



# THE LODESTAR



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

194th Year

September 2018

## From the Editor

*Imagine if you will, a shady, tree enclosed secluded area, close to parking, and not far from park amenities, which include a large swimming pool, complete with wading pool, skill games for kids, most of which were walking around with prizes. This was the site of the 3rd annual Summer Potluck Barbeque Picnic held by our Lodge a few weeks ago at Simeon Park in Gormley. Although this was the 3rd time for this event, it was the first one I attended and I was impressed with the joviality, the fun, the camaraderie and great family atmosphere. Not to mention the terrific food. The Master Chefs outdid themselves spotlighting the various BBQ skills of their diverse cultures which included Canadian, Mediterranean, Phillipines and Middle East cuisine. Their ladies generously rounded out the potluck nature of the event with an amazing array of delectables.*

*However, because of the award winning type of dishes served, which were highly anticipated and would be clamored for, it was decided that they would be heavily guarded with additional security until they could be served safely. A burly guard was invited for the occasion.*



*And an extremely vicious-looking guard dog, who was fed minimally to keep it, well, on guard.*

*My congratulations to the Brethren who made this all possible. You did a great job. I am eagerly looking forward to next year's event.*

- Joe Galati



## Our New W.M.

W. Bro. Ulysses Toledo



My first grader teacher used to call me Ulysses Toledo. My family and friends call me Uly but in Freemasonry they call me Brother. I was born and raised in the northern part of the Phillipines. My wife Annabelle and I were blessed with three kids, a boy and 2 girls; Anthony Toledo 15, Camille Toledo 11, and Dominique Toledo 8.

My masonic journey started after the burial of my wife's grandfather in May 2008. He was a member of the craft for 56 years back in the Phillipines before he dropped his working tools, but he never affiliated with any lodge(s) here in Canada particularly in Toronto area. At the restaurant after the burial, two fine gentlemen were having a conversation about Freemasonry. As they were close by, I could not help but overhear, and one phrase in particular caught my attention, "A mason never look down. The only time he looks down is when he helps you to stand up". Before I went to bed that night, I turned on the computer and begin searching about Freemasonry, but unfortunately, I didn't get enough answers to my questions. But the research didn't stop that night. One sunny Saturday afternoon, in July 2008, I met a gentlemen, a Mason, and I asked him some questions about Freemasonry. He explained all very well and answered all my questions. Before we parted ways on that day, he advised me to find a lodge and I started looking for what he called "Lodge". Unfortunately, I wasn't lucky enough to find the door of that "Lodge".

Since I was busy with my family life and work, it took me 4 years to find a "Lodge". October 2012, a brother Mason introduced me to R. W. Bro. Ross Guerrero. During our conversation, he shared some stories about Freemasonry, stories that enlightened my mind, and that got the ball rolling. After more than a month, I received a call from R. W. Bro. Don Livingstone regarding my initiation date. I was initiated on the emergent meeting of December 2012. On the regular meeting of January, I met W. Bro. Danilo Vitto who helped me with most of my memory work to become an Entered Apprentice. I took my oath, the Fellowcraft Obligation, during the emergent meeting of March and I was Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on May 29, 2013. Both R. W. Bro Ross Guerrero and W. Bro. Danilo Vitto were patiently mentoring and guiding me through this whole process, and they continue to advise me even now.

My Masonic journey continued when on December 02, 2015, I was exalted to the Supreme Degree of the Holy Royal Arch of Jerusalem (R.A.M.). I received my 14 th degree at the Scottish Rite at the Lodge of Perfection of Valley of Toronto on January 10, 2017, my 18 th degree was obtained on April 16, 2017 at the Toronto Sovereign Chapter Rose Croix of Valley of Toronto, both at the York Temple. I finished the 32 nd degree of Moore Sovereign Consistory of Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry at the Hamilton Valley.

It is a great honour for me to sit at the chair of King Solomon as the 194 th Worshipful Master of Richmond Lodge #23. I understand that I will encounter many challenges but with the assistance of the officers and members of the Lodge, I certainly know that there is no objective we can't accomplish and no obstacle we can't overcome together.

Fraternally Yours,  
Ulysses Toledo  
Worshipful Master – 2018-2019

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## September Birthdays

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W. Bro. Phillip Burton  
W. Bro. Douglas O'Carroll  
R. W. Bro. Isaac Lazar  
Bro. Christopher Marquez  
Bro. Douglas Chen

Happy Birthday, enjoy your special day. Good wishes and happy thoughts are sent your way from all your Brethren.

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## A Smile...

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One night (a long time ago in a jurisdiction far, far, away) a brother was heading home after indulging a bit too much at the festive board after his lodge meeting.

He was weaving a little across the path, steadying himself against the lamp-posts.

A concerned policeman saw him, and walked over.

"Well sir, where are we going at this time of night, eh?" he asked.

The brother replied "I, officer, am going to a lecture on Masonry!"

Bemused, the policeman asked, "And just where are you going to hear a lecture on Masonry at this time of night?"

The brother replied, "From my wife!!!"

Contributed by Bro. Nazar Shamoon

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## Points to Ponder

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### I am Masonry

I was born in antiquity, in the ancient days when men first dreamed of God. I have been tried through the ages, and found true. The crossroads of the world bear the imprint of my feet, and the cathedrals of all nations mark the skill of my hands. I strive for beauty and for symmetry. In my heart is wisdom and strength and courage for those who ask. Upon my altar is the Book of Holy Writ, and my prayers are to the One Omnipotent God, my sons work and pray together, without rank or discord, in the public mart and in the inner chamber. By signs and symbols I teach the lessons of life and of death and the relationship of man with God and of man with man. My arms are widespread to receive those of lawful age and good report who seek me of their own free will. I accept them and teach them to use my tools in the building of men, and thereafter, find direction in their own quest for perfection so much desired and so difficult to attain. I lift up the fallen and shelter the sick. I hark to the orphan's cry, the widow's tears, the pain of the old and destitute. At the end I commit them as each one undertakes the journey beyond the vale into the glory of everlasting life. I ponder the sand within the glass and think how small is a single life on the eternal universe. Always have I taught immortality, and even as I raise men from darkness into light, I am a way of life.

I am Freemasonry.

-Ray V. Denslow

Contributed by V.W Bro. Paul Natale

Editor:	Bro. Joe Galati	71 Abner Miles Drive, Vaughan, ON, L6A 4X5
		Cell: (416) 527-0855 email: richmondlodge23@hotmail.com
Compiler:	Bro. Aaron Lui	
Researcher:	Bro. Nazar Shamoon	