

THE NEW JERSEY FREEMASON

Fall 2016



NORTH EAST CONFERENCE OF GRAND MASTERS AND GRAND SECRETARIES

(Left to Right): Senior Grand Warden Roger Quintana, Deputy Grand Master Dieter B. Hees, Grand Master Walter R. Kaulfers and Most Worshipful John F. Ryan at the North East Conference of Grand Masters and Grand Secretaries. Held at the Killington Grand Resort Hotel, July 15-17, 2016.

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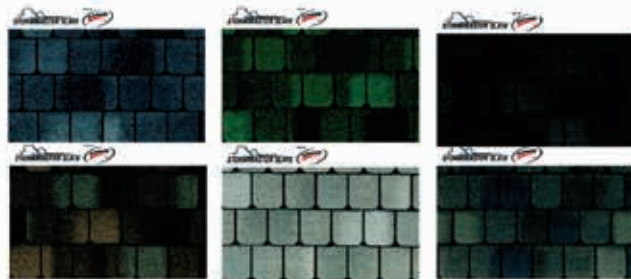
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Schedule

Winter 2016

(Submission deadline December 15th)

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by the Masonic Charity Foundation of
New Jersey.*

Brethren,

I hope you enjoyed your summer break and spent your time recharging your Masonic batteries. As someone who is on Facebook frequently (some might say too much), I was so pleased to see posts from Brothers spending time with their families, friends and with fellow Masons. We work hard but it's also apparent we really know how to have a good time.

Alas, the fun in the sun must come to an end once again. While the Lodges went dark and took a long two-month sabbatical, I assure you the Grand Lodge was actively working behind the scenes. Day in and day out the elected line and Grand Lodge staff is busy planning and doing what needs to be done to ensure that New Jersey Freemasonry is a healthy functioning body. Now it's our turn to go back into the quarry and do the work that makes us the oldest and greatest fraternal organization in the world.

Lastly, I must thank two Brothers in particular who without their help and guidance I could not have put this issue together. Ric Fernandez and Martin Bogardus have gone up and beyond the call of duty to work side by side with me and create a truly team based issue that you see before you. I look forward to seeing what we can do together in the future. Keep sending us your Lodge news and information. We do our very best to include what comes our way.

Sincerely & Fraternaly,


R.W. Cory Sigler

Corrections

In the Summer 2016 Edition of The New Jersey Freemason the article titled "*Freemasonry and the Cause of Liberty*" was unintentionally credited to the wrong author. The correct author is Brother Peter Carkhuff. We strive to catch all mistakes but sometimes one will fall through the cracks. To apologize we are rerunning the article with Brother Carkhuff cited as the author.

Comments

Bro Cory,

I just wanted to let you know that the article written by W B Matt Leilich, entitled *Human and Divine Laws*, that was published in the Summer 2016 edition of The New Jersey Freemason was very enlightening and extremely well written. It brought to light thoughts about our laws that I had not thought of before and even more interesting, how they relate to Freemasonry. Please send my compliments to W Bro. Leilich for an excellent presentation.

D Bro. Steven Romm, Treasurer
Hightstown Apollo Lodge No. 41



Grand Lodge

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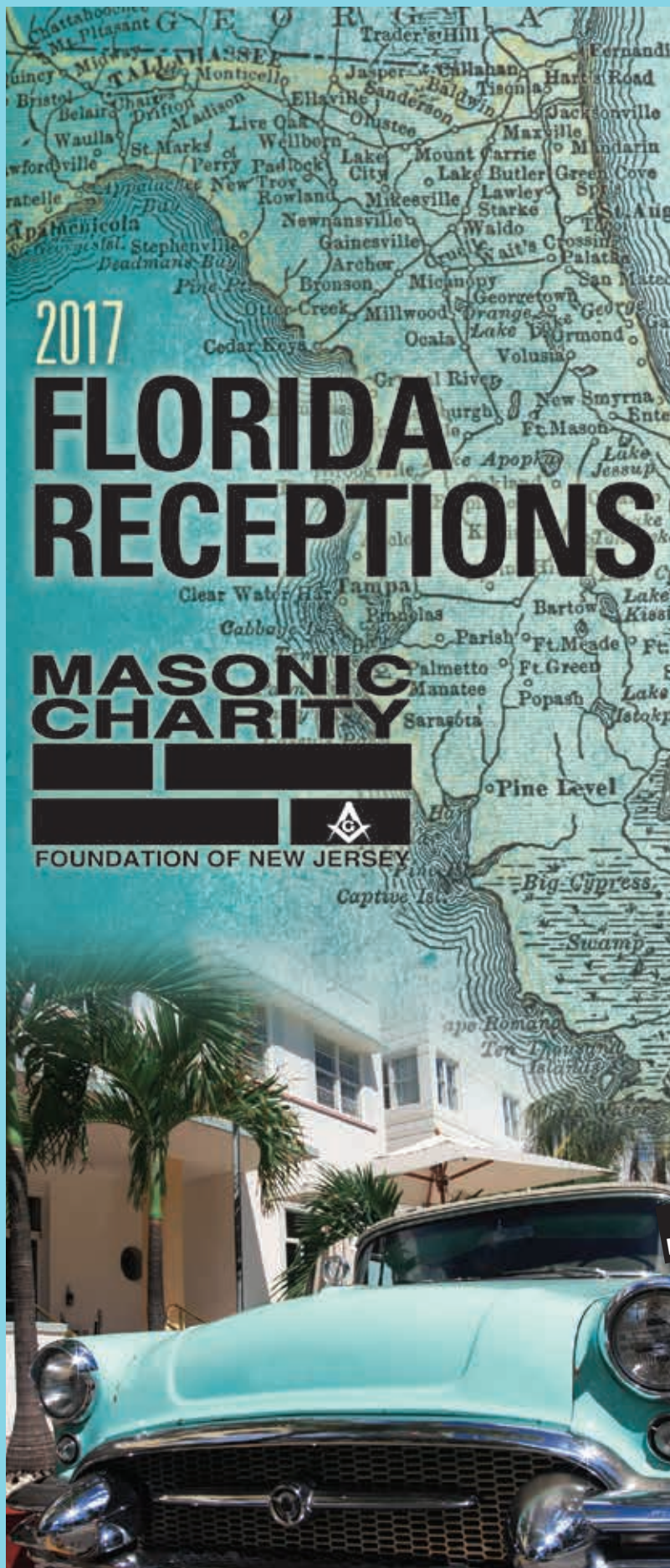


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WALTER R. KAULFERS**

*You are cordially invited to join
the Grand Master at one of
the 2017 Florida Receptions.*

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

FORT MYERS **Monday, January 23**

11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Crowne Plaza Fort Myers
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Hotel Phone: (239) 482-2900

TAMPA **Tuesday, January 24**

11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

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ORLANDO **Wednesday, January 25**

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Grand Master's Message



Grand Lodge

Brethren,

Busy, fulfilling and energizing are words that I use to describe the months after my installation as your Grand Master. I have had

the pleasure of sponsoring many great experiences beginning with my Grand Master's trip to Alaska. From August 5th to August 12th, I along with 108 Masons and their families spent four days visiting many cities along the Alaskan coast. We then boarded a cruise ship and sailed up the coast of Alaska. It was truly memorable.

On August 14th, I attended a Trenton Thunder baseball game. 68 Masons and guests enjoyed the game.

The Grand Lodge of New Jersey hosted a delegation from the Grand Orient of Parana and the Grand Lodge of Parana located in Brazil on August 16th. Both Grand Lodges mutually recognize one another. These visitors are seeking recognition from The Grand Lodge of New Jersey.

On September 18th, 30 NJ Masons, friends and I participated in the Lehigh Valley Grand Master's Charity Sporting Clays Shoot. We had a very enjoyable day of shooting sporting clays and fine fellowship.

On September 23th, my Gentlemen's Cigar Event held on the property of Clifton Lodge was well attended. The proceeds will be given to my charities to fight childhood cancer research.

As of this writing, The Masonic Leadership Conference is scheduled to be held at Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania on October 28th and 29th. This conference has been beneficial to the attendees and I am confident that this conference will generate great enthusiasm among those Lodge officers who attend the weekend.

One of the many highlights of my time as your Grand Master was an invitation to attend the 225th anniversary of Nova Caesarea Harmony Lodge No. 2 in Cincinnati, Ohio this past August. This anniversary has a special meaning for the members of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey. After the Revolutionary War, colonists began to tame the wilderness outside of the original Thirteen Colonies. A group of stalwart pioneers settled in what is now known as Cincinnati. In 1791, some of these pioneers were New Jersey Freemasons. They petitioned the Grand Lodge of New Jersey to form a Lodge. On September 8, 1791 The Grand Lodge sitting in Trenton acted favorably upon their petition and issued a warrant under the name of Nova Caesarea Lodge #10, which has since been renamed Nova Caesarea Harmony Lodge No. 2. It is the oldest continuing Lodge in the Grand Lodge of Ohio. R.W. Roger Quintana, Senior Grand Warden, R.W. Gregory

Scott, Junior Grand Warden and R.W. Moises Gomez, and Past Grand Historian also accompanied me. R.W. Gomez gave a wonderful history of the connection between our Grand Lodge and Nova Caesarea Harmony Lodge No. 2.

By using our best efforts to present our Fraternity in a positive light, we show the world that we stand for Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. By remembering the Principle Tenants of our Institution, let us remember to *"Conduct ourselves as such before God and Man"*.

May you and your family have a Blessed "Thanksgiving".

Fraternally,

M.W. Walter R Kaulfers

Grand Master

"Embrace the Future"

GM's 2016/2017 Calendar

October

- 1 OV - JGW Reception R.W. Gregory Scott Burlington
- 5 GMO - NJ 33rd Society Dinner Valley of Central NJ
- 6 11th District GLI - Acacia Lodge No 20
- 8 Square & Compass Day - Local Lodge Buildings
- 13 14th District Reception
- 17 1st District GLI - Musconetcong Lodge No. 42
- 25 2nd & 8th District Reception
- 20 19th District GLI - Burlington Lodge No. 32

November

- 1 OV- 4th District Reception - SEASONS
- 3 14th District GLI - Host Lodge No. 6
- 7 10th District Reception
- 10 15th District GLI
- 17 20th District GLI - Harmony Lodge No. 18
- 22 3rd District GLI - Mosaic Lodge No. 194
- 30 5th District Reception

December

- 3 Feast of St. John - Fellowship Center
- 21 Board Meeting and Deputy School

January 2017

- 11 Board Meeting and Deputy School
- 14-18 Florida Trip
- 28 Winter Seminar

Deputy Grand Master's Message



Ham & Eggs

A fable starts with a pig and a chicken walking down the road.

The chicken says: *"Hey pig, I was thinking we should open a restaurant!"*

Pig replies: *"Hmm, maybe, what should we call it?"*

The chicken responds: *"How about 'ham-n-eggs?"*

The pig thinks a moment and says: *"No thanks. I'd be committed, but you'd only be involved."*

Are you Committed or Involved?

Anyone who plays or coaches any sport is committed. They have a direct interest in the outcome. The officials and referees are involved. Their involvement is necessary, but they receive no benefit from the outcome. They have no skin in the game, as the saying goes. The teams, players and coach's futures, however, depend on their commitment. To be committed, **groundwork** needs to be laid. In Masonry, we do this in various fashions though the process of being committed should be instilled in potential candidates even before they hand in a petition and it is voted upon. By definition, our craft is not a good fit for everyone and everyone is not necessarily a good fit for our craft. Why not have a waiting period before even accepting a petition for membership? Why not insist on a time for all to get to know each other and determine if this is indeed a journey that needs to continue or not?

Are you Into It or In It?

The greatest strength a Mason can exhibit comes from within, not without. To be "into it" requires **passion** which can only come from your own heart. How does that passion get there? One way is for it to be implanted by lighting a proverbial bonfire in someone's heart at the beginning of his

Masonic journey through mentorship.

This typically begins with the very first contact a candidate has with someone from the Craft. It is

incumbent upon each of us to

make being a Mason a passionate desire, not a meaningless unfiltered process. For membership to grow we must offer value to our brethren by setting standards high and giving brethren the tools to reach it. In fact, this year the Brierley Award was introduced by our Grand Master, to foster such an environment.

Are you Active or Passive?

With proper mentorship, training and fellowship, our brethren can receive the **skills** necessary to become active members with positive feedback and ongoing input. Many Masonic tools are available to prepare and sustain brethren with Masonic and life skills. When any of us feel good and confident our input and results are typically positive. Our Masonic tools are always there for all to share. If you want to have a more active with a more satisfying Masonic experience, you can work at sharpening those Masonic skills.

Let's use our **MASONIC GPS: Groundwork, Passion, Skills** to become "committed," "into it" and "active" so we can make good on our obligations and continue to spread the light in our own lives, our families and the greater world society.

Fraternally,



R.W. Dieter B. Hees
Deputy Grand Master

Polar Bear Plunge

February 25, 2017

Benefiting the New Jersey Special Olympics

Please Register or donate to a plunger online at:

www.plungeseaside.org

Register Under New Jersey Freemason Team

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Aditya Thaker, adityathaker@gmail.com, 609-233-0265

David Lorenc, dpl0151@gmail.com, 908-296-0960





Senior Grand Warden's Message



Grand Lodge

Brethren,

Our Masonic Home was founded to care for Masons and their families regardless of their ability

to pay. This is our mission, our Masonic Campus. We are working hard to align our efforts with our original mission. This has been an arduous, but fulfilling process, and while we are not quite there yet, we are confident in our ability to achieve this goal.

Over the past few years, the board of your Masonic Charities Foundation has been focused on improving our finances while reevaluating the services we provide through our newly re-branded Masonic Village at Burlington.

Your board is in the middle of a strategic planning process to discuss the challenges and opportunities we are facing. Our goal is to provide a home or services to any aging Mason or family member who requires assistance. To accomplish this, we have approved a spending policy to balance the cost of care and services we can offer and still protect our endowment investments for the future. Once this process is in place, we will be able to start taking applications for those who may have an interest in living at the Masonic Village, but may not have the financial means. We will assemble a priority list for those whom we can't immediately serve, and we will work to find interim solutions for those individuals. Our goal is to guarantee that no Mason or family members are turned away in retirement living, assisted living or nursing services. There have been 11 Masons admitted to health care since January 1, 2016. We need your continued support of our Masonic Home.

Currently, we are serving 102 Masons or their family members in all levels of service, and we are providing fraternal care to seven residents in retirement living. Next, we will evaluate the number of nursing beds we need to serve our Brothers and family members on our campus. Due to decreasing government reimbursements and increased costs for providing services, we are losing approximately \$120 per day for every Medicaid resident we serve. Still, we are subsidizing Masons and family members who qualify for Medicaid, as well as care for two other residents in the healthcare services areas. Our fraternal care costs are estimated to be \$60,000 for 2016. In addition, we continue to provide outreach support to Brothers and their families including referral resources, donated wheelchairs and financial assistance.

This focus has required extensive changes. We have focused on operational improvements to limit the losses of investments. We refinanced debt and restructured our staffing and benefit costs. And we have grown our retirement

living offerings as the Brethren have requested. In 2013 we had operating losses of \$3.2 million, in 2016 the budgeted operating loss was \$277,000. We continue to work towards a balanced budget with sustained fraternal care.

A few years ago, the residential living area of the campus was only 30% occupied. After mold remediation and extensive renovations, we built and occupied 85 modern, affordable retirement living apartments, which I am proud to report are fully occupied. This response demonstrates a strong need and desire for these types of services and living arrangements.

Based on input we received, we pre-marketed retirement living cottages and built a model duplex cottage so prospective residents could tour the proposed design. We've received a positive response, so once we attain sufficient reservations and township approvals are in place, we will be ready to start building in spring 2017.

Along with re-branding the community with a new name and logo to reflect the evolution of our services. We also updated our mission statement to reflect the importance of Freemasonry: *"The Masonic Charity Foundation of New Jersey delivers personalized services and compassionate care, inspired by the spirit, ideals and values of Freemasonry, to promote the highest quality of life for our Brothers and their families."*

To make fraternal involvement more convenient and accessible, we created a number of opportunities for our residents to enjoy fraternally-sponsored events such as transportation to the Junior Grand Warden Ball, Chairman's Ball, Grand Master's social activities, as well as Shrine activities. We have a reinstituted High 12 Club and made available lodge meetings on the campus. A lodge on the Campus is in our vision for the future.

Throughout all these changes, your Masonic Campus continues to demonstrate a high level of quality in its care and services. This is something of which, as Masons, we should all be proud!

Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth, Masonry is a way of life.
Fraternally,

R.W. Roger Quintana
Senior Grand Warden



Grand Lodge

Junior Grand Warden's Message

My Brothers,

Freemasonry is a system of morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols. These are the Principal Tenets of Freemasonry. Derived from these tenets are the virtues of faith, hope and charity. Charity, or brotherly kindness, is said to be the chief of all the social virtues and ought to be the distinguishing characteristic of every Freemason. Charity is devoted to the promotion of the welfare and happiness of humankind and not for the benefit of the individual. If charity is misapplied it ceases to be a virtue and becomes a folly. I believe charity is the virtue that we need the most right now, in a world filled with turmoil and such uncertainty. We, as Masons, must step up and be a visible presence in our communities. Showing our friends, neighbors and associates what we do best and that is all the great charitable and benevolent things we do as Masons. Our food pantries, school supplies/backpack programs, blood drives, veterans assistance, Arc walks, fundraisers for all types of diseases and causes are just some of the great things we do as Masons, especially the great work done by our Shiners' Hospital for Children, who operate 22 non-profit medical facilities across North America for children who

need medical assistance regardless of the patient's ability to pay. Charity does not only mean something monetary, we all have different lengths of our Cable tows, but the giving of your time, services and kindness are all charitable contributions that are strongly needed. I don't know about you, but I feel great and fulfilled when doing or giving to a cause in need, and I am sure you do also. This does not go unnoticed by those we assist and our peers. Hopefully this positive attention and feedback will raise a question; who are those Freemasons and how do I become one? My Brothers, actions speak louder than words. Let's all make it happen together. Remember, there is strength in unity.

Fraternally Yours,

R.W. Gregory J. Scott
Junior Grand Warden



Grand Lodge Memories

"Worshipful Masters of the 3rd District"

William L. Daniels Lodge,
May 21, 1973.

Do you recognize the
Brother second from the
left on the top row?

*Left to right: George Steinhardt,
Walter R Kaulfers, Leif F. Askeland,
Edmund S. Haines, Edwin R. Geiger,
Robert E. Kable Jr., Richard H. Box,
M.W. Roland J. Bebbrens (Grand
Instructor), R.W. Frank J. Austin
(District Deputy), Alan S. Dobrowolski,
Earl L. Driver (not shown).*



Fraternal Relations



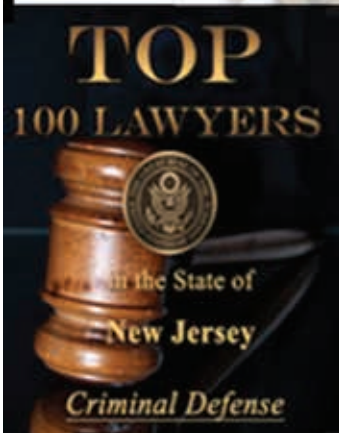
Grand Lodge

We have just arrived in Brazil after the excellent trip we did in the USA.

On behalf of MW Iraci da Silva Borges (PGM Grand Lodge of Paraná) and in my name, I am writing to thank you for the luncheon and the meeting we had at the Grand Lodge of New Jersey.

It was a very pleasant and productive time we spent with you in your beautiful Masonic Temple. We would like to thank you so much for your attention. Should you ever require our assistance in Brazil we are at your disposal.

Fraternally,
Cristian Flores



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If you have been a Mason in New Jersey for any length of time, you should be familiar with M.W. Brother Francis R. Mitchell. He has over the years served as the Grand Instructor and you would have seen him in your District conducting the annual Grand Lodge of Instruction.

This story begins on Tuesday, February 15, 1927, the day M.W. Brother Mitchell was brought into this world in the borough of Palmyra, NJ. This is a small town situated right on the banks of the Delaware River not far from Burlington. Growing up in Palmyra at that time, he was one of those people, who could not wait to serve his country and enlisted in the United States Navy, serving from 1944 to 1946. He married Miss Elizabeth Louise Martin on June 26, 1948. Betty Lou, as she was called became a very active member of the Order of the Eastern Star.

In 1958, he was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA. He worked at the Philadelphia Electric Company and eventually retired as a Staff Engineer. After over 50 years of marriage, Betty Lou passed away at the young age of 71. They had five children: Steven (deceased), Stuart, Scott, Cristopher and Stacey. In 2001, M.W. Brother Mitchell met Dorothy Anderson Sefransky and on December 22, 2001 they were married. Once school was behind him, he decided to petition the local Lodge, Covenant Lodge No. 161 F&A.M. and on April 15, 1959, he was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason. He rose quickly through the chairs and served as Worshipful Master in the year 1967.

Following his year as Worshipful Master, the then W. Brother Mitchell was appointed District Deputy Grand Master of the 19th Masonic District by M.W. Loral Pancake, a position he held from 1968 to 1973. Just to put this into some perspective, back then there were no District Ritual Instructors, so the District Deputy had his hands full. Oh by the way, there were 13 Lodges in the 19th District back then. In the year 1986, he was again appointed District Deputy by M.W. Brother William Sackett; he served in this position until 1989. It has been told that R.W. Brother Mitchell was the consummate task master, albeit not always the most popular DDGM, he ensured the highest standards of achievement for the Lodges of the 19th District. He went on to be elected as a Trustee of the Masonic Charity Foundation of New Jersey for the years 1976 to 1981; serving as President in 1981.

His rise to Grand Master started with his election to Junior Grand Warden for the year 1990, leading to his installation as Most Worshipful Grand Master for the year 1993. As part of his obligation as a member of the Elected Grand Line and thereafter, he served again as Trustee of the Masonic Charity

Foundation for the years 1990-1996. Following his elected terms on the "Home Board", M.W. Brother Mitchell served as "ex-officio" member during the Mission 2000 Building Project, acting as liaison between the Board and the contractors.



Photo by R.W. Tom Murphy

Throughout his Masonic Life, Brother Mitchell has enjoyed the fellowship of his Brother Masons through his membership in the York Rite Bodies, Crescent Temple, Scottish Rite and many other Masonic bodies. He was coroneted a Sovereign Grand Inspector General, 33^o Honorary Member of the Supreme Council on September 25, 1985 in Detroit, Michigan. It should be noted that a 33^o Mason is a Master Mason who has exhibited knowledge, passion and sacrifice to his craft. It is an honor that is bestowed upon a Scottish Rite Mason and it is not something for which one can apply or campaigned for.

M.W. Brother Mitchell has been recognized for his service and dedication to the Fraternity

on numerous occasions as the recipient of the Daniel Coxe Medal in 1995, the Lewis M. Parker Award in 1996 and again in 2013. In parallel to his many other responsibilities, he served on the Jurisprudence Committee for over 20 years.

For over half a century, M.W. Brother Mitchell served as a member of Peter's Episcopal Church, he is currently one of (if not "the") eldest member of the parish. From the year 1956 to 1968, he served as a member of the Vestry; from 1969 to 1970 as Junior Warden and from 1971 to 1972 as Senior Warden. He once again served as Senior Warden in 2013 and then as Chairman of the Endowment Committee. At the venerable age of 89, he still provides service to God, the clergy, and the congregation by reverently serving as Eucharist Minister.

In spite of all his titles and achievements, Brother Mitchell has always expressed the belief that there is nothing higher than the degree of Master Mason – all others are but lateral moves.

In his private life, one of his true delights is his constant companion, "JJ", his rescued Chihuahua-mix grand-puppy.

For anyone of us, we would certainly be happy and proud to end our story here; however, there is much more that this man has done to support the Grand Lodge and it can be safely said that he has influenced and touched every member of this Jurisdiction. This part of the story begins in 1994; it was in this year that M.W. Grand Master, Earl F. Sutton initially appointed M.W. Brother Mitchell as Grand Instructor of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey. Since that initial appointment, he has been privileged to serve as Grand Instructor for four more terms and was awarded the title of "Grand Instructor Emeritus" by M.W. Brother Gerald Sharpe. ➤

'Sneak Peek' at this Year's MLC



Grand Lodge

Submitted by Ricardo Fernandez, PM, Associate Editor

This year's Masonic Leadership Conference is right around the bend! The dates will be Friday, October 28 through Sunday October 30 at the Masonic Villages in Elizabethtown, PA. RW Brother Dave Tucker and WB Ric Fernandez are working out the final details but here are some of the details.

The focus will continue to be on leadership and teamwork, providing the attendee with the tools necessary to lead your lodge (and NJ Freemasonry) into the 21st century.

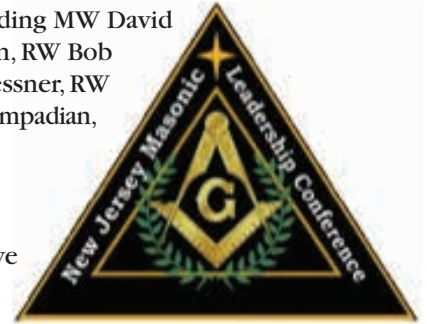
There will be talks on mentoring...and beyond mentoring. Also, there will be talks on how to run effective meetings in your lodge, preparing for the East and a workshop on proper Masonic protocol. Besides the talks, there will be selectives focusing on Teamwork, Lodge Governance, Social Media and Servant Based Leadership.

Our Keynote will be Brother Gary Stel from Pennsylvania speaking about Team Building. Other speakers will include

many old favorites including MW David Chase, RW Keith Herman, RW Bob Howard, RW George Niessner, RW Moises Gomes, RW Roy Simpadian, RW Dave Tucker, WB Ric Fernandez, and RW Glenn Vischer.

Of course, we will have our Elected Line Forum where you can ask questions to our current elected Grand Line.

So much Light as well as a weekend of unforgettable Friendship and Fraternity. As MW Walt Kaulfers reminds us, "Embrace the Future". Come joins us. Seating is limited so let your Worshipful Master know you wish to attend this year's MLC as soon as possible. Hope to see you there...You won't regret it.



MW and Illustrious Francis R. Mitchell

continued from page 10

Just to give some background on the position of Grand Instructor, we should keep in mind that our Constitution and Laws requires the appointment of a Grand Instructor *"who shall be the custodian and conservator of the standard Masonic work of New Jersey."*

It is interesting to note that the Grand Lodge has had eighteen Grand Instructors since 1875 and that the first four served the Grand Lodge from 1875 to 1972. Of these four, perhaps R.W. Haines had the greatest impact on the Grand Lodge since he originated the Grand Lodges of Instruction and the Deputy Schools, which are still very much in place in our Grand Lodge.

For the last few decades, M.W. Brother Mitchell was known as the *"Guru"* whenever a question of Ritual or Constitution and By-Laws presents itself. If this wasn't enough, he has been the go-to guy who conducted the installation of officers for the 19th Masonic District for as long as most can remember. He is particularly proud of having installed the officers of Medford Lodge No. 178 for the last 48 years.

Additionally, he has continued to contribute to his Mother Lodge. They have an interesting group within Covenant No. 161 called the Past Master Caterers; they are charged with preparing meals for Lodge collations. You can still see Brother Mitchell helping out with this crew.

As his Brother Mason, the late R.W. William F. Milam often said, even after his year as Grand Master was over - *"Fran Mitchell never quits in his contribution to Freemasonry"*.

Happenings at West Hill

Submitted by Joe Rival, PGM

Sorry for missing the last issue of the Freemason, things are moving very quickly and time just slipped by. After several months of collaboration, we have finally signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the MCF delineating what each of us is responsible for and what we can expect of each other. By the time you read this, we will have already hosted our 4th Annual Civil War Encampment. This was our largest to date. The 6th NH Volunteers, the 6th NY Ind. Battery, the 1st NJ Battery A, the 23rd NJ Volunteers, a person displaying medical instruments used during the War, a person with artifacts from Andersonville Prison, a woman demonstrating basket weaving during the time period and games for the children were all there. We purchased a wall plaque listing all who helped in the renovation by donating time, money or other items. This will be on display for all to see in the front foyer. We also purchased new showcases to display our artifacts and items we wish to sell. Instead of having a Christmas Tour this year, we are having a Fall Harvest Tour on November 20th in conjunction with historic Peachfield. At the end of October we will be part of the walk-a-thon in support of the Burlington Learning Center. A few weeks ago we noticed the portico over the side entrance to the kitchen was in bad shape, it had rotting fascia boards and needed immediate attention. We have hired a carpenter to repair it by replacing the rotted fascia and lintel. The cost for this is being born by the Friends. This is what we were created for, to assist the Foundation in repairing and maintaining the building. We are excited that we are able to accomplish this on our own and not have to bother the MCF for funding. As you can tell, things are really happening at West Hill, so please stay tuned. **And don't forget, we are a 501c3, so all donations are tax deductible.**



US Membership Statistics

Grand Lodge

Masonic Service Association of North America Membership Report 2015 United States

STATE	2014 MEMBERSHIP	2015 MEMBERSHIP	GAIN/(LOSS)
Alabama	25,148	24,936	(212)
Alaska	1,753	1,693	(60)
Arizona	7,544	7,334	(210)
Arkansas	12,026	9,078	(2,948)
California	54,612	52,095	(2,515)
Colorado	8,527	7,890	(737)
Connecticut	10,104	9,758	(346)
Delaware	4,704	4,574	(130)
District of Columbia	4,280	4,215	(65)
Florida	39,848	38,493	(1,355)
Georgia	41,442	37,176	(1,466)
Hawaii	1,721	1,734	13
Idaho	3,422	3,224	(198)
Illinois	60,996	59,326	(1,670)
Indiana	56,373	54,514	(1,859)
Iowa	18,574	17,749	(825)
Kansas	19,260	18,012	(1,248)
Kentucky	40,435	38,814	(1,621)
Louisiana	18,955	16,689	(2,266)
Maine	18,990	17,945	(1,045)
Maryland	14,893	14,160	(733)
Massachusetts	30,115	31,612	1,497
Michigan	31,801	30,524	(1,277)
Minnesota	12,652	12,125	(527)
Mississippi	16,845	16,274	(571)
Missouri	40,862	39,984	(878)

US Membership Statistics



Grand Lodge

STATE	2014 MEMBERSHIP	2015 MEMBERSHIP	GAIN/(LOSS)
Montana	5,226	4,948	(278)
Nebraska	10,899	10,428	(471)
Nevada	3,974	3,875	(99)
New Hampshire	5,831	5,600	(231)
New Jersey	20,560	19,009	(1,651)
New Mexico	4,479	4,346	(133)
New York	39,756	36,791	(2,975)
North Carolina	41,333	40,482	(851)
North Dakota	2,913	2,875	(38)
Ohio	91,040	86,733	(4,307)
Oklahoma	22,601	22,456	(145)
Oregon	8,341	7,947	(394)
Pennsylvania	105,227	101,745	(3,482)
Rhode Island	3,294	3,101	(193)
South Carolina	35,623	34,760	(863)
South Dakota	5,555	5,406	(149)
Tennessee	38,515	37,269	(1,246)
Texas	78,834	74,507	(4,327)
Utah	1,850	1,808	(52)
Vermont	5,488	5,235	(253)
Virginia	35,451	34,775	(676)
Washington	14,174	13,392	(782)
West Virginia	19,784	19,198	(586)
Wisconsin	11,065	11,537	472
Wyoming	3,258	3,101	(157)
TOTALS	1,211,183	1,161,253	(49,930)



US Membership Statistics

Grand Lodge

Masonic Service Association of North America Masonic Membership Totals Since 1924

The Masonic Service Association has compiled the following table of totals of Master Masons in the United States Grand Lodges for the fiscal years indicated. These figures are based

upon M.S.A records and do not necessarily correspond exactly with those published by others sources.

NOTE: * Indicates lowest point ** Indicates highest point

YEAR	U.S. TOTAL		YEAR	U.S. TOTAL		YEAR	U.S. TOTAL
1924	3,077,161		1955	4,009,925		1986	2,839,962
1925	3,157,565		1956	4,053,323		1987	2,753,828
1926	3,218,375		1957	4,085,676		1988	2,682,537
1927	3,267,241		1958	4,099,928		1989	2,608,935
1928	3,295,872		1959**	4,103,161		1990	2,531,643
1929	3,295,125		1960	4,099,219		1991	2,452,676
1930	3,279,778		1961	4,086,499		1992	2,371,863
1931	3,216,307		1962	4,053,563		1993	2,293,949
1932	3,069,645		1963	4,034,020		1994	2,225,611
1933	2,901,758		1964	4,005,605		1995	2,153,316
1934	2,760,451		1965	3,987,690		1996	2,089,578
1935	2,659,218		1966	3,948,193		1997	2,021,909
1936	2,591,309		1967	3,910,509		1998	1,967,208
1937	2,549,772		1968	3,868,854		1999	1,902,588
1938	2,514,595		1969	3,817,846		2000	1,841,159
1939	2,482,291		1970	3,763,213		2001	1,774,200
1940	2,457,263		1971	3,718,718		2002	1,727,505
1941	2,451,301		1972	3,661,507		2003	1,671,255
1942	2,478,892		1973	3,611,448		2004	1,617,032
1943	2,561,844		1974	3,561,767		2005	1,569,812
1944	2,719,607		1975	3,512,628		2006	1,525,131
1945	2,896,343		1976	3,470,980		2007	1,483,449
1946	3,097,713		1977	3,418,844		2008	1,444,823
1947	3,281,371		1978	3,350,409		2009	1,404,059
1948	3,426,155		1979	3,304,334		2010	1,373,453
1949	3,545,757		1980	3,251,528		2011	1,335,503
1950	3,644,634		1981	3,188,175		2012	1,305,539
1951	3,726,744		1982	3,121,746		2013	1,246,241
1952	3,808,354		1983	3,050,242		2014	1,211,183
1953	3,893,530		1984	2,992,389		2015*	1,161,253
1954	3,954,118		1985	2,914,421			

Canadian Membership Statistics



Grand Lodge

Masonic Service Association of North America Membership Report 2015 Canada

Note: * Indicates 2015 membership estimated

GRAND LODGE	2014 MEMBERSHIP	2015 MEMBERSHIP	GAIN/(LOSS)
Alberta	7,137	6,834	(303)
British Columbia	8,123	7,638	(485)
Manitoba	2,174	2,094	(80)
New Brunswick	2,842	2,770	(72)
Newfoundland/Labrador	2,002	1,946	(56)
Nova Scotia*	4,277	4,163	(114)
Ontario	42,159	40,438	(1,721)
Prince Edward Island*	684	675	(9)
Quebec*	4,024	3,964	(60)
Saskatchewan	2,594	2,555	(39)
TOTALS	76,016	73,077	(2,939)

Grand Lodge Proceedings Now Available Online

The GL of NJ proceedings are now online at: <http://gwmemo-rial.org/archives/gl-new-jersey.php>. These are full-resolution PDFs, they take a little time to load. Please be patient.

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Note: We recommend that you read our instructions on How to Use the Masonic Digital Archives in order to use the resources more effectively. They contain detailed procedures for searching the items contained in the database.

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 1970 | 1971 | 1972 | 1973 | 1974 | 1975 | 1976 | 1977 | 1978 | 1979
 1980 | 1981 | 1982 | 1983 | 1984 | 1985 | 1986 | 1987 | 1988 | 1989
 1990 | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999
 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009
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Grand Lodge

Grand Master's Alaskan Cruise



Grand Master's Alaskan Cruise Traveled August 5-12, 2016

The group sailed on Royal Caribbean's Radiance of the Seas visiting the ports of Juneau, Skagway, Icy Strait Point, Ketchikan and Vancouver.



Leadership, Team Leadership and Team Management Experts Wanted!

The Masonic Education Committee is developing plans for our upcoming Seminars. The Leadership Track of the 2017 winter seminar in Trenton will feature a segment on Leadership in the morning and Team Leadership & Teamwork in the afternoon session.

We are looking for one or two New Jersey Masons who have expertise in leadership, team leadership, teamwork and/or team management, and are also willing and capable of presenting/speaking on these topics. If you feel that you are qualified (or perhaps know of brethren with these capabilities) please contact **WB Ric Fernandez, PM** at **609-419-0125** or **TC5FAM@verizon.net** to discuss your potential involvement in the upcoming program.

THE MASONIC EDUCATION COMMITTEE PRESENTS

MASONIC ACADEMY

2017 WINTER SEMINAR



SATURDAY, JANUARY 28TH

8:30 AM – 2:00 PM

REGISTRATION 8:30 AM – 9:00 AM

TRENTON MASONIC TEMPLE | 100 BARRACK STREET

Lunch Included (Sandwiches or BYO) | Attire: Pants & Collared Shirt

2 TRACKS OF PRESENTATIONS:

MASONIC EDUCATION & LEADERSHIP

2017 Officers Recommend

ALL MASTER MASONS & PAST MASTERS WELCOME

Register on The Grand Lodge Website

www.NewJerseyGrandLodge.org

Register Now on **Eventbrite**



Isaiah's Linguistic Conundrum

Submitted by Howard Z. Kanowitz, P.G.C., Rising Sun Lodge No. 15

Kings Solomon and Hiram were allies not simply because they shared a common border and could easily trade with one another. Additionally, they were both of Semitic origin, had similarities of language and were possessed of written alphabets that were nearly identical. This paper, (sharply) abridged from its 2008 original, written for the New Jersey Lodge of Research of and Education, is about the currents and eddies of the Hebrew Language and how a single work can teach multiple lessons about Masonry.

The Hebrew Alphabet consists of 22 consonants and no vowels. Prior to the first Exile which is marked by the destruction of Solomon's Temple, the alphabet was much different. Anyone familiar with the Cecil B. DeMille "Ten Commandments" will recall the unusual writing on the tablets when Moses watched the Finger of G-d burn them into the stone.

Because of the absence of vowels, Hebrew pronunciation has been something of an art form, handed down through the generations. Beginning of the Dark Ages, a form of vowels was introduced in the Ashkanazik or Western European texts, as a teaching tool. These are in the form of dots, along with vertical and horizontal dashes, sort of a Medieval Morse Code. In the Sephardic or Oriental tradition, including Modern Israel, vowels infrequently appear in written use. The Israeli daily newspaper, HAARETZ (the land) contains no printed vowels.

A problem arises when one reads a group of consonants that can assume more than one pronunciation; more than one meaning; more than one word. It then becomes necessary to examine the context of the sentence and use the pronunciation and meaning that makes sense. As an example, the letters l-e-a-d are capable of more than one pronunciation. *"The lieutenant was ordered to lead his troops; so he commanded them to get the lead out! No one could have led them any better."*

But, what do we do when the sentence allows a group of consonants more than one pronunciation; more than one meaning in a context where more than one word fits? Such is the nature of Isaiah's linguistic conundrum.

In Isaiah 54:13 we find this obscure statement: *"All your children will be taught of the L-rd, and great shall be the peace of thy children."* In Hebrew the word for "your children" is phonetically "Bawn-i-ich". It uses the letters Bait, Nun, Yud, Khuf. However, another Hebrew word uses the same letters; it is "Bone-i-ich." If this word is suggestive of a certain special word which each of us received in a most dramatic format, it is because both words share the same root. The word "Bone-i-ich" means "your builders". Both words are displayed below. However, The lower word - "Your Builders" - has an extra letter which is not displayed in the upper word - "Your

Children". That letter, known as a Vav, is actually a special case of a vowel. Were we to remove all the vowels (which is after all what this paper is about), the words would be identical.



For six hundred years this passage from Isaiah was left undisturbed. However, during the Talmudic period, just following the second revolt against Rome of the year 134 of the Common Era, one of the scholars, Rabbi Hannina, interpreted Isaiah by substituting the word Bone-i-ich in place of Bawn-i-ich to read *"All your builders will be taught of the L-rd, and great shall be the peace of thy children."*

Numerous versions of scripture have come to grips with Isaiah 54:13. The "Bible in Basic English" which is a Christian publication (New Testament published in 1941 and Old in 1949), translates 54:13 this way: *"And all your builders will be made wise by the Lord; and great will be the peace of your children."*

Not surprisingly, 54:13 is not the only place this dichotomy between Children and Builders takes place. Isaiah 49:17 shares the same issue. In the Stone Edition Tanach, a Tanach being what is more commonly known as Hebrew Scripture or Old Testament, 49:17 is translated as *"Your children will hasten to return and your ruiners and your destroyers will leave you."* However, in the Douay-Rheims Roman Catholic Bible this phrase is translated as *"Thy builders are come: they that destroy thee and make thee waste shall go out of thee."*

So, what does all this have to do with Masonry? On reading the commentary in the Hebrew Bible, I immediately observed a parallel between 54:13 and the Master's oration to the Entered Apprentice when he is placed in the Northeast Corner of the lodge. As the youngest Entered Apprentice, the man who entered the preparation room an hour or so prior, has been reduced to the status of a child. He has been stripped of all the vestiges of his normal life, his clothing, his minerals and metals, even his sight, and he has been recast in a new persona. In the coming months, when he becomes a Master Mason he will be instructed in the Masonic analogue to Shakespeare's Seven Ages of Man, which we Masons reduce to three - YOUTH, MANHOOD AND AGE. But, to what purpose is the Entered Apprentice placed in the Northeast corner? His position there is allegory to setting the cornerstone, the first step in the building of an edifice. In fact, from the positioning of that cornerstone the entire edifice flows in length breadth and thickness. The child Mason is taught to be a builder. The edifice he is charged to construct is his own character before G-d and man. As we see from Isaiah, as interpreted by Rabbi Hannina, the words children and builders become interchangeable.

However, there is a third concept added into the mix, which also has Masonic significance. In Hebrew the word "understand" is Bin-yan. The term Bin-i-ich means "Your



Submitted by Associate Editor Bro. Martin Bogardus

Many of us are familiar with the comedic humor of “You might be a Redneck” seen on the Blue Collar Comedy Tour featuring Jeff Foxworthy and three of his comedian friends, Bill Engvall, Ron White, and Larry the Cable Guy. But Masons also have their own take on this celebrated comedy bit to help brothers identify what it means to be part of our gentle craft. Here is my “**top 20 list**” of my favorite Masonic observations gleaned from other brother Masons and the Internet:

1. You tailgate someone to see if the bumper sticker on the car ahead of you is Masonic.
2. The car ahead of you has a Square and Compass sticker and you honk three times at the driver.
3. You Google historical figures and other notable celebrities to see if they are Freemasons.
4. You comfortably use arcane 18th century English words to the confusion of the rest of your family and acquaintances.
5. You're at a wedding, and when the minister says “Amen,” you blurt out “*So Mote it Be.*”
6. You find yourself trying to check out the rings on stranger's fingers.
7. You actually “got” the lines in the movie, *The Man Who Would Be King*, and can quote the movie like it was the Bible.
8. You walk around a rectangular room with a bunch of people 3 times looking for the East.
9. You feel compelled to attend the funeral of a complete stranger, just because you read in his obituary that he was a Mason.
10. You referred to a cold beverage as a ‘*means of refreshment*’.
11. You have an affinity for sitting in ancient chairs with busted springs stabbing you in the butt for hours at a time.
12. Your favorite chair at the family's dining room table is situated in the East.
13. You knock at people's doors and wait for them to return the knock.
14. Your wife or roommates wonder why you spend so much time mumbling in the bathroom.
15. Your best friends are an 92 year old WWII veteran of Guadalcanal, a 21 year old University student, a non-practicing Orthodox Jew, a doctor, a boilermaker, an Iranian Kurd, and some guy named Rodger, and you all spend at least one night a month together talking about working tools.
16. If you ever noticed that the Editor-in Chief of the New Jersey Freemason magazine and Batman have never actually been seen in the same room together.
17. You have an irrational fear of goats.
18. If your daughter's new boyfriend comes to the house and you meet him with the tip of a sharp instrument to his chest, you might be a Mason... or maybe just an over protective dad!
19. You think real men wear aprons.
20. If yu cn rd ts, yu mt b a M!

Isaiah's Linguistic Conundrum

continued from page 18

Understanding”. With that the translation becomes “*And all your understanding will be made wise by the L-rd; and great will be the peace of your children.*” In all, we have done no more than to change the pronunciation of a single letter in a single syllable from Bawn to Bone to Bin, or to put it more succinctly in English without vowels, from Bn to Bn to Bn.

“Understanding” is at the root of Masonry. The separation between the ordinary guild worker and the Freemason of the mediaeval period was as dramatic as the difference between the Entered Apprentice and the Master Mason in the construction of the Temple. It was the difference between hacking away at a piece of stone, and using geometry, mathematics and a spiritual sense of beauty and proportion to construct an edifice worthy of consecration as a house of worship to the Grand Architect.

Accordingly, we see that at the Northeast Corner, the Entered Apprentice a **child** of Masonry, begins to acquire useful knowledge – **understanding** – which becomes the **building** block of his Masonic edifice. Did Anderson and company who wrote our ritual have this in mind when they gave us the speech at the Northeast corner? I hardly think so, at least not with any references to Rabbi Hannina. Nevertheless, the association is there. Masonry has always been shrouded in secrecy and mystery. If anything, this association across the centuries, across the cultures of Ancient Hebrew Prophets and Rabbis to the Grand apartments of England and the Americas certainly adds to resolving the ultimate issue as to whether there is a Grand design in the universe. What emerges is that all three concepts “**your children**”, “**your builders**” and “**your understanding**” coalesce and converge in the Northeast Corner.



Teamwork: No Man is an Island

Submitted by Ricardo J. Fernandez, PM



How effective can a general be without an army? How useful is a coach without a team? If there is no team, there is no need for a team leader and conversely without functional leadership, there is no teamwork.

In the last NJ Freemason, I discussed the importance of leadership and the idea that the time is NOW to step up in our various Masonic stations and propel our Craft toward its new horizons.

Yet being a leader is only one component of our Masonic recovery. Leaders who are not good team directors are soon forgotten in history while those who are able to work within a team are the ones remembered. Consider our illustrious brother George Washington: How effective would he have been without a team of compatriots to help him achieve his dream of independence? **The very best leaders not only have vision and direction but understand the importance of acquiring and managing teams to accomplish their lofty goals.**

Once you are recognized for your leadership ability within Masonry, you will be asked or assigned to take on an important position where you will likely be working within a group of your brethren. You may be asked to participate in a committee, or workgroup. You may choose to join a progressive officer line or an event committee. Maybe you have been selected to be a trustee or to be a part of some other group of brothers functioning in union for the benefit of the Craft. In all of these cases, you WILL be part of a team and you will need to learn to work effectively with your brethren.

A team can be defined as a group of individuals coming together to achieve common goals. It can consist of a minimum of two people with no maximum size although data seems to suggest that the larger the group the more active the management that will be required.

Examples of great teams are found in a variety of settings and industries: Seal Team Six, the Manhattan Project, the Apollo 11 rescue team, the Royal Society of London, Rogers and Hammerstein, Simon and Garfunkel, the Beatles and Rolling Stones, the 1992 Olympics USA basketball Dream Team, the 1969 Amazing Mets. There are many such examples in human

history. Communication, proper recognition, diversity, a positive culture are but a few of the many components of successful teamwork, too many to be covered in this limited article.

We are developing this year's Fall Masonic Leadership Conference to focus on Leadership, Teamwork, and Team Leadership. Our speakers will include many local well regarded Masonic lecturers, including yours truly. Topics will include Preparing for the East, Mentoring and Beyond Mentoring, Lodge Governance, Masonic Awareness, Social Media, Servant Leadership, Conflict Resolution, Team Work and Team Leadership. Brother Gary Steel from Pennsylvania will Keynote on **"Living Leadership"**. There will also be a Grand Elected Line Town Forum addressing questions from the audience.

Remember that no man is an island. The communal and tribal natures of our human experience are what have allowed us to be the highest form of life on this Earth. From Worshipful Master to Grand Master, regardless of our God-given ability, we CANNOT do it alone. We need to learn to work effectively TOGETHER, harvest the power of fraternity and fellowship, the industry of the beehive. Those of us in leadership positions must EFFECTIVELY LEAD our teams to accomplish our goals and bring Masonry back to its former glory.

MW Walter R. Kaulfers vision statement for this year is **"Embrace the Future"**. Come to this year's Masonic Leadership Conference (MLC) to learn about becoming a leader, about teamwork, and many other important aspects for running an effective blue lodge. Let us help you reach your pinnacle as a Mason. Be part of the coming renaissance of our Craft.

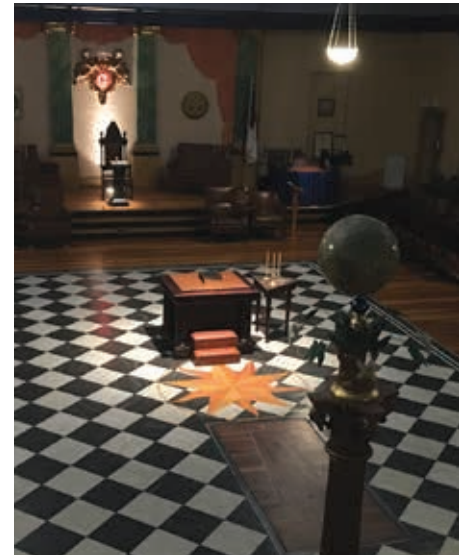
If you have an interest in attending, please let your lodge's Worshipful Master know of your desire to participate and ask him to submit your name for consideration. The MLC is open to all Masons but there are limited seats available.



No man is an Island, entire of it self; every man is a piece of the Continent, a part of the main; if a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as if a manor of thy friends or of thine own were; any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in Mankind; And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.

(John Donne)

izquotes.com



Submitted by Members of NJ LORE, No. 1786

A New Jersey Masonic contingent comprised mostly of New Jersey Lodge of Masonic Research and Education No. 1786 and Inspiratus Lodge No. 357 members came together to attend the 2016 Masonic Restoration Foundation Symposium in Asheville, North Carolina on August 19th and 20th. The event was held at the beautifully restored Asheville Masonic Temple. The quality of the venue set the tone for the event.

The Masonic Restoration Foundation Symposium is the largest gathering of Masons in North America who are expressly committed to observing the highest standards of excellence in the Craft.

The event began with an energetic Harmony [Festive Board] held in the Temple Dining Hall with many traditional Masonic toasts being offered, lively singing, and featured commentary from Keynote Speaker, Robert L. D. Cooper, Curator of the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

During the symposium, a lineup of well-spoken lecturers provided Masonic Light, instruction and tutorials for the brethren. Brother's also had the opportunity to see an Observant style, Master Mason degree conferred by two hosting Observant Lodges, Veritas Lodge No. 769, and Sophia Lodge No. 767. One interesting lodge room novelty witnessed was that the floor opened up to reveal Hiram Abiff's shallow grave, which lent an exciting dimension to the degree proceedings.

Since 2001, the Masonic Restoration Foundation (MRF) has been examining issues facing North American Masonry, identifying successful current and historical practices, and offering realistic solutions aimed at improving the personal experience of Masonic labor.

They have scrutinized Masonry today to better understand modern perceptions of Freemasonry, and have targeted what newer Masons may be seeking in their lodge experience. They are aware that many men who are joining the fraternity today have already committed a lot of reading time/web surfing to formulating an opinion about the fraternity prior to joining.

Many of these men come into Masonry knowing more than those who have been members for a decade or more. These young men tend to perceive Freemasonry as a venue for truth seeking, a vehicle for self-improvement and for philosophical development; e.g. the discovery of one's inner potential. Newly-minted brothers know what they want from the fraternity and have high expectations from us that their lodge will deliver on those expectations.

As North American Freemasonry faces some of the most important challenges in its history, the MRF stands to ensure a sense of purpose and identity for the Craft.

More information on Observant Freemasonry and the MRF's Organization, Mission and Goals, are available on their website at: <http://masonicrestorationfoundation.org/index.html>.



Submitted by Matthew A. Leilich, PM, Distinguished Lecturer,
Gothic-Fraternal Lodge No. 270

Many believe that rebellion against the state is an un-masonic offense, worthy of condemnation, and at first glance, our ritual appears to support this belief. Part of the Entered Apprentice Charge reads: *"In the State, you are to be a quiet and peaceable citizen, true to your government and just to your country. You are not to countenance disloyalty or rebellion, but patiently submit to legal authority, and to conform with cheerfulness to the government of the country in which you live."* The Entered Apprentice Charge is quite clear. Good masons should be loyal to their governments and submit to the governing authorities.

In fact, this requirement of submission is further inculcated during the Ceremony of Installation. The Worshipful Master elect is required to signify his assent to a summary of the Ancient Charges and Regulations which point out the duty of the Master of a Lodge. It is important to note however, that the Worshipful Master elect is assenting to a summary of the Ancient Charges, not the Ancient Charges themselves. Three of these summarized charges read:

- "II. You agree to be a peaceful citizen, and cheerfully to conform to the laws of the county in which you reside.
- III. You promise not to be concerned in plots and conspiracies against the government, but patiently to submit to the decisions of the supreme legislature.
- IV. You agree to pay a proper respect to the civil magistrates, to work diligently, live creditably and act honorably by all men."

Since our ritual clearly condemns rebellion against the state how do we justify that so many revolutionaries, both in the United States and in the rest of the world, belonged to our gentle craft? The list is endless: General George Washington, the Marquis de Lafayette, Albert Pike, Toussaint L'Ouverture, Patrick Cleburne, John Hancock, Paul Revere, James McHenry, Simón Bolívar, Benedict Arnold, Giuseppe Garibaldi, Dr. Benjamin Franklin, Baron von Steuben, Henry Laurens, John Paul Jones, Henry Knox, Lewis Armistead, etc.

Often called the Black George Washington, Toussaint L'Ouverture battled the French, Spanish, and British empires during Saint-Domingue's anti-slavery independence movement.



Contrary to popular belief, rebellion against the state is not nor ever has been, an un-masonic offense, and is spelled out in great detail in the second of the six Ancient Charges of Freemasonry. In 1722 the Duke of Montague, Grand Master of England, directed Dr. James Anderson to collect and condense a list of the ancient regulations of our order. His list, known as *"The Ancient Charges,"* has become accepted by most Grand Jurisdictions and appears in New Jersey's Constitution and Laws under Title II. It reads:

*"Charge II OF THE CIVIL Magistrate **Supreme AND Subordinate A Mason** is a peaceable Subject to the Civil Powers, wherever he resides or works, and is never [to be] concerned in plots and conspiracies against the Peace and to inferior Magistrates; for as Masonry hath always been injured by War, Bloodshed and Confusion, so ancient Kings and Princes have been much disposed to encourage the Craftsmen, because of their Peaceableness and Loyalty, ~~wherever~~ [whereby] they practically answered the cavils of their Adversaries, and promoted the Honour of the Fraternity, whoever flourished in Times of Peace. So that if a Brother should be a rebel against the state, he is not to be countenanced in his Rebellion, however he may be pitied as an unhappy man; and if convicted of no other crime, t[h]ough the loyal Brotherhood must and ought to disown his Rebellion, and give to [no] Umbrage or Ground of political Jealousy to the Government for the time being; they cannot expel him from the Lodge, and his Relation to it remains indefeasible."*

We can therefore conclude that the act of rebelling against the state is not considered an un-masonic offense. However, if a mason becomes wrapped up in some nefarious act while in the process of rebelling, that nefarious act could be considered un-masonic, and grounds for expulsion. For example, if a mason rebels against the state and joins a standing army, that is allowable in the eyes of our Fraternity, but if while in the service of that standing army he commits genocide, or enslaves children, that is not allowable. What we in the 21st century would consider to be a war crime would be considered un-masonic and grounds for expulsion.

The next question is why is rebellion against the state not considered an un-masonic offense? The answer is quite straight forward. Rebellion is considered a political statement and the masons are a non-political organization. In accordance with the sixth Ancient Charge of Freemasonry any discussion of politics or religion in open lodge is strictly prohibited. Our fraternity therefore, does not have a political or a religious voice.

For example, if a mason wanted to change his religion, from Episcopalian to Roman Catholic, our Fraternity would not object. In the same manner if a mason wanted to change his government, either peacefully through the political process or violently through revolution and force of arms, our Fraternity would also not object. Freemasonry would

Non-Conforming with Cheerfulness Since 1776



Education

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Schoolchildren are often mistakenly taught that the Declaration of Independence has no legal weight, but this historic document has the full force of law.

be silent on both issues.

We must emphasize the fact that we are not encouraging anyone to rebel against their government. This article is purely scholarly. Putting freemasonry aside however, let us ask ourselves this question: Would the Founding Fathers want us to rebel against the government that they established? Without a doubt the answer is yes! Not only would they want us to but they require us to by law!

A little known historical fact: the Declaration of Independence is the law of the United States. It was adopted by Congress and can be found at the very beginning of the United States Code Annotated under the heading "The Organic Laws of the United States of America" along with the Articles of Confederation, the Northwest Ordinance, and the U.S. Constitution. The Declaration has the force of law, and over 100 Supreme Court cases mention the words "Declaration of Independence" in the dicta of their opinion. Some of the more famous of these cases include: *Gibbons vs. Ogden*, 1824, *Yick Wo vs. Hopkins*, 1886, *Mathews vs. Lucas*, 1976, *Welfare of the Nation*, nor to behave himself undutifully and of course, *United States vs. The Amistad*, 1841, which has been popularized by the 1997 movie "Amistad" starring Anthony Hopkins and Morgan Freeman.

The Founding Fathers knew perfectly well that the government they established could one day become tyrannical and need to be overthrown. By codifying the Declaration of Independence into law the American people now became duty-bound to alter or abolish the government if it infringed

upon their natural rights. The text of the Declaration reads:

"That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government,..."

Altering the government refers to the political process while abolishing the government refers to revolution and force of arms. By law the Founding Fathers required that the American people overthrow the government, the very same government that the Founding Fathers established, should that government become tyrannical. Irony is it not?

There are some that claim Freemasonry is a secret society hell bent on world domination. Nothing could be further from the truth. Masons have come not to conquer the world but to enlighten the mind. We firmly believe that the pen is mightier than the sword, but whenever tyranny rears its ugly head, whenever the masses cry out in anguish, whenever liberty is threatened and your rights trampled upon, as individuals, we draw that sword. We are indeed those happy few, that band of brothers, who have been without reservations or regrets, non-conforming with cheerfulness since 1776.

¹The Grand Lodge of the Most Ancient and Honorable Society of Free and Accepted Masons for the State of New Jersey Ritual Cipher (1967 edition, 2006 reprint), page 52.

²A Manual For the Use of the Lodges Under the Jurisdiction of The Grand Lodge of the Most Ancient and Honorable Society of Free and Accepted Masons for the State of New Jersey (1984), page 86.

³The Grand Lodge of the Most Ancient and Honorable Society of Free and Accepted Masons for the State of New Jersey Constitution and Laws (2016), page 3. Note: The Ancient Charges contain several transcription errors.

⁴ibid; page 6.



The Devil and the Mason

Submitted by Associate Editor Bro. Martin Bogardus

While watching an old movie on TCM, *"The Devil and Dan Webster"* (1941) - based on the celebrated short story by Stephen Vincent Benét - I was inspired to write a poetical work in the same theme, only with Mason's instead. It's influenced by the classic story first told by Christopher Marlowe in *'Faust'* and later in *'The Devil and Tom Walker'* by Washington Irving among other stories, where a man trades his soul in exchange for some previously unattainable desire.

In my Masonic version, an overtired and frustrated brother Jonathan Snow finds himself fed up with his lodge brothers who are constantly complaining and making excuses for why they can't attend lodge rehearsals. In an abject moment of weakness, he let's his anger get the best of him and makes a foolish vow to the devil to forsake Freemasonry and his lodge, deeming it more hassle than its worth.

As you can next expect from the title, the devil makes an infernal appearance to collect on John Snow's rash vow, but not before "evil monologuing" about some of his past victories won against the fraternity since Masonry was founded, à la *"Sympathy for the Devil"* by the Rolling Stones.

What happen next? I hope you'll read further to find out!

There is a story told in hush- filled tones,
among Freemason's chosen few,
and if you are wise you will now listen,
unless a similar fate befall you, too!
It happened at my lodge one night,
just before Allhallows Eve,
I knew the man and tell the tale,
just how it was told to me.

It was right before the winter snows at lodge,
after parting company
with several disgruntled Freemasons,
who were rehearsing our degree.
One group said we practice too much,
another not enough,
another said let's grab a beer and quit this ritual stuff.

We really don't need to practice,
the lodge is doing fine,
all this circumambulation,
and it's nearly half past nine!
I have to get up early to take the kids to church.
My wife was supposed to take them there but
left me in the lurch.

We'll have to cancel next rehearsal,
since I doubt I'll be around,
my mother's brother's cousin is driving
in from out-of-town.
And while we're on the subject,
if it's all the same to you.
I can't make all of these darn meetings!
Can't you find somebody new?

"You know I'd love to help and be there,
but have you heard about Bob Wainwright?
The guys say he's quite the scoundrel -
I overheard at Clancy's bar last night."
My brothers character being now traduced,
this was quite beyond the pale,
conspiring to murder a good man's reputation
over a pint-sized glass of ale.

I sat in angry silence,
at once too stunned to speak.
Where was our lodge commitment?
Was our cable-tow so weak?
What had happened to our sacred-tie,
the Craft our true lodestone?
I summarily dismissed them,
then sat down to brood alone.

My mind was full of nagging doubt
that brothers should speak so cruel,
to hear such a poverty of mind coming
from the idle tongue of fools.
I cursed and swore and then implored
that I'd gladly toss it all away
to the devil if he'd have it,
on checkered floor no more to stay.

To quit this sacred retreat of friendship
and mix once more within the world,
indignation flared my passions,
and with it my temper unchecked, unfurled;
a foolish challenge I then made which
proved quite detrimental,
for just two bits, I'd call it quits,
from lodge meeting's temperamental.

I heard a cacophonous clap of thunder
and the clicking sound of cloven hooves,
smelled the acrid stench of brimstone,
as I choked on sulphurous fumes.
Then a figure tossed to me a quarter,
gently rolling it across the floor,
to my feet it finally landed,
then it stopped and rolled no more.

"Your bargain's struck, and it's my good luck
to seal the deal you proffer.
A payment made for your lodge in trade?
Why, I'll gladly take that offer!
It's been nigh unto ten score years now,
back in Eighteen-twenty-six
Since Bill Morgan made me such an offer -
So pick it up now, let's be quick!"

"Not since I bartered William Morgan,
have I met a man like you
to so lightly esteem the blessings of
fraternal ties and friendship true.
For a mere two bits, you'd call it quits?
isn't that what I heard you say?" ➤



The Devil and the Mason



Education

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Rehearsals and all that goes with it?
That's the best deal I've had all day!"

I stared numbly toward the figure
confused by what the man had said,
with his fancy imported New English clothes
sporting black horns upon his head.
"I don't know who you think you are,
but you can't come in here uninvited.
The costume party's further down the street,
vacate the premises or be indicted."

"Jonathan Snow, it pains me so,
to hear you say I come now unrequited.
Your knowledge of me and of Craft Masonry
seems so woefully benighted.
I never come where I'm not called;
it was you who summoned me.
For just two bits, you would forfeit
and forsake Freemasonry?"

Most times I must work harder
to get a "Widow's Son" to yield,
although you've made it fairly easy
with your lack of Mason's zeal.
You think me a costumed intruder?
Be assured that's not the case,
but represent all things infernal
meant to enslave the human race.

I'm used to getting what I want
without the formality of purchase,
going to and fro from "down below" to lodges,
towns and churches.
When brother Mason's fight and quarrel,
you'll always find me there,
hardening hearts toward one another,
although they're not aware.

I've been here since the beginning,
concerning famed Freemasonry,
sowing dissension among the workers,
on that I'm sure we both agree.
While attending King Solomon's Temple,
conspired three fellow craftsmen to partake
in an ill-planned plot for Master's wages,
leaving a broken corpse to mourn and wake.

Yes, I've been here such a long, long time
and have gained quite the reputation
for pitting Brother's against each other
like during the Protestant Reformation.
In seventeen-hundred and thirty-eight,
inspiring Pope Clement by Papal Bull
to pen the In eminenti apostolatus,
a most impiously expressed mouthful!

But alas! My work is never finished,
it is now only half begun,
to finish the work that I started with Jubela and Jubelum.

Oh course, I've had my setbacks,
back in Seventeen-Seventy-Six,
By Brother Masons duly guarded
against my carnival of tricks.

For God, the Craft and liberty,
there conceived a brand new nation
to rule the land without demands
of royal English approbation.
And were inclined with thoughts sublime
to share Freemasonic allegory
regarding that peculiar system of instruction -
But, that's another story!

You've struck a deal which has appealed
to my dark infernal nature.
The time is right Allhallows night
for a Masonic misadventure!
Come meet damnation's denizens,
rejected refuse of human race,
and hasten your journey to perdition
there to lay your soul to waste.

Hell's cauldron merrily bubbles over now
with such hotheaded fools like you.
that so lightly esteemed the blessings
of fraternal ties and friendship true.
Neither Moses nor Mohammad,
or some jewel-encrusted crucifix
can redeem your soul," the devil gloated,
seeing John's fearful countenance transfixed.

Is there none to help the Widow's son?
The devil taunted - then John prayed
to the Great Architect to forgive him
for the rash oath he had made.
Three times he held his hands up high shouting
"The grand hailing sign of distress."
And the Lord answered John's prayer for mercy
with celestial help for his defense.

Championed by the Supreme Architect of Mason's
the devil withdrew in full defeat,
remembering his prior "falling out" in heaven,
cast down for vainglorious conceit.
"Know this John Snow that before I go,
I'll be keeping my infernal eye on you,
waiting the next time, you forswear Freemasonry,
and I'll come back here when you do!"

But Jonathan Snow had learned his lesson
like the great alchemists of old,
strove to make himself with good men better
by turning leaden thoughts to gold.

As to the moral of my story,
if there is any lesson to impart:
"The battle for Freemasonry is not decided,
except - when weighed in human heart."

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New Jersey Grand Lodge Museum and Library



Submitted by RW Glenn T. Visscher, Chairman – Library & Museum Committee

The Grand Lodge of New Jersey - Library and Museum of Masonic Culture is a Non-for Profit organization whose mission is to engage and inspire the interest and growth of Masonic and Non-Masonic individuals through exhibits, displays, collections, and presentations. It is under the direction of the Historic Trenton Masonic Temple Trustees (HTMT) and the Chairman of the Museum & Library committee. The Museum and Library Committee is responsible for continued sorting, identification and preservation of Museum and Library materials which are obtained by or donated to the Museum. It is also responsible for Development and Upkeep of Displays which present Freemasonry to NJ Masons and all who view the Museum. In addition, the Museum and Library Committee gives presentations and tours to Lodges and Individuals visiting the Grand Lodge Building.

The current Grand Lodge Library & Museum is the result of a merger in 2011, between the Museum of Masonic Culture (formerly housed at the Valley of Northern New Jersey (AASR) in Lincoln Park) and the Grand Lodge Library & Museum (previously housed in Burlington and Trenton). In 2012, the Grand Lodge formally designated the Stoke Library (located on the 1st floor of the Trenton Temple) as the Grand Lodge Library and the Corinthian Room (located on the 2nd floor of the Trenton Temple) as the Grand Lodge Museum.

In March 2015, The Museum & Library renamed the Presidential Room, located in the Corinthian Room, to the “MW William L. Morris, Jr. Room” in memory of MW William L. Morris, Jr., who was instrumental in getting the Museum started in its current location.

The committee continues to work on developing a usable Archives and Library, including a full set of Grand Lodge of New Jersey proceedings. These proceedings will also be digitized through the Grand Lodge.

The current collection goes far beyond those of the previous Museum incarnations. It includes exhibits which highlight our Masonic History and influence on the whole Masonic Family of organizations, our New Jersey Jurisdiction, our Region and the World at large, as well as the effect of Masonry on our current culture.

The focal point of our Museum is the Minutes of the First meeting of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey in 1786, handwritten by our first Grand Secretary, MW John Noble Cummings and signed by our first Grand Master ~ MW David Brearley. Also in the Brearley Display is the Apron worn by MW Bro. Brearley.

There are countless interesting items in the various exhibits, but there are some which have significant interest. Those interesting items include:

- **The White House Stone:** A foundation stone from the White House, which was donated by MW and President Harry S. Truman, in ~1946. The stone has an operative masons mark.
- A legal document signed by President John Adams in 1799
- The Masonic membership petition from President James Buchanan for Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania
- Apron worn by the Marquis de Lafayette
- 2 silk scarves from 1800's designed with various Masonic symbols



- Three antique “Magic Lanterns” (late 1800’s/early 1900’s) with slides depicting Blue Lodge, Royal Arch and Commandry
- Antique Commandry Uniforms and 8 Grand Commander swords (from early 1900’s)
- 4 Antique DeMolay Robes from 1920’s
- A bible signed by Rev. Mark Sexon (founder of the International Order of Rainbow for Girls)
- Grand Matron pins from the Order of the Eastern Star dated from 1950’s to Present
- A full set of Aprons from the Swedish Rite
- Approximately 60 aprons from various Masonic jurisdictions
- Items which traveled with Col. Buzz Aldrin to the moon during Apollo 11
- Regalia from all of the Prince Hall masonic bodies
- Collections of pins, medals and regalia from Ill. Thurman C. Pace, Jr.
- Collections of pins and medals from Harold V.B. Voorhis
- Hand crafted wooden and stitched Masonic items from members around the jurisdiction
- Antique Royal Arch High Priest Jewels from the early 1900’s
- A complete set of Scottish Rite Degree (AASR) Aprons (1st Degree through 33rd Degree)
- Sets of Regalia from the AASR (Northern Masonic Jurisdiction) and AASR (Southern Masonic Jurisdiction).
- A complete set of Shriner’s Fez’ from every Shrine in the world (195 in all).
- A Masonic Bible from 1791
- Antique “Chalice” Ballot Boxes from early 1900’s

And numerous other items which will be subjects of further articles.

The most recent addition to the museum has been an antique mirror donated from the USS NJ Lodge No. 62. The 150 year old mirror originally resided in Camden Lodge No. 15, in Camden NJ. The wooden mirror is approximately 8 feet tall and adorned with Masonic images: Square/Compass, Level, Plumb and Eye in the sunburst. It is a magnificent piece which resides in the Great Hall on the 2nd Floor of the Grand Lodge Building to be viewed by all.

The Museum & Library is truly “*Of the People*” and relies on the support of Masons from around NJ and around the world. The history of New Jersey “Freemasonry is made by its members, and we welcome any interesting or dynamic new items which may enhance our Collections. It is not uncommon to find a gem amongst the boxes in a basement or attic. Please contact the Grand Lodge Office or other members of the committee, if you feel you have something that may be of interest. We will evaluate the item and decide if it fits our needs.

This is YOUR Library & Museum! I urge you to take a tour and take advantage of our Capabilities and Resources which are at your fingertips. Get Involved!





Mentoring the Mentor VIII

Submitted by R.W. Robert W. Howard, Jr., Grand Historian

In the last article, we went into some detail as it relates to the Grand Lodge Mentoring Program as well as the value of encouraging the new Mason to 'get involved' by pursuing requirements of the David Brearly Award. It is hoped that armed with these tools, every Lodge will continue to develop a culture of learning and Masonic development. In fact, there are a number of Lodges throughout the state that have already adopted such a culture; we will take a look at one such lodge and see what we might learn from their example.

The Lodge we will be talking about is Loyalty Lodge No. 33, located in the 10th District. Whereas, they hold their regular communications on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month, the 2nd and 4th Tuesday are set aside for Masonic Development. (FYI, rehearsals are held on Mondays.) Masonic Development is actually divided into two tracks, the 2nd Tuesday is usually set aside for what they call "Masonic Light Studies" with the 4th Tuesday dedicated to Candidate Mentoring.

By separating Candidate Mentoring from "Masonic Light Studies", this Lodge is able to ensure that time and resources remain available to give full attention to each of the various candidates. Concurrently, they are free to encourage each Mason in their Lodge to reach past the Mentoring Program and continue his Masonic education by attending the "Masonic Light Studies".

This program did not just happen; the "Masonic Light Studies" was the idea of W.B. Ramón E. Cedeño, PM, Assistant Lodge Secretary. He brought his concept before the Lodge during May of last year and following a dialog among the officers and past masters of the Lodge, they came to a consensus. After the summer, they moved forward with their "Masonic Light Studies".

The first topic, which they decided to pursue was the Entered Apprentice Degree. Just to be clear, this is not some quick review but a detailed program designed to be given over the span of a year. With this kind of time, they can certainly go into the details required to fully understand each nuance of this degree.

As a teacher by trade, W. Brother Cedeño, knows how to strike that ever so important balance, which provides effective education in an atmosphere of fraternal conviviality. Each meeting of the "Masonic Light Studies" includes sandwiches, sides and beverages. When possible, they will bring in a speaker, who provides additional insight on some Masonic topic. But whatever they do that evening, they will always find themselves entrenched in a lively debate often forgetting to watch the clock. They can draw as many as 20 - 25 Brethren, which is by any standard a respectable gathering. Reflective of their well-balanced approach to dispensing light is the billiards table situated in their midst of an ever-growing library.

While covering the Entered Apprentice Degree, they start

off with a discussion of the high moral standards required of our members and the need for continued moral and spiritual development. It is upon this firm foundation that they can go into defining Freemasonry and exploring other critical topics, such as guarding the West Gate, Masonic Protocol and other aspects of Masonry that every Brother should know.

At this point, they are ready to dive into an explanation of Psalms 133:1-3, a decoding of the symbolism of the Working Tools and a dissection and interpretation of the allegories within the E.A. Degree and its lecture.

They of course review a number of resources such as the Introduction to Freemasonry series of books written by Carl Claudy and the Symbolism of the Three Degrees by Oliver Day Street. They cover documents such as the Regius Poem, which was written in the year 1390 and even discuss what we might expect to see in some other jurisdictions.

(By the way, if you are interested, there is a recently published book entitled *The Old Charges of the Craft: From the Stone Mason to the Free Mason* by M Guy Chassagnard. This book includes the *Regius Poem* and most of the other old manuscripts, a review of which will be an invaluable aid in exploring the evolution of our traditions.)

At Loyalty Lodge No. 33, it is not just the more complex topics, which are covered, they also examine those small details that tend to bug newer masons such as the origins of "So Mote It Be" and how we position the Masonic ring on our finger, (points up or down).

And this is important, the program material itself is not dry and boring; it is not presented as a necessary evil that must be endured; the presentations are fun as well as interesting. For example, they have found a means of exploring many Masonic topics by examining how Freemasonry has permeated popular culture from Victorian post cards through to Homer Simpson's initiation into the Stonecutters.

Once they have exhausted their studies of the Entered Apprentice Degree, they will move on to the Fellow Craft Degree.

To supplement their work planned for the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, there is always a Dear Hiram message in the Trestle Board prepared by the Worshipful Master, (W.B. Rajaram Rao), which offers Masonic Light or poses a question intended to spur conversation and debate among the Brethren. In spite of all this emphasis on dispensing Masonic Light, this is a fun place to visit and there is always something exciting going on. Whenever I have a free 2nd Tuesday, you'll find me at Loyalty Lodge No. 33.

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

The Mason's Secret (A Collingswood Story)



Education

Submitted by Associate Editor Bro. Martin Bogardus



Since this is the season for spooky stuff - especially Halloween ghost stories - I thought our gentle readers might appreciate a Masonic ghost story I wrote for the occasion! The Mason's Secret is a supernatural tale of a brother Fellowcraft Mason at lodge about to receive the Master Mason degree and is visited by the spirit of Operative Grandmaster Hiram Abiff in the preparation room right before the ceremony. Our

Fellowcraft is then asked if he has learned what the true "secret" of Freemasonry is before he can be invested with the secrets of the Master Mason degree. Does our Fellowcraft know the answer? Please read on to find out!

There are stories told in days of old,
in the State of New Jersey.

The Pineland trails have their secret tales,
of famed Freemasonry.

Collingswood Heights had seen queer sights,
but the queerest they ever did see
Was at the lodge with ole Mike Dodge,
when I received my third degree.

Now 'Ole Mike' you see was a traveling man,
from Timbuktu to the court at Siam.

He'd been at our lodge for many a year,
and he liked to drink whiskey, and bourbon and beer.
No one could rightly remember, exactly how it came to be,
When Mike first came upon our lodge,
but he loved Freemasonry.

He kept the Ancient landmarks and knew it all by rote.
Every word and every letter, and oft-times he would quote:

"From time immemorial Freemasonry has stood,
Its tenets are so noble, its precepts are so good,

It is built upon a rock both abroad and here at home,
And Masons we are called to come and polish the stone."

Oh! The stories he would tell us, of far and distant lands,
Over the mighty oceans to burning desert sands.

To Great Queen Street, on beggar's feet,
without a penny to his name,
Brought destitute but resolute,
they welcomed him all the same.

For we meet upon the level and who could ask for more?
In brotherly equality upon the checkered floor.

The rich man and the poor man, the pauper and the king.
Before the eyes of God and men, we lift our hearts and sing!

Into the preparation room, I now by Mike was led;
My clothes, my jewels and all my tools, told readily to shed.
For now, the time had come, my third and final quest,
With a rough and rugged road ahead, I readied for my test.

Alone in sacred silence, a vigil bid to keep
'Til Mike returned and I discerned,
a room both dark and deep.

Lit with but a single candle, to light the dark and gloom,
I there perceived a shadow that danced across the room.

With mystic tie and piercing eyes, a spirit beckoned me,
"Will you uphold from ruffian's bold,
all the ancient mysteries?"

Startled from my vigil, I stared both scared and stiff.
For this ghostly apparition was Grandmaster Hiram Abiff!

I thought perhaps my eyes, they were playing tricks on me.
An overactive imagination, and looked if Mike had seen.

But ole Mike, he just sat stolid,
and he motioned with his hand.
To reflect upon the question and
to answer Hiram's command.

"In a duly constituted lodge I learned the first degree;
Taught to conceal, and not reveal, its ancient mysteries,
The second time its steps I climbed,
and seven was their number.
A winding staircase did I embrace
and learned its mystic wonder."

And as I stood upon the threshold, of this my third degree,
An answer was demanded, and I smiled wide with glee!

For I knew just how to answer,
and thanked Mike my guiding star.
For I learned the Mason's secret, is learning who you are!

At this Old Hiram nodded, and I knew he was well-pleased
At the answer I had given, by how it was received.

"Your journey is just beginning"
as he pointed toward the door,
Then his apparition vanished, and all was like it was before.

The night it passed by quickly,
all my brethren black and white
Gave hearty congratulations and we said a fond good night.

With all these brothers tried and true,
I knew I'd never be alone.
And I thought about my vigil as I rode my way back home.

Later at the lodge one night, I chanced with Mike to speak
Of the time I met Old Hiram,
and what answers I should seek.

"Knock! And it shall be opened to you.
Seek! And ye shall find!

A treasure most resplendent,
that polishes and adorns the mind!"

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in the State of New Jersey.
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but the queerest they ever did see
Was at the lodge with ole Mike Dodge,
when I received my third degree.



August 19, 2016

Anthony Montuori
100 Barrack St.
Trenton, NJ 08608

Dear Mr. Montuori,

I am very pleased to inform you that the commemorative plaque honoring **The Freemasons of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey** was recently installed on the Wave Of Thanks Wall near Chili's Care Center at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

I have enclosed photographs and a certificate of the plaque for you to keep as mementos of this thoughtful tribute, and of your generous support of our mission. Should you plan to visit the St. Jude campus, please call me at 1-800-830-8119, and I will be happy to show you your plaque. Also, if I can be of any further assistance to you, please feel free to call me.

Thank you again for helping make St. Jude a beacon of hope to children with cancer and other catastrophic diseases.

Sincerely,

Carrie Hormann
Gift Planning
ALSAC, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

Enclosure



*Presented to
The Freemasons of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey
in grateful appreciation of your generous and continued support
to the children of St. Jude.*

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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Freemasonry & the Cause of Liberty

The Cornerstone of American Exceptionalism

Submitted by Bro. Peter H. Carkbuff, Atlantic Lodge No. 221

Last year, I had two conversations which caused me to think of Freemasonry and our relationship to Liberty. One was a wide-ranging open conversation concerning Deity and our personal relationship and understanding of the Grand Architect of the Universe downstairs after a practice with a few of my Lodge Brothers, including WB Eric Howey.

The second conversation was during a “get to know one another type of job interview” with a gentleman whom two Brothers recommended I speak with. When informed that two Mason’s had suggested we meet, this gentleman mentioned something about that “cult” you belong to. Upon hearing this, I responded that not only is Masonry the largest fraternity in the State of New Jersey, but it was the Mason’s who founded this Country.

Both of these conversations led me to think even longer and harder than usual about Masonry, Liberty and the birth of our Nation, commonly known as the American Revolution. So when WB Giles of my Blue Lodge, Atlantic Lodge No. 221, asked me to come up with a “short” talk for the benefit of the Craft, I immediately began to think of the Founders and the many Mason’s whom we owe our freedom to and on whose sacrifice, blood, sweat & fidelity to the Cause of Liberty the great American experience and experiment – began.

I also began to think of how I now view Liberty – not, as I did in my youth, where my conception of Liberty was more akin to licentiousness and “doing your own thing” in the everlasting, and in my case, fruitless, pursuit of happiness. No, today Liberty has a much more profound meaning, wherein Liberty also implies responsibility – for oneself, one’s family, one’s Lodge, our Fraternity, our Country and our Almighty Father, Preserver & Benefactor who called each of us in his own way and in our own heart to enter through our Mystic Portal and kneel at our Alter.

As this subject could be discussed at great length – as measured in decades – I would like to just point out some of the not-so-well known participants and particulars the led to our Nation’s founding upon Masonic principles and – now listen closely – the need for our continued service as Mason’s to the Cause of Liberty.

This talk also alludes to our faith, practice and reliance on Divine Providence, that Unseen Hand that moves hearts and minds, as well as events, in His mysterious ways.

For instance, in 1768, a sloop was seized off the coast of Massachusetts by the British, as a result of shipping, (some, such as the Brit’s, called it smuggling) that was designed to avoid the payment of duties, or taxes, to the British Crown.

The name of the ship? Liberty. The owner? Brother John Hancock.

Brother Hancock, purportedly the wealthiest man in Massachusetts at the time, was a member of The Lodge of St. Andrews, which met on the second floor of what the sign above it’s entrance said, and the general public knew, as the Green Dragon Tavern,

In reality, the Tavern & Lodge was known only by it’s owners, the members of the Lodge of St. Andrews, and the Mason’s surrounding Boston by it’s True Name, The Freemason Arm’s. Other Members in the Lodge included Paul Revere and Dr. Joseph Warren, whose writings criticizing the Crown would often be signed under his pseudonym, “A True Patriot”. It was these Brethren who formed non-Masonic groups that were forged with oaths of secrecy over a Bible, with names such as the Selectmen and the Sons of Liberty.

You’ve heard the stories – especially their well known exploits as members of the Sons of Liberty, who were responsible for the Boston Tea Party and Bro. Paul Revere’s famous ride in 1775 to warn Bro’s. Hancock & the Son’s of Liberty leader, but a non-Mason, Samuel Adams of the British Party coming to arrest them, and how the following morning the original “Shot that was heard ‘round the World”, the Battle of Lexington occurred; the first true battle in the War of Independence.

What you may not be aware of is that Dr. Joseph Warren, the “True Patriot” was commissioned in 1769 as Grand Master of Masons of Boston, New England, and within 100 miles of the same, and then, in 1772, was appointed by the Grand Master of Scotland, known as the Ancients, as the Grand Master of Masons for the Continent of North America. It was Most Worshipful Grand Master Warren who gave Bro. Paul Revere, who at that time served as his Senior Grand Deacon, the Order to Ride that most fateful of nights. Grand Master Dr. Warren was later to lose his life, for our Nation, our Fraternity and the Cause of Liberty, as a soldier, in the Battle of Bunker Hill.

As to John Hancock, besides his well known signature on our Founding Document the Declaration of Independence, he was Pres. of the 2nd Continental Congress and later became the first Governor of the newly established Commonwealth of Massachusetts. And what became of our courageous GD Paul Revere? He eventually became the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts in 1795, serving three years as such, wherein he issued warrants for over 20 newly formed Lodges – including one whose name is near & dear to my heart, Cincinnatus Lodge.

Of course, every Lodge that I have been to here in New Jersey pays tribute to our most esteemed and honored ➤



Mason; Brother, General and, our Nation's first President and Commander-in-Chief, George Washington by having a portrait of him either in the Lodge Room, outside the Lodge Room, or as in the cast of my Lodge, both.

But by no means was Bro. George Washington the only general who served the Cause of Liberty within the Continental Army during our Revolution.

Between the years 1775 through 1783, 33 out of 74 commissioned generals serving under Bro. Washington were Mason's. Two of whom you are most likely familiar with and whom many volumes, or at least chapters, have been written about, and thus I won't bore you with all the details. One was the favorite, surrogate son of Bro. Washington, Bro. Gen. Gilbert Lafayette, known worldwide both by his French title, the Marquis de Lafayette and to his lifelong commitment to the Cause of Liberty. The other general, a "most brilliant soldier", was the infamous traitor, Benedict Arnold.

Though no hard numbers can be enumerated for certain, it has been said that by war's end in 1783, approximately 15,000 Mason's had participated and fought in the American Revolutionary War of Independence. The turning point in the war was at the Battle of Trenton. Our very own historic Trenton Masonic Temple was built directly on top of the site where the Continental Army made it's encampment following their decisive victory.

In addition, two other members of the Continental Congress, who both later on served in the United States Constitutional Convention - which was presided over by Bro. George Washington - were very notable and influential Masons, one whom I'm sure your very familiar with, Bro. Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania and another, whom you may not be so familiar with, Bro. Robert Livingston of New York.

Brother Livingston, along with Brother Franklin, was a member of the "Committee of Five", which drafted the Declaration of Independence, that included John Adams, who spoke favorably of Masonry, Thomas Jefferson, a Deist with some allegorical evidence of Masonic connections and the fifth member from Connecticut, Roger Sherman, who, though no written records have been found confirming this, was claimed by most of his descendants, to be a Mason. This means at least two, if not three, of the men who drafted our Nation's Founding document, were confirmed Brother Masons, and the other's were at least familiar with Freemasonry.

Bro. Robert Livingston, who was known throughout the land as Chancellor Livingston, also happened to be the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Mason's in the State of New York when he administered the first Oath of Office in

NYC on the Bible owned by St. John's Lodge No. 1 to our Brother, President George Washington. Bro. Washington whose right hand rested on the Bible opened to Genesis 49 and 50, solemnly repeated, after Brother Livingston, his Oath of Office, adding the words that became a precedent for all future Presidents, "So help me, G-d".

The great man then proceeded, as in all our Masonic degrees, to bend down and kiss the Holy Bible.

Brethren, there is so much more to our Masonic influence concerning our Nation's founding then Masonic name dropping, though I could continue in that vein for a long, long time. To give you just a small idea, New Jersey's first Grand Master, M.W. David Brearley, was both a delegate to the Constitution Convention and a signer of the U.S. Constitution on behalf of NJ. There were also two other NJ Mason's who signed the Constitution - Brothers Jonathan Dayton & William Paterson.

No, the Masonic influence on our Nation's founding is much greater than just the Mason's who fought, bled, died and "pledged their lives, fortunes and Sacred Honor" so as to establish our Great Republic, though I don't in any way want to diminish their courage and sacrifice.

It is my personal belief and overriding conviction that our Masonic principles, which guided these men and events from His Light on High, were much deeper and even more profound than that of the individual Brother Mason's contributions, no matter how great they were.

It was their combined efforts, when forged in Lodge by our Masonic faith and practice based on Biblical Truths and teachings, that when acted upon outside of Lodge by these same Mason's, in conjunction with other like-minded men, that allowed for the Grand Architect of the Universe to Guide our Brethren's hands in the securing of Liberty and the many great Blessings that have been bestowed on our Nation from our Founding to this very day.

Humor me, Brethren, for just a few moments longer and allow me to elaborate.

As Freemason's, we have a Constitution and have had one since 1723 - wherein, for instance, England never has. Dr. James Anderson wrote was to be known as the Ancient Charges, but which has become better known to Mason's as "Anderson's Constitution". To quote Christopher Hodapp, in his well researched book, Solomon's Builders, which I highly recommend reading, Freemasonry is unlike anything that has come before it.

In Freemasonry, we meet "on the level". Anderson's Constitution described it's membership as men of all "Nations, Tongues, Kindreds and Languages".



And thus, we find in our Declaration of Independence the line, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal..."

Anderson's Constitutions contained Articles in which both the Grand Lodge and the subordinate Lodges were governed, with representatives elected by a Majority, the right of appeal by Motions made, that those in leadership positions up to including the Worshipful Master were to be accountable, both financially and morally, to their Lodge Brethren, the right of every Brother to vote on these same motions and their elected line.

For your added consideration, Brethren, allow me just another moment to repeat a portion of that last statement – the right of every Brother to vote on their elected line. Every Brother has one vote.

Our United States Constitutional Representative Government thus began in the Lodge.

Now, listen closely to the words of our Constitution's First Amendment:

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Sound familiar? It should, as all these Freedom's were first espoused and put into practice in Lodge Assembled.

Brethren, time does not permit me the luxury of exploring more of the Masonic roots and principles in the formation and the continuation of our Great Nation. However, I have had the opportunity to kneel at the alter where our Brother, and 32nd President, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, was initiated, passed and raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason.

So in closing, I would like to borrow a few of Bro. Roosevelt's words from his address to Congress on Jan. 6, 1941, known as his "Four Freedom's Speech", which so eloquently spells out our Great Vision moving forward, in which IMHO, in these perilous times, too many of our fellow Citizens have either forgotten or relinquished. It reminds us, my dear Brethren, of our combined commitment to shine the Light of Liberty, the American Cause, past, present and future, as both Citizen's of this great Nation and most especially, as Free & Accepted Masons's.

Here goes it;

In the future days, which we seek to make secure, we look forward to a world founded upon four essential human freedoms.

The first is freedom of speech and expression – everywhere in the world.

The second is freedom of every person to worship God in his own way – everywhere in the world.

The third is freedom from want – which, translated into world terms, means economic understandings which will secure to every nation a healthy peacetime life for its inhabitants – everywhere in the world.

The fourth is freedom from fear – which, translated into world terms, means a world-wide reduction of armaments to such a point and in such a thorough fashion that no nation will be in a position to commit an act of physical aggression against any neighbor – anywhere in the world.

That is no vision of a distant millennium. It is a definite basis for a kind of world attainable in our own time and generation. That kind of world is the very antithesis of the so-called new order of tyranny which the dictators seek to create with the crash of a bomb.

To that new order we oppose the greater conception – the moral order. A good society is able to face schemes of world domination and foreign revolutions alike without fear.

Since the beginning of our American history, we have been engaged in change – in a perpetual peaceful revolution – a revolution which goes on steadily, quietly adjusting itself to changing conditions – without the concentration camp or the quick-lime in the ditch. The world order which we seek is the cooperation of free countries, working together in a friendly, civilized society.

This nation has placed its destiny in the hands and heads and hearts of its millions of free men and women; and its faith in freedom under the guidance of God. Freedom means the supremacy of human rights everywhere. Our support goes to those who struggle to gain those rights or keep them. Our strength is our unity of purpose.

To that high concept there can be no end save victory.

Thank you, Brethren. (sit down)



Brethren,

This speech was presented at the North East Conference of Grand Masters by the District Deputy Grand Master of Maryland.

Since this is a hot topic currently being discussed throughout our country on TV, Social Media, our homes, among friends and family we are presenting it here for you to read. I welcome all comments.

Cory Sigler, Editor

Alternative lifestyles have recently become a major topic of discussion in our country. We have seen this topic debated in political as well as in religious arenas. We, as Masons, realize that the subjects of politics and religion in our lodge meetings.

As is every other fraternal organization, we are attempting to expand our membership rolls. The potential members from the Millennial Generation, from whence many of our new members are coming, are generally more open-minded than we are. Masonry cannot afford to alienate this pool of potential members by not being cognizant of the way that they think. At the same time, our older and more conservative members could use this as an excuse to stay away because they feel that the fraternity is losing its core values. This is a very dangerous course that we must navigate.

Therefore, we must not let the subject of alternative lifestyles divide our fraternity. For almost three hundred years, Freemasonry has been able to adapt to an ever changing world. We have survived many issues that have threatened to destroy our fraternity in the past. Being able to come together as reasonable men and discuss differing opinions has not only kept our fraternity united but has made it stronger. We cannot stop talking to each other when we do not agree. Keeping the lines of communication open is the only way to resolve or accept our differences.

There are three requirements for a man to become a member of the fraternity. He must believe in a Deity, must be of lawful age, and a man of good report. If the person standing at the door of Freemasonry meets these requirements, we have no reason to deny him admission into the Craft. It is not our place to judge this person on any other criteria. Race, creed and sexual orientation should be non-issues.

I was reading an article dated March 2, 2015 in the online blog **The Millennial Freemason**. One of the comments written by a reader stated, *"While I believe we, as Masons, should certainly hold to universal landmarks and standards, I think it all comes down to location. How Masons interact in New York City compared to Masons in San Francisco compared to Masons in the Deep South may*

vary greatly. Those differing values and viewpoints often span many debatable topics from race, to gender, to creed. Yet that is part of what makes Freemasonry both universal yet locally distinct".

We come from all walks of life, however, once seated in a lodge we are all on the level working toward the same goal of becoming a better man.

Since the inception of our nation Masons have been in the forefront of social change. In many cases, people looked to the members of our Fraternity for guidance and advice during those times. Let us again take the lead and show society that we are the leaders in changing our society for the better.

My Brothers, we cannot be the purveyors of change if we are divided. We, as a fraternity, have many more things that bring us together than divide us. Let us come together, discuss our differences and get back about our business of **"Making Good Men Better"**.

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, JANUARY 7, 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



An Ancient Tradition Lives On

Submitted by Bro. Jim Moretti III

If you ask any Master Mason if he has closed his eyes during a degree and imagined our ancient brethren going through the same process, he would say yes. He would imagine a brother being escorted up a winding dirt path to the lodge. It was not a lodge as we know it, but perhaps a lodge that would've been concealed in a cave or in a grassy field surrounded by tall trees, dimly lit candles or moonlight would have been the only source of illumination, and at the center of the lodge a handmade altar erected of stone or wood. The tops of the trees dance as the cool nightly breeze blows through them, the Master's word is whispered extra low as to assure no eavesdropper may hear it and in the brethren's collected voices "So mote it be" could be heard echoing through the wilderness like thunder clapping in the distance. The brethren and guest of Olive Branch No. 16 of Freehold, N.J. had the pleasure of enjoying this degree as our past brethren have. On June 21, 2016, Olive Branch had confirmed the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on four brothers (Andrew Rizzitello, Kevin Cotter, Charles Szarawarski and David Watson) at an outdoor lodge, held on the farm of Brother James A. Moretti III in Howell N.J. An awe inspiring event that will be remembered by the newly raised brethren for the rest of their lives. The lodge was erected with the Worshipful Master in the east watching the sunset over the Senior Warden. The altar was made from logs stacked two high and three across, the gavels were made from a block of cedar with a deer bone handle, and the lodge boundaries were staked off with twenty flaming torches. As usual Olive Branch's ritual was done beautifully. We enjoyed the pleasure of many brothers from our district as well as visiting brethren from New York and Connecticut. Although the weather was a little warm and a tad wet at times, it only connected us with nature even more. It is said that we go in the same way and manner as the Mason before us. By being able to experience the beauty and glory of ritual preformed under the stars, the five newly raised brothers will have a deep connection with those brethren from our past. That night was an amazing event that no one will ever forget and I hope that our outdoor lodge will become an Olive Branch tradition for the next fifty years.

WM: Ralph G. De Palma III

JW: John Perri

SW: Nicholas Anthony Compitello

SEC: Adam Michael Reich PM

TR: Edward Adamek PM

JD: Kenneth A. Long

SD: Lee Eric Schilling

JMC: Shawn Bryan

SMC: Christopher M. Curcia

JS: Charles E. McCarthy

SS: Jeffrey Levine

MSL: Jacob Adam Rizzo

CHP: Peter De Lucia

HST: Paul Schneider

TYL: Daniel F. Xavier PM



Photos by Bro. Nicholas A. Compitello



Lafayette Awards Scholarship

Masons in Action

Submitted by Bro. Larry Bodine, PM

Recently a Rahway High School graduate, Christopher Stradford, was awarded a one-time \$1000 scholarship from the Raritan Americus Scholarship Committee sponsored by Lafayette Lodge No. 27 in Rahway. Mr. Stradford bested 13 other worthy candidates and will be attending St. Peters University in Jersey City this year. The young man was third in his class and a member of The National Honor Society, as well as The Math, Science, and Music National Honor Societies. Christopher plans to major in either Biotechnology or Chemistry.

Raritan Americus, a Woodbridge/Perth Amboy Lodge, merged with Lafayette in 2004 and Lafayette Lodge was happy to carry on the scholarship tradition. Every Spring, students from Perth Amboy, Woodbridge, Iselin, Colonia, and Rahway High Schools are invited to submit applications to the Committee made up of RW John Bergacs (chairman), RW Warren Gerber, and WB Larry Bodine. The Committee uses criteria such as grades, an essay, school activities, extra-curricular activities and financial data. Any student sponsored by a Mason may also apply for the scholarship.



From Left to Right: Bro. Jeff Spatola, RW John Bergacs (Scholarship Chairman), recipient Christopher Stradford, Bro. John Richards JW, and Bro. Derrick Roberts.

Gold Tokens Presented at Raritan Valley Lodge No. 46!

Submitted by Bro. Robert Gaydosch

Recently, Raritan Valley Lodge No. 46 was pleased to be able to visit and present 60-year Gold Tokens to a pair of longtime lodge members. As it can be difficult for Gold Token recipients to attend Gold Token ceremonies at the lodge in person, Raritan Valley Lodge No. 46 WM Joseph Barbara and MW John Colligas (PGM 2008) made the presentations to the two brothers at their homes.

Brother James Bain (in white shirt) of Martinsville served in the U.S. Army during WWII and was wounded at the Battle of the Bulge. After his return home in 1945, he embarked on a successful career in business and started a family.

Brother William Mundy (in striped shirt) has operated his family's funeral home business in Dunellen since 1961 and has volunteered over the years in many community and civic organizations.



Both of these brothers make it a point to stress that they have always tried to live their lives in true Masonic fashion. They deserve our thanks for their many years of dedication to our craft, to their communities, and to their families.





Celebration of a Milestone



Submitted by RW Moises I. Gomez, PGH

It's not often that a grand lodge gets to participate in a milestone anniversary celebration of a lodge it warranted outside of its borders. This was the case this past September 10, 2016 when several members of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey traveled west to Cincinnati, Ohio. MW Walter R. Kaulfers Grand Master of Masons from New Jersey along with RW Roger Quintana Senior Grand Warden, RW Gregory Scott Junior Grand Warden and myself RW Moises I. Gomez, PGH attended the 225th anniversary of Nova Caesarea Harmony Lodge No. 2 located in Cincinnati, Ohio. Why this lodge? And why Cincinnati?

So the story goes, shortly after the formation of our own grand lodge back in 1787, and a few years after the end of the revolutionary war. The birth of this new nation created a desire of exploration towards our western frontier. In 1788 President and brother George Washington granted a land tract known as the Northwest Territory comprising of 300,000 acres. This massive territory covered what today would be Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin and Parts of Minnesota. The land deed which was recorded in Essex County, NJ was granted to Bro. John Cleve Symmes a resident of Sussex, NJ and a member of Trenton Lodge No. 5. The purpose was land deal was to settle and colonize this territory by expanding our western borders.

This venture drew scores of people from New Jersey, many of whom were Freemasons. Because so many prominent

Freemasons were directly involved with this land deal. These men being Freemasons and having a willingness to continue their Masonic labors, but having no known lodge in this territory for them to continue their labors. Caused them to form a petition of which General Arthur St. Clair and many others saw fit to sign make this request to their mother Grand Lodge of New Jersey. This petition was presented by Bro. and Dr. William Burnett from St. John's Lodge No. 2. On September 8, 1791 an emergent communication was held in Trenton, NJ for the purpose of addressing this petition which was thus granted. This lodge would be known as Nova Caesarea Lodge No. 10 (in reference to the original name before we became New Jersey) with Bro. William Burnett as Worshipful Master, Bro. John Ludlow as Senior Warden and Bro. Calvin Morrell as Junior Warden. This warrant was issued and signed by RW John Beatty, Grand Master, Bro. Samuel Stockton, Senior Grand Warden and Bro. Jonathan Rhea, Junior Grand Warden.

This warrant was placed in the hands of Bro. Symmes on December 27, 1794 and was formally constituted on St. John's the Evangelist day at the house of Jacob Lowe at 6:00 p.m. in what now is Cincinnati, Ohio.

This lodge began its labors and accepted its first petition from Captain Ephraim Kibby, who would become the first to kneel at the altar on January 5, 1795 on which the Entered Apprentice degree was conferred. These men would have a profound history in the expansion of the

Celebration of a Milestone



Masons in Action

continued from page 40

western frontier, and formation of territories, cities and states. This lodge would collaborate with several other lodges to form the Grand Lodge of Ohio in 1808. This lodge would be renamed Nova Caesarea Harmony Lodge No 2 in honor of its New Jersey heritage.



Throughout its long and distinguished history this lodge would continue to carry the touch once lit by these early craftsmen. A wonderful relationship has been maintained over the centuries between these two jurisdictions. About a year ago was contacted by WB Rodney Epperson from this lodge to

discuss the possibility of having a joint celebration of our two jurisdictions and honoring this long and distinguished legacy. I was asked to be the keynote speaker at the 225th anniversary gala celebration of the formation of this lodge.

It's really gratifying that after 225 years this brotherhood is able to meet in fellowship to commemorate such an auspicious occasion. This event was well attended by over 130 persons.

For the first time since the formation of the Grand Lodge of Ohio back in 1808, the six original lodges which formed the Grand Lodge of Ohio, came together to exemplify the Entered Apprentice degree on a candidate from this lodge. The Grand Masters from Ohio, New Jersey and Kentucky were all on hand to witness this moment. The ladies were taken on a tour of the Shrine hospital while the brethren conferred the degree. After which we gathered for a social fellowship, followed by my presentation, then dinner and live entertainment.

The Worshipful Master after some remarks presented MW Walter R. Kaulfers with an honorarium towards his charity. Which just happened to be the Children's hospital located in Cincinnati, Ohio.

The seeds which were planted so many years ago, have spawned many seedlings since. There is no doubt that freemasonry is alive and vibrant in Ohio, and this wonderful relationship between our two great jurisdictions is stronger than ever before. All in part by the foresight, courage and dedication of a hand full of men. Who sought to spread the light of freemasonry into the undiscovered western frontier.



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Masonic Apron Case

Masons in Action

Submitted by Associate Editor Bro. Martin Bogardus

Recently, I was asked by the brethren of USS New Jersey Masonic No. 62 to design and build an oaken Masonic apron case for the purposes of transporting their Masonic aprons to DLI, GLI and Masonic funerals. I also was asked to repair and restore an old broken apron case from Collingswood-Cloud Masonic Lodge No. 101 that needed a new top and wood trim to make the box sturdier. After hearing some of the brothers suggestions, I wanted to make an apron case that represented the proud tradition of Freemasonry that also paid homage to the Battleship New Jersey BB-62 as well as repurpose an old apron case from Collingswood-Cloud that otherwise would have been tossed in the trash.

The Battleship USS New Jersey (BB-62) for whom USS New Jersey Masonic Lodge No. 62, F & A. M. is named is America's most decorated battleship and served proudly in WWII, as well as the Korean, Vietnam, and Gulf wars. Wanting to incorporate something personal into its design, I decided to decorate the outside of USS NJ 62's apron case with the emblems from an old Masonic officer collar they had lying around. I liked the idea of repurposing the Masonic collar since the craft emblems of the compasses, level, plumb, 47th problem of Euclid, and beehive among others, remind us of our Masonic obligations to live and act upon the square. The emblem of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey from the Masonic collar I thought would look best on the wooden flap as a representation of a Masonic apron.

The motto on the dedication plate reads ***"Battleship Tested, Brother Approved."*** ***"Battleship Tested"*** - that forged in the fiery furnace of famed Freemasonry, we have been tested and found worthy to receive a portion of the secret arts, parts and points of the craft. ***"Brother Approved"*** - that as a dedicated band of brothers, having met that rigorous standard imposed by all who have come in the same way and manner as before, we dedicate ourselves to the purest principles of our fraternity, knowing that we can count on and be count on by every true brother amidst our ranks.

illustrious service to our nation as the most decorated battleship in U.S History. It is hoped that the battle stars will serve as reminder of the many sacrifices that our veteran's have paid for our liberties. It is only by their dedication and sacrifices that we enjoy "so great a benefit" today for the freedoms we enjoy as a lodge to come together and fellowship.



The nineteen stars represent the 19 battle stars awarded to the Battleship USS New Jersey BB-62 during its long and



18th District Mason's March in July 4th Parade

Masons in Action

Submitted by Associate Editor Bro. Martin Bogardus

Who doesn't love a parade? The Mason's of the 18th Masonic District sure do! Could anything be more fun or patriotic than a stroll down the center of town to show-off your pride as an American and a Freemason?

The parade kicked off at 10 a.m. marching along the stretch of Kings Highway in Haddonfield, NJ from Chestnut Street to Haddonfield Friends School. Among the many lodges represented in the parade were Rising Sun Lodge No. 15, Merchantville Lodge No. 119, USS New Jersey No. 62, Audubon-Parkside No. 218 and Collingswood-Cloud No. 101.



Crescent Shriner's entertained the cheering crowds while riding along in their traditional mini-cars, with both RW Bro. Al Hann (Laurel Lodge) and Bro. Jack Tarditi having vehicles in the classic car section of the parade. The Order of the Eastern Star and Moorestown-Excelsior DeMolay Chapter were also on hand to march and join in the festivities.



Other notable groups like the Joseph A. Ferko String Band Philadelphia Mummers added a flare to the festivities with their lively brand of string band music. WB David Leeds was seen playing in "The Pick Up Band," as well as DB Bob Wells with the Haddonfield "65 Club."



All Brother Masons are welcome and encouraged to come out next year to the parade! Please contact us if you are interested in joining us. Bring the family and friends to make a day of it, and enjoy the fun!

Genesis Lodge No. 88 Recognizes Eagle Scout

Submitted by Steven Wendowski, P.M.

Good news to share with you. I am very proud to say that Brother Zackary Martin represented you quite well today and presented another Eagle Scout with both a Pin and Plaque on behalf of Genesis Lodge No. 88 and our Most Worshipful Grand Lodge:

Recipient: Daniel Yochim of Troop 76 Ringwood, NJ held at the Community Presbyterian Church, 145 Carleondale Road, Ringwood, NJ (same location as Masonic Funeral Service that was held for M.W. Otto Gehrig, P.G.M. November 6, 2014). Daniel's Great-Grandfather was a Freemason in New York State. Daniel's Pastor, The Reverend Dr. & Brother Benhardt "Ben" Fraumann is a member of Euclid Lodge No. 136.

Thanks also go to Brother Ken Hensley of our Lodge for preparing the Plaque and providing the Pin for presentation. He is now assisting the NJ Grand Lodge Committee on Youth Awards.

Community Service is yet another spoke on the wheel of our fraternity.





Masons Help Family of Fallen NJ State Trooper

Submitted by Bro. Frank D. Jones, PDDGM 21st

On Saturday, June 4th, 2016 the Brethren of Woodstown Lodge No. 138 held a motorcycle "Poker Run" benefit to assist the family of Trooper Eli McCarson. Trooper McCarson was killed when his Trooper car went off the slick rain soaked road while he was responding to a call last December. The Brethren of Woodstown Lodge felt it was their obligation as well as an honor and privilege to do something for Eli's wife Jordan and unborn child since Trooper McCarson was stationed at the Woodstown Barracks. Woodstown Lodge has a long history of helping their own as well as members of the community when the need arises. This "Poker Run" was a first for Woodstown Lodge and due to the meticulous planning of Brother John Jorett (a die-hard motorcycle enthusiast) and the faithful support of the Woodstown Brethren, it was a tremendous success. Approximately forty Brethren and their families stepped up in a huge way as there were over 360 bikes and a large number of walk-ins who came to support the McCarson family. A great time was had by everyone

who rode safely that day as well as those who worked hard behind the scenes to make this worthwhile event a success. A check for \$14,600 was given to Jordan a few days later as a small token of our appreciation for her sacrifice, and to ensure that Eli's family knows how much the Masons and the community appreciated Eli's service and his sacrifice.



**WE NEED
YOU!**



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 Charity Foundation Update



Masonic Village



Submitted by Len Weiser, Executive Director, Masonic Charity Foundation of NJ

Your Masonic Village at Burlington is undergoing exciting changes as we evolve and grow to meet the needs of brethren, their families and our community. I invite you to come visit and explore the community to see all new renovations and developments first-hand.

To arrange for a tour guide to show you through the community, please call Cheryl Painter, Resident Services Concierge, at 609-239-3957 a few days before you plan to visit. Please let her know when you plan to arrive (recommended visiting hours are between 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.), if you would like to enjoy a meal in the newly renovated Café 902, and whether you would like to see the new model cottages.

Please also visit our website at www.njmasonic.org to check out the upcoming events page and to learn more about all of the services and amenities Masonic Village now offers, including the potential construction of retirement living duplex cottages.

Acacia Hospice, which serves individuals who live in Burlington, Mercer and Camden counties, also pays respect to those who have served our country in the armed forces through the **We Honor Veterans** program. Created through a joint initiative between the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization and the U.S. Department of Veterans

Affairs, the program goal is to help ensure that veterans are aware of and have access to the highest quality end-of-life care.

Through team education and a staunch commitment to serve our veterans, Acacia Hospice has achieved the highest ranking in the program – Four Stars. Acacia was the first non-profit hospice in New Jersey to achieve this ranking.

To honor veteran patients who reside at our Masonic Village at Burlington, Acacia has established a ceremonial draping of the U.S. flag over the veteran at the time of death and officially escorts him or her to the waiting funeral home vehicle. Doing so informs Masonic Village team members and residents that a veteran has just died and allows for a moment of reflection and Thanksgiving.

The flag draping of veterans at the Masonic Village has been so well received that Acacia Hospice has extended this honor to all veteran patients it serves. Veterans who reside in their own homes or at other care facilities are now honored by the flag draping at the time of death.

Extending this honor required Acacia Hospice to acquire more U.S. flags. Through an article published in the local newspaper, Acacia explained its mission and its need for flags – both new and used. The outpouring of support through the donation of flags as well as funds to purchase flags has helped Acacia Hospice to continue with this practice.

To contribute a flag or to donate funds for this purpose, please contact Pat Concannon, Acacia's Volunteer Coordinator, at 609-589-4072.

The IRA Charitable Rollover Alternative

The financial support that Masonic Charity Foundation receives from our donors is invaluable. In fact, we could not succeed in our mission of caring for the residents of the Masonic Village at Burlington without it.

Many of our donors are retirees, who have said that they have been frustrated with the required minimum distribution rules (RMD) on their individual retirement accounts (IRAs). The rules require that they take a distribution from their IRAs – or face stiff penalties. And they have to pay income tax on the portion that is withdrawn. Often, these distributions push them into a higher tax bracket.

Now there is another option. **Congress has passed a law that allows for direct distributions from IRAs to charitable organizations. Donors do not pay income taxes on the amount transferred, and still meet their RMD requirements.** If you are planning to donate to the Masonic Charity Foundation this year, making an IRA charitable rollover may be a smart financial move.

The new law makes an IRA rollover gift easier than ever.

- **Contact your IRA plan administrator.** Because of the popularity of the rollover, most administrators provide forms and a procedure to help you make a rollover gift.
- **You can direct a transfer up to \$100,000 each year from your IRA to a qualified charity.**
- **You will pay no income taxes on the amount transferred.** Because you are not claiming the transferred amount as income, you will not receive an income tax deduction for your gift.
- **You must be age 70 ½ or older,** and any amount you transfer counts against your RMD.

After authorizing the IRA rollover through your IRA plan administrator, contact the Masonic Charity Foundation to let us know how you want your gift to be used. In addition to putting your donation to good use, we will supply you with documentation that substantiates your gift as an IRA rollover for tax purposes. For more information, please contact Chris Abbott at the Foundation at (609) 239-3999.

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DIETER B. HEES

“CRUISE TO BERMUDA”
August 6 - 13, 2017

Sail from Bayonne, NJ on the Celebrity Summit, with 3 days in port
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Group rates are per person based on double occupancy and include ALL taxes and fees including port
tax and mandatory government fees of \$201.19.

Rates



Interior Stateroom, Category 9 (170 sq ft)	\$1380.19
Oceanview Stateroom with picture window, Category 7 (170 sq ft)	\$1520.19
Deluxe Oceanview with verandah, Category 2B (170 sq ft, 38 sq ft verandah)	\$1840.19
Aqua Class with verandah, Category A2 (195 sq ft, 54 sq ft verandah)	\$2170.19

Triples, Quads available upon request, including children.

NO airfare needed! Trip cancellation additional. A \$250 per person deposit is required. Suites also available. Book
early for best locations. **Final payment is due May 23, 2017.**

For reservations and special promos please contact:
Margie Kuhn of Seaview Travel 609-652-5010 • seaviewtl@yahoo.com





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

PLANNED GIVING BRIEF

The Charitable Gift Annuity

SECURE YOUR FUTURE WITH A CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY

If you are like many people, you have seen the value of your investments fluctuate with the markets. You might be wondering if there is a way to find true security for you and your loved ones. The good news is that with a charitable gift annuity's fixed payments, you or a loved one can find the peace of mind that you are looking for.

What is a charitable gift annuity?

A charitable gift annuity is a way to make a gift to support the causes that you care about. You make a gift of cash or property to us. In return, we will make payments for life to you, you and a loved one, or another person. Each payment will be fixed and the amount of each payment will depend on the age of the person who receives the payments. After all payments have been made, we will receive the remaining value of your gift to support the causes that matter to you.

There are a number of benefits with a charitable gift annuity. Your payments are fixed as of the date of your gift. This means that your payments will never change, even if interest rates or the stock market changes. Depending upon your gift, you may receive the added benefit of mostly tax-free payments. You will also receive a charitable deduction in the year that you set up the gift annuity.

Deferred charitable gift annuity

If you would like to make a gift to us today but do not need the payments until a later date, we can also create a deferred gift annuity arrangement to meet your needs. While you benefit from a charitable tax deduction at the time you make your gift to us, we can begin making payments to you at a future date or even be flexible about when your payments begin.

SECURE PAYMENTS FOR LIFE

If you are looking for a way to secure your future, a charitable gift annuity may be the answer for you. Not only will your gift help further a cause you care about, but you will receive the security of fixed payments for your lifetime backed by our promise to pay. Now is the right time to lock in your payout rate with a gift to fund a charitable gift annuity. To find out how high your payments could be and to learn more about charitable gift annuities, please give us a call.

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.



Confident Retirement® approach

Balance: it's all part of the plan.

Our exclusive *Confident Retirement®* approach addresses the four key needs of financial planning, helping you feel confident about your long-term financial future, as well as your wants and needs of today. It's what financial balance is all about.

Covering essentials – Essentials are the necessities—the monthly expenses that keep your life running. **Make the most of your income and build a reserve to cover those expenses.**

Ensuring lifestyle – Lifestyle is about the things that you want to do and how you want to live, today and in the future. **Build a savings and investment plan for what's important.**

Preparing for the unexpected – The unexpected are events that could derail your plans. **Protect yourself from the certainty of uncertainty.**

Leaving a legacy – Legacy is about the impact you'll make on the people, charities and causes that are important to you. **Plan now to maximize your giving and make your wishes known.**



ARMANDO DIRIENZO

Vice President
Financial Advisor
Member Madison Lodge #93

Metzger, DiRienzo & Associates

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The Masonic Charity Foundation of New Jersey offers these scholarships to students interested in pursuing higher education.

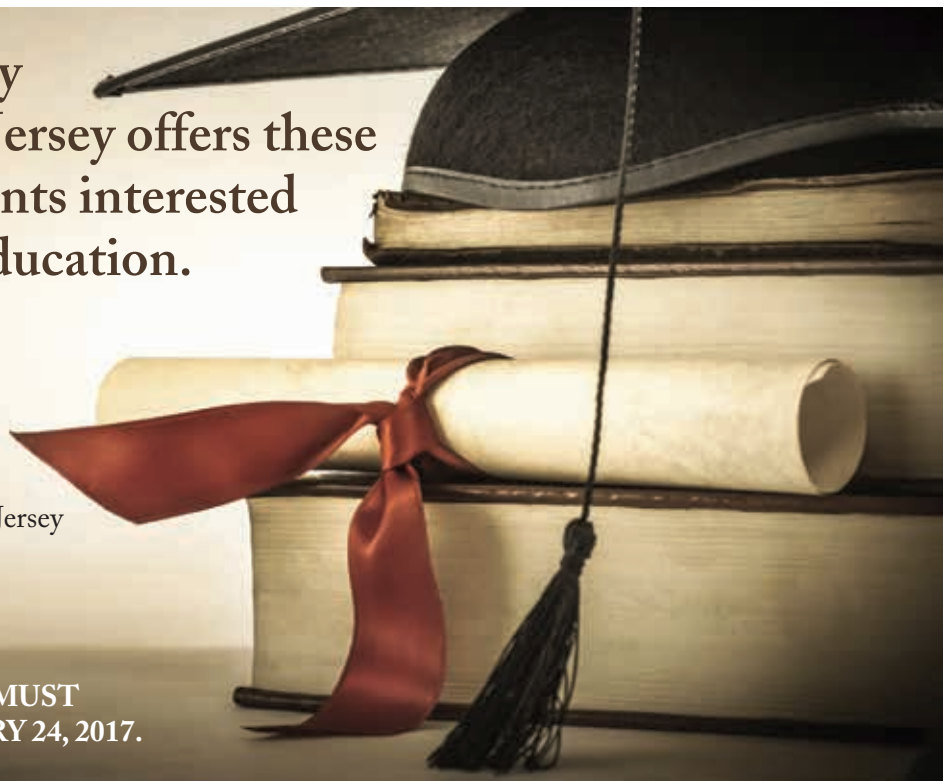
For complete details about each scholarship's eligibility requirements, or for an application, visit:

www.njmasonic.org

or www.newjerseygrandlodge.org

Masonic Charity Foundation of New Jersey
902 Jacksonville Road
Burlington, NJ 08016-3896
(609) 589-4032

**COMPLETED APPLICATIONS MUST
BE POSTMARKED BY FEBRUARY 24, 2017.**



Chairman of the Board Scholarship \$10,000

(\$2,500 per year for 4 years)

For Graduating High School Seniors in Any Major

GPA: B or 3.0 | Combined SATs: 1800

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

Taylor Scholarship \$4,000

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

For Graduating NJ High School Seniors in Any Major

GPA: B or 3.0 | Combined SATs: 1500

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

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

Patterson Engineering Scholarship \$16,000

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

For Graduating NJ High School Seniors in Engineering

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

Relative of NJ Mason preferred*, not required | (2) Available

Emphasis on teacher recommendation and student's statement

Culver DeMolay Scholarship \$4,000

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

For Graduating NJ High School Seniors in Any Major

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

Active DeMolay preferred | (3) Available

Serewitch DeMolay Scholarship \$20,000

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

For Graduating NJ High School Seniors in Any Major

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

Active DeMolay required | (1) Available

Emphasis on teacher recommendation and student's statement

Asbury Jordan Lodge Scholarship \$4,000

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

For Graduating High School Seniors in Any Major

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

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

Scholarship in honor of Christian Mogensen and John D. Post

William Mayer Memorial Scholarship \$4,000

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

For Graduating High School Seniors in Any Major

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

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

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

William Mayer Memorial Scholarship \$4,000

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

For 4-Year College Student

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

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

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

Sol & Reba Serewitch Scholarship \$5,000

(\$5,000 for 1 year)

For Graduating NJ High School Seniors in Any Major

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

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

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

**MASONIC
CHARITY**

FOUNDATION OF NEW JERSEY

Acacia Hospice Honors Veterans

In 2010, the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs through a joint initiative created the **We Honor Veterans** program. The goal of the program is to help ensure that Veterans are aware of and have access to the highest quality end-of-life care.

Acacia Hospice made the decision early on to join the We Honor Veterans program. Through team member education and commitment to serve our Veterans, Acacia Hospice has been able to achieve the highest ranking in the program – Four Stars. Acacia was the first non-profit hospice in New Jersey to achieve this ranking.

To honor Veteran patients who reside at our Masonic Village at Burlington, Acacia has established a ceremonial draping of the United States flag over the Veteran at the time of death and officially escorts them to the waiting funeral home vehicle. Doing so informs Masonic Village team members and residents that a Veteran has just died, and allows for a moment of reflection and Thanksgiving.

Acacia Hospice also serves individuals who live in the New Jersey counties of Burlington, Mercer and Camden. Since the flag draping of Veterans at the Masonic Village has been so well received, Acacia has extended this honor to all Veteran patients it serves. Veterans who reside in their own homes or at other care facilities are now honored by the flag draping at the time of death.

When Acacia extended this honor, it found that it needed United States flags. Through an article published in the local newspaper, Acacia explained its mission and its need for flags – both new and used. The outpouring of support both with the donation of flags and with the donation of funds to purchase flags has helped Acacia to continue with this practice.

To contribute a flag or to donate funds for this purpose, please contact Pat Concannon, Acacia's Volunteer Coordinator, at (609) 589-4072.



Visit Your Masonic Village at Burlington

Dear Friends,

Perhaps the best way to find out more about all of the developments taking place at your Masonic Village is to make a visit to see the community first-hand. We welcome your visit!

The Masonic Village at Burlington is located minutes from both New Jersey Turnpike Exit #5 and Interstate 295 Exit #47. Our recommended visiting hours are from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. daily.

To arrange for a tour guide to show you through the community, please call Cheryl Painter, Resident Services Concierge, at (609) 239-3957 a few days before you plan to visit. Please let her know when you plan to arrive, if you

would like to enjoy a meal in our newly renovated Café 902, and whether you would like to see our new model cottages.

Please also go to our website at www.njmasonic.org to check out our upcoming events page, and to learn more about all of the services and amenities we now offer. We look forward to seeing you sometime soon!

With warm regards



Len Weiser
Executive Director
Masonic Charity Foundation of NJ

Carefree Living



Among Friends

And Pay a Man His Wages, If Any Be Due...



Masonic Village



We ritually speak of the wages of a Master Mason, and in fact it is the duty of each lodge to ensure that the wages of a Master Mason are paid when due. But what are the wages of the Master Mason? We are a volunteer organization where we put our skill and labor in action to further our ideals, not for mundane compensation in the form of the coin of the realm,

but for something greater. We seek to make a difference. It is often said that merit is its own reward.

However, merit is inherent in the deed. It is not something that can be given by one person to another. Masonic wages are the *recognition* that we give a man for a job well done, because we want to encourage continued labor. When the efforts of a brother are acknowledged in front of his brethren, we are paying that man his wages. We don't always have the opportunity to acknowledge the sacrifices of our brother, or for great labor, do not often have the medium to fully compensate a man for a lifetime of labor. However, due to the work that is being performed at the Masonic Villages of Burlington, a new opportunity has presented itself to pay a man his wages. We are building homes in a new Masonic community. A community needs streets; streets need names. There are a few legacies as enduring as having a street named in someone's honor. The Masonic Charity Foundation

of the State of New Jersey is giving you an opportunity to name one of our streets (subject of course to required approvals). This will serve the twofold purpose of not only honoring a workman for his labor, but also to assist the Masonic Charity Foundation in the fulfillment of its mission. From October 12 through November 12, we will be providing individuals an opportunity to bid on naming one of the streets in our new Masonic community. There are several streets that need to be named. To assist us, we will be utilizing the services of Bidding for Good, an online auction site used by charities such as the Masonic Charity Foundation to give individuals the opportunity to make a tax deductible contribution to a worthy cause, while giving them the tremendous opportunity to honor a deserving individual. To participate, go to www.biddingforgood.com/streetsigns. Because this is an online auction, everyone will be able to join in the challenge, whether as a bidder or as a spectator, with the victors gaining naming rights in our beautiful new Masonic community. Information will be disseminated through regular mail, and also, for anyone with any questions, please reach out to the Masonic Charity Foundation and will be happy to assist.

Edward R. Petkevis, PGC
President, Masonic Charity Foundation
for the State of New Jersey

Here's your chance to name a street!

New streets will be developed as part of the first phase of the Masonic Village at Burlington's cottage project.

The right to name these streets will be auctioned to the highest bidders.

To bid, go to www.biddingforgood.com/streetsigns between October 12 and November 12, 2016.

Questions? Call the Masonic Charity Foundation of NJ at (609) 239-3999.

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!

