**Who is our Senior Warden?**

This year it’s me, Ted Sharon who happens to fill this critical Station in the West, but remember that none of the Places or Stations in a Lodge “belong” to anyone, nor does any role, including that of the Worshipful Master, provides any special privileges to the person occupying it. In Masonry it is the Office one occupies that commands special respect and privileges, not the person. It is a one year loan and it is up to me to have the Position of Senior Warden keep this respect by doing a good job.

My Jewel is the Level, and it symbolizes that all Masons meet without regard to social, political or religious beliefs or status. I sit in the West of the Lodge-room, am the first to announce the rising of the sun, or the Worshipful Master opening the Lodge and represent its setting at the close. You can also think of me as a Vice President of an organization, who is second in command and as such assists the Worshipful Master in running the Lodge and in his absence assumes his duties.

My first priority in this job as Senior Warden is to prepare a balanced budget for next year. Now more than ever before we should be careful not to spend beyond our means and dip into our capital, depleting it even further from what was done to it by the recent economic downturn.

In this job, I can’t and don’t want to guess or hope. I don’t want to be surprised. I want to know, so that I can let you know where we are and where we are going quarter by quarter!

Our Treasurer, Secretary and I assisted by the finance committee are putting together a detailed income and expense statement based on a realistic forecast of our income from dues, fees and other sources. We itemized and crunched with as much scrutiny all our expense items for the year. We also have exciting and creative ideas for generating new revenue. Once the process is complete we will present the budget and our plans to the craft for discussion and approval.

My goal as Senior Warden is to leave Village Lodge at the end of my term with a better financial house-keeping control than I found it. This goal can only be achieved with the help and cooperation of every one of you my Brothers, in form of suggestions or comments anyone of you can spare.

Ted Sharon

Senior Warden

2011