



13th International Masonic Town Hall (Sequence of Events)

Online room opens 09h45 (EST) to receive Brethren Saturday August 14th 2021
Masonic Town Hall begins 10H00am USA / 16h00pm RSA / 19h30pm INDIA

IMTH 1 Season 2

Time: August 14th, 2021 04:00 PM Johannesburg

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84537278585>

Meeting ID: 845 3727 8585

Opening Interlude

<https://youtu.be/eGv9GIKNJKI>

Distinguished brethren and brethren all.

Visitors from all over the known world were greeted with one phrase above the door at the Temple of the Oracle of Delphi.

“*Temet Nosce*”

Which translates to that theme of the Apprentice degree. “Know Thyself”. In finding inspiration to restart this International Masonic Town Hall, I found it in Reflection. REFLECTING, Perhaps it was apt that we restart in Women’s Month here in South Africa and our theme and music reflects the strength of a woman and the role they play in our lives. Our mothers, our wives and partners, our daughters and granddaughters and so on. As I play this first item perhaps you will reflect on the women in your life.

This is the 13th International Masonic Town Hall and from the Disney Film Mulan, this is the remarkable Yifei Liu.

Reflection

(Mandarin Version)

Disney’s Mulan Chinese Theme Song

- Yifei Liu

<https://youtu.be/cxPGNjhpOAc>

It has been more than 2 months since our last Town Hall when I ended with the immortal words of the father of the modern nation of India and my thoughts have been with Brethren and Friends in India who has seen an unprecedented third wave of COVID decimate the population and as we gather South Africa is in the midst of its third wave and the United States now in its fourth wave.

Coming to you live from Cape Town, South Africa with my co-host in New York and Phoenix, Arizona respectively.

Statistics for this edition are **8** Countries, including the United States, Canada, South Africa, India, Lebanon, Ecuador, Angola, Mexico, **5** US States, 2 Canadian Provinces, **11** Grand and 1 District Grand Lodges across **11** Time Zones,

I now recognise the Past Grand Master of the MWPH Grand Lodge of Connecticut, the Most Worshipful Brother Ronald Thomas to make an opening remark and declare this edition OPEN. MW Thomas, the floor is yours.

Thank you MW Thomas.





Introduce convenors

You are already familiar with your hosts and rules. Just a reminder to mute your mic if you are not speaking.

I will now read the opening inclination...

Sign of reverence Brethren.

Great Architect of the Universe, we thank You for Your Grace and Favor in trying and unprecedented times and that in the absence of **WISDOM, STRENGTH** or **BEAUTY**, there is always HOPE. For protecting us from this pandemic and its socio-economic impact. We pray for its swift end. That the balance of the equilibrium in our global society be restored and that your wisdom be upon those who are designated to navigate the world through these turbulent waters and that the families and communities impacted globally find comfort in YOU and each other. We pray that you bestow the manifold blessings from your inexhaustible stall upon us all as we find our way. As we gather in Your name, we pray for Your guidance that our discussions will be to the benefit of Freemasonry in general and to the honor and glory of Your Holy Name. **SMIB**

I now wish to acknowledge

The Grand Lodge of **New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, MWPH Connecticut, Rhode Island, Vermont and Arizona, Mississippi, Manitoba** (Canada), **Quebec**, South Africa, **India, MWGL of State Baja California AF&AM, , Lebanon**, and the District Grand Lodge of **Lebanon and Syria under the Grand Lodge of New York**.

I now wish to acknowledge and THANK Senior Brethren for their contribution in making the International Masonic Town Hall possible.

- MW Bro **William Sardone** Grand Master, Grand Lodge of the State of **New York, USA** ® v
- MW Bro. **Gordon Fardoe**, Grand Master, Grand Lodge of **Manitoba** ® v
- MW Bro. **Marc C. David**, Grand Master, Grand Lodge of **Quebec**, A.F. & A. M. v
- MW Bro **John Smith** OSM/MSA Grand Master, Grand Lodge of **South Africa** v
- MW Bro. **Raffy H Timonian** Grand Master, Grand Lodge of the F & AM of **Lebanon** ® v
- ~~MW Bro **Stuart Corso** Grand Master, Grand Lodge of **Vermont** ® v~~
- M.E.C **Edmund D. Harrison**, General Grand Chapter **Royal Arch Masons International** ® v
- MRGLDE Oscar Mario Zepeda Peralta, Grand Chancellor, MWGL of State Baja California, Mexico
- MW Bro **Geoff Edwards** OSM Past Grand Master, Grand Lodge of **South Africa** ® v
- MW **Ronald A. Thomas**, MWPGM Connecticut Prince Hall Masons
- RW Bro **Richard Maggio Deputy** Grand Master, Grand Lodge of **Massachusetts** v
- RW Bro Robert Kliaman, Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario
- ~~RW Bro **Pratapkaran Paul**, Past Deputy Grand Master, Grand Lodge of **India** ®~~
- RW Bro Tarek Issa, District Grand Master of the District Grand Lebanon and Syria
- WB Cmdr. **Xerxes Zeno Herrington II**, PGO, Grand Lodge of **Mississippi**

All protocols observed

EB Brethren, we will now have a round of 3 topics.





Question

1) Covid19 and Masonry - A year in review. Agenda 2021. Exciting Highlights and projects in you Grand Lodge Calendar

New York is 75% vaccinated and back at labour though other lodges in the United States and other parts of the world are still either in its 3rd wave or thereabout and some countries are still cautious. Has the past year met your expectations or have you had to adjust strategies and what does 2021/2 look like for your Grand Lodge.

2) Returning to Labor - Building King Solomon's Temple during a Pandemic - Resetting your Grand Lodge, mentally, socially and financially. The Line outside the West Gate and elevation. Are we getting those candidates initiated, passed and raised?

How significant was or is the impact of COVID on your Grand Lodge. Have you been able to get back to that sense of normalcy/normality that we have been talking about and hoping for?

3) Are other jurisdictions seeing decreasing membership in lodges to the point where consolidation of lodges is necessary? How do you approach the notion of lodges sharing a regional building, or consolidating into a regional lodge? This may not be a problem in some areas of the world, but is in parts of the US.

This refers to contraction due to COVID instead of the expansion or growth that New York for example is experiencing. Are lodges particularly in jurisdictions with robust real estate seeing contractions and attrition in its membership and how is your jurisdiction managing this process.

1. Grand Lodge of Quebec
2. Grand Lodge of Manitoba (Canada)
3. Grand Lodge of Mississippi
4. Grand Lodge of South Africa
5. Grand Lodge of Massachusetts
6. Grand Lodge of NY
7. Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario
8. Grand Lodge of MWPB Connecticut
9. Grand Lodge of Baja California
- ~~10. Grand Lodge of India~~
11. Grand Lodge of Lebanon

EB Distinguished Brethren and Brethren All, I now recognise the Most Worshipful Bro Raffy Timonian, Grand Master of Lebanon to make a closing comment and declare this 13th International Masonic Town Hall, **CLOSED Grand Master** the floor is yours.

(declare the 13th International Masonic Town Hall **CLOSED** 12H00am EST (USA) / 18h00 pm SA / 21h00pm INDIA)

EB- Thank You MW Bro Timonian

All that is left for me to say is To you Brethren in Canada, the United States, Mexico and South America, Good Afternoon. To the Brethren in South Africa, Africa, Europe, Lebanon, Good Evening. To the brethren in India, Good Night. As always, I bow to the divine in you. NAMASTE, As-Salaam-Alaikum, SHALOM, Marhaba, Peace be unto you until we meet again. God bless, STAY SAFE and ever be mindful of the needs of other.





For our final song to remind us of the virtuous chivalry that defines our order, today I again turn to Disney and a woman, who says this

*War is not freedom, Over my shoulder, I see a clearer view
 All for my family, Reason I'm breathing, Everything to lose
 Losing is easy, Winning takes bravery, I am a tiger's fool
 Out in the open, No one to save me, The kindest of whispers are cruel
 Cold is the morning, Warm is the dream, Chasing the answers 'Til I can't sleep
 Will I be stronger, Or will I be weak When you're not with me?
 Who am I without my armor? Standing in my father's shoes
 All I know is that it's harder, To be loyal, brave and true.*

THIS, is

Loyal Brave and True

Performed by Christina Anguilera

<https://youtu.be/Tds12fQZbfM>

All decorum is herewith,suspended

Thank You Brethren

Total 120 mins

IMTH ends
 18h00 (RSA)
 12H00 USA (EST)
 21h30 (India)

