



THE LODESTAR



Richmond Lodge A.F. & A.M. № 23 G.R.C.

193rd Year

March 2018



W. Bro Zoltan Lazar
1991

How to Grow a Lodge

Part 1

- Attend as many meetings & functions as possible.
- Show up early, stay late.
- Support & participate.
- Read. Study. Learn. Drill. Discuss. Teach. Grow. Improve.
- Be prepared! Be off book. Know the ritual and duties of 3 chairs: learn the one above you; know the one you occupy & the chair subordinate to you. Teach this same practice to all officers.

A Smile...

A man had been convicted of murder and was about to be hanged. Just before the sentence was executed, the hangman asked the man if he had any last words.

"Yes" came his reply, "I hate Masons!" "Why do you hate Masons?" asked the hangman. "The man I killed was a Mason," explained the murderer, "the Sheriff who hunted me down was a Mason, the Prosecutor who tried my case was a Mason, the Judge who presided at the trial was a Mason, and all of the men on the jury who found me guilty and said I should be hanged were Masons!"

"Is that all?" asked the hangman.

"Yes" replied the convicted murder.

"Then you will advance one step with your left foot..."

W. Bro Zoltan Lazar

Contributed By R.W. Bro. Isaac Lazar

Born: June 28/1910 – Died: Feb 20/1995;
Initiated: Jan 6/1947 – PTTGLA: Feb 20/1995;

My father, Zoltan A. Lazar was initiated into masonry on January 6, 1947 in Mitzpa Lodge #1383 in the Scottish Constitution, in Jerusalem, Israel. After the formation of the Grand Lodge of Israel in 1953, the Lodge renumbered as #6 under the Israeli Constitution. Once he was raised to the degree of a MM, he served in the officer line-up, leading to being elected worshipful master in January 1955. As an officer of the Lodge during this period of transition in Israeli Masonry, he was also active in the formation and transition to the Grand Lodge of Israel. For this work, he was awarded the Founders Medal. He continued to serve the Lodge and the Grand Lodge on various committees until his emigration to Toronto, Ontario in 1963.



W.M of Robertson Lodge
#242
1991

Once settled here, he affiliated with the Lodge of the Pillars #703 in the former district 2. He also affiliated with a relatively small Lodge of Hungarian masons, called Andor Gero Lodge in the former district 5. This activity kept him busy until his retirement at age 65 in 1975. Once retired, his masonic activities increased. He increased his visitations and participation and became more involved with more Lodges throughout Toronto.



W. Bro. Isaac Lazar
on his special
night with Dad
Oct 16, 1989

One of his greatest joys and highlights in masonry was to initiate me into the craft at the Lodge of the Pillars #703 in February 1978. As a 'Lewis,' I did not come to understand the significance of that at the time, but he and many others did. My initiation ceremony

was in a full Lodge room at the old Weston Road building on Keele Street. If a father is proud to initiate his son into Masonry, one can imagine the pride of installing a son into the chair of King Solomon. This would have been my father's second great highlight. On October 16, 1989, he and many brethren of District 2 and 5 together with the PGM, M Wor Bro A. Lou Copeland, installed me as Worshipful Master of the Lodge of the Pillars #703.

As the 1980s rolled through, he was busy with his visitations and I was busy being an officer in my Lodge, raising a family and growing a business. He also moved to Richmond Hill in the mid 1980s and started to visit Robertson Lodge #292 in King City and Richmond Lodge #23 in Richmond Hill very frequently. That led to serving as Worshipful Master in Robertson Lodge in 1990-91. I took much pleasure and pride in participating in the installation which was officiated by the PGM, M Wor Bro A. Lou Copeland.

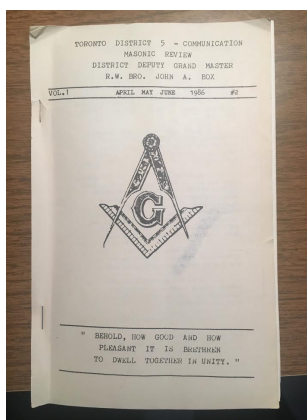
His masonic travels really increased when he suggested to the boys in District 5 that the best way to engage the brethren and increase visitations is to create a competition of it. He called it the 'Travelling Gavel' and you earned it by the



The Lazar Travelling Gavel

total brethren visiting all the Lodges on the Official Visit nights during the masonic year. The winner would receive the trophy at the district meeting at the Grand Lodge communication in July. When the idea was well received and initiated, he sponsored the year end presentation of the 'Travelling Gavel' to the winning Lodge. The first DDGM and those who followed him, honoured my father by naming it the 'Lazar Travelling Gavel', which hangs proudly in many Lodge rooms throughout the GTA. The master plaque with the inscription of the annual winner was held in the Richmond Temple until the realignment in 2005, at which time, the last DDGM of District 5, R W Bro Don Livingstone presented it to me at the Lodge of the Pillars in June 2005, as a memory of his efforts.

My father was a romantic philosopher who very much enjoyed, reading and researching anything with a Masonic perspective. This love for masonic information coupled with his desire to teach and inform me and others led him to publish a monthly newsletter in District 5. His access to articles of interest from Masonry in Israel also provided a myriad of subjects to entertain and inform the



Cover of the District 5 Newsletter, later renamed the "Lazar Newsletter" in his honor

brethren. As a result of this, he was tasked with the chairmanship of the Communication Committee in 1986, which led to the quarterly publication of the 'District 5 Newsletter'. He would painstakingly translate, type out, cut and paste articles and have them printed for distribution.

This daily labor of love kept him busy and engaged throughout the years from 1986 to the end of 1994. Although grammar and spelling was not his strongest suit, many brethren would call and thank him for his work and every DDGM was happy to continue this appointment. The district honoured him by renaming the newsletter, to be the 'Lazar Newsletter'. It was through this period of research and writing that a question intrigued my father regarding the now dark lodge, called, Royal Solomon Mother Lodge #293, which operated in Jerusalem, Israel from 1873 – 1907 under a warrant issued by the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario. The need to find out, led to many hours and days spent reading and researching the archives in Hamilton and eventually led to writing a research paper that was presented to the John Ross Robertson Chapter of the Philalethes Society on July 25, 1993. Since his passing in February 1995, I have proudly presented this paper, in several lodges as a tribute to his work and as a glimpse to our masonic history.

In addition to many of his active masonic activities in The Lodge of the Pillars, Richmond Lodge, Robertson Lodge and Andor Gero Lodge, his memberships in other Masonic Concordant bodies included, Mount Sinai Chapter #212 of RAM, The Lodge of Perfection, Chapter of Rose Croix; Consistory in the Scottish Rite, The Cryptic Rite, The Eastern Star, The Knights of Pythias and the Philalethes Society. Nothing pleased my father more than to go to a Lodge or chapter meeting and sit and enjoy an evening with his brethren. There are far too many to mention here individually. Masonry, in Israel and in Canada, provided my father with an extended network of friends and contacts who became his extended family. They supported him for 48 years in Masonry, provided him with countless hours of social activities and engaged him with purpose and activities for over 20 years in retirement, for which I will be eternally grateful. My father passed away on Monday, February 20, 1995, peacefully during his morning nap, after having a cup of coffee, reading the morning newspaper and perusing the latest masonic magazine from Israel.

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