

**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? Editor, **Harley Auty** 289-239-9129 or harleyauty1944@gmail.com Website: www.pma-abc.ca



# P M eh!

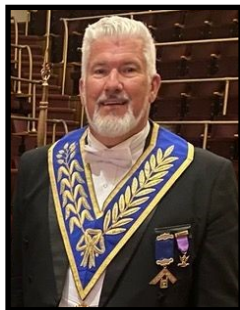
Past Masters' Association of the Hamilton Districts

May 2024

THE PAST MASTERS' ASSOCIATION OF THE HAMILTON DISTRICTS



**A Message From The President.....**



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

As we approach the 2024 Annual General Meeting and Meet the Grand Lodge Candidates evening, my first thought is "WOW! Where did the time go?"

During the past year, our team of talented and dedicated brethren:

- organized & executed three well-attended regular meetings, including guest speakers & a delicious breakfast;
- produced four Newsletters;
- sent "Get Well" & "Sympathy" cards;
- maintained our membership system
- the issuance of dues cards;
- and comprised the first edition of the **PMA's Policy and Procedures** – a living document that will provide a road map for the day-to-day operations of the association, as well as guidance for decision making.

Thank you to the many brethren who undertook and completed these tasks & processes.

Just as the seasons of the year change, so do the circumstances that allow us to participate in the Masonic endeavours we so enjoy. Brethren that have been serving our association on so many fronts will be moving on.

**R.W. Bro. Geoffrey Allen, PMA Treasurer,** and **W. Bro. Harley Auty, Editor** of the

"P M eh!" newsletter, are both regrettably resigning from their roles on the Board. Please join me in thanking these devoted brethren for their many years of commitment and guidance in raising our association to the status we enjoy today.

I have been very fortunate to have had the opportunity to be the President of a Board comprised of stalwart, accomplished, and rational men. I thank each of you for your time and labours over the past year. You are the reason the Past Masters' Association is both relevant and acclaimed.

I would also like to recognize **V.W. Bro. Brian Kiernan** for his service with the Board, as his term expires, and **W. Bro. Joseph Barker**, as his role as **Past-President** will expire and he will become an **Honourary Member of the Board**. Thank you, Brethren.

As experienced by countless organization's figure heads, their duties seem somewhat effortless, having a well-organized and adept Secretary's name on your speed-dial or Siri. Thank you, **R.W. Bro. Thomas F. Peddle**, PMA Secretary, for the many prompts and discussions during my tenure as President.

In closing Brethren, I thank you for your ongoing contributions and support of your Past Masters' Association. You have made my tenure as President a very gratifying experience. Please join me in welcoming the incoming PMA Executive and Board of Directors and offering our assistance to make their experience as fulfilling as mine.

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

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The following material was submitted by **W. Bro. Joe Barker**, after having discovered it somewhere deep in the archives. The original author is unknown.

### **Boas**

What do we know about Boaz? From our ritual, we learn that King Solomon names one of the pillars after him and that he was the great grandfather of King David. All in all, the ritual doesn't tell us us very much. The following story is taken from the V.O.S.L. and will give us a better picture of Boaz.

Now it came about in the days when the Judges governed, that there was a famine in the land. At that time, Elimelech, of Bethlehem, died, leaving his wife, Naomi, and their two sons to survive on their own. The boys married Moabite women, and then, in what seemed to be a tragic twist of fate, both of them died, leaving their mother, Naomi, in a strange land with only her two Moabite daughters-in-law, Ruth and Orpah. Naomi then decided to return to Bethlehem.

Boaz was a rich Bethlehem landowner. He was also a relative of Naomi. He noticed Ruth, the widowed Moabite daughter-in-law of Naomi, gleaning grain from his fields. Gleaning means that people go through the fields after they have been harvested looking for any small amounts of grain that have fallen from the sheaves. He soon learns of the difficult circumstances her family is in and Ruth's loyalty to Naomi. In response, Boaz invites Ruth to eat with him and his workers regularly, as well as deliberately leaving grain for her to claim while keeping a protective eye on her. Eventually, Boaz and Ruth strike up a friendship that leads her to ask him to marry her. Boaz accepts, but cautions that there is a family member who has the first right to her hand in marriage. Boaz arranges a meeting with the relative and convinces him to buy Naomi's husband's land thus forfeiting his right to marry Ruth.

Boaz is noted to be much older than Ruth in the Biblical account and he married her for Naomi's sake.

If your lodge follows the Emulation Ritual then when you took your Obligation on the V.O.S.L., it was opened on the Book of Ruth, Chapter 4, verse 7. It reads as follows, "Now this was the custom in former times in Israel concerning redeeming and exchanging; to confirm a transaction, the one one took off a sandal and gave it to the other; this was the manner of attesting in Israel".

### **Jachin**

First of all, in the Old Testament it seems that there were no last names. The one we are interested in was around in the days of King Solomon. Our ritual states that the right-hand pillar at the porch way of the Temple was named after Jachin, the Assistant High Priest, who officiated at the dedication. One wonders why the Assistant, and not the High Priest? In trying to answer this question we must go back in the Bible to Genesis. On Mount Sinai, God gave Moses the Ten Commandments, which Moses carved in stone. Moses then had the Ark of the Covenant crafted out of wood of the acacia tree. The Commandments were then placed inside. As Moses and his people were nomadic, a portable tent of specific dimensions was constructed, and it became the Tabernacle. It remained so for about 350 years, at which time the Ark of the Covenant was transferred into the Temple at Jerusalem.

Now we must go back to Moses again. God spoke to Moses and told him to call forth the tribe of Levi, and from that tribe all the priests were chosen. However, not every Levite went into the priesthood. The Levites were divided into families. The first Jachin that we encounter was the 4<sup>th</sup> son of Simeon, and his family known as Jachinites. This family can be traced from Genesis through Chronicles and beyond. Jachin is Hebrew, and is pronounced 'yakhin'. As we know, it means "he will establish". The priestly administration of the Tabernacle, started under Moses. It was divided among 24 Levite families. Each family would carry out the religious duties for a period of one week at a time. At the end of the 24-week period, it would begin again, with the first family. By doing this, special religious holidays would always fall to each family at some point in time.

The family of Jachin looked after the 21<sup>st</sup> week, and it just so happened that, it was their turn when the Temple of King Solomon was dedicated. My view is that the 24 families of Levites each took their turn and were not assistant High Priests. The High Priest only means that head priest. Next, we must ask, who was the High Priest at that time. The Bible tells us, it was Zadok. He supported King David, and also Solomon's bid for the throne. Solomon was from the tribe of Judah, it seems that he was a self-proclaimed priest. The Bible does not really tell us much about who officiated at the Temple; it just says that the dedication and festivities lasted seven days. Zadok and Jachin must have been present but no mention of them is made in the Bible.

Why was the pillar named after Jachin and not Zadok? These are interesting questions. I have not yet stumbled on any answers. I believe that they, like some many other things have been lost in antiquity.

### Hiram, King of Tyre

Our Masonic ritual which, is a mixture of fact and fiction, tells us that our Craft had three original Grand Masters. The first of these, Solomon, King of Israel, figures prominently in our Masonic story. The third of this trio, Hiram Abif, is the center and source of our deepest teaching and to him all Masons are bound by a unique tie. The second of our Grand Masters, Hiram King of Tyre, has only a passing reference in our ritual.

In history, Hiram King of Tyre was a monarch who ruled over a powerful kingdom at the peak of its greatness. Today this area is called Lebanon. The Kingdom of Tyre, or Phoenicia, as it was more generally known, was located on the eastern shores of the Mediterranean, north of Palestine.

Its principal city was the seaport of Tyre, which because of its geographical location became a converging point on the great trade routes. Tyre became one of the foremost commercial centers of the ancient and grew rich and powerful. Phoenicia has two claims to its achievements.

In the first place, the Phoenicians were among the first known sailors of the world. It is said that they were the first to navigate upon the open sea and to chart their course by means of the stars. Thus, to the men of Tyre goes the distinction of being the fathers of modern navigation. They must indeed have been an alert and venturesome race. It is known that Phoenician sailors travelled all over the Mediterranean, sailed through the Straits of Gibraltar, up to England as well as down the coast of Africa.

As the Phoenicians went about the Mediterranean, they founded colonies in various places, the most famous of which was Carthage on the northern coast of Africa. Carthage flourished, and as Tyre began to decline, Carthage carried on the Phoenician tradition. Carthage came into conflict with the rising power of Rome. Hamilcar Barca fought the first Punic War against Rome. The second Punic war saw his son, Hannibal, one of the greatest military commanders of all time, take an army across north Africa, through Spain and southern France. Then in the middle of winter he crossed over the Alps with his army, that included war elephants and into present day Italy. Hannibal occupied part of the country for 15 years until Rome

counter attacked and destroyed Carthage. It is interesting to speculate that if Carthage had conquered Rome, the people of Hiram, King of Tyre might instead have influenced our civilization.

In the second place, the Phoenicians may claim a high place in the history of mankind because they were the inventors of one of the first known alphabets. We take the alphabet so much for granted that it is hard for us to conceive of the time when it did not exist. Hiram's people were certainly possessed of intellectual curiosity and skill to formulate a way whereby the words of men could be recorded by other than oral means. The Phoenician alphabet influenced the Greek, and the Greek the Roman. Any lacking skills that the Hebrews needed to build King Solomon's Temple were provided by Hiram, King of Tyre, along with the vast amount of cedar wood.

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Answers to quiz - 1. Tunisia 2. India 3. Alva 4. Ohio  
5. Cardigan 6. Paul McCartney 7. Antelope 8. William Wallace 9. Baccarrat 10. Elton John, The Beatles, Aretha Franklin, Ray Charles, Jay-Z, James Brown, Lil Wayne, Elvis, Cast of Glee 11. Plymouth 12. Smiley  
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### The Old Master's Wages

I met a dear old man today who wore a Masonic pin. It was old and faded like the man. Its edges were worn quite thin. I approached the park bench where he sat to give the old brother his do.

I said, "I see you've traveled east". He said, "I have, have you?" I said, "I have and in my day before the all seeing sun, I played in the rubble with Jubala, Jubilo, and Jubalum".

He shouted, "Don't laugh at the work my boy. It's good and it's sweet and it's true and if you've traveled as you said, you should give these things a due. The word, the sign, the token, the sweet Masonic prayer, the vow that all have taken who have climbed the inner stair. The wages of a Mason are never paid in gold but the gain comes from contentment when you're weak and growing old. You see I've carried my obligations for almost fifty years. It has helped me through the hardships and the failures, full of tears. I'm now losing my mind and my body. Death is near but I don't despair. I've lived my life upon the level and I'll die upon the square."

Sometimes the greatest lessons are those that are learned anew and the old man in the park today has changed my point of view.

To all Masonic brothers the only secret is to care  
May you live upon the level and part upon the square.

- Anonymous

## Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

The Past Masters' Association of the Hamilton Districts cordially invites you to our Annual General Meeting on Friday, May 31st, 2024. The agenda includes the Presentation of Candidates for Grand Lodge Office. You are able to participate either in person at the **Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite at 4 Queen Street South in Hamilton** starting with:

Meet & Greet: 5:30 pm

Dinner: 6:00 pm

Meeting: 7:00 pm

Cost is \$40.00.

Please register in advance for the in-person Dinner/ Meeting using this link: <https://pm-abc.ca/event-reservations/>

Or join us by Zoom video conference for the meeting portion at 7:00 pm. 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 re joining the meeting. For more information contact

**R.W. Bro. Thomas F. Peddle**

@ [thomaspeddle@gmail.com](mailto:thomaspeddle@gmail.com) or

(905) 741-0357

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### Laughter is the best medicine.....

Man in Jewelry Store: I would like to see a medium-weight necklace, 18 –Karat gold, with a modest diamond pendant for around \$300.

Sales associate: Ha! Good one! Yes, I'd like to see that too!

The nice thing about egoists is that they don't talk about other people.

E. A. To a Decorated P.M.: Wow! What a lot of jewels! What did you get them for?

P.M. : Well, this one was for staying awake during the W.M.'s speech!

Director of Ceremonies to Guest Speaker at the Head Table: Would you like to speak now or shall we let them carry on enjoying themselves?

Director of Ceremonies to the Tyler:

Please remind the brethren that I should be referred to as the Director of Ceremonies, not the Godfather!

## For Fans of Jeopardy.....

### Random Stuff You Might Not Know

1. Rome's ancient enemy is within this modern North African nation.
2. The Bhartiya Sansad is the bicameral legislative body of this country.
3. What is Thomas Edison's middle name?
4. More astronauts come from this state than from any other in the U.S.
5. James Brudenell, the Major General in command of the Charge of the Light Brigade, is best known today for this sweater that bears the name of his peerage.
6. This musician and his late wife appeared on *The Simpsons* only on the condition that the character of Lisa remained a vegetarian forever.
7. The blackbuck, Tibetan, oryx and Dorcas gazelle are all species of this animal..
8. This patriot's most famous victory was at the 1297 Battle of Stirling Bridge.
9. *Punta banco*, *chemmy*, and *a deux tableaux* are three varieties of this high-class casino card games.
10. One point each for the 10 artists or groups with the most singles ever in the Billboard Hot 100.
11. The 1970 Superbird had a horn that mimicked the iconic "beep beep" of the Road Runner and was manufactured by this marque.
12. In 1963, a man named Harvey Ball designed this round icon of 1960s and 1970s culture.

The above questions are taken from **The Ultimate Book of Pub Trivia By The Smartest Guy In The Bar — Austin Rogers** (one of the champions on the tv show "Jeopardy".)

### From the Editor.....

Many thanks to **Mike Martin, Tom Peddle, Joe Barker** for their very valuable contributions to this edition.

I have enjoyed my years as Editor of "P M eh!".

However changing circumstances have required that it is time to pass the torch. - Harley

