



*Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons*

## **The Grand Lodge of Saskatchewan**

*To be the Fraternal Organization of choice for men in the Province of Saskatchewan*

# **The Traveling Gavel**

## **Grand Master's Monthly Bulletin**

### **Grand Master's Message**



Greetings brethren, I hope everyone has been managing to stay warm and safe with the blast of winter we have had for the last two weeks. At the end of 2025 I received the call for surgery which will be taking place on February 18<sup>th</sup> in Regina, hopefully 3<sup>rd</sup> time is the charm. I will be in the hospital for a few days and then into recovery until the middle of March.

I had the opportunity to attend the AGM for WaWa Shrine, the first of many for the remainder of the year. Again, a congratulations to Bro. Jason Istead (Potentate 2025) and Divan for the hard work over the year, and a congratulations and welcome to W. Bro. Stu Larson (Potentate 2026) and the new Divan or your election and Installation, all the best in the course of term for 2026.

As we pass the midway mark of the term, we are already well over half the lodges visited and as of today every lodge has been scheduled for a visit right up to the first of June. I look forward to seeing you all over the course of the next few months.

The upcoming 120<sup>th</sup> Grand Communication registration will be coming out soon, but there is a change to our normal program. We will not be holding the annual golf tournament prior to the Communication as we are looking at doing something a little different going forward with more information to come out soon. In the registration it still has the Meet and Greet on Thursday night which will be mainly for those visiting brethren and those who do not wish to travel the day of Grand Communications which will not be starting until 1500 hrs, or those who are still working to reduce the overall expense to the brethren.

If you are wanting an official visit, please contact the Grand Lodge office to make arrangements.

Melfort No. 18 February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026 (Weather Permitting)

Moosomin No. 7 February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Moose Jaw No. 3 February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Imperial No. 66 February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Rosthern-Duck Lake No. 13 February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Kinistino No. 1 February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026 Buffalo Roast



Asquith-Harmony No. 75 January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026 Robbie Burns night

Official Party: MW. Bro. Dennis Skuce PGM, RW. Bro's Mike Keogan DGM, Judicael Moukoui GJW, George Fredrick DDGM West Central, VW. Bro. Patrick Haryett Grand Steward West Central District and W. Bro's Justin Sterling WM Kinistino No. 1 and Dale Buxton WM Biggar No. 100. As well as the following Senior Brethren RW. Bro. Doug Penner and most Junior Brother Josh Black. A wonderful visit, thank you again for the hospitality.



Twin City No. 88 January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Official Party: MW. Bro's Dennis Skuce & Patrick Davis PGM, RW. Bro's Mike Keogan DGM, Judicael Moukoui GJW, George Frederick DDGM West Central District, Kent Pizzey WM. Lodge Progress No. 92 PDDGM. As well as the following, Senior Brethren RW. Bro. Daryl Hyland PDDGM and most Junior Brother Ace Diaz. A wonderful visit, thank you again for the hospitality.

The following education piece is done by Gregory Preston, showcasing the connections of Freemasonry and the ideals of Star Trek. Perhaps part of the inspiration of the theme for the year.

**Gene Roddenberry: The Great Architect of Science Fiction Travel** by Gregory Preston

**Roddenberry's Vision: Storytelling that Shaped a Generation**

Gene Roddenberry's *Star Trek* was more than just a science fiction series, it was a platform for addressing the deepest societal issues of its time. Through imaginative storytelling, Roddenberry wove narratives that tackled xenophobia, racism, and the moral complexities of leadership. Episodes like "The Devil in the Dark" portrayed a misunderstood alien species, challenging audiences to reconsider how they view "the other." Similarly, "Let That Be Your Last Battlefield" explored the absurdity and tragedy of racial prejudice through the depiction of two warring species differentiated only by the color patterns on their skin.

Roddenberry's genius lay in embedding these themes within a universe that felt both aspirational and relatable. The diverse crew of the *Enterprise*, featuring characters from multiple nationalities and even alien worlds, was a deliberate reflection of the cooperation Roddenberry envisioned for humanity. Spock, for instance, represented the balance of logic and emotion, offering audiences a lens through which to question their own biases. Uhura, as a Black woman in a position of authority, symbolized progress in gender and racial equality during a time of significant civil rights struggles.

Roddenberry's storytelling didn't preach; it prompted reflection. By presenting moral dilemmas in the context of interstellar diplomacy and exploration, *Star Trek* encouraged its audience to grapple with ethical questions in their own lives. The show's success lay in its ability to inspire without alienating, pushing viewers to imagine a better future while addressing the flaws of the present.

The cultural impact of *Star Trek* cannot be overstated. Its ideals resonated deeply during the turbulent 1960s, offering hope and a vision of what humanity could achieve through unity and mutual respect. Roddenberry's storytelling legacy continues to inspire, proving that narratives rooted in compassion and courage can transcend time and space.

**Crafting the Vision: Roddenberry as the Architect of Possibility**

Gene Roddenberry's optimistic vision for humanity extended beyond entertainment; it was a philosophy rooted in the belief that progress is achieved through unity, understanding, and self-improvement. The United Federation of Planets, central to the *Star Trek* universe, exemplified these principles by uniting diverse species under a shared commitment to peace and exploration. This utopian ideal wasn't a product of naivety but a deliberate effort to inspire viewers to imagine a future where humanity overcame its divisions.

This concept finds a striking parallel in the teachings of Freemasonry. Central to the Masonic tradition is the idea of the "Great Architect of the Universe," a symbolic representation of harmony, wisdom, and moral order. Masons are encouraged to see themselves as builders, not of physical structures but of character and community. The rough ashlar, a cornerstone of Masonic symbolism, represents the unrefined self, while the tools of the mason symbolize the virtues and discipline needed to shape one's life into something of lasting value.

Roddenberry's Federation and Freemasonry both emphasize the importance of intention and effort in achieving progress. Just as Masons work to improve themselves and their communities, the crew of the *Enterprise* exemplifies a commitment to continuous learning and mutual respect. Episodes where diplomacy prevails over conflict highlight the idea that understanding and collaboration are the true measures of civilization.

While *Star Trek* offered a vision of what humanity could achieve, Freemasonry provides the practical framework for making it a reality. The shared message is clear: building a better future requires more than hope; it demands action, discipline, and a steadfast belief in the potential of humanity. Together, these frameworks challenge us to rise above our immediate concerns and work toward a legacy that reflects the best of what we can be.



**Building Bridges Across Time and Space**

*Star Trek* is more than a series of thrilling adventures through the cosmos, it is a narrative about building bridges, not only between worlds but between cultures, ideologies, and individuals. At the heart of the series lies the United Federation of Planets, a vision of unity and cooperation where diversity is not merely accepted but embraced as a strength. This narrative resonates deeply with the fundamental values of Freemasonry, which has long sought to unify people from varied walks of life under a shared commitment to moral and ethical principles.

Roddenberry's *Star Trek* crew embodied the principle of unity in diversity. The bridge of the starship *Enterprise* was a microcosm of this ideal, with its multicultural crew representing a variety of Earthly nations and alien species. Captain Kirk's leadership often involved navigating cultural misunderstandings or finding common ground with alien civilizations. The series demonstrated that differences, whether they arise from biology, culture, or history, are not barriers but opportunities for growth and understanding.

Freemasonry mirrors this philosophy. Within the walls of a Masonic lodge, members set aside their differences, whether religious, cultural, or social, to work together in harmony. Masonic rituals emphasize the importance of brotherhood, highlighting that our shared humanity outweighs any superficial divisions. Just as the *Enterprise* traverses vast distances to bring together disparate civilizations, Freemasonry seeks to bridge the gaps that separate people, fostering a sense of shared purpose and collective progress.

Both *Star Trek* and Freemasonry challenge us to consider what it means to be human. They urge us to view our differences as assets and to work towards a future where understanding and empathy are the foundations of our interactions. Through stories like "Arena," where Captain Kirk chooses mercy over vengeance against an alien adversary, *Star Trek* teaches that compassion and diplomacy often yield far greater results than conflict. Freemasonry, through its teachings, similarly emphasizes the value of reconciliation and mutual respect.

In a world that often feels fractured by division, the lessons of *Star Trek* and Freemasonry are as relevant today as they were when first conceived. They remind us that progress, whether on Earth or among the stars, relies on our ability to connect with one another, to listen, and to collaborate. By embracing these ideals, we not only honor the legacies of Roddenberry and Freemasonry but also take an active role in building a more inclusive and harmonious world.

**The Blueprint for a Better Future**

Gene Roddenberry's *Star Trek* presents a future that is not only technologically advanced but morally and ethically evolved. The Federation's mission to "boldly go where no one has gone before" is more than a call for exploration; it is an aspirational statement about humanity's potential to rise above its limitations. Roddenberry crafted a universe where the pursuit of knowledge, justice, and harmony is not just encouraged but ingrained into the very fabric of society.

Freemasonry offers a similarly ambitious blueprint for life. Through its allegorical teachings and symbolism, Masonry provides its members with tools for self-improvement and societal contribution. The square, symbolizing morality, and the compass, representing boundaries and moderation, guide Masons in their quest to live with integrity. Much like the Federation's Prime Directive, which seeks to respect the autonomy of other civilizations, Freemasonry emphasizes the importance of respecting others while adhering to one's own principles.

The starship *Enterprise* serves as a metaphorical vehicle for this better future. Its missions reflect humanity's unending quest to understand itself and the universe it inhabits. Whether facing moral dilemmas, such as the ethical treatment of artificial life forms in episodes like "The Measure of a Man," or addressing societal issues like racism in "Let That Be Your Last Battlefield," *Star Trek* consistently challenges its audience to consider what a just and equitable future could look like.

Freemasonry, too, challenges its members to think beyond their immediate circumstances. The lodge is not just a place for rituals; it is a space for reflection, education,

and the fostering of ideas that can shape a better world. By emphasizing virtues such as fortitude, prudence, and justice, Freemasonry equips its adherents with the intellectual and moral framework to address the challenges of their time.

The parallels between *Star Trek* and Freemasonry highlight the enduring relevance of these ideals. Both remind us that building a better future is an ongoing process, one that requires effort, dedication, and a commitment to continuous learning and growth. The true legacy of both Roddenberry's vision and Masonic teachings lies in their ability to inspire us to think beyond the immediate and to imagine a world where humanity thrives by embracing its highest ideals.

### **Service as the Foundation of Progress**

Service lies at the heart of both *Star Trek* and Freemasonry, acting as the cornerstone upon which their respective philosophies of progress are built. For the crew of the *Enterprise*, service to others is not just a mission, it is a way of life. Whether providing humanitarian aid to struggling civilizations, mediating interstellar conflicts, or offering scientific knowledge to underdeveloped worlds, the actions of the Federation reflect a profound commitment to selflessness and a dedication to the greater good.

This ethos of service resonates deeply within Freemasonry. One of the fraternity's most cherished tenets is charity, the act of giving without expecting anything in return. Masons are encouraged to support their communities and assist those in need, whether through organized charitable initiatives or individual acts of kindness. Service is seen not as an obligation but as an opportunity to elevate both oneself and society as a whole.

Episodes like "The City on the Edge of Forever" highlight the self-sacrifice and altruism inherent in the *Star Trek* universe. Captain Kirk and his crew often place themselves in harm's way to uphold the values of compassion and justice, even when the personal cost is great. This mirrors the Masonic principle that true progress is measured not by personal gain but by the impact of one's actions on the broader community.

Service, in both contexts, becomes a means of fostering unity and progress. Just as the *Enterprise* crew collaborates with diverse species to solve complex problems, Masons work together across cultural and geographical boundaries to build stronger, more compassionate communities. Both philosophies teach that it is through service to others that individuals and societies reach their fullest potential.

Ultimately, the legacy of service reminds us that greatness is not achieved in isolation. It is the result of collective effort, guided by principles of empathy and mutual respect. Both *Star Trek* and Freemasonry inspire us to see service not as a duty but as a privilege, a way to leave a lasting impact on the world around us.

### **Striving for the Ideal**

The Federation depicted in *Star Trek* is far from a perfect utopia, but it is an aspirational ideal, a society that strives relentlessly toward justice, peace, and unity. Gene Roddenberry didn't imagine a flawless humanity; he envisioned one that confronts its flaws head-on and works tirelessly to improve. Episodes often portray the *Enterprise* crew grappling with ethical dilemmas and internal conflicts, underscoring that progress is a journey, not a destination.

This vision aligns closely with the teachings of Freemasonry. The fraternity emphasizes the importance of striving for perfection, acknowledging that while true perfection is unattainable, the pursuit itself is what elevates individuals and society. Freemasons are taught to continuously refine their moral character, symbolized by the act of chiseling a rough ashlar into a smooth one. The journey of self-improvement is not about reaching a final state of flawlessness but about the growth and transformation that occur along the way.

The crew of the *Enterprise* embodies this principle. Captain Picard's diplomacy, Spock's logic, and Kirk's leadership often reveal their imperfections as much as their strengths. These characters struggle, adapt, and learn, reminding viewers that greatness requires humility and the willingness to confront one's limitations. Similarly, Masonic teachings encourage reflection and perseverance, urging members to learn from their experiences and contribute to the betterment of their communities.

Both *Star Trek* and Freemasonry reject complacency. They challenge us to envision a better future and to take active steps toward achieving it, no matter how distant it may seem. This pursuit requires courage, creativity, and an unwavering belief in humanity's potential to overcome its shortcomings.

The parallels between Roddenberry's Federation and Masonic ideals serve as a powerful reminder that the true measure of progress lies in our ability to strive for something greater. Whether navigating the complexities of space or the intricacies of human relationships, both frameworks inspire us to embrace the journey of growth, learning, and collective advancement.

#### **A Call to Action**

Gene Roddenberry's vision for *Star Trek* and the timeless teachings of Freemasonry share a profound message: humanity's greatest potential lies in its ability to imagine, design, and work toward a better future. Both frameworks challenge us to think beyond the immediate, to consider what kind of legacy we want to leave for those who come after us. They remind us that the future is not something we passively inherit; it is something we actively create. Roddenberry's Federation was a universe shaped by values of exploration, unity, and service, where individuals worked together to overcome challenges and discover new horizons. Freemasonry, with its emphasis on moral growth and brotherhood, provides a complementary framework for this ideal. It encourages its members to live purposefully, to seek knowledge, and to use their skills for the betterment of society.

In today's world, where divisions often seem insurmountable, the lessons of *Star Trek* and Freemasonry resonate more than ever. They inspire us to look within ourselves and ask: How can I contribute to a better tomorrow? What can I do to bridge the gaps in my community, to foster understanding and cooperation, and to embody the values of compassion and integrity?

The call to action is clear: let us boldly go, not just into the stars but into the depths of our own potential. Let us strive to be architects of a future that reflects the highest ideals of humanity. Through exploration, unity, and service, we can build a world that honors the legacies of Roddenberry's imagination and Freemasonry's enduring principles.