

THE NEW JERSEY FREEMASON



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WINTER OFFICERS SEMINAR

Saturday January 31ST 2015

TRENTON MASONIC TEMPLE
100 BARRACK STREET
TRENTON NJ 08608



Check the Grand Lodge Website for Updates
www.NewJerseyGrandLodge.org

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Schedule

March 2015
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(Submission deadline May 1st)

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(Submission deadline August 1st)

The New Jersey Freemason is published quarterly by the Masonic Charity Foundation of New Jersey.

Brethren

At the last annual communication we voted to accept the mission statement suggested by the Strategic Planning Committee. I find it succinct and to the point. While it is simple, the statement gets right to the heart of who we are and what we stand for. I asked that it be included in this addition of the free Masonic just to remind us all.

Gerald J. Sharpe, Grand Master

“FREEMASONRY PROMOTES A WAY OF LIFE THAT BINDS LIKE-MINDED MEN WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF BROTHERLY LOVE, RELIEF AND TRUTH IN ORDER TO SERVE GOD, FAMILY, COUNTRY, NEIGHBOR AND SELF”

Letter from the Editor

Holiday greetings to all my Brethren. I hope everyone had a safe and memorable time spent with family and friends.

At this point in the year I start reflecting back to see how I spent the last twelve months. I ask myself the following:

- Did I practice Freemasonry in my day to day life and use the tenants that I learned? If not, why?
- How did I feel when I knew I avoided a bad situation by being a better man?
- Did I show others how Freemasons make good men better?
- When I didn't do as good a job as I could have (I am only human after all) what did I do to rectify the situation?
- Did I recognize how I could have prevented it in the first place?

It is quite amazing that when you do practice Freemasonry and you're not just a Freemason in name only how your life will improve. The list of events that I spoke of above where you let yourself or other down will become less and less. The positive start outweighing the negative.

My Brethren, let's all make 2015 a year to remember. Freemasonry in New Jersey is alive and thriving better than ever.

Yours in the Craft

Cory Sigler
R. W. Cory Sigler, PGC
Editor

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MASONIC CHARITY FOUNDATION OF NEW JERSEY

Chairman,
M.W. Gerald J. Sharpe
and the
Board of Trustees
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and your guest
to attend

The
Chairman's

A Night at the Yacht Club

Saturday, March 21, 2015

Join the Grand Master for a night like no other – featuring exceptional food,
outstanding music and dancing to The Infernos Band, and fellowship. Ahoy!

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Dancing to The Infernos Band until 11:00 pm

\$100 Per Person

(no portion of your reservation fee is tax-deductible)

All reservations must be received by **March 13, 2015**

Please complete the form below and mail to:
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For more information, or to
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Address

CityStateZip

Name of Spouse/Guest

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Grand Master's Message

Brethren

As I sit down to write this message to you, I am struck by how fast time passes. I have spoken and written a lot about what I think we do right in our fraternity and what needs to be changed. My initiatives, such as putting Masons first, promoting the three "F"'s of Freemasonry (Friendship, Fellowship, and Further Light), and recommending against cheapening the Masonic experience of our members and candidates, have all been well received. These initiatives are not some grandiose Grand Lodge programs, but more of a grass root approach inspired by your believes as to what is most important for our fraternity to move forward. The seeds have been planted and the future will show us what will grow. I am excited about what is yet to come for our fraternity. We might become smaller in the short term, but we will be better. Smaller means some lodges might have trouble maintaining the old buildings and will find themselves sharing buildings with other lodges. Some have gone as far as to suggest that we develop Masonic centers that would contain exercise rooms, libraries, restaurants and perish the thought, Pubs. The downside of that concept is that we might lose visibility in some of the smaller towns. It is a problem that we will have to deal with sooner or later. However, we will be better, because we will be more dedicated to one another, we will focus on admitting quality new members, and we will be more focused on making Freemasons, not just on making members.

As some of you know, I have granted the request that we constitute the first observance lodge in the state. Some of our brethren are interested in experiencing Freemasonry in a more strict and "old fashioned" way. I see no harm in letting them express their Masonry in that way. It will, in no way, be exclusive, however. All Masons are welcome to visit the observance Lodge. A visiting brother will be asked to inform the lodge of his intention to attend and will be asked to pay for his dinner, just like any other member of this lodge. I encourage you to plan a visit and experience observance Freemasonry for yourself. You may find that you might want to see some of their concepts incorporated into your own lodge.

On a different note, I am composing this article the day after Grand Unity day, where the Grand Lodges of NJ, NY, PA and DE came together for the first time in history, in a show of unity and education, to exemplify ritual from their respective jurisdictions which proved to be quite different from ours. What a fantastic day it turned out to be; a day that will never be forgotten, along with the Striper Challenge and the ball game events held earlier this year. We have many more great events planned for the near future, such as the Grand Lodge Feast of Sts. John, where our guest speaker will be Brother George Washington! I encourage you to attend this event if within the length of your cable tow, as it will also be memorable. Additionally, if you are joining us in Costa Rica, I look forward to meeting you at the swim up bar. I am trying to figure out a way to hold a fishing contest. While I have been so focused on the vision for the future of our fraternity, I have not forgotten just how important family and fellowship are to all of us.

In my travels, I have spoken enough about the heart of Freemasonry: the Ancient Landmarks. To those who do not get to lodge often, I just want to bring you up to speed on what has been happening. There is a very small group of disgruntled Masons spreading false information that somehow the Landmarks subscribed to by our Grand Lodge are not legitimate. We have included a research report in this edition of the NJ Freemason magazine that will bring you the truth for you to see and understand that these Landmarks are legitimate. We have sworn to uphold and support our Landmarks and all Masters have agreed in the ancient charges that it is not in the power of any man or group of men to make innovations in the body of Masonry. I will keep my promises and encourage you to do the same. We are not going to allow a few individuals to redefine, transform, and innovate our fraternity, and change it into what they believe it should be. What egos they must have to think that they know better than our forefathers! The vast majority of our Past Grand Masters and the current Grand Lodge leadership are on the same page and support my stand on this topic.

In closing, when I get bogged down in all the troubles in our fraternity, when I am truly feeling the weight of leading twenty two thousand Masons, an event like Grand Unity Day comes along and reminds me why I became a Mason in the first place, and how proud I am to be one today! I ask you to remember what it means to you to be a Freemason. While meditating on your thoughts, I urge you to focus on the positive and not to dwell on the negative. We have much work to do, let us do it together.

Sincerely and fraternally yours,

Gerald J. Sharpe

M.W. Gerald J. Sharpe
Grand Master

January	
10	GM Class - VOSNJ Scottish Rite
11	GM PV - Paramus VA Visit 1:15 pm
13	Gold Collar Degree - Caesarea Lodge
17	GM and Filipino Representative Installation
23-27	GMTrip to Florida
February	
1/31 - 2/7	GMTrip to Costa Rica
11	Vineland Lodge 69 - 150 th Anniversary
14 - 18	GMO North American Conf of GM's
19	12, 15, 19 Reception - VOCNJ Dunns Mill Road
20	Learning Center Reverse Raffle - Sea Oaks CC
21	Polar Bear Plunge - Seaside Heights, NJ 9 am
22	GM OV East Orange VA 9 am
27	Grand Lodge Open Ladies Table Lodge
28	24 th District Table Lodge - Ocean City, NJ
March	
4	Society of Saints John
7	York Rite Weekend
8	GM OV Lyons VA Visit 9 am
10	10 th District Reception
13	Merchantville Table Lodge 6 pm
14	GM DeMolay Class - Trenton Temple - Daytime
14	GM Tricky Tray - Crescent Shrine 5 pm
15	Legion of Honor GM PV
16	Past Grand Masters Dinner - Trenton Temple
20	Brotherhood Night - Delaware
21	Chairman's Ball Fellowship Center
22 - 27	GMO Grand Lodge of Tennessee
27	Second 23 rd District Reception - Trinity Lodge 79
28	COD at VOCNJ
30	North Jersey Candidates Night

Grand Master's 2015 Calendar

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My Brothers,

Freemasonry is a wonderful part of our life and we should attempt each day to learn something new and appreciate that which we already know. I'm reminded of the old adage, which says; you get out of it only what you put in.

Actually one could say Freemasonry is one sided - you get more out because you don't have to do anything — come out, see degrees — eat and drink afterwards, hang out — enjoy the fellowship, and do this for years and years and your Lodge will always be there for you.

You don't really have to do anything but enjoy our Fraternity — Enjoy your Fraternity.

But if you want to participate in the Officer Line, partake in degrees, work in the kitchen, the buildings and grounds whatever you want, work up to East, and beyond — opportunities are there just waiting.

Always remember my Brothers and keep in mind, practice what you learn and are taught in our lectures and degrees, in the obligations we swore to uphold; always follow our Masonic teachings. Give to your Brothers as you wish to be treated. Don't be afraid or embarrassed to be outwardly zealous about Freemasonry. Be the Craft as set forth for us by our forefathers because YOU are the Craft, each and every one of us is Freemasonry and always emulate as we were taught by God, to your neighbor and to yourself and to our entire human race.

My brothers I would like to relate an incident I have spoken about in the past but I want to extend this experience throughout the State to those who may not be aware of it.

Earlier this year I was visiting the Grand Lodge of NY. At lunch we were sitting around the table, Brothers from other States were talking about how great our Lodges are, our Ritual the best, you know the usual Masonic scuttlebutt and there was one empty seat open. Just one empty chair I think in the whole room.

An older Brother with a cane, walked up very slowly and stood behind the vacant chair hesitantly sort of moving it to sit down — it was clear he had a sight problem.

A Brother sitting next to the empty chair recognized the situation -stood up and offered;

"Why don't you join us?" He took the older brother by the arm and assisted him to sit down in such a way as not to make it too obvious that he was helping.

The older brother said everything smelled good and it became apparent he was extremely "sight challenged!" The Brother who assisted him described how the food looked — The ham looks good, salami, cheese he named everything and offered to fill up his plate and did so.

The older brother thanked him and had a healthy lunch; he also stated sternly, as if he were in charge, insisted on "Diet

Coke." When lunch over we left and the older brother got up and wandered away seemingly OK to be alone.

Brother helping Brother with no reward necessary, - not asking for anything or wanting praise; this was a beautiful experience to watch and never forget.

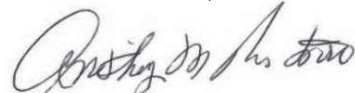
Brethren, always remember that's what we are here for; the younger brother could have moved and ignored the older man. But he did what every good Mason will do. He helped, aided and assisted. That was Masonry at its best.

What would you have done?? Would you have stretched forth your hand to support a Brother in need?

I certainly hope so.

My Brothers I thank you again for your continued support.

Yours in the Craft,



Anthony W. Montuori
Deputy Grand Master

Ice Bucket Challenge

Brethren of New Jersey I am here for a very important and solemn reason. We are certainly enjoying the day at Phil DeGrassio's BBQ but I am here on behalf of ALS, a terrible wasting disease, and I am glad to take the Ice Water Bucket Challenge and whatever comes with it for anyone that has been inflicted with this problem. I will make the donation even though I am getting the water and I hope that everyone that got the water also makes the donation because we need to end this terrible disease. Now if someone will please take my Apron, Jewel and Hat, I am ready to get wet.

I challenge the inner staff of the Grand Lodge from the Tyler all the way to the Senior Grand Warden.



(Editors Note: if you have been nominated to take the challenge and do not participate you donate \$100 to ALC.)



Senior Grand Warden's Message

Brethren,

To quote Most Worshipful Gerald J. Sharpe *"what the brethren are looking for is 'FELLOWSHIP, FRIENDSHIP and FURTHER LIGHT'"*. We can accomplish this thru a number of different avenues.

First, give the brethren motivation or a reason to attend our lodge meetings. This motivation can be accomplished by notifying the membership in due and timely notice about interesting talks.

Second, have a Warden read a section from the Constitution and Laws. During the Annual Installations, the Worshipful Master is presented with the Book of Constitutions and is charged to "Cause to be read in your Lodge, that none may pretend ignorance of the excellent precepts it enjoins". This is an easy method to spread further light and knowledge.

Every brother should greet each other with a handshake and welcome at your Lodge Communications. This sets the positive tone for the evening. The fellowship after the meeting is also important. Good food, good conversation and fun activities such as billiards, (my personal

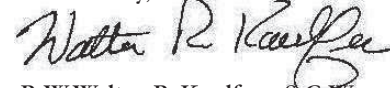
favorite), darts, card games etc. make Lodge Communications a destination, not a chore.

Each month, I receive many Trestleboards. They are a very effective method of communicating with the Lodge members. Most contain great information concerning the next month's Lodge Communications and activities and include effective messages from the Worshipful Master. Congratulations are in order to those Lodges for making these notifications exciting and informative. Unfortunately, not all monthly Trestleboards perform this function. Some are not very inspirational or informative. **Great Trestleboards is one method to peak the interest of your Brethren and improve Lodge attendance.**

Brethren, I wish you and your families a Happy Thanksgiving! This special day is one of the best days of the year to be an American and a Freemason. It's a day to count your blessings, spend time with your loved ones and enjoy good food and great company.

"Embrace the Future"

Fraternally,



R.W. Walter R. Kaulfers, S.G.W.

The New Jersey Freemason Reaches Thousands of Brethren

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*Content and imagery must be supplied by brethren requesting ad production assistance.

Knowledge versus Wisdom

"Wisdom is mightier then strength".

King Solomon

Brethren,

Do you access the knowledge available to you in Freemasonry? Do you make the effort to continually educate yourself in Freemasonry? Do you try to learn or just read? These are questions we should ask ourselves if we really want to walk the walk and not just talk the talk. But the real question is: **How do we apply our knowledge so we may attain wisdom in Freemasonry?**

It is said that knowledge speaks while wisdom listens or put another way that knowledge provides the tools to acquire wisdom.This process creates a perfect circle as the wisdom to listen allows us to acquire the knowledge that permits us to speak with wisdom.

Researching diligently, studying consistently, practicing continually and direct experience provide the Masonic GPS of groundwork, passion and skills for knowledge. Proficiency takes time and patience.

We all have knowledge accumulated over the years in many different areas. Our diverse backgrounds, professions and interests provide a true melting pot of ideas, beliefs and expertise. Some have more knowledge, some have less, but we all possess it. Knowledge teaches us to look at situations and to analyze a solution with facts, figures, data and experience. It allows us to function as citizens in our communities. It is

needed for any chosen field of endeavor. More knowledge makes you a smart person, or so we think.

Does it follow that knowledge gives us common sense, judgment, conscience, compassion, insight, inspiration or enlightenment? That is not necessarily true.

Wisdom is the way that we absorb and perceive all that has been presented to us in Freemasonry through our attainment of knowledge. It allows us to tune into our inner self, that third sense, which guides us to makes the right choices. It teaches us to apply our knowledge to the important parts of our lives and in Freemasonry. It helps us to have confidence in ourselves and know we are taking the correct course of action. It is all there, waiting to be absorbed into your heart and being. You cannot seek wisdom. By making a conscious effort to continually improve one self, wisdom will find you. Education and knowledge are its life long companions. By staying on the path to Masonic enlightenment, you will have insight, inspiration and wisdom.

*Knowing others is wisdom
Knowing yourself is enlightenment*

Lao Tzu

Yours in the Craft,



Dieter B. Hees



A Review of Our Ancient Landmarks



Submitted by R.W.Mobamad A. Yatim, Grand Historian in collaboration with R.W. Kevin F. Colquhoun, P.D.D.G.M. and with the concurrence of M.W. Francis R. Mitchell, P.G.M, G.I.

Recently, some brethren from our Grand Jurisdiction have been criticizing the Landmarks subscribed to by the Grand Lodge of New Jersey,

making misleading allegations that they were never adopted. The writer(s), assuming the pseudonym from American History in the Federalist Papers, even admit that their agenda in publishing this mis-information is predicated upon their perception of “abuses of power by recent Past Grand Masters”, and their conclusion on how to resolve that perception is by trying to attack the most fundamental principles of Freemasonry, the Landmarks. Furthermore, they are proposing that these Landmarks be changed through a legislative vote at a Grand Lodge annual communication, when they are likely well aware that Landmarks, by virtue of their being Landmarks, cannot be changed by any sort of legislation. In order to eliminate all kind of misconceptions, and to enlighten the brethren, it is important to address this issue from Historical and Legal perspectives.

1. What are Masonic Landmarks?

Masonic Landmarks are a set of principles and rules to which our Craft is bounded, and which define the identity of our institution and its governance.They are the oldest and unwritten laws of Freemasonry, handed down from before a time when written laws and regulations first existed. Sir William Blackstone, the definitive scholar on early English law, in his treatise Commentaries on the Laws of England, defined unwritten laws as those whose “original institution and authority are not set down as acts of Parliament, but receive their binding power and force of law by long and immemorial usage, and their universal reception”. Such are the Landmarks of Freemasonry.They are the original and immutable laws that define the Fraternity and pre-date any laws enacted by any Grand lodge.

The authority of unwritten laws is an anciently accepted legal principle, and is found throughout the ancient civilizations of the world.The Romans divided their laws into two groups. The written and enacted laws, they classified as the “Jus Scriptum” or Written Law.The second were the “Jus Non Scriptum” or Non-Written Law.They founded the non-written laws upon the doctrine of “Consuetudo Inveterate” or Immemorial Custom. So too the ancient Hebrews divided their laws into the Pentateuch, or the written laws, and the Oral law, handed down by God to Moses and thence traditionally handed down orally to future generations. Virtually ancient civilizations recognized and venerated the unwritten laws as the most revered of their laws, beyond the power of any government to enact or amend.The Landmarks of Freemasonry fall into the category of such unwritten laws.

Landmarks have two main characteristics:They stem from antiquity and they are irrevocable.They stem from antiquity

because they have been passed down to us by our ancient brethren,“from a time when the memory of Man runs not to the contrary”, and they are irrevocable because they set forth the most fundamental principles of our fraternity and if they were ever modified, we would lose our inheritance, our core beliefs and entirely change our identity.A third characteristic generally associated with Landmarks by many Masonic scholars is Universality, although what is meant by “Universal” is often misunderstood.This Universality shall be discussed further below.

2.What are these Ancient Landmarks?

Historically speaking, there is no writing which recorded in specific detail what the ancient Landmarks are. Few subjects have generated more interest and debate than the Landmarks of Freemasonry. Every brother is charged to protect and preserve them, but there is conflicting information about what they are. Regrettably, when Dr.James Anderson set down the Constitutions of 1723, and referred therein to the “The Old Landmarks”, he did not recite them for reference, presumably because they were so well known at the time. He does remind us, though, at Constitutions, Second Edition, page 71, that the craft was governed by the Grand Master as early as the Constitutions of King Edward III (1327-1377). Even more than two centuries before that, the Old York Constitutions record that King Athelstan gave charter to his brother, Prince Edwin, to summon all of the Masons of the Realm, in General Assembly at York, with Prince Edwin as Grand Master, and the regulations enacted there called for the General Assembly to be held each year with the Grand Master as its head.While various Grand Lodges have listed Landmarks, and some have not, the universality of the Landmarks is that all jurisdictions accept the existence and authority of the Landmarks, whether they list them or not. By way of example, currently the United Grand Lodge of England recites but one Landmark, the belief in a Supreme Being. Yet, we know that in 1723, the Premier Grand Lodge of England published its first General Regulations, in which it is stated that “every Annual Grand Lodge has an inherent power and Authority to make new Regulations or to alter these, for the real benefits of this Ancient Fraternity; **provided always that the old Land-Marks be carefully preserved**”. This reference to the Old Land-Marks, in the plural, provides concrete evidence that more than one Landmark was recognized to exist by the first Grand Lodge of England, regardless of what they presently choose to emphasize. Those landmarks were not defined in those ancient texts, and thus it is impossible to unequivocally read what they are.Throughout history, though, many Masonic historians, scholars and authors have debated this topic as they have attempted to define a list of Landmarks.The fact remains that whatever these brethren have published, these treatises are their own scholarly work and may or may not be identical to the original ancient landmarks of our Fraternity.These scholarly works do, however, provide an exhaustive and thoughtful approach to the subject, lending significant certainty to the Landmarks to which New Jersey adheres.

3. What are the characteristics of the Landmarks?

Dr.Albert Mackey in his Jurisprudence of Freemasonry ➤





Benefiting the New Jersey Special Olympics

Location: Seaside Heights Boardwalk & Beach
Meeting Place: Harmony Temple, 110 Route 37W, Toms River, NJ 08754
 (Exit 82 GSP, across from Community Hospital)
Time: 9am-10:00am Breakfast
 10:00am Bus ride to Seaside Heights, a 10 min ride. You can take your own car if you want too.
 12:30pm Staging-If you go on your own look for our flag on the boardwalk and beach to plunge with us.
 1:00pm PLUNGE Water Temperature 34-36 Degrees

Register or donate to a plunger online at:
www.njpolarplunge.org

New Jersey Freemason Team Name: Hiram On Ice

Info? RW Dieter Hees dhees@mac.com 732-300-4860, WB Denis Johnson dwj4185@gmail.com (732) 278-6286



A Review of Our Ancient Landmarks

continued from page 9

published in 1856, undertook exhaustive research and determined his list of 25 landmarks. He described that these landmarks have the following characteristics:

1. Notional immemorial antiquity
2. Absolute irrevocability
3. Universality

Historians widely agree on the first two characteristics, however, the third one cited by Mackey is generally debated. As noted above, the United Grand Lodge of England currently recites but one Landmark: The Belief in a Supreme Being as a requirement for membership. The majority of American Grand Lodges have not attempted to describe any specific landmarks, however, they all agree on the two main characteristics, that all Landmarks stem from antiquity and are unchangeable. These Grand Lodges that did list Landmarks, range from subscribing to as few as 3 (GL of MD) and as high as 54 (GL of KY), and of, course, they are all different to some degree.

Masonic Historian S. Brent Morris explains that “almost all jurisdictions refer to the landmarks as things that define what Freemasonry is, and that they are unchangeable; so, by implication, it should be obvious and there should be universal agreement about what the landmarks are, and how many there are, but in practice this is obviously not true.”

Albert Mackey is not the only Masonic Historians who has attempted to identify the Landmarks. In 1863, George Oliver published the Freemason's Treasury in which he listed 40 Landmarks. In 1914, Joseph Fort Newton defined the Landmarks simply as “The fatherhood of God, the brotherhood of man, the moral law, the Golden Rule, and the hope of life everlasting.” Dr. Roscoe Pound listed 7 landmarks. Dean Pound's critics have noted, however, that his work, while considered interesting and scholarly, exclude some of Mackey's list without any explanation of his reason for doing so. He is also criticized for what is considered as his attempt to analyze the Landmarks from a 20th century American, democracy perspective, and not from the perspective of the historically oligarchic society that was the Freemasonry of antiquity, predating modern democracies. The Commission on Information for Recognition of the Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America recited three “Ancient Landmarks” in the 1950's. Which are:

1. Monotheism — An unalterable and continuing belief in God.
2. The Volume of The Sacred Law — an essential part of the furniture of the Lodge.
3. Prohibition of the discussion of Religion and Politics (within the lodge).

In 1953, the Masonic Services Association of North America printed an updated version of its publication on The Ancient Landmarks, listing those identified by various Grand Lodges in the United States. That list was intended only as a compilation of the Landmarks recognized by those Grand Lodges, and was not indicated to represent any scholarly analysis of any of them. They note, interestingly, that 16 Grand Lodges do not list any, not as an indication that those Grand Lodges do

not recognize the existence of the Landmarks, but merely to indicate that they have not taken any action to list them. They also note that 17 Grand Lodges recognize and adhere to the 25 Landmarks listed by Mackey.

Masonic scholars today generally agree that the Universality of Landmarks does not necessarily mean that each Grand Lodge has to adopt the exact same list, but that there is a Universal consent that the ancient Landmarks have existed since antiquity and that they are irrevocable. This explains why some Masons today continue to describe these Landmarks as Universal.

4. Has the Grand Lodge of New Jersey legally adopted Ancient Landmarks?

The answer to this is an unequivocal YES, misinformation to the contrary notwithstanding (see Appendix II). At the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge in 1903, the committee on jurisprudence chaired by M.W. Hamilton Wallis, PGM was charged, not to write Landmarks to be legislatively created, but to “take up the question of the ancient Landmarks of Masonry, and report at the next session of Grand Lodge what those landmarks are, as applicable to the Masonic Law of New Jersey”. That report presented those findings and what the research of the committee had discovered the Landmarks to be. M.W. Wallis explained to the brethren in his report that there is no “Landmarks of New Jersey” because Landmarks are Universal (i.e. that it is universally accepted that they are ancient in nature and pre-date the founding of Grand Lodge). M.W. Wallis, and his committee, stressed that “the Grand Lodge of New Jersey cannot repeal, alter, modify, or amend a “Landmark” because they are immutable”. Since, these Landmarks cannot be created by the legislative action of any modern Grand Lodge, and can only be discovered, M.W. Wallis details in his report that his committee was able to identify 10 Landmarks which they listed in their report (and to a large extent represent Mackey's 25 Landmarks in a consolidated form). (See appendix I for the list of the 10 Landmarks).

It is clearly stated on page 114 of the proceedings of the 1903 Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey that at the conclusion of the reading of MW Wallis' report, that “M.W. Brother Josiah W. Ewan moved that the report of the committee be received, and that the results of their labors be printed in the proceedings of this Grand Lodge, and that the thanks of the Grand Lodge be extended to the committee for their research and time and trouble in arriving at this result. The motion receiving a second, upon being put to vote, was adopted.”

The proponents of abandoning our core Masonic principles misleadingly claim that the adoption of the findings of the Wallis committee was, somehow, not an adoption of the discovery and acceptance of the Landmarks listed therein. They even urge that the Landmarks were “added to the Grand Lodge Constitution” and “surreptitiously achieved supremacy”. That is factually untrue. The Landmarks pre-date our Constitution, and the constitutions of all other Grand Lodges, and are not “added” to it. They precede the Constitution in our book of laws, in recognition of their place of primacy among Freemasons, and of their natural supremacy over our

A Review of Our Ancient Landmarks

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Constitution and By-Laws, which they have always had. The proponents of abandonment of the Landmarks rely for their position upon a footnote sent by a Grand Secretary, with no jurisprudential background, and without the imprimatur of anyone, to MSANA, expressing his own erroneous, personal opinion about the adoption of the Landmarks, some 80 years after they were adopted. Notably what these proponents fail to cite to in regard to the proceedings of 1903, is that even after M.W. Brother Wallis' invitation for the Grand Lodge to answer the question of whether the committee had been able to find all of the Landmarks, or had made any mistakes, there was no dissent of any kind from the floor of the Grand Lodge. No one disputed the learned presentation. No one suggested any errors or omissions, and the recognition of the 10 listed Landmarks was, in fact, legally adopted. M.W. Brother Rainey's erroneous footnote 80 years later, which the proponents of abandonment cite as the foundation for their claim, and which was never been a part of any official record of the Grand Lodge, does not change the reality that the Landmarks that we recognize, and the reasons for their recognition were presented in open Grand Lodge, open to debate, and adopted without a single dissenting voice being raised to the contrary. That reality was memorialized in an official Grand Lodge publication, on page 29 of the History of Freemasonry in New Jersey, 1787 – 1987, by the History Committee, which noted, “The Masonic Jurisprudence Committee presented its report in 1903, stating that after much study and deliberation it had settled on ten landmarks as being the Ancient Landmarks of the Craft, one which emphasized the prerogatives, and the authority, of the Grand Master. The proposal was adopted in 1903 and continues in force as the basis of our Masonic Law.”

It is very important to understand, and so we reiterate, that since Landmarks cannot be brought into being by legislative action, the committee was asked merely to identify them, and they did, and their report was adopted by a proper Masonic vote, and made part of the proceedings. The Landmarks as recognized were discovered, not legislated. In as much as it was made clear that the Landmarks cannot, and were not, created by any legislative action of any Grand Lodge, neither can they be altered, amended or repealed by any such legislative action.

5. Are the ancient Landmarks part of our Constitution and Law?

The Landmarks are NOT part of our Constitution and By-Laws, which are the enacted laws of this Grand Jurisdiction. They are contained in the Book of our Laws, but precede the Constitution and the By-Laws. The Landmarks are separate and apart, and are the first element of the Book, Title One, noting their prominence in the hierarchy of our laws. They precede our written laws because of their immutable nature and in recognition of their paramount position in the worldwide fraternity. The same is true of Title Two, the ancient charges, which are a compilation of ancient regulations that preceded the written laws of the Premier Grand Lodge of England, and by universal consent from time of antiquity, are recognized as fundamental laws of the fraternity. They were merely written down for the first time in 1723. It is only after the presentation

of these two sections, setting forth the ancient and unchangeable laws, that we get to the Constitution and By-Laws of this grand jurisdiction, which are of course changeable.

6. Are we required to preserve these Landmarks?

By definition a Landmark is ancient and irrevocable. The Constitution and Laws of our Grand Lodge clearly prohibits the removal or violation of any Landmark, usage, or custom. Article 1, Part 2 (h) reads “the principles of the Ancient Landmarks, customs, and usages shall be strictly observed.” Article 3, part 1 reads “The Grand Lodge shall have the power to establish a uniform mode of working throughout the jurisdiction, strictly adhering to the ancient landmarks, usages, and customs of Masonry, which are on no account to be removed or violated.” Our Master Mason charge reads “The ancient landmarks of the fraternity you are carefully to preserve, and never suffer them to be infringed, nor countenance a deviation from established customs.”

7. What if I don't agree with certain Landmarks?

It has been established, unequivocally, that the Wallis report on the ten landmarks have been legally adopted by our Grand Lodge. It is beyond dispute among all Masonic Scholars that the Landmarks cannot be modified. They have been strictly observed in New Jersey for one hundred and eleven years so far. Like any holy book, you may or may not agree or understand everything that it is in it, nevertheless, no one possesses the authority to re-write it. The proponents of abandoning the Ancient Landmarks and customs of Freemasonry, because they appear to have concerns about the authority of the Grand Master, seek to do just that, to re-write the Landmarks, without regard to the very real, historical and legal authority always possessed by Grand Masters. Some brethren might fear that a Grand Master might misuse some of the powers given to him by virtue of these Landmarks, and this might be a valid concern. However, we in New Jersey, have one of the most democratic Grand Lodge election systems in the world, and thus have control over that. When we elect one of us to ascend to that Grand Oriental chair, we attempt to vote in the most qualified Brother to lead us and preside over our Grand Lodge. We place our trust in him to rule our craft with compassion and wisdom. Since the Grand Master is a human being, he is, like any of us, vulnerable to error. Our system also allows any future Grand Master to reverse any action taken by a predecessor, should he deem it necessary.

The mistaken position advocated by the proponents of abandonment, that Landmark 3 confers powers on the Grand Master not recognized anywhere else, merely demonstrate an uninformed understanding of the role of the Grand Master throughout the history of the Craft. This concern regarding the understanding of the authority of a Grand Master was anticipated by the Wallis Committee, and addressed at length in that report. The committee expressly stated: “We are aware that these prerogatives attached to the office of Grand Master to the uninformed may be rather startling. But, as has been said, we are to inquire as to the ancient ‘Landmarks’, and must therefore ascertain, define and recognize the original powers of Grand Masters. We are too apt to overlook the fact that the office of Grand Master was not originally created by any Grand Lodge, but existed



A Review of Our Ancient Landmarks

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long before Grand Lodges were known, having its origin in the remote past of which no record has come down to us. The office itself is a ‘Landmark’. As was well said by a distinguished Masonic authority and writer of England:

“Many persons ignorantly suppose that the election of the Grand Master takes place in consequence of the law of regulation of the Grand Lodge. Such, however, is not the case. The office owes its existence to a Landmark of the Order. Grand Masters are to be found in the records of the institution long before Grand Lodges were established; and if the present system of legislative government by Grand Lodges were to be abolished, a Grand Master would still be necessary. In fact, although there has been a period within the records of history, and indeed of a very recent date, when the Grand Lodge was unknown, there has never been a time when the Craft has not had a Grand Master’ –Paton’s Freemasonry and Jurisprudence, London, 1872”.

That Committee relied on learned writings of the 19th century, and extensive research, and concluded: “Bearing these facts in mind, it is at once apparent how practically unlimited the powers of the Grand Master must have been.” It is also noteworthy that in addressing the authority of the Grand Master, scholars have all agreed that the Grand Master is the “Grand Master of Masons”, and not the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge. Our jurisdiction has always recognized that distinction in the titles of our Grand Lodge officers. The Grand Master and the Deputy Grand Master are expressly titled as the Grand Master or Deputy Grand Master of Masons of the State of New Jersey. The other elected grand line officers are all “of the Grand Lodge”. The significance of this is that our jurisdiction supports the important historical principle that, “the office of the Grand Master is independent of the Grand Lodge, and that all the prerogatives of the Grand Master are inherent in his office and not derived from, nor amenable to, any modern constitution.” –Committee of Foreign Correspondence, Grand Lodge of New York, 1854. If the Grand Lodge were to be dissolved, and Craft Masonry devolved to its condition of individual lodges, as prior to 1717, the office of the Grand Master would remain unaffected and he would remain possessed of all his powers. – Jurisprudence of Freemasonry, Mackey, Revised Edition by Clegg & Blakemore, 1927 & 1953.

The powers and prerogatives of the Grand Master, as set forth in Landmark 3, stem from a time before Grand Lodges existed. Anderson and later Preston, in their works, dating back to 1723, present a long list of Grand Masters who were not elected, but held their appointment from the King. It was not until 1663 that a Regulation was adopted in Scottish and English Lodges, that provided for a Grand Master to be elected by the annual General Assembly of Masons. The General Assembly of Masons is a very different entity than a Grand Lodge. The General Assembly consisted of all Masons, even Entered Apprentices, each having an equal vote to cast. A Grand Lodge is a representative entity, representing the Lodges, the members of which are not even required to vote in a manner prescribed by the members they represent. Masonic scholars agree that the powers and prerogatives

of the Grand Master are inherent ones, that is, not created by any statute of any Grand Lodge. Those powers are the result and concomitant of his high office, whose duties and prerogatives existed long before the organization of Grand Lodges. – Jurisprudence of Freemasonry, Mackey, Revised edition, by Clegg & Blakemore, 1927 & 1953.

Those prerogatives, from before our written laws, included: The right to convene a Grand Lodge at any time and place as he might deem expedient; the right to preside over every assembly of the Craft, whatsoever and wheresoever held; the right to visit and enter any lodge; the right to appoint deputies and officers; the right to cast a second vote to break a tie; the right to grant dispensations and edicts to do what is otherwise forbidden by laws or regulations and to dispense with any law or regulation that are not Landmarks or to exempt persons from the obligations to comply with the same; the power to authorize Freemasons to congregate and to form a lodge; and the prerogative to make a Freemason at sight. – Jurisprudence of Freemasonry, supra, at 317, 1927 & 1953.

The fact that in this country Grand Masters may have elected not to exercise one or more of these powers does not affect the existence of these pre-constitutional powers. The unqualified acceptance of the ancient prerogative of the Grand Master to suspend the operation of any rule or regulation that is not a Landmark, is evidenced by the obligations of every Master Mason to obey and abide by his edicts. That power to Edict, exercised by virtually every Grand Master of this grand jurisdiction, stems from that inherent power, and is not granted by any written law. The legislative powers of a Grand Lodge are, therefore, limited by the landmarks, and beyond the Landmarks legislation can never pass. – Jurisprudence of Freemasonry, supra at 299, 1927 & 1953.

The powers of the Grand Master, particularly with regard to the power to suspend any rule or regulation that is not a Landmark, was also challenged in the New Jersey courts, by M.W. Rutledge, a Past Grand Master and an attorney, in his suit of Rutledge v. Gulian. In that matter, the New Jersey Supreme Court upheld that authority of the Grand Master under Landmark 3.

The suggested resolution offered by the proponents of abandonment is no resolution. Abandoning our core principles, and landmarks that have defined Freemasonry from time beyond memory, is no solution to anything. The argument that Freemasonry should become some new thing, crafted to conform to modern ideas of democracy, and advocate a “revolution” to free ourselves from tyranny, are not the principles of ancient craft Masonry. Throughout history, Masonry has always been an oligarchy, and not a democracy. While allowing a liberally democratic voice, New Jersey, and all of Freemasonry, remain essentially an oligarchy. The expressed concern of these proponents over the potential for abuse of power is nothing new. It may even be a legitimate concern from time to time. Because it is not new, it has been addressed by writers of the last two centuries, and is summed up well by Clegg & Blakemore, who write, “ Should the Grand Master ever abuse this great power, and by unjust or incorrect

A Review of Our Ancient Landmarks

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decisions endanger the prosperity of the Institution, the conservative principle of an annual election will afford a competent check, and the evil of an oppressive or ignorant presiding officer can readily be cured by his displacement at the constitutional period, and in the constitutional way.” – Jurisprudence of Freemasonry, supra at 328, 1927 & 1953.

The Landmarks have defined the Institution. The solution to the concern expressed is not to attack the Landmarks, but as Masonic scholars over the centuries have suggested, and which has been successful, is to exercise great care in the selection and election of the brethren we vote into this high office with the enormous authority that is inherent therein.

Our Landmarks are legitimate, and have been adopted, and are beyond dispute. The time to dispute them was a hundred and 11 years ago, in 1903 when not a single dissent was recorded. They are by definition unchangeable. We are all bound by our obligations to uphold and preserve them. That these current proponents seek to induce the Craft, to violate those obligations, does not provide any legitimate basis to do so. The preservation of our Ancient Landmarks is central to our Institution and all efforts to attack them must be diligently rejected by all upright Masons.

*This report has been reviewed and approved for publication by M.W. Gerald J. Sharpe
Grand Master of Masons of the State of New Jersey 2014-2015
and has the endorsement of the Elected Grand Lodge Officers*

APPENDIX I

The 10 Landmarks adopted by the Grand Lodge of New Jersey in 1903.

1. Belief in God as the Great Architect and Supreme Ruler of the Universe.
2. The acceptance of the revealed Word of God as the rule and guide for our faith and practice, and its visible presence in every lodge.
3. The Grand Master is elected by the Craft, and holds office until his successor is duly installed. He is the ruler of the Craft and is, of right, the presiding officer of every assemblage of Masons as such. He may, within his jurisdiction, convene a lodge at any time or place and do Masonic work therein; may create lodges by his warrant and arrest the warrant of any lodge. He may suspend, at his pleasure, the operation of any rule or regulation of Masonry, not a “Landmark.” He may suspend the installed officers of any lodge and reinstate them at pleasure, and is not answerable for his acts as Grand Master. He may deputize any brother to do any act in his absence which he himself might do if present.
4. A Masonic Lodge must have a Master and two Wardens, and, when convened for Masonic work, must be duly tyled.
5. No person can be made a Mason unless he is a man, freeborn, of mature and discreet age, of good character and reputation, and having no maim or defect in his body that may render him incapable of learning the art and of being advanced to the several degrees, nor unless he apply for admission without solicitation, and take upon himself the Masonic obligations. Nor can he be admitted to membership in a Masonic lodge except

upon a secret ballot by the brethren of that lodge.

6. Masons, as such, are equal, possess the right to visit every lodge or assembly of Masons where their presence will not disturb the peace and harmony of the same, and to appeal to the General Assembly of Masons, or its substitute, the Grand Lodge, whenever aggrieved by any act of a lodge.
7. The Master of a lodge, before his election as such, must have served as a Warden. He and the Wardens are elected by the members of the lodge, but hold their offices by virtue of the warrant of the Grand Master, until their successors have qualified. They are his representatives in a lodge, and are not, therefore, responsible to the lodge for their official acts, nor can they be tried or disciplined by their lodge during their term of office.
8. Every Mason, for Masonic purposes, is subject to the jurisdiction of the lodge within whose jurisdiction he resides.
9. The legend of the third degree; the means of recognition; the methods of conferring degrees; the obligations of those degrees and the ballot of every brother are and must continue to be inviolably secret.
10. Ancient Craft Masonry includes only the Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason Degrees.

APPENDIX II

Proceedings of the 1903 Grand Lodge Communication – Page 114

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GRAND LODGE OF NEW JERSEY.

DEGREES—

10. Ancient Craft Masonry includes only the Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason degrees.

We are aware that many other so-called “Landmarks” have been formulated by various Masonic authorities, but apparently in every such case the origin of such so-called “Landmarks” is found to be in some enactment of a Masonic body, or is some regulation of a Grand Lodge, or has to do with a Grand Lodge. As Masonry antedates all Grand Lodges, the “Landmarks”—the original basic principles of the Fraternity—must antedate all such organizations. And principles and practices, however respected or venerated, either enacted by Grand Lodges or having to do with such bodies cannot be “Landmarks.”

For instance, there is no principle of more general acceptance in the Fraternity to-day than that a profane cannot be made a Mason except in a duly organized Masonic Lodge holding a warrant from some recognized Masonic authority. Yet it is thoroughly well known that something more than two hundred years ago Masons were made in Lodges convened for the occasion, with no authority to do Masonic work except the fact that the brethren were Masons, and which dissolved as soon as the purpose which had called them together was accomplished; and Masons so made were recognized as regularly made and admitted by election into duly-warranted Lodges. That a Lodge can only act under a warrant is not, therefore, a “Landmark.”

Other similar cases might be cited, but this is sufficient to show that because a principle of Masonic law is now generally accepted, it does not follow that it is one of the “Landmarks” of Free Masonry.

Faternally submitted,

HAMILTON WALLIS,
JOS. W. CONGDON,
CHAS. H. MANN,
Committee on Jurisprudence.

Dated TRENTON, N. J., March 11th, 1903.

M. W. Brother Josiah W. Ewan moved that the report of the committee be received, and that the result of their labors be printed in the proceedings of this Grand Lodge, and that the thanks of the Grand Lodge be extended to the committee for their research and time and trouble in arriving at this result. The motion receiving a second, upon being put to vote was adopted.



Grand Lodge

PGM's Support of the Landmarks

Most Worshipful Grand Master,

We fully support you and your actions in having the research done validating the Ancient Landmarks recognized in our Grand Jurisdiction. We also congratulate you on addressing this issue.

The document entitled "A Review of Our Ancient Landmarks" leaves no doubt as to the legitimacy of our Landmarks. This document also shows, beyond doubt, that our Ancient Landmarks are immutable, inviolable, and must be preserved. We, the following Past Grand Masters, endorse this document:

M.W. Otto Gehrig, Jr.	Grand Master 1972
M.W. Malcolm B. Wernik	Grand Master 1974
M.W. Kenneth L. Larsen	Grand Master 1978
M.W. Edgar N. Peppler	Grand Master 1979
M.W. Edward R. Woods	Grand Master 1983
M.W. Robert E. Feilbach	Grand Master 1984
M.W. James E. Duke	Grand Master 1985
M.W. William H. Sackett	Grand Master 1986
M.W. Raymond P. Bellini, Sr.	Grand Master 1988
M.W. George S. Martin	Grand Master 1992

M.W. Francis R. Mitchell	Grand Master 1993
M.W. Earl F. Sutton	Grand Master 1994
M.W. Raymond J. Vanden Berghe, Sr.	Grand Master 1996
M.W. Ross Van Ness Bayer	Grand Master 1998
M.W. Wayne E. Hackney	Grand Master 1999
M.W. Ferris O. Tryon	Grand Master 2000
M.W. David A. Chase	Grand Master 2001
M.W. Larry S. Plasket	Grand Master 2002
M.W. Robert L. Miller	Grand Master 2003
M.W. Daniel M. Wilson	Grand Master 2004
M.W. Robert J. Sheridan	Grand Master 2005
M.W. Douglas R. Policastro	Grand Master 2006
M.W. John S. Ryan	Grand Master 2007
M.W. John M. Colligas	Grand Master 2008
M.W. William H. Berman	Grand Master 2009
M.W. Joseph H. Rival, Jr.	Grand Master 2010
M.W. William L. Morris, Jr.	Grand Master 2011
M.W. Glenn R. Trautmann	Grand Master 2012
M.W. David A. Dorworth	Grand Master 2013

ALL LODGE SECRETARIES, ASSISTANT SECRETARIES...& PAST SECRETARIES

The Masonic Secretaries Association of New Jersey cordially invites you to become a member.

Meetings are held three times a year (January - May - September).

The next meeting of the Association will be held at Grow Hall, Masonic Home Campus, Burlington on

Saturday, JANUARY 17, 2015 at 9:30 am

Join your fellow Brethren and share in discussing issues and concerns of Lodge Secretaries.

For further information contact: Wayne Thomas, Unit 308, 21 W. Black Horse Pike, Pleasantville, New Jersey 08232 • Phone: 609.470.1591



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The Grand Lodge



Most Ancient and
of Free and Accepted Masons for the State of New Jersey

WILLIAM L. MORRIS JR., PGM
GRAND SECRETARY
wlm@njmasonic.org

September 4, 2014

100 BARRACK STREET
TRENTON, NJ 08608-2008
(B) 609-239-3970
(F) 609-386-4332
(C) 908-930-9403

To: Worshipful Masters, Secretaries & all Brethren in the Grand Jurisdiction of New Jersey

ANNUAL FEAST OF ST. JOHN
Presented by
The Grand Lodge of New Jersey

Please announce the following information on the above at all lodge meetings and include it in all your Trestleboards between receipt of this notice and when the event takes place. It is an open event and ladies and friends are invited.

Date: Saturday, December 6, 2014

Time: 5:30 P.M. - Social Hour 6:45 P.M. - Dinner
6:30 P.M. - Welcome and opening exercise 8:00 P.M. - Program

Place: MCF Fellowship Center, 1114 Oxmead Road, Burlington, NJ

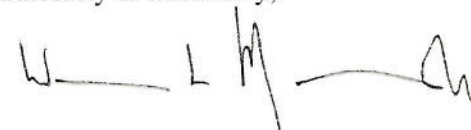
Price: \$40.00 per person

Speaker: A professional actor of stage, screen and radio since 1999, Brother Dean Malissa has been the official portrayer of George Washington at Mount Vernon since 2009. He has also appeared as Washington in several TV productions, the White House, the National Archives, the Smithsonian, Liberty Hall, and many other historical venues and societies throughout the country. He has even portrayed Washington in France and China. Dean is also a member of the National Speakers Association. Brother Dean will entertain us with his true-to-life portrayal of America's iconic Founding father. Guests will be entertained and educated as they meet Washington himself...real authentic clothing, real hair (Washington never wore a wig)...but no wooden teeth! He will be able to answer all of the guests' questions (in character) related to George Washington. Be prepared for a most memorable, one-of-a-kind presentation!

Deadline for Reservations – Friday, November 15, 2014

Tickets may be purchased by mailing a check along with a *self-addressed, stamped envelope* with the names of attendees to: The Grand Lodge of New Jersey, 100 Barrack Street, Trenton, NJ 08608; or pay by credit card by calling (609) 239-3950. Tickets mailed from the office must be paid for in advance. No tickets will be sold at the door. Table reservations may be made for groups of 8 or 10.

Sincerely & fraternally,



William L. Morris, PGM
Grand Secretary



Grand Lodge

Grand Unity Day: A Historical Event in Trenton

Submitted by R.W. Mohamad A. Yatim, Grand Historian

For the first time in history, and under the leadership of our Grand Master, M.W. Gerald J. Sharpe, four Grand Masonic Jurisdictions came together at our Historic Trenton Temple on Saturday September 13, 2014 for the purpose of exemplifying their respective ancient ritual of the three Craft degrees. This event, which was very quickly and entirely sold out at 350 tickets, brought together Freemasons from New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Delaware, in fellowship and fraternal bond to witness how similar, yet how very different, Masonic ritual can be, despite the close geographic proximity of the four states.

The day started with breakfast and Masonic fellowship after which the brethren retired to the Lodge room, where M.W. Gerald J. Sharpe and the Grand Lodge Officers opened an emergent communication of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey, for the purpose of exemplifying ancient Masonic ritual. The opening ceremony was performed in full form, giving the visiting brethren the opportunity to witness a New Jersey opening ritual. After the introductions of the visiting Grand Masters and Grand Lodge officers, the gavel was turned to the degree team from the Grand Lodge of New York, which exemplified their ritual of the Entered Apprentice Degree. New Jersey Masons were especially surprised by the very important role of the Marshal in this degree, leading the procession and using his baton to direct the officers. The way the ritual unfolds is similar to New Jersey ritual; however, the officers' roles and participation were quite different.

Members of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania's 6th Masonic district then took over the officers' chairs and exemplified their version of the Fellow Craft degree. Pennsylvania's "ancient york rite" ritual was very different than ours here in New Jersey. Their degree excludes the middle chamber lecture, and replaces it with a smaller presentation given by the Worshipful Master at the altar. Their Fellow Craft due guard is not the same as the one given in our state, and the oath and the way the candidate is prepared to receive this degree is also very different, just to name a few examples.

The brethren then all retired to refreshment for the space of one hour, and enjoyed a joint lunch, New Jersey Style, in the collation room. Walking around the tables, it was heartwarming to see the great fellowship that the New Jersey brethren extended to our visitors, and very exciting to hear the exchange of conversations between the brethren of all four Grand Jurisdictions, comparing notes and highlighting differences between our respective rituals.

After lunch, the brethren were called to labor once more, to witness the Colonial team of the Grand Lodge of Delaware confer their version of the Master Mason degree on one of their duly qualified Fellow Craft Masons, in full costume. Once again, the brethren in attendance highly appreciated the beauty, and the variation in the Delaware ritual. What made the third degree even more exciting is the fact that it was being conferred on a "live candidate". It was truly a

memorable and special experience not only to the candidate himself, but to everyone else in the Lodge room.

After the presentation of certificates of appreciations, pins, and plaques to the Grand Masters in attendance, the emergent communication of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey was closed by M.W. Sharpe. The brethren then once again retired to the collation room for more fellowship and discussions. The icing on the cake was that the Grand Lodge Museum was open the entire day, with new items on display, for all to enjoy and appreciate.

After two years of intensive preparations and many hours of work put forth by a large number of Masons from all four states, it was very rewarding to see this event come to the great success it had. M.W. Sharpe of NJ, M.W. Thomas of NY, M.W. Hoffman of DE, and R.W. Bateman of PA, really made history on September 13, 2014. The brethren who attended the 2014 Grand Unity Day were very impressed by what they have witnessed, felt very proud of the universality of our Fraternity, and returned home with great satisfaction of being part of a historic event that will be forever memorable and talked about for many years to come!

Participating Grand Masters:

Grand Lodge of NJ: M.W. Gerald J. Sharpe (Host)

Grand Lodge of NY: M.W. William J. Thomas

Grand Lodge of PA: R.W. Robert J. Bateman

Grand Lodge of DE: M.W. H. Richard Hoffman



State Coordinators:

Chairman of the Event: R.W. Mohamad A. Yatim, GH

NJ Coordinator & Co-Chairman: W.B. Moises I. Gomez, P.M.

NY Coordinators: R.W. Jason R. Sheridan, PGDC and

R.W. Michael Siegel, PDDGM

PA Coordinator: R.W. Jeffrey Heller, DDGM-6

DE Coordinator: R.W. Dale T. Irwin, JGW



Join MW Gerald J. Sharpe and First Lady Janice at the Annual Grand Lodge Open Ladies Table Lodge

Place: Fellowship Hall, Burlington

Time: 6:00 PM

Date: Friday, February 27, 2015

Cost: \$35.00 per person

Must be over 21

Bring your family & friends and enjoy an evening of fun, tradition and fraternal fellowship with the Ladies of our Appendant Organizations, our Brethren and their Ladies too.

The traditional seven toasts with wine or grape juice and seven courses will be observed.

Checks made out to "Grand Lodge of NJ"

Send with RSVP, your name, title and number of guests to:

R.W. William Anderson
134 west 28th St, Bayonne, NJ 07002
Willama134@aol.com
201.522.6374

Deadline for reservations is: Friday, February 20, 2015

NO tickets sold at the door



Mentoring the Mentor

Submitted by Robert W. Howard, Jr., Hawthorne Fortitude Lodge #200

So you have gone through the *Mentoring Manual*, engaged your Pasted Masters, visited other lodges, viewed all three degrees and travelled to the Masonic home with the new brethren; now what? I would say it is time to take a look at the *Perfect Asblar*.

The *Perfect Asblar* is a single resource designed by the Grand Lodge to assist the brethren in developing leadership skills and showing them how to get the most out of their lodge experience. It starts off with a History of Freemasonry and then introduces us to the Grand Lodge, the District and the workings of the Lodge. As a Mentor, you want your protégé to have his own copy of this document and encourage him to become familiar with its contents. You will want to pay particular attention to the "Lodge Officer Training Program." This section covers the duties and responsibilities of lodge officers.

By becoming familiar with this document, he will learn in advance the responsibilities that he may eventually assume. This may sound overly simple but in reality, it comes as a complete surprise to many new Sr. Deacons that they should have already learned the Middle Chamber lecture. If he had begun to read the *Perfect Asblar* soon after his Master Mason degree, he could have actually managed his time more effectively. In fact, it tells him right there that the Jr. Deacon should be memorizing the Middle Chamber lecture.

Concurrently, it tells the Senior Deacon that he should begin to memorize the Entered Apprentice Degree Lecture, which is supposed to be delivered by the Jr. Warden. By the way, with a show hands, how many of you did not know that the Jr. Warden should be prepared to confer the Entered Apprentice Degree? 'nough said!

All this work should in no way be construed as a threat to the new brother; on the contrary, if he is so inclined, the *Perfect Asblar* will advise him how best to use his time and prepare for his new place in the lodge. Encourage your developing protégé to attend DLI and get to know the district ritual instructor. There is nothing like rehearsing to develop confidence and with confidence, a new officer is more apt to enjoy his lodge experience.

Is your protégé starting to ask you some more probing questions that you may have trouble answering? Don't fret, there is no need to conduct extensive research at the Grand Lodge library; many knowledgeable Masons from the not-so-distant past have already done the work and offer you the ability to wax eloquently on many varied and complex Masonic topics. Albert Mackey who lived from 1807 to 1881 is recognized to have been one of the most prolific Masonic authors of his time. He wrote a number of works, which are still published and read extensively by Masons today. Mackey has prepared for you some tools that can be used to help you answer any number of tough questions; you might want to get yourself a copy of *The Encyclopedia of Freemasonry* by Albert Mackey. Additionally, his *History of Freemasonry, Its Legendary Origins* will give both you and your protégé

grounding on the origins of our craft. Although, these books were written in the 19th century, they are easy to read and Mackey seems to relate very well to the Mason of the 21st century.

A more current authority is the late Roscoe Pound (1870-1964). In addition to his significant contribution to Freemasonry, he had the distinction of serving as the Dean of Harvard Law School from 1916 to 1936. In one of his lectures delivered under the auspices of the Grand Lodge Massachusetts, Pound introduces us to William Preston, who has had a significant influence on the development of our ritual.

Pound points out that although there are those, who have left their indelible imprint upon our ritual by inspiring our spiritual tendencies, Preston's focus would be considered more intellectual by contrast.

Preston started his career as a printer's apprentice. He used this opportunity not only to improve himself in his craft but also to read and learn as much as he could. As he set up the print for each job, he also made a point of reading and digesting all of the various works and documents, which he handled. He was truly a self-made man and at the age of 25 became master of his lodge.

It was Preston's vision that the lodge would serve as a sort of institution of higher learning, whereby Masons could improve themselves intellectually. According to Pound, Preston's lecture on architecture for example, which eventually became a part of our Middle Chamber lecture was intended to provide the recipient an academic overview of architecture and not to impart some spiritual or symbolic meaning. Before the days of public education the general availability of higher education, Preston thought that by educating the craft, many of whom came from relatively modest back grounds, Masons would be better prepared solve the social problems of the day.

If you want to see Preston's unabridged contribution to the Middle Chamber Lecture, you can take a look at his Illustrations of Masonry. One should keep in mind that at the time, these extensive treatises were meant to be read. It was only after they were extensively edited that they could be incorporated into our ritual and ultimately committed to memory. Just to give you a taste, the following is extracted from Preston's description of the "globes":

"The globes are two artificial spherical bodies, on the convex surface of which are represented the countries, seas and various parts of the earth; the face of the heavens, the planetary revolutions and other important particulars. The sphere, with the parts of the earth delineated upon the surface, is called the terrestrial globe; and that with the constellations and other heavenly bodies, the celestial globe. Their principal use, besides serving as maps to distinguish the outward parts of the earth, and the situation of the fixed stars, is to illustrate and explain the phenomena arising from the annual revolution, and the diurnal rotation of the earth round the axis." ➤

Happenings at West Hill

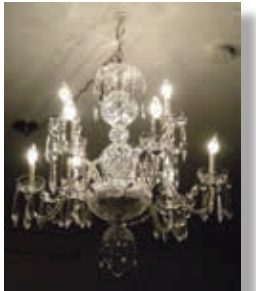
Submitted by MW Joseph Rival, PGM

GOOD NEWS!!! We have been informed that as of August 7, 2014, the Friends of West Hill is now a 501(c)3!! We have been working very hard for this for over 3 years and have had our paperwork in to the IRS for over a year. This should increase our chances of acquiring grant money for some of our projects. It is a BIG breakthrough. It also allows anyone who donates their time, articles and/or money to make it a charitable donation on their income tax, so please consider us when making your donations. Also, the plaque designating the house as a National Historic Site has been mounted on the outside by the front door. On Saturday, September 27 at 2 pm, we hosted an unveiling ceremony at the Manor House. The Grand Master did the honors of unveiling the plaque. He was immediately followed and surprised by a volley of shot by the 6th New Hampshire Volunteers. Refreshments were served and the house was open for tours. There were quite a few in attendance including members of the MCF, the President & Vice President, RW Joe Mezzina & RW Roger Quintana.



The weeks previous had been feverishly spent by several

members of the Friends Board and some very helpful volunteers (the Morris family) cleaning, painting and papering the main parlor. This was Eliza Gurney's favorite room in the 1860's. We also worked on the front "study" and were excited to have that completed as well. This room was Samuel Emlen's library when he built the house in 1799. As you can see we have been busy this summer. The MCF has allowed us to move the crystal chandelier that used to hang in the lobby of the Home back to where it belongs - in the main parlor, whence it came. It has finally come home, photo attached. Also, we picked up an early edition "Williamsburg style" chandelier for the study. It fits in perfectly. Both chandeliers were mounted and connected for us by WB Todd Mertz, a PM of Mozart Lodge #121. Thank you WB Todd!



Also on September 27, we hosted our second annual Civil War Encampment. The 6th NH Volunteers joined us again, along with an actual Civil War 12 lb Napoleon cannon from the 6th New York Artillery!! Also this year the 23rd NJ Volunteers set up camp. This group was a Company composed of Burlington County residents during the War and we were excited to have them with us. We are already making plans for our 3rd Annual Civil War Encampment.

As you can tell, we are very excited about the "Happenings at West Hill". I just "love it when a plan comes together"!! And things are finally starting to do just that. Stay tuned for next time!!

Mentoring the Mentor

To quote Pound, "In other words, these globes are not symbolic, they are not designed for moral improvement. They simply teach the lodge the elements of geography and astronomy".

Preston's lectures include great detail and inform us as to what lead to the evolution of our current ritual. Further, they give us a sense of those academic lessons, which were considered critical during the early part of the nineteenth century. In fact, taking the time to read Preston's works allows the typical mason the opportunity to get the "full story" behind much of our ritual.

If you are so inclined, many of the works of Pound and Preston are available free of charge as pdf files on the internet. Take a look and share what you find with your protégé.

By the way, last time we spoke a bit about preparing an Elevator Speech or a short summary to quickly define Freemasonry to a prospective Mason. Since then, we received the following response from Right Worshipful Brother Keith Herman.

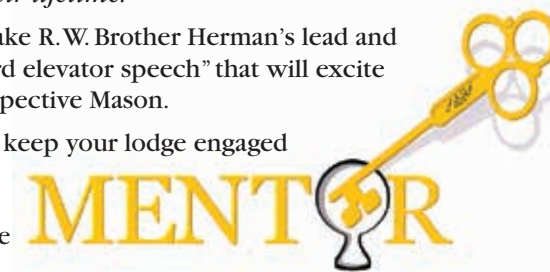
"Due to the proliferation of the use of social media such as FaceBook, Twitter, LinkedIn, etc., elevator speeches can no longer last 30 seconds and you need to define what you do in two words."

These two words lead to a further conversation as they say enough to define your objective and at the same time intrigue the listener to follow up through inquiry or conversation. Upon reflection on the "two word elevator speech" the phrase which works for me is "Enlightened Fellowship".

Now when I am asked "What is Masonry?", "What does Masonry mean to you?" or "What can tell you me about Masonry?" I can answer that Masonry is Enlightened Fellowship. The usual response is "can you tell me more?" At this point, I can expand that masons consist of men who through common experiences, inquiry, personal growth, and acquired knowledge come to know one another, become friends and share personal bonds, which will last throughout their lifetime."

Brethren, let's take R. W. Brother Herman's lead and find that "two word elevator speech" that will excite and engage a prospective Mason.

Until next time, keep your lodge engaged in the mentoring program and continue to inspire your protégés.





NJ Order of the Amaranth Now on Display

Submitted by Honored Lady Ann Marie Williams

New Jersey Order of the Amaranth is beaming with pride to now be included with a display of Amaranth artifacts and paraphernalia on display at the Historic Trenton Masonic Temple Masonic Museum 100 Barrack Street, Trenton, NJ. <http://www.trentonmasonic temple.com/>

At our Grand Court Convention held last May, Honored Lady (H.L.) Lori Fischer, presiding Grand Royal Matron reported that she had the opportunity to go to a Masonic event during her year at the Trenton Masonic Temple, where the museum is located, only to be disappointed that all Masonic bodies, Masons, Eastern Star, DeMolay and Rainbow had displays in the Museum, except for Amaranth. H.L. Lori spoke with the Museum Curator, Brother Glenn Visscher and he welcomed the idea of providing space for an Amaranth display. We are ever so grateful and thank Bro. Visscher for putting the display together at the Museum.

H.L. Ann Marie Williams, Past Grand Royal Matron 2009, made the initial contact to Bro Visscher and the ball was rolling. Bro Visscher requested the items be provided within a very short time frame in order to have the display completed in time for the Official Visit of the Grand Master of New Jersey, Brother Gerald Sharpe, combined with a unity day visit from the surrounding Grand Lodges of Pennsylvania, Delaware and New York on September 13, 2014.

H.L. Ann Marie contacted Sir Knight Stanley Hoover, Jr. Sr. Trustee of the Grand Court Order of the Amaranth of NJ and he provided a Standard Banner, 4 Banners of Truth Faith Wisdom & Charity, a silver sword by S.K. Joseph Hanson, Past Grand Royal Patron 1947; a gold crown worn by H.L. Coramay Tanis, Past Grand Royal Matron 1975; a red robe donated by H.L. Ann Marie Williams; a Bible used by Christina Court with signatures of Royal Matrons and Royal Patrons dating from 1938-1950; a silver gavel presented to Charles L. Farr Court #53 by H.L. Pauline Mason, Grand Royal Matron, 1954; a white gown donated by H.L. Patria E. Saitta, along with pamphlets and literature from the American Diabetes Association.

The Order of the Amaranth is a worldwide organization who has raised funds for diabetes research surpassing over \$14 million dollars since 1979. One of the research grants given provided a research doctor with the funds to invent and develop a prototype of the insulin pump in use today.

We, the Order of the Amaranth as a whole, work tirelessly and diligently to raise funds to be able to donate between \$300,000-\$500,000 yearly to research grants to find a cure for diabetes.

Diabetes affects nearly 30 million Americans, and countless others around the world also suffer. In recent years, the number of people under 20 years of age with diabetes has increased dramatically. The members of Amaranth are proud partners in the noble work of supporting the medical research of the American Diabetes Association to find a cure.

The Order of the Amaranth is a fraternal women's organization. Membership is open to anyone with one of the following affiliations: Master Masons in good standing; wives, widows, mothers, sisters; half-sisters, daughters; nieces, grandnieces, aunts, great-grand-daughters and grandmothers of Master Masons in good standing or of deceased Master Masons who were in good standing, at the time of their death. In addition, majority members or members with 3 years service to the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls and International Order of Job's Daughters can join on a Mason's recommendation.

There are 4 subordinate courts in New Jersey that are located in Lyndhurst, Red Bank, Westfield and Toms River. There are 24 stations of which 12 can be held by Master Masons initiated into our Order. Master Masons are welcome at all Amaranth meetings in NJ, NY, FL & Ontario and the general public is invited to attend certain ceremonies such as Open Installations (NJ-April) and the Informal Opening of NJ Grand Court.

For more information please contact H.L. Lori Fischer, Grand Secretary at njgrandsec@aol.com



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2. Subscribe to the New Jersey Freemasons Yahoo Email Group and connect with over 1,600 New Jersey Freemasons and read about what is going on throughout the state by emailing njfreemasons-subscribe@yahoo.com or clicking the link on the Grand Lodge website home page.



The Christmas Truce of 1914

Submitted by R.W. Robert V. Monacelli, Grand Soloist

In the summer of 1914 Europe stood on the brink of war. A century had passed since the last major conflict to engulf the continent had ended. There had been several "small wars" between individual nations which brought about alterations to the holdings of the great empires and led to a lingering national animosity. However, these would prove inconsequential to the conflagration that was fast approaching. Alliances were formed and the battle lines drawn, now all that was needed was a spark to ignite the powder keg. That spark came on June 28, 1914 with the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife Sophie in Sarajevo by Serbian Nationalists. Ultimatums were issued, armies were mobilized and thus were set in motion the events that would lead the world into "The Great War".

Across Europe young men returned to their homelands. German boys working in England and British lads studying in Germany rushed home to enlist. In an effort to bolster these enlistments, the belligerent nations allowed men to enlist in "Pals" battalions; units that were made up of boys from the same village or school. These units flourished but would have unforeseen consequences later in the war when entire villages would lose all of their young men in a single battle as at the Somme in 1916. But for now the young men were taken by the romantic idealism of military service, the bright uniforms, the polished brass, orderly formations of men moving as one across the fields of honor. The Napoleonic concept of war was still ingrained in the minds of generals and privates alike. And so the armies marched forward in the grand sweeping tactics of dashing cavalry charges followed by massed infantry formations brandishing bayonets. Then came the reality of modern warfare. The machine gun capable of spewing death at the rate of 500 bullets a minute at ranges of 1000 yards. Massed artillery raining destruction across the battlefield at an unprecedented scale. Thousands died and by October 1914 the opposing armies began to dig in along a line from the English Channel to the Swiss border in order to survive the devastation.

Conditions were miserable in the trenches on both sides of the line. Rain, snow, vermin, disease and death were the soldier's constant companions. There was no escape from this living hell and to raise one's head above the parapet was to invite a quick dispatch into eternity. The nights grew longer as October passed into November and November was swept aside by the icy winds of December. The soldiers manned their posts sometimes separated by no more than 30 yards of tortured earth that was littered with shattered trees, barbed wire, shell holes and unburied bodies known as "no man's land". The soldiers often shouted insults at each other across the expanse or sometimes listened to songs like "Lily Marlene" or "Tipperary" that were carried on the evening breeze.

As Christmas approached all drew quiet along the western front. In Flanders the British noticed strange, twinkling lights beginning to appear atop the German trenches. The lights were the candles flickering upon the branches of hundreds of tannebaums placed there by the boys in field grey. The strains of carols could be heard on both sides and although

the lyrics were alien the tunes were quickly recognized. As dawn broke a brave German boy left the relative safety of his trench and began to pick his way across "no man's land" toward the British armed with nothing more than a small, candle laden evergreen tree in his hand. In broken English he said to his enemies that he came in peace and placed the tree into the hand of a lad who had risen up to meet him. Soon the weapons of war were laid down and more and more men appeared above the trenches carrying cheese, plum pudding, cake, cookies, tobacco and all sorts of delicacies to trade with their fellow soldiers. A British soldier met his German barber and received a hair cut from him at the edge of a shell crater. A German soldier handed a letter addressed to his sister in Liverpool to a "Tommy" and requested that he post it for him. Throughout the day similar scenes continued to be played out between the lines. As night fell the boys returned to their trenches, however the comradery continued as treats were tossed across "no man's land" instead of grenades.

The next morning the truce continued and as soldiers emerged from the fortifications, the high command issued orders that the men were to return to their lines and resume firing upon the enemy. But the boys ignored the order and shared the good will of the season with each other. At one point a group of Scots organized a football (soccer) game with some German soldiers. Alas, while the final score is lost to history, the significance of the moment is not. An English officer recorded in a letter home that a German officer approached him with a letter and a Victoria Cross that had belonged to a British soldier that had been killed. The Brit accepted the items and gave the German his white silk scarf in return. Amidst the fraternization men from both sides joined in the grim task of gathering and burying the dead. All were accorded the same respect regardless of the uniform they wore. At dusk the men retired and took up their positions. The night was cold and clear, the stars adding their shimmering light to the flickering candles upon the tannebaums. All at once the silence was broken by a beautiful, tenor voice singing the words "Stille Nacht, Heil'ge Nacht. Alles schlaft, einsam wacht" to which a Scottish tenor replied "Round yon Virgin, mother and child, Holy Infant so tender and mild". And thus went the exchange of carols throughout the night.

When December passed the men returned to the grim business of war, but for those few short days the men of both sides were filled with the spirit of the season and "All was calm, all was bright".



Shouldn't the Scottish Rite be your next journey in Masonry?

**Next Reunion Class
January 10, 2015**



My Brother, are you ready to seek more light and continue your journey in Freemasonry?

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Scottish Rite opportunities for advancement are various and plentiful. There is no requirement for you to memorize anything in the Scottish Rite while going through the degrees. Your level of participation in our meetings, reunions, events, is left solely up to you. Although we encourage participation, it is not required for membership. Our events are very diverse and range from purely social to educational.

We offer the Degrees throughout the year at several venues so there is always opportunity to pick up a degree you may have missed.

The next Reunion Classes will be:

January 10, 2015: MW Gerald Sharp, Grand Masters Class at the Southern Valley, Collingswood, NJ.

February 21, 2015: the 4° available, 22° at the Central Valley, Bordentown, NJ.

April 18, 2015: theme "Masons Together" at the Central Valley, Bordentown, NJ.

May 9, 2015: Annual 32° Gala for Candidates and their Wives.

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Jersey Masons Attend MRF Symposium in Ohio

Submitted by Jay Hochberg, PM

With Inspiratus Lodge, New Jersey's first Blue Lodge to embody the characteristics of the Traditional Observance movement, being brought to fruition this year, its Worshipful Master, several officers and brethren, and other supporters visited Cincinnati, Ohio in August to participate in the Masonic Restoration Foundation's Fifth Annual Symposium. Founded in 2001, the MRF is the independent think-tank that promulgates the tenets of the T.O. system of lodge organization. Among these ideas being adopted by Inspiratus Lodge are superlative performance of ritual, solemnity of decorum, formal attire, adequate funding of the lodge treasury, and a number of flourishes found in Masonic traditions from back in time and from around the globe.

The MRF Symposium was hosted jointly by Caliburn Lodge No. 785 and Arts & Sciences Lodge No. 792, both of Ohio, with Lodge Vitruvian No. 767 of Indiana and Lodge Ad Lucem No. 812 of Pennsylvania. The itinerary not only kept its nearly 200 participants and guests active for the entire weekend with discussions, lectures, meals, and ritual, among other attractions, but more importantly introduced the New Jersey brethren to other Masons from around the nation who had set similar lodges to labor in recent years and consequently had much wisdom to impart.

"I cannot say which presentation from the weekend was most fruitful," said RW Roy Simpadian, inaugural Worshipful Master of Inspiratus Lodge. "Seeing the officers of several T.O. and European Concept lodges work their rituals proved to have been both enlightening for the ritual variations and instructive for other idioms of lodge life we saw. We definitely got some great ideas to take home."

Inspiratus Lodge scheduled its Ceremony of Constitution for Monday, November 24, when this issue of The New Jersey Freemason was going to press, at its meeting place, the Lyndhurst Masonic Temple.

Traveling with RW Simpadian to Cincinnati were Paul Burkart, Sal Corelli, Rob Gregory, Jay Hochberg, Bob Howard, Gene Margroff, Michael Stein, Griffin Seuss, and Robert Volk.

The MRF Symposium opened Friday, August 15 with a variety of attractions, highlighted by a Festive Board hosted by Lodge Vitruvian, the European Concept lodge set to labor in 2002 in Indianapolis. While not a Table Lodge, the Festive Board is another form of ritualized communal meal that complements the labors of the lodge. It sometimes is called



The New Jersey contingent attending the Masonic Restoration Foundation's Fifth Annual Symposium in Cincinnati, Ohio in August included, front: Rob Gregory, Robert Volk, Michael Stein, and Paul Burkart. Rear: Sal Corelli, Bob Howard, Roy Simpadian, and Gene Margroff. Not pictured: Griffin Seuss and Jay Hochberg.

"agape," from the Greek word for "love feast." Inspiratus Lodge hosts such dinners after the lodge is closed. Vitruvian opted to host RW Robert G. Davis, no stranger to New Jersey audiences, as keynote speaker; he addressed the brethren on the subject "Journey to the Mature Masculine Soul," which explains how the "social honor" Freemasonry confers upon men can help organize our lives in moral and virtuous ways.

Saturday's agenda was dominated by Arts & Sciences Lodge, which opened for labor, and Lodge Ad Lucem, which conferred the Master Mason Degree on one Fellow Craft with its Pennsylvania ritual that always enchants those seeing it for the first time. Throughout the day, seven lectures were presented by brethren from six jurisdictions, giving attendees a vexing selection of teachable moments. Speakers included Masons familiar to New Jersey: Oscar Alleyne of New York, Andrew Hammer of Virginia (author of Observing the Craft), and Chris Hodapp of Indiana (author of Freemasons for Dummies, among other titles). Contributing toward the spirited community of the brethren was the closing event of the day: a Scotch Harmony—a lesson on pairing savory hors d'oeuvres with exotic whiskies, with generous samples of all and the guiding hand of an expert.

The Sixth Annual Masonic Restoration Foundation Symposium will take place August 21-23 at the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania's famous Masonic Temple in Philadelphia.

Further Light: My Life You May Take, but My Integrity, NEVER.

Submitted by Ricardo J Fernandez, PM, Trenton Cyrus#5

With these words our Operant Grand Master Hiram Abiff makes the decision that ends his mortal life yet saves his eternal soul. Like Hiram, we face many dire life situations where difficult choices must be exercised. His words and actions can inspire and motivate us through those trying times.

We learn of the three Ages of Man in our Masonic degree. At Hiram's graveside, the Chaplain's prayer reminds us of that path of life invariably leading man to his grave. Simultaneously, we are encouraged with the hope of being "raised", a transcendence from the humanly to the heavenly plane. We are quietly reassured of the circular nature of existence: Life to death... to "life" again.

Entering my sixth decade of life, I find myself increasingly interested in the life journeys of my older brethren, those 10, 20 and 30 years older. What is their experience of life? What may I learn from their travels and travails?

In the Sublime degree we hear we "have a rough and rugged road to travel, beset with dangers, where you will meet with ruffians and may lose your life". Just like Hiram, I hear the stories my brethren tell me of the rugged roads they have wandered, not infrequently filled with their own unquestionable pain and tragedy, their own ruffians.



I have witnessed brothers dealing with progressively worsening health, limiting their abilities daily, restricting them in activities that used to be simple once: Tying your own shoe laces, now difficult and with pain or slowly but persistently climbing up the stairs to our lodge room.

I have witnessed sad stories of the death of spouses, leaving the grieving survivor in pain and loneliness. I remember WB Al Phillips, in his 90's, at the funeral of his wife weeping quietly

by her casket. He died soon after. I can still feel his pain.

I have witnessed my brothers and sisters suffer through the mental devastation of losing their spouses to the ravages of Alzheimer's disease. How terribly painful it must be to helplessly see someone you have loved all your life slowly "disappear" before your very eyes.



I have borne witness to my senior brothers, admirably, courageously, diligently and unquestionably, continue to dedicate their lives to the care of handicapped children. I have witnessed my brethren bear the seemingly unbearable agony of having to bury a son or daughter.

Like Hiram, suffering blow after blow, they persevere with courage and integrity. Despite adversity, they march on, one day at a time, one step at a time, like my dear departed DB Huffman. He advised me that we must keep going, change, accommodate or die in the effort but never stop trying. The Japanese have a saying: "Fall seven times, stand up eight" and the bible, Proverbs 24:16, reads "For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again". Here is integrity, strength and courage. Here is Light.

These Masonic "heroes" of everyday life inspire with their persistence, perseverance, patience, acceptance, tolerance, resilience, fortitude, and most of all, their integrity in the face of the terrible yet common adversities of life. In their passive mentoring, leading exemplary lives, I learn from these brethren. As I travel my own rough and rugged road and invariably meet my own ruffians, may I manifest similar virtues and courage.

Integrity is defined as the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles. It is the concept of consistency of actions, values, methods, principles, expectations, and outcomes. The lessons we are taught in Masonry all point in the direction of a life with principle and incorruptibility, even in the face of the greatest adversity.

I came to our Craft seeking Light and have found the tools that will hopefully lead me to and keep me on the High road. The Low road is that of surrender and cowardliness, of retreat and self-centered egoism. The high road, the one less travelled, is difficult, requiring courage and full of sacrifices and pain. Just like Hiram, we must prevail, ultimately to be led home, there to be raised by our Supreme Grand Master to the enjoyment of fadeless light and immortal life, where faith and hope shall end and love and joy prevail throughout eternity.

Hiram, and my dear and courageous brothers, I tip my hat to you and thank you kindly for the lessons in integrity and grace you teach me each and every day. So mote it be..



John M. Amorison, Esquire, 32 Degree and R.A.M.

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Beer and Freemasonry

Submitted by NJF Staff Writer Bro. Martin Bogardus, 32°

Q. What do Masonic Lodges and pubs have in common?

A. *The longer you stay the more enlightened you become.*

*The world is all in darkness, About us they conjecture
But little think, A song and drink, Succeed to Mason's lecture.
The landlord brings a bogshead, And in the corner place it
Till it rebound, With hollow sound, Each Mason here will face it.
Who can unfold the royal art, Or sing its secrets in a song?
They're safely kept in mason's heart, And to the ancient lodge belong.*

The relationship between Freemasonry and taverns is a long and lively tale filled with amazing stories, dramatic historical events, and fraternal drinking songs all washed down with a frothy tankard of ale. Just the mere mention of famous taverns like Tun Tavern in Philadelphia - first home of American Masons and the U.S. Marines, the Green Dragon Tavern in Boston - Boston Tea Party, anyone? - and the Goose and Gridiron Tavern in England -where the Grand Lodge of England was formed - immediately bring to mind watershed moments in American and British history.

These public houses served as early meeting places for Masons to gather together for fellowship. Years before these lodges built places of their own, it was common for the Craft to meet in taverns and other public buildings. Initially, a chalk drawing was made on the table or floor in the center of the tavern room in which a Masonic Lodge met, the work being executed either by the Tyler or the Worshipful Master. Afterward, the Stewards would be responsible for mopping up the floor of the tavern after the meeting was done. These chalk drawings would later evolve into the Masonic tracing boards we are familiar with today.

Though water may be the most ancient of drinks, beer probably comes in a close second. Ancient Egyptian's were drinking beer as early as 2200 B.C. where an Egyptian hieroglyph transcribed reads "The mouth of a perfectly contented man is filled with beer." Decisions about who to drink with, how much and how often, and how to judge the drinking behavior of others, can provide insights into what men value in a society. As this was the practice in all classes of the community, it is only natural that the Freemasons should follow this universal custom.

Freemasonry offered a rare opportunity for these men of different social classes to come together and fellowship in a public place. Taverns made for an idea location since churches weren't often receptive to men of other faiths and most churches also prohibited drinking within their sacred walls. Since both Masonry and taverns didn't discriminate on the basis of religion or social class, it made for the ideal venue. And after each meeting, these men would talk, drink and sing.

Yes, sing! Our Masonic forefathers loved to drink, laugh and sing! A gentle libation or two to better lubricate a dry, parched throat - Masonry is thirsty work, right? - mixed with a heaping helping of brotherly fellowship and camaraderie,



produced an atmosphere convivial for song and a singularly masculine experience. Though singing wasn't limited to the fraternity, Masons quickly adopted many popular tunes of the 17th and 18th centuries to their respective taste and style.

Though some verse was more innovative and inspiring and others heavily laden with flowery purple prose, Freemasons showed a quick wit and clever ingenuity repurposing old songs and lyrics for new uses. Many ribald and mildly salacious songs and poems were written about Masons and served as amusement for the non-Masonic population. In addition, Masons conjured up their own songs which became part of their gatherings, all in the name of fostering camaraderie and enjoyment. As in all democratizations, the popular was kept and in some cases improved, while the rest never caught on or faded into obscurity.

As interesting as it is to read through many of the old toasts, it is more enjoyable to hear them sung in a communal setting. They beg to be sung aloud, and "performed" with boisterous bravado somewhere between one and three sheets to the wind rather than just being read or recited. I'm reminded of the Roman poet Ovid who opined, "**carmine fit vivax virtus; expersque sepulcri, notitiam seræ posteritatis habet** - by song virtue is made immortal; and, exempt from burial, it obtains the homage of remote posterity." Our Fraternity has been immortalized not just by our ancient landmarks and noble virtues, but by our songs. Our fraternal ancestors understood the timeless quality of Freemasonry when they wrote, "When bucks and albions (Englishmen) are forgot, Freemasons will remain; Mushrooms, each day, spring up and rot, While oaks stretch o'er the plain: Let others quarrel, rant and roar; Their noisy revels when no more, Still masonry shall reign."

Thematically, Masonic toasts cover a myriad of topics, but first and foremost is that we are good and loyal freeman, bound to each other and to the sacred principles that define us as a fraternity. Free to break bread and drink with anyone who upholds the ancient landmarks, be he peasant, duke or king. We also give thanks to the Great Architect who first ➤

Vulgar Song or National Anthem?

Submitted by Raymond C. Thorne, Past Master, Lodge of Masonic Research and Education #1786

The song started in a London pub and the tune, slightly altered, is still being sung with different words around the United States to this day—perhaps you sang it recently in lodge. All because of a lawyer and amateur poet who saw his native city attacked by a rocket ship, the eighteenth amendment to the Constitution and a newspaper cartoon.

The Anacreontic Society was founded c.1770 by English Masons who wanted to honor the Ancient Greek poet Anacreon, who wrote about the pleasures of wine and of love. They met in the Crown and Anchor Tavern on the Strand, a very tony part of London. In 1791, when he was in London, Brother Joseph Haydn visited the Society.

Logically, a drinking society should have its own drinking song. Brother Ralph Tomlinson, a president of the Society provided the words to The Anacreontic Song. Here is the first of six verses:

*To Anacreon in heaven where he sat in full glee,
A few sons of harmony sent a petition,
That be their inspirer and patron would be,
When this answer arrived from the jolly old Grecian:
Voice, fiddle and flute, no longer be mute,
I'll lend you my name and inspire you to boot!
And besides I'll instruct you like me to entwine
The myrtle of Venus and Bacchus' vine.*

The tune was composed by Brother John Stafford Smith, at the time a well-known composer and musicologist. The

Beer and Freemasonry

laid the foundations of the world and recognize Him as the Prime Mover as He set the world in motion.

"By the great architect the grand fabric was formed, By wisdom contrived and with beauty adorned; Supported by strength, all its parts shall declare: The order resulting from compass and square."

As the Great Architect intended for us to live amongst each other in peace and harmony, we Masons practice the principles from which the Creator intended. From the tune On, On, My Dear Brother we learn, "*No discord, no envy, amongst us shall be, No confusion of tongues, but let's all agree; Not like building of Babel, confound one another; But fill up your glasses and drink to each other.*" *In another song we hear, "Father Adam when first he beheld the light shine, God made him a mason and gave him a sign, He freely unto us the same did impart, And oft'times in paradise talked of our ark... The apostles were Masons I'll tell you straightways, Christ ordered a temple to be raised in three days, They knew what he meant while the ignorant gazed, Then these masons clasped hands and their master was pleased. We're bid by the scriptures no longer be blind, But to knock at the door and the truth we shall find ;And*



song gained popularity in the British Isles and soon found its way across the Atlantic. There is a possibility that American colonists first heard the tune from British Redcoats.

There was something about the tune of To Anacreon In Heaven (nee The Anacreontic Song) that inspired poets. Here is the first verse of a "Song and Chorus, Written by Br. Connel, on behalf of the Masonic Orphan School:"

*To old Hiram in Heav'n where he sat in full Glee
A few brother Masons sent up a petition,
That He their inspirer and Patron would be,
To help Masons Orphans, and mend their condition,
The Gods were all mute, when he mention'd our suit,
They gave their consent, and donations to boot.
(Chorus)
Then who would not wish, like Celestials divine,
In a cause, like the present, to cheerfully join.*

This verse was published in A Selection of Masonic Songs published c.1795. By this time the original Anacreontic Society had folded in London. Another one had sprung up in New York City and presumably it sang The Anacreontic Song once or twice. Sheet music of the song was also available and it was also printed in "songsters," or song books.

Incidentally, 1795 was the year Congress decided that since two states had been added to the Republic, two stars and two stripes would be added to the flag, for a total of fifteen each. This design would be the national standard until 1818.

In 1805, Steven Decatur, Jr. and Charles Stewart, heroes of ➤

continued from page 26
the scripture advises us free-masons further, To join hand in hand and to love one another."

And so "we practice the precepts here enjoined" through fellowship and song, celebrating those unique qualities that make Freemasonry an organization for the ages, not only as a fraternity, but as a band of brothers. We work hard, striving to help those in need, and more importantly, come together "for the more noble and glorious purpose" to be better, honorable men. It is something wholly worthwhile, something worth singing about and celebrating. Where else can good men of different faiths, class and caste come together under one roof as one? Other groups strive to imitate, but never quite deliver on what makes Freemasonry unique in the hearts of its' members and respected the world around for centuries. I think that Bro. Matthew Birkhead sums up the pride and supreme satisfaction we feel about our Fraternity in The Entered Apprentice Song (1722) in the last verse when we sing, "*Then join Hand in Hand, Teach other firm stand, Let's be merry, and put a bright Face on: What Mortal can boast, So noble a toast, As a Free and an Accepted Mason?*"



Vulgar Song or National Anthem?

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the Barbary Wars (and who would both see combat in the War of 1812), were praised in a song entitled “When the Warrior Returns.” The first of five verses goes:

*When the warrior returns, from the battle afar,
To home and the country be nobly defended,
O! warm be the welcome to gladden his ear,
And loud be the joy that his perils are ended:
In the full tide of song let his fame roll along,
To the feast-flowing board let us gratefully throng,
Where, mixed with olive, the laurel shall wave,
And form a bright wreath for the bows of the brave.*

These words, sung to the tune of To Anacreon In Heaven, were written by 26-year-old Baltimore native and Georgetown lawyer Francis Scott Key, a member of Concordia Lodge No. 13, Towson, Maryland.



In 1812 Congress declared war against Great Britain for that country’s attempts to restrict American trade with Europe and the Royal Navy’s impressment of American sailors. A year later General George Armistead, Commander of Fort M’Henry in Baltimore, commissioned local resident Mary Pickersgill to make two flags, a 17x25 storm flag, and a 30x42 “flag so large that the British will have no difficulty in seeing it from a distance.”



Late August a year later found the Redcoats embarking from ships on the Patuxent River and marching towards Washington D.C. General Robert Ross and Admiral Alexander Cochrane established a temporary headquarters in the home of Dr. William Beanes, a prominent citizen of Upper Marlboro, whose civility towards the British led them to think he was friendly towards them.

The next day, the 24th, the enemy moved on and after securing victory in the Battle of Bladensburg laid waste and destroyed the virtually deserted capital of the United States. After plundering and burning Washington, the Redcoats made a hasty retreat by night, occasionally halting for stragglers to catch up. Dr. Beanes led a small body of citizens to capture some of the stragglers and have them jailed. Upon hearing this, a British expedition was sent to release the prisoners and spirit away their American captors in the middle of the night.

A friend of Beanes went to the doctor’s good friend, Francis Scott Key, and told him of the capture. Key went to President (and perhaps Brother, there is some debate) James Madison, who gave Key a cartel (a ship to exchange prisoners of war) and an agent, John S. Skinner, to officially negotiate the release.

Sailing under a flag of truce, the cartel reached the British fleet at the mouth of the Potomac River on September 3. Key and Skinner were warmly greeted by General Ross and Admiral Cochrane until they found out the purpose of the visit. While not stated, it was the impression of the Americans that the General and Admiral felt Beanes would not take action against the British and the doctor had broken his trust with them. Only Beanes was taken aboard ship, the other captive Americans had been released. Talking with Beanes, Key learned the doctor did not feel any obligation to restrain his actions against the British and he had been treated more as a criminal than as a prisoner of war.

Key pleaded to Ross about the character and standing of Beanes and the community’s interest in him, to no avail. Skinner then produced testimonials of wounded Redcoats who had been left behind in Bladensburg stating how kindly they were treated by Dr. Beanes. It was because of these testimonials that General Ross released the doctor.

However, since the negotiations took over a week aboard a British ship with British officers preparing for action, the Americans were told they had to remain aboard ship until after the attack. Emboldened by the destruction of Washington, Cochrane was sailing towards Baltimore, then the third largest city in the nation and a hotbed of anti-British feelings and privateers.

If the British could capture Baltimore, the United States would be effectively cut in two and it would be easy for the invaders to march against Philadelphia and New York.

On the morning of September 12, General Ross and his men disembarked on the east bank of the Patapsco River. The idea was for the Redcoats to march north along the north bank of the Patapsco, then turn west and attack Baltimore by land. Admiral Cochrane’s fleet would attack Fort M’Henry, south of the city. The redcoats were stopped at North Point, about halfway up the peninsula. There were a few casualties on both sides. One of the dead was General Ross, whose loss demoralized the British troops. It also delayed them, allowing



Vulgar Song or National Anthem?

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the city to strengthen its defenses.

On September 13, Admiral Cochrane started attacking Fort M’Henry. After some maneuvering, the British ships stayed out of the range of the Fort’s cannon. And vice versa. But the fort was not out of range of the HMS Erebus, the British rocket ship which held, and was the launching platform for, Congreve rockets.



after the bombardment. A fairly new weapon, the Congreve rockets proved about as effective against the Fort as Fourth of July fireworks. But the British was also counting on an effect on the enemy that today we would call “shock and awe.” It did have such an effect against the Washington resident who did not flee the city. But not this battle.

There was a torrential rain that night, dampening fuses and powder. Also, the choppy waters made it difficult to accurately aim the rockets. But the aerial explosions did provide sufficient illumination for three Americans aboard the HMS Surprise to see that Mary Pickersgill’s storm flag was still flying. (It was a dull orange, not the more poetic “rockets’ red glare.”)

Finally the bombardment stopped and Key and the others were kept in the dark—literally—about the fate of the Fort. Finally, at first light, the larger of Mary Pickersgill’s two flags was hoisted to the tune of Yankee Doodle. The Redcoats re-embarked their ships (the wounded carried aboard), Key, Skinner and Beanes were allowed to board their cartel and return home. The British fleet sailed down the Chesapeake and down the coast to New Orleans.

Key jotted down some notes on the back of a letter while still on the Surprise. On the cartel he wrote a rough draft of his impressions. He wrote out a final version back on land. On September 17, while the city was still euphoric over surviving a two-pronged attack by the forces that conquered Napoleon and destroyed the nation’s capital, Baltimoreans were treated to a handbill entitled “Defence of Fort M’Henry.” After a brief explanation of the circumstances which inspired the unnamed author, was printed:

Tune—Anacreon in Heaven

*O! say can you see by the dawn’s early light,
What so proudly we bailed at the twilight’s last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through
the perilous fight,
O’er the ramparts we watch’d, were so
gallantly streaming?
And the Rockets’ red glare, the Bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our Flag was still there;
O! say does that star-spangled Banner yet wave,
O’er the Land of the free, and the home of the brave?*

Three more verses followed. The poem was reprinted in the two Baltimore papers within a few days, both times with the note “Tune: Anacreon In Heaven.” There is some irony of a British tune, perhaps introduced to Americans by Redcoats, was used as the tune to record an inglorious defeat of a later generation of Redcoats.

Within weeks the poem was reprinted in newspapers and magazines from New Hampshire to Georgia. The song, soon to be renamed “The Star-Spangled Banner,” increased in popularity as they years went on. In 1889 the Secretary of the Navy made the Star-Spangled Banner the official tune to be played at the raising of the flag.

In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson ordered that The Star-Spangled Banner be performed at military and other appropriate occasions. Wilson also created a committee of five (including Brother John Philip Sousa) to come up with an official standardized version of the tune.

On January 16, 1919, the eighteenth amendment to the Constitution was ratified, officially, at least, forbidding the manufacture, distribution or sale of intoxicating beverages. On November 3, 1929, Robert L. Ripley drew a Believe It Or Not cartoon showing some men in 18th-centry attire drinking and singing in a tavern. The caption read, “America Has No National Anthem! The U.S.A. (being a dry country) has been using—without authorization—a vulgar old English drinking song. —As recent as 1914, Congress refused to indorse the “Star-Spangled Banner” (which is the air of “To Anacreon in Heaven).”

In less than a year and a half, five million citizens petitioned Congress concerning the lack of a national anthem. Many of them referred to Ripley’s cartoon, apparently ignoring the ‘vulgar’ crack. On March 3, 1931, President Herbert Hoover signed the Congressional resolution making The Star-Spangled Banner our national anthem.

References: Netti, Paul, National Anthems, 2nd ed., 1968, Frederick Ungar Pub. Co., NY; p. 203-8 casebook.thewarof1812.info/People_files/Pickersgill/people_summary.html (accessed 7/5/2014); www.potw.org/archive/potw340.html (accessed 7/5/2014); Ripley’s Believe It or Not! 3rd Series, Pocket Books, March, 1968, Simon & Schuster, p. xvi; Hickey, Donald R., ed., The War of 1812: Writings from America’s Second War of Independence, 2013, The Library of America, p. 541-554.





High Point Run Benefits Home Front Hearts

Submitted by RW Bro. Gordie Barrett, President of Broken Column

On Sunday, August 25, 2014, Broken Column Chapter of the Widows Sons Masonic Riders Association of NJ held their 3rd Annual Maj. Ian A. Cairns High Point Run to benefit Home Front Heatts.

Since WB Ian was deployed this year, he charged us with continuing his tradition of holding this run. We had rally points at Milltown Lodge No. 294 & Bridgewater Commons. We took a route planned by our Vice President, WB Bryan Sachs which wound through the scenic byways of Northwest

NJ. At the monument all riders and passengers were presented with an Army challenge coin by Ian's wife and dad, Randi Cairns and WB James D. Cairns.

There were twenty-five motorcycles with 28 riders and passengers in attendance. The group of riders donated \$630 to Randi's charity, Home Front Hearts, which provides support for deployed and returning soldiers and their families.

Five NJ chapters of the Widows Sons were represented in this run: Broken Column, Anchor & Ark, Grand Chapter, Traveling Men & Jersey Devils.

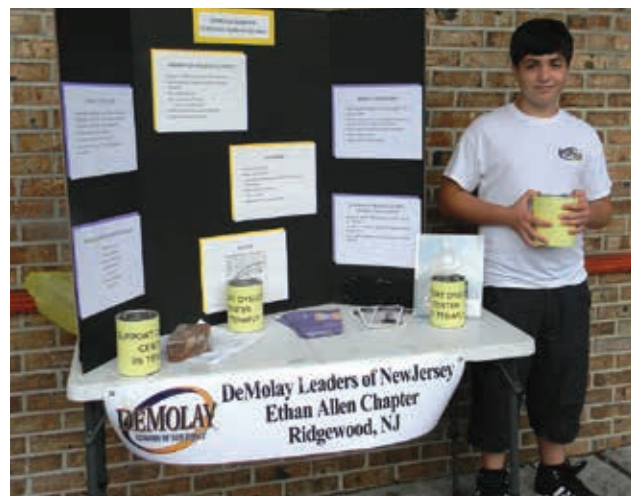


Front row starting from the left is Bro. Joe Gismonde of Jersey Devils chapter (yellow shirt) then WB Paul Schutz of Anchor & Ark chapter; Goride Barrett, Bro. Mike Bencivengo of Grand Chapter; WB Herb Egberts of Traveling Men Chapter (all holding vests.) The next row of people l-r is Bro. Mark Valente, Unknown, WB Ed Keller; unknown (directly behind Paul Schutz,) WB Bryan Sachs, Laura Egberts, WB Mikey Romano (behind

Herbs left shoulder) WB James D. Cairns (bands in pockets) and Bro. Ray Whittaker. Back row, l-r is Rudy Garofalo, Brian Carpenter; Bro. Charles McCarthy, RW Bro. Norm Persing, Seth Rainess, Bro. Lawrence Craver; Kathy (Larry's lady,) WB Nirio Garcia, Lori Clarke & John Fogarty.

DeMolay Supports Scottish Rite Learning Center

The Ethan Allen Chapter of the DeMolay Leaders of New Jersey held a successful fundraiser on hot and humid September 4th to benefit the Scottish Rite Dyslexia Learning Center in Tenaflly. The chapter has supported this organization over the past several years on behalf of one of the chapter's senior members who was tutored there as a child. Brothers Lucas Santos, Danny Rugani, Jasper Smith, and Drew Johnson and Chapter Advisor Mom Dory Gasorek raised \$376.66, with all of the proceeds going to the center to provide free tutoring for children with dyslexia. The fundraiser took place at the Stop & Shop in Tenaflly. Master Councilor Danny Rugani said, "People were so generous, and we met some who had had family go through the program. They couldn't say enough about how wonderful the organization is!"



WB John Cummings Called to the Lodge on High

Submitted by Jim Sestito, Junior Deacon, Durand Lodge #179

On Monday, June 23, 2013, just before an Emergent Entered Apprentice Degree, Durand Lodge's beloved Worshipful Brother John Cumming, who served as Worshipful Master of Durand in 1974 and was a Mason for almost six decades, suffered a fatal heart attack.

Worshipful Brother John's death affected many of the brothers of Durand as he served as a mentor for newly initiated brothers as well as the brothers progressing through the chairs.

Aside from being an active Mason and Kiltie, Worshipful Brother John loved to play golf. So to honor Worshipful Brother John's life, the brothers of Durand held a golf outing in his memory on September 29th to raise money for the American Heart Association.

Organized by Brother Junior Warden John Schiess and his committee, more than 60 golfers enjoyed a great day of golf and fellowship to help us raise \$3,000 for the American Heart Association.

On hand to present a check to Evett Shulman from the American Heart Association were John's son, Colin Cumming and daughter Mary (Cumming) Bianco



Lodges Raise Funds to Benefit Local Child



Cannon Lodge #104 in South Seavill and Star Lodge #65 in Tuckahoe recently held a yard sale and bake sale to benefit an Ocean View girl diagnosed with childhood leukemia.

Christina Ruggia, age 6, is in remission for Childhood Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia but requires two years of treatment at Childrens Hospital of Philadelphia. She was diagnose with leukemia when she was 5.

The two Masonic lodges were able to raise more than \$2200 for Ruggia. They made the presentation to the family on June 4th at Star Lodge #65 in Tuckahoe.

Donations can be made through the family's facebook page - Christina Maria Charity





Grand Master Visits with NJ Rainbow Girls



Grand Master Gerry Sharp attended the New Jersey Rainbow Girls convention on August 8th and 9th in Parsippany. He addressed the girls on Saturday evening offering his admiration and support to the members and their Supreme Inspector, Miss Kathleen Nase. Rainbow is the part of the Masonic family that is open to girls between the ages of 11 and 21. It teaches charity, leadership and community service. Girls between the ages of 5 and 11 can start their Rainbow journey as Rainbow Pledges. Rainbow can be found in most states and many countries around the world. Currently, there are 9 Rainbow Assemblies across New Jersey.

Each year New Jersey Rainbow Girls gather together for a statewide weekend called their Grand Assembly. They install new state officers, perform ceremonies and generally celebrate sisterhood and the friendships made within the organization. The 2013-2014 Grand officers, led by Grand Worthy Advisor Rebecca Brand of Clifton Assembly #16, kicked off the weekend with a special celebration of their 75th annual convention. Former members returned to participate in flag march and presentations on Rainbow throughout the decades. Current members took part in costume and scrapbook contests. On Friday evening Miss Nase announced the 2014-2015 Grand Officers and on Saturday, the new Grand Worthy Advisor, Christiana Guttridge of Temple Assembly #32 and her officers were installed. A dance was held to celebrate later that evening, followed by a Sunday morning church service to conclude the weekend festivities.

New Jersey Rainbow holds several Grand Officer's Days throughout the year to initiate new members. The first will be held at Olive Branch Lodge on November 15th. The second will be held in Mount Holly on February 28 and the third, which will include special ceremonies performed by the Rainbow Pledges, will be held in Toms River on March 28th. The Grand Worthy Advisor's Homecoming will be hosted by Temple Assembly in June. Masons are welcome to attend these events as well as local assembly meetings. More information about Rainbow can be found on the web site NJIORG.org or the International organization's web site at GoRainbow.org.



The Pilgrimage

By Robert W. Howard, Jr., Senior Warden, Hawthorne-Fortitude Lodge #200

Although most lodges do a good job of mentoring their candidates and younger Master Masons, we sometimes forget that once we are raised to the sublime degree, it is a requirement that we make a visit the Masonic Home in Burlington.

Members of the Second Masonic District therefore decided that they would fulfill this obligation by arranging a bus trip to the Home. Further, to make this pilgrimage a bit more exciting, it was decided that the addition of a trip to Trenton Historic Temple would be in order. One thing led to another and Hawthorne-Fortitude Lodge #200, received dispensation to move its charter to the Trenton Temple for purposes of holding an emergent communication.

They started off from their lodge in Ramsey on a Saturday morning with members of the Second, Third and Fourth districts converging on the bus. When they arrived at the Trenton Temple, they were met by members of Mt Moriah Lodge #28 of Bordentown and Mercer Lodge #50, who regularly hold their meetings in the Trenton Temple.

A presentation on the history of the building was given by Right Worshipful Bob Stutz of Mercer Lodge. This was followed by an enlightening tour of the building given by Right Worshipful Glenn Visscher, Chairman of the Museum and Library of Masonic Culture of the Grand Lodge.

This was followed by a lunch prepared by Brother Jim Jones, member of Gothic-Fraternal Lodge #270 and proprietor of Poor Boy Submarine Sandwiches in Hamilton Square. His generous support was enjoyed by all.

Following lunch, lodge was opened by W. Frank Santora, Worshipful Master of Hawthorne-Fortitude in the Doric room with officers consisting of members of the Second Masonic District with Right Worshipful Bob Stutz sitting in and doing an especially masterful job as Chaplain. None of this would have been possible without the grateful support of the Worshipful Master of Mercer Lodge, W. James J. Langan. After a brief meeting, the lodge was closed by the DDGM of the Second District by R.W. Doug Dampman.

At two o'clock, they were back on the bus and off the Masonic Home in Burlington and by 2:45 they arrived at the home and met with R.W. Roger Quintana, Vice President, Masonic Charity Foundation. After some introductory words on the importance of the home to the Masons of New Jersey, he handed the group off to the resident ambassadors, Brother Arthur Gerfin, his wife, Mary and Dorothy Pangborne. They did a wonderful job of showing off the services and amenities of their home. The Brethren were all pleasantly surprised to see that the Masonic Home is not a typical

"Home" but a beautiful and comfortable residence that anyone would be happy to hang his hat.

Before they went back to the bus, the Brethren had the unique opportunity of being present when Brother Norman Malluk resident of the home and member of Mt. View Lodge #154 receive his Fifty Year pin by the DDGM. Brother Malluk was beaming as he received congratulations from all the brethren crowding into his room.

This was a day that will continue to live in the memories of all who travelled that day.





Masons in Action

2500th Communication

On October 3rd, 2014 Boiling Spring Lodge #152 held its 2500th Communication and our EA Degree with the Deputy Grand Master Anthony Montuori and our DDGM Tom Winter in attendance. It was a great night for all!!!

The Deputy Grand Master presented our Lodge with a Congratulatory Proclamation from the Grand Master MW Gerald Sharpe. SW John Kenyon and his officers in advanced stations did a great degree, as did the Brothers doing the Tools, Charge, Reception address, presentation of the White apron and of course our own RWPDDGM Fred Waldron who did a great job on the EA Lecture. Also thanks to our Brothers that stayed to help clean up after a good dinner.

THANKS TO ALL FOR A GREAT NIGHT FOR OUR 2500TH!!!!



Christopher S. Abbott
Director of Development
Masonic Charity Foundation of NJ
Phone: (609) 239-3999
Email: cabbott@njmasonic.org
Web: www.njmasonicgiving.org

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YEAR END TAX SAVINGS CHECKLIST

CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

Give before the end of the year and reduce your income taxes. Review your gifts to date to ensure you have given to the causes important to you and in the amounts you intend. Now is also a good time to make sure you have proper receipts and documentation.

FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNTS

If you have contributed to a Flexible Spending Account, make sure you have used all the money in the account. Now might be the time to get that eye exam or other medical procedure you have been delaying.

MORTGAGE INTEREST

You can pay your January mortgage payment early and add to your mortgage deduction this year. Just check with your accountant on how to do this, especially since the number you report might differ from what your lender sends on Form 1098.

STATE AND LOCAL TAXES

Call your accountant now to ask what state and local taxes may be paid in 2014 that will reduce your federal income taxes for the same year. Alternatively, if delaying payment may help you, determine the best strategy.

INCOME TAX WITHHOLDING

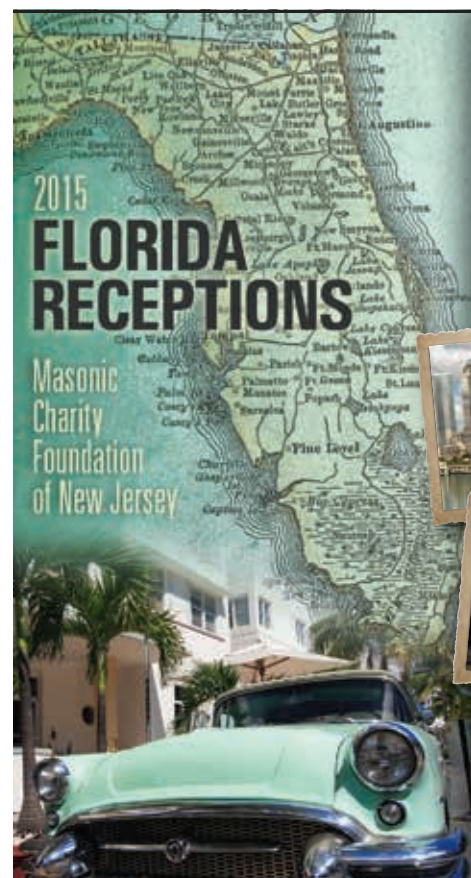
After calculating your taxes for 2014, work with your accountant to see if you should adjust the withholding on your employer's W-2 Form.

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End the year with a tax deduction and start the next one with a check back to you every three months for life. Payments are fixed and offer capital gains and estate tax savings.



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You are cordially invited to join the Grand Master at one of the 2015 Florida Receptions.

Come out to meet the Grand Master, enjoy a luncheon and fellowship, re-connect with brethren and friends, and catch-up on the latest developments from New Jersey!

Palm Beach Gardens Saturday, January 24

11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.
Hilton Garden Inn
3505 Kyoto Gardens Drive
Hotel Phone: (561) 694-5833

Orlando Sunday, January 25

11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.
Radisson University Hotel
1724 North Alafaya Trail
Hotel Phone: (407) 658-9008

Tampa Monday, January 26

11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.
DoubleTree Suites Tampa Bay
3050 N. Rocky Point Dr. West
Hotel Phone: (813) 888-8800

Fort Myers Tuesday, January 27

11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.
Crowne Plaza Fort Myers
13051 Bell Tower Drive
Hotel Phone: (239) 482-2900

THERE'S NO COST TO ATTEND!

For more information, contact the Development Office toll free at 1 (800) 792-8690.



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For complete details about each scholarship's eligibility requirements, or for an application, visit:

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or www.newjerseygrandlodge.org

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GPA: B or 3.0 | Combined SATs: 1800

Must be relative of NJ Mason* | (3) Available

Patterson Engineering Scholarship \$16,000

(\$4,000 per year for 4 years)

For Graduating NJ High School Seniors in Engineering

GPA: C+ or 2.5 over last 2 years | Combined SATs: 1250

Relative of NJ Mason preferred*, not required | (1) Available

Emphasis on teacher recommendation and student's statement

Serewitch DeMolay Scholarship \$20,000

(\$5,000 per year for 4 years)

For Graduating NJ High School Seniors in Any Major

GPA: C+ or 2.2 over last 2 years | Combined SATs: 1300

Active DeMolay required | (1) Available

Emphasis on teacher recommendation and student's statement

William Mayer Memorial Scholarship \$4,000

(\$2,000 per year for 2 years)

For Graduating High School Seniors in Any Major

GPA: C or 2.0 over last 2 years | Combined SATs: N/A

Must be relative of NJ Mason* | (2) Available

Scholarship for an Associate's Degree | Sponsored by the Grand Lodge of NJ

Sol & Reba Serewitch Scholarship \$5,000

(\$5,000 for 1 year)

For Graduating NJ High School Seniors in Any Major

GPA: C+ or 2.2 over last 2 years | Combined SATs: 1300

Must be relative of NJ Mason* | (1) Available

Taylor Scholarship \$4,000

(\$1,000 per year for 4 years)

For Graduating NJ High School Seniors in Any Major

GPA: B or 3.0 | Combined SATs: 1500

Must be relative of NJ Mason* | (2) Available

Must perform 30 hours of community service each summer prior to fall semester

Culver DeMolay Scholarship \$4,000

(\$1,000 per year for 4 years)

For Graduating NJ High School Seniors in Any Major

GPA: B or 3.0 over last 2 years | Combined SATs: 1500

Active DeMolay preferred | (3) Available

Asbury Jordan Lodge Scholarship \$4,000

(\$1,000 per year for 4 years)

For Graduating High School Seniors in Any Major

GPA: B or 3.0 over last 2 years | Combined SATs: 1400

Relative of NJ Mason preferred*, not required | (1) Available

Scholarship in honor of Christian Mogensen and John D. Post

William Mayer Memorial Scholarship \$4,000

(\$2,000 per year for 2 years)

For 4-Year College Student

GPA: C or 2.0 over last 2 years | Combined SATs: N/A

Must be relative of NJ Mason* | (2) Available

Scholarship for an Graduate Degree | Sponsored by the Grand Lodge of NJ

**The applicant must be the child, step-child, grandchild or step-grandchild of a living or deceased Master Mason in good standing in a Masonic Lodge of the Grand Lodge of NJ.*



Christopher S. Abbott
Director of Development
Masonic Charity Foundation of NJ
Phone: (609) 239-3999
Email: cabbott@njmasonic.org
Web: www.njmasonicgiving.org

PLANNED GIVING BRIEF

HOW CAN I BENEFIT FROM A PLANNED GIFT?

Planned giving is a way for you to integrate your personal, financial and estate planning goals by making lifetime or testamentary charitable gifts. Below are some common types of planned gifts. Call or visit our website for more information.

GOALS OF BEQUEST

You may desire to support charity but are unable to make gifts during your lifetime. For example, you may have property that is needed during life to cover your living expenses or health care costs.

GOALS OF CGA

You want to make a gift to our organization and receive fixed income for the future. This plan works well with your gift of cash or appreciated stock that is providing little or no income.

GOALS OF CRT

You own appreciated property that produces little or no income and would like to sell without paying capital gains tax. You may be desiring income for retirement.

GOALS OF LIFE ESTATE

You want to remain living in your home and desire a current income tax deduction.

GOALS OF CLT

You want to pass specific property to your family without paying a lot of gift estate tax.

GOALS OF BARGAIN SALE

You own appreciated property and want to help our organization, but need a benefit in return (either cash or debt relief).

BEQUEST

A bequest is a gift made through your will or trust. A bequest is the simplest type of planned gift for you to make and one of the easiest to implement.

CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY (CGA)

You make a gift of cash or property to us and we agree to make fixed payments for one or two lives.

CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUST (CRT)

You transfer your cash or property to fund a trust that makes payments for your lifetime or a number of years and then passes what remains to our organization.

LIFE ESTATE RESERVED

You transfer your personal residence or farm to us and retain the right to use the property for your lifetime.

FAMILY LEAD TRUST (CLT)

You transfer your cash or property to a trust that makes payments to our organization for a number of years and then passes the trust property to your family with no additional tax.

BARGAIN SALE

We purchase your property for less than fair market value. You receive cash or debt relief and a charitable deduction.

MCF Announces Naming Opportunities

The Masonic Charity Foundation is redeveloping the Masonic Home's residential health care center into retirement living rental units. The accommodations will provide a living arrangement those interested in an active, independent lifestyle that aligns with the traditions of Freemasonry. These spacious one-bedroom layouts include ample closet space as well as complete kitchens, and feature amenity-rich retirement living on our Masonic campus in Burlington, New Jersey.

For those who wish to participate in supporting the Foundation, there are a number of naming opportunities available as part of the project. These opportunities are prominent common areas in the retirement living building, such as entry ways, porches and lobbies. A brass plaque

recognizing the donor, as well as a person or organization the donor may wish to honor or remember, will be placed in the area so named. Donation amounts range from \$10,000 to \$250,000, and may be paid for over time. It is also possible to reserve an item through a bequest designated in the donor's Will.

For more information about these naming opportunities, please contact Christopher Abbott, Development Director at the Foundation at (609) 239-3999. The retirement living project provides an exciting new lifestyle choice here in Burlington, and represents a reinvestment in the Foundation's mission of service. Your support of the Foundation is an integral part of this project's success.

Masonic Home of New Jersey Opens Newly Renovated Retirement Living Area

The Masonic Home of New Jersey held a ribbon cutting ceremony for its newly renovated retirement living area on September 27, during the 3rd Annual Car Show it co-hosts with Acacia Hospice.

The Masonic Home, founded in Burlington, NJ, in 1898, offers skilled nursing, assisted living, short-term rehabilitation and retirement living services. After extensive planning and successful marketing in conjunction with Ashlar Creative Solutions, LLC, a consulting division of the Masonic Villages of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, construction began in April. The first phase of the modern retirement living units was completed in August, and residents moved into their new homes. Work continues on the second phase, which will be completed in February. When finished, the project will add 85 retirement living units, a wellness center, a new library, increased social and recreational opportunities and enhancements to access the main lobby. Renovations will also be made to the dining venues.

The "We Honor Veterans" car show, which pays homage to veterans and military service men and women, was free to the public. Proceeds from the 176 car registrations benefit the hosting organizations. The event featured music, food,

prizes, raffles, craft and information vendors, kids' attractions, and tours of the renovated retirement living area. More than 1,000 people attended.



Left-right: Len Weiser, Jr., Executive Director; Robert J. Sheridan, Secretary; Dieter B. Hees, Junior Grand Warden; Walter Kaulfers, Senior Grand Warden; Anthony W. Montuori, Vice Chairman; Gerald J. Sharpe, Chairman (2011); Bro. Howard Cornell, longest retirement living resident; Melvin Grovatt, oldest (100) retirement living resident; Janet and William V. anFossen, newest retirement living residents; Joseph T. Mezzina, President (2010); Roger Quintana, Vice President (2009); Richard F. Schmidt, Member (2009); Gregory J. Scott, Member (2013); David A. Dorworth, Chairman (2010); and Jennifer Schwalm, President, Ashlar Creative Solutions

MCF's Refinancing Yields Significant Savings

Masonic Charity Foundation of New Jersey, which encompasses the Masonic Home and Acacia Hospice, successfully refunded, at a lower interest rate, the existing \$40,575,000 New Jersey Economic Development Authority bonds and closed a new \$10,460,000 bank construction loan. The net savings from the refunding will result in approximately \$1.5 million annually, which will be used to fund future routine capital needs and the debt service on the renovated retirement living units.

As manager of the Masonic Charity Foundation, Ashlar Creative Solutions served as developer for the project.

Hamlin Capital Advisors, LLC served as financial advisor on the financing. RLPS Architects served as the architect on the project, and Wohlson Construction is the contractor.

Gerald Sharpe, chairman of the Masonic Charity Foundation, stated, "We are excited to see the changes at our Masonic Home to prepare for the future. This financing was one step in the process of continuing to meet our mission of serving seniors."

"Our goal is to position Masonic Charity Foundation for continued success and growth," Jennifer Schwalm, president of Ashlar Creative Solutions, said.

Meet Cindy Shemansky



Mrs. Cindy Shemansky, MEd, RN-BC, LNHA, FNGNA is the Masonic Home of New Jersey's Assistant Executive Director and Administrator. Cindy has been an employee at the Masonic Home for 29 years. She began her career working as a nursing assistant while attending Mercer Medical Center School of Nursing. Upon graduation as a registered nurse, Mrs. Shemansky worked as a Staff Nurse and Preceptor at Mercer Medical Center in Trenton. But, because she missed the interactions she experienced working with older adults, she rejoined the Masonic Home team in 1985 as a Charge Nurse and Relief Supervisor.

As to why she returned to our Home, Cindy recalls that ever since the day she first walked into our community, she found it to be a warm, friendly and caring environment. Masonic Home employees are truly concerned with the quality of care and happiness of our residents, and they are also caring and supportive of fellow employees. She notes that she has always enjoyed working with older adults, probably due to the special relationships she formed with her grandparents during her childhood.

Cindy feels that Masonic Home staff is privileged to be able to provide care and services for our seniors, who have so much knowledge and experience, who have helped our country grow and who have cared for us during our childhood. In working with seniors through the years, Cindy has seen first-hand how difficult it can be to grow older and lose some of the ability to live or do things independently. This is why Cindy finds it so rewarding to be able to provide our residents with the ability to maintain their independence, choice and dignity.

While working at the Masonic Home, Mrs. Shemansky went on to earn both a Bachelor's degree in Adult Education as well as a Master's degree in Educational Technology. She completed her Administrator-in-Training program at the Masonic Home under the direction of Administrator Rick Small. As part of this training, Cindy was afforded the opportunity to work in every department of the facility during her training. Doing so has provided her with a unique insight into the operations of our community.

This comprehensive view of Masonic Home operations showed Cindy what our Home does best. She feels that we have always provided a caring and supportive environment to all who live and work within our walls. Cindy notes that we are blessed to be able to provide our residents and staff with all the equipment and services they need, in a beautiful environment. Our Home's reputation for our care and services is well known in the community. It speaks volumes that the

Masonic Home was recently voted the Best in Burlington County for 2014 for Adult Care, Assisted Living, Rehab, and Retirement Living.

Mrs. Shemansky then served as the Director of Education until August 2011, when she was promoted to the Director of Clinical Informatics and Education in order to start the transition process to electronic health records at the Masonic Home. Cindy became the Long Term Care Administrator in June of 2012, and most recently was appointed as our Assistant Executive Director/Administrator overseeing our Long Term Care and Assisted Living areas. Cindy also volunteers her time to our community, and is probably best known as our "Tricky Tray" Coordinator and Chair of our Special Events Committee. These events have raised over \$50,000 for the Masonic Home, and the proceeds from these special events are directed to purchases that benefit our residents.

Cindy notes that our Masonic Home is always trying to improve both the quality of care and the quality of life for our residents. To this end, the Home's staff continue to work on resident-centered care. Resident centered care is care and services that are based on the goals of the individual as opposed to the goals of the doctor, other professionals or facility routine. Resident centered care involves shared decision making - so residents and families are involved not only in their healthcare decision making but also in the delivery of services. For example residents are asked, "Are you an early riser or do you like to sleep in and have a late breakfast?" The Home wants to provide care and services according to the residents' schedules or needs, not according to the community's schedule.

During her career Mrs. Shemansky has provided numerous presentations to healthcare organizations at the local, state and national level, on topics such as education in the long-term care setting, pain management, care at the end-of-life, abuse prevention and culture change. She is a published author, and the recipient of multiple awards. Cindy served as President of the National Gerontological Nursing Association (NGNA), and was afforded Fellowship status with this organization (FNGNA). Cindy has served on several National Advisory Boards, and currently serves as a National Advisory Committee Member for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and for the Northwest Health Foundation's Partners Investing in Nursing's Future. Cindy also is a member of NGNA's Advancing Excellence in America's Nursing Homes Task Force.

NEW
Course
Location!

Carlisle Golf Outing

Tuesday & Wednesday - August 4th & 5th, 2015

Thank You for Supporting our Masonic Youth, New Jersey DeMolay

1st Round of Golf: Lunch 11:00 AM & Tee time Noon

MAYAPPLE GOLF CLUB Carlisle, PA

with BBQ Lunch and Dinner on August 4th

2nd Round of Golf: Breakfast 7:00 AM & Tee time 8:00 AM

CUMBERLAND GOLF CLUB Carlisle, PA

With Breakfast and Lunch on August 5th

All meals served at golf course

PLUS: Hospitality Room (open bar)

Please make your \$160.00 golf check payable to: "Leo Otway"
and mail to: 22 Thornhill Court, Carlisle, PA 17015-7669
Questions? Call Leo 609-306-5647 or leootway@aol.com
Deadline by August 1, 2015

Hotel for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday are available at:
Allenberry Resort and Playhouse, 1559 Boiling Springs Road, Boiling Springs, PA 17007
Call (800) 430-5468 to make reservations and say "Masonic Golf Outing"

**Golf Cost:
\$160 per
Golfer**

Detach, complete and mail to "Leo Otway" 22 Thornhill Court, Carlisle, PA 17015

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION:

Name: _____ Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Others playing in your foursome:

Golfer #2 _____ Phone # _____

Golfer #3 _____ Phone # _____

Golfer #4 _____ Phone # _____

HOLE SPONSORS:

Tee Box Sign recognizing your lodge, chapter, district, business, etc. (Tax Exempt Donation)

☐ Bronze - \$100 ☐ Silver - \$300 ☐ Gold - \$500

Name: _____

E-mail (if none - Fax & Tel. #): _____

GOLF Hole Sponsors: (Sign wording): _____

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Grand Master's Fundraiser Golf Outing - 2015

Monday, June 15, 2015

Registration – 11 a.m.

Social Hour – 5:30 p.m.

Shotgun Start – 12:30 p.m.

Dinner, Prizes + Awards – 6:30 p.m.

Location - Sea Oaks Country Club, Little Egg Harbor, NJ 08087

Exit 58 GSP - Go to www.seaoaksgolf.com for more detailed directions

Outing Price Includes Golf

Lunch Served At The Main Club House

Grilled Hot Dogs, Sausage Peppers & Onions, Beer, Water & Soda

Social Hour - Complimentary Cocktail + Cheese Boards & U-Peel-Em Shrimp

NY STRIP STEAK DINNER – Grilled The Way You Like It

Only \$160.00 Per Golfer – Dinner Only \$50.00

Feel Like Staying Over?

Special Room Rates Have Been Arranged On Site

Only \$39.95 PP (Based On Double Occupancy) At "The Inn at Sea Oaks"

PLUS - A 25% Discount On a Round of Golf (Subject to Availability)

Good Anytime + Free Lunch Coupon At "The Tin Cup"

**All This
for Only
\$160**

Please detach, complete and mail this form, along with your check, payable to
"Masonic Charity Foundation – Grand Master's Outing" for \$160 per golfer to:
P.O. Box 331, Oxford, NJ 07863
Attn: James A. Taylor

Additional Donations Appreciated: \$ _____

Your Name _____

Your E-mail (If None, Your Phone Number) _____

Your Foursome Players _____

Any Questions?

Please contact Jim @ (908) 453-3365 or e-mail jat_dri_@one@yahoo.com

All Net Proceeds Go To The "Masonic Charity Foundation of New Jersey"

Grand Master's Fundraiser Golf Outing

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A Tee Box Sign Recognizing Your Lodge, District, Business, etc.

Come & Play & Have Some Fun

GRAND MASTER'S "CIRCLE OF DISTINCTION" SPONSORS

BRONZE SPONSORSHIP ~ \$250 ~ Golf Prizes & Awards

SILVER SPONSORSHIP ~ \$500 ~ Lunch & Beverages

GOLD SPONSORSHIP ~ \$1,000 ~ Social Hour & Dinner

**YES, I WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT
THE GRAND MASTER'S FUNDRAISER**

GOLF OUTING BY MAKING MY TAX-EXEMPT DONATION OF \$ _____

Please Detach: Complete & Mail This Form, With a Check Payable to:
"The Grand Master's Outing"
Mail to: James A. Taylor
P.O. Box 331
Oxford, NJ 07863

NAME: _____

E-Mail: (If None – Fax & Tel. #) _____

GOLF HOLE SPONSORS: (Sign Wording)

GRAND MASTER'S "CIRCLE OF DISTINCTION" SPONSORS – (Wording Desired)

PROCEEDS WILL SUPPORT THE MASONIC CHARITY FOUNDATION OF NEW JERSEY

ALL DONATIONS & INFORMATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY JUNE 8, 2015

Any Questions? Please contact RW James A. Taylor @ (908) 453-3365 or e-mail jat_dri_@one@yahoo.com

Golf Outing June 15, 2015

Sea Oaks Country Club, Little Egg Harbor, NJ 08087

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902 Jacksonville Road
Burlington, New Jersey 08016



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