

**Vision Statement**

To be an organization that attracts & retains Past Masters throughout the Hamilton Districts by providing the opportunity to enhance personal development through knowledge and fraternal friendships by providing opportunities for informational exchange and social interaction.

**Mission Statement**

Our Association will communicate more effectively to the Past Masters of the Hamilton Districts what we can do to support their development through education and friendship.

**Core Values**

- Fraternal Friendship
- Knowledge Support
- Harmony

**P M eh!**

Contributions / comments?  
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# P M eh!

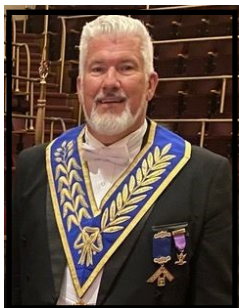
Past Masters' Association of the Hamilton Districts

January 2024

THE PAST MASTERS' ASSOCIATION OF THE HAMILTON DISTRICTS



## A Message From The President...



**R.W. Bro. Michael R. Martin  
President**

**G**reetings and Happy New Year, Brethren:

I trust everyone had a wonderful time celebrating the Holidays with their family and friends. Although the season can be somewhat chaotic, it can also be very rewarding by feeding our spirit.

The month of January marks the continuation of winter in the Northern Hemisphere and summer in the Southern Hemisphere. It symbolizes fresh starts; is a time for reflection, and for setting intentions for the year ahead. Hence, many Masonic bodies hold their Installation and Investiture Ceremonies in January.

In your down time over the holidays, did you take time to reflect or set goals for your 2024?

At our January meeting, we will be welcoming **R.W. Bro. Peter J. Sialtsis**, Member of the Board, Chairman of the Lodge Buildings Advisory Committee under the Operations Pillar. His topic will be the **Grand Lodge Fire Compliance Policy and Processes**. We hope his presentation will answer some of the questions and concerns that some lodges may have with the process. Please plan to attend - to "tune in" to the presentation; partake in the question period; and more importantly share the information you have gleaned with your lodge committee that has been tasked with fulfilling the requirements of this policy.

The meeting will be hybrid in nature – both in person and via Zoom. It will be taking place at the Hamilton Shrine Club.

As it is a New Year, please make the effort to attend, enjoy a delicious breakfast and join your fellow Past Masters in like conversation. Let's start this year off in a positive note.

Your board certainly looks forward to greeting each of you.

Yours fraternally,  
R.W. Bro. Michael R. Martin

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**Welcome to Our Next Regular Meeting**  
Saturday January 27, 2024  
**Guest Speaker — Rt. W. Bro. Peter J. Sialtsis**

Participate either in person at the **Hamilton Shrine Club** at 82 Melvin Avenue in Hamilton  
Meet & Greet: 8:30 am  
Breakfast: 9:00 am  
Meeting: 10:00 am  
Cost for breakfast is \$25.00.

Please register in advance for the in-person Breakfast / Meeting using this link:  
[Breakfast Registration](#)

Or join us by Zoom video conference for the meeting portion at 10:00 am

Please register in advance for this Zoom meeting at:  
[Zoom Meeting Registration](#)

Once registered for the Zoom video conference, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

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### Did you know.....?

At one time, Golden Rule Lodge No. 5, Stanstead, Quebec (founded in 1803, one of the oldest Masonic Lodges in Quebec) occupied a lodge room that straddled the international boundary between Canada and the United States. There were entrances to the Lodge room from both sides of the border!

## To Walk, or not, on the Mosaic Pavement

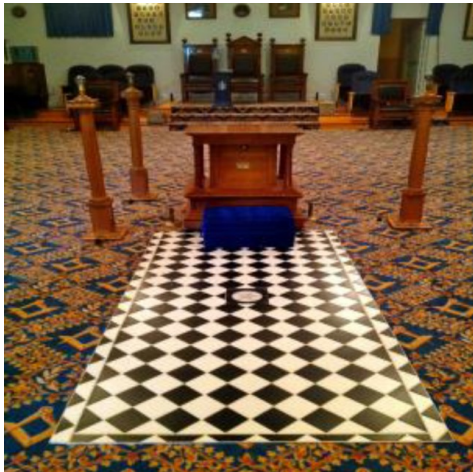
Source: **Masonic Education Committee**

Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario

**R.W. Bro. Gordon Crutcher**

**Assistant to The Custodian (December 2020)**

(additions in bold by **V.W. Bro. Barry D. Thom**)



Is it permitted to walk or stand on the Mosaic Pavement on occasions other than those specified in our Openings and Closings, or in our other rituals and ceremonies?

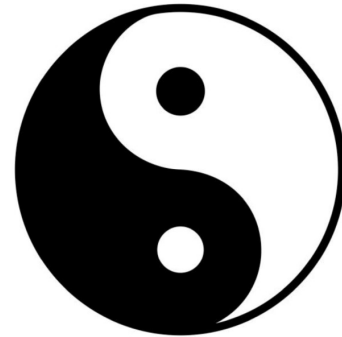
One of the most noticeable features of a Masonic lodge room is the Mosaic Pavement. It is featured so predominantly near the centre of the room that even an Entered Apprentice must conclude that it fulfills an important purpose.

Endless lectures have been given and hundreds of books and papers have been written about the vast symbolism which abounds within our lodge rooms. As would be expected, a large number of these educational efforts have focused on that central feature – the Mosaic Pavement.

The author of this paper leaves no doubt as to the grand role assigned to our Mosaic Pavement in his opening paragraph, i.e.: “The black and white checkered floor has existed in temples since the times of Ancient/Egypt”.

**Checkerboard floors were present in 15th century European paintings and the design can be found in ancient artifacts, including Iranian ceramic vessels. Bronze Age pottery displayed the staggered square design in pieces from as early as 1500 BC. The design can even be found in ancient Egyptian/hieroglyphics.**

More than simply decorative, the Mosaic Pavement bears a profound esoteric meaning. Today it is one of Freemasonry’s most recognizable symbols and is the ritualistic floor of all Masonic lodges. The pavement is the area on which Initiations occur and is “emblematic of human life, checkered with good and evil.”



**Black and white have always signified “good and evil”. However, it signifies much more, in some societies.**

**Yin and Yang are two complementary principles of Chinese philosophy: Yin is negative, dark, and feminine, Yang positive, bright, and masculine. (note that female is “dark”. did this come about when women were considered beneath the man in status?) Their interaction is thought to maintain the harmony of the universe and to influence everything/within/it.**

**As Yin is black, it symbolizes shadow or darkness, things that are quieter, the moon, and all things with dark energy.. The white of Yang on the other hand, is used to symbolize warmth, positive energy, active motion, and the sun. Each half of the symbol has a small circle in the centre, which is the corresponding colour of the opposite side. This is done to show that each side carries the seed, or “essence”, of the other. This symbolically tells us that in order to thrive in life, these forces must co-exist and form a perfect union, as we should too with/those/around/us.**

With this perfunctory synopsis in mind, let us proceed directly to respond to the question if our protocols permit anyone to walk or stand on the Mosaic Pavement on occasions other than those specified in our Openings and Closings, or our rituals and ceremonies?

(continued on page 3)

The reluctance to walk upon the Mosaic Pavement when you don't "have" to can no doubt be traced back through the centuries when certain Masonic illustrations were hand-drawn on the floor immediately prior to each meeting and scrubbed off after the meeting/was/concluded.

The Mosaic Pavement was typically included in one of these chalk illustrations and only the candidate would be caused to walk upon the drawing. Today the pavement is constructed of much more durable material, usually ceramic tiles. That is one of the main reasons we do not prohibit casual walking on the pavement.

So, while the answer is "Yes", brethren can hopefully be persuaded not to overdo such occasions, especially when the Mosaic Pavement in a lodge room is not constructed from ceramic tile. Please consider what impact a constant flow of foot traffic may have on the "pavement", particularly if it is just a patterned carpet or one, hand-crafted from wood.



**This Mosaic Pavement has been hand painted on to a ship's canvas sail, and laid on a wood floor.**

Another of the reasons there is no prohibition in our Grand Jurisdiction against walking on the Mosaic Pavement is that the size and design of our lodge rooms vary considerably. Some Mosaic Pavements extend almost from the S.W.'s dais to the altar, making it virtually impossible to avoid treading on them.

Also, when a large number of visitors are present in a small lodge room, when space is limited, there may be no other option for some of them to stand (or even sit) on the Mosaic Pavement.

## Pub Quiz, Anyone?

1. Many legumes, including alfalfa and clover, have the ability to transfer this element from the atmosphere into their roots and when the plant dies, the soil.
2. This automaker has traditionally manufactured standard roadsters, but since 1910, it has been famous for its iconic three-wheeler sports cars.
3. The real name of this debonair star from the Golden Age of Hollywood was Archibald Leach.
4. A point each for the 12 franchise restaurants with the most locations in the world.
5. This ancient Greek physician is known as the father of medicine.
6. The maker of Ritalin and Lamisil pharmaceutical multinational Novartis is based in this country.
7. Anderson Cooper is the great-great-great grandson of this shipping and railroad tycoon.
8. The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet starred all four members of this real-life family.
9. This soccer player has more international goals - among men and women - than anyone else in the world.

1. Nitrogen 2. Morgan 3. Cary Grant 4. Tim Horton's, Arby's, Quiznos, Taco Bell, Wendy's, Domino's, Burger King, Pizza Hut, KFC, Starbucks, McDonald's, Subway 5. Hippocrates 6. Switzerland 7. Cornelius Vanderbilt 8. Nelson 9. Christine Sinclair

(from **The Ultimate Book of Pub Trivia By The Smartest Guy In The Room**, Austin Rogers, Workman, New York, 2021) (Masonic Quiz next time!)

### From the Editor.....

Many thanks to **Mike Martin, and Tom Peddle**, for their very valuable contributions to this edition. If you would like to submit an article, a joke, or a comment, which you feel would be of interest to your fellow members, please drop me a note. - *Harley*

