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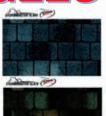


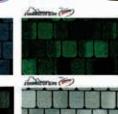


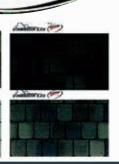
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### Schedule

Fall 2017

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

### **Letter from the Editor**

Welcome back my Brothers,

I truly hope you had a restful summer break and now you are ready to get back to Lodge business. There are many new initiatives that our Grand Master has in store for the New Jersey Freemason this year. I won't steal his thunder and divulge what M.W. Hees is planning, you'll see his thoughts in his article. I believe you will see it as the right plan of action to serve the Craft in the most efficient and effective manner. I for one am very excited to see what I think is a positive move forward and the future in publishing.

With that said let me get back to business and say that I'm looking forward to further serving my Brethren and the Grand Lodge in spreading Light, Education and all the information the Freemasons of New Jersey need.

As always, please send all your feedback, articles, and any other news to EditorNJF@yahoo.com.

4-20

Yours in the Craft,

R.W. Cory Sigler, PGC

Editor

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### Brethren,

Each year the Grand Master has specific charities that they wish to donate to with the help of the fraternity. MW Hees has chosen two organizations he wishes to donate money to. They are the Children's Dyslexia Center and the United States Coast Guard Station in Cape May, New Jersey.

The Coast Guard is the only branch of the service that does not have a monument. There will be a monument constructed in Cape May, with the square and compasses engraved on the monument to show everyone who visits there that Freemasonry had a role in constructing the monument.

For over two decades, the Scottish Rite Masons, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, have been national leaders in the effort to help children and their families overcome the painful obstacles of dyslexia. With more than 40 Dyslexia Centers in 13 states, the Children's Dyslexia Centers tackle the challenge of dyslexia head-on, both by providing free tutoring for children with dyslexia and by training a growing cadre of highly skilled and dedicated tutors.

In support of this we are offering the Grand Master's Challenge Coin. The cost is \$20.00 and if you would like to have one mailed to you it would be an additional \$3.00 for shipping and handling. Please contact RW Peter Saunders to order yours via email at <a href="mailto:asst.sec2gm2017@gmail.com">asst.sec2gm2017@gmail.com</a>. The supply is limited and it is first come first served on ordering.





Thank you for your support for these very worthy charities and your commitment to helping the Grand Master bring the Light of Freemasonry to the World.

RW Peter Saunders Assistant Secretary to the Grand Master 2017



## **Grand Master's Message**



# Living Freemasonry. It Starts With You.

My dear brothers, I hope this edition of New Jersey Freemason

reaches you enjoying the long light days of summer. As I think about the state of our beloved craft, I've come to the conclusion that we must become "better" first which paves the way for "bigger" to follow. By directing our energy towards better quality, better expectations, better attitudes, better cooperation, better communication, better mentoring, better expectations, better relations, we will, in fact, become "better" men. That manifestation will, in my estimation, result in sustained membership growth.

Betty Botter's Better Batter

Betty Botter had some butter,
"But," she said, "this butter's bitter.
If I bake this bitter butter,
It would make my batter bitter.
But a bit of better butter,
That would make my batter better."
So she bought a bit of butter Better than her bitter butter And she baked it in her batter;
And the batter was not bitter.
So 'twas better Betty Botter
Bought a bit of better butter.

Adjectives such as mediocrity, average, easier, dumbing-down should not be acceptable to us as Freemasons. We must not give up on our legacy. We must work at constantly improving ourselves so we effectively live our Masonry. This means we must practice our values, serve our community and country, and take care of each other. This is what we do.

From a related perspective, it seems un-Masonic to whine, complain, blame or be bitter. The state of our beloved fraternity starts with you. And it can stop with you: your attitude, your outlook, your support, and your thoughts. Whether you think you can or you think you cannot, you are right. It is a lot easier to give 100% to something and feel a sense of accomplishment. It is about leading and serving for the good of our society so others will become inspired to say, "I want to be like him."

To help strengthen our craft, we recently completed a survey covering six key areas of Lodge activity. The program is called LCE: Lodge of Continued Excellence. The next step will occur this fall with a Masonic Tool Kit to be comprised of experts in six key areas covering management, operations, structures, finances, future planning, and security. Some Lodges chose not to participate in this voluntary program which is regrettable. But that aside, the exercise is meant for Lodges to honestly appraise themselves and address those needs to cement the necessary foundation required for Masonry's next 300 years.

Preparations for celebrations commemorating the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Grand Lodge of England on Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup> are well under way. The facility has a maximum seating capacity of 325, so govern yourselves accordingly. We are using this event as an opportunity to

support our charities which this year are focused on the Coast Guard Memorial in Cape May and the Scottish Rite Children's Dyslexia Centers of New Jersey. We have special commemorative challenge coins available for a \$20 donation. Visit here if you want to help. Last but not least, we are asking for your support in an AD Book which will be distributed at the celebration as well as around the state.

Your support is greatly appreciated.

We hope you enjoy this first electronic NJ Freemason. Other programs and initiatives are forthcoming so we may Live in the Present and Prepare for the Future together by using our Masonic GPS – Groundwork, Passion, Skills. Fraternally,

M.W. Dieter B. Hees Grand Master

### GM's 2017 Calendar

### **August**

- 5 20th Masonic Awards Luncheon
- 6 Bermuda Cruise
- 11 Rainbow Convention
- 16 Board Meeting & Deputy School
- 19 First Lady Evelyn's Ladies Epicurean Night
- 20 Lakewood Blueclaws Game
- 26 Supreme Council Session

#### September

- 1 Convenant Lodge #161
- 2 Fun Shoot
- 6 Table Lodge-Rising Sun Lodge #15
- 7 OV 21st & 22nd District
- 9 OES Reception
- 10 East Orange Veteran Home
- 12 OV 18th & 19th District
- 14 OV Gold Collar Degree
- 15 Atlas Pythagoras Lodge #10
- 20 Board Meeting & Deputy School
- 21 PV Mosaic Lodge 50 yr pin MW Kaulfers
- 23 Car Show
- 24 Mashall Picnic
- 25 Teddy Bear Classic
- 30 PV 21st Dist Beefsteak

### **October**

- 1 Delaware Annual Communication
- 4 PV Speaking @ Navesink Lodge #9
- 5 OV Gold Collar MM Degree
- 7 JGW Reception
- 8 Hispanic Day Parade
- 9 PV Guest Merchantville Lodge #19
- 14 Potentate Ball
- 15 PV Glasstown Brewery Fundraiser
- 18 Board Meeting & Deputy School
- 19 PV Mosaic Table Lodge
- 20 Jerusalem Lodge Bicentennial Year event
- 21 Statewide Fall Reunion
- 24 OV 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Reception
- 27 MLC Elizabethtown



# **Deputy Grand Master's Message**

My Brothers,

As I travel throughout our Grand jurisdiction speaking to many of you about the history and the purpose of our fraternity, I find it interesting that a large number of our members find it rather difficult to articulate clearly the answers to two very simple questions "Where did Freemasons come from, and what Freemasons do?"

Understanding our background and the evolvement of our fraternity will allow us to not only appreciate the rich history we have, but also understand what we as a fraternity really do. Looking back at our history, we know that speculative Masons hid under the umbrella of operative Masonic lodges to discuss various philosophies and ideas. Why did they need to hide, you might ask? With the rise of modern and organized religions, the teachings of ancient mysteries, traditions, and sciences were challenged and fought, causing a number of hostile conflicts. As we study the teachings of these ancient mysteries and traditions, we find a common thread amongst most of them, which is that Man is capable of transforming himself to become better, a process that is commonly known as Spiritual Alchemy. This concept is also embedded in our ritual, as we teach the newly initiated apprentice the importance of transforming himself, symbolically, from a rough ashlar to a perfect ashlar. This process is achievable without the need to rely on the organization of an establishment where Man had to go through for salvation.

As the establishment became part of the governing bodies, any opposition or threat to it was considered blasphemy and was punishable by death. Those "Philosophers" who wanted to discuss and preserve scientific findings, mysticism and ancient traditions had no choice but to "hide" in operative lodges, and transmit these teachings, from one member to another by "mouth to ear". Members were warned not to print, paint, stamp, stain, cut, carve or engrave any of these teachings for the fear that they might fall in the hands of governing authorities, who would no doubt prosecute the members and possibly put them to death.

As the age of enlightenment arrived and the culture of the societies changed, written Masonic documents started to appear, and then three hundred years ago, Freemasonry was organized under the helm of a Grand Lodge. The renaissance revolution changed the culture of society dramatically at that time. The study of Music, Science, Philosophy, and Art opened people's minds, completely replacing the medieval-world views and ushered in our modern western world. During this period, Masonic teachings were transcribed into ritual. One of the biggest debates of the time was deciding on which allegorical drama to include in the ritual of the third degree: The Hiramic Legend or the Noahtic Legend (as both were adopted in lodges at the time). During this same period, we find the rise of the Swedish Rite as yet another variation the common masonic practices. The Swedish rite, which is practiced in Scandinavian countries and to a lesser extent in Germany, has an integrated system of ten degrees, not three. It is different than conventional Masonic practices whereby rather than moving officers up through the chairs, progress in the Swedish Rite is based on advancing through the ten degrees. One fundamental difference in the Swedish Rite's

organization is related to religious affiliation. Freemasonry as recognized by the United Grand Lodge of England and most regular Grand Lodges around the world, require

from its members a belief in a Supreme Being and thus accept candidates of any theistic religion; whereas Swedish Masonry requires candidates to have a Christian Trinitarian belief. Nonetheless, today, the main Swedish Rite constitutions are all recognized as regular by the United Grand Lodge of England, and stand in full amity.

Throughout history, Masonry took different forms in the delivery of its teachings yet it was able to maintain its core message. John J. Robinson, author of Born in Blood, argues that the problem with Freemasonry today is that we no longer practice Freemasonry. Is this true? Have we become such a social group and abandoned who we truly are, and now became similar to all those other struggling social groups. What do we have to offer differently to our members? We need to ask ourselves what separates us from other fraternal groups? Our answer lies in our history and ritual. Everything we do in Freemasonry has a purpose embedded in it by our forefathers. There is a reason why we sit in parallel rows in the lodge with the altar in the middle. Did I just state we call it an altar? Several years ago we stopped calling our Lodges temples for fear of the public misinterpretation. Were we right to do so? We have made public statements declaring that we have no secrets. Does our ritual not contain hidden truths? Has watering down the value of our history and mystery and changing our traditions to appease the profane society help in any way increase our membership? Or let alone stop it from shrinking? I do not believe so. Men who knock on our doors are looking for something special. They are looking for fraternal brotherhood, where members care for one another as much as they do for their biological families. They are also looking for Relief, where members can stand by each other in good time as well as in bad. Equally important, they are also looking for Truth! Since our job is to make Masons, we must truly offer all three tenets to our members and not ignore any of them.

My Brothers, to prosper we must change. We cannot expect different results by doing the exact same thing over and over again. I am not advocating changing who we are or what we do, but I am urging you to reflect on the things that we can change to improve the Masonic experience and value of membership to our members. If you feel that your lodge is not prospering, then I call on you to reflect on what really makes us Freemasons and differentiates us from other fraternal organizations out there. Think of new ways to improve the masonic experience and the value it provides to members. Study the protocol manual, practice the sacred retreat, make your meetings memorable and your collations special.

Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth, my Brothers.... Freemasonry is a way of life.

Roger Quintana Deputy Grand Master



# Senior Grand Warden's Message



Greetings Brothers;

I would like to thank everyone for all your well wishes and acts of kindness that I have received

since I underwent my double knee replacement. I am rehabilitating nicely and looking forward to being out and about throughout our Grand Jurisdiction. As I write this brief statement from the confines of my Lazy Boy recliner, everything seems to be put into perspective. Over the past several months in my travels to the Conference of Grand Masters, the Masonic Communities and Services Association Conference and visitations to our neighboring Grand Jurisdictions, the main topic and focus of attention is on Masonic Outreach. A lot of Grand Lodges are doing away with the brick and mortar Masonic homes and centers due to the many financial challenges and economic demands. Here in New Jersey I believe we can do both. We are witnessing the rebirth of our Masonic Village at Burlington through effective management and operational changes in the way we operate to be a more efficient and cost-conscious operation. The Grand Master and Elected Line in conjunction with several committees and our Masonic Charity Foundation are looking into and developing an outreach program here in New Jersey to service the needs and support of all our Brothers and families throughout the state. My Brothers, each one of us is our fraternity's best asset and we must develop and nurture each other. Going from 100 miles an hour to about 1 is very traumatic and I now see how being confined to one's own home and not being able to function as one is accustomed to is quite debilitating and leaves you with a

sense of loneliness and dependence on others since you are now unable to do what once came easily. We must protect these assets and reach out to those Brothers who we have not seen or heard from in a while. It does not take much to make a call or stop by to see if those Brothers could use a hand. Charity begins at home and we must take care of our own and become a tight, united family. Hopefully, this might aid in the loss of Brothers and we can put a positive spin on our membership. It is a great time of year to reach out to a friend, associate, family member or anyone who has interest in our Fraternity and extend an invitation to experience our Masonic Family and get to know what we are all about. Each one of us can make a difference and rejuvenate the best Fraternity in the world!

I look forward to seeing you and enjoying Masonic Fellowship and Brotherhood at the Grand Master's trip to Washington D.C., Master Mason Degree on the Battleship New Jersey and the 300th Gala Anniversary of Freemasonry to be held September 17<sup>th</sup> at the Liberty House in Jersey City. So, get out there and spread the word. Be a part of the solution, not the problem.

Fraternally Yours, Strength in Unity.

Gregory J. Scott Senior Grand Warden

# SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday, NOVEMBER 15, 2017

Join NJ Scottish Rite in Celebrating our New Sovereign Grand Commander, New Jersey's own III. David A. Glattly 33°

> at the Seasons Catering, Washington Township, NJ Social hour 5:30 PM, Cost: \$100 per person

Arrangements are being made for a room block at a nearby hotel. For additional information, please contact Bill Anderson 201-437-0578 or e-mail williama 134@aol.com.



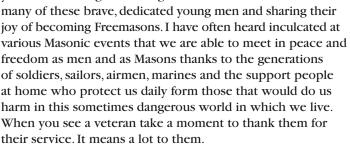
# **Junior Grand Warden's Message**

### Lest We Forget.

A few nights back I walked into Acacia Lodge #20 in Dover for a speaking engagement. As I entered the building I caught a glimpse of a tarnished old plaque that hung on the opposite wall just to the left of the entrance. It was dedicated to those brethren from lodge who had served in the armed forces during The Great War 1917-1918. There were twenty two brethren listed on that memorial, most of them now forgotten to history. While I looked at the old bronze tablet I remembered that in my mother lodge, Azure Masada #22, we had such a memorial just to the right of the outer door to the lodge room. I am sure that in many of the older lodges there are similar plaques placed to commemorate the service of their brethren in the terrible conflict of one hundred years ago.

When I was growing up there were still a few veterans of World War I around and occasionally I had the privilege to meet a Doughboy and listen to his reminiscences. They are all gone now, just names on a forgotten plaque in an obscure corner of an old building. They may be gone but our appreciation their service and sacrifice should remain as fresh in our minds today as it was on the day their memorial plaques were dedicated.

Now, a century later, a new generation of veterans is joining the ranks of our gentle craft. I have been privileged over the last several years of attending the raising of

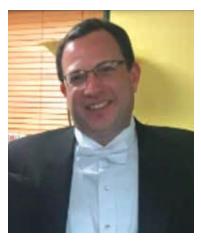


May God bless our veterans, our military and all those who protect our way of life.

Fraternally,

R.W. Robert V. Monacelli Junior Grand Warden

## **Meet our Grand Historian of Events**



Brethren,

I would like to introduce you to the Grand Historian of Events for the 2017 Masonic year, R.W. Michael S. Neuberger. I have asked Brother Michael to tell us a little about himself since you will be seeing his name very often this year in the New Jersey Freemason.

Brother Michael was initiated into Loyalty

Lodge No. 33 in March 2004, passed to Fellowcraft April 2004 and raised as Master Mason June 2004. In 2014, he became Worshipful Master of Loyalty Lodge. Some accomplishments of his year in the East included:

- Response of the Worshipful Masters Delivered the Response of the Worshipful Masters at Grand Lodge April 2012
- Served on the reception committee of RW's Braun, Gant, Silverman, and Thoma (March 10, 2012)
- Grand Lodge of Instruction 2012 Sat in the East for

- the Second Section of the Master Mason Degree for the 10<sup>th</sup> District
- One Day Class 2013 Sat in the East for the Master Mason Degree's First and Second Sections

Brother Michael, in addition, has delivered various Lectures on Masonic History and Philosophy at various Lodges and other York Rite bodies, including the NJ AMD Ingatherings in 2011, 2012, 2015, 2017. Various topics included: "The Grave Scene of Hiram Abiff", "The Blazing Star", Is Arguing with God Good for the Soul", and "Twelve Guilty Men".

I am confident that Michaels' contributions to the Grand Lodge as Historian of Events will be an outstanding contribution and enhance the New Jersey Freemason for benefit to all the Brethren.

Good luck and I look forward to all the great articles this year.

Yours in the Craft,

Coy Syl

R.W. Cory Sigler, PGC Editor



MW Dieter B. Hees **Grand Master** dbhees@gmail.com

100 Barrack Street Trenton, NJ 08608-2008 Cell 732-300-4860

# An Appeal for Action

My Dear Brothers,

One of our highlight events this year centers on celebrating the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Grand Lodge of England. In support of that, we are soliciting advertisements for an ad book that will be published and widely distributed at that gala dinner. Proceeds from the ad book will go towards one of our principal charities which is the construction of the US Coast Guard Memorial.

Ads may be Masonic or business related.

Though our Lodges are "dark" for summer, the deadline for the ads is September 1st. The ads for the booklet are full page only and the donation for the ad is \$150. Checks for the tax deductible donation can be made payable to the Masonic Charity Foundation of New Jersey and **MUST** be mailed to Michael Neuberger, 28 Ormont Road, Chatham, NJ 07928. Please include a notation on vour check that reads Coast Guard Memorial. All artwork (PDFs or jpg files) for your ad should be sent to GL2017Artwork@gmail.com

With fraternal thanks and regards,

itu B. Hers

M.W. Dieter B. Hees Grand Master





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Part of the proceeds to benefit the Grand Masters Coast Guard Memorial in Cape May, NJ

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2:00PM to 7:00PM

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Limited to 330 People (first come first serve) RSVP by September 1, 2017 Checks Payable to "The Masonic Charity Foundation"

Mail To:

Moises I. Gomez, 526 Kaplan Street, Roselle, NJ 07203



# A Rebuttal to "A Spiritual Journey with Spice"

Dear Associate Editor Martin Bogardus,

I am writing this letter to you as a rebuttal to an article I read in the Spring, 2017 edition of the New Jersey Freemason magazine. The article I refer you to is entitled "A Spiritual Journey with Spice." In the fifth paragraph on pg. 52 of this article I read a quote, which appears to be attributed to Illustrious Brother Manly P. Hall, which makes a statement that I find to be patently untrue. The quote in question is "A true Mason is not creed-bound. He realizes with the divine illumination of his lodge that as a Mason his religion must be universal: Christ, Buddha or Mohammad, the name means little, for he recognizes only the light and not the bearer. He worships at every shrine, bows before every altar, whether in temple, mosque or cathedral, realizing with his truer understanding the oneness of all spiritual truth."

I need to say at the start that I understand the idea behind this statement and do not believe it was meant to deliberately offend or upset the reader, and although I take issue with it on the whole, I recognize that it does contains some elements of truth about our gentle craft. However, I do believe that this imperative for what "a true mason" believes to be false and misleading. In fact if this where indeed the case I would be forced to leave Masonry altogether. Let's start with the first assertion "A true Mason is not creed bound." This is not true, Masonry is not a religion. In the lodges of England where modern Masonry was founded they are adamant about this. If you try to anoint Masonry with the designation of religion they will bristle with anger. To drive this point home the lodge rooms in the UK don't have altars, they have "pedestals."

No; the fact about a true Mason is quite the opposite; we are creed bound - "We do not come to lodge for religion but with religion." We each have our own faith and beliefs and we do not check our religion at the door of lodge. How can we? A man's faith is part of who he is; like DNA, it can't be

taken off and on like a piece of clothing. That is one of the reasons free Masonry is so special. We all meet on the level and accept each brother for who he is, we would never ask a brother to not be true to himself or his faith. A mason's religion therefore is not "universal", we are free to practice and live the faith of our choice. What is universal is our dedication and devotion to God and our ability to recognize each man's right to give the reverence and adoration which is due from the creature to the Creator in his own way.

I am a committed Christian and my faith teaches me there is no other way to the Father but through the Son; my Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ. For me the name Jesus Christ does not "mean little" it means a lot; it means everything. And although I respect other faiths and would defend their right to be freely practiced I will never bow to another shrine, alter, temple, mosque or profit; but always and everywhere only to Jesus. When it comes to faith there is only one truth for me; not a universal one. Although I realize that this statement may offend someone; that is not my intention. As a Mason, I am not required to meet other religions on the level only the brothers that practice them.

Sitting in lodge and listening to a brother spread light that is based on a faith different than mine is not the equivalent of bowing to his faith or of abandoning my own. That part of the quote is true; Masons can appreciate and recognize light without recognizing the bearer. It is what helps us to become better men. The more we know about our brothers, their faith and world views the better we can understand them and their people. Mason's so enlightened improve themselves, their communities and the world.

Fraternally yours, WB Scott P Vicari Worshipful Master USS NJ Lodge No. 62 F.& A.M.



# The content of this publication comes from you, our readers.

We want to know what's going on in your lodge. We're looking for articles on:

Lodge News

Education

**Editorial** 

**Upcoming Events** 

Submit content to:

EditorNJF@yahoo.com

# **Masonic Village Ambassador**



MW Dieter B. Hees, Chairman of Masonic Charity Foundation of New Jersey, has appointed me to be a member of his staff for 2017 as the Ambassador of your Masonic Villages. I'm proud of the position and hope to begin to be the envoy between the Masonic Villages/Masonic Home and our Masonic Family. The position was not created to replace anyone or anything but to enhance communication between the two entities.

During the twelve years I have served as a Trustee of the Masonic Charity Foundation, I have always made an effort to know not only the Staff but more importantly to get to know the residents and their families when the opportunity presents itself. Members of our Fraternity have many times contacted me with questions, admission and other issues. I have been able to ease family concerns as they make important decisions regarding loved ones needing the available services of our Masonic Village.

I will continue to make myself available for anyone and be able to mediate or assist in any matter that may be brought to my attention.

I will accept speaking engagements throughout our Fraternity. Please contact me at 609-220-1110 or daviddorworth@verizon.net.



David A. Dorworth PGM, Trustee MCF. Ambassador

# **Grand Lodge Recognizes 2017 Educator of the Year**

Submitted by Bob Gaydosh, Raritan Valley Lodge No.46

Allison O'Neill, a literacy support teacher at Whiton Elementary School in Branchburg, was recently named "Educator of the Year" by the Grand Lodge of New Jersey. Ms. O'Neill was nominated for the award by Raritan Valley Lodge No. 46 of Somerville and the 12th Masonic District. O'Neill was presented her award at the Grand Lodge of NJ Annual Communication in Atlantic City. She was also recognized by Raritan Valley Lodge No. 46 and the 12th Masonic District at a recent meeting.

In her second year at Whiton Elementary School, O'Neill is involved in a myriad of programs both inside and outside of the classroom, including coordinating community service projects for her students. In a letter supporting her nomination, Whiton Principal Dee Shober called O'Neill a "professional, caring and creative" educator who goes above and beyond regular duties each day to help her students and enhance the greater school community.

"We are very proud that Allison, as our nominee, was named Educator of the Year for the entire state," said Chris Kechula, Worshipful Master of Raritan Valley Lodge No. 46. Kechula added "Allison is a wonderful representative of the important work that teachers perform every day."

WM Kechula was joined by RW Raymond P. Helge, DDGM of the 12th Masonic District, and RW Gary Engelhardt, PGH, Chairman of the Grand Lodge "Educator of the Year" program, in honoring Ms. O'Neill at the Raritan Valley Lodge No. 46 meeting. Ms. O'Neill was accompanied by a large group of family members, who proudly watched her receive the honor.

The Masonic fraternity has been a longtime supporter of education, particularly special education, with its ongoing commitment to learning centers for children with dyslexia and other learning disabilities. The Grand Lodge of New

Jersey has for many years sponsored a competition to honor New Jersey teachers. After winning the local lodge and 12th Masonic District awards, O'Neill, who lives in Flemington, was chosen from among 19 district winners from around the state as the Grand Lodge of New Jersey "Educator of the Year." Most Worshipful Walter R. Kaulfers, Grand Master of Masons of the State of NJ, presented O'Neill with her award at the Grand Lodge annual communication.



Allison O'Neill with MW Walter R. Kaulfers at the 2017 Grand Lodge Annual Communication in



Allison O'Neill with WM Chris Kechula of Raritan Valley Lodge No. 46



Allison O'Neill with RW Raymond P.



# **Grand Master's Reception**

Submitted by R.W.Michael S. Neuberger, Grand Historian, 2017

On the 29<sup>th</sup> of April, a lovely day in Burlington, New Jersey, the Craft gathered together to honor our Most Worshipful Dieter B. Hees, Grand Master of Masons of the State of New Jersey at his reception. The brethren were in their best tuxedos, the women elegantly dressed in beautiful gowns, and the elected line and Past Grand Masters sharply dressed in white dinner jackets, that would put Humphry Bogart to shame (for you younglings, I suggest Casablanca for the Bogart reference).

The evening began with a church service at 3:00 pm, social at 4:00 pm, dinner at 5:00 pm, and the reception began 6:30 pm sharp (Grand Master time of course).

The Grand Marshal, R.W. Keith Herman, struck the door to alert the Junior Deacon of Sunrise Lodge No. 288, our hosts for the evening, that the Grand Master was prepared to enter. With full pomp and pageantry, the 2017 staff entered the lodge, and as the Grand Master approached the alter, an eruption of applause was heard from the room. "Worshipful Master", said the Grand Marshal, "I present Most Worshipful Dieter B. Hees, Grand Master of Masons of the State of New Jersey". He was then escorted to the east and W.B. Roy J. Rowley, Worshipful Master of Sunrise Lodge No. 288, the mother lodge of our Grand Master, presented the Grand Master to the audience, which was then followed by the public grand honors, taking time from the Grand Marshal. Afterwards, the Grand Marshal proceeded to announce the elected line and the Past Grand Masters, who were all escorted to the east, presented to the audience, and rounds of applause were given. Seated in the east was the elected line and the District Deputy Grand Master of the 20th Masonic District, R.W. Vincent E. Etzel.

As always with Freemasonry, we acknowledge our links to the past, and the 2016 staff was escorted into the lodge by the 2016 Grand Marshal, who proceeded to introduce the youngest Past Grand Master, Most Worshipful Walter R. Kaulfers, Past Grand Master 2016.

R.W. Michael S. Rothman, Grand Chaplain of the 10<sup>th</sup> Masonic District gave the opening benediction, asking the Supreme Architect to look after our Grand Master, the elected line, our Fraternity, and the Armed Forces of the United States of America.

The Grand Master proceeded to lead the brethren in a pledge of allegiance to our country and the singing of our national anthem.

The program for the evening led off with the Grand Master presenting M.W. Kaulfers with his Past Grand Master's jewel; may he wear it with distinction and in good health. M.W. Kaulfers thanked the Grand Master, his staff, and then the brethren. He then presented a Reward of Merit to Brother Christopher S. Abbott for his devotion to the Craft and the great work he performed during the 2016 year.

A stunning rendition of "Anthem" from the Broadway Musical Chess, was performed by R.W. Glenn Boothby, Grand Soloist. A moving song about a man's love for his country. The song ends, "My land's only borders lie around my beart". No matter how far we may travel, we never truly leave our great nation.

W.B. Rowley next introduced Master Chief Petty Officer Brian A. Diner, Chairman Coast Guard Memorial Fund, Cape May, New Jersey. Officer Diner shared a few stories with the audience about the bravery of the Coast Guard and of those who gave their full measure to defend and protect their country in both times of war and times of peace. Currently, there is no national memorial to the Coast Guard, and one is being planned for construction at Cape May, the training center for the Coast Guard. This will be one of the main charities of the Grand Master for ensuing masonic year. From the Coast Guard's website:

The Coast Guard Enlisted Memorial is planned for the grounds of Training Center Cape May, NJ, the current birthplace of the U.S. Coast Guard's enlisted corps. The site will be centered on three granite walls which identify by name the over 1,500 Coast Guard men and women who perished in the performance of Coast Guard missions. The names begin in 1915, the year the Revenue Cutter Service and U.S. Life Saving Service were merged and Congress formalized the existence of the U.S. Coast Guard.

Additional information can be found at http://www.cgemf.org/.

R.W. Charles Kurowsky, Grand Soloist moved the audience with "This is My Country". As the lyrist sates, "I pledge thee my allegiance, America, the bold."

W.B. Rowley next introduced Most Worshipful Daniel M. Wilson, Past Grand Master 2004, Deputy New Jersey Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, who spoke about the second charity our Grand Master will be supporting this year, the Scottish Rite Children's Dyslexia Centers of New Jersey. Additional information about this worthwhile charity can be found at http://childrensdyslexiacenters.org/Home.aspx.

W.B. Rowley next introduced Brother Abbott who gave an update on the Masonic Villages at Burlington.

R.W. Boothby returned to wow the audience with "*This is the Moment*" from the Broadway Musical Jekyll and Hyde. The lyrics include, "*This is the time, When the momentum and the moment Are in rhyme!*" The Grand Master stated, that this is not "My" moment, but OUR moment, to move Freemasonry forward to continue to improve and always strive for excellence.

R.W. E. James Gersten, Aide to the Grand Master, introduced the Grand Master, and eloquently spoke about the Grand Master's devotion to his family, fellow employees, and of

# **Grand Master's Reception**



continued from page 14

course the Craft. How he goes out of his way to help others. It can be said, one need not honor and respect the office of Grand Master, but honor and respect the man himself.

The Grand Master took the podium to a rousing applause, and thanked R.W. Gertsen for the warm introduction. He thanked his wife, Evelyn, the brethren of his mother lodge, Sunrise Lodge No. 288, the elected line, and of course the brethren who in April 2014 elected him Junior Grand Warden.

He talked about the two masons most influential in his life, his father a PDDGM from New York, and Earl Sutton of Tuckerton Lodge No. 4. Members of his father's lodge from Long Island, New York were in attendance and recognized by the Grand Master, as was Brother Sutton's wife.

He then proceeded to present his goals for 2017, which included many programs. To state just a few:

- (i) support for the Coast Guard Memorial, the Children's Dyslexia Centers, and the Masonic Villages of Burlington;
- (ii) Super GLI's;
- (iii) Appointing the first Ambassador to the Masonic Village and a Grand Chaplain of Florida to work with our New Jersey retirees;
- (iv) a Continued Excellence Program to raise the bar of New Jersey Freemasonry;
- (v) Helping the Special Olympics, Wreaths Across America, DeMolay, and Rainbow;

- (vi) Lodge Security;
- (vii) Working with Lodges to build for the future using Strength, Weakness, Opportunity, and Threat (SWOT) analyses;
- (viii) Creating an under 35 network for younger masons;
- (ix) Maximizing electronic media via Facebook, an updated Grand Lodge website experience, a Constant Contact Grand Lodge e-Newsletter, and Live webcams;
- (x) and many more programs, including an updated Perfect Ashlar and reinvigorating the Officer's Training Day.

The Grand Master laid out a truly ambitious plan for the future. "An organization can be determined by its future", said the Grand Master, "but we must determine our own future." He concluded his remarks with a quote from Benjamin Franklin, Past Grand Master of Pennsylvania 1734, "Be civil to all; sociable to many; familiar with few; friend to one; enemy to none."

R.W. Herman proceeded to flawlessly introduce all current and past Grand Lodge Officers in attendance, followed by the Grand Master introducing R.W. Herman. It was indeed an impressive feat.

M.W. Hees then closed Sunrise Lodge No. 288, with R.W. Donald H. Canetti, Grand Chaplain All Florida, offering the closing prayer.

It was an uplifting and exciting evening.

# The New Jersey Freemason Reaches Thousands of Brethren

The New Jersey Freemason is the official publication of the New Jersey Freemasons. We distribute the publication in the Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. Please contact John Ryan at jsr@njmasonic.org to place your advertisement. Increase your business awareness amongst the brethren. Let us help you grow your business.

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# **Super Grand Lodge of Instruction**

Submitted by R.W.Michael S. Neuberger, Grand Historian 2017

The morning of May 13, 2017, was cold, wet, and dreary. The sky was grey. From the dashboard of my car, it was like the horizon and the sky blended into a single blur of cold and mist. The heavens opened, and a deluge of rain descended in an unrelenting downpour. The rain poured and pounded the pavement. The highway was littered with stalled cars, flashing lights, fender benders, the morning was not fit for man or beast.

And then I saw it. On Barrack Street, a rainbow of sunshine, an eternal flame of light, a beacon of enlightenment had shone over the Masonic Temple, as the Craft gathered for the second Super Grand Lodge of Instruction.

Today the brethren of the 19<sup>th</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup> Masonic Districts, summoned by Most Worshipful Gerald J. Sharpe, PGM 2014, the Right Worshipful Grand Ritual Instructor under the direction of Most Worshipful Dieter B. Hees, Grand Master of Masons of the State of New Jersey, came to display their ritual acumen. Some 300 brethren arrived before 9:00 am to practice our grand ritual, to ensure its unimpaired transmission to a future generation of officers.

The proficiencies examined that day included an

- (i) Opening;
- (ii) Balloting;
- (iii) Entered Apprentice Degree (1st section up to the candidate's placement in the North East corner);
- (iv) Fellowcraft Degree (2<sup>nd</sup> section);
- (v) Master Mason Degree (2<sup>nd</sup> section, beginning with the funeral procession); and

(vi) a Closing.

It was hard to tell who was more nervous, the officers or the District Deputies and District Ritual Instructors. (My money was on the Deputies.)

The brethren were divided between the Ionic Lodge room, Doric Lodge room, and the Library. It was nice to see these grand rooms filled with brethren practicing our ancient craft.

The Grand Master greeted the brethren, and spoke about two initiatives this year regarding Wreaths Across America and the Coast Guard Memorial, two initiatives devoted to honoring our armed forces. The Grand Master asked lodges to adopt a cemetery within their districts, to lay a wreath upon a fallen soldier, to let that soldier's family know that their sacrifice will never be forgotten.

The brethren performed splendidly that day. The Deputies gave a universal sigh of relief, it was over. The brethren were jubilant at their success. The Grand Ritual Instructor was delighted with the great work that was performed that day. No doubt, our ritual is safe in the hands of a new line of officers.

As I drove home that day, the rain continued to fall, and I remembered a prayer recited on Shemini Atzeret:

You are Adonai, our God Who causes the wind to blow and the rain to fall. For Blessing and not for curse.Amen.

For Life and not for death.Amen. For plenty and not for lack.Amen.

It was indeed a blessed day.

## **Volume V Pre-orders Available Until October 1**

The Masonic Service Association of North America is now taking pre-orders for Volume V of its famed Short Talk Bulletins series. This volume will cover the years 1983-1997. Special pre-order pricing will only be available until October 1, 2017.

With the exception of Volume I, which has sold out, each volume in the series can now be ordered online at www.msana.com.Anticipated shipping for Volume V is late fall of 2017.

The special pre-order pricing of \$68 for the Master Mason edition, and \$123 for the Grand Master Edition, offers significant savings. A lodge can also order the Master Mason edition, when paid by lodge check only, for only \$58. Shipping is included in the United States. Out of country pricing is available at the MSA office, 301-76-7330.

This treasure of Masonic knowledge, that no Masonic library should be without, is edited by noted Masonic scholar Dr. S. Brent Morris. The nearly 700 pages in Volume V are edited and re-typeset from the original Short Talk Bulletins. Subjects include "Ideas and Leadership," "Forever Conceal and Never Reveal," and "The Boston Tea Party." The 180 topics included in Volume V cover Freemasonry in the Lodge, Literature, Philosophy, Individual Masons, Historical Freemasonry, and many others.

The Short Talk Bulletin has been printed continuously each month since January 1923. They are acknowledged as the widest distributed Masonic



publication in the world, sent to every MSA member lodge and Grand Lodge officer free of charge. Subscriptions are available for \$12 per year at www.msana.com.

Simon R. LaPlace, Executive Secretary
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# 24th Annual Polar Bear Plunge





Team Hiram On Ice... we came, we froze, we plunged, and we raised money to benefit Special Olympics New Jersey, again! February 25, 2017 was the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Polar Bear Plunge at Seaside Heights New Jersey and plungers in total raised \$1.9 million for Special Olympics New Jersey. This year was Team Hiram On Ice's ninth consecutive year plunging into the frigid Atlantic to benefit Special Olympics New Jersey. Last year Team Hiram On Ice's 57 team members raised \$17,582, and this year the team membership increased to 62 members who raised \$20,102!

We would like to thank the 62 members of Team Hiram On Ice for their fundraising efforts as well as those who support the Team in all their Masonic efforts. We would like to especially thank Sunrise Lodge No. 288 and Harmony Lodge No. 18 in Toms River for hosting the event and preparing an outstanding breakfast.

Although the warm summer sun and air has replaced our chills and shivers from our icy dip into the Atlantic Ocean,

we maintain the feeling and satisfaction of our fundraising accomplishments which provide no cost opportunities for the Special Olympics New Jersey athletes and their families, both on and off the sports fields. While our efforts were lengthy consisting of months of fundraising, and where the actual plunging was extremely brief, the impact of our efforts will last forever in the hearts and minds of Special Olympics New Jersey athletes and their families.

Team Hiram On Ice is always looking for supporters and new members to help raise funds for Special Olympics New Jersey to help provide training to athletes and send them to the Special Olympics Games. Being part of something bigger than yourself that benefits the lives of so many worthwhile athletes of Special Olympics New Jersey is a worthwhile experience that you don't want to miss out on! Won't you consider joining us for the next Polar Plunge!

WB Aditya Thaker Euclid Lodge No. 136 WB David Lorenc Mansfield Lodge No. 36







# The Rough Ashlars Conquer Battleship Degree



Submitted by Bro. Jonathan Dershowitz

On Tuesday, July 25th Mount Holly Lodge No. 14 hosted a Master Mason Degree aboard the USS New Jersey, using the newly created degree team "The Rough Ashlars."

All members of the team consisted of members all under 35 years old from 17 different lodges all over the state of New Jersey. Under the supervision of RW Bud Madgey, District Ritual Instructor of the 18th district, and WB Alex Churney, Worshipful Master of Mount Holly Lodge No. 14, the team spent a month practicing their ritual together allowing them time to bond and become one cohesive team.

Most Worshipful Dieter B. Hees honored us by attending the degree along with a large number of his Grand Staff. Each member of the staff was impressed with both the ritual of the Rough Ashlars, as well the huge turnout and support for this event by the Masonic Community.

The team was honored to raise four candidates that evening, two from Alpha Lodge No. 116, and two from Jerusalem Lodge No. 26, right on the deck of the New Jersey. Over 100 Masons were present from not just all over New Jersey, but there were also brothers from Pennsylvania, Virginia, and New York as well.

The degree was done as a fundraiser for the USS New Jersey. Between ticket sales, souvenir t-shirts, and raffle tickets to allow someone to shoot the 5 inch gun on the ship, the event was able to raise over \$3,000 for the ship. This was truly a successful evening of brotherhood and charity as well as a wonderful celebration of bringing four new brothers into the craft.

The Rough Ashlars will continue to do degrees over time and welcome any Brothers under 35 to reach out if they wish to join the team. If interested, please contact WB Churney at alexgchurney@gmail.com.





# **Masonic Renewal Committee of North America**



Submitted by MW William H. Berman, Secretary/Treasurer of the M.R.C.

The Masonic Renewal Committee (M.R.C.) is an incorporated body of the Conference of Grand Masters in North America (C.G.M.N.A.). The MRC was established by the CGMNA in 1988 with the mission of developing innovative programs that would re-invigorate the spirit of Freemasonry within the Grand Lodges and subordinate Blue Lodges throughout North America.

The membership of the MRC is comprised of a number of Past Grand Masters, Right Worshipful brethren, and "white apron" Masons from across North America. In addition, there are valuable members representing both the Northern and Southern Masonic Jurisdictions of the Supreme Councils of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite and also Shriners' International. The common philosophy of the committee is the goal of re-energizing our Craft with ideas and approaches that are at times "traditional", at other times thinking somewhat "out of the box".

The initial efforts of the MRC were directed toward developing printed materials like such as "101 Ways to Improve Interest and Attendance in Your Lodge", "Membership Retention", and "Mentoring for Growth". These and other publications were made available for sale to Grand Lodges and individual Masons. Many were presented as gifts to brethren who were recently raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. Others were presented by generous Masons to their lodges that they may be shared among the brethren.

Today these publications are available, free of charge, through the M.R. C. website-www.masonicrenewal.org.We urge all brethren to go to the web site to download these publications and discover the other offerings of the MRC.

Referring to the web site, you will see that the MRC has partnered with the Academic Lodges project to support current Masonic lodges on university campuses and work with the Academic Lodges project to grow new Masonic presences on campuses where said presences do not currently exist.

Many of the brethren are not aware that there are a number of prestigious learning institutions that actually have either Masonic Lodges or Masonic Clubs on their campuses. Harvard Lodge was established in 1922. Richard C. McLaurin Lodge on the campus of M.I.T. was established in 1921. The lodge at Boston University was established in 1925.

In just the last ten years lodges have been established on the campuses of George Washington University, North Carolina State University, George Mason University, and the University of Maryland, to mention a few.

The MRC looks forward to assisting the Academic Lodges project by facilitating in any way possible their current and future initiatives.

Another current endeavor of the MRC is the David R. Bedwell Memorial Essay Contest. MW Brother Bedwell was an integral part of the MRC for many years. His recent passing has deeply saddened all who had the honor of knowing him. In recognition of his years of dedication to the MRC, the current essay contest has been named for him.

The theme of the contest is "The Concept of Masonic Renewal - What Does It Mean to You Now and In the Future?". Any Master Mason in North America is eligible to enter the contest by authoring an essay between 1000 and 1500 words on the designated theme. All entries are to be emailed to mrcessaysubmission@gmail.com no later than November 17, 2017. Complete details regarding the rules that govern the essay contest are available on www.masonicrenewal.org by clicking on the David R. Bedwell Essay Contest link on the home page.

There will be three winning essays chosen. The third-place award is \$500, the second-place award is \$1000, and the top essay will receive \$1500.

The MRC recently presented a breakout room at the CGMNA in February, 2017, in Omaha, Ne., led by our committee member MW Roger VanGordin. The theme of the presentation was "Re-thinking the Lodge Meeting". Representatives of 29 Grand Jurisdictions attended the session. This was not the typical breakout session where information is presented and there is no follow-up. Names and email addresses of attendees were collected and there is now an ongoing dialogue between MW VanGordin and all the attendees who have agreed to actively promote the information they received at the session within their respective Grand Jurisdictions. At the end of one year a comprehensive review will be done to ascertain the impact of this interaction.

At the CGMNA in Indianapolis in February, 2018, there will be another breakout session presented by the MRC which will be of interest to anyone who desires to attend it.

As you see the MRC is alive, well, and eager to continue its mission of assisting Grand Lodges and Blue Lodges in revitalizing Freemasonry. If you feel that the MRC may be of assistance in any way to your organization, please feel free to contact me at gmnj0910@yahoo.com.



Masonic Renewal Committee of North America, Inc.

Building a foundation for the future on the finest traditions of the past



# **Happenings at West Hill**

Submitted by M.W.Joseph Rival

Once again things are moving along very well. The Craftsmen Club of Maywood, before surrendering their charter, made a very nice donation to us which will go a long way toward refinishing the second floor. They have been a good friend to us. We were able to purchase a large secretary and a beautiful carpet for the blue room, formerly Chris Abbott's office, formerly the Grand Master's office. We checked out the sagging stairs with a contractor to put in a steel plate, but he said it would be very expensive to repair it, so we are going to leave the pole in – for now. It all started when the stairs to the basement were removed and relocated many many years ago and the first floor above was not re-enforced. We're still looking into how to support it so we can remove the brace in the hallway. There is an adjustable floor jack in the basement.

Every once in a while I turn it, just a little, hoping I can eventually get the floor level again. It's a very slow process.

This September we will again be hosting our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Civil War Encampment. This will be our biggest yet. The MCF is moving the Car Show from behind the Home to the parking lot by Fellowship Center with vendors and there will also be a motorcycle rally finishing up there. We're very excited about this September.

After the last issue of the Freemason, with our wish list, we received several donations from the brethren. It seems that the "younger" generation is not as interested in history as many of "our" generation. We are very grateful to all for their donations.

Stay tuned for future issues of "Happenings at West Hill".

# ALL LODGE SECRETARIES, ASSISTANT SECRETARIES, PAST SECRETARIES & LODGE TREASURERS

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, SEPTEMBER 9, 2017

Coffee and donuts 9:30 AM • Meeting 10 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, NJ 08232 Phone: 609.470.1591



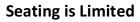
# Epicurean Night Hosted by First Lady Evelyn Hees

Saturday, Aug. 19, 6:00PM Sea Oaks Country Club 99 Golf View Dr. Little Egg Harbor Twp., NJ 08087



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Sharpe PGM

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Contact Joe at
sec2gm2017@gmail.com

### Dress is casual chic

Champagne and Cheese Board during Social Hour





# The Badge of a Mason

Submitted by Bro. Martin Bogardus, Associate Editor NJF

### The White Leather Apron

Here's a toast to the Lambskin, more ancient by far Than the Fleece of pure gold, or the Eagles of war; 'Tis an emblem of innocence, more nobler to wear Than the Garter of England, or Order so rare.

Let each King wear his Purple, and refer to his crown, Which may fall from his brow when his throne tumbles down; But the badge of a Mason has much more to give, Than a kingdom so frail that it cannot long live.

Let the Field Marshal boast of the men be must guide. Of the infantry columns, and heroes who ride; But the White Leather Apron his standard outranks, Since it waves from the East, to Death's river-banks.

'Tis the shield of the orphan, and the token of love, 'Tis the charter of faith in the Grand Lodge above, While the high and the low in its whiteness arrayed, Of one blood and one kin by its magic are made.

Kingdoms fall to earth, and cities crumble to dust, Men are born but to die, swords are made but to rust; But the White Leather Aprons, through ages passed on, Have survived with the Lodge of the Holy Saints John.

So a Toast to the Lambskin, which levels, uplifts, To the White Leather Apron, most priceless of gifts, 'Tis the badge of a Mason, more ancient by far Than the Fleece of pure gold, or the Eagles of war.

By Franklyn W. Lee, September 1892

Upon being "brought to light" at the conclusion of the Entered Apprentice degree, each newly initiated Mason is invested with a lambskin or white leathern apron, as a tangible reminder of his initiation into the most ancient and honorable fraternity known to the world today. Each of us in turn, at that same moment in our own initiations, was told that the Masonic apron was the highest order that could be conferred upon us—at that time or at any future time—by king, prince, potentate or any other person except he be a Mason. "More Ancient then the Golden Fleece or Roman Eagle; more honorable than the Star and Garter."

The words of the ritual seek to impress by comparison the immeasurable value and importance of the honor bestowed upon the candidate. But what do those comparisons truly mean to any of us? How much does the average initiate know about such ancient references, and why should he be impressed upon hearing of a Masonic apron's superiority to them?

Ancient References and Orders In Greek mythology, the Golden Fleece was the golden-haired hide of a winged ram, a symbol of authority and kingship. References to the fleece are found throughout ancient myths, some dating to preliterate times. Today it figures most prominently in the popular tale of Jason and the Argonauts, who set out on a quest for the fleece in order to place Jason on the throne of Iolcus in

Thessaly. The story's origins are of great antiquity, versions of it being current in the time of Homer in the eighth century BC.

The Order of the Golden Fleece, on the other hand, was a Roman Catholic order of chivalry founded in Bruges, in 1430, by Philip III, Duke of Burgundy, to celebrate his marriage to the Portuguese princess Infanta Isabella of Portugal. The Duke's stated reason for founding the Order was given in a proclamation issued following his marriage. He wrote that he had created the institution "for the reverence of God and the maintenance of our Christian Faith, and to honor and exalt the noble order of knighthood, and ... the deeds pertaining to chivalry ... so that those ... who shall see worn the order ... should honor those who wear it, and be encouraged to employ themselves in noble deeds..." In time it became one of the most prestigious orders in Europe. In his encyclopedia, the venerable Masonic scholar, Albert G. Mackey, M.D., identifies this Order as the source of the reference in Masonic ritual.

At least one Masonic writer, however, believes the reference in our ritual is to the use of the fleece as a symbol of enormous wealth and power. The Duke selected the Golden Fleece for the badge of his Order because wool was a staple production of the country. A suspended fleece was later adapted as an English Wool Merchants Guild symbol, recognized all over Europe in the 15th century, and still in use today.

(See, http://www.masoniclibrary.org.au/research/listlectures/73-more-antient-than-the-golden-fleece-or-romaneagle-more-honourable-than-the-garter.html)

The Roman Eagle was Rome's symbol and ensign of might and power one hundred years before the birth of Christ. The Fascist Order of the Roman Eagle, founded in 1942 with civil and military divisions, was abolished in Italy in 1944, although it continued to be awarded by Benito Mussolini in the short-lived Italian Social Republic until 1945. And, again, there are those who believe it enters into Masonry through its use as a 15th century trade symbol for the Hanseatic League, which controlled the Transport and Carrying trade in Western Europe. They adopted the Roman Eagle for their Arms and Seal and called themselves Knights of the Holy Roman Empire. The Order of the Garter was Instituted by Edward III of England in 1349 as a Chivalric Order limited to 25 Knights with the Sovereign as its head, and became the most prestigious Chivalric Order throughout the world. It still exists in the same form today, and is still considered the highest decoration that can be bestowed upon a citizen by a sovereign of Great Britain. The Order of the Star was yet another Chivalric Order created by John II of France in the middle of the Fourteenth Century.

Whether Freemasonry compares itself with prestigious Orders of Nobility, or symbols of great economic prosperity, it can be understood that Freemasons hold themselves above

# The Badge of a Mason



continued from page 22

the political and mercenary motivations associated with those symbols, and consequently deem their badge to be the more honorable.

With the presentation of the apron the lodge accepts the initiate as worthy. It entrusts to his hands its distinguishing badge. With it, and symbolized by it, comes one of the most precious and most distinguished gifts a lodge can bestow upon him: the gift of brotherhood. It is a tangible reminder to the initiate that he is "one of us" and has crossed over from the profane world to the sublime, a candidate for its mysteries. Fortunate is the Entered Apprentice who has the wit to see the extent and the meaning of that gift; to honor that bond of unity and oneness with all the Masonic world which is presented to him and represented by the white leather apron.

In the words of the Old Dundee Lodge Apron Charge of 1722:

"It is yours to wear throughout an bonorable life, and at your death to be placed upon the coffin which shall contain your mortal remains and with them laid beneath the silent clods of the valley. Let its pure and spotless surface be to you an ever-present reminder of a purity of life and rectitude of conduct, a never-ending argument for nobler deeds, for higher thoughts, for greater achievements. And when at last your weary feet shall have come to the end of their toilsome journey, and from your nerveless grasp shall drop the working tools of life, may the record of your thoughts and actions be as pure and spotless as this emblem. For this, and this only, may it be worn with pleasure to yourself and bonor to the Fraternity."

Inspired by the Apron Charge of Old Dundee lodge, I researched other apron charges and matters concerning the proper presentation of a Masonic Apron to an Entered Apprentice. The charge presented below is an amalgam of the best bits of wisdom I gleaned from my delving into Masonic history, along with a little wordsmithing of my own. As you read it, I hope you will think about your obligations and what it truly means to be part of our gentle Craft.

My Brother, I am now about to present you with the lambskin or white leather apron, which is an emblem of innocence and the badge of a Mason, more ancient than the Golden Fleece or Roman Eagle, more bonorable than the Star and Garter, or any other Order that can be conferred upon you at this or any future period by king, prince, potentate or any other person unless be be a Mason. This emblem, plain and unadorned, has been the peculiar clothing of all Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons since the beginning. The citizen toiling in humble poverty and the prince commanding the resources of empires, have all alike worn it in the consciousness that it has lightened the labor of the former and added dignity to the power of the latter.

It may be that you are now or yet will be so firmly

entrenched in the confidence of your fellow men, or so deserving of their gratitude, that they will elevate you to the highest positions of honor, trust, and emolument and cause your name to be inscribed high upon the pillar of worldly fame. It may be that in the coming years that upon your head shall rest the laurel leaves of victory; and from your breast may hang jewels fit to grace the diadem of an Eastern potentate.

But never before, and never again, my brother, will you have a higher mark of distinction or honor bestowed upon you than this, which I, as the representative of these brothers and of the craft throughout the world, am now about to bestow—this emblem which King Solomon wore when arrayed in all his glory; which kings, princes, and rulers have eagerly sought and worthily worn by the best men of your generation, I now with pleasure present to you.

Its spotless white is emblematic of that purity of heart and uprightness of personal manhood which we expect and sincerely hope will hereafter distinguish the conduct of all your worldly affairs. This emblem is yours to wear, we hope, with pleasure to yourself and with honor to the fraternity.

Let its pure and spotless surface be to you an ever-present reminder of an unblemished purity of life and rectitude of conduct; of a never-ending striving for nobler deeds; for bigher thoughts; for purer actions. And when at last your weary feet shall have come to the end of your toilsome journey, and from your nerveless grasp shall drop forever the working tools of life, may the record of your life and conduct be as pure and spotless as the fair emblem which I place into your hands tonight.

May you so wear it and "so live that when your heavenly summons comes to join the celestial caravan which moves to that undiscovered country "from whose bourne no traveler returns"; that when your trembling soul stands free and alone before the Great White Throne, may it be your portion, oh, my Brother, to hear from Him who sitteth as the Judge Supreme, the welcoming words: Well done, my good and faithful servant; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

Take this apron, my brother, and hand it to the Senior Deacon, who will teach you how to wear it as an Entered Apprentice Mason.

Editorial Note: The author would like to gratefully acknowledge and thank WB David. A. Frankel, Editor of The 18<sup>th</sup> District Light Journal, for his time and effort editing this article.

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### **Benedict Arnold**

### Benedict Arnold, America's most infamous traitor was a Freemason.

Submitted by WB Glenn Cantor, Ocean Lodge No.89

In April 1765, at the age of 24, he was initiated into Hiram Lodge No. 1 in New Haven CT. He was never an officer. but we can infer that he was a Master Mason because he used these words in a letter that he wrote to his wife in 1768, "May the best of Heaven's blessings attend you."

Imagine that you are a smart, successful businessman. You have worked hard to become one of the wealthiest men in your State. Early in life, you've lost your beloved wife and a son. Therefore, you have determined to throw yourself, and your finances, wholeheartedly into a cause. That cause results in a ferocious

war in which many men are horribly killed. You suffer two crippling injuries from being shot during this war, the second of which keeps you in the hospital for 6 months, and from which you continue to suffer excruciating pain. And yet, you feel you have not been given the praise you've earned.

You have successfully led other men to obey and follow your leadership, through which you've achieved great accomplishments. You have the everlasting support of the beloved leader of your cause, as well as most of the men you've led. Even so, you lack humility. You have difficulty communicating with others when they don't agree with your perspective, and particularly with others who don't give you the respect you feel you've earned.

You are passed up for the promotion you have earned as a result of unfavorable politics. Also, you've contributed your life's savings into the cause, only to be rebuffed in your attempts for repayment. That describes the mindset of Major General Benedict Arnold (known as America's Hannibal and "The Fighting General") at the time he decided to sell valuable intelligence to the British army in September of 1780.

Freemasonry forces us to sincerely consider our own character, so that we can chip away at our superfluous traitsour rough ashlars. We learn humility and fortitude. When I started studying the quandary of Benedict Arnold's decision to betray his country, I was seeking to understand how Freemasonry guides us to recognize and understand our own character flaws so that we can work to correct them in order to build ourselves into better men. I discovered, however, that his story is also about honor in manhood. Manly honor, in the 18th century, was quite different than it is now. Men fought duels in order to defend their honor. It was not a matter of wanting to kill the other man, but rather to show that you are willing to risk your own life to defend your honor.

In Arnold's story, we learn about what it takes to maintain

fortitude in even the most extreme challenges of character assassination. As defined by Illustrious Brother Alphonse Cerza, "fortitude is that noble and steady purpose of the

> mind whereby we are enabled to undergo any pain, peril or danger, when prudentially deemed expedient. Fortitude is that quality of character which gives a person the strength to withstand temptation and to bear all suffering in silence."

It is well known that Benedict Arnold committed treason in 1780 by selling the plans to the Continental Army's West Point NY fort to British Major John Andre and General Henry Clinton (also a Freemason). He was known as American's Fighting General for his willingness to aggressively lead his troops from the front. When he agreed to switch his loyalty to the British King, he deluded himself into believing that he would be leading the

Patriots into reconciliation with the British. He thought the war was lost, and that reconciliation was inevitable. Instead, however, his immortalized act of treason caused the Patriots to rally around their cause. As a result, his accomplishments were diminished as they were retold through the years in order to embellish his treason.

If it was not for Benedict Arnold's courage and military leadership, the American's Northern Army would not have defeated the General John Burgoyne's British Army at Saratoga New York.

Even though Burgoyne surrendered to American General Horatio Gates, and Gates was given credit for the victory, Gates was paralyzed by inaction at crucial point in the deciding battles. In the first battle of Freeman's farm, in September 1777, Arnold had succeeded in disrupting Burgoyne's battle plan, thereby preventing the attack on the American position at Bemis Heights. On October 7, the American troops countered Burgoyne's advance and forced back the British. Arnold entered this battle on his own accord, without orders. He rallied the troops and the Americans kept advancing on the British redoubts.

As they began their final charge, Arnold was shot in the same leg that had been previously wounded at Quebec. The Americans had routed the British army and pushed them into full retreat. As a result, Burgoyne surrendered. This defeat was viewed globally as proof that the American's could defeat the British, and encourage France to commit to support the American cause.

While in Philadelphia, Arnold married Margaret "Peggy" Shippen, the daughter of a British loyalist. It was through his new wife that Benedict Arnold made contact with Major John Andre, the person in charge of General Clinton's secret service. Peggy also convinced Arnold to change his loyalties.

In 1780, after serving as military commander of Philadelphia, Arnold convinced General Washington to appoint him as commander of the American's critical fortress at West Point



### **Benedict Arnold**



NY.The Hudson River provided a critical strategic passage into New England. In that position, Arnold secretly met with Colonel Andre just below present-day Stony Point NY. Arnold gave Andre a set of secret plans to West Point, with the intention of betraying the American fort while George Washington was there. Thus, he not only committed treason against his country, but he also betrayed General Washington and the entire American cause. Surely, Washington's defeat at West Point would have ended the revolution. However, Andre was captured in his attempt to get back to the British lines near Tarrytown NY, and the secret plans were discovered. They were turned over to Washington.

Nathaniel Philbrik, in his book Valiant Ambition, explains the difference between George Washington and Benedict Arnold's personalities. "Washington's sense of right and wrong existed outside the impulsive demands of his own self-interest. Rules mattered to Washington. Even though Congress had made his life miserable, he had found ways to do what he considered best for his army and his country, without challenging the supremacy of civil authority. (Sound familiar?) To do otherwise, to declare himself master of his army and his country would require him to become in his own words, 'lost to my own character.'"

"For Arnold, on the other hand, rules were made to be broken. He had done it as a pre-revolutionary merchant and be had justified it as a military governor of Philadelphia (in 1778). This did not make Arnold unusual. Many prominent Americans before, and now, live in the grey area between self-interest and altruism. What made Benedict Arnold unique was the God-like inviolability he attached to his actions. He was right, because he felt he was guided by divine providence. He had immense respect for a man like Washington, but Arnold was, in the end, the leading personage in the drama of his own life. Not lost to his character, but lost in it.Arnold did what Arnold wanted, and he justified this by his perspective of his own great accomplishments and his tremendous sacrifice."



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# **History of Freemasonry**

Submitted by R.W.Michael S. Neuberger, Grand Historian, 2017

What is the History of Freemasonry? What are our origins? Does it matter? The beginnings of our ancient fraternity are shrouded in mystery. Myths abound but hard facts are few and far between.

#### **Facts**

We do know that on June 24, 1717, the Grand Lodge of England, the first Grand Lodge was formed, when four existing London Lodges met at the Goose and Gridiron Tavern in St. Paul's Churchyard, and elected Anthony Sayer as Grand Master. Soon thereafter, The Grand Lodge of Ireland is believed to have been formed in June 1725 and The Grand Lodge of Scotland in 1736.

Elias Ashmole recorded "October 16, 1646 at 4:30 pm, I was made a freemason at Warrington in Lancaster with Colonel Henry Mainwaring. The names of those that were then at the Lodge, Mr Richard Penket Worden, Mr James Collier, Mr Richard Sankey, Henry Little, John Ellam, Richard Ellam, and Hugh Brewer."

The oldest known minutes of a Lodge (and yes, I'm sure they were read at the next meeting) are of The Lodge of Edinburgh (Mary's Chapel) No 1 under the grand jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, dated July 1599.

The Halliwell Manuscript or Regius Poem, dated 1425, describes how masonry began in Ancient Egypt and was ultimately brought to England during the reign of King Athelstan in 926.

### **Mythology**

The myths of course, are much more fun. Each of the following groups have throughout history been connected with Freemasonry or deemed part of the origins of Freemasonry.

### **Ancient Egypt**

As mentioned, the Regius Poem suggests that masonry began in Ancient Egypt, where the mystery schools began. Under these mystery schools, initiates underwent ancient rituals as they advanced through multiple degrees of knowledge. Degrees were held in temples, with secret passwords and codes. Many of these degrees deal with the death and resurrection of Osiris, and in some of the sculptures left by the Egyptians to illustrate the rites of the Egyptian Mysteries the candidate is shown lying on a couch shaped like a lion from which he is being raised from the dead level to a living perpendicular. The bas-reliefs at Denderah make this very plain, though they represent the god Osiris being raised instead of a human candidate (sound familiar?). Similarly, other ancient societies, such as Mysteries of Eleusis, Mystery of Dionysus, or the Mystery of Mithras all deal with the death of a great man, followed by his resurrection and redemption.

### Essenes

The Essenes were a messianic sect existing during the

time of the Second Temple. Newly joining members would take an oath that included the commitment to practice piety towards Deity and righteousness towards humanity, to maintain a pure lifestyle, to abstain from criminal and immoral activities, to transmit their rules uncorrupted and to preserve the books of the Essenes and the names of the Angels. Their theology included belief in the immortality of the soul.

### **Templar Knights**

The Poor Fellow Soldiers of Christ and of the Temple of Solomon, a crusading order formed by Hugues de Payens in 1119 to protect pilgrimages from Europe to Jerusalem. These knights originally began with nine members and were based at the Temple Mount, at the ruins of Solomon's Temple. Mythology suggests that these knights, after digging near the Temple Mount, found a great treasure. Was that treasure riches, such as gold, or a great secret, no one knows. However, shortly thereafter, the group gains in esteem and wealth, and spreads throughout Europe. Long after the fall of Jerusalem to Saladin, the Templar Knights continue to grow in stature and wealth, creating one of the first worldwide banking systems. Jealous of their wealth, King Philip IV of France with the help of Pope Clement V, hatches a plan to arrest the knights for heresy and blasphemy. The order is issued for their arrest on Friday, October 13, 1307. The myth suggests that many knights escaped to Scotland, and hid under the guise of a church building trade union known as the Freemasons (more about them later), bringing with them the secret knowledge they learned while in Jerusalem.

### The President, Council, and Fellows of the Royal Society of London for Improving Natural Knowledge commonly known as the Royal Society

The Royal Society was formed in November 1660 by royal charter granted by King Charles II in London. The Royal Society included physicians and natural philosophers influenced by Francis Bacon and his work The New Atlantis. The New Atlantis, written by Bacon, is about a society devoted to human discovery and knowledge. As quoted from the book "Ye shall understand that amongst the excellent acts of that king, one above all hath the pre-eminence. It was the erection and institution of an Order or Society, which we call Salomon's House; the noblest foundation that ever was upon the earth; and the lanthorn of this kingdom. It is dedicated to the study of the works and creatures of God." And before I forget, who was a key founding member of the Royal Society? None other than our fellow brother, Elias Ashmole.

### Freemason, a Trade Guild

Operative Freemasons, skilled in geometry and other construction skills, travel freely building the great cathedrals of Europe. They were divided among classes, the Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Mason. As they travelled

# **Who Shall Replace Him?**



Submitted by Bro. Martin Bogardus, Associate Editor NJF and WB David A. Frankel, Rising Sun Lodge No. 15

# By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion. Psalm 137:1

Come, hear my lamentation, sung with ashes 'pon my head, I am dressed in blackest sackcloth, for the Widow's Son is dead! Now come indulge your grief for him, in heartfelt mournful strain, shed a tear for Brother Hiram, for the widow's son is slain!

Sing a dirge for our artificer in iron and in brass, who designs upon the trestleboard, lie with him 'neath the grass. From beneath the temple rubble, to a grave to hide their blame, Three ruffians snuffed out his life and fled in fearful shame.

Craftsmen stood there idly by, with confusion in their minds, with no architect to guide the work, what would be the grand design; tabernacle or empty tomb, mausoleum or sanctuary? dedicated to the Architect Supreme, or to craftsmen arbitrary?

There stands the temple incomplete; workmen silent in the quarries, No stones are cut; no work is done to further God's great glory. Who will shape the ashlars now, with Hiram taken from us; who will set the craft at labor, who will keep the cowans from us?

Will you rise to the occasion, step forward to show how?
Will you give your heart and sinew, all your body will allow?
Will you serve our Architect, our God; will you lead among your brothers,
Or turn your back and walk away, to leave the work to others?

# **History of Freemasonry**

continued from page 28

through Europe, to protect their trade secrets they had secret handshakes, passwords, and other modes of recognition. At some point in history, enlightened gentleman, such as John T. Desaguliers and John Anderson began to join the guild (1719) as speculative Freemasons. From this point begins the transformation of a trade guild into a society of enlightened men of reason, devoted to God and Science.

### Conclusion

We will never truly know the origins of Freemasonry. All we do know factually, is that prior to 1717, there were lodges in England, Scotland, Ireland, and probably elsewhere too. That in 1717, four of these lodges decided to form a Grand Lodge. We also know that the one common thread across all of these different groups, whether it be the Ancient Mystery Schools of Egypt, the Essenes, Templar Knights, Royal Society, or Freemason Guilds, is a passion and a love for humanity. An understanding and appreciation for the belief in God and an enlightened view of Science. Most importantly, a belief in

religious toleration. But more than that, it was not just a simple toleration for another person's faith, but an understanding that in the end, we all pray at the feet of the same Divine Architect, we just use different names and rituals to achieve his Divine Grace.

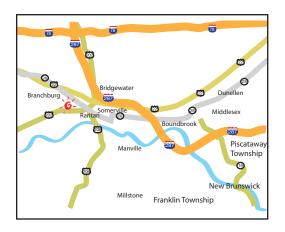
### Suggested Readings

- 1. Foundations: new light on the formation and early years of the Grand Lodge of England The 2016 Prestonian Lecture by Ric Berman
- 2.The Magus of Freemasonry: The Mysterious Life of Elias Ashmole–Scientist, Alchemist, and Founder of the Royal Society by Tobias Churton
- 3.The Regius Poem or Halliwell Manuscript by James O. Halliwell (Author), Carl E. Weaver (Editor)
- 4.The Symbolism of Freemasonry Illustrating and Explaining Its Science and Philosophy, Its Legends, Myths and Symbols by Albert Gallatin Mackey
- 5. Freemasonry and its Relation to the Essenes: Foundations of Freemasonry Series by William Wynn Westcott
- 6. Born in Blood: The Lost Secrets of Freemasonry by John J. Robinson
- 7. The New Atlantis by Francis Bacon
- 8. John Theophilus Desaguliers: A Natural Philosopher, Engineer and Freemason in Newtonian England by Audrey T. Carpenter



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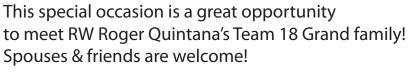




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# My Master Mason Degree...Reloaded



Submitted by Ric Fernandez, PM, Associate Editor NJF

Do you remember your Master Mason degree? For many of us, it may have been so many years ago we may remember few details. Maybe we can remember the moment of awe, of mystery when we were struck down and laid upon the canvas. Maybe we remember the sense of puzzlement, bewilderment, as you lay there, hood-winked, listening to the voices around you, the twelve gongs, King Solomon' conversation with his Senior Grand Warden, and finally that grip and that word.

We are raised to Master Mason only once, and, regardless of how many times you have been on the sidelines or been an officer in the degree, you will never be "officially" raised in a lodge again. That is what makes the Master Mason Degree so unique, so special. That is why, before each and every Master Mason degree, we are strongly reminded by the Grand Lodge to keep it "holy" for our soon to be raised brother. Wouldn't it be nice if after so many years learning and living the Craft, so much light, if you could go through that beautiful degree again? Maybe see what you did not see so long ago. This past spring, I was blessed to relive the third degree as a candidate one more time. My Master Mason Degree...Reloaded.

The Super GLI for our district was held this spring at the Trenton Historic Masonic Temple and I was asked to volunteer as the candidate for the second part of the Master Mason degree. Of course, I agreed.

The Masters of Ceremonies, all dressed in their finest and I stood by the inner door and awaited the SD's three raps. I attempted to chat with them but they quickly silenced me as they prepared for their respective roles. I realized how serious this moment was for them as they began their dialogue with the SD began under the watchful eye of the Grand Lodge instructors. I became more serious about my role as I realized that this might also be a special opportunity for me as well.

I stood in the JW's chair as the jewel was placed around my neck, knowing full well what was to follow. I was not hoodwinked, played my role in the East and was led to the altar after listening to a beautiful dissertation by the SD. Kneeling at the altar, as I did a long time ago, I took just a bit of time to appreciate the sacredness of the moment, the grandeur of all those Masons, in their tuxes and suits, in that beautiful lodge room before I stood and proceeded with my conductor... to meet the Ruffians.

I listened as each Ruffian delivered their threats and completed their malicious intents. I could see the sweat in Ja's face as he toiled hard to deliver his well-rehearsed admonitions. I was struck but did not need to fall. All these brothers were admirable not only in their dialogue but also their intensity and purpose. My role now completed I returned to the sidelines... but I was not done.



Later I was asked to lay on the canvas as Hiram for the funeral procession and grave side scene. As I lay upon the tarp, I was awed by the splendidly attired brethren around me, that beautiful and ornate ceiling of the Ionic room at the Masonic Temple and the sheer majesty of the moment. The Funeral Procession gathered then marched around me, breaking into the last verse of Pleyel's Hymn, in the husky tones of male voices, as they gathered around my grave. I could see them all around me, look left and right and see, the rods, the shoes of my brother on either side of my head. I wondered if this was what my own grave side would be like some day, surrounded by those who knew and loved me. Would they perhaps shovel some spadesful of dirt on my coffin? And then I heard "In this our affliction, what shall we do? Let us pray."

The Chaplain stood at my feet, looking down at my body and impeccably delivered that wonderful graveside prayer. I remember hearing that prayer fifteen years ago as I lay on that canvas, not fully understanding the mystery of the message. Now, fifteen years later, fifteen years of trying to live a life masonic, perfecting that ashlar; fifteen years of attending meetings, being an officer, a Worshipful Master, conducting then witnessing countless degrees, fraternizing with my dear brothers, a Past Master, a Mentor and so many other roles in my beloved lodge, in my beloved Craft and, most of all, fifteen years older, fifteen years closer to the grave, I heard the majesty and wisdom embodied in that beautiful prayer. After years of working the quarry, I could only now more fully understand the mystery behind those holy words. I was then raised and, again, one more time, in all that grandeur, received the true grip and word of Master Mason. What a moment to relive!

And then to finish the day, on the way home we stopped for a few refreshments at our DRI's home. As MW Gerry Sharpe's motto for his year in the Grand Orient stated: "Friendship, Fellowship and Further Light". This is what Masonry is all about; why I love my Craft with such passion.

So if you ever get the chance to be the candidate at one of these Grand Lodge events do not pass it up. Take the opportunity to relive your Masonic experience from your new enlightened perspective. Plus...no ritual to memorize!!

Thanks to all the brethren who participated in this event and made my moment so special.



# **Mentoring the Mentor X**

Submitted by R.W.Robert W. Howard, Jr., P.G.H.

One of the iconic personalities within Freemasonry is Albert G. Mackey, who wrote prolifically in the nineteenth century. As he was apt to do from time to time, he felt the need to complain about the state of the craft. Below is an extract from one of his rants:

"Masons who joined the Society with unobjectionable motives, and with perhaps the best intentions......bave supposed that initiation was all that was requisite to make them Masons, and ......Hence, they never read a Masonic book!"

Clearly the tools available to the mentor a couple of centuries ago were limited and Mackey's frustration is understandable. However, given the environment we live in today, his comments may be a bit overly critical, out-of-touch and no longer relevant. The world has changed drastically since he wrote those words and we as a society have learned much about the science of learning and for sure everyone learns differently.

We know for example that there is a left-brain and a right-brain, we know that a person who is left-brain dominant is said to be logical, analytical, and objective, whereas the right-brain dominant person is said to be more intuitive, thoughtful, and subjective. We know that some people learn visually, while others learn through listening. There is also kinesthetic or tactile learning in which learning takes place by carrying out physical activities, rather than listening to a lecture or watching demonstrations. Hence, reading is not necessarily everyone's forte nor is it everyone's path to learning.

### So let's start helping our Brother Masons learn about Masonry in his own way.

Today we have so many tools available to impart knowledge; we can certainly afford to be a bit more creative. In fact, let's start having a little fun in lodge! The following are examples of verbal, visual and tactile activities that are fun and educational. In short, these are games that can be played in lodge.

But more importantly, because they appeal to the various learning styles of each of the Brethren, every Brother present during "game night" will have gained some facts that are likely to stick.

### "Are you as Smart as an Entered Apprentice?"

Review the Mentoring Manual, (see the Grand Lodge website) and pose questions to the lodge that relate to the Entered Apprentice degree. Once a question is posed to the lodge, one of the younger Masons (ideally an E.A.) will have first try at answering. After his turn, one of the older Masons will then have a shot at the question. The Worshipful Master will moderate and decide who had the best answer. This exercise will encourage each Brother to look back to the night of his first degree and recall what was learned since then. It is also a great opportunity for the younger Masons to show off what they have learned.

In the end, whoever gets most of the answers correct wins bragging rights. Obviously, you can change it up and ask questions relative to the Fellow Craft or Master Mason Degree on a different night. No matter who is the big winner, the lodge will wind up exchanging some of the basic knowledge with which every Mason should be acquainted.

A typical question for example might be, "How do Speculative Masons make use of the 24 inch gauge?" Too easy? Have someone in the lodge explain the "superfluities of life."

### "Stump the Master"

Sometime before a regular communication, have each of the younger Masons prepare some questions to stump the Worshipful Master. They can use the Claudy books, the VSL or any of the books available in the lodge library. They can then ask their questions in lodge; the winner is the one that is able to come up with the most stumps for the Worshipful Master. Here's the catch, the Worshipful Master has the right to ask any of his officers to assist him in responding to the question. In addition to encouraging Masonic discourse, this game encourages the new Mason to refer to some Masonic books without intimidating him with a big reading assignment.

Here's a real stumper, "What significant event occurred on the Feast of St. John the Evangelist in 1813?"

### "Who's this Guy?"

This exercise requires the use of a projector. Flash a picture of a well-known Masonic personality on the screen and have the Brethren identify him or briefly discuss his most significant contribution to the Craft. Most likely, some of the

# Mentoring the Mentor X



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Brethren will know a little bit about the mystery Mason each sharing what he knows with the lodge.

For example, who's this guy? (Hint: He is credited with the development of Masonic Ritual in America.)

### "Balls and Cubes"

This is starting to become very popular in lodges these days. Start by posing a topic or proposition to the Brethren, either at the preceding communication or earlier in the evening before your lodge communication. Then assign someone to pass around balls and cubes with those who receive the balls asked to sit in the South and those receiving the cubes to sit in the North. Those on the South side will argue in favor of the topic and those in the North will argue against the topic.

This exercise encourages the Brethren to explore their own thinking relative to a particular topic by having him advocate for a point of view that may be in opposition to his own. This is a time honored means of developing an

understanding of a complex topic. There are no winners or losers in this exercise but it is truly fun and enlightening.

### "You Can't Do That"

You Can't Do That is everyone's favorite and is a fun way to learn Masonic etiquette. This game requires the Master to conspire with some "Rusty" Brethren, who just can't seem to get anything right. Every time one of these Brethren commits a breach in Masonic etiquette, the Master will sound the gavel and shout "You can't do that!" He then uses the opportunity to explain the proper protocol or etiquette that should have been followed. It can be a fun ending to a DLI with the DDGM in the East for this one. ("You Can't Do That" can be found on the Grand Lodge website.)

### "Masonic Jeopardy"

One of the latest games to hit our jurisdiction is Masonic Jeopardy, it can be played in lodge or on a District level. This is a computer based game with teams of contestants able to choose Masonic categories and come up with the correct question for each Masonic "answer." Everyone can participate and has an equal shot at coming out on the winning team. There are a few Brethren throughout the state who might be persuaded to moderate a game of Masonic Jeopardy for your lodge or District.

It's time to stop complaining that Mason's don't read! Instead, get them engaged and involved in something fun and educational. I guarantee this approach will help with attendance and at the same time, you will start to see a difference in the members of your lodge.

If you have any questions about any topic that we have discussed or if you want to share what you have done in your Lodge to advance Masonic education, please let me know. I can be contacted at grandhistorian2016@gmail.com.



# **Trenton Cyrus No. 5 Lewis Society 10th Reunion**

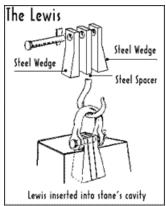


Submitted by Ric Fernandez, PM, Associate Editor NJF

I was raised a Master Mason in 2004 and soon after on my way to the East. My son, not yet a Mason, was in his early 20's and soon to leave the area to pursue his graduate education. Should he choose to enter our fraternity, as an officer in the progressive line, I would have a unique opportunity to be a significant part of his masonic career.

With few well-timed suggestions and discussion, my son agreed that perhaps this might be a most memorable and singular occurrence. He petitioned my lodge. I raised him to the sublime degree of Master Mason on December 5, 2007. A very special evening for both of us. Our kinship now not only by blood but also by oaths and obligation taken on that same altar. Now I could say to him things not only as a father, but as a brother. I began to consider whether there was a manner to continue to further celebrate this very special bond. My research led me to The Lewis.

For those who may not be aware, a Lewis is the name assigned to the son of a Mason who himself is also a Mason. According to RW Don Falconer from Australia in his article "The Lewis" (http://www.freemasons-freemasonry.com/falclewis.html), the term, dating back to the 12th century, is more familiar in Scotland and England but is not frequently recognized in this country. For further light, refer the reader to his article above. To summarize, a Lewis is a tool used by operative masons to lift heavy stones in the process of building, thus symbolism that the young Lewis, shall likewise someday bear the "weight" of his aged father (and mother) "so



as to render the close of their days happy and comfortable."

Identifying other lodge brethren who shared this unique connection and with the help of DB Morris S. Fabian and his Lewis, Morris G. Fabian, we initiated our TC5 Lewis Society. With ten attendees, we had our first dinner meeting in June 2010. We chose June as this is also chosen to celebrate Father's

Day. We have met annually since. Our last meeting was this past June 6, 2017 when twenty-four of our Father-Son Masons met for a night of celebration and camaraderie.

There is no "official" criteria we have found to define what should entail a Lewis Society. We have struggle with not making the Lewis Dinners too exclusive to the brethren while yet preserving the essential character, the "specialness", of the event. As such, we have devised our own criteria that we encourage others to entertain for their lodges.

To be considered for invitation to the Lewis Society dinner, we have chosen the following criteria for our TC5 Lewis Society:

1. Either the son, father, or grandfather must be a current member of our lodge.

# Trenton Cyrus No. 5 Lewis Society 10th Reunion



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- 2. Either the son, father or grandfather can attend and not all are necessarily required to attend, although that is certainly the best option for celebration.
- 3. If both men in the family were Masons, only one individual needs to be still living. This allows current Lewis Masons whose fathers have passed to attend the function.
- 4. Legally adopted sons who are also Masons are considered candidates as Lewis masons.
- 5. Father-in-laws who are Masons and have son-in-laws who are Masons also qualify to attend.
- 6. In our lodge, as a courtesy to the sitting Worshipful Master, he is invited to attend the function even if he does not meet other criteria for attendance but only in the year he is in the East.

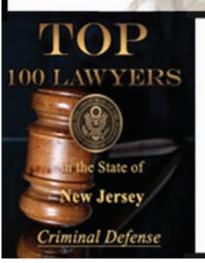
During the Lewis Night ceremonial dinner, there is a set agenda with toasts. A "mementos" table is set up for brethren to bring photographs of the Masons in their families and attendees are encouraged to share their family Masonic remembrances with the group during the dinner.

We encourage you to start a Lewis Society in your lodge. It is not a difficult event to orchestrate. All you need to get started is an active roster of members for your lodge, a little inquiry, a commitment from a few brothers to get things going and a few contacts. If few attend, even better as you can then enjoy more intimacy with your brothers.

It really helps emphasize the values of our fraternity and encourages fathers to ask their sons to join and vice-versa. And the rewards are wonderful...I can assure you. Just ask a brother who has come to one of our functions.







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# **Natan Rapoport Memorial Service**

Submitted by R.W.Michael S. Neuberger, Grand Historian, 2017

Natan Rapoport was born in 1911, in Warsaw Poland, where he studied to be a sculptor. After the Nazi's invaded Poland, he was lucky enough to escape to the Soviet Union, where he worked as a laborer. After the war, he studied at the Warsaw Academy of Fine Arts, and in 1950, emigrated to the United States.

Luna Kaufman was also born in Poland in 1926, but unlike Natan, she was not fortunate to escape the Nazi invasion. She was living in the Krakow Ghetto, when it was liquidated by the Nazi's and she was sent to a concentration camp in Plaszow, and from there to a labor camp in Hasag. Her father perished in Auschwitz and her sister was drowned.

In 1948, Luna was first introduced to Natan's work when she saw the unveiling of his sculpture dedicated to the Warsaw Ghetto Fighters. In 1963, the two met and began discussing an idea for a monument dedicated to the liberators of Nazi concentration camps. Their vision was finally realized in 1982, with the help of Governor Thomas H. Kean of New Jersey, and on May 30, 1985, before 5,000 people the Liberation Monument was unveiled in Liberty State Park, Jersey City, New Jersey. Interestingly, the Monument, the Statute of Liberty, and Ellis Island form a triangle around Hudson Bay, a triangle of hope, redemption, and liberty.

The Liberation Monument depicts an unarmed American soldier carrying a survivor from a concentration camp, with their chests joined as if sharing a single heart. The down trodden, so broken that

even their hearts cannot beat, instead have an American soldier's heart to beat for them. It was Natan's wish that the monument be placed where children could see it and learn from it. The monument stands proudly in Liberty State Park next to a children's playground. It speaks of the American soldier, who never went to war for conquest, but went to war for liberation, and only asked for a plot of land in return to bury her dead.

On June 4th, 2017, working with Wreaths Across America, Most Worshipful Dieter B. Hees, Grand Master of Masons of the State of New Jersey and Freemasons from around the state came out to lay a wreath at the foot of the monument to celebrate the life of Natan Rapoport on the 30th anniversary of his death.

In attendance were the MWGM, M.W. John S. Ryan PGM

2007, M.W. Vincent Libone PGM of New York, Luna Kaufman and Evan Stern holocaust survivors, and brethren from around the state, including R.W.Thurman C. Pace, Jr. PGH dressed in his army fatigues. R.W. Pace, a 92-year-old brother from Atlas Pythagoras Lodge No. 10, helped liberate Dachau in April of 1945.

The ceremonies began with a welcome address by R.W. David Melville Russen, Jr DRI of the 17th Masonic District. The Colors were posted, an invocation was given by R.W. James A. Danganan Grand Chaplain, and a stunning rendition of God Bless America was performed by R.W. Glenn R Boothby Grand Soloist.

W.B. Artie Arjit Mahal, Past Master of Lafayette Lodge No. 27 of Rahway, introduced the guests in attendance that morning. In his remarks, he reminded the audience of the work done by the Freemasons to help defeat the Nazis during WW II, specifically the work by Brother Franklin Roosevelt of Holland Lodge No. 8 of NY, Brother Winston Churchill of Studhoime Lodge No. 1591 of U.G.L.E., Brothers Omar Bradley and Douglas MacArthur of West Point Lodge No. 877 of NY, and of course Brother Harry .S Truman PGM of Missouri.

Luna Kaufman in her remarks thanked the MWGM and all the Freemasons in attendance for all of their charitable work in the state, and for helping organize this wonderful event to remember and praise the great work of Natan Rapoport.

The Grand Master spoke about the principles of Freemasonry, and the concepts of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. He talked about a mason's duty to deal with all peoples, of any background, with equality. He told the guests about the persecution of our beloved fraternity during the Nazi regime, and the purpose behind the forget me not flower. He then presented Luna and the other holocaust survivors with his Grand Master's pin, which consists of a square and compasses surrounded by three forget me not flowers.

Cantor Daniel Neiden closed the program with a recitation of the Mourner's Kaddish, a prayer of hope that concludes with the words, "May there be abundant peace from Heaven and life upon us all".

So Mote It Be!



### **Liberation Monument**



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### Blue & Gold Degree - Jerusalem Lodge No. 26





Submitted by R.W.Michael S. Neuberger, Grand Historian, 2017

On May 30, 2017, the police were called to Jerusalem Lodge No. 26 in Plainfield, New Jersey, but it's not what you think.

The New Jersey Law Enforcement Affiliated Degree Team, under the leadership of Most Worshipful David A. Dorworth, PGM 2013, President of the Degree Team, visited to raise to the sublime degree of master mason five worthy brethren from Jerusalem Lodge No. 26, Lafayette Lodge No. 27, and Loyalty Lodge No. 33.

The candidates that evening, Andrew Fago, Devin Franklin, Kennedy Osie Duah, Marcelo Miranda, and Daniel Spike were afforded an amazing evening. In attendance were not only some dozen members of the Law Enforcement Degree Team, but over 100 brethren in the wings, and from the elected line, Most Worshipful Dieter B. Hees, Grand Master of Masons of the State of New Jersey; R.W. Roger B. Quintana, DGM; R.W. Gregory J. Scott, SGW; R.W. Ronald A. Murad, DDGM of the 10<sup>th</sup> Masonic District; and R.W. Clarence John Lashley,

District Ritual Instructor of the 10th Masonic District.

The first section was performed by the host lodge, and the DD and DRI were beaming with pride as the team conducted the degree with flawless precision.

The Law Enforcement Degree Team performed the second section with R.W.Vincent E. Etzel, DDGM of the 20<sup>th</sup> Masonic District sitting as King Solomon.

Brethren if you have never seen a Blue and Gold Degree, I highly recommend you check it out the next time they are performing. Seeing New Jersey's Bravest perform a master mason degree is a thing of beauty. The three J's had the audience quaking in their boots, never mind the candidates. The lecture was seamless and delivered from the heart. At the end of the degree, the Grand Master presented the newly raised brethren with his pin and congratulated them on the start of their masonic journey.

Lodge was closed by the Grand Master at 10:45 pm, and a lovely evening was had by all.

### **2017 Big Brothers Big Sisters Bowling Fundraiser**

Submitted by Bro. Ken Caruso, Mosaic Lodge No. 194

Hirams Rollers Mosaic Lodge bowling team bowling in the 2017 Big Brothers Big Sisters Bowling Fundraiser. Team raised over \$700 dollars for the cause.





### **Community Service Recognized**



Submitted by Michael W.Volk, Worshipful Master, Genesis Lodge No. 88

Grand Master Dieter B. Hees congratulates Worshipful Brother Steven Wendowski, P.M. on completing his two-year term as President of North Jersey Water Conference ("NJWC"), a community service non-profit professional organization focused on safe drinking water comprised of system operators, design engineers, and product vendors, who care about the production and delivery of the water you drink by providing members with continuing professional education, college scholarships, and donations to various charitable endeavors. Organized in 1942, NJWC is celebrating 75 years of service to communities through-out North Jersey. Genesis Lodge No. 88 joins our Most Worshipful Grand Master in congratulating our Brother who has served his lodge as Worship Master twice, he continues to serve as Treasurer for over 20 years, and was recognized by NJWC as "Water System Operator of the Year" in 1998. He is a pillar of our lodge and I am very proud to call him my Brother for almost 40 years.



### **Cape Island Lodge No. 30 Past Masters Perform Fellow Craft Degree**



Submitted by R.W.Bruce S. Graham, Cape Island Lodge No. 30

On the evening of April 25, 2017, Cape Island Lodge No. 30 passed Bro. Shaine N. Smith to the Fellow Craft Degree. The uniqueness of the Degree was that, with one exception, it was performed entirely by Past Masters from Cape Island Lodge. Pictured above is Bro. Fellow Craft Smith along with the following Past Masters who participated in the degree:

R.W. Bruce S. Graham (2000-2001)

R.W. David P. Perry (2002)

W.B. Robert M. Keith (2003)

W.B. Rocco L. DeNote (2005)

W.B. Thomas M. Perry (2006)

W.B. Charles J. Prendergast Jr. (2007)

R.W. Randy L. Whitt (2008)

R.W. Ronald N. Menear (2009)

W.B. Harry F. Sundstrom Jr. (2011)

R.W. Charles R. Newton III (2012)

W.B. Anthony J. Baltuskonis (2013)

W.B. David F. Eakin (2014)

W.B. Kevin M. Farrell (2016)

W.B. Gary G. Havel (Dual member)

Also pictured above are R.W. Jeffrey B. Schwartz (PM of Star Lodge No. 65) who filled in as Chaplain at the last minute and Cape Island Worshipful Master Charles E. Kirkbride. It was a wonderful evening of camaraderie and the Degree work was flawless, at least in the minds of the Past Masters who participated.



### Masonic Light at Euclid Lodge No. 136

Submitted by WB Aditya Thaker, Bro. Frederick R. Patak, Bro. Paul Remenschneider, Euclid Lodge No. 136

This Year Euclid Lodge has had the pleasure of hosting many guest speakers and open events, so they can continue their Spiritual Journey, Brotherhood, and Social Activities.

libations wonderful conversation, and some new skills.

In March, Brother Oscar Alleyne spoke about Fides, Vita, Rex An Esoteric Look at Freemasonry. He showed us how we can learn from every aspect of life for something spiritual. Like in the movie lion king "Hakuna Matata".



March 25th and April 1st, Euclid had the pleasure of raising nine Brothers to the Sublime Degree of MM with WB Gary Tiedens taking the lead in the East for both sections and help from many lodges for both first and second section. Euclid had two successful degrees back to back.

In April, we had **Brother Richard Cassaro** come all the way from

Spain, where he resides, to speak about **The Lost Secrets** Encoded in the Cathedrals. The brothers were lost for words at the amount of knowledge he bestowed upon them. They couldn't get enough of him and are eager for him to come back to speak some more.

In the month of May, we had the pleasure of hosting Gold Token Night, The Brealy Award, and Demolay Boys Flower Talk all in one communication. We had two Brealy award winners that night and we couldn't be more proud of them. The Flower Talk done by the Demolay Boys was so beautiful that it brought many who watched it to tears.

spoke about The Chamber of Reflection. The brothers had many questions and RW Yatim did a great job answering all of them. The Brothers learned that there is more to masonry than what is told to us we must look deep and within the lodge and deep within ourselves to find the truth.

We started in January with RW Mohamad A. Yatim, who

On February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017, Euclid Lodge No. 136 held a **Bow** Tie Instructional/Wine Glass Painting Event. This event was open to all Masons, and their friends and family. The Bow Tie Tying portion of the evening was held prior to the Regular Communication. Worshipful Master Aditya Thaker, took the lead on the tying instruction. Brethren from Euclid as well as other Lodges within the District and surrounding Districts attended. All brethren participating had a great time endeavoring to master the skill and patience a bow tie can instill. It was a sight to see as the brethren all worked together to accomplish the task of tying the bow tie. The Collation area was filled with laughter and advice. Regular Communication followed and all Master Masons adjourned to the Lodge Room.

Following the departure of the Master Masons, the night continued with the Wine Glass Painting Event, that was led by the WMs lady, Jasmin Joshi, and was attended by the family and friends of the brethren. There were several designs and colors to choose from, and everyone helped each other and worked together. The sounds of laughter and chatter filled the Collation room as everyone painted their glass. On that night strangers became friends and friends became family. Following the Regular Communication and Bow Tie/ Wine Glass Painting, everyone sat down for a great meal,



We also had **Annual RI Visitation** on May 6, 2017, as the bus pulled up in front of 200 Division Ave. Hasbrouck Heights, NJ, the brothers and local guests of Euclid Lodge No. 136 lined up outside to welcome the brothers of St. John's Lodge No.1 of Providence, Rhode Island. As an ongoing tradition,

### **Masonic Light at Euclid Lodge No. 136**



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the two lodges have taken turns visiting one another annually for a day of fun, food, and the exploration of the slight differences in ritual the two have. Tired and achy from the four hour ride the RI brothers regained life as spirits lifted and a light lunch was enjoyed. With a quick change, the brothers were ready to enter the lodge room for the traditional shared communication. Transitioning into a Table Lodge downstairs MW Dieter B. Hees of NJ and MW Stephen T. McGuire of RI were seated at the head of the table. After the invocation of the Grand Architect; WB Gary Tiedens and the wardens of Euclid Lodge delivered the seven toasts of the meal, which were enjoyably had using the collectible drinking glasses given to the day's attendees. After the ritual and meal, where a plate is not

called a plate and a knife is not called a knife, was over; the visit came to a close with gifts exchanged between both Grandmasters and respective Worshipful Masters; along with lodge and Grandmasters' pins for everyone. As the bus pulled away the visit was deemed a success and will remain a thoroughly enjoyed tradition that does not seem to be waning anytime in the near future.



In June, we hosted our Scholarship Night, where we invited the top eight of the brightest students of Hasbrouck Heights High School's Class of 2017. Family and friends of the students joined Euclid Lodge No. 136 of F.&A.M. on June 2, 2017 for the 31st Annual Scholars Awards Recognition Night; recognizing those graduating students whose hard work had landed them in the astounding top 5% of their graduating class. Having a light social hour with hors d'oeuvres and drinks the guests of the evening were invited to join the brothers upstairs in the lodge room where the officers, in full uniform, were waiting to greet them. With



brief introductions of the attending members of Hasbrouck Heights' Board of

Education eight scholarships were awarded and presented by Bro. Robert Bothe (Marshal of Euclid Lodge), along with Dr. Matthew Helfant (Superintendent of Schools for Hasbrouck Heights) and Robert Salerno (Board of Education member), both of whom are also brothers of Euclid Lodge.

> With closing remarks by Euclid Lodge's own WM Aditya Thaker and RW Kenneth E. Wasiewicz DDGM of the 4th Masonic District; the ceremony ended with many photos being taken, thanks being given and cake and coffee enjoyed by all.

In order to motivate the Brothers of Euclid Lodge, the WM this year has implemented an Incentive Program. This program works on a points system. These points may be earned by doing various things, such as learning and delivering a new piece of ritual in the Lodge room, or helping to set up and/or clean the lodge on meeting nights. Once you have reached the amount of points needed, you are presented with a gift, such as a custom Euclid Masonic Cummerbund or a custom Euclid Lodge Apron, from the WM himself in front of

the Lodge to honor your accomplishments.

So far, this year has been about Light, Knowledge, Brotherly Love, and Community and it will continue on in order to help "Make Good Men Better."



### A 7 Deployment War Veteran.....

### A Story about my Neighbor and Friend.

Submitted by Stephen Swirczynski

I am writing this article to talk about New Milford and long time Bergen County resident, and retired Teaneck Firefighter Technical Sergeant James P. Connors of the United States Air Force Reserve. This man has truly become a humanitarian and an empathetic shepherd caring for his fellow War Veterans and First responders. After retiring from The Teaneck Fire Dept and completing 7 Deployments all over the Middle East combining Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Afghanistan, James found himself getting involved in Save A **Warrior** and combating Veteran Suicide or what the People of S.A.W. call "Warrior Suicide". A New York City policeman named John Vitale got James interested in S.A.W. when he decided he was going to get involved in this situation that was breaking his heart. James himself has dealt with bouts of sadness and survivors guilt in the past from the effects of war, but now he has found a whole new road less traveled in this fight against this alarming rate of losing 20 veterans a day related to Post Traumatic Stress.

James has said many times there is nothing sadder than to hear when a man or woman returns home from war and then - during peacetime - takes their own life. Those are our brothers and sisters and our mothers and fathers. So what is Save A Warrior? What is this program that keeps this man traveling to California every month? And traveling to Lexington Kentucky in the summers? Over the past 3 ½ years? On his own dime and free time???

Save A Warrior is a one week long in residence War **Detox**, or what is coming to be known in certain circles as a model **Reverse Boot Camp**. It's a 501(c) (3) tax-exempt organization. It's a resiliency program specifically designed for supporting our warriors to heal from the sometimes devastating effects of war. Save A Warrior is open to Veterans, Active Duty Military, Reservists', National Guardsman along with First Responders who, on a regular basis, have to deal with trauma. Save A Warrior is the last house on the block. Most who come to this program have already taken suicide attempts to end their lives and make the pain go away.

James has spent 3 1/2 years worth of Volunteering almost 1,700 hours, helping 444 Warriors take their lives back. He has had an effect on 200 families and states it makes him more humble every time he is given the honor to come back and work with S.A.W.. James helps others find and maintain a community of healing. The

veterans learn meditation twice a day for 20 minutes, the warriors work with horses, and have equine-supported learning, along with a ropes course, and team building exercises that give our men and women the tools to take back their lives, put the trauma in the past - where it belongs - James helps them to learn and write a new story to tell for their lives as Servant Leaders. S.A.W. provides the toolbox to deal with life's everyday issues. Is one week going to fix all of your problems? Of course not; you will still have bills and family matters to contend with; however... TSGT James Connors shows and supports our warriors as they learn to deal with life's issues on a completely different level. It is a healing community of LOVE.

What is unfortunate is the numbers that James throws at me all the time. The most recent VA Study shows that 20 veterans a day take their own lives; but going by these numbers, that's a veteran nearly every hour of every day; that's nearly 7,500 veterans a year. 500,000 have sought treatment for Post-Traumatic Stress. Post Traumatic Stress has killed more of our warriors than the tragedies' of 9/11 and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan – combined.

James was with Jake Clark, the founder of Save A Warrior and his mentor, when he stated so soberly at the WebMD awards two years ago, "It's a holocaust in slow motion". A New York Times reporter wrote about this epidemic. What that New York Times reporter failed to mention is that there are now over 58,000 names on the Vietnam Wall in WashingtonD.C.; however, what he didn't tell you is that there is 150,000 names that are not on that wall of Vietnam Veterans that committed suicide after returning home. Instead, those names get carved on the hearts of the loved ones left behind wondering "WHY?" Why did this happen?

In this world there are amazing, selfless people and I have learned there is no greater advocate for peace then a man who has been to war. James is truly paying it forward. He continues to put the needs of others and the relief of so many veterans and first responders before his own. He is giving our veterans and first responders love and spiritual initiation. That's what our warrior's need - and want. They need love, they need understanding and patience. Karl Marlantes, author of the book "What It is Like to Go to War" writes, "Our entire nation builds the rifle piece by piece and it's the veteran that goes to war and pulls the trigger for all of us".

In ending this story about my friend, sometimes in life the

### **Paying it Forward**



 $continued\ from\ page\ 42$ 

most important crosses besides our own that we will bear are the crosses in our lives that belong to someone else. Thus, how well we bear our personal crosses, whether of our own making or an accident by birth, is much less of a story than how well we carry the crosses of family, friends other warriors and most importantly the crosses of strangers. What I have found is it is very rarely in life we have an opportunity to select the crosses that we are compelled to carry. TSGT Connors has become a humble bystander and shepherd among great men and women who are giving an aid in the fight and support effort to help men and women returning home from our current conflicts in war or in support of protecting our communities along with lives and property.

James also keeps records of S.A.W. events and cohorts. On May 19 2015 James was awarded the **Distinguished Service Medal** the State of New Jersey's Highest Military
Honor by Governor Chris Christie. James currently resides in New Milford, NJ. James travels the country speaking and getting the word out about our program. James says S.A.W. has given him the greatest opportunities to support our men and women veterans showing them they are not facing these issues and do not have to face these issues alone.

When a person is down in the world, an ounce of help to them is better than a pound of preaching to them. Helping others isn't a chore; it is one of the greatest gifts there is. No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted. We all always need to be reminded that inside each one of us is a flame. Sometimes the effects of life can burn that flame out. Only an outside action sometimes can rekindle or reignite that flame that keeps us burning. James is helping reignite that flame within other Veterans.

I would like to quote what he says to me sometimes "If I could tell someone who is suffering and in pain or isolating themselves from the world, I would say hang on we are here, and it helps me to help you. There is no more need to travel alone for if you just look around you will see we are all on the same train".

James, thanks for being a good friend and becoming an inspiration in our community. Those wishing more info on S.A.W. please check out https://saveawarrior.org, https://www.facebook.com/SaveAWarrior/ or you can contact James at jimmy@saveawarrior.org if you or someone you know needs help.

Bro. James is a Freemason from AT&T Lodge Tenafly NJ and Mosaic Lodge Ridgefield Park NJ.

### Philippine American Friendship Day Parade



### **DeMolay Golf Tournament**

Tuesday & Wednesday, August 1st and 2nd, 2017

Interstate competition between NJ & PA with a traveling trophy

1st Round of Golf (Tuesday) Lunch 11:30AM & 12:30 Shotgun Eagles Crossing Golf Club, Carlisle, PA

Shamble Format w/ Individual & Widow Ball Team Competition Roast Pig Supper with all the fixings

2nd Round of Golf (Wednesday) Breakfast 7:00AM & 8:00 Shotgun Cumberland Golf Club, Carlisle, PA

Scramble format w/ lunch following golf

All Four Meals Served at Golf Courses Tuesday Night Hospitality Room with snacks and open bar at Comfort Inn

Prizes for good golf and not so good golf. 2 rounds of golf, 4 meals and hospitality, all for \$160.

Meet and congratulate David A. Glattly, Incoming Soveregin Grand Commander, Past NJ DeMolay Executive

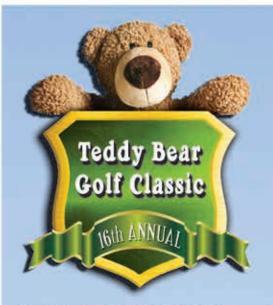
Please make your check payable to: "DeMolay Golf Tournament" and mail to: Mike Aaron at 119 Valleycrest Drive, Cecil, PA 15321. Questions call Mike 724-263-1778, shrine.pp@verizon.net

> Limited to 100 golfers - Registration Deadline is July 24th, 2017 Hotel accomodations for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday are available at; Comfort Inn at the Carlisle exit of the PA Turnpike Call: (717) 706-3400 for reservations and mention: "DeMolay Golf"

Detach complete and mail to Mike Aaron, 119 Valleycrest Drive, Cecil, PA 15321

Name	Phone	E-mail	
Others in your foursome:			
Golfer #2	Phone		
Golfer #3	Phone_		
Golfer #4	Phone		
Sponsorships: Signs recognizing ye	our Lodge, Valley, Shrine Ce ıal  (Tax Exempt Donation)	nter, Chapter, District,	
Tee Sponsor: \$100., Hazard Sponso Name		0., Hospitality Room Spons	or: \$500.
E-mail and phone #			
Sign Wording:			
Other tax exempt donation \$	Please make all check	s payable to: "DeMolay Golf"	,

**ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT DeMolay of NJ & PA** 



### For the benefit of The Children's Dyslexia Centers of New Jersey

Monday, September 25, 2017

### **Burlington Country Club**

Burrs Road, Westampton (Mt. Holly), New Jersey

10:00 AM REGISTRATION Free Gifts. Complimentary warm-up at driving range.

11:00 AM LUNCH Hot dogs, hamburgers, iced tea & lemonade.

12:00 PM SHOTGUN TEE-OFF (Best ball) scramble format. Ladies & seniors over "60" may play from the forward tees (except prize holes).

HOLE-N-ONE On selected par 3 wins you \$5,000 & \$5,000 for Learning Centers.

AFTER-GOLF APPETIZERS, CASH BAR

PRIME RIB DINNER

DRAWING For chance to hit for One Million Dollars.

Name:	Phone:
Address:	
OTHERS IN FOURSOME: (Please fill in name 8	address).
3.	
4	
their support of the event); Titanium - \$2,500 (included of the support of the event); Titanium - \$2,500 (included of the support of the event); Titanium - \$2,500 (included of the support of the event); Titanium - \$2,500 (included of the ev	tinum - \$5,000 (includes all the days amenities for (4) golfers plus proper signage indicating des all the days amenities for (2) golfers plus proper signage indicating their support of the event); 50. (May purchase more than one). MILLION DOLLAR SHOOTOUT - \$2,500. SPONSOR - \$1,500. CLOSEST TO PIN - \$750. All sponsorships to be recognized at event.
Name:	Company:
Address:	Phone:
DIRECTIONS: Evit N.I.Tumpiko at Evit 5 right or	Rt 541 approx 1 mile to Burrs Rd Left to Country Club From L-295 Evit 43B south

Burrs Rd., left to Club, From Rt. 130 - at Burlington take Rt. 541 south to Burrs Rd., left to Club, Need directions please call: 609-267-1887.



### **Masonic Village at Burlington**



### **Evolving to Meet YOUR Needs**

Submitted by Brother Len Weiser, Executive Director, Masonic Charity Foundation of New Jersey

The Masonic Charity Foundation Board of Directors recently approved a vision for the Masonic Village at Burlington to grow and evolve to meet changing market and financial demands, while maintaining its commitment to New Jersey Masons and their families.

The Masonic Village is downsizing its number of nursing home beds while maintaining a sufficient amount to accommodate the needs of current and future residents. This change is necessary for a number of reasons. First, while health care costs, such as staffing and pharmaceuticals, continue to rise, insurance companies are reimbursing care providers much less for the services they provide. This makes it extremely difficult to remain financially viable while providing top quality services. In fact, in 2016, the Masonic Charity Foundation subsidized over \$11.8 million in unreimbursed Medicare and Medicaid program costs.

Secondly, health care services continue to evolve, and hospitals are looking at alternative options, such as short-term rehabilitation, transitional care or home health services, for their patients to receive the care they need upon discharge. Following the renovation of Masonic Village's nursing area,

some of the nursing rooms will once again be designated for short-term rehabilitation or transitional care services.

Thirdly, the market has demonstrated an interest in more comprehensive personal care living options for residents needing memory support services, and the Masonic Village has a wait list of people interested in more retirement living rental units. Converting portions of the nursing building to grow these options will serve more people desiring these care and housing accommodations.

Over the past few years, the Masonic Village has planned to expand its retirement living offerings by marketing 66 new duplex cottages to be built on the 450-acre campus. This project meets seniors' preferences for an active lifestyle coupled with the security of available health care services if, and when, they may be needed.

Masonic Village opened its model cottage in February 2016 for prospective depositors to see first-hand what their new home could look like. As with any development project, there is a lengthy approval process by township, municipal and environmental protection agencies. Construction will begin in July, with the first cottages completed during the first quarter of 2018. For more information about this project, or to express interest, please contact Linda Andress, Director of Marketing, at 609-479-1777.

With plans to reposition our healthcare offerings and grow our retirement options, Masonic Village at Burlington is well positioned for long-term success.



902 Jacksonville Road **Burlington, NJ 08016** www.njmasonicvillage.com Open to serve, Open to all



### **New Donor Wall Planned**

Over the next year, the Masonic Village at Burlington will reduce its skilled nursing accommodations, and increase its memory support and retirement living options to best meet the demands of current and future residents. These renovations will change the floor plans of the existing wings that will be impacted. As a result, the current areas will become entirely new and different.

Many of these areas had been dedicated years ago through the generosity of our donors. In order to ensure that these donors will continue to be recognized, a new donor wall has been planned. This special installation will be created in a prominent location as part of the renovations.

All donors who will be included on the donor wall will be contacted with details. Please do not hesitate to call the Development Office with any questions or concerns at 1(800) 792-8690. Our donors are a vital part of our success. We hope that the new donor wall will help inspire others to join our donors in support of our mission of providing quality care and services to the residents of our Masonic Village.



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

Web: www.njmasonicgiving.org

# Americans own several trillions of dollars of wealth in the form of qualified pension plans, profit sharing plans, 401(k)s, 403(b) tax sheltered annuities, SEP, Keoghs, IRAs and stock option plans. Congress never meant for these plans to be passed on to heirs. These assets are considered "income in respect of decedent or IRD."

# Someone has to pay the tax on these assets. By leaving them to someone other than your spouse, you can subject your heirs to significant taxes on their inheritance. Even if you do not have a taxable estate, the tax rate on these assets could well exceed fifty percent.



#### **► IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER**

If you are 70½ or older, you can make a gift of up to \$100,000 from your IRA this year to help our cause. Making direct charitable gifts from your IRA is one of the best ways to give to us, and it is simple to do! Gifts from your IRA are not reportable as taxable income and, therefore, are not included in your adjusted gross income. Contact your IRA administrator to make a gift from your IRA or contact us to learn more.

This information is not intended as tax, legal or financial advice. Gift results may vary. Consult your personal financial advisor for information specific to your situation.

# 

### CHARITABLE BEQUEST

If you plan to include charitable gifts in your estate plans, consider naming a charity like ours as the beneficiary of your IRD assets while leaving your cash and other investment assets to your heirs. Why? Charities are tax exempt and, unlike your heirs, will not pay taxes on IRAs and other retirement plans.

Naming a charity as the beneficiary of an IRD asset is easy. You can make a beneficiary designation by completing a simple form provided by your plan administrator. Then leave your heirs the assets like your home or stocks that can step up to fair market value when you pass away. This permits your heirs to sell these assets with little or no tax due and make use of their full inheritance.

#### CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY

Some individuals prefer leaving their IRD assets to fund a charitable gift annuity that will benefit a friend or family member with lifetime fixed payments. Typically, this type of gift is appropriate when the beneficiary is fairly senior and/or would like to receive payments that never change. A gift annuity is easier and less expensive to establish and administer than a charitable remainder trust. It also may be funded with a much lower amount. With this plan, usually only one charity is the named beneficiary of the remaining value. Please contact us to view an illustration of this plan for your loved one.

### CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUST

Funding a charitable remainder trust with your IRA or other IRD assets as part of your estate plan can help you provide for your heirs and lessen their tax burden. The trust will pay your loved ones income over a number of years. Your heirs will pay tax on the income over time, as opposed to facing a large tax bill if IRA proceeds were given to them all at once. At the end of the trust, any remaining principal will go to help further our mission.

#### MAY WE ASSIST YOU?

We are here to help! Please contact us to learn how you can provide for the people and the causes you care the most about while avoiding unnecessary tax on your IRD assets.



Proceeds to benefit work of Acacia Hospice and Masonic Village 10:00 am-3:00 pm • Rain Date: Sunday, Sept. 24

Music, Food Trucks, Prizes, Raffles, Civil War Reenactments, Tours of Historic West Hill Manor, a Vendor Market and More!

Masonic Village at Burlington 902 Jacksonville Road, Burlington, NJ

Show Participants: \$20 to Register on Day of Show

Registration: 10 am - Noon

All Makes and Models Welcomed

For more information, please contact us at (609) 239-3857
Show Participants and Public Parking: Please use Oxmead Entrance





### **YOUR Foundation - Committed to YOU**



Submitted by Richard F. Schmidt, PDDGM 3<sup>rd</sup> District, President, Masonic Charity Foundation of New Jersey

Focused on its ongoing commitment to New Jersey Masons and their families, the Masonic Charity Foundation has been providing fraternal support to approximately 100 New Jersey Masons or their wives in the retirement living, personal care and nursing areas of the Masonic Village at Burlington. In 2016, the Foundation subsidized almost \$3.1 million in direct fraternal care and Medicaid-subsidized services to Masonic families residing at the Masonic Village, plus provided financial outreach support to New Jersey Masons living elsewhere.

In order to better communicate our efforts to aid Masonic families, in January the Foundation hired a New Jersey Mason as the Director of Outreach and Engagement to focus on educating New Jersey Masons and their families about the various support services available to them through the Foundation. A new toll-free Outreach line was instituted to aid with this program: 1-866-NJ-O-REACH (1-866-656-7322).

I am pleased to report that Acacia Hospice achieved accreditation by Community Health Accreditation Program (CHAP), recognizing the exemplary care we provide to patients at the end of life. We appreciate the hard work and dedication to Acacia's management and staff for achieving this status. Having this accreditation should help us be more competitive in this critical market.

As a four-star We Honor Veterans program participant,

Acacia Hospice provides many meaningful services to those who have served our country when they need our support. Through the generous donation of a corporate sponsor, the Annual Veterans Tree that many of us enjoy viewing on the Masonic Village campus each November will shine even more brightly this year with new LED lights. If you pass its brilliant display this year, I encourage you to remember our brave heroes who have given so much to protect our freedom. On behalf of all my fellow veterans I ask you to consider taking part in honoring a veteran during his or her final days.

We are extremely grateful to our dedicated donors, whose selfless generosity allows us to serve those within our fraternal family when they need our support. Through the first four months of 2017, the Foundation received over 437 cash donations, with an average gift of approximately \$540! We have been blessed to have seen an increase in the number of Masons contributing to our mission and hope to see that trend continue to grow. Member donations enable us to provide care to those who can no longer support themselves. Every gift counts, no matter the size, and makes a significant difference in others' lives.

There are multiple opportunities for giving, including responding to annual appeals, funding charitable gift annuities to structure current cash flow, and planned giving to share your lifetime success. For more information, please contact Brother Chris Abbott, Director of Development, at 609-239-3999.



### Life is full of choices.

When you choose carefree living at Masonic Village, you can enjoy flexible dining options, amenities and activities, housekeeping, maintenance and priority access to quality health care services, all within one monthly service fee. Join us for a lunch and learn presentation on our new cottage project, tour model homes and learn why Masonic Village may be the right choice for you!

### Thursday, AUGUST 24

Fellowship Center at 1114 Oxmead Road, Burlington, NJ 08016

10 AM: Presentation

There will be a marketing presentation of approximately 60 minutes.

11 AM - 12 Noon: Tours 12 Noon: Lunch

Reserve on or before August 8! 609-479-1544 or email info@njmasonic.org.



# MW Dieter B. Hees



For details about the Fun Shoot, contact Dan Walker reklaw9@aol.com

# Fun Shoot T-Shirt

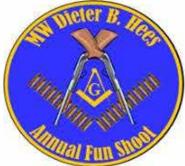


Large and Extra Large \$15.00 2XL and 3XL \$20.00



Contact

Ed Costa 609-618-7502 edcosta403@gmail.com Dan Walker 856-229-3013 reklaw9@aol.com Denis Johnson 703-278-6286 dwj4185@gmail.com









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The New Jersey Masonic Charity Foundation 902 Jacksonville Road Burlington, New Jersey 08016



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## Say "I Do" to donating your vehicle to the Masonic Charity Foundation of NJ!

It's fast, easy and hassle-free!

Call toll free: 1-888-71-MASON

The donation specialist will ask you information about your vehicle, and will arrange for free and fast pick-up. There's no paperwork for you!

You'll receive a tax deductible receipt when you make your donation. Moreover, you'll know you've helped the residents of the Masonic Village at Burlington.

And that is a happily-ever-after ending!



