



The Nova Scotia FREEMASON

THE OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE GRAND LODGE OF NOVA SCOTIA



Special Issue: Canadian-Cuba Fellowship Visit



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Submissions for upcoming editions can be sent either through the Grand Lodge website or can be sent to the Grand Secretary: Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia
167 Coronation Avenue
Halifax, NS, Canada B3N 2N2.

Please send written submissions as text files.

Advertisement for Lodge or District activities, as well as Personal advertisements are printed free of charge.

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This year's Masonic Cuba Fellowship Trip will be May 4-11, 2019, Blau Varadero, Superior Room, all-inclusive \$1,378 per person, taxes and fees included. The trip will be with Sunwing Vacations this year due to late flight times with Transat. Flights depart Halifax at 6:00 am arriving 9:35 am in Varadero. Deposit is \$150 per person to reserve your space. Final payment is due March 1st, 2019. As always, interest free payments can be made until final payment due date.

Contact Pat Richards if you're interested in going at prichards@thedestinationexperts.com, phone 902-799-0011 or 1-866-899-8969 ext 408 or at the Grand Lodge office 902-423-6149.



5TH ANNUAL CUBAN CANADIAN FELLOWSHIP VISIT 2018

May 2 - 9, 2018

13 GLNS Masons, wives & family - totaling 23, visited Blau Varadero.

Blau Varadero is a 4.5 Resort with a Top 5 rating annually on TripAdvisor.

The trip was a Combination Vacation – 7 days in the warmth and hospitality of Cuba and a chance to engage in some great humanitarian and charity work.

16 Brethren from 12 different Nova Scotia lodges. St. Andrews 1, St. Georges 20, Eastern Star 51, Clark 61, Alexander 87, Cornwallis 95, Bedford 104, Equity 106, Ashlar 107, John Albro 122, C. W. Saunders 125, Royal Standard 387 (ER).

All who attended had a blast!

There were three Masonic events Friday May 4 we visited the Grand Lodge of Cuba – Havana where we were received by the Grandmaster of Cuba, Ernesto Zamora Fernandez.

We gave a donation to the Grand Lodge of Cuba - Masonic Elders Home, helping older Cuban Masons. There being no social financial network and very limited resources, we provided soap, toiletries, clothing, medicines, hygiene items etc. and \$1,109 CDN donated from 11 different Lodges from our GLNS Jurisdiction .

The Grand Master was so emotional he broke down, couldn't continue his speech of thanks.

On Sunday May 6 we visited Verdad Lodge where we were received by the Worshipful Master. We observed their Monthly District Meeting of the seven Matanzas Lodges.

Verdad Lodge was presented with 4 suitcases clothing and medicines and the Worshipful Master was asked to consult a doctor to distribute the medicines appropriately. The Worshipful Master and Secretary were to distribute the clothing to the most needy

Monday May 7 saw us visit Cardenas Lodge where we observed their weekly meeting. Again this lodge was presented with 4 suitcases of materials and were left in the hands of the Worshipful Master for distribution.

Our organising committee would like to extend a huge thank-you to all who participated in the year's trip. Your hard work ensured yet another successful Masonic visit with our brethren in Cuba.

As you witnessed the Cubans are truly are a special nation of people. Our labours in helping our brothers in need truly exemplifies the true meaning of faith, hope and charity.

We hope you enjoyed the masonic events, the warmth and hospitality of the Cuban culture and hope to see you return with us next year for another vacation at the Blau Varadero.

Sincerely and fraternally,

*WB Vern Miller
Eastern Star # 51*



 JOSE MARTI - CUBAN AND MASONIC HERO

One of the great heroes of the Cuban struggle against Spain for liberty and also a masonic hero is Jose Marti.

At the beginning of each lodge opening the Worshipful Master, or an honoured guest, is asked to recite Marti's poem "Cultivo Una Rosa Blanca", and then places a white rose before a bust of Marti. WBro. Miller was asked to give the oration when we visited Cardenas Lodge.

Marti's writings reflected his own views both socially and politically. "Cultivo Una Rosa Blanca" is one of his poems that emphasize his views in hopes of betterment for society.

This poem is a clear description of Marti's societal hopes for his homeland. Within the poem, he talks about how regardless of the person, whether kind or cruel he cultivates a white rose, meaning that he remains peaceful. This coincides with his ideology about establishing unity amongst the people, more so those of Cuba, through a common identity, with no regards to ethnic and racial differences. This doctrine could be accomplished if one treated his enemy with peace as he would treat a friend. The kindness of one person should be shared with all people, regardless of personal conflict. By following the moral that lies within "Cultivo Rosa Blanca", Marti's vision of Cuban solidarity could be possible, creating a more peaceful society that would emanate through future generations.

José Julián Martí Pérez (January 28, 1853 – May 19, 1895) was a Cuban National Hero and an important figure in Latin American literature. During his life, he worked as a poet, essayist, journalist, translator, professor, and publisher. He was very politically active, and is considered an important revolutionary philosopher and political theorist. Through his writings and political activity, he became a symbol of Cuba's bid for independence against Spain in the 19th century, and is referred to as the "Apostle of Cuban Independence." From adolescence, he dedicated his life to the promotion of liberty, political independence for Cuba, and intellectual independence for all Spanish Americans; his death was used as a cry for Cuban independence from Spain by both the Cuban revolutionaries and

those Cubans previously reluctant to start a revolt. Martí was also used as a figurehead by the Cuban government throughout the regime of Fidel Castro, and his writings were commonly cited as supporting socialism within Castro's administration.

Born in Havana, Martí began his political activism at an early age. He traveled extensively in Spain, Latin America, and the United States, raising awareness and support for the cause of Cuban independence. His unification of the Cuban émigré community, particularly in Florida, was crucial to the success of the Cuban War of Independence against Spain. He was a key figure in the planning and execution of this war, as well as the designer of the Cuban Revolutionary Party and its ideology. He died in military action during the Battle of Dos Ríos on May 19, 1895.

Martí is considered one of the great turn-of-the-century Latin American intellectuals. His written works include a series of poems, essays, letters, lectures, novel, and a children's magazine. He wrote for numerous Latin American and American newspapers; he also founded a number of newspapers. His newspaper *Patria* was an important instrument in his campaign for Cuban independence. After his death, one of his poems from the book, "*Versos Sencillos*" (*Simple Verses*) was adapted to the song "Guantanamera", which has become the definitive patriotic song of Cuba.





Verdad Lodge



Cardenas Lodge

I Have A White Rose To Tend (Verse Xxxix)
 I have a white rose to tend
 In July as in January;
 I give it to the true friend
 Who offers his frank hand to me.
 And for the cruel one whose blows
 Break the heart by which I live,
 Thistle nor thorn do I give:
 For him, too, I have a white rose.

Cultivo Una Rosa Blanca... (Verso XXXIX)
 Cultivo una rosa blanca,
 En julio como en enero,
 Para el amigo sincero
 Que me da su mano franca.
 Y para el cruel que me arranca
 El corazón con que vivo,
 Cardo ni oruga cultivo:
 Cultivo la rosa blanca.

Martí depicted on a República de Cuba one peso silver certificate (1936)





Cardenas Lodge where we received certificates and plaques of attendance and some local rum



MWBro.Ernesto Zamora Fernandez.



A Group photograph on the roof of the Grand Lodge building in Havana. Great views of the city from one of the highest buildings around.



The Grand Lodge of Cuba in Havana



Sorting the donations into the suitcases before taking them to the lodges



Verdad Lodge





Dinner at one of the a la carte restaurants on the resort

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