hebrew language? In the Hebrew language, the number 3 symbolizes Divine Holiness. Some ancient texts reveal that "3 times" was meant to mean "that which could not be taken away". Keep this in mind, as we're going to come back to this in just a moment.

So, what does it all mean? We've been introduced to a few observations, enough to peak further curiosity in discovering its meaning. There does seem to be some sort of thread that the ancients found in Masonry, both operative and speculative regarding the number 27, almost to the point of reverence. But what? Co-incidence or not? Maybe.....maybe not.

Could it be that in their mathematical understanding of the number 27, they came to revere 27 in an esoteric sense as well? **Holiness, that could never be taken away?** 3x3 or 9, then x3 again to emphasize its absoluteness? In other words, 3x9?

7?

In my quest for more light during my look at the number 27, I found that many more questions kept coming to the surface, quite frankly, much more than I could find answers for. But maybe that's as it should be, for in Masonry we learn that the quest for more light; more understanding into the master plan of the Supreme Architect of the Universe's purpose for us, is on-going and continues on until the day comes when we drop the working tools of life to finally arrive at that Celestial edge.

Edward James, Deputy Grand Master



# GRAND COMMANDERY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR



**Paul W. Roggow**  
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**2014-2015**

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Sir Knights and Ladies,

This is my last deadline for the Triple Tau and not the easiest. My thanks and sincere appreciation for all the courtesies and hospitality extended to Lady Jean and me during my years of service for you. My thanks to all the committee chairmen and members of each committee performing their duties for the Grand Commandery and the Sir Knights around the state.

Congratulations to SK Albert Johnson, Right Eminent Grand Commander. Also to those Sir Knights who are the rest of the leadership team who will continue to move forward in the next year. Their aspirations and goals will need your generous help and participation. Best Wishes for 2015-2016. **Just Do It!!!**

My parting comments are for increased efforts to a positive approach with what we have going for us. I feel that we can be viable into the future with planning not just letting things happen, give advance notice off events well ahead of the day of the event. If taking a plural membership to help stabilize a nearby commandery for a short term, why not. Car pool rides for visits but call ahead first not just drop-in. Try different approaches like have a meal at a nearby restaurant with the ladies before the Stated Conclave, invite outside speakers to attend and give community history, or from Grand Lodge Speakers Bureau, be active within the community by volunteering at a museum, have an active food drive for local pantries. I will stress that not all of our activities need be in the asylum or Masonic Center. **What I cannot do, together we can.**

Until we meet again, keep the wind at your back and your eye on the horizon,  
 Paul W. Roggow, almost your Past Grand Commander



9/5/2015	Saturday	Romeo 6	3PM	5:30 PM	yes	yes	Eastern	D. Winslow
9/12/2015	Saturday	Columbia 18	1PM	12:00	Yes	Yes	Southwestern	M. Whiting
9/12/2015	Saturday	Niles 12	1PM	12:00	Yes	Yes	Southwestern	D. Winslow
9/12/2015	Saturday	Peninsular 8	1PM	12:00	Yes	Yes		D. Winslow
9/12/2015	Saturday	Sunrise 34	1PM	4PM	yes	yes		EGJW
9/17/2015	Thursday	Traverse City 41	10:30am	11AM	yes	yes	Northern	D. Trumbull
9/17/2015	Thursday	Cheboygan 50	10:30am	11AM	yes	yes	Northern	D. Winslow
9/18/2015	Friday	Lake Superior 30	1:30PM	Noon	yes	yes	Northern	D. Winslow
9/19/2015	Saturday	Escanaba 47	1:30 PM	5PM	yes	yes	Northern	S. Bashore
9/26/2015	Saturday	Bad Axe 52	2PM	5PM	yes	yes	Eastern	M. Whiting
9/26/2015	Saturday	Ypsilanti 54	10am	1:30 PM	Yes	Yes	Southeastern	S. Bashore