**Pasholko Speech (No. 15150]**

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Presentation by Cheryl Pasholko to the Masons of the Richmond Lodge #142 on behalf of the Order of the Eastern Star.

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Worshipful Master, Distinquished East, Brethren, Brothers and Sisters, and guests. Thank you Worshipful Master for allowing me to make this presentation this [morning/evening], and i very much hope that none of you will take offense at what i have to say.

I WORRY ABOUT THIS BECAUSE I THINK THERE MIGHT BE SOME CHANCE THAT WHAT I’M GOING TO SAY TO YOU THIS [MORNING/EVENING] WILL COME ACROSS AS SOMETHING OF A SCOLD, AND I DON’T WANT THAT TO BE THE CASE AT ALL. YOU KNOW, CATHERINE THE GREAT OF RUSSIA ONCE SAID, "I LIKE TO PRAISE AND REWARD IN A LOUD VOICE AND TO SCOLD IN A WHISPER.” BUT I’M AFRAID THAT IF I WHISPER, YOU WON’T HEAR WHAT I HAVE TO SAY — NEITHER WITH YOU EARS, NOR WITH YOUR HEART. AND IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO ME THAT YOU HEAR ME WITH YOUR HEART.

NOW YOU MIGHT RECALL — AT LEAST SOME OF YOU — THAT IT WAS JUST ABOUT A YEAR AGO, IN MARCH OF 2015, THAT I ADDRESSED THIS ESTEEMED AND AUGUST BODY ABOUT THE SISTERS OF THE EASTERN STAR, HOW WE CAME TO BE, HOW WE’RE ORGANIZED, AND HOW

CLOSELY WE FEEL JOINED, BOTH IN SPIRIT AND IN PURPOSE, WITH RICHMOND LODGE 142. I TOLD YOU OF ALL THE GOOD WORKS WE’RE STRIVING TO CARRY OUT IN THE COMMUNITY, AND I EMPHASIZED HOW VERY IMPORTANT — INDEED HOW CRUCIAL — OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THIS LODGE IS AND REMAINS. WE ARE KINDRED SOULS, WE SISTERS AND YOU MASONS, AND OUR RELATIONSHIP MEANS ALL THE WORLD TO US.

AFTER MY REMARKS LAST YEAR, I GOT THE VERY DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT YOU ALL FELT THE SAME WAY. THERE WERE EXPRESSIONS OF COMARADERIE, SIMPATICO, AND PLEDGES OF MUTUAL SUPPORT. BUT IN THE INTERVENING YEAR, IT’S BECOME CLEAR TO US THAT A LOT OF THOSE PLEDGES WERE NOT AS SINCERE AS WE’D HOPED THEY’D BE. IN TURNING TO THE DICTIONARY, I FOUND THAT THE DEFINITION OF THE TERM “LIP SERVICE” FITS THE PRESENT SITUATION IN OUR MINDS PERFECTLY, FOR THE DICTIONARY DEFINES THIS TERM AS, QUOTE: “AN INSINCERE EXPRESSION OF FRIENDSHIP, ADMIRATION, AND SUPPORT, ETC., OR SERVICE BY WORDS ONLY.” NOW I KNOW THAT THIS SOUNDS LIKE A VERY NEGATIVE AND DEROGATORY THING, AND I GUESS IT IS. AFTER ALL, WHEN SOMEONE SAYS THEY’LL DO SOMETHING AND THEN DON’T DO THAT THING, IT CAN ONLY RIGHTLY BE CALLED “LIP SERVICE.”

BASED ON LOTS OF CONVERSATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE, WE THOUGHT WE’D FOUND A TRUE PARTNER IN LODGE 142. WE TRULY THOUGHT THAT THIS LODGE WAS SINCERE IN ITS DESIRE TO HELP US, TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR EVENTS BY BUYING TICKETS TO OUR FUND-RAISERS, AND EVEN HELPING US ORGANIZE SOME OF THEM. WE TRULY FELT THAT YOU WOULD ENCOURAGE YOUR WOMENFOLK — YOUR WIVES AND SISTERS AND DAUGHTERS — TO JOIN OUR ORDER, AS KIND OF A “WOMEN’S AUXILLIARY” TO YOUR OWN. BUT FOR THE MOST PART, THIS HASN’T HAPPENED.

PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT I’M NOT HERE TO CHASTISE YOU FOR THIS. AS I SAID, I DON’T WANT TO BE A SCOLD. I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU’VE GOT YOUR OWN PROGRAMMATIC AND ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUES TO DEAL WITH. BUT DON’T YOU AGREE THAT OUR TWO ORGANIZATIONS TOGETHER COULD DO A LOT MORE GOOD IN OUR COMMUNITY THAN EITHER ONE OF US CAN DO ALONE? ISN’T IT CLEAR TO YOU THAT THE PARTICIPATION OF A CORE OF DEDICATED WOMENFOLK COULD MAKE A TREMENDOUS CONTRIBUTION TO OUR MUTUAL GOALS AND SHARED PURPOSE?

I CERTAINLY HOPE YOU DO, AND I’VE COME HERE TODAY SIMPLY TO ASK YOU TO LIVE UP TO THE PROMISES YOU’VE MADE IN THE PAST AND

THE SUPPORT YOU COMMITTED TO GIVE US. I KNOW, OR AT LEAST I FEEL, THAT WE SISTERS, FOR OUR PART, HAVE LIVED UP TO OUR SIDE OF THE BARGAIN, AND I PROMISE YOU THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO. WE STAND READY TO HELP YOU ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS IN ANY WAY WE CAN . . . TO HELP WITH YOUR FUNDRAISING . . . TO HELP BUILD YOUR MEMBERSHIP . . . AND TO PROMOTE THE GOOD NAME OF THE MASONS THROUGHOUT OUR COMMUNITY. ALL I’M ASKING OF YOU [TODAY/TONIGHT] IS THAT YOU DO THE SAME. AS THE WRITER, CHUCK PALHANUIK WROTE IN HIS BOOK, *LULLABY*: “IN A WORLD WHERE VOWS ARE WORTHLESS . . . WHERE MAKING A PLEDGE MEANS NOTHING . . . WHERE PROMISES ARE MADE TO BE BROKEN: IT WOULD BE NICE TO SEE WORDS COME BACK INTO POWER.”

IN THE NAME OF THE SUPREME BEING WHO LOVES AND GUIDES AND NURTURES US ALL, I PRAY THAT THIS WILL COME TO PASS BETWEEN OUR TWO ORGANIZATIONS. AND I THANK YOU MOST SINCERELY FOR LISTENING TO MY LITTLE SCOLD, EVEN IF — *UNLIKE* CATHERINE THE GREAT — I DIDN’T WHISPER IT!

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