



Masonic Times

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Genesee/Wyoming
& Livingston
Districts

Serving the Masonic Community Since 1963

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Service Bureau 2001 Appeal

By Vern Goodrich

Brethren, the amount received so far this year is extremely low. The request for contributions has been mailed. The Service Bureau needs your help. In this, the season for giving, will you examine your commitment to the Community and Fraternal Programs of the Bureau? Will you search your heart and ability, give accordingly, and do it now?

We do not want to hide our 'light' under a bushel. Let us go forth and tell our story from the mountain top.

"If it is to be, it's up to me." Every little bit helps. □

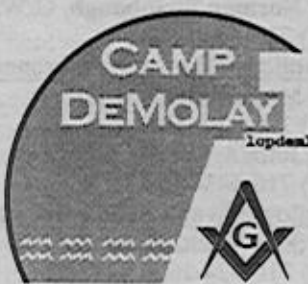
Elder Wear

By W. Lewis J. Perna

Elder Wear is taking off! We have established an administrative structure, secured two drop off points and warehouse space. We could use additional drop off points. Perhaps your Lodge can assume this role during one of your scheduled meetings. Let me know what you think. I have made presentations with the following Lodges: Fame, Charlotte/Corinthian, Wakan/Hubbard, Valley/Simes and Fairport. I have some additional presentations scheduled for December. I appreciate the help of the respective Masters who have given me the time from their busy Trestleboards.

Lynn Prytula and I made a presentation to a group of nursing home providers who are very enthused and excited by the concept of receiving clothing for their residents "free of charge". Unity Health System has provided this writer with access to Corporate Communications which has already resulted in an appearance on Channel 13's "Bright Spot". More media coverage is promised. Our own W. Michael Batz has agreed to have a synopsis of the program printed in the smaller area publications. The Shrine also agreed to print the

Continued on page 3



Camp DeMolay Endowment Fund Drive

By Vern Goodrich

The following list is of those who have contributed or pledged to the Endowment Fund so far.

Trustees Circle

Bob Anderson

Ambassadors Circle

Harold Matzky and Fred Stahl

Camp Associate

Valley/Simes Lodge No. 109 and AASR

Friends of the Camp

Rochester Lumber

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Warren Pearse

Lois Rogers

William Sawyer

Walter Schattner

Michael Schum

Ronald Sodoma

Wallace Wagner

Cyril White

E. William Whittaker

John Wihlen

Terry Wihlen

Geraldine Wright

We are grateful for these contributions, and encourage all to add their names in the future. □

Searching For A Home

By Eugene Brendel

Most Masons of the Monroe District are aware that for the better part of this year the Masonic Service Bureau has been entertaining the idea of relocating from their Downtown Rochester location. The primary reasons for moving relate to concerns of security, maintenance and the loss of yet another tenant. These, along with continued loss of membership in Lodges and the difficulty of maintaining individual Lodge facilities, has led to the idea of directing efforts towards two Monroe County Masonic Centers; one each on the East and West sides of the city. Vern Goodrich, President of the Service Bureau, has spent a good deal of time, effort and also some money, to formulate and investigate a plan acceptable to the needs of the Temple Civic Center, the Service Bureau and its clients, several Lodges, Concordant Bodies and Eastern Star Chapters. When it seemed that a satisfactory location had been found on a West side site, concerns of funding and investing developed, and the project came to a halt.

Faced with the expiration of its lease in December of 2002, Vern appealed to the Service Bureau Executive Committee for help, and a decision was made to recruit a Search Committee to locate a site to buy or build as soon as possible. The Committee appointed was Gene Brendel, Chairman; Ramona Dimino, Volney Frankel, Joe Privitera and Charles Roberts. This Committee has been searching since October for properties in an area West of the Genesee River, South of Ridge Road into Gates and East of Elm Grove Road. A location in Henrietta would also be considered. As of this writing, 25 properties have been located and considered, nearly all of them either not suitable to our needs or unaffordable without additional funding.

This search will continue and we will meet with a commercial Realtor to evaluate our possibilities. □

The Masonic Service Bureau & Masonic Times

Wish You and Yours

A Happy
Holiday Season.



R. W.'s Carl J. Fitje-DGM and F. J. McCullough-C.E.O. of the Masonic Service Bureau, present the Distinguished Community Service Award to Daniel M. Meyers-President of the Al Sigl Center.



In no particular order: R. W.'s Joseph Homer-JGD, Kenneth Wagner-DGSB, Edward Geisel-DG Marshal, Carl J. Fitje-DG Master, F. J. McCullough, and Paul R. Gleason-Grand Chaplain.

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"One Nation Under God"

Theme for the 2001 Service & Breakfast

By Angelo DiCataldo

Linda Zahn, one of the longest involved Committee members of the Interfaith Service and Breakfast, chose the program folders, which she donates every year, on September 10th. She thought the cover would be appropriate and little did she know that the very next day, September 11th, these words would be most prominent in every citizen's mind all over the United States.



The 2001 Recipient of the Masonic Service Bureau's Distinguished Community Service Award, Daniel M. Meyers-President of the Al Sigl Center.

On October 28th, we had our Annual Interfaith Service and Breakfast and for those who missed it, read on because it gets better.

As our usual MC, Jerry Flynn, declined because of health complications, a search began and a couple of names came up. R. W.'s William Lindsay, DDGM, graciously accepted and we thank him for a super job. Thanks to R. W.'s Tom Paglia for inviting the Deputy Grand Master, R. W.'s Carl J. Fitje, R. W.'s Joseph Homer, Junior Grand Deacon; R. W.'s Kenneth Wagner, Deputy Grand Standard Bearer; and R. W.'s Edward Giesler, Deputy Grand Marshal.

Our thanks to R. W.'s and Rev. Paul R. Gleason, Jr., for the usual excellent mix of faith readings and scriptures which included Father Otto J. Vott, Wthy. Ramona Dimino, R. W.'s Herb Spencer and himself. Songs were beautifully sung by Wthy. Cheryl Fishbaugh, who was accompa-

Continued on page 3

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Editor's Corner

By Don Brugger
473-4351 (O) 458-6125 (H)

Congratulations

You may notice that there are several "Editor's Awards" for exceptional writing given in this issue. I am pleased to give these Awards and appreciate the time that some are taking in preparing their copy; it shows. I might suggest to others that when you see an article that has been sited for good communicating, read it and learn from it.

For what it's worth

My Pastor recently reviewed, in a sermon, his first two years as our spiritual leader. In this review he brought out the fact that getting a new pastor after a long period of time (it was 19 years in this case) is like losing a loved one to death or getting a divorce. It is analogous in that it involves a grieving process. In this process there are a number of definite stages: Shock, denial, anger, bargaining and finally acceptance; not always in that order.

The shock comes initially as "What are we going to do now? The organization is going to fall apart or this can't be happening."

The next stage is denial; "Our leader is gone, but everything is going to be the same." This, of course cannot ever be true.

The next stage, anger. We expect things to be the same, but they are not; "Why did this have to happen, things were just fine the way they were". There is no blame here. It's no one's fault. We need to see this anger for what it is; part of the grieving process. Some people never get past this point because they do not realize why they feel this way. It's at this point that some throw in the towel and abandon the organization. A change in leadership, in a Masonic situation, unlike the case above, is usually a temporary one.

The next stage is bargaining. If it can't be the way it used to be, how much of what we did have can we have now. What can we get from this new guy or what does he want of us?

The last stage and conclusion of the grieving process is acceptance. Both the members and the new leadership want the same thing. They both want the organization to be successful and to flourish. Acceptance and accommodation are essential. All will be well if we hang in there and go forward with the business of Freemasonry.

Your Legal Rights FYI

By Phillip Hurwitz, Esq.

Child Support Enforcement

Amy and Joe are now divorced. Amy keeps the house and the kids. Amy is the custodial parent. Joe has the kids every other weekend, alternating holidays and two weeks during the Summer. Joe is the non-custodial parent.

Because Joe is the non-custodial parent, he has to pay child support. Their divorce agreement requires that Joe's wages are garnished for the child support. That means every pay period, a portion of Joe's wages are paid directly to Amy.

Joe falls behind

Joe loses his job because of a down economy. The loss of a job doesn't cancel Joe's child support obligation. Each week Joe doesn't pay is one more debt that he will have to reckon with. Bankruptcy isn't an option. Child support debts cannot be discharged in bankruptcy. Joe decides to go in business for himself. His income stream is now mostly received in cash.

Despite Amy's best efforts to reason with Joe, Joe continues to remain behind in his payments. He pays \$50 here, \$75 there, takes the kids out to McDonald's or a movie. Joe buys the kids their Winter coats. Amy appreciates all this, but she has mounting bills herself to contend with. As custodial parent, she cannot wait until Joe settles up and becomes current in his obligations.

In order to obtain federal funding, most counties maintain a child support enforcement unit. Their job is to collect back child support owed and to garnish wages of non-custodial parents. To use these services, all Amy has to do is have her child support order registered with her local county child support enforcement unit. Once her child support order is registered, Amy can have the child support amount increased every two years.

This child support unit will use its resources to locate all bank accounts that Joe has an interest in. This unit will also seek to garnish Joe's wages. This child support unit also has the power to seize tax refunds and unemployment benefits. This unit can also seize property belonging to Joe. This unit can have Joe's driver's license suspended if he falls behind in his support. His credit report will reflect any past due amounts exceeding \$1000. Leaving the state won't help Joe. If he has a social security number, he will be found.

What can Joe do?

The best Joe can do in these circumstances is to take a proactive approach. That means not ignoring those notices he receives in the mail reminding him of his child support obligation. If his financial situation is precarious, then he needs to contact this child support unit and explain his situation. This won't make his obligations go away, but it may allow him to work out a payment plan. If his financial position shows no sign of near term improvement, then filing a petition in Family Court to modify his child support obligation, may provide the long term relief he needs. Until his current support obligation is

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Area Codes will be changed (from 716 to 585) in the Jan. 02 issue. The transition period is from Nov. 01 until Aug. 02.



VAMC
Canandaigua, NY
Harold Bollotin - Reporter

Veterans Day

On Sunday morning, November 11th, the Annual Memorial Service, sponsored by the American Legion, was held at the downtown War Memorial. Many veterans attended representing the VA organizations from the city and county. Also included were Masonic veterans.

It was a solemn and moving program, particularly in view of the September 11th attack. About 34 memorial wreaths were laid by the various veteran organizations, including one by our own James A. Hard/Wayne Charter Post No. 12.

Events at the VAMC

Sunday, November 11th, was the final Ward 8 visit for 2001. As usual, we visited with, spread cheer, and distributed refreshments to the patients. We were

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MSB Community Service

By Harold Bollotin



Mr. Harold Bollotin
60 Sethland Drive
Rochester, New York 14617

Dear Harold,

Thank you for advancing the cause of Al Sigi Center always and my name.

Heartfelt thanks to you and the Masonic Service Bureau for honoring me and our Al Sigi Center partnership with the 2001 Distinguished Community Service Award.

Your many kindnesses brightens the lives of more than 53,000 children and adults with disabilities whom we serve together at Al Sigi Center.

May God bless you, your family, your Masonic brothers, our beloved Center and country and little planet.

Peace,

Daniel M. Meyers
Daniel M. Meyers
President

DMM/jam

*Thank you,
my friend,
for everything
I so all loved the
Clippings.*

pleased to welcome Brother Andre Smith of ERAC Lodge No. 163 who joined us. We appreciated his volunteer effort.

The other six volunteers were: Tom and Cora Paglia, June Moon, Roberta Wahl, my wife, Sylvia, and me.

Tuesday, December 11th is the Annual Holiday gift wrap session, building 5 Auditorium, 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 23rd, will be our Annual Holiday gift distribution. This is in Building 5 Auditorium from 12:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

For further information, call Tom Paglia, 227-2046.

Looking ahead

Our schedule for 2002 includes Sunday visits on: January 6th, February 10th, March 10th, April 7th, October 6th and November 10th.

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Service & Breakfast

Continued from page 1

nied by pianist, Rt. Wthy. Beverly Murray.

A keynote speech was made by R.W. Carl J. Fitje. It was so well received that many who were present requested a copy; it is at the end of this article. R.W. Carl J. Fitje was so impressed by this annual affair, that he wants to fit it in his calendar for next year. We will be happy to have him back.

R.W. Fitje and R.W. F. Jay McCullough presented the 42nd Annual Distinguished Community Service Award to Daniel M. Meyers, President of the Al Sigi Center, for his many accomplishments in making the Center widely recognized. Dan graciously accepted a Plaque and a check for \$500.00 to be donated to a charity of his choice, which, of course, is the Al Sigi Center. His remarks were centered on all the good works of Masonry and its objectives.

Finally, many thanks to the James A. Hard/Wayne Charter Post No. 12, Masonic War Veterans, in the presentation of our Flag and to the entire Committee who worked so hard in the many preparations and ticket sales: Ramona Dimino, Mat Gingold, Harold Bollotin, Bill Hook, Leon VanHuben, Vern and Barbara Goodrich, Tom Paglia, Dave Larson, Jim Powell, Jim Spencer, Jim Scobell, Emil Schirano and Linda Zahn.

Speech by R.W. Carl J. Fitje

"Thank you for all your cards, letters, e-mails and words of comfort to myself, my wife, Renee, and

our daughter, Danielle, who lost her husband, Firefighter Lee Fehling, in the World Trade Center disaster. They say that Masonry is our second family and that was certainly evident with the outpouring of comfort and support during this terrible tragedy.

We had the opportunity to go to Ground Zero. The Fire Department offered the widows an opportunity for some sense of closure by bringing them to the last place their husbands were and so we went.

It was a tremendously emotional day. I went with my wife, daughter, Lee's mother, father and brother. Upon entering Ground Zero, we immediately sensed a cold chill in the air. The construction workers stopped work and took off their helmets, placed them over their hearts and we could see the tears and sorrow in their eyes as we passed them by.

Newspaper and TV pictures do not begin to display the devastation that we witnessed. It was probably ten times as bad and it shocked us.

Out of despair, they say, comes hope, and for my daughter and us that came on October 18th when she gave birth to her 2nd daughter and our granddaughter, who weighed eight pounds, two ounces and was 19 3/4 inches long. My daughter honored her husband's memory by giving her his first name as her middle name, Megan Lee Fehling.

At the Memorial Service I spoke to the Mayor and thanked him for his leadership through these trying and difficult times in New York. I had already spoken to the Governor at an earlier meeting.

The Grand Master, through his leadership and working with the Trustees of the Masonic Home, established the Grand Lodge World Trade Center Fund of 1 million dollars. Contributions will be going to the widows of the rescue workers. Today the contributions from Districts, Lodges and individuals total some 1.5 million dollars.

The Scottish Rite, Northern and Southern Jurisdictions, have also pledged 2.3 million to the Disaster Relief Fund. Grand Lodges throughout the world have also contributed to this Fund. This, my Brothers, is Masonry in action within our communities.

Positive lessons learned: family is important; our individual freedoms are very precious; Brotherhood; getting along together is paramount; religious freedom is why we came here or live here so we can freely practice our religious beliefs.

Our diversification of people living together is America, and America's strength and what we in this Fraternity stand for. Our freedoms cannot and will not be destroyed.

The revival of patriotism, flag waving, prayer and brotherhood is the essence of this Fraternity and it is heartening to hear people singing our National Anthem, "God Bless America", and "America the Beautiful". Especially seeing our legislators singing on the Capitol steps was very moving and something I never thought that I would see.

Although this is a sad moment in our history, we can never and will never forget the victims, firefighters, police and port authority officers and emergency medical technicians who lost their lives. Heroes who by the way saved over 25,000 lives by their actions. This has strengthened our resolve and made us prouder to be Americans.

Now is the time for our Fraternity to openly display our patriotism and brotherhood, open up our doors and let the community in. Together with our Masonic War Veterans and Veterans Service Committee, headed by Tom Paglia, keep this concept in the forefront by continuing to honor America, its veterans and the

Continued on page 13

Elder Wear

Continued from page 1

same synopsis in the "Damascus News". I thank my Shrine Brothers for this support. In short, my Brothers, Elder Wear is picking up momentum and support. You can review it on our District web page at monroemasonic.com.

November 12th was our kick-off date and we have already received clothing and support from the community. Your assistance is still required. I would appreciate a call or e-mail message indicating your ability to help and an approximation of your availability. As a reminder, begin by collecting clothing within your own Lodge. Use the proceeds from one of your dinners to buy clothing, or simply donate the money to Elder Wear. Pass the hat for one evening.

Never have I been more proud to be a Mason. As I have assumed responsibility for this program, I have seen the effort of my Masonic community. Be a part of it, and allow your self the opportunity to rekindle that part of your Masonic identification. I promise you that the dividends outweigh the effort.



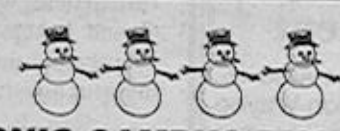
Masonic War Veterans' Color Guard: Kenneth Rhodes, Emil Schirano, Dennis Gellasch, Frank Jansson, and Arthur Maupin presented the Colors.





Those participating in the Service were: R.W. F.J. McCullough-MSB C.E.O., Wthy. Ramona Dimino, Father Otto J. Vott-Retired, Rev. Paul R. Gleason. (Pictures courtesy Linda Zahn)



Songs were beautifully performed by pianist Rt. Wthy. Beverly Murray and vocalist Wthy. Cheryl Fishbaugh.



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Membership Development

Mark G. Debelka-Area 15
Monroe-Livingston-Wayne

Introduction

My name is Mark G. Debelka, and I am the Area 15 Chairman of Membership Development. I have many ideas and resources, and want to be available to all Brothers since we all share a common goal - the creation of quality Masons.

I was raised by ERAC Lodge in the (at that time) 1st Monroe District, however, a beautiful woman sunk her talons into me and lured me with her siren's song to Livonia, where I joined Livonia Lodge No. 778. I am a Past Master, sitting Junior Warden, and Livingston District, AGL. On the side, I am also a Companion of 3X3 Chapter, RAM, I have started, but not yet received the Cryptic Degrees from Nundawaga Council. Currently I am awaiting the sands of the Shrine.

Now that I have introduced myself, let me explain why I am here, and why you should keep reading.

When I was made a Mason 10 years ago, I felt that it was the most exciting thing to happen in my life (I have since been married, and fathered children, as well as gained some "fame" in my profession, but Masonry still ranks in the top five most exciting events) and could not wait to share it with others. I saw the prohibitions against asking others, I went to and hosted a few BBF Nights, but I still saw we were having a problem with good men wanting to join us.

Then, one day I received a call (and a letter) that said, in sum and substance, "OK mister, you've opened your mouth and think you can help develop our membership? You've got the job!" So, I now find myself in charge of membership development in the Districts of Livingston, Monroe and Wayne.

When was the last time you wanted to share Masonry with a dear friend or respected associate? Did you feel confident in presenting the product of Masonry to this man? Do you even think he knows what Masonry is?

Why am I here?

These are the reasons I am here. We don't need to ask men to become Masons, we need to challenge men to become Masons and improve their community. The first step starts with you! Do you allow the world to know you are a Mason? Do you wear lapel pins or ball caps with the square and compasses? Are you proud of your association? If the answer to these questions is no, ask yourself, why not? I myself do not wear Masonic garb at work. However, I am displaying my affiliation everywhere else I go. This is sharing your product.

If you don't feel confident with your ability to present Masonry to anyone (not just a man, because women have a lot of influence over men if we like to admit it or not), may I suggest the library at the Masonic Service Bureau, or the monthly columns on related subjects in the *Masonic Times*. Perhaps it would just be better to invite the person to lunch and have a respected Brother there to help you with the tougher questions.

This is a quick view of membership development on a per-

sonal level. My view is towards the Fraternity as a whole. My future articles will talk about what Grand Lodge is doing for you, what I am doing for you, and asking your assistance in helping me.

Brothers needed

In the meantime, I need at least two Brothers who are willing to work with me to increase the flow of quality men to Masonry from Monroe and Wayne Districts. This is a job we will all be able to look upon with pride, because we will be the future of our Craft. If you think you might have what it takes to raise our Fraternity to its rightful seat of prominence, contact me immediately at 230-0355 or on the internet at mdibelka@rochester.rr.com.

Please stay tuned for next month's article where I unveil my view of membership development and activities that are already happening. □

District Deputy Grand Master Monroe District



R.W. William Lindsay
621-3573

In my last column for the *Masonic Times*, I spent some time speculating about "who we are" as a Fraternity, pretty much speaking from a theoretical perspective. A more direct way to make the same point is to mention some of the Masonic activity that has gone on in the past few weeks that I have learned about, or seen:

- Sitting in on the MSAT training for teachers in Utica and viewing the excitement that the teachers had not only as they learned strategies to work with "at-risk" kids in their home schools, but the very positive impression they had of Freemasonry at the Utica home.

- The Official Visit to the new Fame Lodge No. 722, and feeling the energy and excitement under the leadership of W.: Nelson Bertch and later in the month presenting a DSA Apron to Leon VanHuben.

- Attending the Grand Lecturer's Convention at Fairport Lodge and viewing the enthusiasm of Monroe Masons for Ritual improvement under the direction of R.W.: Edward Gilbert, Grand Lecturer.

- Attending the Grand Council Reception for M.:I.: E. William Whittaker in Seneca Falls. Brother Whittaker is a well known Mason in the Monroe District and is committed to promoting the unity and cooperation of all Masonic Bodies.

- Participating in the AASR Symbolic Lodge Awards Night and seeing so many deserving Brothers be acknowledged for significant service to their respective Lodges from all over the region.

- Enjoying the Sesquicentennial Rededication Ceremony at Mt. Vernon Lodge, an event that drew nearly 200 people for a celebratory dinner. W.: Bernard

Whaley ought to be commended for the excellent planning that went into the event. I was particularly touched by the introduction of the Chairman of the Centennial Celebration of the same Lodge; also the Master from that year, both still active.

- Attending the Masters and Wardens social event at the Burgundy Basin Inn and being moved nearly to tears by the presentation on "Melissa's Garden." Thanks to Dave Zegas, Dean Rice and Karl-Heinz Reich for putting that program together, and all the other work they do to make M&W a supportive force for Freemasonry in this District.

- Having the opportunity to hear a complete presentation by R.W.: Neal Bidnick of the program developed by the GL Committee on Lodges and Buildings over at Eunice Lodge. He was accompanied by R.W.: Carry Cohn, who heads up the GL Youth Committee and is committed to a reach-out program to all youth across this jurisdiction. R.W.: Bidnick makes a compelling case for each Lodge to create and operate by a plan in order to avoid being overwhelmed by actuarial and financial forces.

- Enjoying a wonderful pancake breakfast at Milnor Lodge and the Town Meeting that followed.

- Participating in the Interfaith Breakfast and hearing the Deputy Grand Master, R.W.: Carl J. Fitze's presentation, which was powerful, moving and awe inspiring. Our Craft is in good hands. Particular thanks to the Service Bureau and Angelo DiCataldo, Chairman of the event, for all their fine work.

- Attending the District School of Ritual, featuring R.W.: Bil Vassily, Chairman of the Custodians of the Work, who taught us all a mnemonic and sure-fire way to remember the "furthermores." (Quickly, who recalls #8?). He also talked about the newly printed Ritual and the quality effort that went into that document and the tremendous assistance he had received from our good friend, R.W.: Mauric Solomon.

- An exciting quarterly meeting with the District Leadership Team, now 26 members strong, and a review of all the projects ongoing in the District. Hottest items right now are the District web page (Monroemasonic.com) being constructed by W.: Mike Batz, and Brothers R.J. Muto and Pedro Ugalde, which features a place for every Lodge's trestleboard and a District calendar; The Elder Wear Program being operated by W.: Lew Perna, which has expanded to 15 nursing homes and is commanding all sorts of positive publicity; the Child ID effort being operated by Brothers John Dyer, Andy Alvarez, and Michael Schwartz.

- The Road to the East Program at Phoenix Lodge, a partnership training effort by several Districts from here to the Pennsylvania line, which shares resources and skills, and provides each with the opportunity to experience the broad spectrum of Masonry throughout our jurisdiction. The second session is scheduled for January 5, 2002, and is open to all Brothers seeking Masonic light. Reservations are required; please call R.W.: Cliff Short of R.W.: Jim De Lorenzo.

- Attending the dinner and Official Visit of R.W.: Robert Schultz to Prattsburg Lodge; much enjoying the courtesies extended, observing the family participation in the Lodge, respecting the serious attitude of those

Brethren toward their responsibility in the community.

These concrete examples become a different way of defining "who we are". Each experience is characterized by being in the presence of decent men, familiar values, caring for one another, maintaining and simultaneously building a Masonic tradition dedicated to the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of man. May it ever be so.

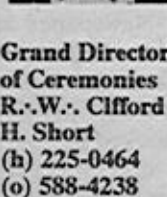
So here we are. □

Grand Lodge Staff Officers Monroe District

Grand Steward
R.W.: James
De Lorenzo
(h) 458-8856
(o) 453-3933



Grand Director
of Ceremonies
R.W.: Clifford
H. Short
(h) 225-0464
(o) 588-4238
email: short4us@aol.com



Reflections

When we were chosen to represent our District as Grand Lodge Officers, we knew that we would be expected to write an article for the *Masonic Times* on a monthly basis for our two year terms. After much thought and discussion, we decided to write our articles as coordinated efforts, and that the content of the articles every month would include some type of information about the Craft that some readers may not know. One of the main charges of the Grand Lodge Staff Officers is to promote Masonic Education, and we felt that this publication was a great way to partially fill that responsibility. This is why you will find at least two parts to every article that we write for this column. The first part is to inform the Brethren of the different happenings around the District, and different opportunities to learn about our beloved Fraternity. The second is normally devoted to previously written material that we have researched, and believe that the readers of the *Times* may find interesting and informative.

What we would like to know is how you, the readers, are receiving these articles. If there is a subject about Masonry that you would like to see, or that you think that other Brothers may be interested in, please contact us, and we will do our best to research and publish information that pertains to the topic. If you see us around, at District events, please pull us aside and let us know how you feel. If you don't see us at any event, drop us an e-mail, or call us if you are so inclined. We look forward to hearing from you and to your suggestions on how we can build a better Fraternity through the knowledge of whom we are, where we came from, and why we do the things we do.

Road to the East

November 2nd was the date of our first "Six District Road to the East" Program. We were truly surprised, and excited, to greet 18 Brothers interested in preparing to become the Master of their Lodges. We started the morning with some great doughnuts supplied by R.W.: Bill Jones, from the Wayne District. After some brief introductions, R.W.: Bill

Lindsay outlined the topics covered in the "24 Inch Gauge" and R.W.: Cliff Short covered "Responsibilities of the Worshipful Master and Planning Checklists". Running a successful Lodge was then presented by R.W.: Bill Learn.

After a short break, the group adjourned to the Lodge room for an in depth demonstration on Power of the Gavel Masonic Protocol and Official Visits. R.W.: Keith Stambach and R.W.: Bob Schultz, from the Steuben District, expertly conducted this session. Then, it was back downstairs for a presentation by W.: Mike Schwartz on LSome, Mentoring and Shepherding. R.W.: Gene Flint, from the Livingston District, finished up the instructional portion of the program with his presentation on the successful development of a trestleboard.

Each Brother took a homework assignment with him when he left, which was to build their own trestleboards by the next session.

We finished the morning with a brief question, answer and comment session. If it sounds like a lot to pack into a morning program, you can believe us when we tell you the time went by very quickly.

The next session is scheduled for January 5th, at 8:00 a.m. It will again be held at Phoenix Lodge in Dansville. If you missed the first session, and still would like to attend, please contact us ASAP. We may be able to make arrangements for you to pick up the first session at one of the other District RTTE programs. We, the DDGM's and Staff Officers, of the participating Districts, were pleased to see the interest and participation of the Brethren in this program.

Conclusion

With our official duties easing up a bit, we hope to be out visiting your Lodges on a more casual basis. Please, keep us informed on what is happening in your Lodge. If you have any special events, presentations, Degrees, or just programs of interest drop us a line, and we will do our best to be there.

LSOME

Qualifications-The Lodge ballot box has decided that you possess the necessary qualifications to join the Fraternity. The qualifications are not only to determine your fitness to be made a Mason, but also your fitness to remain a Mason. They remain in force throughout your Masonic career.

There are two internal qualifications. They are called internal because they relate to motives, and only a man himself can know his own motives. The first internal qualification is that a petitioner must come of "his own free will and accord". He must be unsolicited and without ulterior motives.

The other internal qualification is that a petitioner shall come "uninfluenced by mercenary motives". Meaning that he must not expect to find business, professional, or financial gain for himself, nor is any Mason to solicit such favors from the petitioner.

There are several external qualifications:

1. The Physical. A petitioner must be a man in the full sense of the word. He must be of lawful age-21 years in New York State-because no man can undertake all the Masonic obligations until he is legally responsible for his acts. This also rules out a man in his dotage who has lost the power

to recognize and discharge his responsibilities.

2. The Mental. The mental qualifications aren't expressly defined. However, it is felt that a petitioner should be able to read and write and possess at least average intelligence, so that he is capable of learning and understanding that which will be taught to him.

3. Civil Qualifications. By these are meant all that have to do with citizenship and a man's life as a neighbor and member of his community. He must be a free man, meaning that he is free to discharge his Masonic duties without outside interference. He must be a good citizen and have a good reputation in the community.

4. Moral and Religious. A Mason must be a man of honor and honesty. The moral requirements of the Fraternity are so dominant that to think of a Mason as not devoted to integrity and rectitude of character is a contradiction in terms. All Masons must believe in God and the immortality of the soul, and practice tolerance. No petitioner may be questioned as to the particular form of his faith.

To summarize the qualifications: a petitioner must be physically and mentally able to satisfy the demands of Masonic work; of lawful age; of sound character and reputation; a good citizen; a man of religious faith; his own master, free from external control; devoted to the aim of Brotherhood; and acceptable to the members of the Lodge he petitions.

Freemasonry's Attitude Toward Politics and Religion

As previously indicated, one of the most important of all our Landmarks is the one that forbids us to participate, as Masons, in any form of religious or political sectarianism. We cannot question a candidate as to his particular beliefs in religion or politics.

We cannot discuss such matters in any of our assemblies, and we cannot take any kind of public action with regard to those matters in the name of the Craft. The Fraternity's attitude toward all such sectarianism is more than a negative one. It's an outright violation of written Masonic Law, and subjects a member to severe penalties.

It's not difficult to understand the reason for this Landmark. Freemasonry is dedicated to the life of Brotherhood. Brotherhood means that men from all walks of life, with a wide variety of racial characteristics and religious and political opinions, are brought together, and kept together, in a relationship of friendship, harmony and goodwill. Prejudices and points of contention that might divide us must be avoided if we are to maintain that harmony.

Although we do prohibit sectarianism within our assemblies, Freemasonry has a positive attitude toward religion and politics. The Craft encourages Masons to be active in community affairs, including politics. Whatever your party or opinion, you must be a good citizen, law abiding, faithful to the nation, loyal to the civil powers, as quick to do your public duties as your private duties.

Masons are encouraged to support their own religion, but Masonry isn't a religion or a substitute for religion. The Bible, as our Volume of Sacred Law, is open on the Altar at every Lodge meeting. This signifies the importance we attach to its teach-

ings, which are the basis for all recognized religions.

To sum up: As a Mason, you will never introduce any controversial sectarian matter into the Craft. You will adhere to that common religious belief in a Supreme Being and the immortality of the soul. As a member of the community, you will support the demands of good citizenship.


(Source: "The Lodge System of Masonic Education" by the Committee on Masonic Education-September, 1987.)

Dates to remember


December 3rd-LSOME, Downtown Temple-3rd floor dining room at 7:30 p.m.

January 5th-RTTE, Phoenix Lodge, Dansville at 8:00 a.m. □


ASSISTANT GRAND LECTURERS MONROE DISTRICT



R..W.. Keith Stambach 865-7416



V..W.. John Zabel 223-3228



By R..W.. Keith Stambach


We had a good turnout for the School of Ritual on October 29th. R..W.. Vassily, Custodian of the Work, gave an informative talk on memorization techniques and, if you missed it, you missed an opportunity to improve on your Ritual work.

V..W.. John Zabel and I have been stressing the importance of attending the Schools of Ritual and attendance of Lodge Officers has improved this year. However, almost 50% of the Lodges don't seem to feel they can benefit from the information gained here to improve their Ritual or enjoy the fellowship beyond their own Lodges. Won't you join us and improve yourselves in Masonry?

Remember, John and I are not Ritual police. We are here to help, aid and assist all Lodges in preparation of Degree work. All you have to do is ask!

May all of our Masonic family have a healthy and happy holiday season and may God bless us all. See you in Lodge! □

Monroe District Masters & Wardens Assoc.



President W.. David Zegas 334-7202
Secretary Karl-Heinz M. Reich 426-6836, e-mail: karlh@cbtek.com

Our October meeting was a dinner at the Burgundy Basin Inn in Pittsford. Brother Dean Smith did a fantastic job setting it up. The program for the evening was a presentation by Lauren and Doug Spiker about Melissa's Living Legacy Foundation, which helps teens live with cancer. Find out how you can help them by calling 716-334-0858 or send e-mail to info@teenslivingwithcancer.org.

Our November meeting was held at Valley/Simes Lodge. Among the topics discussed was the recent Buildings and Lodges meeting in Palmyra. There will be some very difficult and emotional decisions to make concerning our Lodges and buildings in the near future. My opinion is that people are more important than buildings, since without people, there is no Masonry.

Our December meeting will be at Charlotte/Corinthian at 10:00 a.m. The District Purple Club will be cooking breakfast, which starts at 9:00 a.m. Please call me at 334-7202 to make a reservation for breakfast. We hope to have representatives from WXXI and Time Warner Communications on hand to discuss how we might broadcast a Masonic television program on public or public access stations. Come join us! □

Bureau of Masonic Education Monroe County

President: V..W.. John Zabel

Where Did That Come From?

"George, I've missed you. Where have you been?", asked Paul.

"We took a much needed vacation. But why would you miss me?", replied George.

"I was the at 2nd Degree last week. The work was very well done, especially the Middle Chamber Lecture. I have heard the Lecture many times, but that evening parts of it got me thinking. I started wondering where some the the wording came from which made me think of you. You seem to know a lot about the Ritual and its origins", said Paul.

"Well, I know that much of the Lecture comes from the work of Preston and Webb. Does that answer your question?", said George.

"Not exactly. What inspired Preston and Webb to use the phrasing they used? How did their words survive the passage of time? That's what I've been thinking about", replied Paul.

"I don't really know the answer. I think I know how to find more information. Why don't we contact the Livingston Library at Grand Lodge and see what references they have? Better yet, why don't we start by visiting the local Masonic Library and see what we can find? I'll call and find out when the Library is open or how we can arrange to visit it," said George.

"Sounds good to me," said Paul.

What's happening

The Road to the East Program commenced on November 3rd at Phoenix Lodge in Dansville. The next two sessions will be the first Saturdays in January and February. If you missed the first section and would like to attend the remaining sections, contact your District Grand Lodge Staff Officer.

The last presentation of the Leadership Development Course was given October 20th, again in Dansville. This Course is being retired as most of the material is contained in the Road to the East Course. The remaining portion on the history and philosophy of the Craft will be presented in a new Course. The new

Course is still under development by the Grand Lodge Leadership and Educational Service Committee. The new course is currently titled The Masonic Development Course. It is scheduled for formal release next Spring.

The Lodge System of Masonic Education Program will be again presented under the direction of R..W.. Jim De Lorenzo and R..W.. Cliff Short. Watch their column for more information. □

Monroe Masonic Secretaries Association



President **Karl-Heinz M. Reich 426-6836**
Secretary/Treasurer **Philip Averbach 458-1817**

Normally we have two meetings a year, but because of less interest and the work overload of most Secretaries, we could not schedule another. The Secretary, R..W.. Philip Averbach and I will plan to set up a meeting in January. Invitation letters will be sent to each Secretary in the District. I will also make announcements at the Masters and Wardens Association meetings.

If there is enough interest of participants, a dinner will precede the meeting at the Downtown Temple.

Make your dinner reservation with Philip Averbach at 458-1817 or with me at 426-6836 or fax at 426-8531.

R..W.. Richard C. Friedman, master of communication on the subject of Masonic Lodge Secretary System (MLSS), will introduce the new edition of a computer program.

Please summarize your questions, bring all your secretarial problems, and together we may solve them. Also, bring a friend, the meeting will be open to all Masons. I invite members of other Districts to join us.

We all wish you and your family a joyful holiday season. □

Membership Retention




R..W.. Joseph Privitera
Monroe District

Dues and communication

I am hearing from several Lodges that their possible drops for nonpayment of dues is down from previous years at this time. I know that there could be several reasons for this, but I prefer to believe that we are increasingly doing a better job in keeping our members.

We are contacting Brothers in a positive way who are in this situation and finding ways for them to

Kirkhaven
A Seniors first community



retain their membership. What is more important though is that I believe we are doing a better job with our various community activities and projects. This is what some Masons prefer to do, to be active in the Fraternity, and it also keeps them in the Fraternity.

We still need to keep our Brothers informed on what is going on in their Lodges and in the District. This publication is doing its part. Some of the Lodges are doing a good job communicating with their members. Other Lodges are seriously lacking in this area.

If the only information a Brother receives from his Lodge is a dues notice, then we have a serious lack of communication. A Lodge should keep its membership informed on what is going on. There are various ways to get information flowing. There are quarterly mailings of the trestleboard, telephone and the internet.


Dues

If you are in danger of being dropped for nonpayment of dues because of a financial situation, or some other reason, I urge you to talk to someone. You can call the Master or Secretary of your Lodge, or you can call me. My number and all numbers are listed on page 2 under "Hot Numbers" of this publication.

Happy holidays to all and I will see you in Lodge. □

Churchville Lodge No. 667

20 South Main St.
Churchville, N.Y. 14428
2nd & 4th Weds. 7:30 p.m.



W.. John H. Hennessy, Jr. Master 594-1545
www.geocities.com/churchvillelodge667/
W.. George R. Burke, Secretary 293-1629

Brethren, we had our 1st Degree September 24th, which was for practice. The Degree went very well, and the dinner was excellent.

Dates to remember

On January 9th we will have our Table Lodge. Guests for the evening will be Hesperus Lodge No. 837. Churchville and Hesperus Lodges will be having a play for the evening. Tickets for dinner will be \$10.00. You may contact Brother Miller at 225-2204 or Brother Hutcherson at 494-1395 for tickets.

On January 23rd we will have our 2nd Degree, which will be for practice.

Symbolic Lodge Award

Special thanks to Rochester Consistory for the Award that was given to Brother Ed Kelley.

Sickness and distress

I talked with Brother George Simon and he says he is coming along very well. We wish him a speedy recovery. □

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461-1991,
Ext. 3010

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245 Alexander Street
at Park Avenue,
Rochester, New York, 14607

FAIRPORT**Lodge No. 476**

W.: G.
Michael
Morris
Master
223-2828

2nd & 4th
Mondays
7:30 P.M.

W.: George R. Bracht, Secretary
383-1947

47 South Main St.
Fairport, N.Y. 14450

3rd Degree

On December 10th the Shrine Degree Team will be performing the 3rd Degree for our new Brothers and Lodge. They typically bring 20 to 25 Brothers to confer the Degree. It will be impressive. Preceding the Degree, we will be treated to one of W.: Tom Goodrich's famous Steak Dinners, the price being \$5.00. We will open Lodge at 6:00 p.m. and the dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m. The Degree work will begin promptly at 7:30 p.m. and we will conduct a brief business meeting following the Degree. For dinner reservations, please contact either the Junior Warden, W.: Tom Goodrich at 383-1429, e-mail at tgg13@yahoo.com, or me at 223-2828, e-mail at morrisGM@corning.com. Please make an extra effort to come and support out newly raised Brothers. Hope to see you there!

Consolidation with Flower City

On November 26th we held the first of two Summomed Meetings that are required to complete the consolidation of our Lodge with Flower City Lodge No. 910. At the first Summomed Meeting we voted to authorize and empower members of our Lodge to negotiate the consolidation with representatives of Flower City Lodge No. 910. Our representatives in these negotiations include: Brother Brian Bills (Treasurer); W.: George Bracht (Secretary); myself (Master); Brother Kermit Moyer (Senior Warden); and W.: Tommie Richenderfer (Trustee). If you have any questions, suggestions, comments or concerns regarding the consolidation process, please feel free to contact any of our representatives.

The second Summomed Meeting is needed to ratify the Agreement of Consolidation. The second meeting will be held on January 28, 2002 at 7:30 p.m. You will receive formal notice for the Summomed Meeting by first-class mail.

Ratification, adoption and approval of the Agreement of Consolidation requires an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present and voting at the Summomed Meeting. My Brothers, I encourage you to make every effort to attend and participate in this important and truly historic meeting of our Lodge.

Christmas Poinsettias

To help bring a little more cheer to the Christmas holidays, we will be visiting and delivering Poinsettia plants to our widows and shut-ins. Our Secretary, W.: George Bracht, is currently putting together the list. The plan is to assemble at the Lodge at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 15th. Coffee and Krispy Kream donuts are on me! We will then divide up into groups of two or three and deliver the plants. It will be good fellowship and a lot

Veterans of Fairport Lodge No. 476 pose for group photo

Brother Alfred Miller receives his 60 year Masonic Service Certificate and Pin from W.: G. Michael Morris-Master of Fairport Lodge.



W.: Mike Morris presenting the Community Service Award to Debra Tandoi in recognition of her outstanding leadership and contributions to the Fairport-Perinton Assets Building Program.



Brother Brian Bills receives a handshake and Veteran's Recognition Certificate from Commander (and Brother) Peter Swanson.

of fun! I can assure you that the plants and thoughts will be well received and greatly appreciated. If you are able to help with the Poinsettia deliveries this year, please give me a call or send me an e-mail. Hope to see you there.

My Brothers, I wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! May 2002 bring you good health, happiness and prosperity.

Finally, as always, if you have any questions, suggestions or comments, or know of a Brother in need of our aid or sympathy, please let me know.

Service Awards

On October 22nd, Fairport Lodge No. 476 held a public Awards Program to celebrate outstanding contributions to the Fairport Community, our Frater-

nity and our Country. There were over 50 people in attendance, including representatives from the Perinton Town Council, Fairport Central School District, Fairport School Principals, the Fairport Mayor and the Town Supervisor of Perinton.

Fairport Masonic Lodge Community Service Awards were presented to Debra Tandoi, Dick Hastings, and Dick Laidlaw in recognition of their work and energy in making the Assets Building Program a remarkable success in the Fairport/Perinton Community.

The Fairport/Perinton Assets Building Program is a partnership between the Town of Perinton, Village of Fairport and the Fairport Central School District, together with parents, neighbors, youth teachers, congregations, and businesses to encourage and support the healthy development of all our young people. It is a wonderful program that is truly making a difference and improving the quality of life in our community.

In recognition of outstanding service to our Fraternity, Masonic Anniversary Certificates and Pins were presented to the following Brothers: 25 Year Certificates to W.: George R. Bracht and Brother Roy J. Forest; 50 Year Certificates to Brothers Roy E. Borrowman, Albert Castellani, Rev. Hugh B. Chittenden, Robert L. Kochler and W.: Theodore V. Summers, Jr.; 55 Year Certificates to Brothers Elmer L. Hess and Robert N. Gifford; 60 Years Certificates to Brothers Alfred K. Miller and Gordon F. Steinfeldt. We thank you all for making a difference in our Fraternity.

The Veterans of Fairport Lodge were also recognized for their outstanding service to our Country and were presented Veterans Recognition Certificates. Brother Peter Swanson, member of Fairport Lodge and Commander of the Fairport VFW Post made the presentations. Fairport Lodge Veterans receiving Certificates include: Brian Bills, R.: W.: Robert Cameron, Charles Blazey, William Burgess, Roy Forest, W.: Edward Goodrich III, Larry Hood, Gregory Ludwig, Alfred Miller, R.: W.: Roger Scott, Peter Swanson, W.: David Taber, R.: W.: Dwight Turner, and Robert Vandebush. We thank our veterans for making a difference to our Country.

It was a truly special and delightful evening, which did a lot to bring our Fraternity closer to the Community.

See you in Lodge.

**Wakan/Hubbard****Lodge No. 154**

W.: Steve O.
Maynard
Master
482-5847

2nd & 4th
Mondays
7:30 P.M.

W.: Theodore J. Snyder, Sec.
467-0165

W.: Donald C. Bell, Asst. Sec.
334-7768

1822 Penfield Rd.
Penfield, N.Y. 14526

We thank the Senior Warden, Steve Xander, for his work and preparation for our Master's Ball in November. A good time was had by all and the dinner by the Green Lantern Inn was greatly appreciated.

Annual Meeting

Your attention is particularly called to the Lodge meeting on December 10th. While it is not a Summomed Meeting, it is one of the most important meetings of the year and your attendance is required. The Annual Budget and Reports will be presented from the officers and committees. You need to participate and be informed of your Lodge's business.

Make reservations, please

The Fellowship Christmas Cocktail Party will be held on December 15th at the Lodge Hall, starting at 6:00 p.m. There will be finger foods and the usual refreshments. A nominal charge of \$6.00 each will be the cost. Reservations should be made through Paul Kober at 381-1058 or by e-mail.

Sickness

The hospitaler reports that Brother Franklyn Gyzel is home and rapidly recovering from vascular surgery. W.: Don Calkins is home and convalescing. It was good to see W.: Mike Adamus at the Master's Ball without his cane.

We are fast approaching the Christmas season and I take this opportunity to wish each and everyone of you a very merry and happy Christmas and holiday season.

Charlotte/Corinthian**Lodge No. 1088**

W.: William T.
King
Master
(h)266-5676

1st & 3rd
Tuesdays
7:30 P.M.

C. William Flemming, Secretary
723-0083

4550 Lake Avenue
Rochester, New York 14612

Happy holidays, Brethren. December is upon us which means 2001 is almost over. I extend my appreciation to all of the Brothers who participated in our November events. Brother Charles Harwell did an excellent job in the East for the 2nd Degree, which was held on November 20th. Our Ritual work is continually improving, and all of the hard work and study is starting to pay off. The Lodge will be conferring the 3rd Degree on December 18th. I hope you will attend, the newer Brothers really appreciate your support.

Worthwhile event

The Lodge Christmas Party will be held at the Open Door

Mission on Saturday, December 22nd. W.: Ken Ratliff is the Chairman and could use your help. This event embodies the spirit of Freemasonry and I urge each of you to contribute all you can to help out. Ask any of the Brothers who participated in last year's party if they thought it was worth it.

Official Visit

December 4th will be the DDGM's Official Visit. Officers will be in tuxedos or a dark suit. I hope we have a good attendance to honor our District Officers. Many of us do not realize the amount of work these Brothers do in their terms. Let's give them the respect they are due.

Petitions

If any Brother has a petition, or needs a petition for a candidate, try to get them in as soon as possible. It would be great to have a large class for the Spring Degrees.

I've started working on a Canadian Fishing Trip for June, 2002. The tentative dates will be June 1st through June 5th. Anyone interested, please give me a call.

I wish you all the happiest of holidays.

1st Degree on December 10th at 7:30p.m. Brother Patrick Schwartz will be in the East.

Past events

The School of Ritual was held at ERAC Lodge No. 163 in East Rochester. Etolian Lodge was represented by Brothers James Toogood, Chester Riley, W.: John Dyer and myself. The event consisted of memorizing Ritual work by a system of phonetics.

On November 12th we had our Official Visit by R.: W.: William R. Lindsay, DDGM, and his Staff Officers. He presented the Message of M.: W.: Carl J. Smith, Grand Master, and also reviewed the Records and all paraphernalia of the Lodge and found them in excellent condition. Before the meeting we had a fine dinner, provided by Etolian Chapter No. 308, OES.

Congratulations to Brother James Toogood who sold the tickets for the Interfaith Breakfast at Logan's Party House. Etolian Lodge was represented by enough to fill more than two tables.

Condolences

A Memorial Service was held on November 26th for our Past Master, W.: George Lynch.

On November 5th, our beloved friend, Past Master and former Secretary, James Melvin Barker, lost his biggest battle of life and was called by the Supreme Architect of the Universe. A Masonic Service was held on November 8th.

Brother Jim, what he liked to be called, grew in the ranks and became perfect in all Rituals and Masonic Laws. He shared his knowledge with everybody and always was friendly and helpful. We all will miss him. Wherever you are, I will always tip my hat for you.

The Lodge extends their sympathies to the families and friends of both these Brethren.

Upcoming events

On December 17th we will have our Annual Holiday Party with the Order of the Eastern Star at the Spencerport Masonic Temple. The function will start at 6:00 p.m. Please bring a dish to pass. The Junior Warden will prepare the "season's ham".

Brother Floyd E. Seeley and Leon Randall will entertain the children in their proper regalia.

All Officers of Etolian Lodge wish you a happy holiday season.

DeWitt Clinton Award

By R.: W.: F. Jay McCullough

Brother John Page was the initiator of the nomination of the Zimmerman's for the DeWitt Clinton Award, presented by Etolian Lodge No. 479 of Spencerport. W.: Karl-Heinz Reich, Master, appointed R.: W.: M. Donald Darrohn and me as Co-Chairmen of the Committee to submit the application to R.: W.: Jack Hughes, Chairman of the Grand Lodge Community Service Committee. Thus began a 4 month adventure resulting in a presentation of Awards to honor Trish and Gary Zimmerman of Churchville, on October 20th.

Imagine nearly 300 wildlife creatures in your back yard during the past year (and you're not operating a zoo!), including over 70 mammals, all in need of some kind of care or rehabilitation. There have been nearly 1,000 critters and creatures that have had the same needs since the Black Creek Wildlife Station was founded some 9 years ago. Most were made well enough to fend for themselves and be returned to the wild. We're talking threatened and endangered species. How about the great horned owl, the red tailed hawk, the Canadian goose that liked the Station so well it would honk as flocks were passing overhead, inviting them down for a short, safe rest before moving on to their Summer or Winter homes. And there are more. There are those that have to be euthanized because of the seriousness of their condition.

When the Committee Co-Chairmen visited the Black Creek home of the Zimmerman's, they learned that the biggest threat to wildlife is domestic animal attacks, primarily by cats, followed by dogs. If owners would keep their pets under control, there would be less that the Zimmerman's would have to do.

The refuge is supported mainly from the Zimmerman's own financial resources since by law, the Zimmerman's cannot charge for any animal care. They are permitted to accept donations to help defray costs associated with the Station, though.

Gary was licensed as a Federal Rehabilitator in 1992. He and Trish, a licensed assistant, consult with technicians in the NY Department of Environmental Conservation. He is a trouble shooter in the Electric Department of the Village of Spencerport. Trish is a registered nurse, having retired from the profession to be at home, taking care of the Station while Gary is at work.

The Lodge presented Certificate and letters received from the White House; Governor Pataki; Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton; Congressmen LaFalce and Reynolds; State Senators and Assemblymen; Monroe County Executive Jack Doyle; County Legislature President Pelletier and Legislator Wayne Zyra; Ogden Supervisor Tim Rowe; Commissioner Hicks, Region 8, NY DEC and several others. All were combined into a scrapbook presented to the Zimmerman's with pictures added later.

Among special guests present were The Honorable Ted Walker, Mayor of the Village of Spencerport, and The Honorable Matt Andrus, Fingerlakes Regional Representative of Governor Pataki. Presentations and re-


marks were also made by Ron Newell, Fish and Wildlife Technician of Region 8, NY DEC; Councilman Peter Brundage of Riga; Officer John Eeckhout, Ogden Animal Control; and Officer Toni Doerr, Riga Animal Control.

Among the 100 plus guests were rehabilitator Nancy DeLaney of Hamlin; Drs. Rick Parson and Gwendolyn Woolney, Veterinarians in Churchville and Batavia respectively; animal specialist Michelle Mills of Fairport; and Executive King, William Young of Haggai Chapter No. 41, Royal Arch Masons, Prince Hall, with his wife, Joyce, and Jeanne Ghent, wife of the Excellent High Priest, James A. Ghent, Jr., of Haggai Chapter. R.: W.: James De Lorenzo, Grand Steward, represented the Grand Master, M.: W.: Carl J. Smith, and assisted in the Award Presentations.

A Gift Certificate to purchase feed, and a scrapbook were presented to the honorees, along with a guestbook and pictures. An afternoon buffet luncheon was provided by the Lodge and catered by Brother Michael Edelman.

**Craftsman/
Robertson
Lodge No. 969**

W.: Derek E.
VanHouten
Master
247-2920



1st & 3rd
Tuesdays
7:30 P.M.

W.: Thomas W. Kendig
Sec. 1-315-524-4063
875 Main Street East
Rochester, N.Y. 14605

Caribbean Cruise

Today as I write these notes, we are crossing some 850 miles of the Atlantic Ocean on our way from Bermuda to St. Martins in the Caribbean. Out here one can clear the cobwebs and clutter from one's mind. The pure, clean and beautiful environment of the endless ocean helps one to relax and recreate. Gone are the everyday problems and current public relation dribble and are replaced by a peace of mind that calms one at least temporarily. The ocean is a beautiful and empty place, but aboard a ship, life is full of opportunities to stimulate the mind and body.

There are many memories of our recent trip from Boston, Massachusetts, to San Juan, Puerto Rico. However, one remains important here. We stopped in Bermuda, specifically to visit St. George's Lodge, which was Warranted (Chartered) in 1742. Besides Lodge, there is also a Shrine Club affiliated with Mecca Temple in New York City on the Island.

Closer to home, I thank Brothers Ralph Jurgens, Matthew Walicke, Skip Waterstreet and Vern Goodrich for preparing our recent Bring-a-Friend Night. In his remarks on being a new Mason, I would like to quote Brother Walicke, "Masonry is an intelligent pursuit, an academic study, it's a life long experience with countless paths. Just as each man comes to Masonry for unique reasons, so too are the paths that each man takes on his journey to the East." Thank you, Matt, for giving Craftsman/Robertson Lodge a new outlook in joining Masonry. I'm sure that Matt

would be willing to share his remarks with others, if asked.

2nd Degree

On November 20th, R.: W.: Keith Stambach recited the Middle Chamber Lecture. Many thanks to R.: W.: Ed Walker, who has done this for over 20 years and has retired his voice. The Lodge is grateful for your diligence and efforts in providing this service.

Have-a-Heart

The tentative schedule for the above is Eastview and Marketplace Malls on February 2nd - 14th, The Center at Greece Ridge Mall is February 4th - 14th and is still awaiting approval.

3rd Degree

The Past Master's Degree Team will confer the 3rd Degree on January 8th, following a Roast Beef Dinner, without the ladies.

Happenings

There were 30 people who enjoyed the Chinese Dinner on November 10th. Thanks to Bill Shelby for coordinating this event.

My wife, Judy, accompanied me to Canandaigua recently to present a 50 Year Service Award to Brother Sidney Horton. Brother Horton was very appreciative and thanked us for coming.

From the Secretary

By W.: Thomas Kendig
There are still a number of Brothers in arrears on their 2001 dues and are in danger of being dropped for non-payment of dues. If there are extenuating circumstances financially, please let me or the Worshipful Master know. Your communication is vital. We are obligated to help our distressed Brethren, but if you don't share your circumstances with us, we are unable to help.

Thank you, my Brothers, in advance for your cooperation.

Continued on page 8

**ETOLIAN
Lodge No. 479**
133 South Union St.
Spencerport, N.Y. 14559



W.: Karl-Heinz
Reich
Master
426-6936
FX 426-8531

2nd & 4th
Mondays
7:30 p. m.

W.: Michael G. Schwartz
Secretary
352-4016

After a super performance at the DeWitt Clinton Award Ceremony by R.: W.: F. Jay McCullough and his team, we received petitions, one for Etolian and one for Hesperus Lodge. To act on this petition, I have consulted some of our Past Masters and came to the decision to change the Trestleboard. We have now scheduled the



R.: W.: Don Darrohn-Co-chairman, Ron Newell-Wildlife Technician, Trish Zimmerman-Recipient, W.: Reich-Master, Etolian Lodge, Peter Brundage-Riga Town Councilman, and Gary Zimmerman-Recipient.



W.: Karl-Heinz Reich presenting the DeWitt Clinton Award to Trish and Gary Zimmerman with the assistance of R.: W.: Jim De Lorenzo.

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8 Craftsman/Robertson

Continued from page 7

From Robert Ogden

On October 27th, R.:W.: Vern Goodrich received the Honorary Legion of Honor Award and Charles Hancock received the Active Legion of Honor Award from DeMolay International. Congratulations to you both.

December birthdays

Many happy returns to the Brothers born in December: Harry Aldridge, Paul Case, Tom Colombo, Jack Grover, Dick Gundry, Dick Hart, Carlos Mederos, Earl Pearce, John Smith, Bill Talarico and George Wyatt.

Trestleboard

On December 4th there will be a Swiss Steak Dinner with ladies invited. Brother Matt Walick will direct the Harley Choir.

Fellowcraft Club will meet on December 11th.

There will be a regular meeting on December 18th. □

Fellowship Bowl. Brother Jack Phillips has a great recipe. Come out and enjoy.


Socially, the big guy in the red suit will be at the Webster Lodge room on Saturday, December 15th, at our Annual Breakfast with Santa. Check your Trestleboard for times. Round up the kids, grandkids, nieces and nephews for this always, great day.

Brotherly Love

Our Brothers from St. Andrews Lodge No. 16 in Toronto, Canada, have taken up another collection. They have sent us a check for \$1,000 (Canadian) to be given to the relief effort in New York City. I am astounded by their generosity, and I extend my sincere gratitude for this gift. This outpouring of true Brotherly Love warms my heart. Please call, write or e-mail a Brother from St. Andrews and thank him. May their actions of selfless charity be a guide for us in this special time year. □

NORTHFIELD

Lodge No. 426
Instituted
March 1857



1st & 3rd
Thursdays
7:30 P.M.

W.: James Knapp
Master
(h) 256-9979
(w) 422-2142

R.:W.: William D. Spillano
Secretary 334-6596

**17 Church Street
Pittsford, N.Y.
14534**

Africa

Jim Weick did a terrific job relating his adventures in Africa. He had photos, read from his journal, and treated us to an extended Q&A after the meeting. It was a marvelous tale. The story was made even nicer by his excellent execution of this profound and moving account of Christian and Masonic charity. I would recommend this program to other Lodges looking for an interesting, informative, and inspiring meeting. Thank you, Jim. Great job! Thanks also to Don Smith, after all, it was Don's idea.

Attending were Dean Smith, Pedro Ugalde, R.J. Muto, Walter Weick, Pierre Dube, John Dudley, Richard Trolley, Ed Brereton, Bob Zahn, Merritt Sweet, Jack Thibaut, Dan Walker, Bill Spillano, Jim Knapp, and of course, Jim Weick.

Fundraiser

Those Brothers who have Entertainment Books checked out, please contact R.J. Muto with any unsold books and/or the money. Also, any Brother who has not had the opportunity to buy one of these coupon books may do so by contacting R.J. at 249-0699. They cost \$22.00 each and a portion of that goes back to the Lodge as a fundraiser. Just one trip to the golf course or a couple of trips to a restaurant will pay for the whole book. It's a heck of a deal. They make great gifts, and it helps the Lodge.

December

We will not be having a 3rd Degree on December 6th. But, it looks good for one second set of Degrees in the Spring. So far we have one petition that is currently being investigated.

Outside events


At two different meetings I have stated that I was not going to

attend a large number of outside Masonic events, BUT, that I would attend (or appoint another to attend) any meeting that any Lodge member felt that there was an important need for Northfield to be represented. At the meeting of November 1st, it was called to my attention that not one of the top three officers of Northfield attended the Interfaith Breakfast. This seems to be a small source of friction. After some discussion, it was found that not enough people had been informed of my intentions concerning these outside events. So, in the interest of the harmony of the Lodge...with a liberal dose of old fashioned friendship and brotherly love, I restate the same here. I will go, or will see that someone goes, if you ask. □

WEBSTER

Lodge No. 538

30 Orchard St.
WEBSTER, N.Y. 14580



W.: John Merz
Master
(h) 381-4116
(o) 771-3218

1st & 3rd
Thursdays
7:30 p.m.

W.: Paul Sobtack, Sec.
671-8980

Past events

The 1st Degree was held on November 1st. Doug Koenig, our Junior Warden, was in the East. All of the officers did a great job conferring this Degree and made an excellent impression on our two candidates. Mike Nohle and Brad Lewis did the Q & A's, Dave Jones did the Historical Lecture, and Bill Kuehne did the Charge. Thank you all for your participation in this event.

The Table Lodge was held on November 15th. Richard Friedman was the Master of Ceremonies for the night. We had a good turnout and everyone had a great dinner provided by our Fellowcraft Club. President Mark Fenton did a great job organizing this dinner.

Upcoming events

December 6th will be a speaker night and Larry Hood will perform a comedy act. We're all looking forward to this fun evening. Please join us if you can.

On December 7th a Spaghetti Dinner will be held. Come out and support the Lodge, have a great dinner at reasonable prices.

December 13th is the Fellowcraft Meeting, with refreshments provided by your Worshipful Master. No work in the quarries this evening, just come and have a good time.

December 20th is the Family Christmas Night at the Lodge. This is the first year that we are going to try this event. There will be Christmas music, snacks, and Santa Claus. Please bring your children, grandchildren, etc., support your Lodge and have a great time. Hope to see you all there.

December 22nd is our Christmas Visitation. Breakfast is at 8:30 a.m. After breakfast, we will visit the Brothers and widows of this Lodge. We will be giving Poinsettias out. This is a great tradition of Webster Lodge. We have been doing this for many years. All the people we visit are very appreciative. Come, join us.

I wish everyone a happy, safe and healthy holiday season. Each day is a gift. Stay healthy and keep smiling.

Carry the flag. □

F A M E

Lodge No. 722

4275 Culver Rd.
ROCHESTER, N.Y. 14622



W.: Nelson Borch
671-4792

2nd & 4th
Tuesdays
7:30 P.M.

Leon VanHuben, Secretary
647-1391

Winter is upon us and the year is almost at an end. We have accomplished a great deal as a new Lodge. I know we are all looking forward to the New Year and more of the same.

December meeting

There is a very special presentation arranged for our meeting on December 11th. A member of the Irondequoit Police Department K9 Unit will be demonstrating the capabilities of their bomb-sniffing dogs. I have seen them in action and can assure you this should be both informative and great fun. The ladies are not only invited, but encouraged to attend. A Buffet Dinner will precede the meeting at 6:30 p.m. The menu will include a 9 oz. Rib-eye Steak, Shrimp, Scallop Kabobs and all the trimmings. Cost per person is \$9.50. Reservations are required. Remember that this is our only meeting in December.

Fantastic job!

The Grand Lecturer's Convention was an overwhelming success! Your Brothers did a fantastic job exemplifying the Ritual. For some it was their first time! Special thanks to everyone who attended. Because of your dedication we are not only eligible for the Howard Potts Award, but also earned the Attendance Banner. Great job!

Congratulations!

At our October 23rd meeting we had the pleasure of presenting the Distinguished Service Award to Brother Leon VanHuben. Spe-



W.: John Williams receiving his Past Master's Certificate from current Master, W.: Jim Nersinger. (Photos courtesy J. Nersinger)



R.:W.: Rodney Rittenhouse, Bros. George Barker, and Dean Desmann receiving their anniversary Certificates from W.: Jim Nersinger - Master, Union Star Lodge No. 320.

December 2001

cial thanks to R.:W.: William R. Lindsay for making that presentation and to all the 'out of town' Brothers who attended.


Congratulations to Tom McCullough on receiving the Scottish Rite Symbolic Lodge Award.

Happy birthday to all the Brothers and ladies who celebrate their birthdays in December. I would especially like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season. □

Union Star

Lodge No. 320

3 N. Main St.
Honeoye Falls, NY



W.: James E. Nersinger,
Master
334-9057

2nd Mon.
7:30 P.M.

Robert Sweeney, Sec.
(h) 381-5286 (w) 464-6316
38 Cullens Run, Pittsford, 14534

By the time you read this column Thanksgiving will have come and gone. I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday and didn't eat too much turkey and dressing!

On November 26th we had a candidate receive his 1st Degree at ERAC Lodge No. 163. This now completes our class of three, which will be receiving their 2nd Degree the first of next year at Union Star.

Award presentations

Service Award Certificates and Pins were presented at our November meeting to Brothers Rod Rittenhouse, (45 years); George Barker (50 years); and Dean Desmann (55 years).

We also presented Brother John Williams with his Past Master's Certificate. John had received his Apron, but somewhere in the confusion his Certificate had gone astray. I am now pleased to report John has his Certificate and all is fine.

Please join us

Our December 10th meeting will be having Brother Frank Kelsey speak on the Masonic

Home in Utica. There will be a dinner preceding the meeting at 6:30 p.m., put on by Brother Gene Mosholder. Reservations are requested, please call me at 334-9057 or Gene at 436-1398. Let's have a good turnout for Frank.

Thanks

We have a big thanks going to Brother Rob Sweeney, our Secretary, for his very generous donation of a beautiful Conn organ. Not only did Brother Sweeney donate the organ, he also arranged for the moving and installation in our 3rd floor Lodge room and relocation of the old organ.

Visitors welcome

Brother Bob Norget has moved to the Crest Manor Nursing Home in Fairport. He welcomes phone calls and visitors. His phone number is 223-6163. Bob is 85 years old and has been a Mason for 61 years.

Filling in

My thanks to Brother Ron Morthorst for filling the Chaplain's part and Brother Larry Miller for filling the Senior Deacon's chair at the November meeting.

Events


On Saturday, December 8th, the Masters and Wardens Association will be having a breakfast meeting at Charlotte/Corinthian Lodge at 4550 Lake Avenue, at 9:00 a.m. Reservations are requested by calling Dave Zegas at 334-7202 by December 1st.

The second session of the Road to the East is on January 5th at Phoenix Lodge in Dansville. Wardens and Deacons and other interested persons are encouraged to attend.

For those who didn't attend the Interfaith Breakfast and Service on October 28th, I must report you missed a beautiful program and an outstanding speaker.

I close now wishing everyone and their families a safe and happy holiday.

ERAC
Lodge No. 163
2nd & 4th Mondays, 7:30P.M



W.: David Zegas, Master
(h) 334-7202
(o) 419-7539

www.erac.org

R.: W.: Richard C. Friedman
Sec. (h) 377-6175 (w) 271-2775
152 Commercial St. West
East Rochester, N.Y. 14445

Last month was very active and this month keeps pace. We had a well attended Brother Bring-a-Friend Night and for the second consecutive year, ERAC will have an incoming class of eight new Brothers. They became Entered Apprentices during our 1st Degree on November 26th.

In order to broaden our Masonic horizons, we had representatives from the Scottish Rite, York Rite and Shrine tell us about their organizations, charities and activities.

We reached new heights with the visit of our Brothers from Eureka Lodge on November 12th when they presented a history of Prince Hall Masonry.

We hosted a School of Ritual where Brother Bil Vassily, Chairman of the Custodians of the Work, taught us how to remember the subject matter of the ten furthermores in the 1st Degree

using mnemonics. It really worked! ERAC also won the Attendance Award that night.

Congratulations!

David Crawford received the Scottish Rite's Symbolic Lodge Award, adding to his well deserved accolades.

December plans

In December, Paul Gleason is our guest speaker on the 10th and our Annual Holiday Visitation is on the 15th.

At a recent meeting, I asked everyone who had announcements to do them during dinner because we had such a busy program and I did not want to waste any Lodge time. It was suggested that announcements might be considered Lodge business, which must be brought up during the meeting. We have some sort of program at every meeting and they are all busy. So, anyone who has anything to bring before the Lodge must inform me prior to the meeting to get on the agenda. Be prepared to be brief.

Come out and join us!

**2002 GL
Calendars and
Empire State
Magazine**

By R.: W.: F. Jay McCullough

Need some handouts for new Lodge members, Brother Bring-a-Friend Nights, special Lodge events that are on your trestleboards, to place in local libraries, doctors and dentists waiting rooms, the local fire hall or police precinct office or ambulance and emergency service headquarters where there are lounge areas for down times?

R.: W.: Ron Bower is making you an offer that's hard to beat.

He's Chairman of the Grand Lodge Publications Committee and Editor of the ESM Magazine. You can contact him at 37 Oliver Street, Lockport, NY 14094-4615, by phone at 716-434-4946 or by fax at that same number, or by e-mail at ronbower@aol.com. Ask him for a dozen or two or more Grand Lodge 2002 calendars and he'll send them, at no cost to you except the time and call or stamp and envelope it takes to ask. Do the same with regard to the "Empire State Magazine" and you'll get the latest quarterly edition. Have you a need for a couple of dozen, or even four or five hundred copies? Ask and ye shall receive!

All Ron needs for authorization is the fact you are a Brother of a constituent Lodge in this jurisdiction, a NY Prince Hall Lodge, or you are an Eastern Star Chapter Sister.

Don't pass up the opportunity to spread the printed word about the Craft when it is so conveniently available.

Social Lodge No. 713
this year presents a
**Roast Pork
Dinner**
w/all the trimmings
Beverage & Dessert
Morton Baptist Church
County Line Rd., Morton, NY
Saturday Dec., 8th
continuous seating
4:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Tickets by Pre-sale \$8 or
\$15 per couple, under 5 free
Christmas Bazaar also
Contact: Marv @ 964-5231
or Hank @ 964-3436

**District Deputy
Grand Master**
Genesee/Wyoming



R.: W.: Raymond G. Barber
H (716) 457-3079

Thank you, Brothers, for making the Grand Lecturer's Convention a success. If you didn't make it, you missed out.

Before you tell me, take a look at the 2002 Grand Lodge Calendar for the month of September and tell me what is wrong. Of course, we have never made any mistakes and I am sure this was an oversight.

A little history of Thanksgiving. The Pilgrims held a 3 day feast in 1621. It would not be repeated until June 20, 1676, when the Massachusetts Governor ordered it to be held in Charlestown, Mass. During the American Revolution, a day of National Thanksgiving was suggested by the Continental Congress. In 1817 New York State adopted Thanksgiving Day as an annual custom. In 1863 President Lincoln declared a National Day of Thanksgiving, which has been carried on ever since.


We hope you had a nice Thanksgiving and thought of those who will not be with their families this year.

My Official Visits are all but over. It was great to meet the Brothers in each Lodge, and see that many of the Lodges are raising new Brothers. If you need help, and most of us do, don't be afraid to ask.

Don't forget our Service men and women. They need our prayers and support, while they are in harms way.

God bless you.

**Assistant Grand
Lecturer**
Genesee/Wyoming Dist.



V.: W.: Adrian J. Miller
676-2775

The Grand Lecturer's Convention was held at Constellation Lodge No. 404, Perry, on Friday, October 19th. They hosted a Steak Dinner and 50 were in attendance. I thank everyone who attended and made this evening a success.

Award

There were only two Lodges that were eligible to receive the Howard Potts Award, Arcade Lodge No. 419 and Hesperus Lodge No. 837. There are 12 Lodges in the Genesee/Wyoming District and I hope we can do better at the next Convention. The Masters of each Lodge must get their officers to attend these Conventions, not only for the Awards, but to learn the correct way to conduct themselves in Opening and Closing Lodge, Degrees, etc.

School

In the near future, our Masonic School of Knowledge will be open to all Master Masons. This will be a help in conducting their Lodges, to be proficient in Degrees, and well versed in Lodge business.

Next Convention

The next Grand Lecturer's Convention will be at Hesperus Lodge No. 837 in Bergen on October 16th of next year. Dinner will be at 6:30 p.m. and the Convention at 7:30 p.m. Hesperus Lodge will be celebrating their 150 Year Anniversary in 2002 and we will hear more details at a later date.

On behalf of my wife, Roxann, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**HESPERUS
Lodge No. 837**
1st and 3rd Thursday




Master
W.: Marshall B. Krause
494-2147

Secretary
W.: John Specht, 548-2694
12 South Lake Ave.
Bergen, N.Y. 14416

On November 1st I had the pleasure of presenting W.: Norman P. Austin with his Past Master's Apron in honor of his year as Master of Hesperus Lodge. Congratulations, Brother Norm.

At the same regular communication, we were honored by a guest speaker, Miss Jessica Hodge, who spoke about her three years at Camp Turk. Jessica plans on returning next year for her fourth and last year and perhaps becoming a Camp Councilor after that. Jessica is the granddaughter of W.: Don Read, a Past Master of Hesperus Lodge.

We then concluded with a presentation by W.: Jim MacConnell, W.: Don Read, and Brother Ralph Marsocci, on their trip to England, Scotland, and Ireland. They spent three weeks in the British Isles touring the countryside, playing golf, visiting Masonic Lodges and Masonic friends. They showed us many pictures and related many stories of their adventure.

Coming events

December 6-DDGM Official Visit, 6:30 p.m. dinner by Garry Hutcherson.

December 20-Regular meeting.
December 21-Pack Christmas Baskets, 7:00 p.m., Bergen Fire Hall.

If anyone knows of a family or widow who could use a Basket, please contact Dick Sands at 494-1044.

Scholarships

Any Brother with children planning to attend college next year should pick up an application for the George Walker Scholarship Fund and also an application for the Grand Lodge Scholarships. Both applications can be obtained from John Specht at 548-2694.


Good news!

Congratulations to W.: Dick Sands, who has been appointed Associate Grand Sentinel-2002, Genesee/Wyoming District, Order of the Eastern Star, State of New York.

**Editor's Award
for Lodge News
Articles**

*This has been selected
as an example of a concise,
well written contribution
from a first-time author.*

**Arcade
Lodge No. 419
F. & A.M.**
7:30 p.m., 2nd & 4th Tues., Sept.-June,
4th Tues., only Jan. & Feb.



Master
V.: W.: Adrian J. Miller
676-2775

Secretary
David Hossenlopp 496-4417
Main Street
Arcade, New York 14009

Official Visit

November 13th was the Official Visit of R.: W.: Raymond G. Barber, DDGM, who delivered the Grand Master's Message, and R.: W.: Arthur Drew, Grand Director of Ceremonies. A Spaghetti Dinner was served at 6:30 p.m.

Grand Lecturer's Convention

The Grand Lecturer's Convention was held on October 19th at Constellation Lodge No. 404 in Perry. Thank you one and all.

A Swiss Steak Dinner was served with 50 attending and the 1st Section of the 1st Degree was conferred by Triluminar Lodge No. 543. I wish to thank the officers of Arcade Lodge No. 419 for attaining the Howard Potts Award. It will be presented in Grand Lodge next May. This Convention was very educational and taught the right way a Degree should be conferred. We are very fortunate to have a Grand Lecturer, such as R.: W.: Edward G. Gilbert, at the helm.

December birthdays

Congratulations to the following Brothers celebrating birthdays in December: John P. Bleistein, 3rd; Michael A. Wiedeman, 4th; Kenneth M. Bray, 14th; and Robert C. Mason, 27th.

Brotherhood Fund

When you send out a plea for help, the best place to start is with people you know you can count on. After the attack on our Great Nation, you were called upon to help the victims.

Now, I call upon you to help our Brother Masons and their families by donating to the Masonic Brotherhood Fund. The future is going to bring on tough times. I know you will help make these tough times better with your donation. I am asking you to make a donation to the Masonic Brotherhood Fund with the various funds spelled out on the donation envelope.

A donation was made to the World Trade Center victims through the Trustees of the Grand Lodge and over 1 million dollars was donated by Masons to help the fire and police victims from New York. These funds were given by the Trustees and not the Brotherhood Fund.

Brothers, Masonry is the greatest Fraternity on earth. Having a fellowship like Masonry to fall back on and come together with as Brothers, gives us an advantage over most of our fellow Americans. Being able to meet and talk about our problems or just visit in

10
Arcade No. 419
Continued from page 9

good fellowship is a freedom we should hold dear. I think this is the time for Masons to show the world how men can meet and help their Brothers. It's a time we can stand up for freedom and prove to all that our Fraternity is built on charity and brotherly love.

Please send your donations to Brother David Frost, 2213 Rte. 39, Arcade, NY 14009.

Historical note

Eighteen Brethren signed a petition, undated but doubtless in the year 1856, for the formation of a Lodge at Arcade Village. This request bears the approval of Mt. Vernon Lodge No. 263, then of North Java, now of Java Village. For reasons undisclosed, only ten of these men are named in the dispensation granted December 23, 1856 for the creation of Arcade Lodge No. 419. Philander Cook, a farmer of Holland; Herman Wilson, Arcade farmer and postmaster; Jonas S. Colby, Holland farmer; Ira Rowley, miller and farmer of Arcade; Allen B. Botsford, Arcade dentist; Jonathan Wade, Arcade farmer and Past Master of Transit Lodge No. 363; Hiram Smith, Arcade farmer; Eber Holmes, another tiller of the soil in Arcade; Silas Parker, merchant and farmer from Arcade; and Ezra Farrington, farmer of Vermont Hill near Protection. These Masons apparently constituted the Charter Members of Arcade Lodge.

On behalf of my wife, Roxann, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and may the good Lord bless and keep you. □

Batavia
Lodge No. 475
F. & A.M.
200 E. Main Street,
Batavia, NY 14020
2nd & 4th
Tuesdays
Master
W.. Lawrence F.
Belluscio
548-9958
Secretary
R..W.. Robert F. Dagen
Sec. (716)548-7148
rdagen@rochester.rr.com

It is my sincere hope that all enjoyed a "Blessed Thanksgiving", a time when we all renew our feelings of gratitude for everything we enjoy, family, friends, the bounty of the land and this great Country in which we live. This time of year also provides us with the opportunity to enjoy nature to its fullest as we look about and see the splendor of the changing colors of the trees and very likely the first snowfall of the season.

As noted in the past, we have had the opportunity to have two 'new' Brothers join our ranks. We welcome Brothers Aaron Belluscio and Scott Blossom. You are encouraged to come to our next communication to meet and greet these fine Brothers.

During the month of December, the Brethren of the Lodge will be participating in the annual event of ringing the bell for the Salvation Army. We will be stationed inside the entrance of Top's Store here in Batavia on Tuesday, December 18th, from noon 'til nine. Also on this date, at 6:30 p.m., at the Batavia VA Medical Center, we will host the veterans and provide them with an evening of Bingo. This is always an evening of enjoyment in

the way of fellowship and camaraderie. Come and join us for this event.

We now have in place several formal committees. The Activities Committee is Chaired by Brother Ralph Goodberlet. It is through this Committee that future events will be planned and carried out. Brother Ralph already has several events in mind which will provide a means for exemplifying our beliefs and tenets of the Fraternity. We will keep you informed of coming activities.

The Committee on Finance is actively pursuing a structured budget for the coming year. This Committee is Chaired by W.. Richard Rung.

The Committee of Facility Maintenance, Co-Chaired by W.. Franklin Lund and the Secretary, will take on the responsibility of assuring the on-going duties of maintenance will be in place at all times.

Good news!

I am happy to report that W.. Bill Genagon and W.. Horace Wilder continue to recuperate at home and are making continued improvement with each day. I do not know of any other Brother who is presently under the weather. If you know of anyone, please advise the Secretary. By the way, did you get your flu shot? If not, why not?

I take this opportunity to wish you and your family greetings of the season-Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

I ask all to continue to pray for our leaders of these United States and other governments throughout the world as they make commitments to re-establishing a normalcy to our lives and the freedoms we enjoy in this great Country we know as America.

God bless America and may God bless us all. □

Attica Lodge
No. 462
F. & A.M.
W.. Paul E.
McCullough
Master
762-8539
1st and 3rd
Wednesday
(Jan-Feb-Mar
3rd Wed Only)
W.. Norman Steinbaugh,
Secretary 591-2073
39 Main Street
Attica, N. Y. 14011

I hope those of you who are capable will give something back to the community and to those who need our help.

Brotherhood

If you haven't as yet received your Brotherhood Fund Drive donation form in the mail, you soon will. Remember that the donation you make goes to very worthy causes in the Masonic (and public) community. This is a very good way to say thank you for a prosperous year.

Table Lodge

The German Table Lodge at Attica was very well received. Those who were there had a great meal and a lot of fun. I give a well deserved applause to those Brothers who put this on again this year. They really deserve it. I hope that since this is the 2nd Table Lodge at Attica, it will continue to be an annual event.

Pancakes

The pancakes were excellent at our November 1st Sunday All You Can Eat Breakfast. The first

Sunday in December is the 2nd. As requested, the work schedule has been revised and re-issued to provide more equitable coverage. If you have a conflict, please take the necessary action. If you aren't working, please come and eat Chuck's famous pancakes.

Cabletow

As some of you know I have been going to school a couple of nights a week. So far they have not conflicted with my Masonic activities. I just received my Spring schedule and have a conflict. I will be attempting to make as many meetings as possible during the Spring semester. However, until I can resume my Masonic duties fully, I am turning the East over to my Senior Warden. I am sure Brother Bruce Anderson will do an excellent job fulfilling the Master's duties in my stead.

Until next time, may the blessings of heaven be yours during the holiday season. □

Mount Vernon
Lodge No. 263
W.. Bernard
Whaley
457-9905
2nd & 4th
Mondays
W.. Jim Allan, Sec.
457-3079
Main Street
Java Village, NY

By W.. James P. Allan

Hello, Brethren

For those of you who didn't make it to the Rededication Ceremony of Mt. Vernon Lodge, you really missed out on a great evening. M..W.. Carl J. Smith presided, and presented Mt. Vernon Lodge with a Golden Trowel in honor of our 150th Anniversary. W.. Bernard Whaley accepted on behalf of the Lodge.

Grand Representative

Congratulations to R..W.. Mark Hopkins on being appointed as the Grand Representative of the District of Columbia, near the Grand Lodge of New York. After a few brief speeches and awards, a fun filled evening of fellowship ensued. We had about 169 attending, which was just one person short of the total capacity of the restaurant!

Kudos to W.. Bernard Whaley and W.. Donald Schmalz, who spearheaded the huge undertaking and also to those who headed up the various sub-committees! A job well done.

We had a superb turnout for our first Pancake Breakfast. Thank you to the visiting Brothers and friends.

Dues

As your Secretary, I'll be sending out dues cards shortly. As I mentioned in last month's article, I'm trying to get the books of the Lodge up to date. There is a small handful of one and two year delinquent members, according to the records. So, I'm asking you again for your help. If I do not show you as up to date on dues, I am going to dun you according to what the records show. It is your responsibility to respond to me and help me with dates paid, check numbers or whatever. Please, don't be insulted or put off with me in this matter. This is simply an effort to 'tidy' things up for the Lodge that we may start the year off with a 'clean slate'.

Again, you can contact me at 4846 Michigan Rd., Arcade, NY 14009, phone me at (716) 457-3079 or e-mail me at jpallan57@hotmail.com.

Best regards, my Brothers, until we meet again. □

Oakland Lodge
No. 379
F. & A.M.
W.. Henry
Robinson
Master
322-7545
1st and 3rd
Tuesdays
(Jan/feb/Mar:
1st Tues only)
W.. Richard L. Smith, Secretary
493-5408
134 South Main St.
Castile, N.Y. 14427

Grand Lodge World Trade Center Fund

I am pleased to announce that a check was sent to New York City for the relief efforts at the World Trade Center. Proceeds were obtained from our Annual Fall Fish Fry, which went very well. Many, many thanks to all the Brothers, their wives and families for their contributions and help. Special thanks, once again, to Constellation Lodge in Perry for the use of their illuminated sign. Successful events like this one make me very, very proud to be a Mason.

Town Meeting

I thank Brothers Smith and Ratigan for joining me at the Town Meeting in Attica. It was very informative and interesting. Inspiring words from Grand Master Smith made the trip especially rewarding and fun.

Outstanding time

Congratulations to Mt. Vernon Lodge No. 263 for their celebration of 150 years on October 20th. It was held at the Byrnclyff Country Club and joining my wife, Patty, and me were W.. D.J. Beardsley and his wife, Nancy. We were treated to an outstanding dinner and party. All the members of Mt. Vernon can be very proud to have put on such a fine celebration. As in hockey, the three stars would certainly have gone to M..W.. Carl Smith, R..W.. Ray Barber and W.. Bernard Whaley. Thank you and congratulations for an evening we'll remember for years to come.

A.G.L.

By the time of this reading we will have received our Official Visit of V..W.. Adrian Miller. I'm sure his words of encouragement will be well received and needed.

Brother Bring-a-Friend

Due to complications in scheduling, our Bring-a-Friend Night was moved from November 6th to December 4th. Hope to see you there.

Dues

Dues cards will be going out shortly for 2002. Your prompt attention will be appreciated by our Secretary.

Brotherhood Fund

This year's Chairman for the Brotherhood Fund is once again Brother Ken Smith. Please contact him for your donations and contribute as generously as you can.

Thanksgiving

We should all be very proud and thankful for this great Country we live in. During these trying

times I'm especially proud to be a Mason and a part of New York State. Our thanks, thoughts and prayers continue to go out to the men and women for their relief efforts in New York City and Washington, DC. Special thanks to all the service men and women who are fighting for our freedom.

I hope everyone has a healthy and prosperous holiday season. God bless you all. □

Would We Be Missed?

By Don Brugger

Do you ever wonder what would happen to an organization if an individual member just walked away? I think the answer to that question is, nothing. He would be missed by his circle of friends, perhaps. His positive influence, more importantly, on the direction of that organization, would end. Effective influence ends when a person becomes an outsider.

We have all experienced dissatisfaction with those groups that we belong to. Whether it be church, club or Masonic Body, frustration with the hierarchy is common. What we do about these frustrations depends on our philosophical make-up.

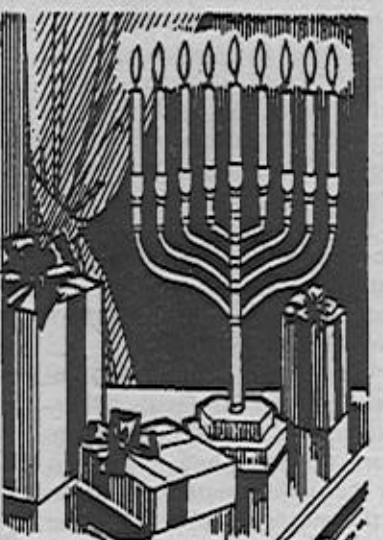
What to do

Too many think that their leaving the organization will change something; it almost never does. Aside from a small loss in revenue, what is accomplished?

So, what do we do? We hang in there and try to make a difference. Presiding officers and regional management may change. You may be of the opinion that the leadership's philosophy, skill, or wisdom is 180° out of phase with yours or absent all-together. The course of action, however, is not to walk away, no matter how tempting that may be. The wise thing to do is, stay the course.

The term of the leadership may be only one year or two. The effect on the organization may possibly be devastating, but it ends. The ultimate future of the organization, however, will not be permanently impaired by one or two years of unwise or unsatisfactory leadership. The real threat to the organization is the spread of dissatisfactions by innuendo, rumor or uninformed gossip to the membership. This only compounds the problem and may destroy the organization.

If you have loyalty to the organization or have any hope that things will ultimately improve, hang in there. It's not an easy thing to do. Doing the right thing usually requires commitment and perseverance. The ultimate health of the organization is the important thing and a year or two of discomfort may be more rewarding than you think. □



**District Deputy
Grand Master
Livingston District**



R.W. Allen J. Roggen

As you learned in the November issue of the *Masonic Times*, Livonia Lodge members are subscribers. At the November meeting of Eunice Lodge in Caledonia it was voted that Eunice Lodge would become a subscriber also. I believe that those who are new to the *Masonic Times* will enjoy this method of communication as much as I do.

Official Visits

My Official Visits are technically over now. I remind the Masters and Secretaries of Livingston District Lodges that I am scheduling additional meetings with them to review further the books and financial records of each Lodge. I also remind the District Committee Chairmen that since I am an ex-officio member of all District Committees, I would like to attend any meetings that you have, along with your Lodge Chairmen. Please send periodic reports to me, regardless of who else receives them, so that I may be kept informed.

Help available

R.W. Neal Bidnick, Chairman of the Committee on Lodges and Buildings, and R.W. Cary Cohn, Chairman of the Committee on Youth, treated Livingston District to a visit at Eunice Lodge on October 26th. The program concentrated on the effects of attrition on our solvency as Lodges and owners and operators of the buildings we occupy. This Committee is very knowledgeable about the various aspects of building management such as insurance, budgets, utilities, and advice on maintenance. They are anxious to help.

Change

The meeting with R.W. Bidnick prompted me to think about change. We all know that change is inevitable. We don't like to think about it. I believe there are only two ways to approach change. We can wait and watch it happen, then react the best we can to make the best of it. Or, we can anticipate change and try to channel it the way we would like to see it go.

Here is a small example of change that recently happened at my house. During a windstorm that blew through a couple of weeks ago, a huge section of a maple tree in my back yard was blown down, narrowly missing the house. Consultation with a tree surgeon suggested that the rest of the tree was also in danger of coming down in another windstorm with increased damage if it wasn't completely removed. This was difficult to do because this wonderful tree had provided shade, privacy, and backyard picnics for so many years.


Consequently, instead of waiting for the inevitable damage, we removed the tree. What a change! Now we have just an open unfilled space in the back yard. However, we also have removed a dangerous situation and have the opportunity

to replant a tree, shrubs or a flower garden, which will be a change - different, but perhaps as good or better than before.

Change is happening to Freemasonry. We have two choices. Wait and watch. Anticipate and channel. The Grand Lodge Committees are really trying to help us direct our own destiny. We can take advantage of this help and direct our path in Freemasonry by this available light.

Be brotherly. Live Masonry every minute of your life. □

**Editor's Award for
Non-Lodge Articles**
This article has been selected as an outstanding and well written contribution from a local author.

**Assistant Grand
Lecturer
Livingston District**
 V.W. Mark G. Dibelka
230-0355

Where to start? This is so exciting to have a vessel in which to inform the District as to the happenings within my little corner. During my tenure I have never had the chance to reach out like this and bring the Brothers onto the same page.

Convention

I start on a down note, and go up from there. I am disappointed in the attendance at the Grand Lecturer's Convention. The embarrassment does not extend down the road of "I let the Grand Lecturer down", it makes me believe that I failed the District. Livingston District is proud, and I am proud to be its AGL, but somewhere along the road I failed and allowed the District to forget who they are and why they would want to join together in the fellowship of Ritual, and not a few good laughs. Those who skipped the Convention missed a great time, while we exemplified the drama and learned details that we don't normally think of when conferring the Degree. Most of all, they missed almost an hour and a half of laughter and good time with the Brothers.

Now for the up-notes

Mt. Morris is the only Lodge that won the Potts Award at this year's Convention. Make sure you shake R.W. Bob Ossont's hand and congratulate his Lodge next time you see him. Also at the Convention, Nunda Station Lodge won the Attendance Award with 12 Brothers present. Again, a hearty handshake is due W. Phil Cox next time you see him.

I should

As I write this, I should in fact be preparing for our first School of Ritual for the Masonic year. I should be ensuring that my dilapidated '87 Ford pickup is up to the challenge of driving to the Village of Nunda and back. Not least of all, I should in fact be rehearsing the Ritual so I can better serve all of you. Needless to say, I am writing this article instead.

I figure we will all have something to learn and if we fail to have a good time at one of these Schools it will become time for me to do something really stupid and become the butt of another good "Dibelka" story. So long as I am talking about Schools of Ritual, please note that the dates and times

of the Schools will be at 7:30 p.m. on the 2nd Monday of January, March, and May. The locations will be announced approximately one month in advance.

Award

Last year's School of Ritual Attendance Award went to Phoenix Lodge, and they are looking to have another terrific Ritual year. I have unveiled a new points system for the Attendance Award with different Brothers being given varying amounts of extra "potential" for the Award. Please note that the points value below are per Brother, not per group.

Sitting GL Officers and Master Masons with less than 12 months in the Craft = 8 points.

Worshipful Master = 6 points.
Senior and Junior Wardens = 6 points.

Senior and Junior Deacons = 5 points.
Secretary, Treasurer, and Trustees = 4 points.

Masters of Ceremony, Stewards, and Marshal = 3 points.

Tyler, Organist, Historian, Past GL Officer and Past AGL = 2 point.

Sideliner = 1 point.
If I have forgotten any position that needs to be addressed, let me know and I will figure it in.


Rescheduling

Aside from the Grand Lecturer's Convention, I have had a fairly quiet year so far - through some interesting turns of events. I was supposed to make my first visit of the year at Keshequa back in October, but I didn't get their notice out in time. Then I was supposed to visit Eunice, but the DDGM said that was his night to visit, and since his is an Official Visit I said, "No problemo boss". Then I was supposed to visit Nunda, but they don't hold Lodge on Election Day - foiled again! Needless to say, I will be rescheduling and keep you all posted.

December

What I can say with some certainty is what the month of December holds for me, and I would encourage every Brother who reads this to travel with me and maybe we can rebuild the tradition of the Traveling Gavel! December 3rd I am due in Mt. Morris for a visit, and December 20th finds me in Geneseo. Both places will see my shining, happy face at 7:30 p.m. All Lodges, please remember that I do not announce what it is I will be asking you to do, so please keep on your toes.

I look forward to seeing all of you during my travels, but most importantly at my Schools, but either way, I'll see you in the quarries! □

**Livonia Lodge
No. 778**
 Master
W. Benjamin Thorp
346-6542
1st & 3rd Wed.
Secretary
R.W. Richard Brown
346-3618
65 Big Tree Street
Livonia, NY 14487

Trip to Tampa, FL

On Friday, November 9th, V.W. Mark Dibelka and I traveled to Tampa, Florida, for the Dedication of a Plaque in honor of Brother James Morton at the Shriner's Children's Hospital. The people there were so thankful that we could make it down.

We were really impressed with the facility and the caring staff. They go the extra mile to make the children in their care feel that they are at a hotel instead of a hospital.

After the Dedication Ceremony we had lunch with Gene Bracewell, Past Imperial Potentate, and current Treasurer of the Shrine of North America and his charming wife, Catherine.

We then were given a VIP tour of the facility and the International Headquarters. We both left there with a better sense of just how much the Shrine does for children. I would like to set up a trip to the hospital located in Erie, PA, in the near future for the Livingston District, as I feel the Brothers would be most impressed, as I was, with the care given to these children.

I thank Damascus Temple for sponsoring us so we could make the trip down there. I will be attending their meeting on December 5th to thank them in person for their help and generosity.

Pot Luck Luncheon

We will have a Pot Luck Luncheon on Sunday, December 9th, at the Lodge at 3:00 p.m. I extend an invitation to the Eastern Star to attend. We need to do more things together as they did in the past. The Lodge will supply drinks and set-ups. Please RSVP as soon as you can so we can plan accordingly. You can call me at 346-6542. The Secretary of the Eastern Star can call me with their numbers. This should be fun.

Annual Meeting

I remind everyone that our Annual Meeting will be on December 19th. This will be a Summoned Meeting. This meeting is for the purpose of hearing the reports of the various committees and the Treasurer's Annual Report. It is also for the purpose of receiving dues for the upcoming year as per our By-Laws, Article 1, Section 5.

3rd Degree

We will be conferring the 3rd Degree on Wednesday, January 16th. I will be contacting you for a part. If you would like to do a certain part, please call me. We sure could use help from other Lodges. If you can help, please call me at 346-6542.

I wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season.

Hope to see you all soon in Lodge. □

**A Masonic
Portrait of the
Empire State**

By R.W. F. Jay McCullough

This is a plea to Masters, their officers and in particular, their Lodge Historians: look over the collection of data that your Secretary may have in the files he maintains. Look in the Lodge archives for copies of the programs that were written for ceremonies conducted when a Lodge anniversary milestone was reached (i.e., 50, 75, 100 or more years). Look in Herman Sarachan's "History of Masonry in Monroe County", where there's a sketch of your Lodge, and those it may have merged with up to 1970.

Our own AGL, V.W. John Zabel, has a goal of updating the Sarachan history as we all know it, and that means had we done our homework and turned it in, we could have a copy in the Lodge files to turn over to Grand Lodge!

The Grand Lodge Committee of Lodges and Buildings has a deadline of December 31, 2001

for receiving a brief text narrative and two photos of inside and/or outside views of the building where your Lodge meets. Submissions should go to: Committee on Lodges and Buildings, c/o The Grand Lodge of the State of New York, 71 West 23rd Street, New York, New York 10010. The narrative should be no more than 30 lines by 71 characters (in 12 point Times New Roman or equivalent).

Masters should have received a copy of the instruction guide for submissions.

There are 99 Lodges which have responded to the request for histories so far. Wouldn't it be an embarrassment if your Lodge history was omitted from the special millennium publication, due to the failure to follow up on such an important undertaking? This book will be one of the most important that historians can help to produce.

You can contact the Grand Lodge Committee by e-mail at: glnlodgesbuildings@fcc.net or by phone at 845-639-1647. Do so if you need further assistance. Participation will prove very beneficial to your posterity in the Craft. □

**A Spring 2002
Utica Visit
Awaits Us!**

By R.W. F. Jay McCullough

On March 23, 2002, there will be a NY Masonic meeting that all Brethren and their ladies are invited to attend. It is being hosted by Grand Lodge Publications Committee Chairman, Ron Bower, and will run from 8:00 a.m. to noon, when it will break for lunch. It will not continue beyond noon unless there is serious reason for it to do so, and even in that event, will not go beyond 2:00 p.m. There is no charge for the event and even the lunch is on the Chairman!

We are asked to bring our curiosity regarding what's going on in Masonic media, be prepared to offer our thoughts about how our publications should be improved upon or changed, and our desire to help grass roots Masonry stay on track.

We will gather in the auditorium of the Medical Research Laboratory on the Masonic Campus on Blecker Street in Utica. We can motorcade, take a bus, drive our own jitneys, ride with the gang from Niagara/Orleans area or "beam up" if you know how! It would probably be helpful for lunch counts if you contacted Ron or Joan at 716-434-4946 or through his e-mail at ronnbower@aol.com to let them know of your intent to join them. If an 8:00 a.m. arrival is too early for you, get to Ron as soon as possible to have him reserve a room for you on the campus for the preceding night. Rooms will be assigned on a first asked, first served basis, so don't delay! □





Commander-in-Chief



Charles O. Hancock, 33°

Another Reunion has been celebrated. A new Class, the Fred Nielsen, 33°, Class, has joined the ranks of the A.A.S.R. We welcome these Princes and invite them to join with us in our work, the task of making this world a better place.

The war on terrorism continues as evidenced by the biologic attack on the postal system of our country. This is the next step in the trial of our fortitude and will to overcome the intimidation of the terrorists. While our military forces are attacking the sponsors of terrorism on foreign soil, we must go about the day to day lives un-intimidated.

In reality our lives will never again be the same as they were before September 11th. But, as we go forward, we have an opportunity to demonstrate, for the entire world, that we individually and collectively can rise above the attempts to disrupt our existence. We can live our lives, every day, as we have learned to live them founded in the eternal lessons of Freemasonry.

The Degrees

We continue our examination of the duties and responsibilities learned from the Degrees or lessons of the Scottish Rite by looking at the 22°. This Degree is

known as the "Prince of Lebanon" or "Knight of the Royal Axe" or the Woodcutter's Degree. This Degree teaches us to respect labor for its own sake and that work is the mission of man. To work with the hands or brain, according to our requirements and capabilities, to do that which lies before us, is more honorable than rank and title. Men from all professions, trades and skills stand upon one common level, and form one innumerable humanity moving onward through life.

Each is entitled to our sympathy and respect since each is a man and our Brother. This Degree uses the symbols of the carpenter (saw, plane and axe) to remind us that privilege must be earned by work. We learn that the saw symbolizes patience and determination. The plane cuts down the inequalities of surfaces just as Masonry removes the prejudice of ignorance and aids to civilize mankind. The axe reminds us that civilized progress is a measure of our ability to cut away intolerance, bigotry, superstition, uncharitableness and idleness in order to let in the light of truth and reason. If we can understand the dignity of simple labor then no one will be oppressed.

The "Chief of the Tabernacle" or 23°, teaches that we should be devoted to the service of God; constantly promote the welfare of man; and act with proper subordination to superiors. We are taught that simple faith is wiser than vain philosophy. This Degree explores the nature of God and begins an examination of the Mysteries practiced by the ancients from whom Masonry has obtained great truths. The standards of the 12 Tribes of Israel are used to help us understand these ancient teachings or lesser Mysteries.

The 24°, "Prince of the Tabernacle" is the threshold of the Greater Mysteries. Here we see our duty to labor incessantly for the glory of God, the honor of our Country and the happiness of our

Brothers. We are taught the lessons that the soul is immortal. There is one, true God, who is pure, absolute intellect and existence. There is power of faith in Deity and his promises. We are taught that both good and evil exist in this world and that we must continually struggle to discern the difference.

S.P.R.S.

When the Commander-in-Chief proclaimed you a S.P.R.S., he admonished you to fulfill its duties and high responsibilities. What does that mean? Well, for one thing, that statement made you a representative and spokesman for the Scottish Rite. You became an example of what it means to practice the lessons taught in Masonry. Your desire to obtain more light, more knowledge and more understanding created a parallel responsibility to show others, by the way you act and react to the trials of everyday life that you have benefited from our teachings. Further, that you can be a model that others can follow if they desire to obtain and use the values you personify.

This cannot be a "do as I say, not as I do" creed. You really do have to talk about it. How else will others know what you think if you don't express your opinion? In addition to learning the lessons taught in our Degrees, you must learn how to communicate those lessons in a positive and constructive manner so as to gain the respect of others for your judgement and initiative. How can you obtain that guidance?

I submit that the best way to round out the Scottish Rite experience is to become involved in the activities of the Valley. Begin to participate and share time with fellows who together can develop the means of expression you seek to gain. Masonry has always passed on, from one generation to the next, object lessons that succeed and the personal skills commonly esteemed to be of value and respect. Get active and become both student and a teacher.

We have a variety of skills needed to exemplify our Degrees and to assist the candidates for those Degrees. If you are not sure how you can fit in, talk to an officer. Call one of us and discuss how you can use your talents and abilities together with others to continue the Scottish Rite lessons for those joining with us in the future.

One of the best ways to clarify in your own mind the lessons you have experienced is to prepare and present that lesson for others. By teaching we learn the lessons more clearly ourselves. If you can be part of that team presentation, you can better appreciate the great lessons we offer. Remember, we have need for many skills and talents in addition to those of the speakers and

there are only two Blue Lodges, Masons of every ten that belong...so it doesn't seem to be that much of an overwhelming effort. I commend our Ambassador Chair, Sublime Prince Robert Pedersen, 32°, Most Worshipful Master of Rochester Chapter Rose Croix, for his leadership and dedication in this critical outreach effort. At the same time it is essential that he be supported in this initiative to secure new members by all Valley members. To that end, I challenge each of you to find several of your friends in your Masonic network that are eligible and ask them to join. You'll feel good about what you've done!

A potential 1st line signer called the other day to find out about the new membership incentives that are in place. Here they are:

One new candidate: Distinctive Valley pin plus a SR hat.

Two new candidates: Plus Learning Center tie.

Three new candidates: plus dinner for two at a SR event.

Five new candidates: Plus one year's dues, plus a SR shirt.

In next month's *Times*, the 1st line signers for the most recent Class will be recognized.

The relatively new Mentor Program will begin with the recent Class. The focus is to provide information about the Rite concerning its traditions, Degrees, history, etc. This new Program will also encourage new members to stay active once they receive their Degrees. We look forward to "New Member Night" to be held after the 1st of the year when the new Class members and mentors will be recognized.

Through the Summer and into this Fall, it has been interesting to be part of the team that has begun to manage and develop the Valley's activities. The Office Lines, most especially the "Top Three Officers" in the Lodge Council and Chapter are to be commended for their special efforts and dedication.

Thanks to all who participate in the Reunion. If you enjoy the experience, remember to invite those of your Lodge Brothers who currently are not members to join.

Our thoughts and prayers reach out to those in need at this hour; may they be comforted. Special blessings to each of our members and their families as the holidays of Hanukkah and Christmas approach. Let us be thankful for our many blessings.

**Notes from the
2nd Lt. Commander**
By John E. Zabel, 33°

The Reunion and its Degrees

Some people
come into our lives
and quickly go.

Some stay for awhile
and leave footprints
on our hearts
and
we are never
ever the same.

Anonymous

We have
been helping
families
share
memories
since 1957.

plans are underway for an informational meeting to be held in the District in the near future. It is hoped that this Club, the first of a series, will be in operation by the end of this year.

Dinner/Theater

The Scottish Rite Dinner Theater, one of the many wonderful advantages of being a member of the Scottish Rite, was well attended. Preceded by a most delicious dinner prepared by our culinary artists, Hilde DiJames and Joy Woodley, the "Phantom of the Opera" was enjoyed by all who attended.

As I have mentioned in previous articles, membership in the Scottish Rite is one of the best bargains available. Today, when everyone is seeking the most for his/her dollar, membership in the Scottish Rite is one of the best investments one can make.

With the many varied activities available, there is something for everyone. A case in point, attendance at just one activity, such as the Dinner Theater Program, which included the sumptuous dinner and the cost of the play, allows the member to recoup more than his initial outlay in dues. By attending the Summer Picnic, Outings, Family Life Programs, and the myriad of other activities, how can you go wrong?

Degrees

Not only are the many activities attractive advantages to membership in the Scottish Rite, the lessons inculcated in the various Degrees portrayed twice each year are valuable insights in explaining many of the concepts and ideas inherent in Freemasonry. Each time I attend the

portrayal of a Degree, be it for the first time or at a repeat performance, I come away having learned something I had not considered before.

It has been said that the best way to learn is to teach. For anyone who is in search of Masonic information, one of the best means to accomplish this is to participate in one or more of the Degrees. By assuming a role, be it speaking or non-speaking, you are, in effect, teaching those in the audience a concept or idea, or conveying to them a message inherent in that particular Degree. By doing this, you, yourself, cannot help but come away with a certain amount

of new knowledge you did not possess previously.

Why not avail yourself of this unique opportunity to gain insight into the many messages contained in our Degrees and become a member of the Scottish Rite?

Another of the many enjoyable benefits of being a member of Scottish Rite is the upcoming Holiday Party, always a good time. This will be held on the 20th of December following the General Committee Meeting. Hope to see you there, and on behalf of the Scottish Rite and its Team of Ambassadors, may each of you have a great Holiday Season.

Scottish Rite Holiday Party & "Toys for Tots" Dinner



Thursday, December 20, 2001

3rd Floor Dining Room Downtown Masonic Temple 875 Main Street East Rochester, N.Y.

Turkey Dinner with all the trimmings! Cost: One UNWRAPPED gift PER PERSON for the Toys for Tots Program

Time: Social gathering - 6:30 P.M Dinner - 7:00 P.M.

Representing "Toys for Tots" will be Marine Corps. Sgt. Major Tim Didas, special guest for the evening.

A magician will be on hand to entertain you.

Bring your children and grandchildren!

Save the Date!, Jan. 17, Program "32° Camp Symbolism".

Poetry Niche Contributions welcome

Why?

Jet missiles, with human cargo filled, Targets known to pilots alone. Minutes to destruction flown, Thousands to their creator thrown. How could God, you ask, Have allowed this to be? God had nothing to do with it, The fault was man's you see. Evil on earth does exist, Wherever man's allowed to tryst. The choice is his, Good or evil to do. In the councils of the ancients An empty place was left, for the evil one to sit. Here he could be seen, Recognized for what he really is. With his power man must deal, And his banal purpose real. The awesome strength to judge, And death forever seal. Another time, another place the scriptures site, God's Son sent him to flight. Will the Son return, victory once more to snatch? Eternity separates the events, for now it's man's concern. The evil one to men's souls is veiled, Their minds to muddle and assail. He's here, he's always been, His banal task prevail.

In God's created world, freedom is the norm, Perceptions shaped by man's good works. The choice is ours, The consequence, our legacy.

God's created world unchanged, We cannot rearrange. Our perceptions change, But hollow is their ring.

Events close bye bring us back, When the evil one attacks. The conundrum of doubt upon us rains, But God's reality remains.

The choice, the choice, the choice the thing, Should the earth with terror or freedom ring? All men have that chance, Their future to enhance.

Here, wise caution given, Man's actions are not separate things. The ripples of our choices spread like plague, Affecting the farthest reaches of the stage.

God is love, apostles say, Lord, Jehovah, Allah, Yahweh. We're free to choose the way, One God, no multiplicity.

Man's freedom is the nut, his choice the final nut. The planet's future dim, our decision alone therein. Will good prevail or self destruct, Freedom given to run amuck.

Benevolence and brotherhood our only hope? I pray we'll find peace to cope, And live with love toward our fellow man,

In true accord with the Creator's plan. Don Brugger

Rochester Forest No. 133 Tall Cedars of Lebanon 4th Wed.- 7:30 p.m. 1822 Penfield Road Penfield, New York 14526 Donald C. Bell, Scribe

Lilac City Cedarettes By Jean Brugger

Congratulates to our new officers. Our election took place on November 14th at the home of Ramona Dimino. The officers are: President - Joy Woodley, Vice-President - Romana Dimino, Secretary - Betty Tripp, Treasurer - Jane Denton, Call Girls - Betty Schofield and Corinne Kober. Thank you for accepting these positions.

The Lilac City Cedarettes will be celebrating 50 years of existence in June of 2002. Be thinking of a unique way to celebrate and bring your ideas to our first meeting of the year, next April. We take the Winter months off, of course. We will be having a garage sale at Ramona's in the Spring. Start now to gather your valuables to sell.

Don't forget, our Holiday Party will be December 12th at the Harbour House Cafe in Fairport. Bring a \$10 gift to trade. If you have not been contacted yet, give me a call at 458-6125.

Service & Breakfast

Continued from page 1

World Trade Center heroes. Even Martha Stewart got into the act and gave a class on Flag Etiquette, which we have been doing for years.

I'm excited about this Craft's future, I believe this will be the turn around in membership opportunities as we move into the next Century. Once they know what we are all about, men will want to join this proud organization. As New York City rebuilds, our Craft will rebuild its Lodges, Districts, Grand Lodge and its Concordant Bodies.

So, it's wonderful to be here with you this morning at this Interfaith Breakfast. Wonderful because we are from different religions and backgrounds with a common bond that unites us. That bond is Freemasonry.

Freemasonry's central theme, which makes it unique, is the opportunity it affords men of every faith to kneel happily together in Brotherhood, kneel at the same altar, each of us in worship of the God we revere under the universal name of the Great Architect of the Universe.

Other parts of the world as we now so vividly know, still have conflicts between religious parties. Yet, we with different faiths, come here together at this Interfaith Service and Breakfast and enjoy one another's company.

This brings to mind a Past Grand Master of ours, Robert Singer. He was a devout Christian Scientist and faithfully practiced his belief, which prevented him from going to a doctor in time of illness.

Whether or not a visit to the doctor would have prolonged his life is unknown. You might be asking yourself, what has that got to do with us at this Interfaith Breakfast today?

The point is, his religion, my religion, your religious beliefs, are respected by us as Masons. Masonry was created by religious men and founded on a belief in a Supreme Being and the immortality of the soul.

What a great concept-simple but it works and has worked for many years.

Freemasonry exists, is dedicated and devoted to the philosophy of Brotherhood. Brotherhood means that although many of us have come from all walks of life with a great variety of racial character, religious and political opinions, are brought together, and kept together in a relationship of friendship, harmony and good will.

Our faith in God unites us, but our theology, divides us. Freemasonry has no theology, it does not go from faith to speculation, which is theology, but rather from faith to demonstration, which is life.

Fraternalism is needed more than ever before in our society. We need to stabilize a moral code that is being eroded by indecision, indifference, and lack of compassion for our fellow human beings.

Freemasonry can be that stepping stone to providing that stability. You cannot build a better society without first building better ingredients, i.e., its men and women.

So, I ask you today to remember the reason each of you became a Mason and pass it on to those who might want to join our Craft, that it is a privilege to be loyal to all who are members of a Fraternal family who learn to love, respect, appreciate and have compassion for other members of that family, society and the rest of the world.

The time is right, America's people are ready and this Fraternity will take the lead.

At our Interfaith Breakfasts and Lodge meetings we, as Masons, freely respond with the words, "so mote it be", an old phrase, which simply means, "This is my prayer, too." I hope that it will be yours.

God bless you, God bless this Fraternity and God bless America.



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27th & 29th Districts - RAM
8th Cryptic District - R&SM
Zone 11 & 12 - Knights Templar

York Rite NEWS

York Rite College
Judas Maccabeus

**District Deputy
Grand**

High Priest

Royal Arch Masons
29th Capitular District



R. E. Richard C. Anderson

In the recent meeting of the Past High Priests and Past District Deputy Grand High Priests, they shared their time and wisdom for discussion on filling the offices of AGL and DDGHP for the ensuing year. They bestowed the opportunity to V. E. Leonard Mason and me to fulfill our two year Appointment of said offices. We both accepted their blessing to continue.

Fervency and Zeal

We discussed the Fervency and Zeal Program, hoping to obtain candidates in the near future. We are hopeful everyone will try a little harder and help with the great need to gain new members. Check your area Blue Lodges.

Elections

It is time for the Election of Officers. New officers can, and usually help, stimulate your Chapter, because of insecurity and learning that the new officers go through to become proficient. It is the duty of the past and senior officers to inform the uninformed Mason or Companion to meet their duties. I will try to attend all Chapter Elections and Installations to comply with the Constitution of Grand Chapter.

Reminder

Secretaries, your Annual Reports are due to the Grand Secretary by December 28th. Let's put a big "E" on effort for "A" accomplishment.

Seals

Royal Arch Seals help support our Scholarship Fund by the purchasing of these blue seals. Please get them from your Secretary and use them on your mailings to show your support.

Grand Chapter

I have received the forms and tickets required for reservations for the Grand Chapter Convocation on March 1st in Albany. Anyone planning to attend, please contact me or your Secretary. I have to make reservations for rooms and meals.

Support needed

In making this holiday season an enjoyable one, may I suggest you support a holiday gathering by involving your Masonic Concordant Bodies in honoring one another with deserved awards and friendship. Try to come together with blessings and brotherly love. □

**LeRoy Chapter
No. 183 RAM**
8 West Main St., LeRoy,
NY



High Priest
E. Norman P. Austin
494-2223
Secretary
R. E. Douglas S. Poole
584-3601

**Editor's Award for
Non-Lodge Articles**

This article has been selected as an outstanding and well written contribution from a local author.

Well, here we are at the end of the year, with the holidays upon us. Our Chapter does not meet this month, and when we next resume our labors on January 22nd, it will be under the tutelage of a newly elected leader. This, therefore, will be my last article as Excellent High Priest of LeRoy Chapter No. 183. I take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to all my Officers, as well as to those who made it possible for me to assume this esteemed position. I have enjoyed my office as Excellent High Priest, and stand ready to assist the next Companion to lead this Chapter.

Albany

Grand Chapter will convene its Annual Convocation at the Holiday Inn, Wolf Road, Albany, on Friday, March 1st. It is not too early to make your reservations. I hope to see you there.

Being thankful

Since I have no other Chapter news to report this month, I would like very much to devote this article to each of you as a gift for the upcoming holiday season. I tried to search for "just the right words" to convey to you my best wishes for the holidays. Rather than rely upon trite phrases, I have attempted to present something with true meaning. Having been raised an orphan myself, very much alone, and having suffered my share of physical and emotional abuse, which took many years to come to terms, I was touched by this story and could empathize with the little boy, Misha. Sadly enough, viewing my own childhood in retrospect and to employ the vernacular of today: "Been there, done that." Today, many years later, I have a myriad of friends for whom I am truly thankful. Some of these will do things for me most people would not. Miss Linda is by my side and is my ally for all time. I hope you will be as touched by this story as was I, and be thankful for all those whom you love and who love you.

Two Babes in a Manger

In 1994 two Americans answered an invitation from the Russian Department of Education to teach morals and ethics (based on Biblical principles) in the public schools. They were invited to teach at prisons, businesses, the fire and police departments, and at a large orphanage. About 100 boys and girls who had

been abandoned, abused, and left in the care of a government-run program, were in the orphanage. They relate the following story in their own words:

"It was nearing the holiday season, 1994, time for our orphans to hear, for the first time, the traditional story of Christmas. We told them about Mary and Joseph arriving in Bethlehem. Finding no room at the Inn, the couple went to a stable, where baby Jesus was born and placed in a manger. Throughout the story, the children and orphanage staff sat in amazement as they listened. Some sat on the edges of their stools, trying to grasp every word. Completing the story, we gave the children three pieces of cardboard to make a crude manger. Each child was given a small paper square, cut from yellow napkins I had brought with me. No colored paper was available in the city. Following instructions, the children tore the paper and carefully laid strips in the manger for straw. Small squares of flannel, cut from a worn-out nightgown an American lady was throwing away as she left Russia, were used for the baby's blanket. A doll-like baby was cut from tan felt we had brought from the United States. The orphans were busy assembling their mangers as I walked among them to see if they needed any help. All went well until I got to one table where little Misha sat.

Misha looked to be about 6 years old and had finished his project. As I looked at the little boy's manger, I was startled to see not one, but two babies in the manger. Quickly, I called for a translator to ask the lad why there were two babies in the manger. Crossing his arms in front of him and looking at this completed manger scene, the child began to repeat the story very seriously. For such a young boy, who had only heard the Christmas story once, he repeated the happenings accurately-until he came to the part where Mary had put the baby Jesus in the manger. Then Misha started to ad-lib.

He made up his own ending to the story as he said, "And when Maria laid the baby in the manger, Jesus looked at me and asked if I had a place to stay. I told him I have no mamma and I have no papa, so I didn't have a gift to give him like everybody else did. But I wanted to stay with Jesus so much, so I thought about what I had that maybe I could use for a gift. I thought maybe if I kept him warm, that would be a good gift. So I asked Jesus, "If I keep you warm, will that be a good enough gift?" Jesus told me, "If you keep me warm, that will be the best gift anybody ever gave me." So I got into the manger, and then Jesus looked at me and he told me I could stay with Him-for always.

As little Misha finished his story, his eyes brimmed full of tears that splashed down his little cheeks. Putting his hand over his face, his head dropped to the table and his shoulders shook as he sobbed and sobbed.

The little orphan had found someone who would never abandon nor abuse him, someone who would stay with him - FOR ALWAYS.

I've learned that it's not what you have in your life, but who you have in your life that counts."

The next column will be prepared by my successor. This is an appropriate time to thank the members who have assisted me in carrying out the activities of the Chapter. I particularly thank Don

On behalf of Miss Linda and myself, may you and yours have a blessed, joyous holiday and may HE stay with you - FOR ALWAYS. □

Hiram Chapter



No. 62



**2nd &
4th**

Thursdays

E. William R. Lindsay, High Priest
621-3573
E. Larry Dunn, Secretary
594-8033
875 Main Street East
Rochester, N.Y. 14605

Reports and Election

Our next meeting will be on December 13th at 7:30 p.m. The main business of the evening will be the presentation of Annual Reports, followed by the Election of Officers under the capable direction of V. E. William Zufall. A complete list of the new officers will appear next month. Every member is encouraged to attend. This is an opportunity to meet and show your support for members who will be assuming office for the first time.

Case in point is the need to replace Bob Pettit, who has faithfully and cheerfully served as Treasurer for many years. He has submitted his resignation citing the increasing need to be a caregiver. For all his faithful work, I publicly congratulate him and wish him well.

Likewise, our Secretary, Larry Dunn, has asked to be replaced as he wishes to reduce his leadership role and responsibilities. He has been a dedicated worker in the Royal Arch quarries, regardless of the task before him. Hiram Chapter has been served well by his enthusiasm, energy and wise counsel. I speak for all Companions in wishing him well.

Responsibility

The new officers face a most difficult responsibility, that of locating the Chapter in a new home as the TCC tenancy draws to a close. It is a task that surely calls for the wisdom of Solomon (and probably the skin of a rhinoceros). It is very difficult to locate the Chapter on the West side and the East side at the same time. I have every confidence that with the support of the members a thoughtful decision will be made.

District lines

Another important issue facing the Chapter is the interest at the Grand Chapter level of re-drawing District lines. Our District runs South toward the PA border and contains only two Chapters, one at either end. It doesn't make a lot of sense to continue this arrangement, and we will undoubtedly have to consider joining another District or have some other Chapters added to our District. Whatever change is made, it will be for the good of our Chapter.

Thank you

Holiday time is here again, as is the weather most of us were not particularly looking forward to. But, before we know it, Spring will be upon us. With the advent

Brugger and the stage crew, Jerry and Elizabeth Jones for opening their home for our Annual Picnic, and Tom Kendig for his ever-cheerful support with our meals and refreshments. Each epitomizes the noble ideal that the number one value in Masonry is the friends you make. I don't wish to slight anyone's help over this past year, but these are Companions who always were there month after month. □

**District Deputy
Grand Master**

8th Cryptic District



R. I. Daniel N. Evans, Sr.
492-2807

I'm sorry for not having made the last edition of the *Masonic Times*, but I was at our son's in Missouri for our granddaughter's wedding. Our son was Master of the Lodge in Marceline and I attended Lodge with him. Time being short this year, I was unable to attend the Chapter and Council meetings. This time the Town celebrated Walt Disney's 100th birthday. The town is where Walt Disney grew up. It was the Main Street of the Town that he used as a model for his Main Street, USA, at Disneyland.

While there, I also helped the Lodge serve meals to the press, TV crews, radio and writers. The turnout was poor due to September 11th. They were expecting 500,000 and only about 60,000 showed up.

Official Visits

I have completed half of my Visits, having only two more to go after this writing. Nundawaga No. 92 is on January 28, 2002, and Skoi-Yase No. 75 is on June 18th.

Degrees

Our Royal Master Degree on November 26th was a huge success. The Select Masters Degree will be held on January 28, 2002, under the direction of R. Ill. Steven L. Wing.

The Ritualist's lament

Making a mistake in Ritual delivery is discouraging, and is down right humiliating to find out that you are so unimportant that no one even noticed it! □

Nundawaga

**Council
No. 92**

**4th Monday
West Main Street
LeRoy, NY 14482**
Ill. Norman P. Austin
Master - 494-2223,
Ill. Vernon Ruper
Recorder - 343-8429

Holiday time is here again, as is the weather most of us were not particularly looking forward to. But, before we know it, Spring will be upon us. With the advent

of the holiday season, we will not be meeting this month, but will resume our labors in the Secret Vault after the first of the year.

Degree

Our meeting on November 26th was a busy one, indeed, as we conferred the Royal Master Degree and had the pleasure of being visited by the Grand Marshal, R.I.: Victor S. Versace. It was a most interesting evening, and we hope R.I.: Victor enjoyed his evening with us. It was nice to see the excellent floor work and Ritual demonstrated during the portrayal of this Degree.

Sickness and distress

Our Chaplain, R.I.: Companion Horace Wilder continues to do well following his surgery. We wish him continued progress. Our Deputy Master, Companion Rev. Charles Lee, will be undergoing knee replacement surgery shortly, and we will miss him and his input during his extended convalescence. Hopefully, upon his recovery, Charlie will be able to take some time to travel to New York City to audition for the Rockettes and give his new knee a real workout!

Our sincere sympathies to Sherrel Holmes and his lovely wife, Marilee, on the recent passing of Sherrel's mother.


We are saddened by the decision of R.I.: Companion Ruel Lovett to reduce his Masonic involvement and thus demit from our Council. We wish him all the best in his new endeavors. Companion Buzz is the quintessential Ritualist, and always does a stellar job of portraying Hiram Abiff.

When we resume our labors after the first of the year, we will begin to formulate dates for upcoming Degrees for our new candidates. It is always satisfying to be able to increase our ranks.

The New Year will be upon us very shortly, and with it comes the revelry and celebration which is traditional. May I offer you a bit of sage advice regarding the welcoming of the new year: A hangover is something to occupy a head which wasn't used the night before.

Miss Linda and I extend to you and yours our best wishes for a wonderful holiday season.

Doric Council
No. 19
Cryptic Masons
(Chartered in 1861)



3rd
Wednesdays

Vernon L. Goodrich, III, Master
 (h) 377-0367, (o) 473-4351
 F. Jay McCullough, Recorder
 352-1061

875 Main St. East
 Rochester, N.Y. 14605

Bad news and good news!

We have much to talk about! I am sorry to say that Jay McCullough has decided it is necessary to reduce the size of his plate and accordingly, is no longer our Secretary. I am happy to report that R.I.: Donald Wright has stepped in as Secretary. Thanks, Don!

Official Visit

On Wednesday, November 21st, R.I.: Dan Evans was here for his Official Visit. Naturally, he found our books in good order!

We also conferred the Royal Master Degree on two Companions.

Fun night

Many persons told me they enjoyed Unity Night. This has become a great annual event, not only for the unity of the three York Rite Bodies, but also with the Grotto. I am very pleased with their involvement.

December

Our next meeting will be the Select Master Degree on Wednesday, December 19th. We need to start getting petitions for our Spring Degrees.

A note from the Pettit's

"Our heartfelt thanks to all the Brothers in all the Masonic Bodies for their cards and expressions of sympathy on the loss of our son, Neal, recently. The knowledge that so many felt sympathy and concern and support did indeed help us in our time of deep sorrow. Again, our sincere thanks.
 Bob and Belva Pettit"

Bob and Belva Pettit

Batavia Commandery
No. 34
Knights Templar

Meets
2nd & 4th
Thursdays
Attica



Commander
Vernon L. Ruport 343-8429
 Recorder
Allen L. Capwell 786-3897
 39 Main Street
 Attica, N.Y.

I hope everyone enjoyed the Thanksgiving holiday. Batavia Commandery held their Thanksgiving Dinner on Thursday, November 8th. Twenty-five Sir Knights and their ladies enjoyed a Turkey Dinner with all the trimmings.


The Annual Christmas Toast will be conducted on Thursday, December 13th. The Ceremony will commence at 8:00 p.m. in the Lodge hall. Following the Toast, refreshments will be served in the dining room. All Sir Knights, their ladies and friends, are welcome to attend and take part in the Ceremonies of the evening. Each person attending is asked to bring a wrapped, one dollar gift (marked man, or lady) to exchange. The ladies are asked to furnish two dozen cookies for the refreshments following the Toast.

Since the Commandery will not be meeting again until after the holidays, a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year are wished for all.

Cyrene Monroe
Commandery
No. 12

Chartered
1993

3rd
Monday



SK Vernon Goodrich
 Commander 377-0367
 SK Lawrence W. Dunn
 Recorder 594-8033

Many thanks to the Schicker Club for the delicious Ham Dinner prior to our meeting on Monday, November 19th. Our opening went well.

December 1st

Companions, we need candidates for the December Orders (Degrees) on the 1st. These Orders will be conferred by Zones 10, 11 and 12. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and the Orders start at 9:00 a.m. Lunch will be served by Linda Zahn. Coffee and donuts available between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.

In the month of January, we will have 2 meetings. On the first Monday, January 7th, we will use as a rehearsal for our upcoming Inspection on April 15th.

Schicker Club News

By Barbara Goodrich

We will have the Christmas Toast on December 17th. Please bring finger foods and snacks to share for this event. There will be no dinner until the January meeting.

Merry Christmas to one and all.

A note from the Pettit's

"Our heartfelt thanks to all the Brothers in all the Masonic Bodies for their cards and expressions of sympathy on the loss of our son, Neal, recently. The knowledge that so many felt sympathy and concern and support did indeed help us in our time of deep sorrow. Again, our sincere thanks.
 Bob and Belva Pettit"

Bob and Belva Pettit

Program Speakers

(Current List. If you have any other prospects, please let us know.)

Donald Brugger
 "The Masonic Times, a short History and Profile", "Writing for Publication" - (w) 716-473-4351, (h) 716-458-6125.

Vern Goodrich
 "The Masonic Service Bureau", "Financial Planning" - (w) 716-473-4351, (h) 716-377-0367.

Charles Hancock
 Scottish Rite - 716-223-1850.

Bruce Horncastle
 Roslyn Chapel and Scottish Masonry - 607-347-4680.

William Lindsay
 Various Masonic Topics
 716-621-3573.

Thomas Michielsen
 Taxation, all forms - 352-4531.

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Grant Romer
 "Solomon's Temple", "Masonic Aspects of the Great Pyramid" (w) 716-271-3361, (h) 716-242-0619.

William Schenke
 "55 Alive Program"
 716-254-0729.

William Zufall
 "The Morgan Affair"
 716-271-0795.

Masonic Home
Admissions Councilors
 William Hook - (716)-671-6452
 Frank Kelsey - (716)-624-4568



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Lalla Rookh GROTTO News

Legion
Clowns
Caldron



Kenneth Hutchinson, Monarch

M.O.V.P.E.R. Monarch



Kenneth Hutchinson

Greetings, Prophets

My term as Monarch is rapidly drawing to a close, but it has been a glorious year, and most gratifying to me. It will always be one of the outstanding years of my life.

On behalf of Edna and myself, we wish to take this opportunity to thank Al and Shirley for the Monarch's Ball that was arranged in our honor. The memory shall never be forgotten.

There were no complaints at the Holiday on November 3rd. If you were unable to attend, you missed one of the finest parties that has been held in a long time, and where the spirit of good fellowship prevailed.

The next meeting is very important to our Grotto. The Annual Meeting is December 19th and the Election of 2002 Officers who will guide our Grotto through the next year.

October activities

On October 13th many Prophets and ladies traveled to Zuleika's Monarch's Ball, honoring Monarch Robert Chapman. It was a well organized event.

On October 17th our Prophets and their ladies were the guests of Doric Council and enjoyed a fine Barbershop Quartet.

We had the Tag Along Party on October 18th, which was a trip to Widmer Winery and dinner at Bob and Ruth's Restaurant. This maybe a Past Monarch's event in 2002.

Lalla Rookh Caldron's Installation was October 26th. A goodly number of Prophets and ladies attended.

We sojourned to Williamsport, PA, on October 27th for Zafar's Black Fez Ball.

My best wishes to all for a happy holiday season. □

Master of Ceremonies

By Douglas C. Spencer

Greetings Prophets! I hope all is well. It's hard to believe it's

December and we are in the midst of the holidays. Hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. Please come out to our next meeting and enjoy what has always been a fun-filled evening of fellowship. Come on out and see some old friends and make some new ones, too.

Our meeting is on December 19th and will be preceded by a free Turkey Dinner. Because of this, reservations are a MUST and are due to me no later than Saturday, December 15th. **NO reservation, NO dinner.**

Please get you reservations in early by calling me at 723-8703. Hope to see you in December. Have a great Christmas. □

Membership

By Bill Fredenburg

Happy holidays to all Brothers. It seems like only a short time ago that we were still enjoying the Summer activities. We had many great programs for all of our Grotto members and families. As we enter a new year, we should all be keeping membership up front.

Our new Prophets can be good ambassadors for Lalla Rookh Grotto by sharing their experiences in the past year with fellow Brother Masons. Together we can keep our Grotto strong.

Wishing all the best holidays and a Happy New Year. □

Legion of Honor

By Ron Morthorst

Lalla Rookh Grotto Legion of Honor took part in the Veterans Day Ceremony at the War Memorial on Sunday, November 11th. Our Color Guard placed our Legion of Honor wreath along with the others to be displayed to honor our veterans at the Ceremony.

We had a great turnout and both Prophets and our ladies were greatly moved by the service. After the service, many of our Prophets and their ladies went to the Party House for a great dinner. If you missed this year, plan to attend next year.

Our December meeting is Monday, December 17th, at 6:15 p.m., Dutch Mill, Dewey and Stone Roads. All Prophets are welcome. Election for 2002 officers are in order. The only requirement is that a reservation for dinner is a must, to be made by December 10th by calling Commander Ernie Swan at 621-7162 or me at 334-4196.

These meals are made to order for us for our meeting. Those with dietary restrictions can order fish;

Attend Grotto Meetings

Mon., December 3rd-Board of Governor's Meeting
Grotto Office 7:00 p.m.

Thurs., December 13th-Lalla Rookh Caldron Meeting
7:30 p.m.

Mon., December 17th-Legion of Honor Dinner and Meeting Dutch Mill Restaurant 6:30 p.m.

Wed., December 19th-Lalla Rookh Grotto Meeting
7:30 p.m.
Dinner 6:30 p.m.

Enjoy the Fellowship

therefore, a "reservation made is a reservation paid" and must be honored.

Holiday Dinner

Did you forget? Reservations were supposed to be in by November 23rd. Call Commander Ernie Swan FIRST and send him your check if you wish to join us.

Take your lady out. Your Legion of Honor is having a Holiday Dinner Party, Saturday, December 1st, at the Dutch Mill, featuring Deluxe Buffet for \$14.50 per person, cocktails at 6:00 p.m., dinner at 7:00 p.m. Let's make it a fun night. Your reservation is your check to Commander Ernie Swan, 140 Camille Drive, Rochester, NY 14612. Hope to hear from you. Your reservations are important.

Season's greetings to all the Prophets and their families from the Officers of the Legion of Honor. □

Caldron News

By Cecil Losinger, MCO

Another year has gone by and a new reign begins. My congratulations to Daughter Doris Bell and her Officers for a fruitful and enjoyable year for Lalla Rookh Caldron in 2000-2001.

Our Installation on October 26th was very well done by Installing Officers, Daughters Jean Wood, Pearl Smith and Sue Wilson. We were delighted with the attendance of Lalla Rookh Grotto's Monarch and other members of the Grotto. Thank you one and all who attended. We appreciate our invitation from the Legion of Honor to attend their Christmas Party on December 1st.

During our November 8th meeting we elected and installed Daughter Betty Madison into the Zulette station and Daughter Marcia Morrison was installed as Color Bearer. On November 10th we all enjoyed an afternoon dinner party in honor of Daughter Beverly Murray on her election in Canton, Ohio, into the Supreme Caldron line as Zulette.

Party time!

The December 13th meeting will be our Christmas Party. On December 2nd, the Past Mighty Chosen Ones will enjoy our Christmas Party at the Spring House at 3:00 p.m. Daughter Ethel Hazzard is in charge. □



Monarch Ken Hutchinson with Robert I. Pardoe-Monarch and Johnny G. Hinds-Chief Justice, Zafar Grotto.



Lalla Rookh Monarch, Ken Hutchinson with Robert Chapman-Monarch, Zuleika Grotto and Stephen Ansell-Monarch, Farrah Grotto. (Pictures courtesy K. Hutchinson)



Monarch Ken Hutchinson with Lalla Rookh Caldron's newly installed Mighty Chosen One-Cecil Losinger, Doris Bell-Past M.C.O., and Richard Topel-Supreme Dist. Dept. Grand Monarch.

The Grotto Way

As the sun in early morning
Rises up to warm the day,
To spread a wondrous ray of
Light along life's dreary way.

So it is with Masonic Brothers
Who have joined the Grotto,
They have felt the need of good
fellowship
And now know our motto.

There is a precious jewel
That all Prophets know,
Because they stood at the Altar
Where all Prophets must go.

It is always a joyous wonder
What these kind Prophets do,
The mystery of the whole thing is
They are Prophets like me and you.

It makes no earthly difference
How poor the lass or lad,
Or the background of the mother
Or the kind of training had.

The needless human suffering
Is what makes the Prophets do,
Joined in all their joyful harmony
They work for we know not who.

Another Brother from our number
Who has long been in the ranks,

Has been chosen to be honored
And for this we give our thanks.

It is he, we pause to honor
And surely not to brag or boast,
But we, who knew him best
Should appreciate him most.

It is with wondrous pride
When we share this sympathy,
Because it is the way when
Prophets work in harmony.

By Donald L. Cox □

Annual Election of Officers

Wed., Dec. 19th, DTT
Dinner 6:30 p.m.
Meeting 7:30 p.m.

Officers nominated for 2002
Monarch Alfred Pulcino III
Cf. Just. Douglas Spencer
Mof C Jerry Spero
Secretary Kenneth Milner
Treasurer James Spencer
Ven. Prph. Kenneth Ratliff
Trustee 3 years Michael Bell
Brd. - 3rs. Swan, Ir. Ludwig

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Thank you,
Brother David G. Cromwell



"NOW WHO'S THE TURKEY!"

Chief Justice

By Al Pulcino III

Hello! To all, the bottom line is, I'm okay. I had a short stay in Park Ridge Hospital over Veterans Day weekend, missed all. The doctor tells me it was a mini-stroke, a TIA, whatever that is and to take it easy, fat chance! But I do try, at this time I just feel tired and achy, but Shirley tells me, "So, what's new?" So much for that; thank you all for the sympathy cards on my brother-in-law's passing and the concerned ones for me. Thank you makes you feel just a bit better when you know that your friends really do care. Did not find the time to just sit down and write for the Times last month, which some are probably not saddened over. As most know we were in Aruba in September and missed the grand time all had at the ESGA Convention, so our Monarch was so kind and said he would cover for me. Thanks Ken, aye, aye, aye.


So here I sit, late at that, with this pencil in hand trying to think, it's not an easy job, the thinking, that is. Oh, ya! The Lalla Rookh Monarch's Ball had a very nice turnout. I do believe all who made it had a good time. The Holiday Inn South was a real nice atmosphere, the staff was friendly and bent over backwards for us, I do know that, for I was giving the orders and they jumped. Sure would be nice to have that kind of control wherever I go. Ha! The food was hot, good, and was served rapidly. We had a three room banquet, dining, bar, and band room with a dance floor. By the way, the band was great, right Michael B? For you who didn't make it that far, they played lots of oldies and did a nice job of it.

Our Monarch, Kenneth Hutchinson, and his Lady, Edna, did a great job for the hospitality room, with whatever you wanted. The bartender, Thomas Daniels, stayed busy for awhile; lots of munchies, we saved most of them for next year. We did get to see and hear the largest Pinkerton Security Guard, I believe, in the Rochester area. He was doing his job, no problems. When he walked down the hall he took it all up, no getting by him. Oh, ya! He came up to see us because he could not believe that a crew of Prophets like us could be having such a good time. I think he was looking for a petition, but just could not get the words out of his mouth. You should have seen him eye up the food, oh boy!

Better get this part in, that is a thank you to Shirley for all her work and helping me. Snowmen was the theme and she made lots of them by hand, for the centerpieces, wrapped up the jam in little fancy lace which were table favors, wrapped all the door prizes up and put an "M" for the men's and "W" for the women's. That was challenging, but fun. Big part was listening to me bark. Thanks to all who gave a hand, advice, or whatever, to make this a good time. Not one complaint! Don't start thinking now it's too late. For the ones who didn't make it, you missed a good time. When it comes around next year, think twice about it. Start saving your can money now and show your Lady a good time, right, Howie?


I'm sorry for the few outings we had to miss. Sure would rather have been there. Hope all have a great holiday and Old Saint Nick is good to ya! The best of holidays to you.

Valley/Simes Lodge No. 109



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256-7445

2nd Tuesday
7:30 P.M.



W.: Michael G. Batz, Sec.
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It goes without saying that some things do not turn out as planned. That's the beauty of discovery. That's why someone invented the eraser (and the 'delete' key). Have you had something planned turn out to be something else? Serendipity happens, as the saying goes. "All things happen

for good..." There is a whole body of literature developed from the study of optimism. The school of the positive attitude is accepting applications.

Award

Valley/Simes Lodge selected W.: Mike Batz to receive the Scottish Rite Symbolic Lodge Award. W.: Batz has been a tremendous benefit to his fraternity in his industry for well-doing. Way to go Mike!

Birthday greetings to our December babies (you know who you are). The Communications Committee is working through the membership roster.

In our Obligation, we commit ourselves to the relief of worthy Brother Masons, "they applying to me as such". This seems to imply a responsibility on the part of the worthy Brother to make such an application (making his situation known to me) for me to be aware of his need. So often we are chastised

for not going to the relief of a distressed Brother. Could this be because we are not aware of his condition or situation?

December Fellowcraft will be at Glenn Stahl's home in

Fairport. This is your invitation. Our Official Visit will be at our January 8th meeting. Be there!!!

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Clowns

By Uncle Al

All is the same, I'm still the boss clown. So much for what I'm trying to do is just copy last year's article that went like this. No new members, can't do that. We have some and how proud they are to be part of the Grotto Clowns. I'm (we're) having all the fun, and once more, no (Oh, well), no one to argue with, doing it my way - my way, that's the way! Don't even think about calling me to join this fun group. (Us) because (we) will be helping out Old Saint Nick all the rest of the year!

If I didn't tell you what I was doing you probably would have not known. But, even this hurts my head! The Grotto Clowns hope all stay healthy, and have a safe holiday!

God Bless America!!!

Craig Henderson, LOH-Active Member of the International Supreme Council, presenting Vernon Goodrich and Charles Hancock with their Cordons.

By Gary Burke

On Saturday, October 27th, the Hadi-Ya-Saga DeMolay Preceptory of Rochester had the privilege of conferring the DeMolay Legion of Honor upon two local Masons. As family and friends gathered in Doric Hall of the Downtown Temple, a very impressive and moving Ceremony was conferred by the Legionnaires and DeMolay members from all over the State. The recipients of the highest honor DeMolay International can confer upon an individual were our own Vernon L. Goodrich and Charles O. Hancock. As you see these two individuals in the quarries, please congratulate them on their honor.

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Damascus Temple No. 2 Shrine News

Potentate - Dayne A. Tharrett



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FROM THE POTENTATE

DAYNE A. THARRETT
1-315-462-3224
Shrine Office
671-7701

The end of my term as Potentate is getting closer and what better month to have that happen than December. With all the holiday parties taking place, I am looking forward to seeing many of you and enjoying good times together.

The addition

Although it is proceeding slower than I would have wished, it is proceeding. For those of you who were not at the November meeting, I will bring you up to date on the progress. The permits are now in our hands and the addition can proceed as planned. New development is the possibility of rental income. We have to this date had 10 individual

groups, all which are part of the Masonic family, approach us on the possibility of renting the facility for their use. The potential income from these groups could reach from \$15,000 to \$25,000. The probability that at least some of these Bodies will rent from us is very high. We do not feel that this will interfere at all with the operation of the Temple or ANY of its Clubs or Units.

Changes

As the new year approaches, changes are in the air. The Officers move up, and new appointments are made. As previously mentioned, our Recorder will not seek another term. The familiar crew in the kitchen has also decided it is time to turn in the spatulas, and the Chief Rabban is trying to determine how, or even if, dinners will still be a part of the meetings.

If you have an interest in any position in the operation of the Temple, whether it is an elected position on the Divan or a night of bar tending, please ask the Chief Rabban or any of the Divan for information to help you make your decision. We have a lot of jobs that we are always looking for a FEW GOOD MEN to fill.

At the November meeting it was announced without much fanfare that we have reached a total of 998 members. This is a milestone that I hope we are going to reverse at the next Ceremonial, which is December 5th.

You see, Nobles, the fact that we are under 1000 eliminates our ability to send 4 representatives to the Imperial Convention. When you drop under 1000 you are only allowed to send 3 representatives. This is a milestone that none of us wants to see, so I urge you to ask someone to join the fun and become a Shriner.

Until we meet again, God bless. □

Director's Staff

By Carl Mason

The October meeting was held at the Garlock House in Palmyra with 19 people in attendance, including Ill. Potentate, Dayne Tharrett, and his lady, Kathi. A delicious Buffet Dinner was served at 7:00 p.m., followed by the meeting at 7:50 p.m. Ill. Dayne stated that as of October 24th we have 14 new petitions for membership on December 5th for our Cold Sands Reunion. He thanked the members for all their work.

Calendars were passed out for our 2002 fundraiser for the Damascus Shrine Center. The Director's Staff has hats for sale at \$10.00 each as a fundraiser to build up our depleting treasury.

Sickness

Frank Ghysel is home from the hospital after surgery to put a stent in the passage to his kidneys. Joe Minas is home from the hospital after problems with his defibrillator. Both are doing ok.

Plans are in the making to resume our meetings at DiPacific's Restaurant in Farmington. Those members who wanted to move around don't attend our meetings when they are at different locations as they requested. The members who do attend expressed a desire to return to DiPacific's. It is more centrally located.

The Scottish Rite Reunion this Fall was November 15th and 17th in Cathedral Hall, Downtown Temple.

The snowbirds who attend our meetings will soon be headed for Florida to their Winter homes and we will miss them.

Membership dues are now due for the year 2002. Please remit as soon as possible.

Attendance at our monthly meetings is way down. With the snowbirds leaving, it will be down even farther. PLEASE-if you can attend some of the meetings over the Winter months, come out and support the Director's Staff. Special thanks to those who do attend on a regular basis.

Until next time, God bless. □

Zama Temple
Daughters of the Nile
1911a

By Jean R. Friedrich, PO

With pleasure we hosted our Supreme Queen, Evelyn Petree

of Albuquerque, NM, for her Official Visit to Zama Temple on October 23rd. She is a charming lady and was most impressed with the colorful scenery of Western New York. After our Ceremonial, we enjoyed a festive banquet at the near-by Green Lantern Inn. Congratulations to our three new members, Princesses Susan DiLapi, Marjorie Fenton and Helga Hofmann. Please be sure to greet them and make them feel at home in our Temple.

Holiday Tea

Our next event will be our gala Holiday Tea on Sunday, December 9th from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Damascus Center. Our members and their escorts are welcome to attend, as well as all new Shriners and their ladies. It is an opportunity to meet and get to know each other better. We look forward to seeing you all at this merry get-together!

Relief Fund

At our December 8th Stated Session, we will celebrate the holidays with our annual collection for the Christmas Convalescent Relief Fund. Be sure to come and enter into the spirit of the season by helping the children in the Shriners Hospitals in any way you can.

We wish you all joy, health and happiness, not only for the holiday season, but also for the whole New Year! □

Grand Lodge Veterans Service Committee

R.W. THOMAS M. PAQLIA
CHAIRMAN
VETERAN'S SERVICE

The American military service veteran

Who are they? Where do they come from? What type of person are they? What form of education do they have? There are many more questions you can ask as to what makes a veteran, but for now we will just settle for the above.

Who are they?

In my opinion the American veterans are mostly ordinary people. A good portion of them have families. They go to work, love to watch reports, go fishing, dancing, watch a good race, and many more activities too numerous to mention. American veterans love good clean fun, are all different sizes, shapes, mental abilities, and looks.

Where do they come from?

All walks of life, rich man, poor man and in between. Many left a nice comfortable life to give their all in time of need. There are 50 states in our beloved country and there are 50 different personalities from each state, but they have one thing in common, the love for their country. People can do and say what they want most of

the time, but one thing they can't do is do wrong to our country. A Japanese Admiral said after Pearl Harbor, "You just woke up a sleeping tiger."

What types of people are they?

You have the meek, gentle, boisterous, hard to get along with, cantankerous, just down right mean, but when they are done with boot camp, they jell into one harmonious unit. There are the city slickers, con artists, naive, know it all, lazy, full of energy, clumsy, and anything else you can find, but everything is set aside until the job gets done.

What education do they have?

There are professors, college grads, high school grads, grammar school only, and some with very little schooling. In all of this, their talents are put together and out comes a unit ready to do its job. Each in their own way contributes a little something to make it work. After all, we all can't be a geniuses.

November 11th

Veterans Day, November 11th, has come and gone. This can only happen if our great Country continues to be alert. That day, many veterans banded together to honor those comrades who had put on a uniform. Only those who served in the military know what it is like to pay homage to their fellow Americans. Many tears were shed that day, when old memories came back. Memories of the jokes they would play on each other, enjoying liberty together, having a cold glass of beer, going through the miseries of boot camp together, freezing out in the cold doing guard duty, making sure their buddy got to muster on time, loaning him money 'til his next

paycheck, sharing the gift boxes sent from home, wishing each other a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, happy birthday, sometimes even going to church together, sharing the good and bad news, listening to him read the Dear John letter, celebrating the news of a newborn, and the time you just had to sit there and watch him cry over what happened in the war that day. Then, the sound of "Taps" being played on the trumpet, that mournful sound that tells you it was the end for a close friend.

Many had made lifetime friendships. Those who served under actual wartime conditions have become blood brothers, just because they shared the same experiences. Front line war takes a young man or woman barely out of their teens and makes them grown-ups overnight. Anyone who gets excited about going to war has been watching too many movies.

A sad year coming

More than 572,000 veterans are expected to die this year in this Country, that makes it 1625 veterans per day. We will be losing a great deal of good people.

Our Flag

How many have really looked at our flag? As Masons can you see any familiar numbers in the flag just by looking at the stars? Looking at the right top corner you will see one star. The next diagonal set has three stars, the next diagonal set has five stars, the next diagonal set has seven stars, and the next, nine stars. Remember your three, five and seven steps, the nine is for the perfect number. Now look at the left side and you will see the same. Isn't it odd that our Flag has the same numbers as our Masonic teachings? □

Trivia

By R.W. F. Jay McCullough

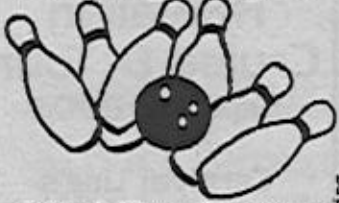
This quote could have been written yesterday: "The earth is degenerating these days, there are signs that civilization is coming to an end, bribery and corruption abound, violence is everywhere, children no longer respect and obey their parents." -From an Assyrian tablet, circa 3000 B.C. □

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The Residents and Staff of the Masonic Home and Acacia Village Extend warm holiday greetings to all...

"May you find peace and love in the beauty of the season, and may the New Year bring joy to our world."

Masonic Gothic Bowling League



John J. Flynn, Secretary
227-6106

By John J. Flynn, Secretary

The Masonic Gothic Bowling League has completed the first eight weeks of its schedule. All eight of last season's teams have returned. The league bowls on Wednesday evenings at Maiden Lanes at 8:30 p.m. We usually have a need for one or more substitute bowlers, so stop by.

The league was saddened to learn of the death of long-time bowler, Morris Silver. Morris was a member of Flower City Lodge No. 910 and had participated in

the Masonic Gothic Bowling League for over thirty years. He was also a regular participant in the New York State Annual Masonic Bowling Tournament.

Mitch Wright earned the first ABC Award of the season. He rolled a 704 series with games of 248, 248, 208.

There were 11 600 plus series and 69 200 games rolled in the first eight weeks. 600 series were rolled by Rick Flanagan-683 (275) and 636 (245), Don Weis 635 (225, 221), and 621 (226). Brendan Daily-623 (218, 225) and 600, Dave Horth-620 (243), Jeremy Fromm-610 (233, 239) and 605 (248), and John Flynn-600.

Other notable scores included Rick Flanagan-248, 236 and 235, Scott Weis-284, John Flynn-234 and 230, Bill Rubert-224 and 223, Bud Crane-223, Jeremy Fromm-222, Umberto Carlone-221, Kevin Bird-220, and Chris Mawi-215.

On Friday, April 5th, the Grand Matron's Visit will be at a Luncheon at noon at the Party House on 677 Beahan Road. There will be a dinner at 6:30 p.m. and a meeting at 8:00 p.m., same location.

That's all for now. Next month will be a bit more newsy. By the way, Rt. Wthy. John received a pair of thermal gloves at his Reception, but there was no card to say who they were from. He would love to send a thank you card, but has no clue as to where to send it. Let him know who you are. Thanks.

Until next time, I wish you Peace.

what has been going on in Chapter throughout the year.

The District Christmas Party at the Downtown Masonic Temple will be held on December 9th. It is a catered meal for \$9.95. For reservations contact Rt. Wthy. Charlene Stankey by November 29th.

Installation of Officers will be December 18th at 7:30 p.m. Come hear about plans for 2002.

Looking ahead

There will be only one meeting in January as our first meeting would fall on New Year's Day.

Thought for the month

Christmas is coming...how do you prepare for it? These lines from G.L. Mokrzycka may help: "Now cast aside your feeling of frustration, Ignore the daily ups and downs of life, For this is now a time of jubilation, As Christmas bells ring out to quell the strife.

Begin inside your heart with love for others, Share your family circle's joy with friends, Reach outward to embrace the broken hearted, And where words have wounded - make amends."

May you all have a safe and joyous holiday season.

NOLATKA Chapter No. 320

Order of the Eastern Star
1st & 3rd Tuesdays
7:30 p.m.

Wthy. Mary Anne Sovocool
Matron
Rt. Wthy. William Baxter
Patron

Rt. Wthy. Carol Wynings
Secretary, 594-4692
20 South Main Street
Churchville, N. Y. 14428

By Sister Alice Hassett
Grand Chapter Session
October 10-14, 2001

Eight of our Nolotka members attended the 132nd Grand Chapter Sessions in Lake Placid, NY: Wthy. Mary Anne Sovocool, Matron; Rt. Wthy. William Baxter, Patron; I as Associate Matron; Rt. Wthy. John Lenzi, Associate Patron (although his main function there was as District Grand Lecturer); Rt. Wthy. Diane Maltese, Conductress; Rt. Wthy. Carol Wynings, Secretary; Rt. Wthy. Susan Huff, Ruth; and Rt. Wthy. Judy Lenzi, John's wife.

Rt. Wthy. Eva M. Idzi was installed as Grand Matron, and Rt. Wthy. Walter Ottens as Grand Patron.

Never having been to Lake Placid, and also never having before attended Sessions, I was a novice on all accounts. One of the most impressive aspects was seeing the line of our New York State Grand Representatives to the various States, to Provinces of Canada, and even to Scotland, as they approached the stage. Earlier, many of these Grand Representatives had introduced their counterparts, who were attending from various other States and Provinces.

Further, I was amazed at the number of out-of-state dignitaries who attended. Sixty-four guests from Sister Chapters included 17 from Montana, 15 from New Jersey, 4 from Oregon, etc.

Although I did not attend, there were three local tours/trips available at reasonable cost.

The weather was beautiful, hovering around 70°, and the leaves were at their peak. Our room opened onto Mirror Lake, about 30 feet away. We found restaurants with delicious meals for reasonable costs. It was a fun and memorable trip.

Madrigal Dinners

Don't forget to sign up to work at the Madrigal Dinners, November 30th and December 1st, December 7th and 8th. This is a major fundraiser for our Chapter, and the dinners are only held every two years.

Meetings

Our November 20th meeting featured Draping of the Altar.

December 4th will be the reading of reports: Secretary, Treasurer, Finance Committee, Historian, Sunshine and Trustees. Also the Election of Officers.

December 11th is the proposed date for our Christmas Dinner and Party honoring our Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron. Plans are still being made, so contact me at 889-4353 or Rt. Wthy. Carol Wynings to confirm the date, place, and time, if you are unable to attend the December 4th meeting.

Happy holidays, and to let you know a bit about what's ahead...

January 17th is Installation of Officers. All female officers and Star Points are to wear long white dresses. Men to wear tuxedos.

February 18th of Official Visit. New officers should be memorizing parts for the Initiation Ceremony (pages 91-139 in your Ritual).

Sunshine

We hear Wthy. Robert Crystal has had carpal tunnel surgery recently. Also, Wthy. Lee VanGrol is back to work part-time. Best wishes and speedy recoveries to both.

Committee

The Committee for December: Chairperson, Sister Beverly Bacher, 383-1489. Other members: Wthy. Mary Anne Sovocool, Rt. Wthy. William Baxter and Rt. Wthy. Sue Goosens.

Birthdays

December: Patricia Cork, Barbara Heeg, Carol Lang, and Kathleen Skelton.

Rochester Chapter No. 314

Order of the Eastern Star
Matron
Rt. Wthy. BARBARA SPANO
244-1703
Secretary
Rt. Wthy. BARBARA MERTENS
482-0994

First Saturday 8:00 P.M.
875 East Main Street
Rochester, N. Y. 14605

Something to be happy about
Christmas will soon be here, God bless us everyone.

Merry greetings to all

Lake Placid was beautiful. Sessions went well and we have new leaders. M. Wthy. Eva Idzi and M. Wthy. Walter Ottens will do a fine job and serve our State very well. Rt. Wthy. Neil, along with Rt. Wthy. Phyllis Spahn, have begun their year with enthusiasm and dedication. Our best to all.

Regards to District

On October 16th I spent a lovely day with Rt. Wthy. Diana and Wthy. Jim Woodruff. It was so nice recalling old memories

and hearing about their trips. They send their regards to the entire District.

Thanks to all

Monte Carlo is a thing of the past. We all worked very hard to get this together and my gratitude to all who helped. My thanks to Monroe Chapter for their support. Cecil, Pearl, Marcia, Ethel, Jean and Alida, I hope you truly enjoyed yourselves. To the members of Estelle Chapter, Cynthia Tarver, Judith Simms, Elizabeth Simms, Jackie Reman and Pat Greenlea, thank you so much for joining us in our endeavor. It was so nice to meet you all and I certainly hope you have a good time.

New York State OES Flags

Just a reminder. I have the OES New York State Flags and will gladly sell one to you. They are beautiful. The large flag is 28 x 42 and sells for \$25.00. The smaller flag is 12 x 16 and sells for \$15.00. They are something to be proud of. If you are interested, give me a call at 244-1503. The proceeds will go to Neil's Amigos.

The year is coming to a quick end. Your Associate Matron has asked me to write the newsletter article next year for her. All those in favor say "Aye", any opposed, the same.

Thanks to all for their support throughout the years. You have made my job easier.

Until next time. I wish you Peace.

In Memoriam

October

Ludlum, Thomas C.
Thomas was 87 years old when he passed away on October 12th at his home in Texas. He was a member of Scottish Rite and is survived by his wife, Isabelle, one son and 5 grandchildren.

Silver, Morris
Flower City Lodge No. 910, Rochester Consistory and Damascus Temple Shrine all lost a member with the passing of Morris on October 20th. Survivors include his wife, Dorothy, 2 daughters, 5 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

November

Campbell, Walter A.
Walter was called Home on November 2nd. He was a member of Webster Lodge No. 538 and leaves 2 children and 12 grandchildren.

Barker, James M.
A Past Master and Past Secretary of Etolian Lodge No. 479, Jim entered Eternal Rest on November 5th at the age of 62. He is survived by his wife, Susan, 2 children and 2 grandchildren.

Johns, Richard K.
The Great Architect claimed Richard on November 9th. He was a 40 year member of ERAC Lodge No. 163 and leaves his 2 children and 3 grandchildren.

The following death was reported to us with no specific information.

Shoup, Cletis
Cletis was a member of Rochester Consistory when he died on September 21st.

Order of the Eastern Star Highlights

MONROE DISTRICT
DDGM
Rt. Wthy. Barbara Bossert
716-225-0812
DGL
Rt. Wthy. John Lenzi
716-586-7492

Greetings from Rt. Wthy. Barbara, Rt. Wthy. John and their Companion Grand Officers.

A New Year has begun and we are all looking forward to an exciting and very busy year. We are awaiting the Reception of our Associate Grand Patron. I am sure it will be a fun filled evening.

Dates

All Line Officers Meetings are at 10:00 a.m.

January 5th and luncheon at 12 noon.

February 2nd.

The East-West Luncheon will be on Saturday, March 16th, the time and place to be announced.

Official Visits

Monday, February 18th, at Irondequoit Chapter at 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 19th, at Nolotka Chapter at 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 19th, Fairport Chapter at 8:00 p.m.

District dates

The School of Instruction is February 16th at 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Webster Chapter No. 171

Order of the Eastern Star
1st & 3rd Tuesdays
7:30 p.m.

Wthy. Linda Zahn,
Matron
381-4241
Wthy. Faythe Mattern Sec.
594-4449

30 Orchard Street
Webster, New York

December doings

December 4th is our Annual Meeting at 7:30 p.m. It will be preceded by Punch and Hors D'oeuvres at 6:00 p.m. and a Pot Luck Dinner at 6:30 p.m. I hope to see many of you there to start off our holiday season and hear

Monroe District New York State OES Flags

Please Print

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

| | | |
|--------|-----------|---------|
| LARGE | 28" x 42" | \$25.00 |
| GARDEN | 12" x 16" | 15.00 |

Shipping when applicable Small \$2.00 Large \$4.00

Checks payable to Monroe District Amigos OES

There will be a \$15.00 charge for Returned Checks.

Mail order form to: Barbara Spano, 92 Lansdale St., Rochester, NY 14620-1518 Telephone: (716) 244-1503

Masonic Activities Looking Ahead

To make additions, call the Service Bureau at 473-4351

2002

- Jan. 5 Road to the East - Part 2, Dansville
- Feb. 2 Road to the East - Part 3, Dansville
- Aug. 16-17 Grand Council, Rochester Marriott Thruway Henrietta, NY

Lodge Rentals Available

| |
|---|
| Etolian Lodge, Union St., Spencerport - Cap. 250 Tom Michielsen - 352-4831, 1st Floor Commercial Space also available. |
| Fairport Lodge, 87 North Main St., Fairport Tom Richonderfer 377-7782, Greg Ludwig-388-1241, David Taber-388-0629 |
| Fame Lodge, 4275 Culver Rd., Rochester John Rehback 338-7918 |
| Northfield Lodge, 17 Church St., Pittsford - Cap. 80 Dan Walker - 429-6572, Bill Spillane - 436-0264, John Dudley - 586-6426 |
| Webster Lodge, 30 Orchard St., Webster - Cap. 200 Frederic Cornell, Sr. 671-3102 |
| ERAC Lodge, 152 W. Commercial Street, East Rochester - Cap. 75, 1st Floor Dining Rm. and Rest Rooms - Richard Schmanke 477-8191 (w) or 271-4473 (h). |

The *Masonic Times* will list your Lodge in this space if you desire to offer your facility for rent. Call: 9 - Noon 473-4351.

No Copy Received at Press time, or Copy Late!

| | |
|--------------|-------|
| Clio | |
| Eagle Valley | 8x |
| Flower City | 3x |
| Oatka | |
| Olive Branch | |
| Triluminar | 5x |
| West Star | 4x |
| Oakland | 11/14 |
| Seneca | 11/14 |
| Valley/Simes | 11/15 |

*x= months missed.
The Deadline for Jan. Mon., Dec. 10, 2001



Sat., Dec. 1 - Sun., Dec. 9

Phantom of the Opera

Tues. - Thurs. 7:30 p.m.
Fris. - 8:00 p.m.
Sats. - 2:00, 8:00 p.m.
Suns. - 2:00, 7:30 p.m.

No Mon. Performances

The Masonic Service Bureau Loan Closet

The Loan Closet, supported by area Masons, makes available items for home care to the Community at no cost. Open 9:00 a.m. to noon, Monday thru Friday, items must be picked up and returned.

| Equip. Type | On loan |
|----------------|------------|
| Bathtub equip. | 134 |
| Bed (Acces.) | 3 |
| Canes | 116 |
| Commodos | 78 |
| Crutches | 229 |
| Walkers | 186 |
| Wheelchairs | 112 |
| Miscellaneous | 8 |
| Total | 866 |

It's About Freedom

One Individual's Opinion
By Don Brugger

The display of the flag, our anger with those who would belittle our country, our disgust for those who would weaken our Constitution with encumbrances to freedom, is not arrogant Patriotism. It is a strong nationalistic feeling that our Republican System of government; a government of the people, by the people, and for the people is indeed the best system of government yet employed. It is our Nation under God, a Nation whose sons and daughters, mothers and fathers have died to preserve. We are not about to let the politically correct demagogues denigrate or defame it. Freedom is our heritage, freedom is our legacy to the world. Too many of our citizens would capitulate and give up the best

government yet created in the cause of political correctness, misguided sympathy and self righteousness. The greatest thing we could do is to export our form of government to the world. Freedom, however, can not be sold or taught. It must first be desired and then won.

The problem is that those who would seize power and subjugate others for their own gain cannot allow the free exchange of ideas through the communications media. So, many times, the common people of the world are lied to about our country and our form of government. It is only after they actually come to our country that they learn for themselves what it is to live in free society.

Classified

Services

Steve's Upholstery & Chair Caning
Steve Maynard, 482-5847.

Plant One Florist,
Liz Kain, 292-5380.

Items

Wanted: Slate Pool Tables, any condition. Call: Angelo DiCataldo 738-9709.

Wanted: Toy Trains, (O and O27), accessories, any condition. Fair price based on Greenberg Book and condition. D. Brugger 473-4351, 458-6125.

Real Estate

For Sale: Double wide Home, 2 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath, 55+ Park, Home Central, FL, low lot rent, on canal with access to lake (space for dock included), \$19,000 or BO, Eldon White 716-924-1603.

For Sale: 2 Grave Sites in White Haven Memorial Prk, Masonic B Call Bob Sanford 716-292-6383.

Service Bureau Hawaiian Cruise & Tour

Sept. 24, 2002

Carnival Line's "Spirit"

19 Days - 12 aboard ship
4 Island Tour
Hawaii, Maui, Kauai, Oahu
plus
Seattle and Vancouver

Inside Cabin \$2500
Outside Cabin \$2800
per person
double occupancy

If you are interested in this cruise, please call the Service Bureau at 473-4351

Governments created by small groups for self-interest and advancement of power cannot stand, no matter how benevolent the leadership. Man is by nature free, he was created that way by God and that is his natural state. As soon as one individual acquires power over another through control of resources, property or wealth, the freedom of all of us is diminished. The exercise of freedom, tempered with respect, equity and brotherhood, is the only means by which we can hope to achieve freedom for the world. A free world cannot be achieved by giving up our freedom to accommodate those who would have us trade it for peace of mind. We must embrace it, defend it, preserve it, and extend it; even at the price of armed conflict. □

December Flower - Narcissus
December Gem - Turquoise

Big Calendar December 2001

Deadline for the *Masonic Times*

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| <p>2001 NOVEMBER 2001</p> <p>4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30</p> | <p>2002 JANUARY 2002</p> <p>6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31</p> | <p>Happy Holidays from the Times Staff Barb Don Jean Alat</p> | | | | <p>OES - Rochester Chapter 1</p> <p>Commandery Orders Zone 10, 11, 12, DTT, Rochester</p> |
| <p>2</p> <p>West Star - Varysburg</p> <p>L.S.O.M.E. 3rd Floor DTT, Rochester</p> <p>OES - Etolian, Irondequoit, Germania, LeRoy</p> <p>Shrine Lunch Club</p> | <p>3</p> <p>OES - Fairport, Monroe, Perry, Webster</p> | <p>4</p> <p>Charlotte/Corinthian Clio - Hilton Craftsman/Robertson Oakland - Castile Warsaw</p> <p>OES - Henrietta</p> | <p>5</p> <p>Attica Olive Branch - LeRoy Livonia</p> <p>Damascus Shrine</p> <p>OES - Fairport, Monroe, Perry, Webster</p> | <p>6</p> <p>Constellation - Perry Hesperus - Bergen Northfield - Pittsford Webster</p> | <p>7</p> <p>Webster Lodge Spaghetti Dinner 5-7 p.m. 30 Orchard St. Webster Adults - \$6, Child-\$3</p> | <p>8</p> |
| <p>9</p> <p>Pancake Breakfast Attica Lodge 8 a.m. - 11 a.m.</p> <p>O.E.S. District Christmas Party, DTT</p> | <p>10</p> <p>ERAC - E. Rochester Etolian - Spencerport, 1* Fairport Mt. Vernon - Java Village Union Star - Honeoye Falls Wakan/Hubbard - Penfield</p> <p>OES - Charlotte, Mary Jane Holmes Shrine Lunch Club</p> <p>1st Day of Hanukkah</p> | <p>11</p> <p>Batavia Craftsman/Robertson - F Fame - Irondequoit Monroe - Brockport Seneca - Webster Valley/Simes</p> <p>RAM - 3X3, Dansville, Wyoming</p> <p>OES - Leah</p> | <p>12</p> <p>Churchville Oatka - Scottsville Triluminar - Pike</p> <p>Service Bureau Luncheon</p> <p>Lilac City Cedarettes Holiday Party</p> <p>OES - Batavia, Corinthian/ Fellowship</p> | <p>13</p> <p>Eagle Valley - Bliss Flower City - Fairport</p> <p>Lalla Rookh Caldron</p> <p>RAM - Hiram</p> | <p>14</p> <p>Tall Cedars of Lebanon Holiday Party</p> | <p>15</p> |
| <p>16</p> <p>All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast Mt. Vernon Lodge Java Village 7 a.m. - 10 a.m. \$5 per person</p> | <p>17</p> <p>KT - Cyrene/Monroe Christmas Toast</p> <p>OES - Etolian, Irondequoit, Germania, LeRoy</p> <p>Shrine Lunch Club</p> | <p>18</p> <p>Charlotte/Corinthian Clio - Hilton Craftsman/Robertson Germania Oakland - Castile Valley/Simes Warsaw</p> <p>OES - Fairport, Nolatka, Perry</p> | <p>19</p> <p>Attica Olive Branch - LeRoy Livonia</p> <p>Lalla Rookh Grotto</p> <p>RSM - Doric, S.M.</p> | <p>20</p> <p>Constellation - Perry Hesperus - Bergen Northfield - Pittsford Webster</p> <p>Valley of Rochester Scottish Rite Holiday Party</p> <p>RAM - Western Star, Wyoming</p> | <p>21</p> <p>First Day of Winter</p> | <p>22</p> |
| <p>23/30</p> <p>Don't forget our Veterans & Service Personnel this Holiday Season</p> | <p>24/31</p> | <p>25</p> <p>Merry Christmas</p> | <p>26</p> | <p>27</p> | <p>28</p> | <p>29</p> |