



Masonic Times

Monroe &
Genesee/Wyoming
Districts

Serving the Masonic Community Since 1963

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By R. W. Donald Darrohn III
We have much to be proud of! Have you looked at your Grand Lodge Calendar? You know, the one you received in late November. If you didn't take the time to glance at it, please find it and open it up to February. Grand Lodge has featured us for their February picture. The photograph is a full page of the Red Hearts individuals completed this year at a local mall. The Hearts were hung up after someone at the mall made a contribution for the Ronald McDonald House.

The plans have been made for us to participate again at local malls February 3rd through the 14th, 2001. The malls we are expecting to set up our Have-a-Heart booths in are: Eastview, Irondequoit, Greece Ridge, and Marketplace. We need the support of all the local Lodges, Chapters, and Concordant Bodies in attending one of the booths for at least one day. In addition, many of our Brethren in surrounding counties have been asked to assist us by signing up for a day at one of these malls. If you have not heard about your organization's signing up for a date, please inquire of your Presiding Officer.

As you read this article, we will be concluding the Holiday Season. I wonder what kind of a Holiday Season the families and individuals had who were at the Ronald McDonald House? I would like to believe that perhaps it was just a little bit better because of what we've done and what we will do! Thank you!

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A Christmas Story

Pa never had much compassion for the lazy or those who squandered their means and then never had enough for the necessities. But for those who were genuinely in need, his heart was as big as all outdoors. It was from him that I learned the greatest joy in life comes from giving, not from receiving.

It was Christmas Eve 1881. I was fifteen years old and feeling like the world had caved in on me because there just hadn't been enough money to buy me the rifle that I'd wanted so bad that year for Christmas. We did the chores early that night for some reason. I just figured Pa wanted a little extra time so we could read in the Bible. So after supper was over I took my boots off and stretched out in front of the fireplace and waited for Pa to get down the old Bible. I was still feeling sorry for myself and, to be honest, I wasn't in much of a mood to read scriptures.

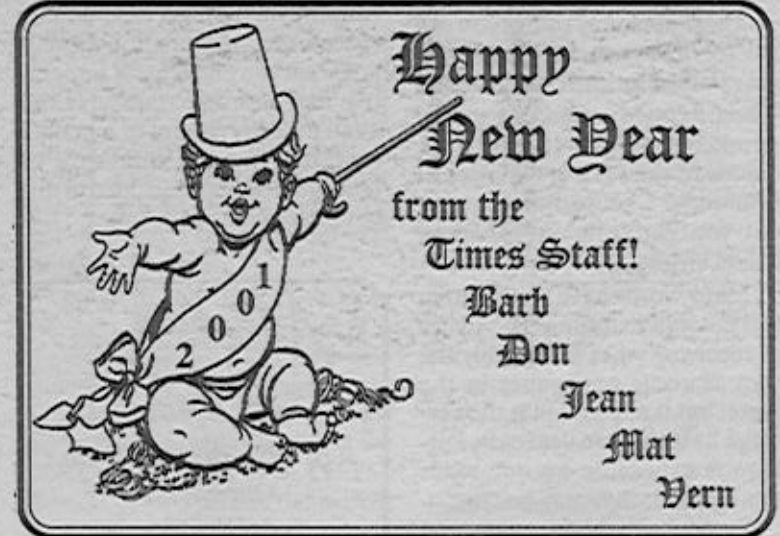
But Pa didn't get the Bible; instead he bundled up and went outside. I couldn't figure it out because we had already done all the chores. I didn't worry about it long though; I was too busy wallowing in self-pity. Soon Pa came back in. It was a cold clear night out and there was ice in his beard. "Come on, Matt," he said. "Bundle up good, it's cold out tonight." I was really upset then. Not only wasn't I getting the rifle for Christmas, now Pa was dragging me out in the cold, and for no earthly reason that I could see. We'd already done all the chores, and I couldn't think of anything else that needed doing, especially not on a night like this. But I knew Pa was not very patient at one dragging one's feet when he'd

told them to do something, so I got up and put my boots back on and got my cap, coat, and mittens.

Ma gave me a mysterious smile as I opened the door to leave the house. Something was up, but I didn't know what. Outside, I became even more dismayed. There in front of the house was the work team, already hitched to the big sled. Whatever it was we were going to do wasn't going to be a short, quick little job. I could tell. We never hitched up the big sled unless we were going to haul a big load. Pa was already up on the seat, reins in hand. I reluctantly climbed up beside him. The cold was already biting at me. I wasn't happy. When I was on, Pa pulled the sled around the house and stopped in front of the woodshed. He got off and I followed. "I think we'll put on the high sideboards," he said. "Here, help me."

The high sideboards! It had been a bigger job than I wanted to do with just the low sideboards on, but whatever it was we were going to do would be a lot bigger with the high sideboards on. When we had exchanged the sideboards, Pa went into the woodshed and came out with an armload of wood---the wood I'd spent all Summer hauling down from the mountain, and then all Fall sawing into blocks and splitting. What was he going to do? Finally I said something. "Pa," I asked, "what are you doing?" "You been by Widow Jensen's lately?" he asked. The Widow Jensen lived about two miles down the road. Her husband had died a year or so before and left her with three children, the oldest being eight.

Sure, I'd been by, but so what? "Yeah," I said, "why?" "I rode by just today," Pa said. "Little Jakey was out digging around in the



woodpile trying to find a few chips. They're out of wood, Matt." That was all he said and then he turned and went back into the woodshed for another armload of wood. I followed him. We loaded the sled so high that I began to wonder if the horses would be able to pull it.

Finally, Pa called a halt to our loading, then we went to the smoke house and Pa took down a big ham and a side of bacon. He handed them to me and told me to put them in the sled and wait. When he returned he was carrying a sack of flour over his right shoulder and a smaller sack of something in his left hand. "What's in the little sack?", I asked. "Shoes. They're out of shoes. Little Jakey just had gunnysacks wrapped around his feet when he was out in the woodpile this morning. I got the children a little candy, too. It just wouldn't be Christmas without a little candy."

We rode the two miles to Widow Jensen's pretty much in silence. I tried to think through what Pa was doing. We didn't have much by worldly standards. Of course, we did have a big woodpile, though most of what was left now was still in the form of logs that I would have to saw into blocks and split before we could use it. We also had meat and flour, so we could spare that, but I knew we didn't have any money, so why was Pa buying them shoes and candy? Really, why was he doing any of this? Widow Jensen had closer neighbors than us. It shouldn't have been our concern.

We came in from the blind side of the Jensen house and unloaded the wood as quietly as

Continued on page 18

E-mail

By Don Brugger

There is a current belief that e-mail is the salvation of the Fraternity; not so. Although e-mail is a useful tool in communications it is, as the name implies, mail. The problem with mail is it is a detached, impersonal communication and subject to all kinds of human idiosyncrasies.

E-mail should be used if available, but it is not some magical solution to our existing communications problems. There are some who do not have the means to receive it. There are some who will never have that capability. There are some who don't desire to have that capability.

The most obvious shortcoming of e-mail is access. Just because you receive visual confirmation of transfer, doesn't mean the person will receive the message, or if received, read it or retain the message. Even written reminders can get lost.

All is not lost

The only sure way to communicate and be sure that the communication is consciously received is to communicate one on one. Either by personal contact or by telephone; that precludes leaving messages, they are just as unreliable as e-mail. This method should be followed up with a repeat call, if the elapsed time is protracted. To cover all possibilities, the reminder, "be sure to put it on your calendar," wouldn't hurt.

All communications should be sent to the *Masonic Times* office, not the home of the Editor or any other staff person.

**Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons
of the State of New York**

**Masonic Veterans Recognition Program
Saturday, January 13, 2001**

**1:30 p.m. Cathedral Hall
Reception to follow in 3rd Floor Dining Room**

**Downtown Temple
875 Main Street East
Rochester, NY**

Reservations to your Lodge Master for you and guests.

Masons Participate in Veterans Day Observance



Members of the Shrine Legion of Honor, Grotto Legion of Honor and Masonic War Veterans, with spouses who were present, at the Ceremonies on November 11th. (Photo Ken Hutchinson)

Periodical postage PAID at Rochester, New York

Dated Material

Editor's Corner

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

There are many things you can get for less than the price of a year's subscription to the Masonic Times: a cup of coffee, one sock, a pound of Bologna, 16 cigarettes, 2 rides on the RTS or 8 ounces of Limburger Cheese, but, the benefit you get from the Masonic Times: priceless!

Many words have appeared in this column extolling the virtues of receiving what is arguably the best Masonic newspaper in the State, but it appears that the verbiage has fallen on deaf ears. Perhaps it is because no one reads this column; that may be true.

Some have been enamored with the bottom line and choose to ignore the news, wisdom and happiness to be gleaned from this superlative journal. Frugality is a useful and commendable virtue, however, if we are to rescue our beloved Craft from ultimate obscurity, we need more and better communication. After all, we do pride ourselves with making a positive impact on society, an effect that will not be made if we fold up our tents and fade into oblivion.

I do not believe that a monthly publication, even the Masonic Times, should be the only means of communicating with our membership. There should be telephone, mail, e-mail and personal contact between Brothers to keep all members informed. However, no Lodge can keep its members attuned to the Craft in general without some District-wide vehicle for communication. Our survival depends on an informed, educated membership. Isolation breeds defeatism, frustration and dissatisfaction.

So, when assessing your budget for the coming year, make sure you include that small price of keeping your individual members in contact with the greater Masonic community. I would offer that advice given to our founding fathers by Brother Ben Franklin, "If we do not hang together, we will most assuredly hang separately."

Suggestions

The Masonic Times, published 10 months of the year, average of 20 pages, 40,000 words, set, edited, composed, and published in about 10 days, respectfully requests certain guidelines to its

authors. These are compiled on one sheet and sent to prospective authors each year. The purpose of these guidelines is to help the staff in getting the paper out in a timely fashion. Simply stated, these requests include: identification of the author and organization, typed-mixed case-double spaced text, termination symbol (-30-) at the end (this is imperative for electronic transfers) and a call to verify receipt of e-mailed or faxed copy. A duplicate of these guidelines is included in this issue. See front page index.

Masonic Service Bureau of Rochester Inc. Chairman-CEO: F. Jay McCullough, Vice-Chairman: Angelo DiCataldo, Secretary: Barbara Goodrich, Treasurer: Robert C. Pettit, President-COO: Vernon L. Goodrich

Assisting others

While we often think about giving and those who are in need of help, at the Service Bureau, that is a concern throughout the year. It seems that the sick are in constant need of medical equipment. Often, people are homeless and hungry. Sometimes even members of our Masonic family need short term assistance.

Masonic philosophy is not seasonal. Faith, hope and charity are in the forefront of our Masonic ideology. Stand up and be proud to be a member of the Masonic family; be proud of our heritage; be proud of our work; be proud to serve the community.

While it is the internal, not the external, qualifications that recommend a man to Masonry, it is the external appearance that others see and believe. Therefore, let us all wear our heart on our sleeve. Let our good works demonstrate to the community how much Masons love their fellow man. Let your light so shine!

On yonder book, that oath I took, And I will break it never; I'll stand by this and this, and that, Forever and forever. (Part of the "Canadian Charge", attributed to Rob Morris)

Masonic War Veterans New York James A. Hard/Wayne Charter Post No. 12 Dean Marsaw, Commander 865-0046 Vance R. Collom, Jr., Adjutant 223-3113

Attention

Our Color Guard is available for ceremonies. Well, here it is the start of the year 2001-wow! What a fast year and I am sure everyone could not wait for the year 2000 to get here for a big celebration, and now it is history.

Hot Numbers

Grand Lodge 1-800-3-MASON-4, (362-7664) Grand Master Carl J. Smith (h)689-7522, (o) 855-7604 Grand Marshal Edward R. Trosin (h) 716-693-6812 Deputy Grand Master Carl J. Fitje (h)516-791-9071, (o) 914-345-6542 Grand Secretary Gary A. Henningsen 800-362-7664, FX: 212-633-2639 Junior Grand Warden Richard Friedman (h) 377-6175, (o) 271-2775 FX: 271-8916 e-mail: richddgm@aol.com DDGM Genesee/Wyoming Raymond G. Barber (h) 716-457-3079 DDGM Monroe William Lindsay (h) 716-621-3573 blindsay@servtech.com Staff Officers GDC Clifford Short (h)716-225-0464, (o)588-4238 short4us@aol.com GSTWD James De Lorenzo (h) 458-8856, (o) 453-3933 GDC Arthur Drew 716-492-4860 Umbrella Coordinators Membership Development Bruce D. Chilton, Monroe, (h) 716-342-0562 David J. Beardsley, Genesee/Wyoming, (h) 716-493-2426 Membership Retention Joseph Privitera, Monroe, (h) 716-392-5583

Umbrellas Cont.

Norman Steinbaugh, G/W, (h) 716-591-2888 Public Involmt. and Awareness James Weick, Monroe (h) 924-1666, (o) 258-5335 John A. Specht, G/W, (h) 716-548-2694 Fellowship and Family Involmt Earl C. Steffen, Grnd. Ldg. (h) 392-8224 Michael Batz, Monroe (h) 820-0919 Glenn L. Cramer, G/W, (h) 716-535-7507 Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention: Robert D. Mix, Vice Chr., W. Region, (h) 716-798-0335 Genesee/Wyoming Merle L. Robinson 343-5159 Brotherhood Fund, Monroe Phillip Hurwitz (h) 581-1831, (o) 663-5820 Brotherhood Fund, G/W Bernard Whaley (h) 716-457-9905 Grand Lecturer Edward G. Gilbert (h) 212-924-0764 AGL - Monroe R. Keith Stambach (h) 716-865-7416 John E. Zabel (h) 716-223-3228 AGL - Genesee/Wyoming Robert W. Strang (h) 716-591-288 Regional AGL Alan Ramsay (h) 716-458-2335 Scottish Rite 32° Children's Learning Center 716-442-7290 Masonic News Network 37 Oliver St. Lockport, NY, 14094-4615, FX: 716-434-4946

I hope you all got your wish list filled for the holidays. I thank everyone who took part in the December 7th Memorial Ceremony, and also hope you all had a good time at our Ladies Night Christmas Party.

Reminder

I want to remind you that there will not be a meeting in January, however, the Color Guard will be presenting Colors for the incoming Monarch, Ken Hutchinson, on January 20th.

The Calling Tree will be in touch with more details and I urge as many who can, to come and support Brother Ken. It is an Open Meeting, and ladies are invited.

Dates

February 22nd will be our next meeting and Election of Officers, with a Chicken and Biscuit Dinner. The Calling Tree will be in touch for reservations.

At the April 26th meeting there will be Beef Bar-B-Que, with all the trimmings.

We have Dine-a-Mate Books. Remember to check your smoke detectors, they save precious lives.

Tradition

By Don Brugger Whatever happened to the traditional invitation from the outgoing JW to the incoming JW, "Come to the next Masters and Wardens meeting, dinner's on me" ?

Whatever happened to, the hospitality house for the individual groups, Masters, Senior Wardens and Junior Wardens, after the M & W meetings?

Whatever happened to the socializing and sense of family and community that existed among leaders of the Craft?

Whatever happened to commitment to seeing that the job got

done right? Perhaps we have lost the sense of what doing it right means. Perhaps we don't know what right really is. I suspect that this is the case. Another slip in communications? A failure to communicate what is expected?

Freemasonry is perpetuated by tradition and it is up to the leadership to carry on that tradition. Not all traditions are good, however, not all traditions are automatically bad just because they are old. Conversely all change is not good, that's a given. Change is not always the solution. Perhaps resuscitating old traditions like those mentioned is the solution. The tenets of the Fraternity have not changed, it is our approach to them that has changed.

I know that most will say that "times have changed," but human nature has not. If someone is to buy into a certain philosophy, they must know what that philosophy entails, what its origin and history is and why it is good or bad.

I think that most members of the Fraternity sense that it is good and that it is worthwhile. What many have to decide is, is it worth the effort? If it is, then expend the effort to perpetuate it. The Fraternity of Freemasonry is not just an organization, it is a philosophy, a way of life. It is a code of morals and behavior that have, over the centuries, created the oldest Fraternity on the planet.

What it is

The Fraternity is not entertainment that is enjoyed for the moment or ego that is swelled by title and position. It is not an organization just to be maintained or one whose leadership can "just make do" or "just get by" until replaced. It is an organization that believes in the "Brotherhood of man under the Fatherhood of God;" "making good men

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better men" and "spreading the cement of Brotherly love and affection...to men of every creed and theology." It is an organization made up of men who have "never deemed it derogatory to their demeanor to level themselves with the Fraternity, support its institutions and patronize its assemblies."

It has been an organization made up of men who have, in the past, had a strong sense of duty to extend it. For all these reasons it deserves our attention, your care and preservation.

What to do

Then what do we do to fulfill our obligation as members in this "greatest Fraternity created by the mind of man?" Let's not leave this duty to a few. If you have taken on the mantle of leadership, honor it. If you are a member, support it. If you have at all been affected by its precepts, preserve it. If you believe in its efficacy, strive to extend it. Let us all be committed to seeing to it that Freemasonry does not die in inattention, indifference, and apathy in our lifetime.


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.

Table with 2 columns: Equip. Type and On loan. Rows include Bathtub equip. (115), Bed (Acces.) (2), Canes (107), Commodes (78), Crutches (219), Walkers (173), Wheelchairs (114), Miscellaneous (8), Total (816).

Are You Moving? Print your NEW address below (incl. seasonal chgs.) Name, Address, City, State, ZIP, Phone, Masonic Times 875 Main Street East Rochester, N. Y. 14605-2789

Your Legal Rights FYI
 By Bro. Phillip Hurwitz, Esq.



Power of Attorney

Chances are one person keeps the books in your family. That person pays the bills, balances the checkbook, and knows where the insurance policy is located. Let's say the family bookkeeper becomes incapacitated, or has to go out of town for an extended period of time. Now what?

Ideally, each spouse should be cross-trained, that is each should know what bills get paid, when they get paid, and where the important papers are located.

But like every family, certain tasks get adopted because one spouse is convinced they can do it better.

While I hope it never happens to you, there is the possibility that you could become incapacitated due to illness. Even if your checking account and house are jointly held with your spouse, there are situations where your signature is needed. There could be a situation where you can't be present to sign necessary documents, for reasons other than illness, but would have no problem having your spouse sign in your place. That's where a Power of Attorney comes in handy.

Let's say you become incapacitated due to a serious accident, and will require surgery. Your car and your stock certificates need to be sold in order to raise cash. Unless your spouse has a Power of Attorney, she cannot legally sign your name on the title documents necessary for the sale of either the car or the stocks. Who can sign the back of your paycheck during your disability? Without a Power of Attorney, your spouse cannot legally endorse your name on the back of the check.

A Power of Attorney is a document that designates an individual to act on your behalf. They become your alter ego, and can sign documents on your behalf.

A Power of Attorney requires a principal and an agent. The principal is the person in need of someone to sign documents on their behalf. The agent is just that person, and when empowered, can act on her principal's behalf.

The powers of the agent can be as broad or as restrictive as the principal deems necessary. For example, an agent can be authorized to transact business on the principal's behalf, pursue lawsuits, etc. Alternatively, the agent's powers can be limited to a specific task, such as the authority to sell the house only.

You can have more than one agent, and require that each agent act jointly.

A Power of Attorney can take effect immediately upon signing the instrument, or can take effect at a future time, and only upon a specified event, such as illness. The authority of an agent to act on behalf of her principal usually terminates upon the incapacity of the principal. To get around that roadblock, make the Power of Attorney durable. By that I mean you can create a Power of Attorney that will continue in full force and effect even if the principal is incapacitated.

Of course, death of the principal terminates the authority of the agent to act on the principal's

behalf. A Will is required to carry out the wishes of the decedent.

While a Power of Attorney can be convenient, it can be used to defraud the very person it was created to help. An agent does not have the right to use her principal's assets for her own purposes. To do so, is a breach of the agent's fiduciary duty to her principal. Such actions can result in civil or criminal liability. Of course, that is cold comfort if your agent has cleaned out your bank account and has headed into the unknown.

As principal (and assuming you're conscious of what's going on), you can revoke your agent's authority to act on your behalf at any time. The critical task, if the agent's authority is to be revoked, is for the principal to notify those persons or institutions that the agent has done business with on your behalf. Failure to do so can result in the principal's being held liable for his agent's actions. □

Masonic Times Hints to authors

(This is meant to be a guide to those writing for publication. Please cut this out and save for future reference. Copies may be obtained from the Service Bureau Office.)

Do put the name of your Lodge, Chapter, Club, Committee, District, Assemblage, Temple, etc., at the beginning of the first page of your copy. Also include a telephone number where the author can be reached.

Do double space your copy and leave at least a 1" margin on each side (FAX, typed, or printed). Please use a 10 point font or larger for easy readability. If hand written, please make it legible. Please use mixed case; do not capitalize all characters; this only confounds accuracy. If you want to highlight words, use underlining, parentheses or bolding.

Do write head lines or subheads you would like.

Do make every effort to make your copy grammatically correct, properly spelled and punctuated, particularly names, titles and places. Please proof-read your copy at least twice, then have someone else read it!

Do think ahead. News is that which is happening or will happen. If you are reporting on past events, which will inform Brothers who were not able to attend meetings or events, be succinct.

Do expect us to edit for length, to avert potential libelous or actionable situations or to improve readability. The *Masonic Times*, like the Lodge, is not a forum for individual piques or grudges. If you use copy from other sources, get permission and cite sources.

Do start your article with the most important data. Who, What, When, Where.

Do use an outline, then flesh it out. Spend more time on the outline. It will make your article more inclusive and easier to write.

Do submit feature material separate from Lodge or group data. Your group's involvement with Community affairs, for example, will be given special treatment, space permitting.

Do number your pages, if more than 1 standard 8 1/2 by 11 sheet, which is the size paper that should always be used.

Do put "-30-" at the end of the material to confirm "that's all". This is particularly important when faxing your article. A successful transmission report on your end doesn't necessarily mean

we got it. Always follow up your FAX with a call. Leave a message if we are not in the Office.

Don't mention door prizes, raffles or gambling in any form, this may violate postal regulations.

Don't submit summons letters, this is not agreeable to Grand Lodge Constitutions.

Don't mention candidates names, this is a violation of Masonic Law. After raising, then welcome them by name in your column.

Don't write a narrative (chronological occurrences), just present the important facts. Refrain from using jargon that might confuse the reader.

Don't expect your material to be printed if it is received late. The Deadline is the 8th to 12th day of the month preceding the month of issue. Watch the *Times* for any change.

Don't expect all material to be printed if it exceeds 2-8 1/2 x 11, double spaced, typed sheets.

Don't include your trestleboard for the year. As a matter of policy, we do not print Trestleboards. If you are sponsoring a future event which has District-wide significance, we will include it in the Looking Ahead Section.

Don't write on the face or back of photographs submitted for publication. Use a separate piece of paper for names, titles and places. "Post-Its" work well. Clear, sharp, well lighted photos make the best news pictures. Try to pose subjects close together. This will allow subjects to be made more recognizable. Also try to pose the subjects with no distractions in the background or foreground (shining bald heads or centerpieces). If you have many presentations for the same award, take a group picture for publication. Individual pictures to be given to the individual recipients is a nice touch, if possible. □

Money Tips
 By Dave Larson

Now that you're trying to organize your 1099s and figure out your capital gains-or losses-it's high time to get rid of those stock, mutual fund and bond certificates you've been collecting in your safe deposit box or freezer. (Yes, I said freezer, because some people think it's the safest place for their certificates in the event of a fire. It amazes me how far some folks will go to "protect" those pretty pieces of paper worth thousands of dollars.)

The best and most secure place for these pieces of paper is a brokerage account with a reputable, nationally known brokerage account. It can be a discount firm like Charles Schwab or a full service firm like A.G. Edwards, but either way, you will receive valuable accounting, reporting and protective services for little or no cost.

In this day and age there is no need to physically take possession of any certificate. In fact, some companies don't have physical certificates at all, and instead issue "book entry" shares with their stock transfer agent keeping track of the number of shares in each shareholder's account.

A central asset account at a brokerage firm is similar to a bank account. Instead of depositing checks and cash, you deposit certificates. The account is protected by SIPC (Security Insurance Protection Corporation), a government backed entity simi-

lar to FDIC, up to \$500,000, and most firms have private insurance to protect \$25 or \$50 million. The brokerage firm will send you monthly or quarterly statements, credit your dividends and interest directly to a cash or money market account on the payable date, split your share or accept the spin-offs or tracking stocks issued, tender shares in a take over and provide you with a consolidated tax reporting form each January that your accountant will love. If you're still in a giving mood, the broker can easily handle any transfer of shares you request.

Simplifying and consolidating your financial life by depositing your stock and bond certificates in a brokerage account will be one of the best things you could do to start the new year right. You will be amazed at the time and aggravation you will save. You may even have more time to devote to your favorite hobbies or Masonic charities. □

Rochester Forest
 No. 133
 Tall Cedars
 of Lebanon
 4th Wednesday - 7:30 p.m.
 1822 Penfield Road
 Penfield, New York 14526
 Grand Tall Cedar
 Ted Snyder

 Donald C. Bell, scribe

The Christmas Party was a very pleasant evening at the Spring House. Since the Restaurant has been sold, it was nice to say goodbye to a great eating establishment. We are all sorry to see it go because they have done such a good job over the years providing food and drink. The 9th was no exception, as everyone had a delicious dinner. We also enjoyed the company of three widows. I thank my wife, Marion, for her help and Paul Kober for the reservations and financial details.

By the time you read this a new slate of officers will have been elected. Past Grand Tall, John Zabel, cooked a delicious meal for us on the December 20th meeting. Elections were held and the results will be announced in the next *Times* or by trestleboard, whichever gets out first.

Thanks

I take this opportunity to express my thanks for letting me serve as Grand Tall Cedar this past year. Unfortunately, I was away during the first few months, but you Brothers kept things going in my absence. My thanks to all who pitched in and helped.

We still need to get new members to keep the Forest going. Please talk to a fellow Mason about joining our ranks for a good time and experience.

We also support a good cause, Muscular Dystrophy Research.

May you all enjoy a prosperous and happy New Year.

Cedarettes

By Jean Brugger

The Christmas Party at the Renaissance was great-thank you, Hilde for the arrangements!

We will have our first meeting in April. Our Call Girls will be in touch.

Happy New Year to all! □

Little known Facts

- * The National Anthem of Greece has 158 verses. No one in Greece has memorized all 158.
- * There are 293 ways to make change for a dollar.
- * The average secretary's left hand does 56% of the typing.
- * There are more chickens than people in the world.
- * Two-thirds of the world's egg plant is grown in New Jersey.
- * The longest one-syllable word in the English Language is "screched."
- * On the Canadian two dollar bill, the flag flying over the Parliament Building is an American flag.
- * All the clocks in the movie, "Pulp Fiction" are stuck at 4:20.
- * No word in the English Language rhymes with month, orange, silver or purple.
- * "Dreamt" is the only word in the English Language that ends in "mt."
- * All 50 states are listed across the top of the Lincoln Memorial on back of the \$5 bill.
- * Maine is the only state whose name is one syllable
- * There are only four words in the English Language that end in "dous": tremendous, horrendous, stupendous, and hazardous.
- * Tigers have striped skin, not just striped fur.
- * A dragon fly has a life span of 24 hours.
- * A dime has 118 ridges around its edge.
- * The characters Bert and Ernie on Sesame Street are named after Bert the cop and Ernie the cab driver in Frank Capra's "It's a Wonderful Life."
- * In England, the Speaker of the House is not allowed to speak.
- * The average person falls asleep in seven minutes.
- * There are 336 dimples on a regulation golf ball.
- * Typewriter is the only word you can type on the top of your keyboard.
- * Winston Churchill was born in the ladies' room during a dance.
- * Los Angeles' full name is "El Pueblo de Nuestra Senora la Reina de los Angeles de Porciuncula." And can be abbreviated to 3.63% of its size, "L.A."
- * A cat has 32 muscles in each ear. □

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District Deputy Grand Master Monroe



R.W. William Lindsay
621-3573
dclmonroe

In a previous column I talked at length about "leadership" and spoke to its importance in our Masonic life. I also said that "leadership" had common qualities, but did not necessarily always have a common public identity. In my travels I have seen many examples throughout the District and I would like to share some of those now, and pick up on others, in later columns: I would direct your attention to Larry Bright who put on a near perfect Degree, and set an example for the others by his own commitment to sharing quality Ritual. You could learn how to open and run an effective meeting by observing Doug Higgins at Flower City. Tom Goodrich is the man you turn to to observe grace under pressure. Steve Lysenko presents the Bible and Aprons in a powerful way, allowing candidates to hear the words and to be deeply impressed. Gary Sanford exudes a supportive energy for good projects that gets everyone moving in the right direction. Gordon Smith is everywhere that Masonic Light is being dispensed, acquiring the tools that make leaders effective and successful.

My last example would be Moe Schirano. Anyone who is familiar with Western movies and TV series remembers the guy who clamped his hat down, chomped on his cigar, grabbed the reins, said, "We're gonna make a run for it...", said, "Giddyup" to an eight horse hitch and went flying across the desert, can appreciate Moe in his capacity as leader of M&W's. That group is high energy, and providing leadership is no easy task. Moe has a wonderful ability to keep refocusing discussions, keeping his equanimity, and moving forward. Moe has also built an e-mail communication network that very much supports the groups efforts.

The leadership qualities these Brothers have in common seem to be: ability to communicate, commitment to quality, keeping focused on the task at hand, maintaining an emotional balance.

Who are we?

I was recently asked by a young Brother, "Just exactly how are Freemasons unique from all other groups?" I'm not sure how I answered at the time, I am sure that I have given the question the thought it deserves, since, while I will propose an answer below, I cannot with confidence say that it is "my final answer". I bring it up here simply because I believe that every Brother must frame a response for himself that he might communicate to a potential Brother, why it would be worthwhile to become a member of the Craft.

In our thinking, we must first clear away all the things that Masons do publicly—we are not the oldest version of the United Way, nor are we a service club. We are not a religion, nor a substitute for religion. We are not a mutual aid society, nor are we an exclusionary club. We are not a political group with secret designs to shape public policy. Nor are we an esoteric group struggling to subdue the Natural Order. Behavioral elements of the above mentioned groups have long been honorably associated with our Craft, and to its public benefit. Then, "Who are we?"

I believe that we are a Brotherhood of men committed to each other in preserving the dignity, perfectibility and sovereignty of individual human beings. We forget that these ideals only arrived late in human history—Middle Ages to be exact. Before that, all of us would have been born into a caste system from which there was no escape. We can dream that we would have been born at the top of the caste heap, but in all likelihood, most of us would have lived our lives subject to the pleasure of others, downtrodden in substance and form, frequently starved, poorly clothed, wretchedly housed, emotionally battered, and spiritually abused; bereft of a single shred of humanity. The power resided at the top, and they weren't about to change anything—they were warm and well fed.

There had been revolts before in history, but most had been a case of one group displacing another at the top of the heap and continuing the social/political policies of the defeated. A recent example in our own time was the case of Cambodia and the Pol Pot revolution, poverty and social uncertainty replaced by brutality and genocide.

The Enlightenment introduced the important notion that the individual's worth should be the center of the social and political order. Whatever had been Freemasonry's role before then, it internalized that important ideal to itself and made it the centerpiece of its being. A role it has today.

Because the history of the World since then, and the history of American life right up to today, has been an ongoing struggle between the forces of individual rights versus the rights of institutions, a struggle symbolized by the two familiar pillars of strength and establishment. And that is where we Masons stand, between the Pillars, negotiating between the contending forces of the (s) way of the world. Supporting each other through Brotherhood. And that's who we are.

As good men getting better, we are getting better at understanding how the world around us is a reflection of these contending and

sympiotic forces, and how we can effectively balance or blunt excessive institutional intrusion with the rights of human dignity. This concept is woven throughout our Ritual.

This is a deep and complex answer to the questioner who would ask why he should become a Freemason. The answer above would probably make no sense at all to the uninitiated. The sensible Brother should use the information above to shape an answer to the level of understanding of the questioner. Each of us has to summon the skills we once used when the child asked us those all important life questions.

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

We hope you all enjoyed a safe and happy Holiday Season.

Obligations or enjoyable events

Is there a difference between these two? Sometimes yes, sometimes no. Your Monroe District Leadership Team followed a busy October (11 obligations) with an even busier November; five Official Visits, two 1st Degrees, one 3rd Degree, one Leadership Team meeting, one LSOME session, and one School of Ritual. Though we consider them obligations, we also assure you that we are truly enjoying every minute of every meeting or event. The Brotherhood that we have experienced is overwhelming. We are extremely proud to be your representatives, not only in the Monroe District, but in Western New York as well.

LSOME update

Our 1st District-wide Lodge System of Masonic Education session, on November 20th, was very well attended. Of the 26 Brothers who were there, 18 were either Entered Apprentices or Fellowcrafts, with the rest being shepherds, instructors, or interested Brothers who wanted to learn more about the Program, and Masonry as a whole. We especially thank those who took part in the Program: R.W. Bill Lindsay, V.W. John Zabel, Brother Pedro Ugalde, R.W. R. Keith Stambach, W. Lew Perna, and R.W. Cliff Short. Along with the program of the evening, V.W. John Zabel gave everyone a personalized "back hallway" tour of the different Lodge rooms.

With a little help, W. Lew Perna and R.W. Cliff Short performed the Q & A from the 1st Degree. That was not a planned part of the instruction, but the new Brothers showed such an interest in it that we will include it as a part in the next session.

Next session

Speaking of the next session, it will be held on Monday, January 15th, at 7:00 p.m. in the 3rd Floor Dining Room at the Downtown Masonic Temple. The subjects for the evening are: the meaning of Fellowcraft and the interpretation of the 2nd Degree, the teachings of Masonry, the Masonic Belief, the Masonic Teaching, the literature of Masonry and the Grand Lodge Library. All Masons are welcome, especially

those who have advanced to at least the Degree of Fellowcraft, and those 1st and 2nd year Master Masons. Please call us to let us know that you are coming so we know how many to prepare for.

The following is an example of one of the short talks of the evening: "Symbols and Allegories of the 2nd Degree". The word "allegory" may be new to you. It's a story used to teach or explain an idea or point of view.

Among the allegories of the 2nd Degree, the most significant one was that part in which you represented a man gaining entrance into King Solomon's Temple. You came into its outer areas, passing between the Two Pillars, climbing a Flight of Winding Stairs, and entering the Middle Chamber where our ancient Brethren received their wages of corn, wine and oil. During this journey, you listened to a discourse, which we previously identified to you as the Middle Chamber Lecture.

That allegory, based on your journey, is a symbolic picture of the inner meaning of initiation. The Temple is the life into which a man is initiated. Everything outside the walls of the Temple, from where you came, represents what we call the profane, or outside world. A profane is an uninitiated person—that is, one who isn't a Mason. The stairs you climbed represent the steps by which the life of initiation is approached - qualification, petition, election and then the three Degrees. The Two Pillars represented your birth into the Masonic world, The Middle Chamber itself represents initiation-completed—once you arrived there, you received the rewards for the ordeals and labors you endured on the way.

This interpretation of the allegorical picture of Masonic initiation doesn't stop here, because the whole process of Masonic initiation is itself a symbolic allegory, so that in this central portion of the Degree we have an allegory within an allegory. The question is then: what is symbolized by Masonic initiation? The answer is that it symbolizes the experience of every man who searches for the good life; and it teaches us how the good life is found. This concept can best be explained by example.

How can a man pass from ignorance into enlightenment? In the beginning, a man is a profane, standing in the ignorance from which he would escape into the Middle Chamber of Knowledge. How is he qualified? By having the necessary desire to learn, and by having the required faculties and abilities. How does he find his way? By trusting his guides or teachers. They may be teachers in the professional sense, or they may be just those who themselves possess what the seeker needs to know.

What kind of path does the seeker follow? It would be a winding path, on which he must feel his way from stage to stage because he has never walked it before. It's an "ascending path" - laborious, arduous and difficult, because there's no easy road to learning. Help from others is lim-

ited; everybody must learn by their own efforts. The rewards are found in knowledge which is useful not only because of what it enables us to do, but because it should be enjoyed for its own sake, like food or music or art. In this sense, knowledge is its own corn, wine and oil. The enlightenment we arrive at if we have faithfully followed the path - because there are no short-cuts is represented by Solomon's Sacred Temple. Sacred because it has been won at great sacrifice by us and by all our forefathers who won it before us.

A belief that the good things of life can happen by chance to the fortunate is a fatal error. Those things of life that satisfy us spiritually, intellectually, morally and physically can't be won by luck, nor can they drop into your lap by accident. The good things come only from hard work, and even then only at the price of painful and costly changes in our own natures.

This is the allegorical meaning of your allegorical entrance into King Solomon's Temple - the allegory within the allegory. The Degree as a whole is an instrument we should use to build and shape our lives, not only in the Lodge, but also in the world of human experience, symbolized by the Lodge Room. (*The Lodge System of Masonic Education* by the Committee on Masonic Education - September 1987)

Road to the East

December 2nd was the date of our first five District "Road to the East" Programs. We were truly surprised and excited to greet 38 Brothers interested in preparing to become the Master of their Lodges. We started the morning with great doughnuts supplied by R.W. Bill Jones from Wayne District. After brief introductions, R.W. Bill Lindsay and R.W. Cliff Short covered "Responsibilities of the Worshipful Master and Planning Checklists". After a short break, the group adjourned to the Lodge room for an in-depth demonstration on Opening, Closing, and Balloting. R.W. Dave Lathers and R.W. Bob Schultz, from Steuben District, expertly conducted this session.

Then it was downstairs for a presentation by R.W. Jim De Lorenzo on LSOME, mentoring and shepherding. We found it a little surprising that some of the group knew very little about the LSOME Program. Enough interest was shown, that we will extend the next session to include more of the LSOME Program. R.W. Gene Flint, 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 his own Trestleboard 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 6th at 8:00 a.m. It will again be held at Phoenix Lodge in Dansville. If you missed the 1st session, and still would like to attend, please contact us ASAP. We may be able to make arrangements for you to pick up the 1st session at one of the other District's RTTE Programs. We, the DDGM's and Staff Officers of the participating Districts, were



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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. We will do our best to be there.

Remember the Brotherhood Fund. □

**ASSISTANT
GRAND
LECTURERS
MONROE DISTRICT**



R..W..
**Keith
STAMBACH**
865-7416



V..W..
**John
ZABEL**
223-3228

By V..W.. John Zabel
School of Ritual

For those who weren't aware, we had a special School of Ritual on November 30th. That evening we conferred the 1st Section of the 1st Degree on a candidate from ERAC Lodge. This, I believe, is unique for our School. Of course, the proper dispensations were obtained from Grand Lodge. The officers of Craftsman/Robertson and ERAC Lodges performed the work, which was very well done. We extend our appreciation and thanks to the officers and attending Brethren of those Lodges. After the conferral there was a time for discussing the work. The new Brother really appreciated the evening.

Floor work

The floor work for a Degree is very important in setting the mood for the work. Although the candidate for a Degree does not see the bulk of the floor work, the Brethren on the sidelines do. It is for these Brethren that we must do the floor work correctly and with dignity. The officers that should pay the most attention to it are the Masters of Ceremony and the Stewards, but the Marshal and Senior Deacon should also be aware of the proper floor work. The most important point in the work comes just before the Obligation. Keith and I try to emphasize this area of the work in the Schools of Ritual. If you are confused at this point, call one of us.

The subject of floor work extends to the ritual of Opening and Closing as well. The attitude that the Brethren have during a regular meeting can be greatly influenced by the floor work of the Deacons and the Chaplain at both Opening and Closing. When performed with dignity and respect the floor work can make the Brethren proud of the Lodge. This can lead to the Brethren being eager to talk about the Fraternity to their friends and acquaintances. Think about it.

Coming events

The next School of Ritual will be held on Monday, January 29th,

at Northfield Lodge in Pittsford. Keith and I have decided to change the format of this School. Instead of exemplifying a Degree, we will hold an open forum. This is where you, the Brethren, can ask any question concerning the Ritual. If we have a few other experts available, you may even be able to ask any question about Freemasonry.

We got this idea from the Grand Lecturer's Conventions in a surrounding area. These Conventions have afternoon and evening sessions. The afternoon session is for general discussion, while the evening is for exemplification. Come, bring your questions and concerns. We will attempt to address them. If there are not questions, you may be treated to a talk on some of the words in the 1st Degree and why we use them. The School starts at 7:30 p.m. and is open to all Master Masons. See you there! □

**Monroe
Brotherhood
Fund**

Philip Hurwitz, Chairman

Charities

There are seven charities that make up the Brotherhood Fund. They are: Grand Master's Allocation; Masonic Medical Research Laboratory; Masonic Home in Utica; Veterans Hospital Program; Masonic Youth Foundation; Drug and Alcohol Abuse; and Livingston Masonic Library.

The Masonic Home

The Masonic Home opened its doors in 1893. It is a health care facility located on a 400 acre campus in Utica. According to its mission statement, the Masonic Home "...is a manifestation of the dedication of Masons to the principle of the Brotherhood of Man and the Fatherhood of God, a home offering both physical and spiritual comfort." (Source: masonichomeny.org). Services offered include: retirement living, adult care, nursing care and palliative care.

According to a Q&A pamphlet published by the Home, any NYS Mason, his wife or widow, is eligible for admission to the Home. There are two levels of care: adult and nursing care. Adult care is available for individuals who are self-sufficient. Nursing care is for those who require assistance in daily living.

Physical and occupational rehabilitation is provided for those individuals who need to regain as much independence as their health permits.

Respite care is provided to care-givers who need a break from taking care of a loved one. Respite care helps those persons, who choose to provide care at home, an opportunity to delegate that responsibility as circumstances may warrant. For example, a care giver may need a vacation, or have some other need to take a leave of absence from caring for a loved one.

The Masonic Home is an important resource to consider in planning for end of life care. The Masonic Home has much to offer, so much so, that the best way to find out is to go to the Home and look around.

Your Lodge Brotherhood Fund Chairman, in conjunction with other Lodges in the Monroe District, is planning a day for all of us, including our spouses (or any guest) to visit the Campus in Utica. Round trip transportation

and a meal will be provided free of charge. Your Lodge Chairman will have the details for you by the end of January.

To contribute to the Masonic Home, just check off Box #3 on the inside flap of your Brotherhood Fund envelope. □

**Monroe District
Masters &
Wardens
Assoc.**

President
W.. Emil Schirano
265-3932

Secretary
W.. Karl-Heinz Reich
426-6836, e-mail: karth@cbtel.com

The Masters and Wardens had their monthly meeting at ERAC Lodge No. 163 with 9 Lodges and 21 members in attendance. Our numbers are increasing slowly, but, surely.

I thank W.. Lew Perna and the Junior Warden, Josue Bogmis, for their kindness in hosting the meeting.

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday and your New Year dreams come true.

In attendance were R.. W.. William Lindsay, DDGM; R.. W.. Clifford Short, Grand Director of Ceremonies; R.. W.. James De Lorenzo, Grand Steward; R.. W.. Keith Stambach, AGL; R.. W.. Joseph Privitera, Membership Retention, and R..W.. Donald Darrohn.

R..W.. Short brought a special guest, Ms. Lynn Prytula, who spoke in depth about the need for clothing for area nursing homes. She said one of the biggest problems is commercial washing and drying set at high temperatures to sanitize the laundry, which tends to be very rough on clothing. Many of the residents have to sit in sheets because of lack of clothing.

She also said that many of the residents are on Medicaid, which only gives them a monthly allowance of \$50.00 and does not leave much for clothing after they purchase toilet and personal products.

The Masters and Wardens will try to help by taking the message back to their Lodges. Anyone who wants to donate can call me at 265-3932, or R.. W.. Short at 225-0464. You may call Ms. Prytula at Rockwell Automation at 244-3000 for more information.

Her biggest needs are sweatpants and shirts, because they are warm, and underwear, socks, slippers, etc. These can be used or new. Donations of money will be accepted. This can be a Lodge project because it is an ongoing need, not just for the holidays.

LSOME

R..W.. De Lorenzo said the LSOME Program was off to a good start. The "Road to the East" had 34 Brothers from the area and he was pleased with the turnout.

R..W.. Stambach was very happy with all the Brothers who showed up for the School of Ritual. This was for the 1st Degree and there were about 7 new Entered Apprentices who came. All Masters and Secretaries have received their list with Brothers names who can help with Ritual work.

The next School will be January 29th at Northfield Lodge and this will be on the 2nd Degree.

R..W.. Privitera mentioned that he has not had much feed-

back from the Secretaries about their NPD's in their Lodges.

R..W.. Darrohn has sent out a schedule for the Buy-a-Heart Campaign to all the Masters and Star Chapters and needs to get times set up for the Malls.

Future plans

Our next Masters and Wardens meeting will be at Valley/Simes Lodge No. 109, Downtown Temple, on January 13th at 10:00 a.m. We will have a brief meeting then we will have a Self-Defense lesson from W.. Peter Fallone. This is open to all, so please come.

At 12:00 noon, R..W.. Bill Lindsay will be hosting a lunch and after that, at 1:00 p.m., he will have a Millennium Veterans Presentation. Reservations are needed and you may call him at 621-3573 or e-mail him at blindsay@servtech.com.

The Traveling Gavel is at Craftsman/Robertson Lodge No. 969, Downtown Temple, and needs someone to come and get it. They meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.

I am starting to get information on the trip to New York for Grand Lodge, hotels, and transportation and will be talking to the Masters at future meetings.

Thank you, and hope to see you at the next meeting. □

**Bureau of
Masonic
Education
Monroe County**

President:
V..W.. John Zabel

Brotherhood

George had gotten to know Henry, a new Brother of the Lodge, by helping him learn more about Masonry. This was a real pleasure for George, as he liked to see Brethren learn more about the Craft. One evening he was at Henry's house discussing some of the finer points of the 1st Degree Historical Lecture. The discussion was near ending when Henry changed the subject.

"I got this letter in the mail today from our Junior Deacon. It was about something called the Masonic Brotherhood Fund. I really didn't understand the letter. What is this Brotherhood Fund and why did I get a letter about it?", asked Henry.

"I guess that I must have missed the topic of the Brotherhood Fund", replied George. "The Fund is a charitable fund run by Grand Lodge. The money it collects is used for such projects as the Livingston Library, Masonic Youth Foundation, Masonic Home, Masonic Medical Research Laboratory, Veteran's Hospital Programs and Drug and Alcohol Abuse Programs. If you remember in the 1st Degree you were instructed to aid and assist human kind when necessary. Well, the Brotherhood Fund is one of the methods used to supply aid."

"Why the letter?", asked Henry.

George replied, "Every Lodge is encouraged to contact its Brethren and encourage them to donate to the Fund. The donations are tracked according to the Lodge that the Brother belongs to. You can also designate the donation as a memorial or honorarium. In any case the donation is tax deductible and is strictly voluntary. In our Lodge the Junior Deacon is charged with conducting the campaign."

"OK, I'm beginning to understand. Is this all we do?"

"No, the Lodge gives to the local hospital Transportation Fund at Christmas time. This money is used to help pay for patients transportation to visit their families during the holidays. We also help support youth campers at Camp Turk each Summer. We give a small cash gift to the widows of deceased members. These funds come from the Lodge", replied George.

"Wow, it sounds like the Fraternity gives a lot for charitable purposes, but is it all just money?", asked Henry.

"Again, no. Some of the Brethren volunteer for Child ID Programs in and around our area. Others work on the Have-a-Heart Campaign in February. Still other Brethren volunteer to help the Salvation Army as bell ringers", said George. "You will find that many, if not all, of the Brethren that volunteer do so because they enjoy it."

"I'm impressed. I will have to answer this letter with a donation. I'm also interested in some of the other activities you mentioned. When is the next one?"

"Well, there is...."

What's happening

The "Road to the East" Program got under way on December 2nd. This year the sessions are being held in Dansville. This program is a must for any Junior or Senior Warden who plans to become Master of his Lodge. The Program succinctly covers the topics needed for a Brother to have a successful year as Master.

The first of the LSOME Programs was held on November 20th. The attendance was excellent and the Program was well done. The Brethren present learned much more about the Fraternity they were entering. This session covered the 1st Degree portion of the LSOME booklet.

The next session is scheduled for January 15th when the 2nd Degree sections will be covered. For more information, read the Grand Steward and Grand Director of Ceremonies column in this paper. Your Bureau of Masonic Education helps to defray the costs associated with this program. □

**Membership
Retention**

R..W.. Joseph Privitera
Monroe District

Reflections

As some of you know, I have been recently involved in discussions regarding the value of communicating with our members through this publication and other forms of communication. The result of these discussion was not a positive one. It left me disappointed that a segment of our Craft will be left out concerning news and events of our Fraternity in the Monroe District. On the outside, I brushed it off, but inside I was a little discouraged.

So life goes on and we go on to other projects. I was still a little, as they say, 'bummed out'. A few weeks later I went to the School of Ritual on November 30th. The format was going to be a little different in that instead of a regular school, an actual 1st Degree was going to be put on for a candidate who was unable to attend the 1st Degree at his own Lodge. As the evening progressed, I heard two young officers of ERAC Lodge,

Continued on page 6

6 Membership Retention
Continued from page 5

Brother Steve Lysenko, Senior Master of Ceremonies, do the Apron Presentation and Brother George Nasra, Steward, do the 1st Degree Charge. The words of those two lectures, the emphasis and feeling put into those words made me see the situation in a different way.

I am still a little disappointed and 'bummed out', but at least now I have the guidance and the tools to handle the situation. It never ceases to amaze me how I can be in a 'shy me' situation and God shows me someone else in a worse condition. In this case, I was feeling a little down and He gave me words that I have heard before but now see in a new and different way. You may ask what does all this have to do with Membership Retention? Probably nothing. I guess it is something I wanted to share with you, but mostly something for me to reflect on.

Happy New Year to all. ☐

**Craftsman/Robertson
Receives Award from Grand Lodge**



Craftsman/Robertson Brotherhood Fund Chairman, Bob Ogden, receiving Award from Monroe District Fund Chairman, Phillip Hurwitz. (Photo Vern Goodrich)

with a Special Recognition Award for chairing the Brotherhood Fund.

Christmas Party

The Lodge's Children's Christmas Party was held December 10th for the many children and grandchildren of Lodge members. There were lots of "goodies" to munch on while all were entertained by 2 of the Shrine clowns. Santa Claus made his visit to the delight of the children, (of all ages) after which everyone enjoyed ice cream and cookies.

Fellowcraft Club will meet on January 9th.

There will be a business meeting on January 16th. ☐



January birthdays
Greetings to the Brothers born in January: John Sanna, Ken Skidmore, Jim Clark, Frank Morse, Roy Guess, Chuck Zicari, Al Cannon, Dirk Dukes, Oran Kissinger, Robert Ogden, Sam Eleoff, L. Edward Walker, Jasper Kennedy, Bill Wimberly and Russ Rosati.

January meetings
The dinner meeting with the ladies and a speaker will be January 2nd.



**Craftsman/
Robertson
Lodge No. 969**

W.. Gabriel J. Milonni, Master (h)467-9535



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

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

By Robert Ogden

3rd Degree

The Past Masters Degree Team conferred the Master Mason Degree on two of our Brothers, Foudad Farah and Matthew Walicke and Thomas Brusso of Charlotte/Corinthian Lodge. The Ritual was very well done and congratulations, Brothers.

In memoriam

It is my sad duty to report the death of Richard A. Sechrist, who was a member of our Lodge for 16 years. Our deepest sympathy to his wife, Norma, and family.

Chinese Dinner

November 11th marked the date that W.. Bill Shelby and Roberta arranged a Chinese Dinner at Chen's Garden on West Henrietta Road. There were 20 diners and again, surely we not only appreciate the extra effort, but also the good fellowship that goes along with it. A most pleasant evening and a big "thank you" to Bill and Roberta.

January 2nd Dinner meeting

Our dinner meeting with the ladies invited will be January 2nd. Our entertainer will be R..W.. John Zabel, who will speak on numismatics (the study or collection of coins or medals.)

Masonic Brotherhood Fund

Forty-seven contributors have donated \$2377.00-approximately 36% of our membership so far this Campaign. Last year at this time there were 82 donors in the amount of \$2600.00-45% of the membership. Again, my sincere thanks.

Award Presentation

The Master requested that Brother Jack Grover escort me to the East where I met W.. Phillip R. Hurwitz. He presented me

GERMANIA
Lodge No. 722
4275 Culver Rd.
Rochester, N.Y.
14622

W.. Nelson Bertsch, Master 671-4792

3rd Tues. Sept. - Apr. & 1st Tues. My., Jn., Oct. 7:30 P.M.

Secretary
W.. John H. Foster '467-1677

By W.. David Foster

Wow! Here it is-2001 already. It only seems like yesterday that we were all worried about Y2K and all the chaos it might wreak. Well, 2000 has come and gone and except for a little election chaos, seems to have been pretty much business as usual.

Official Visit

Our meeting this month will be on Tuesday, January 16th, and will be our Official Visit from R.. W.. William Lindsay, DDGM. Please be sure to make a special effort to come that night and hear the Grand Master's Message and also comments from R..W.. Lindsay. A Pot Luck Dinner at 6:30 p.m. will precede the meeting.

Merger

As to the status of our consolidation with Fame Lodge, I can tell you that at the November meeting the Lodge voted in favor of the consolidation. The rest of the paperwork has been forwarded to Grand Lodge and it is back in their hands. Assuming everything goes according to plan, we should be moving into the final phases of the process. As we know more, we'll let you know.

Brotherhood Fund

The Brotherhood Fund has started again and I, as Chairman, am hoping that everyone will make a contribution. Let's all help support this worthwhile cause and make the list of contributors grow!

I hope this finds you all healthy and enjoying yourselves. If you are (or if you hear of any Brother) who is under the weather or otherwise needs our help or sympathy, please make sure you call one of your officers.

Remember, if you have a question whether or not Lodge has been canceled due to the weather, call one of your officers to find out. If the weather is such that you wouldn't feel safe driving-stay home! Your safety is the most important issue.

Last, but not least, happy birthday to all our Brothers with January birthdays.

See you in Lodge. ☐

**Union Star
Lodge No. 320**

3 N. Main St.
Honeoye Falls, NY

W.. John H. Williams Master 533-1188



2nd Mon. 7:30 P.M.

Robert Sweeney, Sec. (h) 381-5286 (w) 272-2481 38 Cullens Run, Pittsford, 14534

January

Lots of activities are coming up for January, including some of our special meetings. Our Budget Committee meeting will be on January 4th and we'll be starting at 7:00 p.m. The Annual Meeting will be held at the Lodge on Monday, January 8th, preceded by a dinner. As usual we will be needing reservations so that we know how many are coming. Give a call to Brother Jim Nersinger to let him know you will be there. Jim can be reached at 334-9057. Dinner will be at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting will start at 7:30 p.m.

Several of our Wardens and Deacons are taking the "Road to the East" Program. It is now combined with other neighboring Districts and is being held at the Phoenix Lodge in Dansville.

The Fellowcraft Club will be meeting on Monday, January 22nd. This meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. If you need further information, give a call to our Junior Warden, Gary Sanford, at 425-4240. We try to do the types of projects that will improve the Lodge. Perhaps you have some ideas to pass along.

School of Ritual

The next School of Ritual, presented by our Assistant Grand Lecturers, will be on Monday, January 29th, at Northfield Lodge, 17 Church Street, in Pittsford. The meeting will start at 7:30 p.m., but you should be a little early to get signed in. This School will be covering the 2nd Degree. Our Lodge has been asked to be one of the participants in the work of the evening and all of our officers should be present and prepared to do the Ritual work. The agenda for this particular School may change, and may cover general Ritual questions and protocol.

At the last School of Ritual at Charlotte/Corinthian Lodge, a candidate went through the first part of the 1st Degree and then the Lodge was changed over to the 3rd Degree for continuation of the School and covered corrections to the Degree work and a question and answer session.

Brotherhood Fund

Our Brotherhood Fund Chairman, Brother Gary Sanford, will be looking for the return of your contribution envelope, and it is hoped that this year's donations will exceed those of last year. Be sure to include your Grand Lodge number on the form you return, you will find it on your dues card.

All of our Lodges will be participating in the upcoming "Have-a-Heart" Campaign to benefit the Ronald McDonald House. Assignments to the various malls and the dates have not yet been made, but we should have the information and a sign-up sheet for volunteers at our next meeting. The Ronald McDonald House provides housing to families of children who are in our local hospitals. ☐



Craftsman/Robertson Christmas Party delights children and adults alike. (Photos courtesy Skip Waterstreet)

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

W.: John E. Dyer
 Master
 733-1743

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

W.: Michael G. Schwartz
 Secretary
 352-4016



Well, it's time to begin a New Year again, and there is plenty to start getting ready for.

January

On January 8th, we will be having a short business meeting and breaking for some trivia between Past Masters and Brothers.

On January 18th we are having a Brother Bring-a-Friend Night at 7:00 p.m. Please let me know ahead of time if you are bringing anyone and I will send them an invitation.

January 22nd is Move-Up Night. All officers will be taking their chairs for next year and the program will be supplied by SW, Karl-Heinz Reich.

Official Visit

We finally have an evening for our Official Visit. It will be the 26th of February. If we have candidates for the Spring Class, we will have the 1st Degree on March 12th. Plan on coming out to hear the words of our Grand Master, and find out what is happening in our District.

Special thanks

We just conferred our 3rd Degree, and unfortunately, we had six officers miss the Degree, either sick or out of town. At the last minute, I was able to get our District Officers to fill in for the evening, as well as our visiting Brethren from Social Lodge. Even with the last minute replacements, all went well. The process I used to get help was to contact our AGL's. They have put together a list of Brothers throughout the District who are willing to help all the Lodges with Degree work. I would encourage all to take advantage of this, as well as volunteering your time to help other Lodges that need it. Please contact our AGL's if you want to be on the list.

Etolian website

Yes...we will have our own site. The Lodge has voted to have a

website. I am currently working on the site and hope to have it done within the month. If you have information that should go on this site, let me know. I will publish the address in the Times when it is done.

I hope everyone had a joyous holiday and I wish all a safe and prosperous New Year.


FAIRPORT
Lodge No. 476:

W.: Thomas G. Goodrich,
 Master
 383-1429

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

W.: George R. Bracht, Secretary
 (h) 383-1947

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



By George Bracht, Secretary Brethren

January has finally arrived and W.: Tom Goodrich and the officers hope everybody's holidays were happy and enjoyable with your families.

The officers have been busy exemplifying the 1st and 2nd Degrees, with the 3rd Degree coming up January 22nd. Their proficiency has been excellent and a pleasure to see them perform the Degrees.

At our meeting on December 11th, we had the good fortune of having two Brothers affiliate with us: Brothers Bruce Budd, father of Jeff Budd; and James Lindstrom from Webster Lodge. Brother James Lindstrom lives in Fairport and is able to walk to Lodge when we have bad weather. If you know them or see them in your daily activities, please welcome them into Fairport Lodge. They have attended several meetings, so you can welcome them when you attend.

The Worshipful Master, officers and members, wish the following members a Happy Birthday in January: Robert Cameron, Thomas Green, Paul Fisher, Ruby Baker, Warren Bills, Ronald Weber, Greg Hampton, Leonard Fulmer, Alfred Miller, John Williams, and Roy Borrowman.


Please remember the Brotherhood Fund and mail your donation to Gerald Becker, 19 Deland Park B, Fairport, NY 14450.

We hope to see you at our next meeting, which is always followed with fellowship and excellent refreshments provided by our Junior Warden, Kermit Moyer.

FAME
Lodge No. 945
 CHARTERED 1917
 4275 CULVER RD.
 ROCHESTER, N.Y. 14622

W.: Michael Bell, Master
 244-2895
 2nd & 4th
 Tuesdays
 7:30 P.M.

Leon VanHuben, Secretary
 647-1391



By Leon Van Huben, Secretary Brethren

It becomes my sad duty to pass on to you the news of the death of our Worshipful Master's father on December 9th in the Boston area.

I am very pleased with the response of your 2001 dues. Thank you, this makes my job much easier!

The Lodge and its officers wish you all a happy and healthy New Year.

Charlotte/Corinthian
Lodge No. 1088

W.: Kenneth W. Ratliff,
 Master
 (h) 323-1014

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

C. William Flemming, Secretary
 723-0083
 4550 Lake Avenue
 Rochester, New York 14612



Hope everybody had a safe and joyful holiday season.

A successful dinner

First an update on our Spaghetti Dinner we had on November 21st. We had a great turnout. We donated five boxes of coats to the Open Door Mission. Chris, from the Open Door, gave a great talk about their organization. Thanks to my kitchen crew, W.: Tom Grape, SW Bill King and JW Chuck Hardwell and his wife, Karen, for a wonderful job.

School of Ritual

On November 30th we had our School of Ritual which was a 1st Degree. My best wishes to the new Brother from ERAC Lodge. This was a great turnout.

3rd Degree

December 5th we had our 3rd Degree at Craftsman/Robertson Lodge. Fraternal thanks to my Brothers at that Lodge for letting this take place at their wonderful Lodge. The Shrine Past Masters Degree Team always put on a great Degree. Thanks, guys!

Party time

On December 17th we had our Christmas Party for the kids at the Open Door. Great turnout. There will be an update on this event next month.

Official Visit

Our Official Visit was on December 19th.

Please come out and support your Blue Lodge. This is important to the Craft.

By R.:W.: Joe Privitera
 Dues

Good news. The Lodge dues for the year 2001 have been reduced. The dues for regular members have been reduced by five dollars to \$56.00. Longevity members dues are reduced to \$37.00. Life members' dues will remain at \$18.00. When the budget was prepared for 2001, we decided to share the success of our investments since in 1986. We will be sending a budget summary with the dues notice.

The bad news is that the Lodge computer is down. For those of you familiar with computers, the motherboard is no longer with us. The situation is being fixed, but as a result, we can't produce address labels to send out the dues notices. Hopefully, by the time you read this, the problem should be resolved.

School of Ritual

The last School of Ritual was held on November 30th. We had 18 Brothers present. W.: Ken Ratliff was leading the contingent of our Lodge consisting of Brothers John Bennett, Jim De Lorenzo, Tom Grape, Dick Felgner, Bill Flemming, Don Fox, Bill Fredenberg, Don Freeman, Frank Jansson, Bill King, George Lake, Neil Laundry, Cliff Short, Keith Stambach, Mike Staub and myself. Two of our newest Brothers, Mike Houston and Tom Riddle were also present.

The next School of Ritual will be on January 30th at Northfield Lodge, 17 Church St., Pittsford. The subjects will be etiquette and protocol. If you need a ride, want to car pool, or just need directions, call me at 392-5583. We are currently in 2nd place for the Banner and need everyone's support to keep the Banner.


Thank you for your help and I hope to see you in Lodge.

Wakan/Hubbard
Lodge No. 154

W.: Gordon J. Bell,
 Master
 315-986-2964

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. 14528



With the joyous season over, I hope all had a safe and merry holiday.

Get-together

Our Fellowcraft Holiday Get-together, hosted by SD Joe Oelgoetz was a huge success.

January

Our January 8th meeting, our Official Visit, will be preceded by a dinner. V.:W.: John Zabel will host a Bring-a-Friend Night on January 15th. The January 22nd Meeting will be chaired by Past Masters. We also welcome back Brother Bruce Horncastle who has reaffiliated with our Lodge.

Welcome

We extend a warm welcome to Brother George H. Douglas, who took his 3rd Degree in November, and W.: Joe Minas who affiliated with our Lodge.

Remember them

Please remember these Brothers with cards and phone calls:

R.:W.: Fred Nielsen, Brother John Zona, W.: Andy Young and Brother Dave Willis.

Secretary Pro-tem

W.: Ted Snyder will be off to Florida and W.: Don Bell will fill in as Secretary.


Until next month, enjoy the Masonic Times.

O-At-Ka
Lodge No. 759

W.: Peter Fallone
 Master
 594-0231

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

R.:W.: Lawrence W. Dunn
 Secretary 594-8033
 5 Browns Ave.
 Scottsville, N.Y. 14546



I hope everyone had a great Holiday Season.

December

Our one and only December meeting went well. The slide presentation was very interesting, thanks to R.:W.: Chuck Ogburn for presenting it to us.

It was a pleasure to have R.:W.: Bill Lindsay, DDGM, take part in our meeting. It is always a pleasure to have Grand Lodge Officers at Lodge.

Happy New Year to all.

The strawberry and the apple belong to the Rose Family.

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 14 Franklin Street
 Warren Doerrer 232-4874

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Etolian Brother Receives Gold Honor Award from Genesee York Rite College No. 25.



Don Brugger, Pre-eminent Governor of Genesee York Rite College No. 25, presenting the Gold Honor Award to Karl-Heinz Reich with the assistance of Etolian's Jr. Past Master, W.: Michael Schwartz.

Valley/Simes Lodge No. 109



W. Michael G. Batz, Master
(h) 820-9019
(o) 272-8470

2nd Tuesday
7:30 P.M.

R. W. Herbert Spencer, Sec.
271-8577

875 Main Street East
Rochester, N.Y.
14605-2789

The Lodge year is half gone already! We have several programs running and committees doing great Masonic work. I thank everyone for your support, confidence, and help. This Fraternity has much to give and a man can learn from it, if he so chooses. This year-end is the TRUE end of the millennium, and NOT 1999, as the media has tried to make us believe. I'm always amused by the whims and fancy of hype! You are 1 year old at the end of your 1st 12 months of breathing air, and you are subsequently 100 years old at the end of completing 100 years of successfully inhaling and exhaling and taking nourishment. If you lived pre-flood, you might get to be 1000 years old, but only after living through that last year! Hence, the year 2000 is the last year of the 2nd millennium! Now, Brethren of Florida: the previous statements are fact and a recount won't change a darn thing. The Florida Supreme Court has absolutely no say in this area. Now that I've had my fun, I'm hoping everyone has had, and will have a long and prosperous life (no matter what century you live in [sic]).

January

Officers are excited about the upcoming Degrees and I hope you answer the call to assist them if asked. We are having a program at the January meeting that will be updating us on the Habitat for Humanity Programs locally, and we have chosen this to be one of our projects this year, as well. We may receive additional benefit from the public awareness their program enjoys. There are many District functions in January, such as another School of Ritual, "Road to the East", and a District Leadership meeting.

I have laid out an aggressive trestleboard and have high expectations from the officers. They have, for the most part, exceeded my expectations. I do have a specific request from the members at large: you must have sons and grandsons, or nephews, etc., that our Investigating Committee could speak with (regarding Masonry). If, for no other reason, than to educate and spread our message: "We make good men better". I know that many of you are not coming because your friends no longer come; many of you really can't get to a Lodge meeting for several very good reasons. I want you to know that I feel that your support is more important than your butt in a sideline seat! You may define support as any activity that you perform in the name of Masonry, and even better, in the name of our Lodge. Send us a name and trust us to make the right choices; I promise we will present your Lodge favorably.

Fellowcraft had a Holiday Party at the Stahl's and the offic-


ers had their monthly meeting at the Snyder's, where we also enjoyed holiday cheer. Thank you Glenn, Carol, Dick and Rita, for hosting our activities! Mike McBride is organizing the Club's and Lodge's involvement in this year's Have-a-Heart Campaign, and he needs men to pick a time slot for 2-3 hours. This year we have chosen the Greece area malls. The date will be announced. Please answer the call, cabletow allowing.

Representatives from the Masonic Home in Utica gave the December program where many questions were asked and great interest was apparent. It was a well attended meeting, preceded by a great home cooked meal where 35 or so enjoyed Hilde's and Joy's culinary expertise. A good program and meal will do it every time!

I hope everyone enjoyed a good holiday season and counts their blessings. Keep on keeping on.

WEBSTER Lodge No. 538

30 Orchard St.
Webster, N.Y. 14580



W. Emil Schirano, Master
265-3932

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

W. Paul Sobtziak, Sec.
671-8980

I hope all of you and your families had a very happy and pleasant Holiday and a safe New Year.

2nd Degree

On December 7th we had our 2nd Degree. The weather was bad, but the Degree that SW John Merz and the officers did was great. JW Brad Lewis did the Middle Chamber Lecture and it was flawless, I thank all the officers for a job well done. I know a lot of time and effort went into this.

Front doors

At our last meeting the Trustees brought up the subject of replacing the front doors of the Lodge. They said the doors were getting in bad shape and needed to be replaced. This is going to be costly and they have three estimates. We had a little discussion, but decided to table it until more members are at a meeting to make a decision. We will try to do this at our January 4th meeting. Come out and help us decide what to do.

Guest speaker

At the January 4th meeting our guest speaker will be R. W. George Peter, Grand Lodge Historian for the State of New York. He is coming from Aurora and will be speaking on a topic of his choice. This is a great honor for Webster Lodge so attend and show your support.

Fellowcraft

On January 11th, at the Fellowcraft meeting, we will be working on the drop ceiling. If you can help in any way, please come out. We can use all the help we can get.

3rd Degree

The 3rd Degree will be conferred on January 18th with W. Bernard Russell in the East. There will be a dinner at 6:30 p.m. Call JW Brad Lewis for reservations at 265-2914. This is a formal night. The Fellowcraft will be doing the 2nd Section of the De-

gree and can use some help. If you can help, please call W. Mark Fenton at 217-8904.

Lalla Rookh Grotto

On January 20th, W. Kenneth Hutchinson is being installed as Monarch of Lalla Rookh Grotto at an Open Installation at the Downtown Masonic Temple. There will be a dinner at 6:00 p.m. He is a Past Master of Webster Lodge and we need to support him.

Have-a-Heart

We will need help at Irondequoit Mall for the Have-a-Heart Campaign for the Ronald McDonald House. Our time is Saturday, February 10th, from noon to 9:00 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 6:00 p.m. We need three people for each three hour shift. If you can help, call me at 265-3932.


Sympathy

Our sympathies to the families of Brothers Donald Behnke and Wilhelm Weller who were called by the Supreme Architect. They will be missed and our prayers are with their families.

E-mail

If you have an e-mail address that is not on the Lodge list, please let me know. You can e-mail me at moejoy1@juno.com to be placed on the list.

Flower City Lodge No. 910



W. Douglas R. Higgins, Master
321-0302

2nd
Thursday
7:30 P.M.

R. W. Phillip Averbach, Secretary
458-1817

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

Brethren

I guess it's safe to assume that Winter is upon us!

The Fellowcraft Dinner went very well. My thanks to R. W. Jerry Glaser for setting things up with the Kam Wah Restaurant. The next dinner will be held Thursday, January 4th. We'll discuss the location at our meeting and let everyone know later. If you wish to attend, CALL YOUR OFFICERS! We need your reservations in advance so we can have a table ready when we arrive. Please do not expect a call every time we hold this event.

January

Our next official meeting will be held on Thursday, January 11th, in Ionic Hall, starting at 7:30 p.m. I hope you will all come out and support the Lodge and your officers.


Latke Hop

As you may have noticed, the Annual Latke Hop will tentatively be held in January. We will be discussing the particulars at our meeting. Please be advised, however, that we do need your help in putting on this event. We need volunteers to assist with cooking, set-up, cleaning, etc. There is a lot of work to be done and the more people we have helping, the faster it gets completed. Also, we need your reservations in advance, so we know how much food to prepare. Call any of your officers, particularly your Secretary, R. W. Phil Averbach, or myself.

I'm afraid that is all there is to report at the moment. Be safe and be well. I hope to see some of you at our next meeting. I wish each of you a safe and happy holiday season.

NORTHFIELD Lodge No. 426

Instituted
March 1857



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

W. Randall S. Griswold, Master
(h) 787-3357
(o) 271-6451

R. W. William D. Spillane, Secretary
334-6596

17 Church Street
Pittsford, N.Y.
14534

I will begin this article by apologizing for not having an article in for December, and I will do my best to bring you all up to date on the events that have taken place.

November 2nd was the date of our 2nd Degree. It was well attended and a wonderful dinner was prepared by Linda Zahn, and her two helpers, Cecily and Amy, who did a fine job serving. W. Glenn Hedges was great at the Working Tools and many thanks to W. Dan Walker for helping me with the Q&A's, and everyone else who helped. I especially thank R. W. Dave Lathers for doing a fantastic job of the Middle Chamber Lecture. I received many compliments.

On November 12th, Brother Pedro Ugalde and I met at the School of the Holy Childhood to assist the nuns in the cleanup after their Annual Craft Sale. Our efforts were greatly appreciated. Thank you, Brother Pedro.

Many thanks to W. Ken Ratliff and the Brothers of Charlotte/Corinthian Lodge for allowing us to bring two new Brothers to their 2nd Degree, who didn't make it to ours. We felt very welcome.

November 16th was the date of the Official Visit and Long Service Awards. In attendance we had R. W. William Lindsay, DDGM, who brought us the Grand Master's Message. With him was R. W. Cliff Short and R. W. Keith Stambach. Brother George Knierim received a Certificate and Pin for 55 years of service. Brother Fred Hull, D.S.A., also received a Certificate and Pin for 50 years; Brothers Don Brown and John Parker received Certificates for 25 years. Thanks were extended to Bob and Linda Zahn for the refreshments. Congratulations were extended to the recipients.

We updated the Plaque that hangs downstairs for what we call the Master Mason of the Year Award and added W. Don Smith, 1998; Walt Weick, D.S.A., 1999; and Brother Pedro Ugalde, 2000. All three were awarded because of their efforts to make our Lodge a better place to meet and have fellowship. I thank R. W. Bill Spillane and W. Don Smith for organizing this event.


On November 30th the Lodge had a night out at F.D.R.'s in Henrietta. Over 20 people were in attendance and a good time was had by all. Thanks to JW, Dean Smith, for putting it together.

The 3rd Degree was on December 7th, and I will report later.

I hope everyone enjoyed the holiday season with friends and family and I wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year.

Seneca Lodge No. 797

Second Tuesday
6:00 P.M.



W. Michael C. Ferguson
359-9052

Robert C. Green, Jr., Secretary
223-5953

30 Orchard St.,
Webster, N.Y. 14580

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.

Welcome to the new millennium. Whether you were one that believed that it started in 2000 or starts in 2001, we are there now.

The future

Seneca Lodge has now embarked upon a course into a successful future. We seem to be in agreement that the need for a sound Lodge is in its membership, and the strength of that membership. We are making great strides in holding activities that will increase the participation of our existing members.

Events

The Annual Tea was a great success, and we hope you had a great time. The turnout for "Breakfast with Santa" was fantastic. It was a pleasure to see so many young faces aglow when the man in the big red suit made his entrance.

We hope you can enjoy Geva night at the end of the month. Mark your calendar now for our visit from our Canadian Brothers from St. Andrews Lodge. This will be on the weekend of May 18th and 19th. If you have not had the opportunity to attend any of our social events lately, please plan to do so in the future.

A new approach

In order to gain new members we will have a "How-to, What-to" Night at our January 9th meeting. We will have a presentation on what Masonry is all about, how to approach a potential member and what to say to him, and how to employ basic sales techniques to assure a favorable response.

After many comments from our members, it appears that what to say and how to say it is the biggest problem we have in broaching the subject of Masonry to a potential member. If you have had this problem, come to the meeting and brush up on your tools. If you do not have this problem, please come to the meeting and help the other Brothers overcome their fears. It promises to be a fantastic meeting that will be informative and productive.

Bring-a-Friend

The results of this meeting will be measured in March, when we hold a Brother Bring-a-Friend Night. We hope to have a full house of potential members that have been interested in Masonry

by our revitalized Brothers. If you have someone in mind that you think will make a good Mason, now is the time to proceed.

Special meeting

April will bring us a special meeting. After rummaging through the archives for our recent history nights, we discovered that the last Past Masters photos was taken in 1985. We will have another taken at the April 10th meeting. Hopefully we will have a Past Masters Night with Past Masters in all of the chairs. It will be a night to remember.

Social Calendar

Our Geva Night will be on January 31st. We will see "The Weir" and you need to contact Brother Dick Shellman at 383-8288 with your reservations.


Golf Night at the Golden Bear Golf Center is on February 27th. Contact W.: Mike Ferguson at 359-9052 if you plan to attend.

May 18th and 19th is our St. Andrews visit at the Lodge at Woodcliff. Contact W.: Bob Green, 223-5953 for this event. □

Closing

In our fast paced world, where pressures on time become greater, and greater, please join us to take a deep breath and share some quality time with your Brothers. Friendship abounds, as we all take a break from our daily responsibilities. In need of a ride? We are only a telephone call away. Do not consider it a bother, call a Brother! □

ERAC
Lodge No. 163



W.: Louis Perna, Master
334-8265

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

www.erac.org

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

Greetings

As I indicated in my last article, the 1st Degree was quite a successful event. The Brothers involved in the Ritual did a splendid job preparing and exemplifying the Degree. Special recognition goes to Brothers George Nasra and Steve Lysenko, who did an exquisite job on the Charge and Apron Presentations, respectively. In addition, these Brothers replicated this at the last School of Ritual, where we initiated another new Brother. Consistent with this, and on behalf of all the Brothers of ERAC, I welcome our new Brothers to Freemasonry.

Congratulations

On December 11th, the Lodge awarded the DeWitt Clinton Award to Jane Lyth, who runs a day camp for children, blind or visually impaired. The Camp is called Camp Smile. W.: Craig Covert presented Ms. Lyth the Award in very good form.

Sickness and distress

W.: Al Peters remains in SMH. He is in great spirits despite having had brain surgery. He began radiation treatments in late November. Brother Glen Hieber was hospitalized in SMH shortly after the 1st Degree, due to respiratory problems. Brother Glen is in ICU and is comatose at this writing. Brother Chet Wilday recovers well from knee surgery. He was last seen in Lodge on November 29th. It was great to see him back. Al Johnson remains in the hospital. He is conscious, but on a ventilator. The good news under sickness and distress is that Dawna Zegas continues to make progress. She is getting around well, is in good spirits and was able to decorate her home for the holidays.

Tragedy struck the family of Brother Kevin Sharun, whose home was destroyed by fire. The Lodge rallied as usual with the practice of Brotherly Love. Our resourceful Secretary was successful in securing a check for Brother Sharun's family from the Grand Master's Fund in the amount of \$2,000.

Upcoming events


There will be a Table Lodge on January 8, 2001 and the 2nd Degree on January 22nd. Please plan on attending these events which are completely focused on Brotherly Love and Fellowship. You can make your dinner reservations to Joe Bogmis by calling

him at 423-1965 or by e-mailing him at joebogmis@hotmail.com. At a time when many Lodges are concerned about attendance, I feel fortunate to be surrounded by energetic and committed Brothers. Let's keep the ERAC spirit alive by imparting this into the hearts of our new Brothers.

As you read this article, I truly hope you and your family celebrated a wonderful holiday season. Please remember that the spirit of the holiday season should be with us throughout the year. Thank you for your support and energy. Call me whenever necessary at 334-8265 or send me an e-mail Lperna@peoplepc.com. □

Churchville
Lodge No. 667

20 South Main St.
Churchville, N.Y. 14428



W.: John H. Hennessy, Jr.
Master
594-1545

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

W.: George R. Burke,
Secretary 293-1629

New website

New site: www.geocities.com/churchvillelodge667/

Another holiday has come and gone. I hope everyone had a great Christmas and a Happy New Year!

December

The Lodge was pretty quiet in December. Our annual business meeting went well and the Brothers turned out wearing their ugly ties as expected.

January

The 2nd Degree will be conferred on January 10th at 7:30 p.m., preceded by dinner at 6:30 p.m. I'm really proud of the way our Brothers have applied themselves to our Ritual work. The extra effort shows.

Table Lodge

On February 28th there will be a Table Lodge starting at 6:30 p.m. Call me at 594-1545 for reservations.

Looking for something to do? Come to a meeting! □

Custodian's Corner



R.: W.: Maurice Solomon
716-271-5435

Headgear

In my column last month, I discussed the question of wearing headgear in the Lodge room during a meeting. Any doubts I may have had about my column being read were dispelled when I received a call from the office of the Grand Secretary in New York, reminding me that there are occasions when the Grand Master will be escorted into the Lodge by an Honor Guard provided by members of the Knights Templar, in their ceremonial uniform with resplendent headgear.

This headgear is worn when the Honor Guard is on ceremonial duty, and it is customary that after the Grand Master is escorted into the Lodge, the Honor

Guard immediately retires from the Lodge room. Should any of them seek to remain in the Lodge room, it is appropriate and expected that they remove their headgear, so the question of them wearing headgear other than for ceremonial duty while in the presence of the Grand Master is really moot.

Now, as to the matter of crossing the Master's carpet while the Worshipful Master is in the East, although not seated in his chair. The general impression I have received is that so long as he remains physically in the East, the provision that no one cross between him and the altar should be respected. With that, I pass. □



V
A
M
C

Canandaigua, NY
Harold Bollotin - Reporter

Ward visit

The final ward visit for the year 2000 was on Sunday, November 12th. The seven volunteers representing the Masonic Service Bureau were: Tom and Cora Paglia, Larry Hood, June Moon, Tina Wahl and Sylvia and I.

Future visits

I have not been officially informed of the dates for 2001. However, it is anticipated that the visits will be designated for the 2nd Sunday from January to May. I will let you know for sure.

Veterans Day

In addition to the James A. Hard/Wayne Charter Post members at the Annual Veterans Day Observance at the downtown Veterans Memorial on November 11th, a number of Masonic veterans, representing other Concordant Bodies were also there. □

**Mid-Day
Bowling
League**



John Specht, Secretary
548-2694

By F. Jay McCullough

Where are we bowling, you ask?

Last month we wrote about our Tuesday at 1:15 p.m. outings at the Viking Valhalla in Bergen. We really should have "offered you a Rose Garden", which is the name of Brother Sardou's hall adjacent to his Viking Valhalla Restaurant.


For \$5.00 an outing you can bowl 3 games with a very amiable group of Brothers, who will cheer your good hits and groan with you when necessary. It's not true that a lot of groaning goes on—that is, for most of us. You can be ABC sanctioned (if not so already) for an additional one-time \$10.00 if you are a senior and \$14.00 if under age 55.

Dick Giedd and Neil Laundry scored well enough at the end of November that they were Annual Turkey Shoot winners. They each received a nominal cash stipend rather than a big bird.

Ruel Lovett currently has the league's lead average, even though he shakes his head in disbelief (he counts those narrow little boards to determine where to set the ball on the alley while the rest of us are just happy to be able to see the arrows for spot bowling that are a little way down the lane). John Specht has the high game so far and I have the high series. If others have their way, these three are subject to becoming lesser lights!

We'll be bowling through March 27th, or perhaps a little longer if the weather doesn't improve enough for some to start golfing. Come, join us! □

CLIO
Lodge No. 779



Master
W.: Robert D. Pedersen,

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

Secretary
W.: Sean Noonan
392-8156
287 East Ave.
Hilton, N.Y. 14468
www.mastermason.com/ello779

Greetings

Just when we get used to writing 2000 on our checks, we have to remember the new year, 2001. I hope all of you enjoyed the festive holidays as much as we did. For those "snowbirds", we did stay warm huddled around the crackling fire. While we watched through our windows, Mother Nature painted our landscape white.

Another success

A cold snowy night, warmed by the Spaghetti Dinners served by the members of Clio. A community effort, enjoyed by all in attendance, whether they cooked, served, cleaned, or just came to sit and eat. A few minutes of your time is worth the effort. In our busy lives, whether you come to help, or enjoy the meal, you will enjoy the fellowship. Bring your family and friends. Our next Spaghetti Dinners are January 10th and 24th. See you there!

Looking ahead

We will have a Brother Bring-a-Friend Night, Thursday, January 11th, at 7:30 p.m. Bring your friends and let them know who and what we are. Please call me at 464-4806 so we can be prepared for the evening.

Join us

Please join us on January 16th, when we ballot and install Brother Sante Panella, our newly appointed Treasurer. Brother Panella has accepted the position and will take over the reins from Brother David Goodrich, DSA.

December Birthdays

Congratulations to Brothers: Walter Garret, Gary Wahl, John Lewis, Gerald Webster, Ralph Shaw, Don Gala and Joseph S. Gresko.

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District Deputy Grand Master

Genesee/Wyoming



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

Grand Lodge calendars

By now you have received your 2001 calendar from Grand Lodge. The money received from them will go into the Grand Lodge Fund to assist our Brothers and Lodges. For instance, a small town Lodge with a declining membership opens for a meeting in the middle of Winter and finds the boiler broken down and beyond repair. Where to find money for a new boiler? Apply to Grand Lodge for money to cover the down payment, which is provided from Grand Lodge funds!

War Vets

The Genesee/Wyoming Masonic War Vets held their first meeting in December. The temporary officers are: Ray Barber, Commander; Dennis Turton, Adjutant; and Sheldon Moden, Paymaster. The next meeting will be January 31st at 7:30 p.m., Attica Lodge. This would be a good time to come and sign up.

Best wishes

Congratulations to R.W. Allen Capwell on his appointment as Grand Representative to Peru.

Remember to think positive; negative talk should not be in anything unless we are talking about a battery.

God bless you. □

Masonic Home Admissions Counselor

W. James P. Allan
(716) 457-3079
jpallan57@hotmail.com

Hello, Brethren!

I want to address the first steps necessary for you or your loved one if you should require the services of your Masonic Home. Those eligible are spouses or parents of a Mason. Anyone else seeking admission (for instance, mother-in-law) would have to be approved by the Board of Trustees.

First of all, I would like to vanquish the myth that upon entering the Home you would have to endow all your worldly goods upon them. This is quite untrue.

The cost of care at the Masonic Home is very competitive with the majority of nursing homes in New York State. Additionally, the level of care provided by the Masonic Home's RN's, LPN's and aides, percentage wise (i.e., staff to client), not only exceeds State requirements, but also those of most other care facilities.

Currently the prices for care in the Skilled Nursing Facility are: private rooms, \$158 per day; and semi-private room, \$148 per day.

The rates at the Adult Care Level are: private room, \$88 per day and semi-private room, \$78 per day. The Rehabilitation Unit rooms are all private and are \$173 per day.

Steps for admission

1. Contact me.
2. I will meet with you and assist in making sure that the following forms, which are necessary for admission to the Home, are completed. They are medical history and physical form, the PRI (patient review instrument) and the NYS Department of Health screen.

3. I will then contact the admissions co-ordinator of the Masonic Home, and will act as your liaison throughout the admissions process.

4. The Masonic Home has their own Social Services staff who are familiar with all the various programs such as Medicare and Medicaid and how they will apply to any individual's situation.

I am at your service at any time for questions or assistance. □

Arcade Lodge No. 419 F. & A.M.

2nd & 4th Tuos.
4th Tuos. only in Jan. & Feb



Master
R.W. Arthur Drew
492-4866

Secretary
David Hossenlopp 496-7267
Main Street
Arcade, New York 14009

By W. Adrian J. Miller, SW

Child Identification Program

As a community service the various Lodges are videotaping children as an aid in recovering them if they should become missing.

On December 1st, LeRoy hosted the videotaping with the assistance of various Lodges and this event was chaired by R.W. Leonard W. Mason. Forty-two children were taped and the parents were very grateful to have these tapes of their children.

Blood

Did you know that the average adult has about 10 to 12 pints of blood in his/her body? Your body discards old blood and manufactures new blood all the time. Blood delivers oxygen, food, hormones, removes carbon dioxide and other waste, transports protective antibody cells and clotting factors and acts as a coolant.

You are eligible to give blood if you are age 17 through 65. Some states require a parent's consent if you are under 21. Some require your physician's consent if you are over 60.

If you can donate blood, please do so, there is a shortage this time of year.

Sickness and distress

As Senior Warden, it is my duty to keep in touch with our sick and shut-ins. If you know of someone who is sick at home or in the hospital, do not hesitate to call me at 676-2775 or any officer and we will visit or send cards. We should not forget our Brethren in their time of need. □

Following the path of least resistance make rivers and men crooked.
Larry Bielak

Eagle Valley Lodge No. 1161

2nd & 4th
Thurs. 8:00 p.m.



Master
W. Edwin
C. Law
322-7221

R.W. Sheldon Moden
Secretary 322-7343
Liberty St.
Bliss, NY 14024

Millennial mumbles

It seems that there is some question as to whether 2001 is the first or second year of the third millennium. Your correspondent, being disinclined to discourse upon that subject, will not do so. I extend to you and your families in the Eagle Valley environs and to all regular Masons and their families everywhere best wishes for a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!

Annual Auction

Eagle Valley Lodge's Annual Auction was held November 4th. It was an excellent event, well attended. Thanks to all who supported our auction and special thanks to the Brothers of Eagle Valley Lodge who organized and delivered this very special event!

DDGM's Official Visit

District Deputy Grand Master, R.W. Raymond Barber, made an Official Visit to Eagle Valley Lodge on November 9th. He was accompanied by R.W. Arthur Drew, Grand Director of Ceremonies.

Poinsettias!

Eagle Valley Lodge's Annual Poinsettia Distribution was accomplished just prior to Christmas, 2000. Thanks to Eagle Valley Brothers who volunteered their time, vehicles and energy in the accomplishment of this worthy task.

Dues time, 2001!

In the unlikely event that you have overlooked payment of your 2001 dues, you are hereby reminded to "pay up". That's all I've got to say about that.

I hope to greet you at our next communication. □

HESPERUS Lodge No. 837

1st and 3rd Thursday



Master
W. Norman
P. Austin
494-2223

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

Well, here we are at the start of a new year. I hope each of you had a wonderful Holiday Season. The distribution of Christmas baskets and plants went quite well, and I thank all who participated in this annual event. Thanks also, to W. Dick Sands, to whom R.W. John Bater entrusted the coordination of this event. Hopefully, R.W. Bater will be able to once again participate more fully next year. I was able to join in the packing of baskets on Friday evening, but unfortunately, my work schedule precluded my assisting in the distribution Saturday morning.

Recuperating

R.W. John Bater continues to recuperate at a new location, having moved from St. Mary's Hospital to the NYS Veterans Home in Batavia. He is receiving rehab services and dialysis three times per week in Batavia. His address is: NYS Veterans Home, Ontario Cottage, Room 18, 220 Richmond Ave., Batavia, NY.

JWRalph Marsocci has improved after a bout with bronchitis.

Surprise

On November 26th, our Secretary, W. John Specht, was enticed to the Lodge (under the pretense of repairing heating problems) where his wife, Rt. Wthy. Nancy, and a large group of friends and relatives, including sons, Neil and Kurt, surprised him with an unexpected birthday celebration. From all indications, it was, indeed, a successful surprise. Congratulations, John!

Looking ahead

With the holidays behind us, it is time to look ahead to the new year and a new series of events. Our 1st meeting on January 4th will be our Annual Table Lodge, under the direction of Brother Ralph Marsocci. This is an event eagerly anticipated each year, and one which always proves to be a good time.

Bring-a-Friend

We are hopeful of scheduling some Brother Bring-a-Friend Nights in the near future. We have one candidate who completed his 1st Degree some time ago, and we'd like to have other candidates to take the remaining two Degrees with him.

Mollie

The Traveling Trophy continues to languish at Batavia Lodge, eagerly (I'm sure) awaiting those who will arrive to afford her new scenery. With 11 other Lodges in the District, who accomplishes this feat is anyone's guess.

Road to the East

Three of our officers, SW Marty Krauss, JW Ralph Marsocci, and SMC Harry Tyson are attending the "Road to the East" Program in Dansville on the 1st Saturday of January, February, and March. I had hoped to join them, since I so enjoyed the Program when I took it, but my work schedule has precluded this.

In closing

I close with a quotation by an anonymous author: "A candle loses nothing of its light by lighting another candle." Think about it. □

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

Greetings, my Brothers

As I reminisce on the events of the recent past, I remember the turkey and visiting with my family for Thanksgiving. It is my hope that each and everyone of you experienced a similar setting. Now we have just completed probably the greatest holiday of the year,

Christmas and then the New Year. If you are like me when it comes to the realization that time moves on, why does it seem as though it is so much faster now than we were in school? Back in those days time just seemed to drag on and on. Well, so much for reminiscing!

December

As relates to the work of the Lodge this past month of December, we only held one communication, although there were a couple of other events that were quite enjoyable. On the 19th of December, starting at 9:00 a.m., we shared our time ringing the bell for the Salvation Army at Top's store in Batavia. I might mention that while performing an important duty, it was nice to meet and greet people while enjoying a spot located indoors. As you probably know, the majority of these kettles are located outdoors. The evening of that same day we hosted the Annual Bingo games for the veterans of the Batavia VA Medical Center. It was humbling as I was reminded that these veterans served so that we could enjoy the many freedoms we have today. I am also a veteran, serving during the Viet Nam conflict, although I was one of the fortunate during those days. I spent my active duty serving in Germany.

Child ID

We are making plans to conduct a Child ID Program along with the Cooperative Extension in Batavia sometime during the coming Spring season. We do not have a firm date as of this writing, but we will keep you informed. Several of the Brothers assisted with the Child ID Program that was held in LeRoy at the Presbyterian Church on December 2nd. This was in conjunction with the Winterfest Days conducted by the Village of LeRoy. We do not have the final results of that day at present, but will let all know the outcome as soon as we know.

Best wishes

We wish W. Bill Genagon a full and complete recovery. Brother Bill underwent surgery recently. I do not know of any other Brother who is laid up at present. The Secretary had a nice telephone visit with W. Bob Clement and reported that Brother Bob is doing OK, although he uses a walker when needed. He informed us that he still drives his car on occasion. We wish Brother Bob continued good health.

Reminders

As a reminder, all have received their dues notice for the coming year. It will be appreciated if you give prompt attention to this matter and remit your dues. Thanks to all who have already responded.

Do not forget our obligations in supporting the Brotherhood Fund Drive. This is a worthwhile program in that it provides many services, not just to our Home in Utica, but to the Veterans Hospital Program, along with many other groups or organizations such as the Masonic Youth Foundation, Masonic Medical Research Laboratory and the Drug and Alcohol Abuse Program, just to mention a few. Your support is greatly needed and appreciated.

Until next month, may God bless us all! □

A flawed diamond is more valuable than a perfect brick.

Always tell the truth and you never have to remember what you said.
T. L. Osborne

**Attica Lodge
No. 462
F. & A.M.**



R. W. Jerald A. Brade
Master
344-1808
1st and 3rd
Wednesday
(Jan-Feb-Mar
3rd Wed Only)

W. Norman Steinbaugh,
Secretary 591-2073
39 Main Street
Attica, N. Y. 14011

A little history

W. Rowley P. Taylor was not present for any of the Lodge communications beginning with August and continuing for the rest of 1862. The reason for his absence was that he had received his commission as a Captain in Co. C of the 130th Regiment, New York State Volunteers on August 1st, and gone with his troops to camp at Portage on August 13th, and to Washington on September 6th. Brother Taylor was killed in battle by a solid shot from the enemy's gun on January 30th, 1863, near Suffolk, VA. The Lodge procured a coffin and paid Brother Taylor's burial expenses. The GAR Post of Attica immediately after the war, took the name of the Rowley P. Taylor Post in honor of his sacrifice on freedom's altar.

Breakfast anyone?

Our Pancake Breakfasts are really becoming the place to be on the 1st Sunday of every month. In appreciation of all your hard work and support, the January 7th Breakfast has been declared free. Just present your paid-up dues card and receive a free "famous Attica Lodge Pancake Breakfast" while they last. I hope to see you there!

Don't forget

During January, February and March we will have just one meeting per month, on the 3rd Wednesday.

Happy New Year

The officers and I wish you and yours a very happy and prosperous New Year!

**Olive Branch
Lodge No. 39
F. & A.M.**



R. W. Robert Nicoll
Master
768-7922
1st & 3rd
Wed.

W. Robert Forbes, Secretary
768-2657
8 West Main Street
LeRoy, N. Y. 14482

The new Millennium has started. I wish you all a very Happy New Year.

Winterfest

LeRoy's Winterfest on December 2nd and 3rd was a great success. The Genesec/Wyoming District held a Child ID video session at the Presbyterian Church. Forty-two children were taped. Each Lodge in our District was represented by the Brothers helping. R. W. Leonard Mason was in charge and he said everyone had a great time. I thank all on behalf of Olive Branch Lodge.

There was an "Open House" at the Temple and Karl-Heinz

Reich was the host and played the piano and organ. Thank you, Brother Karl!

Thanksgiving Dinner

The Annual Thanksgiving Dinner, our labor of love, was very enjoyable. All of the food was donated and many people in the community volunteered their help. This dinner has now developed into a tradition and we are planning for next year. Masons and non-Masons working together to take care of those in our community who wouldn't have a dinner except for our efforts.

Looking good

Clayton Dimick, Treasurer, has told me all the bills are paid up to date. We have a good balance in our Savings Account, our CD's are producing 6%, and the financial integrity of the Lodge is maintained.

You are needed

We need more attendance at our Lodge meetings. In ten years we will celebrate our 200th year and are planning to make this a notable event, from Grand Lodge, Genesec/Wyoming, and local participation. Plan now to help us celebrate 200 years.

Sickness

Those reported to have been ill are: R. W. Paul Smith, W. Bob Forbes and me.

See you in Lodge. Remember, Blue Lodge recruits men, makes Masons.

**West Star
Lodge No. 413
F. & A.M.**



W. Dennis G. Parmeter,
Master
786-3544
1st & 3rd
Mondays

R. W. Kenneth E. Kohlhagen,
Secretary 591-9598
2473 Route 20A
Varysburg, N.Y. 14167

By W. William R. Geitner

It has been a few years since I've written for the *Masonic Times*, so please excuse my being a little rusty. If I persist, I will improve.

Improvements

West Star has been very busy this Fall. The Lodge roof sprung a leak and we had both sides of the roof done. Now we have a new roof covering the whole Lodge and we shouldn't have to worry for many years. We now have a riser on the septic tank, so it doesn't have to be dug every year. The tank will be pumped annually and all we have to do is pay the bill!

Two of the windows in the Lodge room needed to be painted. One is done and the other will be done as soon as we get a nice day. Then we can cover them with plastic and save a little energy.

On our meeting night, December 4th, we discussed having a Brother Bring-a-Friend Night. We will have it on February 19, 2001. If you have a friend who you think would be interested in Masonry, ask him to join us this night. It has been too long since we have had a new member. It would do us good, and it would get the spirit going again. We need to polish those working tools.

Brotherhood Fund

Soon our Brotherhood Chairman will be sending out notices.

The Grand Master sent out his appeal early, but West Star gets credit if you send it to the Grand Master's Appeal. Our District did well last year, but we can always do a little better. Thanks for your support!

I can't mention any names, but there are many Brothers I haven't seen lately. Since I retired 3 years ago, I've missed seeing many of my friends. It would be nice to talk over old times, so try to join us on the 1st or 3rd Monday of the month.

Last month on our Official Visit, West Star found a way to make the visit a short one. Our furnace was not working and it was just a little chilly, therefore, the DDGM spoke faster than usual!

Well, hope you had nice holidays and safe travel on the roads. It looks like we might have a real Winter this year.



The House by the Side of the Road

There are hermit souls that live withdrawn
In the peace of their self-content:
There are souls, like stars, that swell apart,
In a fellowless firmament;
There are pioneer souls that blaze their paths
Where highways never ran;
But let me live by the side of the road
And be a friend to man.

Let me live in a house by the side of the road,
Where the race of men go by;
The men who are good and the men who are bad,
As good and as bad as I.
I would not sit in the scorn's seat,
Or hurt the cynic's ban;
Let me live in a house by the side of the road
And be a friend to man.

I see from my house by the side of the road,
By the side of the highway of life.
The men who press with the ardor of hope,
The men who are faint with the strife.
But I turn not away from their smiles nor their tears
Both parts of an infinite plan;
Let me live in my house by the side of the road
And be a friend to man.

Let me live in my house by the side of the road
Where the race of men go by;
They are good, they are bad, they are weak,
They are strong,
Wise, foolish-so am I,
Then why should I sit in the scorn's seat
Or hurt the cynic's ban?
Let me live in my house by the side of the road
And be a friend to man.

(Sam Walter Foss)

Wisdom

A wise old owl sat in an oak tree,
The more he saw, the less he spoke;
The less he spoke, the more he heard;
Why aren't we like that wise old bird?

Edward H. Richards

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Scottish Rite NEWS

Consistory
Chapter of Rose Croix
Council of Princes of Jerusalem
Lodge of Perfection



Charles O. Hancock
Commander-in-Chief



In 1801 the American Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite was formed. The year is of special interest since this is the anniversary of that founding. A special celebration will take place in Charleston, SC, this year as the Southern Jurisdiction, A.A.S.R., commemorates its beginnings in this country. At a later date in another monthly article we will discuss some of that history.

Modern speculative Freemasonry did not suddenly appear out of thin air with the establishment of the United Grand Lodge of England in the early 18th Century. Rather, the transition from and the rich legacy of symbolism and tradition of operative Masons continues to enrich the Craft even today. The symbolic nature of our Degrees have been taken from the religions, philosophies, mythologies and occult mysteries of the past yet are displayed in plain view for all the world to see.

Freemasonry has been accused of being called a secret society. Nothing is further from the truth! Freemasonry is a revealer of secrets for all to see! The exemplification of those secrets is found in the living of the day to day lives of those of us proudly known to be Freemasons. We are our own best advertisements.

In ancient times great truths of life were great secrets and few were admitted to the opportunity of learning those truths. Today the Craft teaches those great truths to all worthy men who seek to find "more light". Some of these truths are taught in the lessons or Degrees of the Symbolic or "Blue" Lodge. Many more are taught in both the York and Scottish Rites.

The system of Degrees exemplified in the Bodies of the Northern Jurisdiction of the AASR developed, portraying in a theatrical manner, the process by which thoughts, ideals, laws and civil institutions of modern society have evolved from the influences of past centuries. We understand our Degrees to be a medium of instruction. Political, religious and moral philosophies are the subjects of that instruction. The means of instruction are first, the exemplification of the Degrees by the several different Bodies constituting the Valleys, and second, certain readings that expand and explain the duties taught by the Degrees.

These readings are left to the individual to seek out and pursue at his own pace and level of comprehension. Unfortunately, not many Sublime Princes choose to explore this rich opportunity for "further light". The pressures of daily life today preclude many from exploring this rich source of enlightenment. Our desire for instant gratification or entertainment prevents us from investing the time and effort.

Today the exemplification of the Degrees themselves is the sole means of instruction most Scottish Rite candidates and Masons ever explore. This is unfortunate because:

1. Not all Valleys present the Degrees in a uniform and consistent manner.
2. Important lessons and symbols are often deleted from pre-

sentation in the interest of saving time.

3. Staging and sets are often not adequate to convey a full appreciation of the work.

4. Cast members and directors may not clearly understand the lessons they are trying to present or may not be able to convincingly portray the Allegory.

At best, each of us participating in Degree work learns a new lesson each time we exemplify the work. Such enlightenment is shared with the candidate and results in a more effective presentation. At worst, the candidate receives only a part of the message. This is regrettable. Hopefully, our new Millennium Passport system of recording and identifying the Degree experience will encourage participation on your part in our Degrees. At the very least, if you make a concerted effort to visit our Reunions, and also those of other Valleys, you may compare and contrast the various presentations of Degrees and thereby gain a greater appreciation for the great truths being shared. I hope you have more than a perfunctory interest in understanding these teachings.

The lessons of our Degrees are not a random collection of moral and ethical precepts. They are an organized and coherent system of doctrine relating to the perfectibility of human conduct. This perfectibility is not an expectation of the achievement of perfection itself. It is rather a goal, which because it is impossible to achieve, may provide us with an objective for such improvement. No man can be perfect. He can, however, strive toward perfection and thereby constantly improve himself.

Albert Pike (SGC SJ AASR 1859-1891) said, "Masonic Light, like the light of day at the close of the long night in far northern climes, must come, not all in one flash, but by slow and imperceptible degrees." If the only time you have experienced a Scottish Rite Degree was when you were a candidate, you have not had the time or opportunity to understand or appreciate the lessons being presented. Many of us have learned that we first begin to understand the great truths of these Degrees when we must interpret them for others by presenting the lessons as cast members in a Degree presentation. Maybe that is an approach you would like to consider. Think about it!

By becoming a Scottish Rite Mason you begin the search for philosophical truth in three areas: political, moral and religious. These areas express our duty to country, to mankind and to God. A complete man has a balance of his religious, political and moral parts. In order to achieve that balance he must enlarge his sense of duty and prepare himself for an understanding of his place and purpose in this universe. Our Scottish Rite Degrees, when properly received, aid in that development.

Duty within the Scottish Rite system has as its foundation some form of action. It is not enough to know and understand; a Mason must consciously and conscientiously improve himself and the world in which he lives. The teachings of the Scottish Rite have been designed so that no

one would go away ignorant of the basic tenets nor could anyone master them in his lifetime. Dr. Rex Hutchins said, "Our lessons are a feast for the mind, but there are no waiters - you must serve yourself." If you need help, just ask. The work is yours, and so is the reward.

I wish you a happy, prosperous and enjoyable New Year, as well as New Millennium! □

Scottish Rite Tidbits

By Stephen R. Whittaker, 33°

Reunion overview

Thanks very kindly to all Brothers that participated in the conferral of our Degrees. It is an inspiration to observe Ritual being done so well. "Hats off" to our Director of Directors, Ill. John E. Zabel, 33°, for his special efforts in coordinating all of the Degrees under some special conditions.

Welcome new Sublime Princes

We welcome the following new Sublime Princes of the Fall 2000, Paul W. Spillane Class: Keith Freeman, Class President; Jeffrey Quartley, Class Orator; Thomas Riddle; Matthew Roberts; and Brian Waller. Brother Clyde Rathmann of Corning Consistory was present to receive the Consistory Degrees on Saturday of the Reunion.

We offer our special thanks to the Divan and members of Damascus Temple that provided their usual Reception after the completion of the 32°. We respect and greatly appreciate the special relationships that our two groups have built over the last 100 years and will continue to preserve this tradition.

Active Brother

I had neglected to mention Brother Ronald J. Bertie who is very active in several Bodies of the York Rite, as well as being a Past Presiding Officer of two of our Scottish Rite Bodies.

Military Decoration

Governor Pataki recently recognized Brother Keith Stambach

for his military service in Korea by presenting him with New York State's highest Military Decoration, the New York State Conspicuous Service Cross. Congratulations, Brother Keith!

Ambassadors

Special thanks to Brothers Robert Pedersen and Joseph Oelgoetz III for providing the necessary leadership and training for our Ambassador Team. The brochure, "The Ten Most Frequently Asked Questions and Answers about the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry", is only a phone call away at 271-0715. It will be necessary to do a lot of outreach work for our Spring 2001 Class if we are to achieve our target of 44 new members.

Sickness and distress

Please take a moment and drop a note to Ill. Fred Nielsen, 33°, who recently fell and broke his back. He will be in bed for a couple of months. Cards are also appropriate for Illustrious Brothers Roy S. Dementint, 33° and H. Frederick Seuffert, 33°. I am sure they would appreciate hearing from you. Please offer your prayers for our good Brothers: William Scheer, Donald Rose, 32° MSA, and Clifford Hayner as they continue to meet challenging health situations.

Learning Center

For those who have background as educators, please step forth and let us know who you are. We are looking for qualified individuals who might be able to become instructors at the Learning Center. As always, we are willing to accept your donation of \$100 in exchange for a special necktie. There is also a list of other items that is available in the office.

Family Life Programs

During January and February there will be special programs focused on "Family Life" activities. Stay tuned for more information.

Trivia

Those who have served the Grand Lodge of New York as an

Have a Moment of Fun

Perched on Daddy's shoulders, the toddler cups his hands over Daddy's eyes.

Just a few minutes of play - whether it's peekaboo, catch or a board game - can strengthen or renew the parent-child bond.

Growing up is serious business, but moments of fun teach some of life's most valuable lessons.



2001 Scottish Rite Family Life Program

This message is brought to you by the
Scottish Rite Masons in your community.

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.

Crawford
FUNERAL HOME INC.

Independently Owned And Operated

482-0400

495 N. Winton Road, Rochester, NY
(Between Browncroft & Humboldt)



David P. Crawford

Officer, the Valley of Rochester as Commander-in-Chief of Rochester Consistory, and Damascus Temple Shrine as Potentate (who are living) are Illustrious Brothers: Arnold W. Frear, 33°, Rodney R. Rittenhouse, 33°, and James B. Scobell, 33°. What a record!

Website development

Our Assistant Secretary, William Lindsay, has spent considerable time and effort in the development of the Valley of Rochester website. More to come.....

Interested in becoming an Officer?

Please reach out to one of the Presiding Officers or Committee Chairs listed in your Pocket Calendar if you are so inclined. It is a very interesting experience!

Music

A special thanks to Brother Bill Kuehne for his excellent renditions at our Reunion. It has been suggested that if a dozen or so Sublime Princes volunteered, perhaps we could put together a choir for our Degrees. Please let us know if you are interested.

Sound System

Thanks kindly to Brother Donald Brugger, 32° MSA, for his management of the sound equipment at our Reunion.

Stage and Wardrobe Crews

As always, thanks kindly for the special efforts of these teams to ensure that the right costumes and the right props are in the right place at the right time.

Membership development and outreach

The recent Fall 2000 Class of five new members was heart-

warming to see. The Degree series was professionally conducted and the fellowship was excellent. To achieve our target goal of 66 new members this year, next Spring's effort must begin now. Please give thought to the one Blue Lodge Brother that you would like to invite to join our beloved Consistory and reach out to him. There will be more to come on this vital issue.

Help your Blue Lodge

Be willing to assist your Lodge in whatever way that you can. Helping Lodges secure new members is our first priority; joining the Scottish Rite is something that will follow.

Congratulations

Ill.: Fred Stahl, 33°, was recently recognized by the Western New York Lumber Dealers Association as the "2000 Lumber person of the Year".

Ill.: Stephen R. Whittaker, 33°, 1st Lt. Commander, was just named a Vice-President of Monroe Litho Inc.

Harry S. Truman

From the Office of the Sovereign Grand Commander, Ill.: Robert O. Ralston, 33°.

Do you remember Harry S. Truman? He was not born to wealth and privilege. He did not attend a prestigious university. In fact, he never went to college.

As a young man, he sampled a variety of jobs and did not find success in all of them. Yet he became the 33rd President of the United States. With his slogan, "The buck stops here", he let ev-

eryone know he was both in charge and responsible.

Forthright and plain-spoken, he was viewed as "one of us" by millions of Americans. For Freemasons, he was literally one of us. A Freemason for more than 60 years and a member of the Scottish Rite, he also joined the York Rite and the Shrine.

Brother Truman has been singled out for this year's Famous Masons Medallion and so he's there on the Blue Envelope materials you have been seeing. For me, he's a reminder that each of us is in charge and responsible for the work we have to do. That certainly includes the work we do to benefit others.

Our Scottish Rite Masonic Charities benefit a wide range of people. Our Schizophrenia Fellowship Program supports important medical work in a critical field. Our Museum and Library shares wonderful American and Masonic memories with thousands of visitors. Our Abbott Scholarships make higher education more affordable for hundreds of young people from Masonic families and youth groups.

The Blue Envelope Appeal is our call to action to do our part. By sending in your gift, you enable each of our charities to continue its work, to benefit so many.

Please give and urge your fellow Valley members to join us in this important effort. As Commander Ralston has announced, this year, in addition to the annual Kern Benevolence Award-which goes to the Valley with the highest average contribution and highest percentage of participation-the Supreme Council will also recognize the top five Valleys for participation.

All donations to the 2000-2001 Blue Envelope Appeal are appreciated. Donations of \$35.00 or more will receive a Famous

Masons Medallion featuring Harry S. Truman.

I hope we can count on your support again this year.

What men want to say to women, but usually fail to gather enough courage to enumerate!

(A little Internet wisdom to share.)

If you ask a question you don't want the answer to, expect an answer you don't want to hear.

Sometimes we are not thinking about you. Live with it!

When we have to go somewhere, absolutely anything you wear is fine.

Ask for what you want. Let us be clear on this one: subtle hints do not work. Strong hints do not work. Just say it. And loud enough so that we can hear it.

No, we do not know what day it is. We never will. Mark anniversaries on the calendar. Remind us frequently beforehand.

Most guys own three pair of shoes-tops. What makes you think we'd be any good at choosing what pair out of thirty, would look good with your dress?

Come to us with a problem only if you want help solving it. Sympathy is what girl friends are for.

If it itches, it will be scratched. We do that!

mtgna/1djb

If we ask if something's wrong and you say "nothing," we will act like nothing's wrong. We know you are lying, but it is just not worth the hassle.

If something we said can be interpreted two ways and one way makes you sad or angry, we meant it the other way.

You can either ask us to do something or tell us how you want it done-not both. If you already know how best to do it, do it yourself.

We are not mind-readers. Our lack of mind-reading ability is not proof of how little we care about you.

All men see in 16 colors, like Windows default settings. Peach is not a color, it is a fruit. Pumpkin is also a fruit. We have no idea what mauve is.

The relationship is never going to be like it was the first two months we were going out. Get over it!

New York State Council of Deliberation

Allegiance

The bodies of the Scottish Rite, sitting in the Valley of Rochester, State of New York acknowledge and yield allegiance to the Supreme Council, 33°, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States of America, whose Grand East is in Lexington, Massachusetts, and whose officers are:

Ill.: Robert O. Ralston, 33°
Sovereign Grand Commander

Ill.: Lawrence D. Inglis, 33°
Grand Lieutenant Commander

Ill.: Robert W. Clarke, 33°
Grand Minister of State

Ill.: Harold L. Aldrich, 33°
Deputy for New York State

Active Members for New York

Ill.: Richard H. Welkley, 33°
Ill.: Douglas K. Wilson, 33°
Ill.: Gary A. Henningsen, 33°
Ill.: Frederick D. Greene, 33°

Active Emeriti Members for New York

Ill.: John H. VanGorden, 33°
Ill.: Ralph M. Tompkins, 33°
Ill.: James F. Niehoff, 33°
Ill.: Carlton A. Winchester, 33°
Past Deputy for New York
Ill.: Harold F. Dates, 33°
Ill.: Bruce W. Widger, 33°
Past Deputy for New York

Deputy's Representative

Ill.: Rodney R. Rittenhouse, 33°

January Program Meeting
Thursday, January 18, 2001
8:00 p.m.

"December Rose"

Presented by the Valley of Syracuse
Open to all members, family, and friends.

Scottish Rite Program / Meeting
Save the Date!

When: February 15, 2001, 8:00 p.m.



Where: Cathedral Hall, Downtown Temple, Rochester

Open to all: Members, Family, Friends, Guests and Students and their families from the 32° Masonic Children's Learning Center,

What's offered: Group Singing, Soloists, Kids Mini-Fashion Show, a Speaker and more

by the Valley of Rochester A.A.S.R.
More to follow in February issue

Best Wishes for a Happy New Year from the Scottish Rite Office Staff


The 2000-2001 Blue Envelope Appeal honors Harry S. Truman (1884-1972) 33rd President of the United States 33° Scottish Rite Mason

Scottish Rite Masonic Charities

What is the Blue Envelope Appeal?

Once a year a Blue Envelope mailing is sent to each Scottish Rite Mason in the 15-state Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, asking for donations to our Scottish Rite Masonic Charities.

Where will my dollars go?

Funds contributed to this year's Blue Envelope Appeal will be distributed to these three important efforts: the Schizophrenia Fellowship Program, which supports the search for a cure of this widespread and serious mental illness; the Abbott Scholarships, which aid students from Scottish Rite families and Masonic youth groups; and the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum and Library, which preserves and interprets the history of our country and our Fraternity.

How much should I give to the Blue Envelope Appeal?

Every gift, whether large or small, contributes to the success of the Appeal. The Sovereign Grand Commander has said, "In the Scottish Rite, we are doers. We act on our commitments. The Blue

Envelope Appeal is a perfect example of this. By making a gift - whatever its size - you contribute to three important activities and maintain our tradition of compassion and generosity in a meaningful way." Besides our Annual Appeal, please also keep our Scottish Rite Masonic Charities in mind year-round as an appropriate and worthy destination for gifts in honor or in memory of the special people in your life.

How do I make my Blue Envelope contribution?

When you receive your Blue Envelope mailing, please read it carefully and send in your contribution and your personalized reply form in the return envelope provided. You can send a check or use your credit card to make your contribution.



2000-2001 Blue Envelope Appeal

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

York Rite NEWS

York Rite College
Judas Maccabeus

District Deputy Grand High Priest

Royal Arch Masons
27th Capitular District



R.E. Paul B. Josephson
334-7353

Welcome to 2001. I hope that all of you had a safe and happy holiday season and will have a wonderful year ahead of you.

Grand Chapter

The Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter is on March 2nd and 3rd. This is open to all Royal Arch Masons and their ladies. If you want to have a great weekend of fellowship let me know. I have the room reservation sheet and meal tickets. The rooms are \$86.00 per night and the meals are \$15.00 for the men's and ladies' luncheons and \$30.00 for the Friday Banquet. I will need your reservation by January 11th, so please let me know your wishes as soon as possible so you won't be left out.

Hiram Chapter

No. 62
2nd & 4th
Thursdays

E.. John A. Dudley, High Priest
586-6426
Richard J. Oliver, Secretary
594-2380
875 Main Street East
Rochester, N.Y. 14805

My year as High Priest is almost over and it has gone by very quickly. My thanks to everyone for their support, help and assistance. I can name only a few as space is limited: R..E.. Richard Oliver will be retiring as Secretary after 30 years of service. He has supported many High Priests over those years and now deserves a rest.

R..E.. Larry Dunn was always close at hand to give me his wise counsel.

Companion Dennis Gellash has helped me greatly throughout the year. Having lunches after each meeting has been a treat - even though I have gained weight from them. Dennis did an excellent job coordinating both the picnic and the trip to Canada. I am sure those who attended had an excellent time.

Companion William Lindsay is very eager to take the reins and I know we will have a good year with him in the East. He coordinated the gift of our 3rd set of banners to Haggai Chapter of

Prince Hall Masons on Brown Street in Rochester.

Thanks to Bob and Linda Zahn who always have an excellent Hospitality Room at Grand Chapter in Albany, a great place to quench your thirst, satisfy your appetite, pick up the latest news, and get some rest from the busy weekend.

Picnic

The York Rite Picnic, on August 6th, at the Kuehne cottage was a great event, in spite of the weather, and it was a fun place to meet most of the Grand Line.

Boat Cruise

We had a great Summer event, a boat cruise and dinner, that everyone enjoyed. It was planned and coordinated by R..E.. Gerald Jones.

Classes

We had two classes this year with great Degree work, thanks to V..E.. William Zufall, E.. Bruce Horncastle, R..E.. Paul Josephson, R..E.. Larry Dunn, R..E.. Gerald Jones, R..E.. Charles Roberts, and all others who worked in the quarries.

Meals

Thanks to Hilde DiJames and Joy Woodley we enjoyed many great meals at our meetings.

Sickness

Please keep R..E.. Bob Zahn in your prayers as he had surgery the first week of December.

Dates to remember

Mark your calendars for William Lindsay's Installation on January 11th. The Order of the High Priesthood at Hiram Chapter will be held on Saturday, February 10th, at 1:30 p.m.

E-mail

Please send your e-mail address to: l-c-dunn@juno.com.

Thank you for your support and may all life's passing seasons bring the best to you and yours.

District Deputy Grand High Priest

Royal Arch Masons
29th Capitular District



R..E.. Stephen Licht

Companions

Congratulations and best wishes for a successful Capitular year to all the newly elected and re-elected High Priests of the 29th District. Your efforts and enthusiasm are vital to the continuance of Royal Arch Masonry.

We certainly cannot deny the effect the Winter weather has had upon our Masonic activities. I hope the snows abate sufficiently for us to hold our Annual Convocations as summoned. It seems

that in recent years we have found it necessary to obtain dispensations and re-summon our Companions, trusting the weather to allow us a second attempt. If your Chapter has found itself following this scenario, perhaps it is time to rethink our choice of dates for the Annual Convocation. Would the problem be eliminated by advancing the dates into the first two weeks of November?

I have long been a proponent of having a Winter recess in place of the historical, Summer time of "Masonic Darkness". Very few of us are active farmers, needing the longer Summer days and warm weather for tending the fields and the livestock, and how many of the Companions leave the area for extended Summer vacations? Contrast this to the number of retired members who may spend the cold Winters in the Southern climates. Consider the number of members employed in industry, who work a set number of hours throughout the year. Today, more than any time before, the expense of heating one of our aged Masonic edifices should be a deciding factor in our plans; that is, unless your treasuries are of Solomonic proportions!

It is unfortunate that we employ reactive thinking to deal with situations that proactive thinking would have prevented or substantially reduced.

Degree conferrals

The Most Excellent Master Degree will be Monday, January 8th, at Arcade Chapter, 7:00 p.m.

The Holy Royal Arch Degree will be Thursday, February 15th, at Western Star Chapter at 7:00 p.m. Degree rehearsal will be called by the presiding officer at the conferral.

Grand Chapter

Anyone desiring to make reservations for a room at Grand Chapter or to purchase tickets for the luncheon or Friday evening banquet, should contact me immediately. After January 8th, any Companion wishing to make reservations or purchase tickets will be obliged to contact the Grand Secretary.

Please refer to the December article or call/e-mail me for more information.

Major events of the new year!!

June 30th is Royal Arch Day in Western New York. Western Star Chapter No. 35 will host the dedication of its Sanctuary at the Attica Masonic Temple in the early afternoon by the Most Excellent Grand High Priest and the Officers of the Grand Chapter of the State of New York. Attica Lodge has been recently renovated and can accommodate a great number in fine style. Light refreshments will be served after the ceremony.

There will be a Royal Arch Scholarship Dinner at Frederick's Manor at Bowen Road and Broadway (Rte. 20), Lancaster. The cash bar is at 5:30 p.m. and dinner at 6:30 p.m. There will be a complimentary cocktail and the music by Karl-Heinz Reich. The donation is \$25.00, same arrangements as the 2000 dinner!

3x3 Chapter NO. 333 Royal Arch Masons (Chartered in 1990)



2nd Tue.
7:30 p.m.

E.. Edward Gillott
High Priest - 594-8247
R..E.. Karl-Heinz Reich
Secretary - 426-6836
133 S. Union Street
Spencerport, N.Y. 14559

Companions

This is the last article that I will be writing to you as High Priest. By the time you will be reading this article we will, hopefully, have elected our new officers for the year 2001. The Nominating Committee of R..E.. Ruel Lovett and V..E.. James MacConnell, have proposed the following principal officers for the ensuing year:

High Priest James J. Powell
King Eugene Brendel
Scribe J. David Goodrich
Secretary Karl-Heinz Reich
Treasurer J. Edward Gillott
Trustee Arthur W. McMichael

I ask that you give them all the support they deserve in the fulfilling of their Chapter duties, just as you have given me. Please make yourselves available to fill the needs of the various committees. I take this opportunity to wish the new officers a very successful and productive year.

Reminders

The dues notices have been sent to all of you by now and I would like to remind you when paying to include a little something for one of our favorite charities, the Royal Arch Scholarship Fund.

This seems a proper time for me to dismiss my committees with my thanks for a job well done. I thank you for allowing me to serve as your High Priest and for all the support given me.

On behalf of Three Times Three Chapter, I extend my best wishes for a healthy and prosperous New Year. I leave you with this poem:

I'd like to think when life is done
that I had filled a needed post,
That here and there I'd paid my fare,
with more than idle talk
and boast.

That I had taken gifts divine,
the breath of life and manhood fine,
And tried to use them now and then,
in service to my fellow men.

I'd like to think that here and there,
when I am gone there shall remain,
A happier spot that might have not existed,
had I lived for gain.
That someone's cheery voice and smile,
shall prove that I have been worthwhile,
That I have paid with something fine,
my debt to God for life divine.

(Anonymous) □

District Deputy Grand Master 8th Cryptic District



R..I.. Daniel N. Evans, Sr.
492-2807 ddcrypt@ll

Companions

Now that the holidays are behind us, I hope you all survived! I hope you had a very Merry Christmas and that you received all the things you wished for and that Santa could carry. Best wishes for a happy New Year, and I hope some of your resolutions include attending Masonic meetings, not only Council, but all Lodge meetings. Don't forget the charities that we all subscribe to.

Now, getting to the business at hand. Last year with snowstorms, other commitments and unforeseen circumstances, I was unable to make all of my visits. There are three more to go and I am hoping to make them in January and February (weather permitting). Should the weather become a problem for me, I shall phone each Council. The following are the Councils I will be visiting:

Bath-January 17th
Skoj-yase-January 19th
Nundawaga-January 23rd

Nundawaga held its second Annual Table Council on November 27th at the LeRoy Temple. R..I.. Bill Vassily gave a rousing talk on Paul Revere, which was both interesting and very informative. Those who attended enjoyed the proceedings, however, attendance could have been better. I am looking forward to the next Table Council at Nundawaga and am hoping for a much better turnout.

As the District Deputy of the 8th Cryptic District, please keep me informed of your Councils or other functions.

Myson is the Master of a Lodge in Missouri and is also a member of Council. Upon visiting his Council, I have decided to use some of their ideas. I'll address this matter in the future as they are still in the planning stages. □

Nundawaga Council No. 92

4th Monday
West Main Street
LeRoy, NY 14482

Ill.. Merle L. Robinson
Master - 343-5159,
e-mail: sirgrouch@2ki.net
Ill.. Vernon Rupert
Recorder - 343-8429

Table Council

We had an excellent Table Council on November 27th. R..I.. Bill Vassily and Paul Revere gave us a very informative history lesson.

Official Visit

On January 22nd we will have the Official Visit by R..I.. Daniel

Make Your Pledge to the
RAM Scholarship Fund Now!


Evans, District Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of New York. We hope to see a goodly representation from other Councils in the District.

Degree

We have planned to confer the Royal Master Degree at our February 26th Assembly.

I trust you all have had a pleasant holiday. See you soon.

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



3rd
Wednesdays

Donald J. Brugger, III, Master
(h) 458-6125, (o) 473-4351
L. Edward Walker, Recorder
647-2382

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

Hopefully by the time you read this we will have welcomed two new members to Doric Council. I am sure that our cast for the Select Master Degree will have done their usual flawless work and that all Companions enjoyed the Turkey Dinner served by the ladies of the Grotto Caldron.

By this time the Holidays will be winding down and a New Year was or soon will be welcomed. The Officers and I hope for each of you and your families, a prosperous and healthy year.

Sickness & Distress

Companion Bob Zahn recently underwent colon surgery and is recovering nicely. Companion Stanley Peterson is receiving whole body radiation treatment for skin cancer. We wish these Companions a speedy recovery and will remember them in our prayers.

We were all saddened by the passing of Companion Horace Porter, a tireless worker in the York Rite, Past Illustrious Master of Doric Council and recipient of the Order of the Purple Cross. He will be missed.

Membership

The new year will bring a new round of Degrees so please get those petitions in. Talk to your Companions in Chapter and remind them of the Cryptic completion of the Hiram Legend. Let's all make an effort to bring more Companions into the Cryptic Rite.

The Royal Master Degree is planned for the February meeting and the Secret Master is planned for March. So, time is short; get busy!

**Batavia Commandery
No. 34
Knights Templar**



Meets
2nd & 4th
Thursdays
Attica

Commander
Norman P. Austin 494-2223
Recorder
Allon L. Capwell 786-3897
39 Main Street
Attica, N.Y.

As we enter a new year, I trust that everyone had an enjoyable Holiday Season. It doesn't seem

that the year 2000 could have passed on so quickly, yet, here we are, starting over again.

Toast

Our Christmas Toast was a success, with both Sir Knights and Ladies offering Toasts and narrations along with the singing of Christmas Carols. We had a Birthday Cake for Jesus and lots of tasty treats to enjoy, along with a good deal of holiday cheer. Donations placed in envelopes on the Christmas tree were given to the Batavia School for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

Thanks

Thanks go out to Generalissimo, SK Jim MacConnell, for his organizational skills, to Warder, SK Jerry Brade, for setting up the Lodge room, to Captain General, SK Vern Rupert for procuring the candles, and to all the Sir Knights and Ladies for supplying treats, reading their parts, and giving of their time and effort to make this event a success.

This annual event serves as an excellent opportunity for us to celebrate an inherent component of Knights Templary, that of Christian Masonry, and to demonstrate this belief in an impressive and meaningful way to our guests who are not members.

Future events

In addition to practice sessions for our upcoming Inspection on March 8th, we will have a Valentine's Party in February.

Best wishes

SK Bob Forbes begins his treatments once again this month. Our best wishes go out to him.

Eye Foundation

The Knights Templar Eye Foundation Campaign is now underway. This is a most worthwhile charity and I urge each of you to do your part. Sight, one of the five senses God gave us, is something many of us take for granted. By contributing, you can help enable another person to revel in the glories God has created for all of us to enjoy.

Next conclave


Our next conclave will be at 8:00 p.m. on January 11th where we will get ourselves "back in the groove", refreshing our Ritual and floor work. The next three consecutive conclaves will have us practicing for our Inspection.

In closing

Allow me to leave you with a rather profound quote by Booker

T. Washington, upon which I reflect. I have found this statement to be incontrovertibly true, having experienced it from both positions: "Helping someone else is the secret to happiness."

**Cyrene-Monroe
Commandery
No. 12**



Chartered
1993

1st & 3rd
Mondays

SK John A. Dudley
Commander 889-2760

SK Lawrence W. Dunn
Recorder 594-8033

I wish you and your families a Happy New Year. Knights Templars celebrated the birth of Jesus Christ at the Christmas Toast on December 18th. We enjoyed hors d'oeuvres following the Toast.

Thank you

I thank SK Don Brugger for putting together the York Rite Unity Night. Due to a singer losing his voice, Don was able to do some quick damage control and retained substitute entertainment on a very short notice. The magician, Jerry Argetsinger, was outstanding. Of course, I particularly enjoy magic acts. His slight of hand was wonderful and everyone had a great time.


Fund Drive

By now you have received your letter requesting your monetary help to support our annual Knights Templar Eye Foundation Fund Drive. The contributions made to the Fund go to support research of eye diseases and helps those who are afflicted. Like any philanthropic group, there is always a need for your donations. With so many Sir Knights having cataract eye surgery these days, our support is having its pay-back.

We need you

This is a call to all Sir Knights who have not been to Commandery lately. We need you at our conclaves to fill our lines. Let's all give that extra effort to make Commandery all it can be.

**Genesee
York Rite
College No. 25**
(Chartered July 14, 1962)



Pre-Eminent Governor
Donald J. Brugger
(h) 458-6125, (o) 473-4351
e-mail: djbrugger@juno.com

Secretary
Charles M. Roberts - 225-6533

Our December meeting at Hesperus Lodge was well attended with 17 members present. Recommendations for new members were received and invitations will be sent to those balloted on.

CK Norman Austin agreed to be our new Marshal and was ably installed by CK Vernon Rupert and CK Ken Kohlhausen. We welcome him to the line. CK James MacConnell was moved up to Seneschal to replace CK Paul Josephson. At our next meeting, on March 10th, we will be conferring the Order of Knight of York on those of the possible eight, accepting invitations to membership. Our Treasurer, CK Ron Bertie, reported that our finances are in good shape and that we have transferred our accounts to the Bank of Castile.

The ladies were treated to an angel creating session led by Marsha MacConnell which was enjoyed by all. The MacConnells supplied us with delicious finger food before and after the meeting as well as flowers for the ladies and favors for all at the dinner. Their efforts are appreciated and we thank them for creating such a congenial holiday atmosphere.

Remembrance

During the meeting a short Memorial Service was conducted in remembrance of Knight Companion Horace Porter, OPC who passed away on November 10th and Past Governor General (1988), M.P.E.D. Brother, Roland E. VanLoven, who passed away on November 8th.

Help!

Since we will be short handed I am asking for your help! in the

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conferral of the Order. Our director, CK Dave Taber, will not be with us and CK Stan Peterson, OPC, is undergoing radiation therapy for skin cancer and probably won't be able to assist with the costumes. Consequently we need all the help we can get in handling the costumes and people. Please come out, if you can, and help out.

Because of there being a show in the Auditorium Theater (Ragtime) together with the difficulty in securing a suitable place for dining close by, we will be having dinner at the Temple. Parking for Masons in the Temple lot is \$1 plus a Blue Lodge membership card. Plan on arriving early because the theater doors open at 1:00 p.m. Details for the dinner will be forthcoming. Reservations will still be needed so, give our Noble Recorder a speedy reply to his letter. CK MacConnell and his wife Marsha have graciously volunteered to host the ladies again.

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Lalla Rookh GROTTO

News

Patrol
Legion
Caldron

Leon J. VanHuben, Monarch

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



Leon VanHuben

Monarch's Message

Final message

As time winds down, I thank my officers and members for all of their cooperation. It is you who made my year as Monarch of Lalla Rookh Grotto a memorable one for my Lady, Bev, and myself.

I congratulate the officers elected and appointed for 2001. You will have a good year under the capable leadership of Prophet Kenneth V. Hutchinson, Monarch Elect.

Grotto Clowns

By Uncle Al

Happy New Year, may it be a great year for all. We will be having Clownology Schooling this year for all that think they might be so inclined to take part in this fun time job. Give it some thought. We (me) are sure looking for some new good members! Male, female, kids, dogs, cats and even robots! The best part is that the Grotto picks up the cost for the schooling. You don't even have to keep up a "C" average!

Call me at 225-8471 before the class is filled up. Oh, yeah!

Happy New Year to all!

Chief Justice

During the past twelve months I have shared our travel plans and experiences with you via this paper. The Chief Justice year was a relatively easy year, outside of being assistant to the Monarch, attending Board and Grotto meetings, Legion meetings, and attending Installations and Priceless Jewel events in other cities.

This was a resting period between the Master of Ceremonies and the Big Job in 2001!

It has been a very rewarding year for Edna and I, as we traveled for the second year representing Lalla Rookh at the out of town events and establishing many friendships among the Prophets and Ladies in New York, Pennsylvania and Canada.

In closing, I remind all members that the value you receive from your Grotto membership may be measured only by the effort you expend in making yourself an integral part of it; by your willingness to enter into its activities.

"More fun in 2001".

Membership

By Bill Fredenburg

Happy New Year, Prophets. We hope you all had a joyous and wonderful holiday season. The year 2000 was quite successful for Lalla Rookh Grotto as we made several new Prophets.

Now we all need to focus our attention on doing an even better job this year. Plans are being formulated for our activities for the 2001 season. Watch for more information in future Masonic Times publications.

Let's all get behind our Monarch and bring into Lalla Rookh Grotto even more Brother Masons this year than last. Now is the time to talk about our Grotto to your Lodge Brothers and provide them with the information available to you from the office. If we all do our part, as ambassadors of the best kept secret in Masonry, we can have a very successful year. Together we can!

Grotto Legion of Honor, Veterans Day Observance, Rochester War Memorial



Leon VanHuben, Howard Topel, Alfred Pulcino III, Dick Topel, Ernest Swan, William Fredenburg, Ken Hutchinson.

THE COLOR GUARD

"LET'S GET IT RIGHT.....THIS TIME, WE ALL START OUT ON THE LEFT FOOT!"



Attend Grotto Meetings

2001

Wed., January 10th-Cast Annual Dinner Rick's Prime Rib 6:00 p.m.

Mon., January 15th-Legion of Honor-Dutch Mill Dinner 6:00 p.m.

Wed., January 20th-Grotto Installation Dinner 6:00 p.m.

Enjoy the Fellowship

Legion of Honor

By Al Pulcino III

All good things come to an end, but made this one a month longer. We will have a meeting on January 15, 2001, at the Dutch Mill with a speaker and all our new officers elected with no recount! Hopefully, ya all can make it. Reservations are needed, stop, call Ernie Swan at 621-7167, I will be right here. If you didn't do it, know you have to by January 11th. Dinner at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Installation

The slate of officers is:
Commander-Ernest Swan
Exe. Officer-Alfred Pulcino III
Personnel Officer-Ron Morthorst
Finance Officer-Frank Murrer, Jr.

Chaplain-Mike Bell
Quartermaster-Howard Topel

The Installation will be February 10th at the Dutch Mill. The social hour is at 5:30 p.m., with a deluxe Smorgasbord Dinner at 6:30 p.m. with entertainment to follow. The cost is \$15.00 each. This is always a good time, and it is open. Please send your checks made payable to Ronald J. Morthorst, to 231 Mystic Lane, Rochester, NY 14623, by February 2nd. Right now is a good time!

I was proud to be at the U.S. Coast Guard Station on December 7th, at 7:30 a.m., for the tribute held there for Pearl Harbor Day. Dean Marsaw, George Goodman, Sr., Donald M. Dill, Bud Golding, Jr., Gordon Williams and I were there to pay tribute in the most inclement weather ever. The Masonic Brotherhood was represented by a few people. Hope to see more out next year. The breakfast after at the Greece American Legion Post No. 416 was great and warm.

To all a great new year.

Cast News

By George Knierim

The Annual Dinner Meeting will be Wednesday, January 10th at 6:00 p.m. at Rick's Prime Rib Restaurant, 898 Buffalo Road.

The choices are Prime Rib, Chicken or Orange Roughy and there is no charge for paid up members.

Please call in your reservation by January 7th to the President, Richard Topel at 663-2547 or me at 865-0494.

Master of Ceremonies

By Al Pulcino III

It is my pleasure to be moved up and out of this job and open the door for our new Master of Ceremonies, P.M. Doug Spencer. Good luck and have fun! So much for rejoicing! As all know, our next get-together is our new Officer's Installation on January 20, 2001. It will start at 5:00 p.m. with hors d'oeuvres and dinner at 6:00 p.m. The menu is Roast Beef or Chicken Breast, with entertainment to follow, and more. The price for all this is only \$15.00 each. This is an Open Installation, so all reading this, stop, get your checkbook and pen and make a check payable to Alfred Pulcino, III, then send it to 1406 Long Pond Road, Rochester, NY 14626, no later than January 13th, please.

Congratulations to all my fellow officers. Our newest is Gerald Spero as Marshal. The oldest is our new Monarch, Kenneth Hutchinson. May we all have a great year and fun.

The Hospitality Room is at the Strathallan on East Avenue. Accommodations can be made by calling 461-5010 and ask for the Grotto rate. This is after the Installation festivities.

Lalla Rookh Grotto M.O.V.P.E.R.

Sympathy

Good Fellowship



Open Installation of Kenneth Hutchinson



Saturday, January 20, 2001

Cathedral Hall - Masonic Temple
875 Main Street East, Rochester N.Y.
Social Hour with hors d'oeuvres - 5:00 p.m.
Dinner - 6:00 p.m. by H&J Catering
Installation Ceremony - 7:30 p.m.
Entertainment to follow

Please have your reservations in by January 13, 2001 to: Alfred Pulcino, 1406 Long Pond Rd. 14626

Grotto Legion of Honor

Open Installation of Officers

Honoring Ernest Swan Commander



February 10th
Dutch Mill
Social Hour: 5:30 p.m.
Dinner: 6:30 p.m.
\$15 per person

Reservation, by February 2nd, with checks payable to: Ron Morthorst, 231 Mystic Lane Rochester, NY 14623.

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Damascus Temple No. 2 Shrine News

Potentate - George Simon



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FROM THE POTENTATE



GEORGE SIMON
392-4276
Shrine Office
671-7701

Thank you, all

Brothers, Nobles and Ladies, this is the last article that I will be writing because as of January 3rd, Damascus Shriners will have a new Potentate. I thank you all for your support and cooperation during the past 2 years. It has been a great honor to have served Damascus as Potentate. My Lady, Lula, and I have traveled many miles and made many new friends for which we are very thankful. We thank the Divan, their Ladies, and all the appointees for their patience, support and confidence in helping us through these last 2 years. I will not list names because I am sure to miss a few and I do not want to forget anyone, so we will just say thank you all from the bottom of our hearts. To the new Potentate and Divan, I wish them well and pledge them my support.

My special thanks to the Auburn/Geneva Shrine Clubs for their successful Membership Drive. The Ceremonial Cast and Shrine members traveled to Auburn on November 20th to initiate 11 new Nobles into the Shrine. Many thanks to R. Coleman and Ken Pollard for setting things up for us and for the great meal. To the Ceremonial Cast, under the direction of Al Jeerings and Don Rose, with the rest of the cast, it was a great job, well done. To my knowledge this was the first time that we had an Open Ceremonial outside the Temple since we had it Downtown in 1995.

Our thanks to Bruce Chilton and Erwin Newell and the Membership Team for all their efforts to make our Temple one of the most visible in Shrinedom in New York State. To the Nobles and Ladies who traveled with us by bus to Auburn for this event, our thanks for your support, and to the rest of the Nobles and their families, which totaled 89, in all, congratulations and well done.

Our December meeting is over and our membership has again taken an upward turn with the induction of 9 more new Nobles. This brings a total of 28 for the past year and it was done by you. Keep up the good work.

The Half I Cannot Tell

My heart is overflowing
With gratitude and praise,
To Him whose loving kindness
Has followed all my days;
To Him who gently leads me
By cool and quiet rills,

And with their bairn of comfort
My thirsty spirit fills.
I feign to tell the story
And yet I know full well
The half was never, never told-
The half I cannot tell.

Within the vale of blessing,
I walk beneath the light
Reflected from His glory
That shines forever bright.
I feel his constant presence
Wherever I may be;
How manifold His goodness
How rich His grace to me!

My heart is overflowing
With love and joy and song,
As if it heard an echo
From yonder ransomed
throng;
Its every chord is vocal
With music's sweetest lay;
And to its home of sunshine
It longs to fly away.

(Fanny Crosby) □

The Circus is Coming

By Illustrious Erwin Newell
Nobles, March 22nd will be here sooner than you think. At the December meeting, Assistant Rabban Dayne Tharrett was given the authority to hire a circus. He appointed me as Circus Chairman for the 2001 Circus. As of today, December 11th, we have a contract prepared and in the mail to hire the George Carden Circus. Illustrious Cy Kloner and I met with the people at the War Memorial and have started to prepare for the Circus. A lot of legwork has to be done in a short period of time by all of us.

Ad Book

This year we need all of our Ad Salesmen to make a real effort to get your ads in as soon as possible. We know that this is very short notice, but it can and must be done no later than January 29th. Do not procrastinate. Time is of the essence and the Ad Book is a very important part of the Circus. Cy Kloner has graciously volunteered to once again be the Ad Book Chairman. Please direct any questions to him at 671-7701 or 436-8216. If you have never sold an ad for our Ad Book, and would like to do so, Cy would be happy to set you up with a Sales Kit.

Circus Daddies and Mommies

By now you should have received your Circus Daddies/Mommies Tickets. Remember Nobles, your Circus Daddy money helps us entertain 20,000 children free of charge. This is our way of giving back to our communities. If you have not sent in your check for \$30.00, please do so as soon as possible. Your name will appear in the "Damascus News". If you have any questions, please contact Circus Daddies Chairman, Harry Dainty, or Ken Buckland at the Temple Office, 271-7701.

Manpower

Illustrious Nobles Joe Bourcy and George Simon and Noble Larry Thibault will be heading up manpower. They will be attending Club and Unit meetings asking for your help. However, if for some reason they miss you at a meeting, please call the Temple Office and let us know that you would like to work at the Circus.

Remember, your ladies are invited to help. When the Circus

starts and the Arena fills up with people wanting to buy programs, food, and novelties, we need you and your lady to help sell these items. This is the most important part of the Shrine Circus. □

Past Master's Degree Team

By Joseph Minas
Past Masters and Nobles, we congratulate you on your efforts in portraying the 3rd Degree in eight different Lodges this year. They were: Flower City No. 910; Valley/Simes No. 109; Union No. 45, Lima; Churchville No. 667; Rushville No. 377; Warsaw No. 549; and Craftsman/Robertson No. 969 (2).

Nobles attending were: Joseph Minas, Bill Kuehne, Keith Stambach, Don Rose, Bill Hook, Don Krech, Howard Lord, Don Darrohn, Bob Zabel, Russ Vandergriff, Jim Powell, George Burke, Charles Strickland, Gordon Bell, Joe Privitera, Frank Ghysel, Gordon Ball, Earl Pearce, Jan Lughart, Erwin Newell, John Zabel, Craig Mollon, Norm Johnston, Jim Slocum, Eldon White, Ken Buckland, Don Freeman, Joe Kahn, Jack Rodney, Bill Russell, Jim Bailey, George Bracht, Lee Collier, Jim Verbridge, Dave Jones, Glenn Hedges, Dean Smith, Ron Weber, Ed Roman, and George Simon.

We thank you all for taking the time from your daily activities to participate.

The January 26th Past Masters Dinner notice will be coming soon. Happy New Year! □

Director's Staff

By Joseph Minas
Another year has gone by. I thank all the Nobles and their Ladies for making it a successful one. The meeting in January will be Election of Officers. Everyone present for the dinner and meeting will have to have an up-to-date dues card. Give the new Officers of Damascus a helping hand whenever possible.

Goals

For the coming year our goals must be to strengthen communication from the top to the bottom. Effective communication is acknowledged to be the weakest link in every organization. Without question it is difficult to pass along the intelligence needed for success to every person in the chain of command. It must be done if the organization is going to grow rather than stagnate or disintegrate.

Another goal that we have to accomplish, Nobles, is to be more than just a dinner club. This is an International Organization of the Shrine. I stated the goals of the Director's Staff in my last letter. We need your help to fulfill them.

Everyone who attended the combined Geneva and Director's Staff Christmas Party enjoyed themselves immensely. I will be sending out cards for our next meeting.

Happy New Year. □

Damascus Yacht Club

By Roy Merritt
On November 9th, the Yacht Club had its Annual Meeting and Changing of the Watch at the Geneva American Legion. It was

a lovely day and the view was breathtaking. The dining room, with windows on three sides, faces beautiful Seneca Lake. We enjoyed the meeting place and food so much, we decided to come back again next year.

Before a real tasty Turkey Dinner with all the trimmings, the new Officers for 2001 were installed. Commodore, Roy Merritt; Vice-Commodore, Louie Sanfilippo; Rear Commander, Joe Oelgoetz, and Co-Secretary/Treasurers, Derek VanHouten and Nick Haldoupis. We took pictures, but unfortunately, they have not been developed in time for this publication.

We take this time to thank Past Commodore, Ken Buckland, for his fine job in 2000. Thanks, Ken, for a great year.

We had a pretty good turn-out with 14 members present. Several of our members have already gone South for the Winter. We hope you had a very happy and healthy holiday season. We wish all a good, safe Winter, and we'll be looking for you all at our next meeting on May 20, 2001, at the Mohawk Yacht Club on beautiful Irondequoit Bay. □

Mountain William Clan No. 162

Damascus Hillbillies

By Roy Merritt
Last year was kind of ruff for all us "cuzzins". Since we just started up the clan, we weren't too sure how things should go. Sooo, we had a re-organization meeting and put some heads together and are startin agin. We met on November 19th, at the Mosque, and had some real good talkin' with each other. Several of

you had some real good ideers and we hope to put a lot of them to use.

Cuzzin Roy is going to oversee us and make sure we git it rite this time. Henry Funk, Secretary and Don Dill, Treasury, will hep keep things goin'. It was decided that we have some kind of project to work on at the meetins so as not to get too bored. A couple of them idees is makin a bird house at one meetin' and tryin our hand at a wreath at another. If you all have sum other idees, bring 'em along to the next meetin'.

Cuzzins Henry, Don and Charlie, are workin' on a one-holer portable outhouse. We'll use it for our Initiations and take it with us when we have to git some whers.

All the girl "Cuzzins" keep us supplied with real good vittles, so's nun of us goes hungry. Wee'll keep ya posted as to when we meet agin. Hup sum o' yo will want to be the Initiated into the Clan this Summer. By fer now. □



By Jean R. Friedrich, PO
Our Holiday Tea, held on December 3rd at the Mosque, was a huge success. The Mosque had never looked so festive, thanks to the Chairpersons, Princess Tirzah, Kitty Noble, and Princess Badura, Joan Bright. Ladies, you outdid yourselves! White, silver and gold decorations, lace-covered tables laden with a never-

Continued on page 18

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ending supply of holiday fare, combined with a congenial crowd of ladies and Shriners, made for a most pleasant Sunday afternoon. Thank you all for coming.

Erie Hospital

Donations to the Erie Hospital were a bit different this year. Because of construction and space problems, they requested white, single bedsheets, socks and large or extra large sweatpants, instead of toys. These items are always needed in the care of children in the hospital.

Funds

Your response to the Christmas Convalescent and Endowment Fund was most gratifying. This collection, in its entirety, goes to these Funds. The Convalescent Fund is used directly for the care of hospital patients, while only the interest from the Endowment Fund is used for this purpose. Our thanks to you on behalf of all the children in the Shriners Hospitals.

Our wish for all of you is good health, much happiness and a bountiful life for the coming New Year.

Christmas Story

Continued from page 1

possible, the we took the meat, flour and shoes to the door. We knocked. The door opened a crack and a timid voice said, "Who is it?" "Lucas Miles, ma'am, and my son, Matt. Could we come in for a bit?" Widow Jensen opened the door and let us in. She had a blanket wrapped around her shoulders. The children were wrapped in another and were sitting in front of the fireplace by a very small fire that hardly gave off any heat at all.

Widow Jensen fumbled with a match and finally lit the lamp. "We brought you a few things, ma'am," Pa said and set down the sack of flour. I put the meat on the table. Then Pa handed her the sack that had the shoes in it. She opened it hesitantly and took the shoes out one pair at a time. There was a pair for her and one for each of the children--sturdy shoes, the best, shoes that would last. I watched her carefully. She bit her lower lip to keep it from trembling and then tears filled her eyes and started running down her cheeks. She looked up at Pa like she wanted to say something, but it wouldn't come out.

"We brought a load of wood, too, ma'am," Pa said, then he turned to me and said, "Matt, go bring enough in to last for awhile. Let's get that fire up to size and heat this place up." I wasn't the same person when I went back out to bring in the wood. I had a big lump in my throat and, much as I hate to admit it, there were tears in my eyes, too. In my mind I kept seeing those three kids huddled around the fireplace and their mother standing there with tears running down her cheeks and so much gratitude in her heart that she couldn't speak. My heart swelled within me and a joy filled my soul that I'd never known before. I had given at Christmas many times before, but never when it had made so much difference. I could see we were literally saving the lives of these people.

I soon had the fire blazing and everyone's spirits soared. The kids started giggling when Pa

handed them each a piece of candy and Widow Jensen looked on with a smile that probably hadn't crossed her face for a long time. She finally turned to us. "God bless you," she said. "I know the Lord Himself has sent you. The children and I have been praying that He would send one of his children to spare us." In spite of myself, the lump returned to my throat and the tears welled up in my eyes again. I'd never thought of Pa in those exact terms before, but after Widow Jensen mentioned it I could see that it was probably true. I was sure that a better man than Pa had never walked the earth, save One.

I started remembering all the times he had gone out of his way for Ma and me, and many others. The list seemed endless as I thought on it. Pa insisted that everyone try on the shoes before we left. I was amazed when they all fit and I wondered how he had known what sizes to get. Then I guessed that if he was on an errand for the Lord that the Lord would make sure he got the right sizes. Tears were running down Widow Jensen's face again when we stood up to leave. Pa took each of the kids in his big arms and gave them a hug. They clung to him and didn't want us to go. I could see that they missed their Pa, and I was glad that I still had mine.

At the door Pa turned to Widow Jensen and said, "The Mrs. wanted me to invite you and the children over for Christmas dinner tomorrow. The turkey will be more than the three of us can eat, and a man can get cantankerous if he has to eat turkey for too many meals. We'll be by to get you about eleven. It'll be nice to have some little ones around again. Matt here, hasn't been little for quite a spell."

I was the youngest. My two older brothers and two older sisters were all married and had moved away. Widow Jensen nodded and said, "Thank you, Brother Miles. I don't have to say, 'May the Lord bless you'. I know for certain that He will."

Out on the sled I felt a warmth that came from deep within and I didn't even notice the cold. When we had gone a ways, Pa turned to me and said, "Matt, I want you to know something. Your Ma and me have been tucking a little money away here and there all year so we could but that rifle for you, but we didn't have quite enough. Then yesterday a man who owed me a little money from years back came by to make things square. Your Ma and me were real excited, thinking that now we could get you that rifle, and I started into town this morning to do just that. But on the way I saw little Jakey out scratching in the woodpile with his feet wrapped in those gunny sacks and I knew what I had to do. So, son, I spent the money for shoes and a little candy for those children. I hope you understand."

I understood, and my eyes became wet with tears again. I understood very well, and I was so glad Pa had done it. Just then the rifle seemed very low on my list of priorities. Pa had given me a lot more. He had given me the look on Widow Jensen's face and the radiant smiles of her three children. For the rest of my life, whenever I saw any of the Jensens, or split a block of wood, I remembered, and remembering brought back that same joy I felt riding home beside Pa that night. Pa had given me so much more than a rifle that night, he had given me the best Christmas of my life.

Taps
(The Legend)

A little bit of history and trivia for your day!

From Maynard Smith

I have felt the chills while listening to "Taps", but I have never seen all the words to the song until now. I didn't even know there was more than one verse. I also never knew the story behind the song and I didn't know if any of you had either, so I thought I'd pass it along. I now have an even deeper respect for the song than I did before.

We have all heard "Taps". It's the song that gives us that lump in our throats and usually creates tears in our eyes. Do you know the story behind the song? If not, I think you will be delighted to find out about its humble beginnings.

It all began in 1862 during the Civil War, when Union Army Captain Robert Ellicombe was with his men near Harrison's Landing in Virginia. The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land. During the night, Captain Ellicombe heard the moans of a soldier who lay mortally wounded on the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or Confederate soldier, the Captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention.

Crawling on his stomach through the gunfire, the Captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him toward his encampment. When the Captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a Confederate soldier, but the soldier was dead.

The Captain lit a lantern and suddenly caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light, he saw the face of the soldier. It was his own son. The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his father, he enlisted in the Confederate Army.

The following morning, heartbroken, the father asked permission of his superiors to give his son a full military burial despite his enemy status. His request was only partially granted. The Captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge for his son at the funeral. The request was turned down since the soldier was a Confederate; but, out of respect for the father, they did say they could give him one musician. The Captain chose a bugler. He asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he had found on a piece of paper in the pocket of the dead youth's uniform. This wish was granted. The haunting melody we now know as "Taps" used at military funerals was born.

"Taps"

Day is done,
Gone the sun,
From the lakes,
From the hills,
From the sky,
All is well,
Safely rest,
God is nigh.

Fading light,
Dims the sight,
And a star,
Gems the sky,
Gleaming bright,
From afar,
Drawing nigh,
Falls the night.

Thanks and praise,
For our days,
Neath the sun,
Neath the stars,
Neath the sky,
As we go,
This we know,
God is nigh.

Taps Critique

The following comes to us from an e-mail note: John Gallant of Union Lodge No. 45 in Lima, NY to Companion Maynard Smith via the Royal Arch Masonry Discussion List.

Fighting on opposite sides, father and son meet one last time on a Civil War battlefield. Found in the dying boy's pocket is the melody now known as 'Taps'.

Status: False.

It all began in 1862 during the Civil War, when Union Army Captain Robert Ellicombe was with his men near Harrison's Landing in Virginia. The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land.

It's hard to feel surprised when a melody as hauntingly beautiful as 'Taps' picks up a legend about how it came to be written--it's too mournfully direct a piece for the mere truth to suffice.

'Taps' was composed in July, 1862, at Harrison's Landing in Virginia, but after that the fanciful e-mail parts way with reality. There was no dead son, Confederate or otherwise; no lone bugler sounding out the dead boy's last composition. How the call came into being was never anything more than one influential soldier deciding his unit could use a bugle call for particular occasions and setting about to come up with one.

If anyone can be said to have composed 'Taps', it was Brig. General Daniel Butterfield, Commander of the 3rd Brigade, 1st Division, V Army Corps, Army of the Potomac, during the American Civil War. Dissatisfied with the customary firing of three rifle volleys at the conclusion of burials during battle and also needing a method of ceremonially imparting meaning to the end of a soldier's day, he likely altered an older piece known as "Tattoo," a French bugle call used to signal "lights out," into the call we now know as 'Taps'. (Alternatively, he wrote the whole thing from scratch, a possibility not at all supported by his lack of musical background and ability.)

Whether he wrote it straight from the cuff or improvised something new by rearranging an older work, Butterfield brought 'Taps' into being. With the help of his bugler, Oliver W. Norton of Chicago, the concept was transformed into its present form. 'Taps' was quickly taken up by both sides of the conflict, and within months was being sounded by buglers in both Union and Confederate forces.

Then, as now, 'Taps' serves as a vital component in ceremonies honoring military dead. It is also understood by American servicemen as an end-of-day 'lights out' signal.

When 'Taps' is played at a military funeral, it is customary to salute if in uniform, or place your hand over your heart, if not.

Additional information:
West Point: Origin of Taps
<http://www.west-point.org/taps/Taps.html>
Kathryn Shenkle: Origin of Taps
<http://www.sgaus.org/tap2.htm>

Sources:
Deall, Tom. "Taps Stirs Hearts Despite Unsure Origin." The Times-Picayune. 30 May 1999 (P. F6)
Vogel, Steve. "A Call That Lingers in the Heart." The Washington Post. 29 January 1999 (p. B1).

More From an 11th Grade Science Test

"Dew is formed on leaves when the sun shines down on them and makes them perspire."

"A super-saturated solution is one that holds more than it can hold."

"Mushrooms always grow in damp places and so they look like umbrellas."

"The body consists of three parts - the brainium, the borax and the abominable cavity. The brainium contains the brain, the borax contains the heart and lungs, and the abominable cavity contains the bowels, of which there are five - a, e, i, o, and u."

"Momentum: What you give a person when they are going away."

"Planet: A body of earth surrounded by sky."

"Rhubarb: A kind of celery gone bloodshot."

"Vacuum: A large, empty space where the pope lives."

"Before giving a blood transfusion, find out if the blood is affirmative or negative."

"To remove dust from the eye, pull the eye down over the nose."

"For a nosebleed: Put the nose much lower than the body until the heart stops."

"For drowning: Climb on top of the person and move up and down to make artificial respiration."

"For fainting: Rub the person's chest or, if a lady, rub her arm above the hand instead. Or put the head between the knees of the nearest medical doctor."

"For dogbite: Put the dog away for several days. If the dog does not recover, then kill it."

"For asphyxiation: Apply artificial respiration until the person is dead."

"To prevent contraception: Wear a condomium."

"For head cold: Use an agonizer to spray the nose until it drops in your throat."

"To keep milk from turning sour: Keep it in the cow."

"The pistol of a flower is its only protection against insects."

"The alimentary canal is located in the northern part of Indiana."

"The skeleton is what is left after the insides have been taken out and the outsides have been taken off. The purpose of the skeleton is something to hitch meat to."

"A permanent set of teeth consists of eight canines, eight cuspids, two molars, and eight cuspids."

"The tides are a fight between the earth and moon. All water tends towards the moon, because there is no water in the moon, and nature abhors a vacuum. I forget where the sun joins this fight."

"A fossil is an extinct animal. The older it is, the more extinct it is."

"Equator: A managerie lion running around the earth through Africa."

"Germinate: To become a naturalized German."

What Goes Around Comes Around

His name was Fleming, and he was a poor Scottish farmer. One day, while trying to make a living for his family, he heard a cry for help coming from a nearby bog. He dropped his tools and ran to the bog. There, mired to his waist in black muck, was a terrified boy, screaming and struggling to free himself.

Farmer Fleming saved the lad from what could have been a slow and terrifying death. The next day a fancy carriage pulled up to the Scotsman's sparse surroundings. An elegantly dressed nobleman stepped out and introduced himself as the father of the boy Farmer Fleming had saved.

"I want to repay you," said the nobleman. "You saved my son's life."

"No, I can't accept payment for what I did," the Scottish farmer replied, waving off the offer.

At that moment, the farmer's own son came to the door of the family hovel.

"Is that your son?", the nobleman asked. "Yes," the farmer replied proudly.

"I'll make you a deal. Let me take him and give him a good education. If the lad is anything like his father, he'll grow into a man you can be proud of."

And that he did. In time, Farmer Fleming's son graduated from St. Mary's Hospital Medical School in London, and went on to become known throughout the world as the noted Sir Alexander Fleming, the discoverer of Penicillin.

Years afterward, the nobleman's son was stricken with pneumonia. What saved him? Penicillin.

The name of the nobleman? Lord Randolph Churchill.

His son's name? Sir Winston Churchill. □

We Wish All our Patrons a Happy and Prosperous New Year

Arndt Funeral Home
Bartholomew Health Care Group
Bill & Earl's Auto Maint.
Crawford Funeral Home
David G. Cromwell, Realtor
Doerfer Jewelers
Empire State Weeklies Inc.
Fireplace Fashions
Gilbert Publishing Co.
Masonic Supplies
Vernon Goodrich, CPA
Harloff Funeral Home


Jani-Care, Res. & Com.
Cleaning
Morgan, Stanley, Dean Whitter
Masonic Home - Utica
Nursing, Respite, Rehabilitation, Hospice, Residential Adult Care and Retirement Living.
McCoy Publishing & Masonic Supply Co.
Meisenzahl Auto Parts
Rochester Lumber Co.
Saucke Construction Co.
Sawyer's Pest Control
Schuth, One Trip Plumber.
Wright-Wisner
Distributing Corp.
Kirkhaven, Rehabilitation & Long Term Care.

Please Utilize Our Patrons Services


Order of the Eastern Star HiLights

MONROE DISTRICT

DDGM
Rt. Wthy. Charlene Stankey



DGL
Rt. Wthy. Neil E. Laundry



Happy holidays!

We know that this is the January edition of the *Masonic Times*, but, given the early publication schedule and the efficiency of our steadfast Editor, perhaps we can sneak in one last wish for a joyous holiday season and a Happy New Year.

We thank everyone for making our holidays bright through your support of the ongoing projects within the District. With your help, on December 1st, we sent another shipment to the "Overseas Coupon Project", bringing our total since October to 13 lb, 13 oz. That's a lot of coupons!

Since only overseas bases can make use of the expired coupons, and many of ours are unexpired, we are looking into a cooperative program with some of the regional bases to distribute unexpired coupons for use by NTS based service families. Upon expiration, they would then send them to overseas bases. A Fort Drum project utilizing Army Community Services may be in place as early as this month. Thanks again for all of the clipping, trimming and sorting.

Christmas Card Campaign

Thanks also for the enthusiastic response to M. Wthy. Wanda's request for participation in the Christmas Card Writing Campaign. We're aware of the outstanding care and effort that many of you have extended to make this Campaign a success and to brighten the lives of so many of our service men and women who couldn't make it home for the holidays. (Yoouu, Barb Spano! We saw your note on the Grand Chapter OESNY Guestbook/Message Board.

Thank you for passing the information regarding this project along to our Sisters and Brothers across the State and beyond). We needn't limit our participation in this project to this particular time of year. Cards and notes throughout the year would warm the hearts of many so far from home.

Vets Hospitals

Many of you have been working hard to gather and prepare gifts and contributions to our Vets Hospitals and the Open Door Mission. If you would like assistance in delivering these items, please feel free to call and arrange a pickup time and place. For those who have asked, in addition to the traditional knitted and sewn gifts, the Vets can make use of magazines (no more than six months old), paperback books, and jigsaw puzzles.

Meetings

As we move into this time of Installations and preparations for our Chapter Official Visits, we need to remind our 2001 Ma-

trons and the line officers of other important meetings. Neil plans to meet with the new Matrons at 10:00 a.m., on January 6, 2001, Downtown, for an organizational meeting and preliminary planning for the Grand Matron's Official Visit. The District Grand Officers, Matrons and all other line officers will then meet at 10:00 a.m. on February 3rd, for the first of their regular group get-togethers.

All members are invited and encouraged to attend the School of Instruction on February 10th. We are looking forward to covering key points regarding the Opening and Closing of Chapter, Star Protocol, "Things to Remember" for initiation, balloting and funeral services. Please bring your own question and/or concerns regarding presentation and procedure.

The coming Star year will offer many opportunities for each of us to share our love and enthusiasm for the Order, not only with one another, but with our family, friends and acquaintances. Include them in Chapter and District social functions, let them know about the projects we're working on, and encourage them to join us. Keep a couple of petitions handy just in case. Golfers say, "Drive for show, putt for dough!" Let's add, "Share to grow!" to that list.

Remember, "A friend is someone who knows the song in your heart and can sing it back to you when you've forgotten the words." □

Rochester Chapter No. 314

Order of the Eastern Star
Matron
Rt. Wthy. BARBARA SPANO
244-1503
Secretary
Rt. Wthy. BARBARA MERTENS
482-0994

First Saturday 7:30 P.M.
875 East Main Street
Rochester, N. Y. 14605

Words of wisdom

The person who does things that count, doesn't usually stop to count them.

A New Year is beginning with an "old Matron". We have made several plans for the year and hope that you will all join us in our endeavors.

A hearty welcome to our newly affiliated Sister, Helen Hayes. She will bring more "Starlight" to our Chapter.

Installation

This year's Installation is on January 6th and it is closed. I hope to see a good showing from the Chapter there. We have 2 Sisters in line for the first time and it would be so nice to have sideliners to give them a show of support. They are Sister Dianne Johnson, who will be Associate Matron, and Sister Sue Duff, who will be Associate Conductress.

New Program

Our Chapter has started a Program of Instruction to help these new officers. Anyone else from Rochester Chapter is more than welcome to join us. The next time we meet is January 4th at my home at 7:30 p.m. Please let me know if you will be attending-244-1503.

Official Visit

Our Official Visit March 31st. Yes, it is the 5th Saturday of the

month, and due to circumstances, we had to rearrange it. Hopefully, it will be a good weather day and our Chapter members will be able to come out and enjoy the evening.

Good work!

A round of applause to our Junior Past Matron for a great year. Wthy. Evy Ann puts her all into being Matron and after you have done it 5 times, it gets a little harder. One would think it is easier, but it really does get harder. So, my thanks to her for her dedication to the Order and to the Chapter.

I will list the Official Visits in the next issue.

We are still looking for new members, we really need to extend ourselves and talk to folks about our beautiful Order. If we don't, we will fade away like the flowers in the Fall and the we will be no more.

Please let Wthy. Barbara Mertens or me know if there is any sickness or distress.

Until next time, I wish you peace. □

NOLATKA Chapter No. 320

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

Wthy. MaryAnne Sovocool
Matron
Rt. Wthy. William Baxter
Patron

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

By Alice Hassett

Another year passes. We reviewed the good works of our Chapter and District. We did well. Now there's more to do, and new officers to guide us through an exciting future. Let us remember to voice our support to our new leaders.

New officers

Nolatka announces its new officers for 2001.

Wthy. Matron - MaryAnne Sovocool
Wthy. Patron - William Baxter
Associate Matron - Alice Hassett
Associate Patron - Wthy. John Lenzi
Conductress - Rt. Wthy. Diane Maltese
Associate Conductress - Wthy. Cindy Nielsen
Secretary - Rt. Wthy. Carol Wynings
Treasurer - Wthy. Vicki Gross
3rd Year Trustee - Wthy. Felicia "Bo" Clark.
Congratulations to all.

In memoriam

Sadly, we report the passings of Sister Irene Maurer on November 27th and Sister Anna Bleck, last May. Our deepest sympathies are with Wthy. Susan Drake-Mason and with Sister Sue Whalen and their families. Wthy. Susan Drake-Mason's husband, Frank, died after along illness in late November and Sister Sue Whalen's daughter, Deborah Lancaster, age 37, died on Saturday, December 2nd. An Educational Trust Fund is being set up for Deborah's two children. Our condolences to friends and families of these Sisters.

Both Wthy. Anita Drake and Rt. Wthy. Wilda Robinson have had hip surgery. Wthy. Anita will be spending the Winter with her daughter, Wthy. Susan Drake-Mason. Our best wishes to Rt.

Wthy. Lee VanGrol, as she recovers from surgery. Please remember these Sisters with cards and phone calls.

Meetings

Following a most enjoyable Christmas Party, held at the Cartwright Inn on December 12th, and honoring our year 2000 Matrons and Patrons, we begin a new year.

No meeting January 2nd.

January 16th will be the Installation of Officers. The Chairperson is Wthy. Antoinette Jeerings, with a Committee consisting of Wthy. Alan Jeerings, Wthy. Kim Morici and Wthy. Santo Morici.

Birthdays

January birthdays are: Cheryl Scipioni, Carol Wynings, Doris Daycock, Alice Hassett, Linton Warner, Judy Lenzi, Martha Loomis and Berneda Riley.

A happy, healthy and prosperous New Year to all from Nolatka Chapter! □

In Memoriam

November

Behnke, Donald W.

The Supreme Architect claimed Donald on November 21st at the age of 77. He was a member of Webster Lodge No. 538 and is survived by his wife, Velma, 4 children, 6 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

Maurer, Irene C.

Irene was a member of Nolatka Chapter No. 320, formerly Nola Chapter No. 368. She passed away November 27th at the age of 85 and is survived by her husband, Harold.

December

Sechrist, Richard A.

Craftsman/Robertson Lodge No. 969, Rochester Consistory and Damascus Temple Shrine all lost a member with the sudden death of Richard on December 5th. Survivors include his wife, Norma, 3 children, and 4 grandchildren.

VanZile, F. Cameron

Cameron entered Eternal Rest on December 5th. He was a member of Northfield Lodge No. 426, Rochester Consistory and Damascus Temple Shrine. He is survived by his wife, Martha, 4 children and 10 grandchildren.

Nash, Stanley S.

Stanley was called Home on December 9th. He was a member of Craftsman/Robertson Lodge No. 969 and Rochester Consistory. Survivors include his 2 sons, 2 granddaughters and 3 great-grandchildren.

Smith, Raymond W.

Craftsman/Robertson Lodge No. 969 lost another member with the passing of Raymond on December 12th. He is survived by his wife, Ruth and one son.

The following deaths were reported to us with no specific information.

Wheeler, William A.

William was a member of Attica Lodge No. 462 and died on November 11th.

Weller, Wilhelm U.

Wilhelm was a member of Webster Lodge No. 538. □

Masonic Activities Looking Ahead

To make additions, call the Service Bureau at 473-4351
2001

Feb 3-14 Have -A- Heart Campaign
Feb 10 Order of High Priesthood, Cathedral Hall, DTT
Mar 1-3 Grand Chapter, RAM, Albany
Mar 30 School Ritual, Etolian, 3°

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 Richenderfer 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 Frederick 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.

Wise Observations

Show me a thoroughly satisfied man and I will show you a failure.
Thomas Eddison

When you help some one up the mountain, you find yourself close to the summit too.

When you cannot change the direction of the wind, adjust your sails.
Max DePree

Fear of becoming a has-been prevent people from becoming anything.
Eric Hoffer

If a thousand people says something foolish, it's still foolish. Truth is never dependent on consensus of opinion.

The best helping hand you will ever find is at the end of your own arm.
Mark Twain

When our friends are present, we ought to treat them well; and when they are absent, to speak of them well.
Epectitus

Classified
Wanted: Toy Trains, (O and O27), accessories, any condition. Fair price based on Greenberg Book and condition. D. Brugger 473-4351, 458-6125.
Wanted: Slate Pool Tables, any condition. Call: Angelo DiCataldo 738-9709.
For Sale: Masonic 32° Ring, 14k gold, .35 center diamond. \$400. 359-4330.

Circulation Policy
Monroe Masonic Library
Circulation Period
Books - 30 days
Video materials - 7 days
Overhead projector & screen, Video player /monitor - overnight
Charges & fines
Books - 25 cents per day
Video materials - 25 cents per day
Projector & screen - \$5.00 chg. + \$5.00 fine per day
Video player/monitor - \$10.00 chg. + \$10.00 fine per day
Returns
To the Library or Masonic Service Bureau during regular hours (9:00 a.m. to noon). After hours, books & videos in Service Bureau copy-drop slot.
Extra charges
Charges for damage will be assessed individually.

People would worry less about what others think of them if they only realize how seldom they do it.
Thomas Edison

Program Speakers
(Current List, 10/99. If you have any other prospects, please let us know.)
Harold August
"The Morgan Affair", Expense Reimbursement requested. Middleport, N.Y. 716-735-7557
Donald Brugger
"The Masonic Times, a short History and Profile", "Writing for a Masonic Publication" - (w) 716-473-4351, (h) 716-458-6125.
George Frame
General insurance topics including "Estate Planning" & "Long Term Care" - (w) 716-436-6470, (h) 716-334-6934.
Vern Goodrich
"The Masonic service Bureau", "Financial Planning" - (w) 716-473-4351, (h) 716-377-0367.
Charles Hancock
Scottish Rite - 716-223-1850.
William Lindsay
Various Masonic Topics - 716-621-3573.
NY State Trial Lawyers Assoc., Speaker's Bureau
Wide Range of legal topics. For Information call: 1-212-349-5890 or write to the above at: 132 Nassau Street, NY, NY 10038.
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.

Who friendship with a knave hath made, is judg'd a partner in the trade.
John Gay

No Copy Received at Press time, or Copy Late!

Etolian	12/12
Fairport	12/13
Fame	12/12
Flower City	12/12
Mt. Vernon	
Oakland	2x
Oatka	12/13
Triluminar	2x
Valley/Simes	12/12
Wakan/Hubbard	12/13

"x" = months missed.
If you see your Lodge name here, call your Master; whatever you like!
The Deadline for the February issue is: January 10, 2001

Service Bureau Hawaiian Cruise & Tour
Sept. 25, 2001 & 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 either of these cruises, there will be an informational meeting on January 6th at the Damascus Temple Mosque, 979 Bay Road, Webster

January Gem - Garnet
January Flower - Carnation

Big Calendar January 2001

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																				
<p>DECEMBER</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td></tr> </table>					1	2	3	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	31		<p>1 Charlotte/Corinthian Clio - Hilton Craftsman/Robertson Germania Oakland - Castile Warsaw OES - Fairport, Monroe, Nolatka, Perry, Webster</p>	<p>2 Olive Branch - LeRoy Attica Damascus Shrine OES - Henrietta</p>	<p>3 Constellation - Perry Hesperus - Bergen Northfield - Pittsford Webster</p>	<p>4 Eagle Valley - Bliss Clio - Bring-a-Friend Flower City Lalla Rookh Caldron RAM - Hiram, I KT - Batavia Commandery</p>	<p>5 Webster Lodge Spaghetti Dinner 5 - 7 p.m. 30 Orchard Street Webster Adults - \$6, Child - \$3</p>	<p>6 Rochester Chapter District OES Officers 10:00 a.m.</p>
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<p>7 First Sunday Breakfast Attica Lodge Spaghetti Dinners January 10th & 24th 4:30 - 7:00 p.m. Clio Lodge Hilton</p>	<p>8 ERAC - E. Rochester Etolian - Spencerport Fairport Mt. Vernon - Java Village Union Star - Honeoye Falls Wakan/Hubbard - Penfield OES - Charlotte, Mary Jane Holmes Shrine Lunch Club</p>	<p>9 Batavia Craftsman/Robertson-F Fame - Irondequoit Monroe - Brockport Seneca - Webster Valley/Simes RAM - 3X3, Danville, Wyoming OES - Leah</p>	<p>10 Churchville - 2° Oatka - Scottsville Triluminar - Pike Service Bureau Luncheon OES - Batavia, Corinthian/ Fellowship</p>	<p>11 Constellation - Perry Hesperus - Bergen Northfield - Pittsford Webster Scottish Rite Program RAM - Western Star</p>	<p>12 M&W - Downtown Temple Self Defense Class 8:00 a.m. Masonic Vets Ceremony 1:30 p.m.</p>	<p>13</p>																																				
<p>14 Pancake Breakfast Mt. Vernon Lodge Java Village 7:00 - 10:00 a.m. Latka Hop DDT - Noon</p>	<p>15 West Star - Varysburg LSOME Class KT - Cyrene/Monroe OES - Etolian, Irondequoit, Germania, LeRoy Shrine Lunch Club Martin Luther King's Birthday</p>	<p>16 Charlotte/Corinthian Clio - Hilton Craftsman/Robertson Germania Oakland - Castile Valley/Simes Warsaw OES - Fairport, Monroe, Nolatka, Perry, Webster</p>	<p>17 Attica Olive Branch - LeRoy Lalla Rookh Grotto RSM - Doric Council</p>	<p>18 Eagle Valley - Bliss RAM - Hiram</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 Lalla Rookh Grotto Installation 7:00 p.m.</p>																																				
<p>21</p>	<p>22 ERAC - E. Rochester Etolian - Spencerport Fairport - 3° Mt. Vernon - Java Village Wakan/Hubbard - Penfield</p>	<p>23 Arcade Batavia Fame - Irondequoit Valley/Simes</p>	<p>24 Churchville Oatka - Scottsville Triluminar - Pike OES - Batavia, Corinthian/ Fellowship</p>	<p>25 Eagle Valley - Bliss RAM - Hiram</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>																																				
<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 Valley/Simes</p>	<p>31 Leadership Committee</p>	<p>Resolution Aids</p> <p>Even if you are on the right track, you can get run over if you stop and sit. The best way to avoid criticism is to do nothing and be nothing. A person may fail many times, but he isn't a failure until he blames something or someone else.</p>																																						
<p>FEBRUARY</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>										1	2	3	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					
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