



Masonic Times

Serving the Masonic Community Since 1963

Monroe
Genesee/Wyoming
Livingston
Ontario/Seneca/Yates
& Wayne Districts

Volume 43 No. 1 USPS 0359-540

Rochester, New York

Circulation 4810

January 2004



HAPPY NEW YEAR



Have-a-Heart Campaign Ronald McDonald House Fundraiser



Ronald McDonald House on Westmoreland Drive

By Mike McBride

We are back in the malls again, from Sunday, February 1st through Saturday, February 14th, 2004. We desperately need help manning the booths, from all Masonic and

Concordant Body Brothers and Sisters (family members and friends are welcome)! We had difficulty last year.

Call: Mike McBride (Jean) at 663-4636 to assist at Marketplace Mall;

Dean Smith (JoAnn) at 586-

9298 for Eastview Mall; Karl-Heinz Reich (Trudy) at 426-6836 for The Mall at Greece Ridge Center.

Please help, we have raised well over \$160,000 for this cause, and we need to keep this going! It has been a Masonic traditional community event since 1988. Credit for this event goes to all Masonic and Concordant Bodies! We had great difficulty last year getting commitments! We have 31 days to fill time slots. We already dropped one mall because of decreased participation. Again, Please help!

We will have a video, from FOX TV, of a documentary about some families helped by the local House. We will also get assistance from the Shrine Clowns! The number of clowns able to assist is limited, but they have offered to provide make-up and a short training overview to anyone who

would aspire to be a clown and would like to help entertain the children at the malls (call Oscar Wilson at 396-2133).

All funds raised through our efforts have been donated directly to, and are used for, the local Ronald McDonald House, (Westmoreland Dr.) It opened in 1990 and has recognized our efforts by placing a picture, with an explanation, of the Masonic cornerstone dedication for their facility, in the lobby. We are also recognized on their wall of contributors as a major benefactor.

The purpose of the Ronald McDonald House is to provide a home away from home for families who have a child being treated at a local hospital. Doctors refer families as the need and availability arises. Families who use the facility have a child being treated for cardiac care, neonatal care, cancer, MS, etc. Families from

every County in New York State have used our local facility, as well as families from 42 other States. Unfortunately, even with growth renovations, they many times have a waiting list.

The cost is a nominal fee of \$10/night/room. If the family is unable to pay there is no charge. Services provided at the Ronald McDonald House are laundry, kitchen, shuttle transportation, etc. If needed, they also provide residents with food and staples for their return home.

Last year's totals were \$12,691.28. Let's top that. Many thanks to everyone in advance. Questions, suggestions or complaints can be addressed to me:

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Professor Kathleen Kutolowski to speak at ERAC Lodge

By R.: W.: William Lindsay



Dr. Kathleen Kutolowski

On January 12, 2004, Dr. Kathleen Kutolowski will speak at ERAC Lodge on the topic of "Freemasonry on the Genesee Frontier." Dr. Kutolowski is a Professor of History at the State University of New York at Brockport and has dedicated a sizable portion of her professional life researching the primary sources related to frontier settlement life West of the Genesee River. Her interest in Freemasonry was stimulated by some family connections to the Craft, more importantly by the fact that she has discovered time and again the significant and influential pres-

ence of the Craft as the frontier communities took shape in the Genesee wilderness.

She has been able to view the emerging frontier through the lens of a comprehensive and in-depth knowledge of both New York State and American history. It is against the backdrop of these themes that she is able to display vividly the village and rural character of the place we all call home.

She has also developed an intimate familiarity with the lives of the early settlers and can comment in detail what the activity was like for a typical family in any particular season of the year. The role of women and children are not shortchanged in her perspectives. Nor are the great issues of historical import that inflamed the frontier - the War of 1812, Clinton's big ditch, the

Morgan excitement, the Great Awakening, or the slavery question.

It has been several years since Dr. Kutolowski last spoke to a Masonic audience in the Monroe District. For those who have heard her before, this will be an opportunity to get an update on the research activity she identified when she last spoke, and for the new audience member, an opportunity for a firsthand view of life in the old days. No one will go away disappointed, you can be sure.

W.: Terry Wihlen, Jr. has announced that this will be an open meeting for Brothers and their spouses, and open to Brothers from other Lodges. For dinner reservations, contact Brother Steven M. Lysenko at 671-2606 or at UKRAINE@yahoo.com.

ATTENTION! MASONIC BOWLERS

By Ronald Miller

Newark Masonic Lodge No. 83 will be hosting the 2004 New York State Masonic Bowling Tournament at Doug Kent's Rose Bowl Lanes in Newark. This ABC sanctioned tournament will be held on the weekends of April 17th and 18th, and April 24th and 25th. Newark is located about 28 miles East of Rochester.

Please consider getting a team (4 man teams) together and join us. Non-Masons are welcome in this tournament (2 per team.) Team events will be held on Saturdays and optional singles/doubles on Sundays.

If you are interested, or have any questions concerning this tournament, please contact Ronald Miller, 1270 Summit Drive, Newark, NY 14513 or (315) 331-6738.

FAMILY BOWLING EVENT January 25th

We will be holding a District Family-Bowling event on Sunday, January 25th from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Clover Lanes. You are invited to bring your spouse, sons, daughters,

grandchildren, and other family members to participate. The goal is to have some fun with your family or you may make this a competition between your Lodge families or other Lodges. The cost has been reduced to three dollars per game including shoe rental and bumpers are available for younger children. Clover Lanes is located at 2750 Monroe Avenue, just East of Route 590. Please register by calling Gary Sanford at 425-4240 prior to January 16th so we can be sure we have enough lanes reserved for our fun-filled event.

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Masonic Service Bureau Directors Elect New President/COO



W.: Charles N. Waterstreet, Jr.

The Board of Directors of the Masonic Service Bureau, at a special meeting, elected W.: Charles N. Waterstreet, Jr. to succeed the late R.: W.: Vernon L. Goodrich as President and Chief Operating Officer of the Bureau, effective January 1,

2004. Brother Waterstreet, better known as Skip, has been maintaining the operations of the Bureau since Brother Vern's death in July.

The special meeting was necessary to complete the election after the initial ballot, taken at the monthly Board Meeting, ended in a tie.

W.: Waterstreet was raised a Master Mason in 1964 in John A. Robertson Lodge No. 1032. He served the Lodge as Worshipful Master four times, plus the half year when the Grand Lodge year was changed. When Robertson Lodge merged with Craftsman Lodge in 1996, he was elected Treasurer, an office he currently holds.

Since January, 2003, Brother Skip has served as the editor of the *Masonic Times*, a position

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Periodical postage PAID at Rochester, New York

Dated Material



Editor's Corner

A late addition to the *Masonic Times* last month was the letter received from M.:W.: Carl J. Fitje, Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York. He allayed some fears members may have had of dealing with Concordant Bodies, by identifying and extending to them full Grand Lodge recognition.

Harmony is the support of ALL institutions. His letter, I think, helps all of us realize that Blue Lodge Masons are, and ought to be, in Masonic association with these groups...whether or not we choose to (or are invited to) join. The common good is the Masonic Fraternity. I mention this because, in my brief tenure, I have been dismayed every so often by the lack of courtesy extended to some Brothers and Sisters. (Goodness knows, I've been guilty on occasion myself!) All of us must be tolerant. Sometimes that is difficult. I find it more so now, as members of the ME generation affiliate with our organization.

Like politics and religion, I hope the ME generation can learn to leave that feeling outside the Lodge room. When involved in Masonic activities, or when asked to help out with some event, use the motto of the Three Musketeers, "All for one and one for all!" If you joined the Fraternity hoping to gain some personal or commercial benefit, shame on you. The benefits come from the satisfaction of helping others: the poor and distressed; the widows; the orphans...the needy.

In the spirit of the holiday season just passed and the beginning of a new year, I hope each of you will step back and look at your own words and actions. This is the time to think, again, of change. Thanks for reading. *

Masonic Service Bureau of Rochester Inc.

Chairman-CEO
Angelo DiCataldo
Vice-Chairman
Linda Zahn
Secretary
Barbara Goodrich
Treasurer
Robert C. Pettit

By Barbara Goodrich
An historic event took place at the Masonic Service Bureau's monthly business meeting on December 10th. For the first time in the history of the Masonic Service Bureau, a woman, namely Linda Zahn, was elected Chairman and Chief Executive Officer.

Linda has served as a Council member, Director and Vice-Chairman of the Masonic Service Bureau. She has also chaired the Interfaith Service and Brunch and the Widow's Luncheon. She has been Matron of Webster, Rochester and Northfield Chapters, OES, for a total of seven times and is very active in her church.

In 1987 Linda received an Award from the Masonic Service Bureau for outstanding service and was presented the DeWitt Clinton Award in 1990.

Leon VanHuben was elected as Vice-Chairman. He, too, has been an active member of the Masonic Service Bureau and has served as Master of Fame Lodge, Monarch of Lalla Rookh Grotto and was the District Grand Lecturer for the Eastern Star in 1988. He is the Secretary of Fame Lodge.

Our long-time Treasurer, Dr. Robert Pettit, is retiring and William Lindsay will fill the position. Bill is a member and Past Master of Towpath Lodge, (now ERAC), a Past District Deputy Grand Master, Past President of the Philaethes Society, Past High Priest of Hiram Chapter, RAM, Past Illustrious Master of Doric Council, Past Sovereign Master of Allied Masonic Degrees, and has worked on numerous State committees. Bill also served on the Editorial Board of the *Masonic Times*.

Directors/Council/Trustee

The Nominating Committee, under the direction of Jack Thibaut, suggested the following slate of names for Directors. Elected were: Donald Darrohn, Ramona Dimino, James Ghent, Richard Snyder and Terry Wihlen.

Council members are: Herbert Spencer, Karl-Heinz Reich, Sue Goossens, Joy Woodley, Roger Lynch, Harold Bollot, and Beverly VanHuben.

The Trustee, elected for a 3-year term, is William Hook.

Best wishes

Warm thanks were expressed to Angelo DiCataldo and Robert Pettit for all their dedicated service throughout the years. We look forward to their continued support of our programs. *

Use our new email address:
bmasonic@rochester.rr.com



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Print your NEW address below (including seasonal changes)

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Please Note: Incorrect phone numbers and titles, or numbers to be added, please call the *Masonic Times*, 671-9730, 8-12 noon, Monday-Friday.

President/COO
Continued from Page 1

he will continue to hold for the present time. Prior to that, he was employed at Eastman Kodak Company for more than 30 years, retiring in 1991, and held positions at the former Case-Hoyt Corporation and Hawver, Inc., before assuming the duties of editor of this publication.

Brother Waterstreet and his wife, Diane, have been married 38 years. They are the parents of three children: Charles Peter of San Jose, CA; Nancy who resides in Henrietta; and Mark of Powell, OH. They are proud grandparents of one grandson.

Besides his Masonic activities, Brother Skip is Treasurer of his Church. He has also served on the Council and is a member of the choir. He served as President of the Rochester Youth Hockey League, when his sons were participants, and was presented with the Masonic Service to Youth Award for his twenty-five years in the program.

Brother Skip is a former volunteer firefighter. Among his other interests are photography and amateur sports officiating, which has afforded him opportunities to travel and officiate in Georgia and Florida. *

Remember the Brotherhood Fund

ROAD TO THE EAST
Eunice Lodge
Caledonia, NY
(southeast corner of Traffic Circle)

February 21st and
March 20th, 2004
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Fee for Course and Lunch - \$20

Reservation Deadline
January 23, 2004

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Periodical postage PAID at Rochester, NY

POSTMASTER
Send address changes to:
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979 Bay Road, Suite 2
Webster, NY 14580-1736
Telephone: 671-9730
Fax: 671-8390

E-mail:
bmasonic@rochester.rr.com
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Website:
www.monroemasonic.com

Published Monthly except July and August.
Closing Date for Articles: 2nd Monday or 12th of the Month preceding the Month of publication.

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Published by
Masonic Service Bureau of Rochester, New York, Inc.

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Linda Zahn.....Vice-Chairman
Dr. Robert C. Pettit.....Treasurer
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Printed by:
Empire State Weeklies, Inc.

Subscriptions: Individual, \$8.00 per year.
Group rate: \$5.00 per year per member.
Group subscriptions for Allied, Associated or Concordant Bodies are billed at \$1.00 per year for those members who already subscribe to the *Masonic Times*.

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Historic Oyster Bay Building Burns



Matinecock Lodge in Oyster Bay prior to disastrous fire, which gutted the structure and destroyed many artifacts.

(Excerpts from an article in the October 31, 2003 Oyster Bay Enterprise-Pilot printed with permission of Dagmar Fors Karppi, Editor.)

There is nothing left of the Matinecock Lodge Building at 14 West Main Street, a Town of Oyster Bay Landmark. Although the Lodge was lost to fire on Saturday morning, October 25th, the Masons promised that it will rise like a Phoenix from the ashes left behind.

According to the fire marshal, they believe the fire was electrical in nature and started in the basement. A neighbor across the street heard an explosion and reported that to the fire marshal on Sunday, but that could be explained by the windows coming out. "The force of the fire blowing out the windows can sound like an explosion. The windows are the

weakest part of the building," said Fire Marshal Whittaker.

Fire companies from the Fifth Battalion fought the blaze, including the Atlantic Steamer, Oyster Bay Fire Company No. 1, East Norwich, Sea Cliff, Cold Spring Harbor, Glenwood Landing, Jericho, Hicksville, Locust Valley, Bayville and Syosset companies.

The Matinecock Lodge was also a Masonic Museum, visited by Masons from around the country. Luckily, the firemen were responsive to the importance of the artifacts and went into the building, while it was burning, to retrieve many of the items.

One of the items lost was a painting of Theodore Roosevelt on horseback; he was a member of the Lodge. Matinecock Lodge Master Efraim Azamitia said, "This has been an absolute tragedy. We feel we've lost our home. We just



Heavy construction equipment was brought in to assist firefighters. The building was considered too severely damaged to allow the walls to remain standing.

had a Masonic First Degree ceremony and we had scheduled a Second Degree ceremony and we will now hold it at the donated Atlantic Steamer firehouse. The Masons have been here for 200 years. The firemen have been angels of heaven," he said. "They went through the building while the fire was ablaze and picked through stuff upstairs and brought down our gavels and things we thought we lost. That includes the Theodore Roosevelt Bible. Everything is damaged and should take a lot of work. But we are feeling very positive about the club and the community's response."

He said when the firemen started bringing the artifacts out of the building the Masons formed a chain and passed the items along. They were saddened at the loss of the painting of TR, and said Master Azamitia, "All we have is a photograph of it."

Brother Warren Obes said, "We were able to salvage a lot of the artifacts. The Atlantic Steamer Company let us lay the things out in one of their garage bays." They also offered their meeting room for their meetings. Mr. Obes said he got a call about the fire at 3:00 a.m. from Brother Norman Youngs, who is related to a fireman.

The Masons had nothing but praise for the firefighters who also salvaged the stained glass window that was in the east wall. The firemen sawed it out of the wooden frame and stabilized it with wood. Later in the day, Brothers Mike Applequist and Deacon Tastensen were looking over the artifacts

in the firehouse. Mr. Tastensen was glad their Masonic tools in their leather case were safe, and said of the tragedy, "Nobody got hurt. The Lodge didn't burn, the building we met in did. We're well insured. We're not leaving Oyster Bay and we will try to reconstruct the same way but with modern safety features." The Matinecock Masonic Historic Society owns the building, the Masonic Lodge rented their location from them. The two entities are parts of the same parent organization.

Mr. Tastensen and Mr. Applequist were at the Atlantic Steamer firehouse Saturday around 5 p.m. covering the large nails protruding from the wood that was stabilizing the stained glass window with cardboard to prevent anyone from injuring their hands. Mr. Applequist said they had just gotten the window back from a restorer and said, they would return it to that shop to be repaired again. Although they don't have all the glass (at the moment) they believed it can be restored.

About 60% of the window was intact, said John Hammond Matinecock Masonic Lodge Historian.

Mr. Hammond said the artifacts they recovered were soot covered and water soaked. "The TR application is intact as is the Bible Mr. Roosevelt was obligated on. The firemen went into the building while it was still burning to get the artifacts out," said Mr. Hammond. The Masons kept mentioning the brave work of the firefighters and how much they appreciated their efforts on the Masons' behalf. Brother Bob Kelly said when the firemen arrived there was lots of smoke. Flames shot up from the chimneys on both sides of the building.

Three other organizations have lost their homes in the Lodge. The Lodge was used by the Oyster Bay VFW Post No. 8033, as well as two German Lodges: the Trinity Lodge and the Socrates Lodge. The German Lodges conduct their meetings in their native language in order to hold onto their traditions.



Rescued Museum and Lodge furniture and records dry out in empty apparatus bay of The Atlantic Steamer Company.



The front of the building following the fire, with the severely damaged roof partially collapsed.

Camp DeMolay

By R.: W.: Richard Snyder, Project Manager

The Camp! That's what it is called by the people who donate many hours of their time maintaining it for use by our DeMolay Youth, Boy Scouts, Masonic families, Lodges and church groups. Its real name

is Camp DeMolay, and your Masonic Service Bureau manages it. Maintenance, however, is another story. It's done entirely by a very small cadre of volunteers.

Located on the shore of Lake Ontario, just West of Sodus Point, "The Camp" offers everything that a group seeking space and privacy could want.

The Camp provides electricity, water, toilets, showers, comfortable bunks. There are also nearby restaurants and attractions. Even a telephone is available for emergency use. Swimming is not encouraged because of insurance and inadequate trained supervision. All this is yours, and without charge. Donations, however, are gladly accepted to help defray maintenance expenses.

Improvements

Over the past four years, many improvements have been made to the buildings. A beautiful roofed deck overlooking the Lake has been added to the main building. The bunks have all been re-sided and at present are in the process of being insulated

and paneled. New windows will be installed in two of them this Spring. The restrooms have been re-sided and painted inside and out. A wheelchair ramp was built to make it easier for handicapped visitors. All the buildings have new roofing, also. There are more projects that need to be accomplished and more volunteers are needed to make them happen.

A big thank you

Who are these volunteers who give one day a week, and sometimes more, to make a thirty-five mile drive to do carpentry, or cut grass, clean up after a bad storm and, sometimes, take home the garbage left by others? As I said in the beginning, they are a small group or cadre of men, women

and children. Now is the time to say "thank you" to them for all the efforts and sweat they have so graciously given. Let's start with Bill Guinup from Geneva, Lee Collier, Jim Cleason, Bill Hook, Ron Weber, Ron Albright, Rene VanDeVeire, Jay McCullough, Gary Burke, Michael Robinson, Jason Hollender, and myself. There are also six families of the New York Centrals Chapter, Family Motorcoach Association, who showed up with their motor-homes and spent five days rebuilding and residing two bunks, and are itching for a return visit this year. When you see these volunteers, tell them thanks for their labors.



Anderson Hall, Camp DeMolay

**District Deputy
Grand Master
Ontario/Seneca/Yates
District**



R.:W.: Clayton R. Ruggles
315-548-3573

The past two years the District has held joint 3rd Degrees. In keeping with this practice, a 3rd Degree is scheduled for the 12th of January. There are no regular communications held on that date and, therefore, will allow other Lodges to attend without a meeting conflict. Garoga/Sincerity, Canandaigua, and Seneca Lake No 308, each have Brothers to be raised.

The work will start promptly at 5:45 p.m., with the First Section, followed by dinner. We will resume at approximately 7:30 p.m. and finish with the Second and Third Sections. If you will be attending the dinner, please RSVP to John Walti at (315) 548-9670, or to me at (315) 548-3573, no later than January 5th. We hope to see a large turnout for this Degree.

Courses

Work with the Masonic Development Course continues. We have found that more Brothers wish to take the course, so plans are being made to have repeat sessions. This Course is open to all Brothers. It is especially informative for newer Brothers and could certainly be a refresher for all.

The Road to the East Course is still scheduled for this Spring. More information to be forthcoming. These Courses are designed to develop Masonic knowledge, as well as leadership skills. I encourage any who have not participated in the past to give serious consideration to being involved.

Planned activities

The OSY Association meeting will be on January 10th, 8:00 a.m., at Garoga/Sincerity Lodge in Phelps. Plans are being developed for the District's Second Annual Surviving Spouses Luncheon. The first was a fine success and we hope to increase participation. Lodges are reminded that this event is not intended to re-

place any like activities that Lodges currently have.

Lodges are being invited to have representation on the OSY Charities Golf Tournament Committee. This event is the primary source of income for OSY Charities activities. Anyone interested in being on the Committee is invited to its first meeting, following the OSY Association meeting.

Reminder

Lodges are reminded of the Let's Chat Session with the Deputy Grand Master, R.: W.: Edward Trosin, to be held on Saturday, January 17th, at Union Star Lodge in Honeoye Falls. It will begin at 8:30 a.m. with coffee and donuts.

January dates

- 6th - Staff Officer Visit - Garoga/Sincerity
- 9th - OSY Charities Dinner at DiPacific's Restaurant
- 10th - OSY Association meeting - Garoga/Sincerity
- 14th - Staff Officer Visit - Ark Lodge
- 17th - Let's Chat Session
- 20th - Staff Officer Visit - Farmerville/Union No. 183
- 27th - Staff Officer Visit - Pocahontas No. 211

**Ark Lodge
No. 33, F. & A.M.**

3rd Wednesday
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(315) 789-6420
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(315) 789-4411
3394 Sutton Road
Geneva 14456

**The Mission of
Freemasonry**

Freemasons should adopt a more open policy, so that non-Masons may know what Masonry stands for and what its noble aims and purposes are.

There are many misconceptions held by our non-Masonic friends, which I feel should be clarified. A more widespread knowledge of our Masonic activities and of our mission in the world, would help to correct misinformation that is spread abroad by those who are unfriendly to our Fraternity. True, there are certain private and confidential activities which take place in the Lodge room; true there are certain rites and ceremonies which are known only to the Brethren. But, all the other se-

crecy ends, because the real work of Masonry goes on outside the Lodge room. Our membership is a matter of public record, as our teachings and idealistic aims of Masonry can be found in public print. True, Masonry is but the handmaiden of a religion and Masons stand by the church and its character. It's somewhat religious in character because God, through His word, has taught us so. Masonry is comprised of men of different faiths, symbolizing that tolerance for religious beliefs, which was not achieved without struggle and suffering. Freedom of religion we call it, one of the most precious possessions of a free people. We, who are Masons, recognize the church as one of the most effective bulwarks of our American liberty. Close the Bible, silence the pulpit and what is left of free speech! Following ancient custom, Masons frequently attend in a body, at a place of worship, symbolizing to the world our abiding belief in a Supreme Architect of the Universe.

Membership in the Fraternity requires a belief in the higher purposes of life and a willingness to render service to all mankind, through charity and benevolence, of the spirit of Brotherhood and human kindness throughout our community, nation, and the world. This is, indeed, an essence of Freemasonry and is our way of living. Masonry is the activity of closely united Brothers who work for the welfare of mankind, striving morally to enable themselves and others. We are proud that New York State Masons were largely responsible for the establishment of our free public school system through Brothers DeWitt Clinton, Daniel Tompkins and General Morgan Lewis, all of whom served as Governors of New York State, as well as Grand Masters of New York State.

Our charitable activities are many, and include: Masonic homes for the aged, many Masonic hospitals, clinics, research laboratories (medical, geriatric), community charities for underprivileged children regardless of race, color or creed. We have Masonic Concordant Bodies whose charitable work supports research of schizophrenia (Scottish Rite), the Eye Foundation (Knights Templar), tuberculosis and Parkinsons Disease (York Rite) and the many hospitals for crippled children (Shriners).

Our Masonic teaching, belief and philosophy that there is one God, the Father of us all; that the Holy Bible is the Great Light in Masonry and the rule and guide for faith and practice; that love of man is, next to love of God, man's first duty. Freemasonry interests itself in every phase of life that concerns the brotherhood of man.

Through Masonry, a system of philosophy has evolved and been taught to all Brethren regarding charity, toleration, courage, fortitude, justice, truth, brotherly love and relief. Through all of these, we can become better men and better citizens. We, in Freemasonry, are to love one another, act by the square, use the Golden Rule, seek out knowledge, and add to the store of the world's happiness and joy.

Yes! Freemasonry is an active force for good throughout the world. Freemasonry is widespread and has ties and connections throughout all free countries and continents, a wonderful influence for the good of the Fraternity that is dedicated to helping the good of all mankind.

We must remember that without Masonic challenges, there can be no progress in the future. Because of the struggles and challenges of our Masonic order come all that we, as a free nation, enjoy today. As citizens and Masons, there are challenges which concern us very deeply and they relate to our youth and to our freedom in a terroristic world. There is so much evil going on in the world. The ungodly terrorism causes us to live in an atmosphere of preparedness to resist these worldly aggressors who are trying to take our freedom away. No wonder our youth are puzzled and confused, because there is so much evil going on in the world. The youth of today will take over the branches of government in the future. The example of Freemasonry will have an important bearing on the future's well-being of our country. We, as Masons, are called upon to take an active interest in youth projects having to do with teaching good citizenship and patriotic duty, so our youth can be better equipped for the responsibilities which will be theirs in the years ahead.

It is the time of challenge as we live in today which will bring out the greatness that is in our people tomorrow.

Peoples, Brothers, Places and other things

Q. Why must a Charter be in the Lodge room?

A. It is permission by Grand Lodge to hold Lodge meetings. Masonic Ritual is the Masonic truth being dramatized for a lasting impression on the new Brothers.

Blue Lodge is an association of Masonic Brothers with the truth, duty, wisdom and hope of the Lodge.

King Solomon's Temple employed three Grand Masters (King Solomon, Hiram King of Tyre, and Hiram Abif), 3,300 Master Masons, 80,000 Fellowcrafts and 70,000 Entered Apprentices, to build the Temple.

Freemasonry is a builder of men and a tool and weapon to heal, help and bring forth the best of man.

Come to Ark Lodge to find happiness, thinking and doing among Brothers. Make it a home away from home. Where discussions among Brothers always gives one's respect for each other's feelings.

Ark Lodge's goals and purposes for its 196 years of existence has been to put Freemasonry in good men and not to put more men in Freemasonry. To let Geneva and the surrounding community see Ark Lodge in action (Red Cross Blood Drive, Christmas packages delivered to the senior citizens, DeWitt Clinton Awards, Little League Baseball, raising of monies for charitable institutions).

By M.: W.: H. Lloyd Jones, 1961

Food for thought

A friend is someone who can see through you and still enjoy the show.
(Farmer's Almanac)

Being an example is not the main thing in life, it is the only thing.

We probably wouldn't worry about what people think of us if we could only know how seldom they do.

September, 2007

W.: Arnie Schofield related to the Worshipful Master that Smith Opera House has been reserved on a Saturday in September for the 200th Ark Lodge Anniversary. *The Finger Lakes Times* will sponsor and pay for a military band and provide tickets for our 200th celebration. Thank you, Brother Schofield!

Looking back

At my June 4, 1980 address of Ark Lodge for my Homecoming as DDGM, I tried to set a good example of leadership and teaching by living, talking and spreading Freemasonry to all those who would listen and learn.

Thinking of you

Have these Brothers in your prayers - Harry George, Dr. John Stelter, Robert Insko, Bill Kashouty, Raymond Baroody and John Warder.

Thanks

Thank you, Brothers Henry Funk and Howard Colegrove, for your care and upkeep of our glorious new Ark Lodge, library and museum. We are deeply blessed!

**Garoga-Sincerity
Lodge No. 200**
1st & 3rd
Tuesdays

Master
W.: John Walti
315-548-9670

Secretary
R.:W.: Clayton Ruggles
315-548-3573
67 Ontario Street, Phelps 14532

I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and has a happy New Year. Best wishes to all as we start another year in Masonry.

As usual, we have been very busy with many different projects in the Lodge. We still have some pending that we will need to get done in the very near future. We will be working on these and I will keep everyone posted. Areas that need to be addressed are our Flagpole Foundation, outside lighting, pavilion maintenance, building addition, and the area behind the pavilion. We will be deciding on what to do with the many pine trees that are located in this area. Many of them are far too big with which to do much. More to follow.

December

At our December 2nd meeting, we had the pleasure of honoring two Brothers with Service Awards. W.: Lloyd Aiken received a 45 Year Pin and Brother John Bowles received a 40 year Pin. R.: W.: Clayton Ruggles, DDGM, and I, made the presentations, which were followed by the 2nd Degree. Brother William Sergeant conferred the Degree upon two Brothers of this Lodge and another from Milnor Lodge. He did an excellent job, as did all who participated.

Thanks to those from Milnor Lodge who helped with this Degree. One of the most important areas of any Degree is the sideliners. It was nice to see so many there.

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At our December 16th meeting, a proposed budget was read and adopted.

January

The 1st Degree Historical Lecture is scheduled for January 6th at Garoga/Sincerity and will be presented by V.: W.: Lowell Falkey. If any Lodges have Brothers who wish to hear this Lecture, feel free to join us at 7:30 p.m.

A 3rd Degree is scheduled for the 12th of January. Please note that this will be on a Monday night and will be a joint effort with two other Lodges, Canandaigua and Seneca Lake. We will start promptly at 5:45 p.m.; do the 1st Section and then break for dinner. We will then resume at approximately 7:30 p.m. and finish with the Second and Third Sections. It was thought that having this Degree on a non-meeting night would afford us more time, as no business meeting will be conducted. If you will be attending the dinner, please RSVP to John Walti at (315) 548-9670 or Clayton Ruggles at (315) 548-3573, no later than January 5th. This will allow the Worthy Matron and our Star Chapter the time needed to provide us with a nice dinner. Hope to see a large turnout for this Degree.

This is just a small part of what is going on in our Lodge. Please make it a priority to join us on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month and remember that the 1st Tuesday is always a Pot Luck Supper. Bring a dish to pass and plan on joining us. Remember our Brothers in sickness and distress and the many servicemen and women around the world who are in harm's way.

Birthdays

Happy January birthday to John Walti (7th), Curtis Givens (12th), Elliot Schocken (15th), Tim Piper (17th), Lowell Falkey (18th), Dave Smith (21st), Bruce Andrews (22nd), Fred Gifford (25th), Tom Hudson and Steve LeRoy (26th), and Scott Upchurch (31st).

Congratulations to these Brothers raised in January.

- William Amber 1/25/75
- Ken Overslaugh 1/21/75
- Robert B. Taylor III 1/17/96
- William Sergeant 1/13/97
- Carl Carlson 1/16/01
- Greg Dell 1/16/01
- Ira Warren 1/16/01
- Rodney Wolfe 1/16/01
- Todd Ruggles 1/9/02



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District Deputy Grand Master Wayne District



R.: W.: Francis E. Powley, Jr. (315) 483-2745

Happy New Year, my Brothers! May 2004 be prosperous for you and our Fraternity. Most Lodges are concentrating on Degree work as they cooperate to follow Grand Master Fitje's edict to do good Degree work for the Assistant Grand Lecturer before March 1st, 2004. I hope that you have an opportunity to see a neighboring Lodge do Degree work, too. I am sure they would be happy to see you.

MDC in Wayne District

R.: W.: James Frind has announced the first offering of the Masonic Development Course (MDC) in our District. The first session will be on January 22nd at Humanity Lodge No. 406, Lyons. The session is scheduled from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. The course manual should be ordered from the Grand Secretary at a cost of \$20. The shipping charges have been dropped according to R.: W.: Frind. You should also bring a copy of the cipher book as this will be helpful in the session. Call R.: W.: Frind at (315) 946-9630 to register.

Beacon Project

Just a reminder, that this is the Grand Master's pet project for this Masonic year. Turn in your hours of volunteer service to our school children to your Lodge chairman monthly. We can reach that 100,000 hour goal if everyone reports what they are doing.

AGL and Degree Work

V.: W.: David Rising is out and about watching Degree work and you are certainly welcome to view the work, as well. The more the better! Contact the AGL at (315) 331-7337 or visit our website for the Degree schedule.

Totton Essay Deadline

Those Masons who have a high school senior in the family should get the information sheet from your Lodge secretary. The essay topic this year is "What is a Leader?" First prize is \$1500. January 10th is the deadline for submissions.

Trip to Masonic Home

R.: W.: Norman Bentley announced on November 5th that he is anxious to have Wayne District Masons take the free trip to our Masonic Home in Utica in 2004. There have been several building projects done in 2003. We should all enjoy the day together. Let Norm know when a good date would be so he can start making arrangements.

Masters and Wardens

W.: Ron Miller of Newark Lodge No. 83 spoke on the Masonic Bowling Tournament to be held in Newark in April of 2004. He explained the tournament's long history and how Wayne District Masons can help continue the tradition this Spring. Teams and volunteers are both very welcome. Come out and have a ball.

Closing Thoughts

As I mentioned last month, reservations are due to the

travel agent for the trip to Grand Lodge NOW with a fifty dollar deposit per person. Lodges have begun to discuss the vote on raising the per capita dues by \$12.50 per year by 2007. I suggest that all Lodges look at their budgets in deciding what annual dues should be. I found it timely that the *Short Talk Bulletin* that arrived in December addresses that exact experience in a Lodge in Arkansas. They raised their dues from \$30 to \$100 per year and it goes on to say what they learned.

All Lodges should have received copies of a new Widows Program recently. One of the forms is a volunteer form for Brothers who can assist widows in maintaining their homes. I hope these forms are circulated and the results shared in the District for the benefit of our widows.

Lodge support of the Ronald McDonald House is needed in 2004. I haven't heard of much support this Fall. Gather your goods and I will be happy to deliver them in Rochester. Jim and I look forward to seeing you soon out and about in the District.

Assistant Grand Lecturer Wayne District



V.: W.: David R. Rising (315) 331-7337 Email: drising3@msn.com

Brethren, here's hoping your holiday season was a joyous and safe one. It is hard to believe that another year has gone by and it is already 2004. I am well into my Visits to the Lodges to observe their Degree work. December was my busiest month, as I visited five Lodges: Newark, Clyde, Humanity, Sodus and Wayne. Rose had to postpone their Degree work as their landlord closed their building for boiler repairs.

This month the only Lodge I have scheduled is Drumlin Square on January 21st for a 1st Degree. The only Lodges left are Rose No. 590 and Savannah No. 764.

Just a reminder that all Edict Degrees are to be completed by March 1, 2004.

Mini-convention

One of the things I wanted to do this year was to run a "mini-convention" at each Lodge during my Official Visits. I was hoping to work with each Lodge on its opening and closing and do a critique of each. Maybe next year there will be more time if the Degree reviews can begin earlier. I have seen instances where some work is needed. I have also seen a lot of our newer members filling the chairs and I am sure they can use some assistance. These portions of our Ritual are just as important as the Degree work and should become second nature to us through repetition. I would also like to work on another very important part of our work, and that is balloting. We can all improve in this area.

In closing, I would like to advise the Lodges that have already been reviewed in their Degree work to begin working

on their next Degree and setting up their teams for the next review.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me at (315) 331-7337.

Drumlin Square Lodge No. 1180

1st & 3rd Wednesdays

Master

R.: W.: R. Stuart Smith, Jr. (315) 597-9763

Secretary

R.: W.: William C. Jones (315) 986-9150



Palmyra Masonic Temple 161 East Main Street 14522

Your Officers and I wish for all of you and your families, a happy and successful 2004. We also join all of you in a renewed dedication to do what we must to ensure a successful continuance of what is and will be a program of quality growth in our Masonic Lodge here in the Macedon, Palmyra and Walworth area.

I think that I can speak for all of you when I wish for Hank and Joan Bedette a happy future when they move to Colorado to be with family. Hank (Ellsworth Henry Bedette) and Joan were very active in the Palmyra community and in the Masonic Bodies in particular. Hank is Past Master of Palmyra Lodge No. 248 (now, Drumlin Square Lodge No. 1180), Past High Priest of Palmyra Eagle Chapter No. 79, Royal Arch Masons, Past Master of Palmyra Council No. 26, Cryptic Masons, and Past Commander of Zenobia Commandery No. 41 (now, Sagoyewatha Commandery No. 17), Knights Templar. For his service to these Orders, Hank was made a Knight of the York Cross of Honor. Thanks for being with us, Hank and Joan, and serving your country and this community all of these years.

District Deputy Grand Master



Monroe District

R.: W.: John E. Zabel 223-3228

jzabel@ieeee.org john.zabel@kodak.com

'Tis the Season

Well, it isn't the holiday season anymore, but I hope everyone had a great one. Let's not forget, there is a very important day for Masons at this time of year. Now take a minute to see if you can come up with the event. Give up? As we state in the 1st Degree, our Lodges are dedicated to the Holy Saints John. Most of the Brethren are familiar with St. John's Day in June at the Masonic Home in Utica, but how many of us remember the other St. John's Day? We, as Masons, celebrate St. John the Baptist Day in June, usually around the true day, that is June 24th. The second St. John is St. John the Evangelist, whose day is December 27th. So there is a reason for Masons to add to the celebrations at this time of year. Most of the Lodges in this jurisdiction do not make a point of celebrating the other

Condolences

In November, Brother William Byers passed away at Sodus, New York. Bill was 97 years old and was a 40+ year member of our Lodge in Palmyra. Members of this Lodge and Sodus Lodge conducted and participated in a Masonic Memorial Service in Sodus for Bill. His widow, Thelma, and other family members, expressed their appreciation for this act of love for our Brother.

During a visit with Thelma at Sodus the following week, I explained to her the importance of the open Holy Bible on our Altar during our meetings and described our custom of draping the altar for departed Brothers. Thelma presented the Lodge with a beautiful Masonic wall clock that Bill had bought in Florida and he had told Thelma that he wanted it to be given to his Lodge. It now hangs in the West, over the outer door.

Our Stated Communications for January will be on Wednesdays, the 7th and 21st. On the 21st, at 7:30 p.m., our Lodge will confer the Entered Apprentice Degree on one, possibly two, candidates. There are still a few small parts that have not been assigned and I, again, request that you contact me if you would be willing to participate. My phone is (315) 597-9763.

As Spring approaches (from a distance), we look forward to our banquet to recognize and entertain the widows of former Masons in our community. When you read this column, we will have already enjoyed our Pot Luck Supper and Auction to help finance the Widows' Banquet. There will be more specific information in the February issue.

Thanks, again, to those who actively support our Lodge in its efforts to succeed.

St. John; Senior Wardens take note for your year as Master.

Why do we honor two Saints John? One of the explanations given is that the operative masons in the early days were looking for a patron saint. Every craft had to have a patron saint. The reasoning behind the choice of the St. Johns as patrons of the Fraternity can be found in many books of Freemasonry. One such book is *Mackey's Encyclopedia of Masonry*. I suspect that one of the reasons was that the two feast days were six months apart and this gave the operative masons a reason to have a Summer party and a Winter party.

Let's Chat

The Let's Chat session with the Deputy Grand Master has been rescheduled. The session will be held on Saturday, January 17th, at Union Star Lodge in Honeoye Falls. The schedule is:

8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m., Coffee and donuts

9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., Chat with DGM

11:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon, Lunch

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m., Trustee Certification program

This event is open to all Master Masons. The intent of the session is to discuss questions and feelings of the Craft with the Deputy Grand Master R.: W.: Edward Trosin. This

Continued on Page 6

Let's Chat
with
R.:W.: Edward Trosin
Deputy Grand Master

Saturday, January 17th

Union Star Lodge

Honeoye Falls

All Brothers Welcome

Schedule

8:30 - 9:00 a.m.

Coffee and Donuts

9:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Chat with the
Deputy Grand Master

11:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon Lunch

12:00 noon - 2:00 p.m.

Trustee Certification Program

Grand Sword
Bearer



Monroe

**R.:W.:
Derek E.
VanHouten
247-2920**

hooter95@rochester.rr.com

The last of the Turkey meat has been picked from the bones, the wrappings and gaily colored bows and ribbons have been torn from the countless gifts, the once beautiful and colorful green Christmas trees are now in the trash and the music of the season is now back in storage for another year.

For a moment, think of the following gifts that might have been under our Masonic trees. In the corner of the room there were three special gifts; each one separate but very noteworthy. In each box, FAITH, HOPE and CHARITY; in several other gifts were:

BROTHERLY LOVE; FELLOWSHIP; THE WORKING TOOLS; FAMILY; HOPE FOR THE FUTURE; OUR RITUAL; BROTHERHOOD FUND; and GOOD WILL TOWARDS ALL. These were, or could have been, gifts that we should practice year around. Sadly, though, we have witnessed in some Lodges a lack of the above. In this hectic busy world that we live in, going to and participating in the workings of our Lodges should be a haven and a comfort zone where Brothers can meet and continue the work, which has been part of our heritage from the foundation of our beloved Fraternity.

This coming year promises to be one of great importance to the members of the Craft. In May, we will be electing a new Grand Master and many other Officers in the Grand Line. We can't emphasize strongly enough how important it will be for each Master or Lodge representative to attend the sessions in New York in May. Also, new leadership in the various Districts will be trained and replace the likes of R.:W.: John Zabel and my-

self. New Masters will be sitting in the East with new plans and new ideas.

The Road to The East will be at Eunice Lodge in Caledonia on February 21st and March 20th. Senior Wardens and Junior Wardens should attend. Senior Wardens need to bring a copy of their trestleboards and a sample article for their newsletter or *Masonic Times* entry. The Staff Officers have been working on the RTTE since November and promise a dynamic educational experience. The one key ingredient for the success of this program is YOU. If you want to learn what makes a good Master, you will make the EFFORT to be there. The cost is \$20.00 and covers course material and a Certificate. Hope to see you there.

Theodore Roosevelt once commented on what makes a good executive, and it is still relevant today: "The best executive is the one who has sense enough to pick good men to do what he wants done, and self-restraint enough to keep from meddling with them while they do it."..... x

DDGM Monroe

Continued from Page 5

year will see a change in the leadership of Grand Lodge. Therefore, it is important that the Deputy Grand Master gets a good sense of the thoughts and feelings of the Brethren in our area. The session will be informal with no specific agenda, speeches, etc. All Brethren are encouraged to attend.

Trustee Certification Program

As part of this event, there will be a program aimed at educating Lodge Trustees in their duties and responsibilities. The position of Trustee of a Lodge can no longer be considered an "honorary" position for Past Masters or distinguished Brothers. Trustees have major responsibilities as defined by the Benevolent Orders Law and also have liabilities under the law. They should be aware of all their duties, re-

sponsibilities and liabilities so that they can properly perform their duties. All Lodge Trustees are encouraged to attend this session, as well as the full morning session.

End Notes

To our snowbirds, I hope you are enjoying good weather, wherever you are. To all the Brethren of the Monroe District, spend some time this Winter personally evaluating your Lodge. If you see areas of improvement, let the Master and Wardens know. If asked to assist in the improvement of your Lodge, take up the challenge. If each of us works to improve our own Lodge, the Brethren will benefit and the Craft will grow.

Have-a-Heart

Keep in mind that the Have-A-Heart Campaign will be held again in February. Every Lodge should have been contacted by the organizers and asked to volunteer. Let us all work towards a successful campaign again this year. x

Membership

R.:W.: Joseph Privitera
Monroe District

Attendance at Meetings

My compliments to Etolian Lodge of Spencerport and ERAC Lodge of East Rochester. Both Lodges had recent meetings where attendance was very good.

Etolian did a presentation on *Masonry in the Civil War*. Several Brothers were dressed in Civil War uniforms. ERAC Lodge had a presentation on Brother Harry S. Truman, 33rd President of the United States, presented by Brother Phil Hurwitz.

Dues

If you have recently received a letter telling you that you are about to be dropped for non-payment of dues, and for some financial reason cannot pay them, please call someone so something can be done to correct this situation. Call the Master or Secretary of your Lodge. Phone numbers should be in your Lodge's column of this paper.

Happy New Year to all, and I hope to see you in Lodge. x

Craftsman
Robertson
Lodge No. 969

1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m.



Master
W.: Charles E.
Strickland
(315) 947-5539

Secretary
W.: Thomas W. Kendig
(315) 524-4063

979 Bay Road, Webster 14580

By W.: Skip Waterstreet

The scheduled performer for our November social evening called Brother Warren Doerrer a few days before the event and cancelled. Scrambling around, he came up with Dolly and Her Escorts to fill the void. Now I can't say what would have happened, only what did. The attendees were treated to a wonderful holiday-themed program of toe-tapping and sing-along music that was pure delight. I think everyone left with high spirits and joy in their hearts. Thanks again, Warren, for another wonderful evening.

A few days later, several members of our Lodge participated in the Lalla Rookh Grotto/Damascus Shrine Children's Christmas Party. Once again, it was a marvelous affair with plenty of activities for the youngsters and munchies and beverages for all. The accompanying photos show some of the happenings.

On January 6th, we will have a Turkey Dinner at the Nutcracker Restaurant. We will have a speaker. The 20th will be a 2nd Degree. We'd like a large attendance that night to support our Degree Team and assist in welcoming our new Brother, again. There will be a rehearsal at the Masonic Service Bureau on the 13th at 7:00 p.m. There are some non-speaking parts which need to be filled, so if you can help us please attend the rehearsal.

Sickness and Distress

W.: B.: Bill Hook reported that Charlie Walker was not doing very well when he visited to deliver his poinsettia from the Lodge. Harold Impson is another Brother who is having difficulty recovering from his stroke. Brother Bob Traub suf-



Windy the Clown and his friend, Breezy, entertain (from left) Sue Kendig, Gail Steffen and Amanda Steffen at the Children's Christmas Party (above); (right) Veronica Goodrich listens to Santa; (below right) Jason Bocklage brought his catalog to make certain Santa got the right toy.



fered a mild stroke, but is back home now. A CAT scan indicated some minor problems, but the doctor assures him of a complete recovery. We send our best wishes for a speedy and total healing of their infirmities. The same for any other Brothers or their family members of whom we may not be aware.

Future Dates

Brothers, please mark your calendars now and plan on supporting our Lodge when we man the booth at the Mall at Greece Ridge Center on February 11th. Once again the Have-A-Heart Campaign will solicit donations to support the operations of the Ronald McDonald House. Our Senior Warden, Ken Schumacher (436-2076), will gladly accept your reservations for time slots between noon and 9:00 p.m.

The annual Fellowcraft Club dinner will be held at Rick's Prime Rib House on April 13th, with the social hour beginning at 6:00 p.m. Reservations will be accepted closer to the date.

Celebrants

Fifteen members of our Lodge just missed being prior-year tax deductions for their parents on when they were born. Happy January birthdays to John Bardo, James Clark, Samuel Eleoff,

Royden Guess, Jasper Kennedy, Oran Kissinger, Franklyn Morse, Robert Ogden, Dirk Oukes, John Sanna, Kenneth Skidmore, Richard Y. Sullivan, Sr., L. Edward Walker, William Wimberly and Charles Zicari. We extend wishes for safe travel to all the snowbirds. Enjoy! We look forward to seeing you again in the Spring.

Happy New Year to you and yours! See you in Lodge. x




Wright Wisner

3165 Brighton Heorletta Town Line Road Rochester, NY 14623
(585)-427-2880 FAX (585) 272-1216

Claude H. Wright
President

Wakan/Hubbard Lodge No. 154



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

Master
W. Joseph F. Oelgoetz
425-9969

Secretary
W. Theodore J. Snyder, 467-0166

Asst. W.: Donald C. Bell, 334-7768
1822 Penfield Road, Penfield 14526

Welcome to our new Brethren

I welcome Brother Jon Getz and Brother Ronald Lalik, who were both raised on November 24th and are our newest Master Masons at Wakan-Hubbard Lodge. I want to also thank all those Brethren who assisted in conferring a wonderful 3rd Degree. Special thanks go to Hugh Woodside for his outstanding work in several facets of the Degree, R.: W.: John Tijou for helping out as Senior Deacon, W.: Don Bell for his work and all of the Brethren who stepped up and assisted us. Welcome Jon and Ron!

Table Lodge

On November 10th, all who attended the Table Lodge had fun. Once again, our Junior Warden (Hugh Woodside) pulled together a wonderful festive board and had prepared many of the toasts of the evening. A special treat for all of us was the special guest of the evening. Brother Lawrence Whiteside brought along his son, Jeff, who recently returned home on leave from the Army from action in Iraq. It was truly an honor and a pleasure to have Jeff with us at our Table Lodge.

Holiday Party

All at our annual Holiday Party, held on Friday, December 5th, had fun. The Lodge was decorated with a holiday tree, wreath and menorah to celebrate the season of light. Festive drinks of mulled wine and cider were prepared, along with sumptuous finger foods. This event was well attended and it was great to see Ted and Marion Snyder back from Florida. Again, a big Thank You goes out to our Junior Warden, Hugh Woodside, for doing an outstanding job on this annual event.

100th Anniversary

On March 16, 1904, the Brethren of Penfield Union Lodge No. 154 bought the land on the Northeast corner of Penfield and Five Mile Line Roads in Penfield. Soon after the Penfield Masonic Temple was built (the same Temple that presently serves Wakan/Hubbard as its Lodge building). In celebration of the hun-

dreth anniversary of our building, we will be having a Re-dedication Ceremony on March 22, 2004. The Grand Master, M.: W.: Carl J. Fitje, has agreed to preside over the festivities.

Final plans are in place. We will have a dinner at Penfield Country Club beginning at 6:30 p.m. After dinner we will retire to the Lodge for the formal Ceremony of Rededication. Cost for dinner is \$32.50 per person. It was felt that since this event only happens once in one hundred years, and that the Grand Master has graciously agreed to preside over the festivities, we should have a venue that reflects the pride we all have in Wakan/Hubbard Lodge No. 154. Thus, we made the decision to have the dinner event at the Penfield Country Club. Please get your reservations into Paul Kober as soon as possible. You can contact him via phone at 381-1058 or e-mail, muddler@rochester.rr.com. Please pay in advance with a check to "Wakan/Hubbard Lodge No. 154 - F & A M." Checks, along with your reservation, can be sent to Paul Kober at 59 Park Lane, Rochester, NY 14625-2015.

Canadian Lodge event

March 26th - 28th, we will be spending a social weekend with our Canadian Brethren and our ladies in Niagara Falls, Ontario. We will be staying at the Renaissance Fallsview Hotel. Cost per night, double occupancy, is \$89, Canadian.

To make a reservation at the hotel, simply call 1-800-363-3255 and mention "Masons - March 26-28." The only scheduled event during the weekend is on Saturday evening - March 27th. Many of us will be attending the Dinner Theatre for "Oh Canada, Eh!" Cost for the dinner theater is \$44 US per person (as long as we get 20 people). To reserve a seat, please send a \$10.00 deposit per person to Joe Oelgoetz, 44 East Pointe, Fairport, NY 14450. We would like to get all reservations in by the end of the year to assure us good seating for the Dinner Theatre. If you have questions, do not hesitate to contact me at 425-9969.

Rosslyn Chapel

On Monday, January 12th, Brother Bruce Horncastle, Senior Warden, will give a program on Rosslyn Chapel of Scotland. This is a place whose architecture is filled with Masonic symbolism, as well as a place that in ancient lore was said to be a special place for the Knights Templar. Brother Bruce visited this fascinating place a couple of years ago and will have slides to go along

with his talk. Our meeting will be preceded by a dinner, which will begin at 6:30 p.m. This event is stag. Please get your reservations into Brother Paul Kober, DSA at 381-1058 or via e-mail at muddler@rochester.rr.com.

The Morgan Affair

Our program for our meeting on Monday, January 26th, will be a presentation by Brother William Zufall on the Morgan Affair. For those who are interested in history, especially history of our Craft, you won't want to miss this interesting discussion. Again, a dinner is scheduled prior to our meeting, so get your reservations into Brother Paul Kober.

Brother and General George Washington

In celebration of the birth of our illustrious Brother and first President of our Great Nation - Brother and General George Washington - we will be holding a joint Table Lodge with ERAC Lodge on Monday evening, February 9th. Keep the date open for some brotherhood and fellowship, as well as a talk concerning Brother Washington. As we finalize the details, we will get the information out to you.

God Bless.

ERAC Lodge No. 163

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

Master
W.: Terry W. Wihlen, Jr.
377-4695

Secretary
R.: W.: Terry W. Wihlen, Sr.
346-4380

152 West Commercial Street
East Rochester 14445

Season's greetings to all and happy New Year. I hope everybody had a wonderful and memorable holiday season. The first part of our 2003-2004 Masonic year has finished and I am happy that the Lodge is still thriving with energy and focus. I wish this same energy could continue for the rest of my year and for future years.

December was a very busy, but rewarding, month for our Lodge. Many thanks to W.: Phil Hurwitz, who gave an incredible talk on Harry Truman. There were members from other Lodges in attendance to hear W.: Phil's well prepared and presented talk.

Thanks to R.: W.: Richard Friedman for organizing TWO sites at Pittsford Plaza for us to help ring the bell for the Salvation Army. The annual Red Kettle Drive will always be a part of ERAC's commitment to our community.

Holiday visitations brought both smiles and tears to all who participated. We visited many shut-in Brothers who are unable to make it to Lodge. Their stories and appreciation reminded all who participated how we must take care of each other.

If you are, or if you know of a Brother, who would benefit from a visit, please contact me and the Lodge will make it happen.

ElderWear also kept our Lodge busy as we combined our holiday visitation with delivering clothing to many area nursing homes. W.: Lew Perna continues to do outstanding

work in the community and it is no wonder why he has been given the Dedicated Service Award.

Many thanks to the ERAC Brothers who raised money and delivered a great meal to a less fortunate family. Two of our youngest members also joined in.

January will start with our first meeting on the 12th, and it is an open meeting. Kathleen Kutolowski will be giving a presentation on "Freemasonry on the Genesee Frontier."

Our Officers are hard at work preparing for our 2nd Degree on January 26th. Brother George Nasra (Senior Warden) will be in the East and I'm sure he and our Officers will confer a great Degree. Mark your calendar for a joint Table Lodge with Wakan/Hubbard on February 9th, which will be held at their Lodge.

"Back to the basics" started as a motto for this year and has now turned into the foundation for many years to come. Together we strive to be the best as Masons realizing the "basics" are the foundation we use to achieve our goals.

ERAC Past Masters to Meet

By R.: W.: William Lindsay

ERAC Past Masters will gather on January 24th, at the Lodge on West Commercial Street in East Rochester for a breakfast meeting at 8:00 a.m. This meeting will also be open to spouses who will be welcome to stay for the meeting.

The meeting had been originally scheduled for the evening, but the Officers decided that daytime would be a better choice during the Winter season.


Arrival will begin at 8:00 a.m., hearty breakfast at 8:30 a.m., the meeting will start shortly after 9:00 a.m. and conclude in about an hour. Agenda items include a presentation on the Shrine Center by Bruce Chilton, a review of the Have-a-Heart plans, and early planning for the Scholarship/Summer picnic.

Past Masters should make their reservations by January 19th, with:

Bill Lindsay
621-3573
wrl@frontiernet.net

NORTHFIELD Lodge No. 426

Instituted March 1857
1st & 3rd Thursdays, 7:30 p.m.



Master
W.: Pedro M. Ugalde
(h) 820-1128
pugalde1@rochester.rr.com

W.: John Dudley, Secretary
(h) 586-6426
jdudley1@rochester.rr.com
17 Church Street, Pittsford 14534

Our 1st Degree was successful. Special thanks to W.: Glenn Hedges, who made that Degree possible. The 2nd Degree will be on February 5th and is going to be monitored for Grand Lodge. Please call our Junior Warden to make reservations for dinner.

On January 15th, we will have a Masonic speaker. The first Saturday in February, Northfield takes charge at the mall for our annual Have-a-Heart Campaign, for the Ronald McDonald House. We need Brothers to take some posi-


tions. Please call me to sign up.

Recently our dues went up, due to the high cost of living, the low interest paid by banks and many other reasons listed with your dues letters. In order for our new financial scheme to work, we need each and every member to be paid as soon as possible. Remember, also, that donations are always welcome. Having the Lodge in your testament will ensure the life of our beloved Lodge and Fraternity.

Best wishes from the Officers of Northfield Lodge for the New Year.

FAME Lodge No. 722

4275 Culver Rd.
2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m.



Master
W.: David Foster
244-0194

Sec. W.: Leon VanHuben
647-1391

First of all - Happy New Year! I hope you all had a safe and joyous holiday. Hard to believe another year is starting up already.

Our first meeting this January is on the 13th and will be preceded by a buffet dinner at 6:30 p.m., featuring Veal German, vegetables, potatoes, salad, rolls and butter. The cost per person is \$8.00 and reservations are required.

The second meeting, on the 27th, will be preceded by a Pot Luck Dinner, also at 6:30 p.m. Please bring a dish to pass and your own table service. Don't forget, our ladies are encouraged to join us at our Pot Luck Dinners! Trust me, they won't be bored while we're up in our meeting.

Join us!

We will also be manning the booth at the Have-a-Heart Campaign on Sunday, February 8th, from 12 noon until 6:00 p.m. We'll be at the Mall at Greece Ridge Center this year. We need at least three volunteers for each three hour shift. Please contact me if you're willing to help raise money for this special cause.

Reminders

Brotherhood Fund Chairman, Keith Moore, tells me that contributions are coming in slow, but sure. If you haven't made your donation yet, please do!

Dues are due! Please remit your dues to our Secretary, Leon VanHuben, as soon as possible. I am pleased to say that, for the most part, you Brothers have stepped up to the plate wonderfully with regard to the assessment - and we have had quite a few members make additional contributions to help the Lodge. My sincerest thanks to all of you. I want to let you know that your Officers continue to try to find ways to get our financial situation in a more stable position. Thank you, again!

Thinking of you

We are keeping W.: Ken Rhodes in our prayers as he goes through his battle with health-related issues. If any of you know of any of our Brothers in sickness or distress, please call one of your Officers. I would rather hear any

Continued on Page 8

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Fame Lodge

Continued from Page 7

news from three or four or more people, than not hear from anyone.

Also, please let us know if there is something you would like to see as a program at Lodge. We'll see if we can accommodate it somehow.

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

See you at Lodge!

**Valley/Simes
Lodge No. 109**

2nd Tuesdays
7:30 p.m.

W.: Master
David W. Mura
637-8695
bigdave@rochester.rr.com

Secretary
R.: W.: Herbert Spencer
334-7493
hspence1@rochester.rr.com

979 Bay Road, Webster 14580

Greetings to our Brethren and families. We at Valley-Simes Lodge hope you had a safe and pleasant holiday. I can't say that I have much to talk about this month. Winter is here and I'm already dreaming about Summer. Regardless of how technically advanced we get, Mother Nature still has the upper hand.

By the time you read this, I should have returned from my daughter's in Indiana, with a replacement engine for my motorcycle. Hopefully, I can get it running this year. My spouse tells me that I either need to get it fixed or get it out of the yard this year. (Gee, Dear, its only been in pieces for six years.)

We had a pleasant evening at our November Lodge meeting. Although we didn't have dinner, Rita Snyder did an excellent job preparing snacks for the presentation. Seldom have I tasted such delicious treats. Along with that, we had a tear-jerking rendition of the Pledge of Allegiance, by the late "Red" Skelton. As well as, a reading of "Red's" history as a Mason. To close the meeting, former military members stood and announced what their role was in the defense of our great nation. Let it be known that we are all proud of you, whether your job was in

the direct line of fire or supporting from the sidelines.

Other news

We had a 2nd Degree scheduled for December 9th, but it was cancelled for a multitude of reasons. We will attempt to have a 2nd Degree with another Lodge, as soon as our new Brother is prepared for the next step.

For those members who haven't been attending meetings due to the lack of dinners, we have started to get our meals delivered by "Forest Hills." The menus look good and the price appears reasonable. Also, I have heard great things about their quality. I am looking forward to having regular dinners prior to our Lodge meetings, especially during the Winter months.

Sickness and Distress

It is with great sorrow that we announce the passing of Vartan Devarian, a long time member of Valley/Simes Lodge. Our hearts are with his family.

If you are suffering from sickness or distress, or know of another Brother from our Lodge who is, please let me know. I can be reached at 637-8695.

January events

6th - 6:00 p.m. - Officers' Meeting

13th - Lodge Night - Official Business - Masonic Program

20th - Fellowcraft - Joe Bishop's Auto Sales - Come see his "Model City"

February

3rd & 14th - Have-a-Heart Fundraiser - Marketplace Mall

10th - Lodge Night - Sweethearts' Night with the Ladies. Special musical presentation by "Ladies of Note"

24th - Fellowcraft at the Lodge - Brother Bring-a-Friend Night

March

9th - Lodge night - Officers' Move Up Night.

**Churchville
Lodge No. 667**

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

Master
W.: Edward L.
Kelley
293-2538

Secretary
W.: George
R. Burke
293-1629

www.geocities.com/churchvillelodge667
20 South Main Street, Churchville, 14428

May you and your loved ones have a safe and happy

New Year.

Christmas Party

On December 4th, we held our Christmas party at the Johnson House in Churchville. I was very pleased with the turnout and happy that all in attendance had a great time. I look forward to doing it again next year.

State of the Lodge

As I wrote in my last article, the Lodge put a motion on the floor at the Annual Business Meeting to vote at the January 28th meeting to raise the yearly dues to an even \$50. Granted, it is nice to have the cheapest dues in New York State, but we cannot sustain that level when cost of "doing business" goes up every year. I have talked with a number of people from other Lodges and the figure of \$50 seems to be right in line with everyone else. Raising yearly dues is an action that the Lodge does not want to take, but it is something that we unfortunately have to do in order to keep things running. This decision affects each and every one of us so I strongly urge that if you want your voice to be heard, please attend the January 28th meeting and vote.

1st Degree

Our 1st Degree will be on January 14th. Dinner will start promptly at 6:30 p.m., with the Degree beginning at 7:30 p.m. The menu for dinner will be Chicken and Ribs with all the fixings. All Lodges are invited to attend. For reservations, please call Ed Kelley at 293-2538 or send him an email at: edward-kelley@netzero.net.

Please mark your calendars for the Annual Have-a-Heart Campaign. We will be working the booth at the Mall at Greece Ridge Center, Saturday, February 7th, from 12-9 p.m. Come out and help us do a great deed for those in need at the Ronald McDonald House.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call me at 293-2538 or email me at: edwardkelley@netzero.net.

**Fairport/Flower
City Lodge No. 476**

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

Master
W.: William V.
Nardone
458-7512

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

Fairport Masonic Temple
87 South Main Street

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah, or whatever holidays you celebrate! Apologies that I was unable to submit an article to the *Masonic Times* for the December issue, my cabletow got the better of me last month. I hope the demands on my time will decrease in the New Year, so I won't miss another deadline. Best wishes to all for a healthy and prosperous 2004!

November

Veterans Recognition Night, on November 10th, brought us new insights into our Brothers'

wartime experiences. Our thanks to all for serving in our armed forces to defend the liberties we hold dear.

On November 17, we held a memorial service for the late R.: W.: Gerald Glaser, and it was truly gratifying to see the number of Masons, friends and families who attended to observe our simple, yet beautiful, ceremony.

Finally, our thanks to the Shrine Past Masters' Degree Team, who presented the 3rd Degree for our Lodge on November 24th. We couldn't have done it without you, and our two newest Brothers received an excellent introduction to the legends and mysteries of our Craft.

December

We have found that a Table Lodge is a festive way to round out the year, so on December 8th we enjoyed a very spirited program. My thanks to Bernie Lazerson for making the arrangements, and Brian Bills for the excellent chili, which warmed our hearts. December 22nd was the return of the Latke Party. If you've never had our latkes, you don't know what you're missing!

January, 2004

The programs for January will be Life Members Recognition Night on the 12th, and our annual Lodge of Remembrance on the 26th.

Social activities for the month may include a trip to an Amerks game and a Chinese Dinner Night Out with our ladies. The telephone tree will be taking reservations, but if you haven't heard from one of the Officers by now, give me a call!

Challenge

Brothers, your participation is the key to our success. Those who participate regularly are certainly enjoying their Masonic experience, but we have other members we haven't seen in some time. I hereby extend my most sincere invitation to all Brothers of our Lodge, no matter how long it's been, to return and join us once again. Renew old friendships, and make new ones, by attending our next Lodge meeting or social event. I look forward to seeing you there!

**WEBSTER
LODGE NO. 538**

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

Master
W.: Douglas
Koenig
223-6638
quequesquaired@yahoo.com

Secretary, Richard Collazo
339-9662

30 Orchard Street
Webster 14580

The arctic winds are blowing, snow is in the air, and Winter is definitely here. Mother Nature is testing our resolve and the cold and flu seasons are running rampant everywhere. I hope all of you had a wonderful Christmas, enjoyed the holiday season, and that everyone has a prosperous New Year. 2004 is now here and the Masonic year is half over.

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Condolences

Since my last article, there was a Masonic Funeral on November 16th for Elmer Anderson. Thank you, Elmer, for always bringing a warm heart and that smiling face to Lodge with you. May you enjoy the blessings of heaven and the peace and tranquility that only the Great Architect can provide.

December

We had a wonderful showing of Masonic unity with a very generous donation of \$1000 by the Ladies of the Eastern Star. We conferred the 1st Degree on November 20th, and our annual Table Lodge was on December 4th.

I can't stress enough the importance of practice sessions before a Degree. In doing so, we were able to iron out a bunch of floor work details, which helped immensely in the portrayal of the Degree. It also helps those with large speaking parts become comfortable with their roles. I thank our Marshal, John Ross, for stepping up and taking on the Working Tools in his first year, Tom Pellet for the Apron Lecture and Bill Kuehne for the Historical Lecture. I also send out a special thank you to our Junior Warden, Mike Nohle, and our Senior Warden, Bernie Russell, for doing the Whys and Wherefores this year. It completed the Degree and it was a section that hasn't been done in many years.

For all of you who worked hard in the quarries in preparation for the 1st Degree, I thank you. Wonderful job gentlemen.

I thank, once again, our Junior Warden, Mike Nohle, and our Senior Steward, Lew Wallace, for the absolutely tremendous job they did with our Table Lodge. It's a great sense of relief knowing that I have competent and studious Officers. It makes my year as Master, a WHOLE LOT easier. At last count we had 31 Brothers in attendance and it was wonderful to see such a plethora of new Brothers join us. I thank R.: W.: Rich Friedman for supplying us with the Table Lodge Program; W.: John Clapp for his assistance in making the copies; and, R.: W.: Bruce Chilton for hosting our Table Lodge.

January events

1st - Masonic Quiz Night
2nd - Spaghetti Dinner
15th - Masonic Education Night. A Masonic poem by Rudyard Kipling, portrayed by M.: E.: John Konvalin, Past Grand Captain of the Guard, Grand Council of Cryptic Masons, State of New York
17th - Red Cross Blood Drive

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7:30 p.m.
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W.: Raymond
G. Glogg
266-8652
Secretary
Robert C. Green, Jr., 223-5953
30 Orchard Street
Webster 14580

Happy New Year everyone! I hope that you all had a safe and joyous holiday season.

December

Last month we held our annual Breakfast with Santa. Many children attended and were mesmerized when talking to Santa. Such unconditional love, trust and belief is truly a sight to behold. It's a shame that we tend to lose that feeling as adults. I thank Brothers Bob Green and Bob Kimmel for organizing another successful event.

We also held our annual Egg Nog Party, hosted by Brother

Jack Phillips. The attendance was good and we all had great times together sharing our memories of the past and remembering our Brothers who have passed on.

January

This month we will be having our Official Visit from R.: W.: John Zabel DDGM. I encourage you to make every attempt to attend and hear him deliver the Grand Master's message. There will be a dinner that night and reservations should be made through Bob Kimmel or Dana Cline.

Reminders

Thank you for your continued support of the Brotherhood Fund. Though participation has been good, we are still behind on donations compared to last year. Please contact Brother Carl Preddy to make a donation.

Also, don't forget about the District Have-a-Heart Campaign to support Ronald McDonald House. Our Lodge will be at Eastview Mall; this effort is being coordinated by Dick Shellman.

As I close this article, I wish each and every one of you the safest, healthiest and happiest 2004. I look forward to seeing you all on the level soon.

Union Star Lodge No. 320
3 North Main Street
Honeoye Falls 14472
2nd Mondays
7:30 p.m.
Master
W.: Kerry S. Ripley
346-3124
Secretary, Robert Sweeney
(h) 381-5286; (w) 464-6316
38 Cullens Run, Pittsford 14534

I hope everyone has had an enjoyable holiday season with family and friends, and you are all starting the New Year in good health and spirits.

First, I thank R.: W.: John E. Zabel, DDGM, and R.: W.: Derek VanHouten, Grand Sword Bearer, for joining us in our Lodge for our Official Visit. W.: Joseph Cotteleer put on a fabulous dinner that evening

of meat loaf, baked potato with squash, and fresh tomato soup.

Congratulations!

R.: W.: Harold L. Aldrich, Grand Representative of Poland, Deputy for New York, AASR, also joined us to present Rob Sweeney with a "Remember the Blue Lodge" Certificate. Harold drove from Lackawanna No. 887 to present Rob this Award for bringing in new members to our Lodge. Congratulations Rob!

Condolences

It becomes my sad duty to announce the passing of one of our Brothers. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of Douglas L. Rath. Doug was Raised June 5, 1957, and was called to the Supreme Lodge Above on November 29, 2003. A Masonic Funeral Service was held at Kays Funeral Home on Monday, December 2nd.

A good time

Our Fellowcraft Holiday Party was held in our Lodge on Monday, December 22nd. It was a fun evening and a good time was had by all.

January
On Monday, January 5th, at 7:00 p.m., we will have our first rehearsal for the 2nd Degree, and all Officers are required to attend.


Our Annual Communication will be Monday, January 12th, at 7:30 p.m. There will be NO dinner this evening, but there will be a snack afterward.

The final rehearsal for the 2nd Degree will be on Monday, January 19th at 7:00 p.m. Once again, all Officers are required to attend.

We will have a Special Communication on Monday, January 26th, to confer the 2nd Degree upon our new members. Dinner will be at 6:30 p.m., and the work for the evening will begin at 7:30 p.m. If you have not signed up for dinner, please contact me at 346-3124, before January 20th.

I hope to see all of you in Lodge; have a safe and Happy New Year.

Communicate

District Deputy Grand Master
Genesee/Wyoming

R.: W.:
Robert W. Strang, Jr.
591-2888

To all the Brothers and their families, I extend warm and sincere wishes for a safe and prosperous New Year, and a continued hope for peace and joy extended from the holiday season. Let no one forget the warmth and security the recent holiday season brought to us was, and is, a result of the sacrifices of our military men and women serving this country all over the globe. Hold a silent moment to ask God's continued blessings on our Armed Forces and our Craft, for more continued success and peace throughout the world.

Special event

I thank all those members of the Genesee/Wyoming District who made the recent 3rd Degree at Attica Lodge so memorable, not only for the two new Brothers, but for this writer. If memory serves me, there has not been a Degree cast so unique to Masonry. The Degree was rendered in splendid fashion. For those of you unable to attend, you missed an opportunity I have long sought; W.: Douglas Strang, Brother Donald Strang and I, portrayed the three ruffians. I am not sure, but feel it may have been a one of a kind opportunity for brothers to act out this part of brothers. I thank all those who took part in this effort, but a special thank you to my brothers.

Communication

The Grand Master's edict concerning Degree work has had a positive affect on Masonry throughout the State. Do you think that an edict should be issued to encourage every Lodge to communicate with its membership, and the membership to communicate with its Lodge? Brothers, how

many bad situations could have been avoided or good ones enhanced by simple communication?

Let us not aggravate or palliate the offenses of our Brothers, but admonish with friendship and move forward for the benefit of a stronger Craft.

Have you contributed?

The Brotherhood Fund is in full swing and needs the support of each member to enable Masonry to live and shed its beneficent influence on mankind. Make your contribution soon and encourage others to do likewise.


Other news

Grand Lodge has sent out the Scholarship Assistance information and booklets for the Widows Program and Community Service Guide. For further information, contact Lodge Secretaries, the Staff Officer, or the District Deputy.

The Let's Chat session for this area is scheduled for January 17th at Union Star Lodge in Honeoye Falls, from 8:00 a.m. 'til 12 noon. This is a great opportunity for you to meet with the Deputy Grand Master and exchange information. It presents you with a forum to talk to Grand Lodge and give them your input and receive in kind.

For more information, contact me. Mark your calendars and try to attend this day.

May the blessings of Heaven rest upon you and yours and may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

Grand Sword Bearer
Genesee/Wyoming

R.: W.:
Norman P. Austin
494-2223
lindalee115@hotmail.com

The holidays are over, and a New Year is upon us. Have you made your New Year's resolutions yet? Some of us resolve to lose weight, stop smoking, or give up other vices with which we would like

to rid ourselves. Likewise, many of us begin the New Year with a resolve to become better individuals and/or strive to make the world a better place in which to live. Well, here is a consideration to ponder, not only as a New Year's resolution, but, as a thought for every day:

Is anyone happier because you passed his or her way? Does anyone remember that you spoke to him or her today? This day is almost over, and its toiling time is through. Is there anyone to utter a kindly word of you? Did you give a friendly greeting to the friend who came along, or a churlish sort of "howdy" and then vanish into the throng? Were you selfish, pure and simple, as you rushed along your way, or is someone mighty grateful for a deed you did today? Can you say tonight in parting with the day that's slipping fast, that you helped a single Brother of the many that you passed? Is a simple heart rejoicing over what you did or said? Does a man whose hopes are fading now with courage look ahead? Did you waste the day or lose it, was it well or poorly spent? Did you leave a trail of kindness or a scar of discontent? As you close your eyes in slumber, do you think that God would say you have earned one more tomorrow by the work you did today?

Sickness and distress

Our best wishes are extended to W.: Ron Morris, Master of Hesperus Lodge, Patron of Hesperus Chapter, and Grand Lecturer of the Genesee/Wyoming District, Order of the Eastern Star, as he recovers from his sudden health setback. (What are those ladies doing to you, Ron?)

Our thoughts also go out to R.: W.: Jerry Brade, as he deals with some recurring medical problems.

We bid a fond adieu to Brother Alex Shaw of Batavia Lodge, as he has been transferred down South, to another base in his military career.

Masonic Education

The first ever session of the MDC Course in the Genesee/Wyoming District is now behind us, with a number of newly proficient Brethren

ready to assume leadership roles in their respective Districts. We once again, extend our sincere thanks to R.: W.: Bill Lindsay, for taking of his time to travel throughout the Genesee/Wyoming District to present the course for us.


While we are on the topic of Masonic Education, just a reminder, although it was advertised in last month's issue of this publication, the next session of the Road to the East will be held at Eunice Lodge, in Caledonia. Session I will take place Saturday, February 21st, with Session II following on Saturday, March 20th. Classes are scheduled from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and the cost is \$20.00 including lunch.

Council of Masonic Activities

The Genesee/Wyoming Council of Masonic Activities will hold its next meeting at Hesperus Lodge in Bergen, on the 18th of this month. Candy bars will be distributed to Lodge Representatives at this meeting. Hopefully, we will have a good turnout, as we discuss the District events for the New Year.

Being ever vigilant on our rate of publication as a District, we once again, went up last month, from five articles in November, to six. Hopefully, the New Year will provide ample opportunities for events upon which the Lodges will report.

May this coming year prove to be a healthy, prosperous, and productive one for all.

Assistant Grand Lecturer

V.: W.: George R. Springett
247-3557
Genesee/Wyoming District

During my travels, I have witnessed seven 1st Degrees and one 3rd Degree, along with a like number of Official Visits covering most of the Lodges within the District. The Ritual work displayed by these Lodges has been, in my opinion, surprisingly better than I had expected. This District should be very proud of itself.
Continued on Page 10

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AGL Springett

Continued from Page 9

As many of you know, there are members in our Fraternity who are exceptional Ritualists and our District has a good share of them. You know who I am talking about - those Brothers who present the Ritual in a flawless and effortless manner. They give us all a target to strive for when we present our work.

Then there are those of us who do good work. We feel we should be able to do a better job, but it just never seems that the work we do comes across quite the way we had hoped for - letter perfect. I still must say that you are doing a very good job and that the new Brothers are beginning their education into Freemasonry properly. Smile, you are doing the Ritual satisfactorily and in a manner which is expected. Remember, we are not the Great Architect of the Universe, we are just frail mortals and are not expected to be perfect, just to strive towards perfection.

Now, for the rest of us Ritualists - those of us who beat our heads against that proverbial wall and think that we will never get it right no matter how much effort we exert. We stammer, stutter (even while in our normal conversation we never stutter), and struggle with every word, yet we continue to insist in the giving of our Ritual to the best of our ability. I say to you, you have my highest respect for taking on the challenge of trying to present our Ritual, which contains much uncommon verbiage of yesteryear. Without you to take on the task, my Brothers, our Ritual would not be completed.

I did not forget the Brothers who never verbally expound upon our Ritual before others. You, too, have a great place in Masonry. You are the true workers of our Ritual. The actual workers whom, without your efforts in the trenches, the Ritualists would not have a Lodge to work in. You are the ones who live and work behind the scenes to bring forth the efforts needed for the support of the teachings we Ritualists are conveying to the new Brothers. You show us all that charity is greater than all of us put together. My admiration goes out to you with a heartfelt thank you for the great work done by all in each and every Lodge in the District.

It gives me a great honor and privilege to associate with each and every Lodge in this District. The work that each Lodge does on its own, towards its members, community, and country, indicates a true usage of our Ritual. Now, let me ask that each Lodge expand upon the great inner workings to bring true Masonic Light of the teachings found in our Ritual towards the common

good of making our District even better. Let us come together like a giant joint Lodge by working together for the betterment of society and mankind. Just think of the accomplishment that all of us can do together as a family of Lodges as opposed to what each Lodge can do on its own.

I will see you in the trenches of our united District. ✕

**Eagle Valley
Lodge No. 1161**

2nd & 4th
Thursdays

Master
W.: Edwin
C. Law
237-2579

Secretary
R.: W.: Sheldon J. Moden
322-7343

Liberty Street, Bliss 14024

I wish you and yours a joyous and prosperous New Year!

2003 Christmas Poinsettias were distributed throughout the length and breadth of Eagle Valley to those duly qualified to receive them. Brother Dick Moden's dedication to our Poinsettia distribution project over many years is unequalled and unsurpassed. Thank you, Brother Dick Moden, for all that you have done this year and over many years past to bring a little love and joy to those in our community who may have great need of it. Thanks to all who had any part in the Christmas '03 Eagle Valley Poinsettia distribution project.

Grand Lecturer, V.: W.: George Springett, made his Official Visit to Eagle Valley December 11th. We were pleased to have him with us.

At the date of writing of this article, there were no new developments regarding the proposed Eagle Valley/Triluminar merger.

Brothers, Winter weather is again upon Eagle Valley. With it should come our increased caution as we move about on foot, on wheels and "sporting equipment" such as snowmobiles, skis, etc. Please be careful and thus avoid serious injury or worse. ✕

**Mount Vernon
Lodge No. 263**

2nd & 4th
Mondays

Master
W.: Bernard
Whaley
457-9905

Secretary
W.: Jim Allan, 457-3079

Main Street
Java Village 14083

I hope those of you who attended the Christmas Party and Dinner on the 22nd enjoyed yourselves. It's always a special and fun time when we gather together with wives and friends.

As co-chairman for the District Blood Drive Program, I was asked for help from the Red Cross in providing a last minute spot to hold a Blood Drive. They will be hosting one at our Lodge on December 31st from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. If you wish to donate blood, you can contact me to schedule an appointment.

Our 2nd Degree was held on December 8th. The 3rd Degree will be on January 26th. As you know, many hands are needed for this Degree, so please contact our Worshipful Master and volunteer your help if he hasn't already contacted you.

Pancake Breakfasts
Our Pancake Breakfasts are going well. I thank the dedicated few who work so hard staffing these events. We can always use an extra set of hands. Contact me if you can help.

I wish you all the very best for the New Year. ✕

Oakland Lodge

No. 379, F. & A.M.

1st and 3rd Tuesdays
(Jan., Feb., Mar.: 1st Tuesday only)

Master
W.: Henry
Robinson
322-7545

Secretary
W.: Richard L. Smith
493-5408

134 South Main Street, Castile 14427

It's hard to believe that by the time this article is published, we will have already celebrated Christmas and the start of the New Year. It just can't be that time of the year already can it? It is, and the weather outside is definitely proving it. The only thing bad about the coming and going of the holiday season is that it doesn't take the weather with it. Hopefully, all the Masons and their families have enjoyed a happy and healthy holiday season.

Sickness and distress
I recently had a short conversation with Brother Bowles, who is recovering slowly, but showing steady improvement each day. He said that he is still experiencing some pain, especially when riding in a vehicle. Hopefully this pain won't jeopardize him in getting out and celebrating his holiday traditions. I would also like to update all on the condition of Brother Bud Hoffmeister's wife, Sandy, who recently had back surgery and is still in a lot of pain. It's still too early to tell if this was a successful surgery. Brother Hoffmeister also reported that Sandy has had some problems with the blood circulation throughout her feet. If this wasn't enough, Brother Hoffmeister cut the tendons in his left hand while skinning a deer. All of our heartfelt prayers go out to Sandy and Bud as they weather through these difficult times. Hopefully, all fellow Brothers can find the time to pray for Brother Hoffmeister and his wife, Sandy, during this holiday season.

Table Lodge
The annual Table Lodge, hosted by Constellation, Oakland, and Triluminar Lodges, will take place on the 2nd Saturday in January, the 10th. This event will be held at Constellation Lodge in Perry. The food this year will be

provided by the Brothers of Constellation Lodge. The starting time for this event will be 4:00 p.m.

Third Degree
Oakland Lodge will be conferring the Master Mason Degree on January 31st, which is the last Saturday in January. This Degree will be held at Constellation Lodge in Perry. A tentative time of 4:00 p.m. has been set for the start of this Degree, and we will need a lot of help in the conferral. I'm sending a request out to all members of Oakland Lodge for their assistance. A dinner is planned to take place between the two sections of this Degree. Please RSVP all dinner reservations to Henry Robinson on or before January 24th. Henry can be reached at 322-7545.

Brotherhood Fund
The Brotherhood Fund is off and running for another year. The Brotherhood Chairman for Oakland Lodge is Kenneth Smith. The best place to make your contributions is at our monthly communications. For those Brothers who are unable to make our communications, your contributions can be sent directly to Brother Smith, 8562 East Main Street, LeRoy, NY 14482. Any member who is making a contribution through the mail, please indicate toward what category you would like it to be dedicated.

Once again, I would like to wish, from my family to the families of all fellow Masons everywhere, a happy and healthy New Year. May the blessings of Heaven fall upon us and all regular Masons and their families everywhere. ✕

**HESPERUS
Lodge No. 837**

1st and 3rd
Thursdays

Master
W.: Ronald W.
Morris
(716) 634-5042

Secretary
Leo E. Vainio, Jr., 548-2470

12 Lake Avenue, Bergen 14416

By Harry Tyson

I hope by the time this article is being read, our Master, Ron Morris, is much improved and on the road to a complete and speedy recovery. Ron was hospitalized with a heart attack on December 7th and asked me to submit an article to the *Masonic Times* as he is not able to do so this month. I also trust you all enjoyed a very Merry Christmas and brought in the New Year with much anticipation for great things to come in 2004.

Table Lodge
Mark your calendars for the famous Hesperus Table Lodge on January 15th at 7:30 p.m. We welcome all Brothers in the area to come and sit down to fine wine and dining.

We have been very busy at Hesperus completing the 1st and 2nd Degrees for three new Brothers. The 3rd Degree will be on February 5th at 7:30 p.m., preceded by a dinner at 6:30 p.m., made and served by the Hesperus Eastern Star ladies. Plan on joining us for a wonderful evening of good food and fellowship. A reservation for dinner would be appreciated.

Limited tickets

The Ladies Night Out is scheduled for February 21st at the Bergen Viking Valhalla Room (Rose Garden). There are a limited number of tickets available and, if it's as popular this year is in the past, they will go very quickly. Don't be left out; purchase yours early. There will be a sit-down dinner, dancing, door prizes and a flower for your sweetheart.

Brotherhood Fund

About 25 percent of our members have contributed to the Brotherhood Fund. As the Fund chairman, I would like to see this percentage increase closer to the 100 percent mark. This goal needs your help and contribution. Write your check today and know your money is going for a very worthwhile cause.

Has anybody seen my gal? I haven't heard a word or seen this fine lady in quite some time. I sure do hope she is okay and maybe up to some traveling in the near future. I am sorry but I just couldn't resist the temptation to talk about Molly when I had the pen of the Master in my hand! ✕

**Arcade
Lodge No. 419**

7:30 p.m.
2nd & 4th Tuesdays,
September-June;
4th Tuesdays,
January & February

Master
W.: Craig A.
Roberts
353-9610

Secretary
R.: W.: Arthur E. Drew
492-4860

Main Street, Arcade 14009

Time flies when you are having fun getting things ready for Winter, Lodge breakfasts, Degrees, and dinners.

Our Thanksgiving Dinner for the less fortunate turned out well for our Masonic help, but not for our local less fortunate. We had made arrangements for 33 dinners to be given out, but only 11 were given out due to no-shows. We then loaded the 22 remaining dinners into Brother Rich Meyers' car and he took them into St. Luke's Food Pantry in Buffalo so our efforts were not in vain. Special thanks to all our members and their families who took part in making this Thanksgiving Dinner special for others. I would also like to extend an extra special thank you to Brother Troy Beardsley, from Triluminar Lodge, who donated two turkeys.

Our Pancake Breakfasts are going well. We have been trying to have a buffet type, serve yourself, breakfast. The reasoning behind this is due to our SNOWBIRD members. With so many of them leaving us to fly South, we sometimes end up short-handed. The buffet/serve yourself breakfast has been received well by everyone. As a reminder to all, our breakfasts are the 3rd Sunday of the month from 7:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m., for \$5, all you can eat: pancakes, eggs, sausage, bacon, juice, and coffee, along with good company and conversation. ✕

Masonic Service Bureau

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3760 W. Henrietta Road
Rochester, New York 14623
(585) 321-1110

Grand Director of Ceremonies Livingston District



R.W. C. Eugene Hill
538-6581

I want to wish all a very happy New Year. Just a brief note on the upcoming RTTE Program, taking place in February and March.

The dates are the 20th and 21st respectively. The place: Eunice Lodge in Caledonia, Livingston District.
The following is an anonymous note.
I will do more than belong - I will participate!
I will do more than care - I will help!
I will do more than believe - I will practice!
I will do more than be fair - I will be kind!
I will do more than dream - I will work!
I will do more than teach - I will inspire!
I will do more than earn - I will enrich!

I will do more than give - I will serve!
I will do more than live - I will grow!
I will do more than be friendly - I will be a friend!
I will do more than be a citizen - I will be a patriot!
This is very important information for us Masons! We should all strive to do all of the above.

I apologize to R.W. Eugene Hill for editorial changes made in last month's article. The following is the paragraph as it was written and should have appeared. Editor

Geneseo Lodge No. 214 presented the DeWitt Clinton Award to Sheriff John York, this award is presented by the Masons to one who has done outstanding service in the community. Sheriff York has been very active in Livingston Districts Child ID program. The Sheriffs and Masons have been partners in ID of Children, this program has been spearheaded by R.W. Gene Flint and Bro. Ray Ellis. Ray is also a Major in the Sheriff Department. Livingston District has now ID over 18,000 children.

Livonia Lodge No. 778



1st & 3rd Wednesdays
Master W. Charles Sawyer
346-6398
Sec. R.W. Richard Brown
346-3618

65 Big Tree Street, Livonia 14487

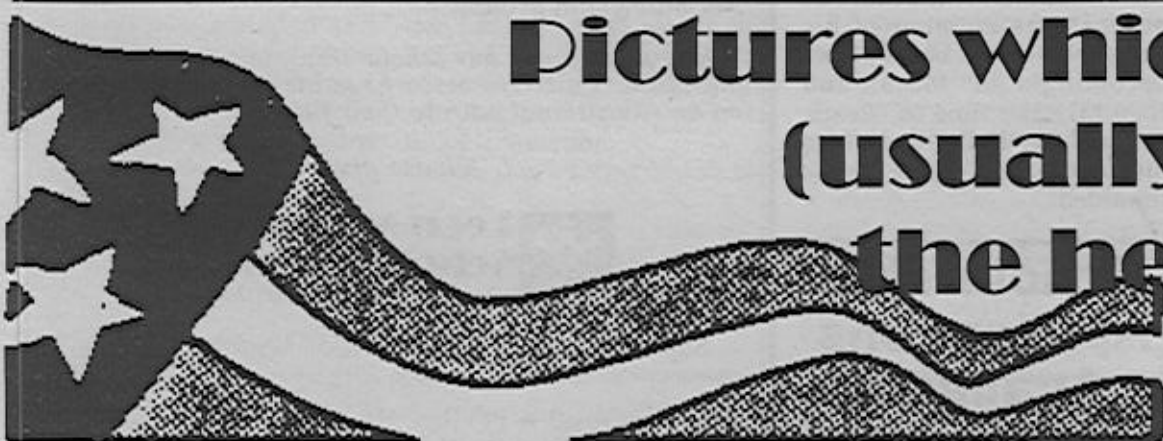
Happy New Year, Brothers! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday. We should start the year off right with good attendance at our first meeting, which will be January 7th. As Master of the Livonia Lodge, I would like to see everyone at the first meeting of 2004. We have a lot of issues to resolve. This year, we have two candidates for the 1st Degree, which means that our Lodge can grow! We will need all the support we can get from our Brothers, so I ask for good attendance during 2004.

Camp DeMolay
Continued from Page 3

What's next?
The major problem confronting The Camp now is the major cleanup of fallen trees and brush. The Camp needs to be made to look pretty again. The few volunteers who are available cannot do this job alone. Lake storms the past few years have toppled several trees, and the brush has grown to unmanageable conditions. There is one building left that has deteriorated pretty badly, but can be saved with some skilled labor. A retired Mason would fill this position very nicely as a foreman and/or advisor.

You are needed, no excuses!
Therefore, a major projects program must be started, and it will be necessary for every Lodge to make a commitment, and to help out. I am, therefore, asking each Lodge to support an all "Masonic Weekend" once a year. This weekend will be held each year on the fourth weekend in April. Each Lodge will be expected to provide workers - all ages, sizes and sex - to help get the job done. Weed whackers, chainsaws, and other outdoor tools will be needed to get the job started. Masters of Lodges are encouraged to start planning now. More information will be forthcoming in the next issues of our *Masonic Times*.

Pictures which don't (usually) make the headlines



From a website submitted to the *Masonic Times* by R.W. William Lindsay

Support Our Troops



Support Our Troops



Scottish Rite NEWS

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

Commander-in-Chief



Stephen R. Whittaker, 33°

32° Masons

It recently was brought to our attention that the following needs to be clarified: yes, the Valley of Rochester, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry is a body of 32nd Degree Masons. We are the proud sponsors of the 32nd Degree Masonic Learning Center for Children. Should you have a specific question about protocol regarding the use of these terms, please feel free to call our office and your question will be clarified.

Thoughts and Prayers

We are delighted that our Deputy's Representative Ill.: Rodney R. Rittenhouse, 33°, is recovering well from his recent surgery. Please keep him and his family in your thoughts and prayers. Our continued outreach of love and prayer is also needed for the Spillane Family and the Glaser Family. Thank you all so very kindly for your support.

2004 Dues Notice

The recent mailing of 2004 Dues Notices was done properly; after a check is sent to our office, your card will be mailed to you. This is not an error by our team; it is, in fact, an attempt to correct a procedure that has been done improperly for many years. Thanks for your many calls...you are paying attention!

Leadership Involvement and Participation

At a recent leadership forum, it was interesting to listen to one of our leaders as he presented the focus items of commitment, competence and working toward a common goal as the fundamentals of teamwork. The next presenter's comments discussed picking only one or two major commitments [in the fraternal world] and doing those things well.

Some food for thought

Toys for Tots and Day of Tebeth Programs: special thanks to the Rochester Council of Princes of Jerusalem, under the leadership of Sublime Prince George Nasra, Sovereign Prince, who provided the arrangements for both the December 5th "Toys for Tots Program" and the December 9th "Day of Tebeth Observance." It was a pleasure to have Ill.: Harold L. Aldrich, 33°, Active Member of Supreme Council and Deputy for New York, as the Guest Speaker for the Day of Tebeth Program. The toasts and songs were great!

Fund Raising Initiative

There will be a new initiative taking place in January that will begin to focus on the development of an operating endowment for our Learning Center. We are pleased that a core of Sublime Princes has

stepped up to the plate to begin this initiative. Stay tuned for more information.

The third presenter was focused as well, when he referred to [many who belong to our Craft] who are "spread a mile wide and are able to contribute only an inch deep"...who in many cases are seeking the aprons, titles and badges for some kind of a collection. Past Chapter Dad of Rochester Chapter, Order of DeMolay, James H. Gisleson's thoughts will stay with us for a long time: "Pick one major project and do it to the best of your God-given ability; choose a second one as a minor if you like and contribute as you are able. Don't take on any more than that; everyone begins to lose when that happens."

Military Outreach

With the current military action continuing in Iraq and other places, we have an obligation to assist the families of those on active duty. If you know of a Masonic family in need of our aid and assistance, please notify the Scottish Rite Office. We are part of the Grand Lodge network for Veterans Outreach that is being lead by our own Distinguished Brother, Thomas Paglia, 32° MSA.

"Remember the Blue Lodge" Award

Those Sublime Princes who were first line signers of a petition for the Grand Master's One-Day Class, held on March 29th, 2003, should call the Scottish Rite Office and request an application for this prestigious Award. All that is required is that you follow the directions, forwarding the same to your Lodge Secretary for validation and then mailing to the designated address. You will be pleased that you took the time to apply for this distinctive medallion!

Spring 2004 Reunion

Our Marketing Management Team has already begun to plan its activities for this Spring. Please stay tuned for more details. The biggest question is this: Have you reached out to say hello and secured the name of a potential candidate for this class?

Lewis and Clark

Meriwether Lewis became a Mason in 1797, later serving as the first Worshipful Master of a Lodge in St. Louis. William Clark became a Mason in St. Louis in 1809. This 200th Anniversary of the beginning of their expedition has brought a lot of excitement into many parts of our society. For a good overview, you may wish to read "Undaunted Courage" by Stephen E. Ambrose. The 1995 Scottish Rite Commemorative Medal of these two American heroes is a treasure. Their leadership and examples can provide many lessons for today's society as well.

January's Meeting

At our regular meeting on January 15th at the Shrine Center at 7:30 p.m., we will enjoy a presentation of the "Valley Strategic Plan" presented by 1st Lt. Commander, Ill.: Robert D. Pedersen, 33°. It will be interesting to learn of all of the Valley's activities and how these fit into the stra-

tegic plans of both the NY Council of Deliberation and the Supreme Council.

Congratulations!

Congratulations and best wishes to those who have been elected to serve Damascus Temple and various York Rite Concordant Bodies for the coming year. We extend the Valley's best wishes to all of you in your endeavors!

Growth: Target for 2004

As we enter the new year, let each Sublime Prince think of at least one member of his Lodge who would benefit from becoming a 32° Mason and then take the time to "Reach Out and Say Hello" and invite him to join. You will be greatly rewarded!

Scholarship Applications Available

By William Lindsay

AASR Abbott Scholarship application forms for 2004-2005 are available in the Scottish Rite Office. Children and grandchildren of Scottish Rite members, as well as current members of Masonic youth groups, may apply if they have completed a full year of post high school education in a two or four year college, or specialty school. The forms for 2004-2005 must be used to apply, and the forms (in duplicate) must be returned to the

Scottish Rite Office by April 1, 2004. As the Scholarship application form requires academic documentation, potential applicants should start the process early. The Scholarships are given on an annual basis, and previous recipients must reapply.

The ASSR Valley of Rochester is located at: 3300 Monroe Avenue, Suite 320, Rochester, New York 14618-4617. The telephone number is: 264-1160.

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Sovereign Prince

By George S. Nasra

On December 5th, the Valley of Rochester held its annual "Toys for Tots" dinner at the Shrine Center. "Toys for Tots" is a program operated locally by the US Marines, and is designed to collect toys to be given to needy children during the holiday season. The

Valley of Rochester A.A.S.R.

3300 Monroe Avenue, Suite 320
Rochester, NY 14618

Phones: 1-800-858-2320; (585) 264-1160

Fax: (585) 264-1161

Commander-in-Chief

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Thrice Potent Master

Gary L. Burke

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g.d.burke@juno.com

Sovereign Prince

George S. Nasra

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gnasra@rochester.rr.com

Most Wise Master

G. Michael Morris

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morris@apolloptical.com

Deputy's Representative

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(h) 223-0488

rod77@frontiernet.net

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(w) 264-1160, Fax 264-1161

donr@maxnet.net

Secretary

Ill.: Charles O. Hancock, 33°

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Fax 264-1161

chancock@frontiernet.net

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Dist. Charles Spiegel, Jr., 32° MSA

(h) 453-0285, (w) 264-1160

Fax 264-1161

spiegelc@rochester.rr.com

Assistant Secretary

Norman P. Austin

(h) 494-2223

Message phone 234-0296

lindalee115@hotmail.com

New York State Council of Deliberation

Frank & Bette Paul 32° Masonic Learning Center
3300 Monroe Avenue, Suite 330, Rochester, NY 14618

Office (585) 264-1690; Fax (585) 264-1692

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:

Sovereign Grand Commander

Ill.: Walter E. Webber, 33°

Grand Minister of State

Ill.: Norman L. Christensen, 33°

Active Members for New York

Ill.: Gary A. Henningsen, 33°

Ill.: Frederick D. Greene, 33°

Active Emeriti Members

Ill.: James F. Niehoff, 33°

Ill.: Carlton A. Winchester, 33°

Past Deputy for New York

Grand Lieutenant Commander

Ill.: Lawrence D. Inglis, 33°

Deputy for the State of New York

Ill.: Harold L. Aldrich, 33°

Ill.: David P. Spencer, 33°

Ill.: Peter J. Samiec, 33°

Ill.: Bruce Widger, 33°

Past Deputy for New York

Ill.: Richard H. Welkley, 33°

focus of the program is to teach the children and grandchildren of Masons about the importance of sharing with the less fortunate youth in our community.

Admission to the evening was the donation of an unwrapped gift, each of which was collected by the Marine representatives for distribution through their local network of agencies.

Following arrival, a delicious Turkey Dinner was served to all. The Shrine Clowns provided entertainment, and there was a special seasonal visitor. The main guest of the evening was Mike the Magician, who entertained both young and old for over an hour with magic tricks which puzzled us all.

The pictures would suggest that these young people will be looking forward to "Toys for Tots" this time next year. All Scottish Rite Masons, their families and friends, are welcome to attend this enjoyable "reach out..." evening.

The "Toys for Tots" annual event is another of the Council of Princes of Jerusalem Family Life Events. I thank our Senior Warden, James Jenson, for his leadership in chairing and organizing this wonderful and fun evening.

Look in the *Masonic Times* and your mail, as several other family-oriented events will be organized by the Officers of the Council throughout the upcoming year.

May the Great Architect of the Universe bless you all. ✽

Photographs taken at the Rochester Council of Princes of Jerusalem Family Life Event at Damascus Shrine Center supporting the United States Marine Corps Toys for Tots program

(Photo montage courtesy of William Lindsay)



R.-W. Cy White
Western Regional Chairman
1201 Johnson Road
Palmyra 14522-9761



315-597-9546
E-mail: ukcy@juno.com

If I had a dollar for each time someone asks me if I could list everything that would meet the requirement of the Beacon Project, I wouldn't be a millionaire. But, I could have a nice meal and dessert at a local upscale restaurant! If I produced an all-inclusive list, I'm not sure the *Masonic Times* would give me enough space to print it!

Think young people, think schools, then think of everything in-between those positions and you would be on track for listing the requirements of the volunteer program that we call the Beacon Project. The secret of this program - like most secrets - is to get started. It's too easy to put things off. I know, just as sure as I sit here writing this article, that Masters in their Lodges are asking the question, "Do I have a volunteer to be the Lodge Coordinator for this Beacon Project." Hearing none, put it on the docket for the next meeting, where the same thing happens.

Those of us who have been in the US Army are conditioned to never volunteer for anything. Masters, appoint someone! Most people who are given a job will do it - but they need to be asked. They can then

use the resources that are available to the Lodge for getting good ideas: *The Empire State Mason* magazine; even my columns; and the people who are heading up the program! The State Chairman, R.-W. Marwin Meller, and the rest of his staff, will not let any Lodge Coordinator "swing in the wind." The goal is to make this program successful and we (the staff) are pledged to assist the Lodge Coordinator in any way we can. ✽

**Rochester Forest
No. 133**

*Tall Cedars of Lebanon
of North America*

4th Wednesday - 7:30 p.m.
Penfield, New York 14526



Don Brugger, GTC
458-6125
Donald C. Bell, Scribe
334-7768

I hope that all Woodsmen and their families had a Merry Christmas and pray for all, a prosperous and happy New Year. The twenty-seven who attended our Annual Holiday Party at Valicias certainly had a great time. Your Grand Tall Cedar, Angelo DiCataldo, SDGTC, Norm Austin and JD-GTC, Don Wright (elect), wish to convey their holiday good wishes and hope for a spectacular new year for Rochester Forest.

It has never been more important for the membership of our Forest to come out and support our new Officers. We hope in the coming year to portray the Prologue and Royal Court Degrees for many new members, so, come on out and enjoy the fellowship.

Coming events

January 28th will be our Installation of Officers. There may be a program following the Installation and the ladies are invited. JDGTC, Don Wright, has a grandson who is afflicted with Duquesne Muscular Dystrophy and has made a study of it. He consented to share what information he has gained with us. So, if the weather cooperates, we'll be hearing from Don after the Installation.

Sickness and Distress

Jean and I visited with Doug Draker in November. He seems in good spirits and his rehabilitation after the auto accident is going well. He is getting around with some difficulty, using a cane for now. Doug's right leg was shattered and a steel rod was inserted to hold things together during the healing process. Doug will be residing in Dundas, Ontario, Canada.

He has what they call gait therapy Monday thru Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Learning to walk again with a healing right leg and only one arm makes balancing difficult. Doug will be fitted with a prosthesis as soon as his arm is ready; perhaps before Christmas. I am sure he would welcome cards. Please call Paul or me for his address.

Don Freeman's condition has not changed, and I am sure he would appreciate cards. Please call to get his address.

We have lost Leroy Pussey, one of our newer members from Clay, NY. Brother Pussey passed away in November. Our prayers are with his family.

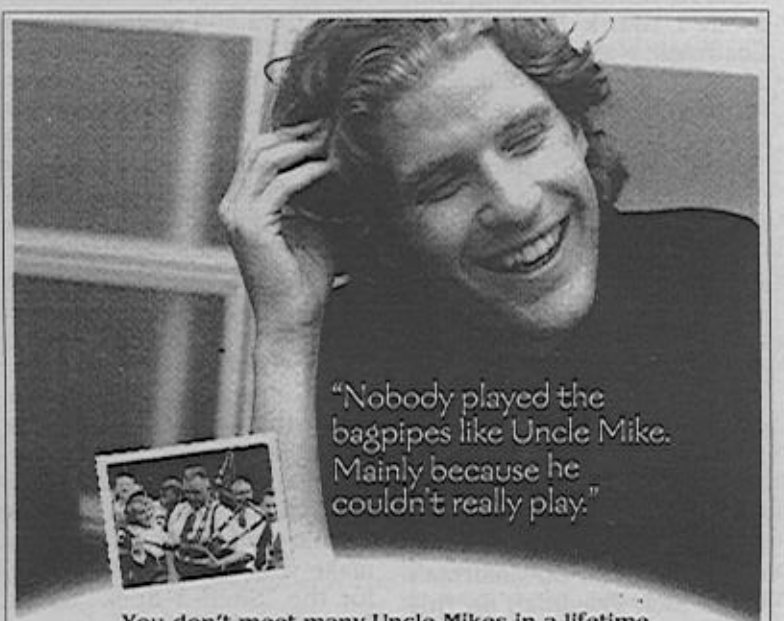
Listen up!

A few of the Woodsmen have traditionally met before the regular meetings at some lo-

cal restaurant for dinner. This has not been happening as much as it used to. Your GTC-elect, Angelo DiCataldo, has said that if there were a sufficient number who like to dine together on these occasions, he would make the necessary arrangements. Please let him know if you would be interested. Thank you.

As I have said before, we are still looking for a few good

Woodsmen to volunteer for the Communications (making sure that all the Woodsmen are informed of our events; only three to five calls, once a month) and Logistics Committees (making sure that setting up for our events is not a one person job.) The Forest needs you for these important services. This is your Forest. If you want it to survive, **we need your support!** ✽



"Nobody played the bagpipes like Uncle Mike. Mainly because he couldn't really play."

You don't meet many Uncle Mikes in a lifetime.

So when he died, we chose a funeral home that was as dedicated to celebrating Mike as we were. Our funeral director was a source of comfort during a difficult time, by listening to what we wanted and making several suggestions that made the funeral more meaningful for all of us. Even finding a local bagpiper to perform at the ceremony. I'd like to think that the whole funeral would have been music to Uncle Mike's ears. It certainly was to ours.

Contact Crawford Funeral Home a local NFDA member ... at (585) 482-0400 for more detailed information on planning a meaningful funeral service.

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National Funeral Directors Association
www.nfda.org

979 Bay Road
Webster, NY
14580-1736



Damascus Shrine Center No. 2 Shrine News



Phone - 671-7701
Fax - 671-7702



Illustrious Potentate



Shrine
Office
(585)
671-7701

Kenneth E. Buckland
(607) 545-8461

Where, oh where, has 2003 gone? Where, oh where, could it be? In memories of many, including myself. As your Potentate, I look back on this year and want to thank so many Nobles, their ladies, Brothers, and friends, for their support of Damascus Shriners and Damascus events. My heartfelt thanks go out to all of you.

The year started fast out of the gate, with the First Annual East West Shrine Tailgate Party sponsored by the Hillbilies, and didn't let up. I look back on all the events, trips, dinners, and good times that Lady Mary and I had with you and Damascus and it is impossible to remove the smiles from our faces and the warmth in our hearts.

At our last meeting you chose your leaders for the new year. Congratulations and best wishes for a prosperous and eventful year to Potentate-elect Bruce Chilton and the rest of the Divan. Damascus Shriners are in good hands and I encourage your full support and participation.

Membership

Let's not lose site of the gains we made in 2003 and continue to work hard in replacing ourselves so our great Fraternity will grow and be able to continue its work, caring for children. I thank Membership Chairmen, Noble Bob Coleman and Ill.: Sir Dayne Tharrett, for their dedication and commitment. Good job, well done. The Directors Staff has put much fun back into our Ceremonials this year with the new skit presentations. There are so many to thank for this project and I want each to know that you are greatly appreciated by all of Nobility.

As I step to the sidelines this coming year, I pledge my support to Damascus Shriners and your Divan. I am Chairman of your Circus Daddy Program this year and looking forward to working with Co-Chairman Noble Rich Friedman on this very important Circus event. Do you have a contact at the school in your area that you would like to have participate in this program? With the city schools being closed this year for Superintendent's Day, we need the participation from the areas to fill the Arena.

At our NYOSA Fall Field Days in Niagara Falls, Ontario, I thank the Damascus Divan for their supporting my nomination as Fourth Vice President. It has been many years since Damascus has had an office in this association. I pledge that I will work hard in making

NYOSA grow and be fun and eventful. This also provides Damascus the opportunity to showcase our area in 2008 for the Spring Session.

I asked Lady Mary for help in writing this article and with a smile she exclaimed, FREE AT LAST, FREE AT LAST. Yes, we are looking forward to the ski season this year and returning to work at the ski area. I know a gas station that will be looking for new customers.

To the Nobility: I again wish to thank you for the opportunity to serve you and for your making 2003 a prosperous and eventful year for Damascus Shrine. I wish you all a very happy New Year and good health.

From the Recorder



Shrine
Office
(585)
671-7701

Erwin
Newell
544-2242

Congratulations to Ill. Bruce Chilton, Potentate-Elect, First Lady Doty, and all the newly Elected and Appointed Officers of the Damascus Shriners. I know that our Potentate-Elect has a great year planned for all of us and with your support Ill. Bruce and Damascus will have a successful year.

Circus

Remember the dates, March 26th, 27th, and 28th, 2004, for the Vidbel Shrine Circus at the Blue Cross Arena at the War Memorial. Once again, we will be selling tickets for the elephant rides, pony rides, etc. Nobles and Ladies, (we need your help this year in order to make the Circus a success.) Please call the Shrine Office at 671-7701, and let us know what days and hours you can work at the Circus. I will have the Manpower Chairperson get in touch with you to set up your schedule. Don't forget to mail in your Circus Daddies and Mommies Donations. This helps to defray the cost of the Friday morning performance.

Look for a full Circus article on the 2004 Circus in the February issue.

Shrine business

As we get ready to usher in 2004, the Recorder's Office is still collecting dues and finishing final year-end reports. Our Annual Meeting will be on January 7th. Don't forget to make your dinner reservation for the "Shell-a-Buck" Steak Dinner, with all the trimmings. The only requirement to receive the dollar dinner is that your **2004 Dues Must Be Paid**. The new Officers will be installed at the meeting.

For those Nobles who have already paid your 2004 Dues, thank you very much. For those of you who have not paid your dues as yet, please make every effort to do so, as soon as possible.

During this past Summer, you were sent a questionnaire requesting you to update your member information. Most of you have returned them to the

Potentate - Kenneth E. Buckland

office with your updated member information filled out. If you have not completed the questionnaire, please do so and mail it to the Temple Office. If you have misplaced the questionnaire, please call the Office and we will update it while you are on the phone.

Here's wishing a most happy and healthy New Year to you and your family.

Zama Temple Daughters of the Nile



By Jean R. Friedrich, PQ

We hope you all had a wonderful holiday season with your friends and families. It has been a busy time for all of us. We hope you enjoyed our festive Holiday Tea held at the Shrine Center on December 7th. It was a gala afternoon. Pr. Tirzah, Virginia Gramse, and her committee, are to be congratulated for hosting a merry afternoon for our members and their Nobles.

We had a wonderful collection of toys and stuffed animals at our December Session to be sent to the Erie Hospital children - some of those cuddly bears were hard to part with!

The monetary collection for the Christmas Convalescent Relief Fund was most generous. Thanks to all of you for your support!

Ladies, remember that our Temple will be dark in January and February. We voted to hold two of our Sessions in June and August instead, when more of our members will be in town.

However, remember to mark your calendars now for a gala Dinner Party at the Shrine Center on Saturday, January 31st, from 5 to 9 p.m. for our members, families and friends. Pr. Royal, Sharon Spencer, is planning a fun evening to jolt us out of our Winter doldrums. You will be receiving more information as the time grows closer. This is one party you won't want to miss!

Queen Joan Bright and her Officers wish all of you a healthy and happy New Year and look forward to welcoming our members at our next Stated Session on March 13, 2004.

Lunch Club

By Jan Lughart

The Shrine Lunch Club will meet every Monday in January and is open to everyone. Social hour starts at 11:00 a.m. and lunch is served at 12:00 noon for a cost of \$5.00.

If the weather is bad on Monday, please call the Shrine Center before you venture out, just to make sure that lunch has not been canceled. There are no dues and all proceeds go to the Shrine Hospitals.

Ladies Day is always the third Monday of each month and we have some real "out-back" entertainment for you and your lady on January 19th. The cost is only \$6.00, so join us and enjoy the good food and fellowship.

See you at the Lunch Club. ✕

Annual Damascus Shriners Winter Picnic

February 11, 2004

Punta Gorda, Florida

Menu: Hors d'oeuvres, NY Strip Steak,
Baked Potato, Green Beans, Corn,
Cole Slaw, Roll, Coffee, Tea, Dessert

Music by MC Squared

Time: 10:30 a.m. til Dinner at 1:00 p.m.

Cost \$16.00 per person

Reservations only - paid in advance to:
McKinley Gath, 5061 San Rocco Court
Punta Gorda, FL 33950

Reservations must be in by February 7, 2004

You may email us at: gathmd@aol.com if you have any questions

Hope to see you in February

Monroe District HiLights, OES

DDGM Rt. Wthy. Sula Baxter 225-5284	DGL Rt. Wthy. William Baxter 225-5284
--	--

Our first article is finally here and a BIG THANKS TO Rt. Wthy. DEBRA LEIPOLD for writing last month's article for us. We also have many thanks to M. Wthy. Wanda Williams and M. Wthy. Neil Laundry for our Installations. Rt. Wthy. Sula had her Installation at Grand's Association and Rt. Wthy. Bill was Installed at Nolatka Chapter. Friends are kind of special.

Activities

Now about things to come. We hope all our Sisters and Brothers had a Blessed Christmas, after which comes the New Year and a new round of activities - starting with:

2004 Organizational meeting

Date: January 10, 2004
Time: 9:30 a.m.

Brunch at 10:00 a.m.
Place: Nolatka Chapter, Churchville Lodge.

School of Instruction

Date: February 14th
Place: Nolatka Chapter, Churchville Lodge
Time: To be announced.

We are looking forward to an exciting year and hope you are also. It is not how many times you're involved, but rather how much you are involved. Many hands make light work and happiness. It even says as much in our Ritual. Let's learn more together! ✕

NOLATKA Chapter No. 320

Order of the Eastern Star

1st & 3rd Tues., 7:30 p.m.

Matron Wthy. Diane Maltese

345-1029

Patron Wthy. William Baxter

225-5284

Sec. Rt. Wthy. Carol Wynings

594-4692

22 South Main Street,
Churchville, 14428

By Wthy. Alice Hassett

Reminder

Please save used postage stamps for Chapter. Also, don't

forget to save Boxtops for Education, your Tops register tapes, and fronts only of Campbells Soup labels.

Meetings

At our December 2nd meeting, one ballot was cast for the following Officers for the year 2004:

Matron **Cynthia Nielsen**
Patron **Robert Crystal**
Associate Matron

Antoinette Jeerings

Associate Patron
Secretary **William Baxter**

Treasurer **Carol Wynings**
Conductress **Vickie Gross**
Associate Conductress

Felicia (Bo) Clark

3rd Year Trustee

Diane Maltese

Installation will be on January 3rd. See note below.

Donations

Please forward 2004 dues to Carol Wynings. Meanwhile, we thank Sister Patricia Alexander and Brother Roderick Meier, who both remembered our Chapter with donations in addition to their dues.

Annual Reports

Annual reports were read by designated Officers. Wthy. Kim Morici wrote and presented a humorous and detailed Historian's Report. Outstanding job, Kim! Our Chaplain, Sister Jane LaPree, reported that she had mailed 159 cards during this past year. Trustees inventoried all our Chapter belongings and made their report.

Installation of District Grand Lecturer

Rt. Wthy William E. Baxter was installed as Monroe District Lecturer at the December 2nd meeting of Nolatka Chapter. M. Wthy. Neil Laundry was the Installing Officer, with Rt. Wthy. Sula M. Baxter, District Deputy Grand Matron, acting as Installing Marshal and presenting Rt. Wthy. Bill, West of the Altar. Rt. Wthy. Susan Huff acted as Installing Grand Chaplain. Six members from Monroe Chapter, including Rt. Wthy. Matron Cecil Losinger and Wthy. Patron Roger Lynch, attended in support of Rt. Wthy. Bill. Also, Wthy. Sue Duff was in attendance. It must be noted that the District Lecturer listened intently to the District Deputy, as always.

Rt. Wthy. Bill, in his comments, noted, "I lost my hair, but I didn't lose my spirit." Although he is still taking some chemotherapy medication, his latest bone marrow results were "normal," which led to speculations that that was probably the only "normal" thing about him. Who IS that masked man? The Lone Ranger? No, it's Rt. Wthy. Bill with his blue mask, galloping along, rescuing his "Ladies of the Evening." (OES members, not the sordid ones.) Hard to imagine that after last month's hospitalization, Rt. Wthy. Bill was working at the Madrigal Dinners. We are so pleased to see his sense of humor in tact, and his health improving. You and Rt. Wthy. Sula are certainly blessed, Rt. Wthy. Bill!

Speaking of the Madrigal Dinners, Rt. Wthy. Carol Wynings extends sincere thanks to all who worked, whether at one or two or more of these five nights.

Special thanks to Wthy. Susan Drake-Mason as Chairman of food preparation. Since this was a major fundraiser toward our annual budget, it was great to observe that nearly every one of our active members was involved.

Our Christmas Party, at the Oatka Steak and Seafood, on December 16th, was a great success. Thank you to Wthy. Cynthia Nielsen for making all of the arrangements. Pillowcases filled with toiletries were collected for Project Clean Start, and were taken to Alternatives for Battered Women.

Installation of Officers will be held on Saturday afternoon, January 3, 2004, at 2:00 p.m. at the Chapter rooms. Please be sure to attend and welcome Wthy. Cynthia as our new Matron. Open meeting - dressy informal; no gowns or tuxes, unless you simply prefer to wear them. There will be no meeting on January 6th.

January 20th meeting - Details to be found in the program of our new Worthy Matron, Cynthia Nielsen.

Sunshine

Congratulations to Rt. Wthy. William Baxter on his return to Chapter functions. So good to see you back!

Birthdays

Celebrating birthdays in January will be Sister Doris Daycock, Wthy. Alice Hassett, Rt. Wthy. Judy Lenzi, Rt. Wthy. Martha Loomis, Wthy. Cheryl Scipioni, Sister Linton Warner, and Rt. Wthy. Carol Wynings.

New Officers

We will also have had the Installation of all of the 2004 Chapter Officers. Many thanks to all who have agreed to serve.

- Matron **Marjorie Fenton**
- Patron **Mark Fenton**
- Conductress **Ruth Beard**
- Associate Conductress (Pro-Tem) **Joy Woodley**
- Secretary **Faythe Mattern**
- Treasurer **Wanda Williams**
- Trustee **David Williams**
- Chaplain **Valerie Johnson**
- Warder **Mary Doeshar**
- Sentinel **Wes Beard**
- Marshal **Hilda Horeth**
- Asst. Marshal **Helen Cone**
- Flag Bearer **John Clapp**
- Adah **Wendy Kerr-Vine**
- Ruth **Ruth Peck**
- Esther **Joyce Rice**
- Martha **Sabra Clapp**
- Electa **Karen Fisher**

Worthwhile time

Christmas baskets were assembled and delivered to all of our shut-ins. Many thanks to all who donated items and who helped with the project. I am sure everyone (those visited and those who did the visiting) had a very enjoyable time.

Sickness

Bob Zahn is home and doing well. He does have to return to the hospital to continue his treatment. Betty Ellia is still having trouble with her knee. She may have to have surgery.

Meetings

Webster Chapter will have a meeting on January 6th, and this will be the last meeting until April 20th. Please try to attend.

Happy New Year to all.

ElderWear

By W.: Lewis Perna

All things being what they may, you are probably reading this article late in December. To date, ElderWear is mounting towards being a great success for another year. Many Brothers, along with their wives and/or significant others, have stepped up to assist by donating money, clothing and time. I have been inundated with "shoppers" who have taken time during the busy holiday season to purchase ElderWear clothing for others. This is truly a charitable gesture when you consider the stress it takes to navigate the malls and plazas.

Our first real test came December 1st, when many Brothers showed up on a non-Lodge night to sort through the clothing that had been collected to date. What this article won't have is any of the delivery activity that typically occurs during the months of December and January. It is my hope that my next article clearly articulates more of the "who" that were involved, what was collected, and where it went. Please don't relax your attention to ElderWear upon reading this article. I am going to need your help for one more month.

As a reminder, ElderWear is a clothing drive aimed at providing staple clothing for the elderly in area nursing care facilities. Many of the residents in area nursing facilities have limited financial means, and are likely on Medicaid. ElderWear is a community service project adopted by the Monroe District two years ago. The ElderWear Campaign continues until January 31, 2004. What the Campaign needs for success is new staple clothing which includes: sweat shirts, sweat pants, socks, underwear, pajamas and night clothing. Larger sizes are better.

ElderWear needs the help of the Brethren. Here is something that you can still do to support ElderWear: donate a new article of clothing.

Drop-off sites include: Airport Holiday Inn, 911 Brooks Avenue; Rockwell Automation, 1870 Winton Road South; Kathy Shadders Hair Design, 3400 Monroe Avenue.

Make yourself available to sort clothing, or to deliver the clothing to one of fifteen area nursing homes. The clothing is being kept at ERAC Lodge and the Holiday Inn. I will take care of arrangements regarding delivery. I only need to know about your availability. Call me for details if you want to help, and I will let you know when, and where, to be.

Tri-Star Chapter
No. 209 OES
 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m.
Matron
 Wthy. Donna Hiler
 (315) 986-7173
Patron
 Wthy. Ed Lonneville
 (315) 597-3531
Secretary
 Rt. Wthy. Helga Haak
 (315) 597-4105
 Palmyra Masonic Hall
 161 East Main Street

Happy New Year! I hope that everyone had a great holiday.

Installation of the 2004 Officers will be taking place on January 6th and I will be looking forward to a new Chapter and District for the first time. I thank everyone for saying "yes" when I asked them for committees or officers, especially Wthy. Ed Lonneville, for being in the East with me. We have a busy year planned and we are excited about it. Our meeting/refreshment periods will have something different planned each time.

January

We will have a short business meeting on January 20th, where Rt. Wthy. Gail and Rt. Wthy. Wally Cooper will be joining our Chapter as dual members. Refreshments, consisting of soup and sandwiches, along with a Game Night, will follow the meeting. Bring your favorite board and/or card

games. It surely will be a FUN night!

February

Our February 3rd meeting will be in ample form, with a pound auction to be held during refreshments. Everyone brings a wrapped item weighing a pound. It is fun to see the different, crazy items that are brought in to be bid on.

If anyone wants to come to a meeting, but needs a ride, please feel free to give me a call at any time. We would love to see everyone who wants to be there. We always have a great turnout and time.

Webster Chapter No. 171
Order of the Eastern Star
 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m.
Matron
 Rt. Wthy. Marjorie Fenton,
 217-8904
Secretary
 Wthy. Faythe Mattern
 594-4449
 30 Orchard Street
 Webster 14580

By the time you read this, Santa will have visited us and we have put all the Christmas decorations away for the year (or at least we are thinking about doing it). Mark and I hope that you all have enjoyed the blessings of the season and that 2004 brings you all many happy times.

Queen Christina
 Court No. 13
 Order of Amaranth
 3rd Saturday - 2 p.m.
Royal Matron
 Audrey Curtis
 442-5860
Secretary
 Donna Stalker
 (315) 986-1570
 Palmyra Masonic Hall
 161 East Main Street

The Court was a guest of Sagoyewatha Commandery, KT, for their Christmas Observance. What a wonderful mood-setting experience for Advent. Following light refreshments with the Sir Knights and their ladies, we traveled to the Palmyra Temple for our own meeting. Honored Lady Beverly Brown, District Deputy Grand Royal Matron, made her Official Visit. This was the first Official Visit to Queen Christina Court since reorganizing. All went well.

The Court will be dark during the months of January and February, as per our By-Laws. We do meet during the remaining ten months on the third Saturday at 2:00 p.m.

Grace Simpson is recovering from surgery in Herkimer. Please remember Walt and Grace in your prayers, with a card, or a phone call. Contact Dave Taber at 388-0629 for their address and telephone number.

At our March 20th meeting, the Officers of the Court will be elected for the ensuing year.



Sorting clothing donated for the ElderWear program are (from left) George Nasra, Lew Perna, Mike Knolla, Jim Jenerson and Pat Nicholson.

Taxes! Taxes! Taxes!
 By Tom Michielsen

"We are seeing more and more activity involving unscrupulous tax preparers," said David Palmer, Chief, IRS Criminal Investigation. "We urge taxpayers to take some simple steps to avoid being snared by a person selling bad tax advice."

Return preparer fraud generally involves the preparation and filing of false income tax returns (in either paper or electronic form) by preparers who claim inflated personal or business expenses, false deductions, unallowable credits or excessive exemptions on returns prepared for their clients. Abusive preparers may also manipulate income figures to obtain fraudulent tax credits, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit.

In recent criminal investigations involving unscrupulous or abusive return preparers, IRS has found that these preparers derive financial benefit from the fraud in a number of ways, including:

- Diverting a portion of the refund for their own benefit,
- Charging inflated fees for the return preparation services.

• Increasing their clientele by advertising guaranteed larger refunds.

"The vast majority of return preparers are honest and reputable," said Palmer. "Those who aren't can create considerable financial problems for their clients, so taxpayers really need to choose carefully when hiring a preparer."

Signs that a preparer could be abusive include:

- Claiming that they can obtain larger refunds than other preparers.
- Basing their fee on a percentage of the amount of the refund.
- Refusal to sign the tax return or provide the taxpayer with a copy for their records.

"Taxpayers need to keep in mind that they are ultimately responsible for their tax return," said Palmer. "There are some simple steps they can take to protect themselves."

Whether a tax preparer simply makes an error or intentionally commits fraud, it is the taxpayer who actually owes the tax and any penalties and interest on the taxes owed, but not paid.

The IRS recommends that taxpayers follow these tips when hiring a preparer:

- Get referrals from satisfied clients.

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8th Cryptic District - R&SM
Zone 11 & 12 - Knights Templar

York Rite NEWS

York Rite College
Judas Maccabeus



Stephen A. Licht

Deputy Grand Master
Grand Council of Cryptic Masons
of the State of New York
3268 West Main Road
Batavia 14020-9109
(585) 343-1517
slicht@2ki.net

This Grand Council wants you to know that there IS light at the end of the tunnel! The necessary functions of this Grand Body are resuming in an orderly and deliberate fashion. The Officers whom you have elected to this Grand Council have been diligently working to make the administrative operations efficient and responsive to the requirements and needs of the constituent Councils.

Our Grand Recorder, M.:I.: Paul Matthews, has been attempting to reconstruct records and produce Annual Proceedings in the customary format. Our Constitution and General Regulations are being proofed for printing and distribution, and will also be available from our website for download. A new printing of the Cryptic Ritual Book will be done at the same time, as our supply is nearly exhausted. Our Grand Recorder is always available via email to answer questions and assist the Recorders in the performance of their duties.

The Awards and Ish Sodi Program, chaired by R.:I.: Francis Karwowski, has made available the criteria for the awards via the website, in addition to the copies given each Recorder. The re-vamped Ish Sodi Award is available without charge to any Companion who recommends FIVE new Companions who receive the Cryptic Degrees, without regard to time limit. The Meritorious Ish Sodi will likewise be issued without charge, after presenting 25 petitions of new Cryptic Masons.

Our Grand Treasurer, R.:I.: Raymond Beardsley, is always ready to receive your charitable donations for the Parkinson's Disease Foundation. Recorders and Charity Chairmen are reminded to forward the donations without delay. All checks received should not first be deposited to the Council's account. The Life Membership Donor recognition remains available for \$50 contributors. This makes an excellent presentation to an outgoing Illustrious Master for recognition of long and faithful service.

During my progress through the Grand Line, I have often heard discussion regarding the formation of a Super Excellent Master Degree Team, but nothing has materialized. Ritual books have been obtained and distributed and more books are available for those who are interested. The physical requirements for this Degree do not exceed those of many other Masonic Degrees.

The variety of characters allows for skilled ritualists, as well as, less demanding roles. This Degree would be an excellent undertaking for a York Rite College or a KYCH Priory. At this time, in New York, Columbian Council No. 1 confers this Degree annually.

It has been presented to the Grand Council for evaluation, a proposal to reduce the number of Companions required to open a Council from the requisite nine to only five Companions. Preliminary inquiries are being made of our Councils on this topic. How many times has your Council failed to open because the requirement for nine Companions was not met? Would five have made opening possible? What Cryptic functions require nine to be discharged properly?

Our Symbolic Lodges are permitted to open and conduct all business with only THREE. As our numbers decrease, perhaps this topic is more important and deserves serious consideration.

Our current Grand Representative system is undergoing a major change, which I am fully encouraging. All Grand Representatives were contacted last Spring and asked to file a report with the Fraternal Correspondent. Several of the Grand Representatives furnished the Grand Council with excellent reports, but the response generally was to fail to respond. Many of these appointees consistently fail to attend Grand Council and discharge the requirements of their office. Many of the Grand Representatives have no idea of their assigned duties and this appointment has lost its intended purpose for them. This Grand Council recognizes the value of this appointment and will make the necessary change to make the appointment meaningful. A proposal has been submitted to limit the Grand Representative's term to five years with the prerogative to extend the term by the Most Illustrious Grand Master.

Aprons and regalia are interesting topics which I enjoy learning about. After observing the aprons in this jurisdiction, I compared them to the General regulations section on regalia and was perplexed, to say the least. I know of three different emblems appearing on District Deputy Grand Master Aprons, all issued in the last 10 years, none of which are in conformity. I saw a Past Thrice Illustrious Master Apron that could have passed for a Past Grand Master, and the list continues. Working in conjunction with Macoy Masonic Supply and our General Regulations, the apron issue has been settled. Aprons for the Past Thrice Illustrious Master, AGL, District Deputy Grand Master and Grand Representative, as well as the Apron Case, may be ordered using standardized forms available either form the Grand Recorder or downloaded from the website.

The excessive cost of a Grand Representative Apron has resulted in a more cost effective apron being re-intro-

duced. It is identical to the current apron but has no embroidered jurisdictional seal or emblem on the body. This style is well over \$200 less, this was the style for Grand Representatives and District Deputies Grand Master until the mid 1970s! It is my intention that this change will encourage Councils to submit the names of Illustrious Companions to serve as Grand representatives without hesitating due to expense.

The District Caucus that has been used to submit names to the Deputy Grand Master for the District Deputy Grand Master and Assistant Grand Lecturer has received less than enthusiastic support. I would like to appoint Companions who have the support of their Councils and, in particular, that of the Past Illustrious Masters. I have asked the District Deputies Grand Master to incorporate this plan during their visits, compiling a list of qualified, willing and recommended Companions to fill these vital offices. Councils active in Degree work and/or wanting Ritual instruction deserve an Assistant Grand Lecturer, a ritualist who enjoys teaching the Ritual to his Companions. I do not intend to appoint an AGL who functions only to set up the Grand Lecturer's Convention.

It has been my pleasure to be with you at many events throughout the years and throughout the State. It will be my pleasure to visit your Councils and attend events, especially upon invitation. I must ask that all invitations be extended at least 45 days in advance, or more, if possible. I am able to arrange for time off work, with advance notice. I am available by phone and have the email up and running daily.

Should the Companions of this Jurisdiction honor me at the next Annual Assembly by electing me Most Illustrious Grand Master, I will continue my efforts to preserve and promote Cryptic Masonry to the best of my ability. ✕

Palmyra/Eagle Chapter No. 79

1st Mon. 7:30 p.m.



High Priest
Cyril White
315-597-9546
Secretary
R. Stuart
Smith
315-597-9763

161 East Main Street, Palmyra 14522

Whew! It was a close one. With our newest Companions (Dave Rising and Eldon White) snapping at my heels, it made for a very interesting election. But I made it to High Priest again for the coming year. As we go into the New Year, all our elected Officers are in place. All that is left to do is fill in the appointed Officers and we will be ready to go. Appointments have not been made as of this writing, but they will be in place before our January meeting.

The next Stated Convocation will be held Monday, January 5th, at 7:30 p.m., in the Palmyra Masonic Temple, 161 East Main Street, Palmyra. It will be preceded by an off the menu dinner at the Yellow Mills Restaurant, located on Route 31, just West of Palmyra, at 6:00 p.m. The order of business is the Installation of Officers. The Installing Officer will be R.:E.: Steven E. Heald, DDGHP for the 24th Capitulat District.

The AGL, R.:E.: Lloyd VanderViver, has reminded me that we still need to confer or exemplify the Mark Master Degree before March, 2004, to be in compliance with the Grand High Priest's directive. The cast has been established, so February's convocation appears to be the date for this.

I look forward to seeing YOU, and I do mean YOU, around the Holy Altar of Royal Arch Masonry in friendship and brotherly love. ✕

Excelsior Chapter No. 164

2nd Mon.
7:30 p.m.

High Priest
E.: L. Ronald
Edwards
394-3205

Secretary
R.:E.: George Stanton, Jr.
394-6829
Shortsville, NY

We hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and will have a very happy New Year. The days are now getting longer, that is, the daylight part of them. Elections and Installations are now completed in the 25th Capitulat District. Congratulations to the 2004 Officers of each Chapter. We hope you have a very productive year in all your plans.

District plans

Excelsior Chapter will be dark for January, February and March. We will resume labor on the 2nd Monday of April. Companions, have a great Winter wherever you spend it. Your High Priest will be in Florida from the middle of January to the middle of March, if all goes as planned.

King David Chapter plans to go dark for January and February, with a question about March, as of this writing.

Salem Town Chapter and Geneva Chapter plan to remain OPEN. We pray for the best for all your Chapter plans.

The DDGHP, R.:E.: Sam Clark, has agreed to write the newsletter while I am in Florida. Thank you, Sam.

Thinking of you

We pray for good health for all of the Companions and their families. God bless you, one and all.

Enders

There was an employee who worked eight hours and slept eight hours - but got fired because they were the same eight hours.

Freedom is indivisible. It is all or none.

"In conclusion" - the phrase that wakes up the audience. ✕

LeRoy Chapter No. 183 RAM



4th
Tuesday
7:30 p.m.

High Priest
E.: Harry Tyson
494-1137

Secretary
E.: Norman P. Austin
494-2223

8 West Main Street, LeRoy

This is my last article for Royal Arch, and it has been a busy year. I thank all the Companions who supported our programs. I enjoyed working with R.:E.: Len Mason, and also with R.:E.: Dick Anderson as DDGHP. We were able to confer all four Degrees, once in the Spring and again, in the Fall, with assistance from other Chapters in the District. We were also able to donate over \$1,000 to the RAM Scholarship Fund this past year. I publicly thank my Officers and members of the Chapter, who came out to support me throughout the year. I believe LeRoy Chapter is alive and well, and I look forward to 2004 as being an even greater year under the leadership of our new Excellent High Priest for 2004, Harry Tyson.

Our December 23rd meeting was Installation of Officers, and the new slate is as follows:
High Priest **Harry Tyson**
King **Cordyn Durney**
Scribe **Craig Mollon**
Secretary **Norman Austin**
Treasurer **Karl-Heinz Reich**
Trustee **James MacConnell**
Degree Fest

On Saturday, January 10th, LeRoy Chapter will host all four RAM Degrees. Registration, coffee and donuts will begin at 8:00 a.m. and the Mark Master Degree will begin at 8:45 a.m. This will be followed by the Past Master Degree at 10:15 a.m., and the Most Excellent Master Degree at 10:45 a.m. Lunch will follow at a cost of \$7.00, and the afternoon's event will close following the conferral of the Royal Arch Degree, commencing at 1:00 p.m.

Coming events

January 27th - LeRoy regular convocation with work on opening/closing.

February 8th - Order of the High Priesthood, Palmyra, 1:00 p.m.

If any Lodge would like us to put on the Fervency and Zeal Program, give me a call at 494-1815. This program lasts approximately 35 minutes, and is designed to demonstrate the intimate connections existing between Royal Arch and Blue Lodge. This could serve as a great "fill in" for a regular meeting night. We are always seeking Companions who enjoy participating in Degree work, whether in Blue Lodge or in Chapter. If you would like to take part in the Degrees, are interested in serving in an office, or need help conferring Degrees in your Chapter, please call us, as we are here to help.

Come enjoy the Companionship! LeRoy is ALIVE and WELL! ✕

Doric Council
No. 19 Cryptic Masons
 (Chartered 1861)
 3rd Wednesday

 Ill. Master
 Bruce
 Horncastle
 (607) 347-4680
 Donald W. Wright, Recorder
 621-5764
 17 Church Street, Pittsford 14534

The last regularly stated communication of the Council was to be on November 19th, but due to only six Companions in attendance, Council could not be opened and convened.

It was to be the Official Visit of the DDIGM, R.: I.: Cyrus White; however, due to my previous knowledge of important Officers to render their attendance (due to other commitments), the Visit was postponed. The new date for the DDIGM visit was December 17th. I was pleased to see all the Companions there to welcome R.: I.: White to our Council.

Assistance needed

I am seeking assistance from the Companions in the conferring of the Royal Master Degree; also, further help will be needed for the conferral of the Select Master Degree.

Please tell me what part or parts in these Degrees you are willing and able to take, so that we can be effective in this great work of our Craft.

Palmyra Council
No. 26
 Cryptic Masons
 1st Thursday, 8:00 p.m.
 Master
 I.: Lee L. Collier, Sr.
 (315) 589-8146
 Secretary
 David W. Taber
 388-0629
 Palmyra Masonic Hall
 161 East Main Street

A big "thank you" to all who came out for the Official Visit of R.: I.: Charles M. Roberts, Grand Principal Conductor of the Work. Most enjoyed a delicious meal at the Garlock House prior to the meeting. Rev. Roberts explained the pivotal role the Council Degrees play in cementing the Lodge and Chapter Degrees. He further elaborated upon the Mysterious Nine tenants and their parallels with the elements of the Deposit. His interesting talk bordered on a

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sermon, but there was no collection taken.

There will be no meeting in January, as the first Thursday falls on January 1st.

The next meeting will be held in the Shortsville Temple, as per our By-Laws. On February 5th, we will welcome the District Deputy Grand Master, R.: I.: Cyril R. White. We will meet for supper at the Steak-Out Restaurant about 5:59 p.m.

Grace Simpson is recovering from surgery in Herkimer, NY. Please remember Walt and Grace in your prayers, with a card or a phone call. Contact the Recorder for their address and telephone number.

Nundawaga Council
No. 92
 4th Monday
 West Main Street
 LeRoy 14482
 I.: Edwin C. Law
 Master - 237-2579
 I.: Vernon G. Rupert
 Recorder - 343-8429

It is time to write an article for Nundawaga Council for the January, 2004, *Masonic Times*. Time stands still for no one!

I wish you a New Year filled with joy, prosperity and the best of good health!

Once again, Companions, I call your attention to the Official Visit to Nundawaga Council of R.: I.: and Rev. Charles M. Roberts, Grand Principal Conductor of the Work. The event will occur Monday, January 26th. We shall once again dine at LeRoy's own LB Grand restaurant at 6:30 p.m. I am hoping that the Grand PCW's dinner and Official Visit will be well attended.

Now that Winter weather is upon us again, let us polish up our mobility skills afoot, on wheels, and on sporting equipment. Avoid serious injury, or worse, while enjoying Western New York's Wintertime activities.

Pray for peace and for our military personnel. God bless America! Amen.

District Deputy Grand Master

 8th Cryptic District
 R.: I.:
 Cyril R. White
 315-597-9546

My warmest wishes to you all for a prosperous New Year. As the New Year starts, let us renew our commitment to Cryptic Masonry and Masonry in general. What does commitment mean to me? Not just attending our meetings, though this is important. Not just supporting our charities, though

this also is important. Not just paying our dues, again this is important. But, by living the ideals of Masonry in our every day lives. Let Masons and non-Masons alike see the goodness, the morality, and brotherly love shine in all of our actions. The actions towards our family, friends and, yes, even toward our enemies. If our Masonic light shines, can the world be full of darkness? I think not.

Interested?

Let me remind you again that my tenure is drawing to a close and there will be a need for a new DDGM and AGL for the upcoming two years. Any Cryptic Mason in the 8th District who believes he has the necessary qualifications, and has a desire to serve, should contact me (phone and email are listed in the heading) or R.: I.: Stephen Licht, Deputy Grand Master (address phone number and email address listed on the Grand Council's website).

Talking about the Grand Council's website, I urge each and every member to read and get the latest up-to-date information from this fine method of communication. <http://www2.2ki.net/slicht>

Grand Line Officer's Official Visitations

The Grand Line Officer for the 8th Cryptic District is R.: I.: and Reverend Charles M. Roberts, Grand Principal Conductor of the Work. He will be visiting our District to give his message on the following dates:

January Official Visits

January 22, Hornellsville Council No. 35
 January 28, Bath Council No. 40

I have had the opportunity to hear the Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, and I urge you all to attend and listen to his thought-provoking message.

In closing I thank you all for your support and encouragement in the year just past and look forward with enthusiasm to 2004.

I hope to see you around the Holy Altar of Cryptic Masonry. HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Sagoyewatha Commandery No. 17
 3rd Saturday, 9 a.m.
 Commander
 SK F. Edward Powley
 (315) 483-2745
 Recorder
 SK David Taber
 (585) 388-0629
 Phelps, NY

Sir Knights, Attention! My best wishes for a happy and prosperous 2004 to all the Sir Knights! Many thanks to all who helped make our Christmas Observance a great success. It takes many pieces to make the puzzle complete. Thank you, again.

I wish to remind everyone that Sir Knight Ronald Edwards is our Eye Foundation Chairman and he asks that you save aluminum for fund raising.

In January, we will continue our review of the Sword Manual and continue to work on the Order of the Red Cross for our Spring Inspection by Sir Knight James MacConnell, Grand Warder. Our January conclave date is the 17th at

9:00 a.m. with our customary breakfast at the Blue Ribbon Restaurant at 7:30 a.m. to catch up on all the real news.

Sagoyewatha Commandery has been very well represented at the Orders and the School of Instruction this Fall. Thank you, Sir Knights, for your outstanding support of this organization. I am very proud of our participation and of you.

Batavia Commandery
No. 34
Knights Templar
 2nd & 4th Thursdays

 Commander
 SK Garry Hutcherson, 494-1395
 Recorder
 SK James MacConnell, 494-1815
 39 Main Street, Attica 14011

On December 11th, we held our Christmas Toast at the Commandery in Attica and it was a nice evening. Our Chairmen were SK Norm Steinbaugh and SK Vern Rupert. They did a great job rewriting and assigning each SK or lady their part. It went well.

Due to the weather on Thanksgiving, our meeting was cancelled, as was the Turkey Dinner. Therefore, before our meeting we had the Turkey Dinner and celebrated both events on the same night. Many thanks to the Ladies who helped out, especially Lady Ann Rupert for cooking the turkey and Lady Ann Steinbaugh, who came down so early in the morning to set up and stayed after to help with the clean up.

Sickness and distress

We have two SKs in distress; SK Gordon Reeves is not getting better and needs all of our prayers; and, SK Ken Kohlhagen is doing better, but still needs a lot of recovery time.

It was nice to see SK Alan Capwell home from his trip across America. We wish him well as he goes on the next leg of his trip.

Hope your Holidays were great and you had a wonderful New Year's Eve, and are looking forward to a whole new year.

Taxes, Taxes, Taxes

Continued from Page 15

- Ask the preparer about his/her training, experience and current knowledge of tax law.
- Find out whether the preparer can represent taxpayers in an audit. Only Enrolled Agents, Certified Public Accountants and lawyers are authorized to represent taxpayers before the IRS.
- Consider whether the individual or firm will be available to answer questions about the preparation of the tax return months or even years after the return has been filed.

Most importantly, taxpayers should:

- Always review their return before signing, ask questions on entries they don't understand, and get a copy of the return for their records.
- Never, ever, sign a blank tax form or one filled out in pencil. Fees charged by a paid preparer vary by the complexity of your return and the experience of the preparer. Most experienced paid pre-

parers charge between \$50 and \$150 for a Form 1040 and the New York State IT-201 with additional charges for each form and/or service added to the return. Enrolled Agents and Certified Public Accountants usually charge even more. However, the fee charged does not always reflect the quality of the completed return or the qualifications of the preparer. Those preparers who prepare returns as a sideline or as a favor to a select few, usually charge less than those who live on this income as their full-time life's work. Some paid preparers perform the same quality of work and have the same education and dedication as Enrolled Agents and Certified Public Accountants, but have not taken or passed the required exams for the additional status.

Upcoming calendar year taxpayer due dates:

January 15th - December Payroll Taxes

Fourth Quarter IRS Estimated Tax

January 31st - W2s and 1099's mailed to recipient

If you have any tax questions, please forward them to tmichie1@rochester.rr.com.

New Books

Submitted by
 R.: W.: F. Jay McCullough

DaVinci Code - Angels and Demons
 Those are the names of two bestselling books written by Dan Brown. These two books feature Freemasonry prominently in their plots, and The DaVinci Code was a number 1 bestseller. Both books are very fast paced and exciting to read.

Galileo's Mistake
 A new look at the Epic Confrontation between Galileo and the Church

As the subtitle implies, this new book by Wade Rowland, discusses the events leading up to the trial of Galileo for heresy. An interesting comment by the author refers to the efforts to have Galileo's body moved to a more prominent place in the church where he was buried. "This successful solicitation had come from a group of Florentine intellectuals and Freemasons." This extremely interesting comment will require further research.

On a Grand Scale
 The Outstanding Life of Sir Christopher Wren

This book by Lisa Jardine is about the life and career of Sir Christopher Wren. While there has been a question as to his Masonic membership, Lisa Jardine believes he was a Freemason. She presents strong evidence to support her conclusion.

John Paul Jones
 Sailor, Hero, Father of the American Navy

An exciting biography by Evan Thomas about one of America's great heroes, this book recounts what John Paul Jones did for the new United States in Revolutionary times, then goes on to talk about his career in Russia. His Masonic membership is very clearly as well as the influence it had on his life.



Lalla Rookh GROTTO

News

Legion
Clowns
Caldron
Historian



Alfred Pulcino III, Monarch

Chief Justice

By Jerry Spero

I take this opportunity to wish everyone a healthy and happy New Year. May all our Masonic Lodges finish 2004 with a greater membership than they have right now.

The second annual Christmas Party for kids was held at the Shrine Center in Webster on December 6th. The party, sponsored by the Grotto and the Shrine, was a delight for the children who came to see Santa. There were about 25 children who received gifts from Santa and about 50 older kids who did a great job of providing food and entertainment for the children. This annual event is open to all area Masons and their families for free.

Several tables with crafts were set up for the kids. They decorated cookies, made bird feeders with peanut butter, pine cones and bird seed. An area was set up for coloring Christmas pictures and even face painting was available. Some challenges were provided such as a bean bag toss and a golf ball roll.

One of the highlights of the Christmas Party was the piñata. The suspense built as each youngster took a turn at smashing the piñata. Then, finally, with one mighty whack, the piñata opened and the candy hit the floor, followed almost instantly by the kids! What a picture that was! Well, you had to be there...maybe next year you will.

Coffee and donuts were supplied for the adults and cookies, ice cream and pop was provided for the kids. Snacks, on the tables, were also available for all. Some special thanks to Monarch, Al Pulcino III and his family, Past ESGA President, Mike Bell and his family, the VanHubens, Greg Ludwig, and all the other Santa's helpers, for providing a great time for everyone.

January reminders

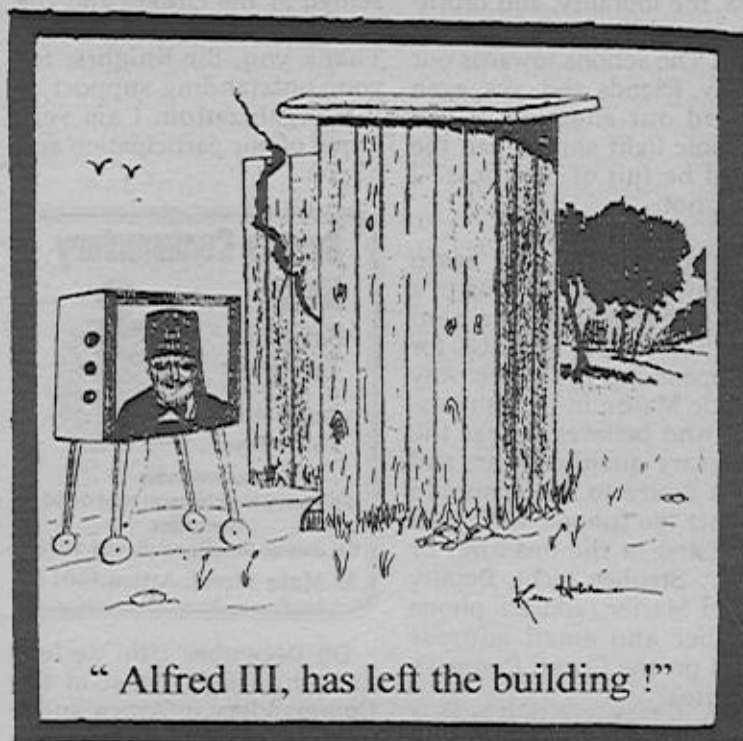
Monday, January 19th, will be the Lalla Rookh Grotto Legion of Honor meeting at Bosdyk's Restaurant. Social hour at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Reservations needed

The annual Board of Governors meeting will be held January 21st at FDR's Restaurant, 3939 East Henrietta Road in Henrietta. The social hour is at 5:30 p.m., dinner will start at 6:30 p.m. Dinner choices are 8 oz. Prime Rib, Chicken French, and Fried Haddock. Reservations are required. Call me at 334-7616 by January 19th.

Rehearsal for the Grotto Installation will be at 7:30 p.m. at the Shrine Center on Friday, January 23rd.

The Lalla Rookh Grotto Open Installation will be the following Saturday evening at the Shrine Center. Social hour at 5:30 p.m. Dinner will follow at 6:30 p.m. and the Installation Program, conducted by members of the ESGA, will start at 7:30 p.m. Reservations for dinner will be re-



"Alfred III, has left the building!"

Attend Grotto Meetings

Wed., Jan. 21st -
Annual Board
Dinner meeting at
FDR's Restaurant,
Henrietta
Social - 5:30 p.m.
Dinner - 6:30 p.m.
Sat., Jan. 24th -
Grotto Public
Installation
Shrine Center
Social - 5:30 p.m.
Dinner - 6:30 p.m.
Installation -
8:00 p.m.

Enjoy the Fellowship

quired. Dinner choices are Chicken and Steak and will be \$11.00 per person. Please call me at 334-7616 with your selections by January 20th. The barbershop quartet, Pier-4, will entertain us following the Installation.

Grand Historian

By Ken Hutchinson, PM

It must be first understood that the members of Hamilton Lodge No. 120 were imbued with a love for fun. It seemed to be the height of their ambition to perpetrate jokes, especially upon other members.

LeRoy Fairchild's Furniture Store, at 6 Broad Street, was the gathering place for the "good old boys." Many a high jinx was planned in the rear of the store, around the pot belly stove.

This was one the best ones, but I'm getting ahead of my story...

One of the early circumstances was as follows: President Cleveland ordered the return of all captured Confederate Battle Flags. This met with much protest in the North, and wasn't complied with.

A few years later, President Harrison issued the same order, which was carried out. Hamilton's newspaper, *The Volunteer*, was owned by an old blind soldier, who was ex-

asperated by the event. Not being able to write, he had his employee, Robert R. Riddell, another old soldier, write the article for him.

As emotions were high about the return of the flags, some of the Masons were determined to get even with Brother Riddell for the article. Their chance came a short time later when Riddell and his wife were camping in a shack at a reservoir of the State.

The coterie, perpetrated their deed, armed with numerous fireworks and a Rebel Flag, arrived late in the evening. They quietly surrounded the cabin, placed a very large firecracker under the windowsill, and retreated.

When the explosion occurred, Riddell rushed out, and was greeted with yells of "down with the Rebel Flag." Next came Roman Candles, one of which was held by Sidney Smith. It stuck Riddell in the chest, burning his shirt, and scorching his flesh.

The location was later named "Burnt Shirt Point." The Rebel Flag was destroyed by the fireworks. This was not the end of the matter, as Riddell would get even.

Next: Riddell's revenge.

Secretary's Column

By Ken Hutchinson, PM

The Annual Meeting, giving as they do, opportunity to renew the old and form new ties, are a delight and pleasure.

This year, Monarch Pulcino III and I revived a feature of the meeting, that of remembering our departed Prophets of the year. We purchased an Enchanted Lantern in the names of our departed Brothers: Robert Smith, Jr., PM, Stanley Lauweret, Vern Goodrich, and Elwyn Huff.

The same was done by the Past Monarchs in the name of Robert Smith, Jr., PM.

Sickness and distress

Ken Rhodes will be entering the hospital for an operation on December 19th. Our thoughts and prayers are with him and his family.

As we are about to enter a new year, I extend to each and all, the right hand of fellowship and bid you a healthy and prosperous New Year.



Santa's helper, Doreen Rhodes, assists Lindsey Walker (Daughter of Dan) in making a pine cone bird feeder at the Grotto-Shrine Children's Christmas Party.



Karl-Heinz Reich at the keyboard provided musical entertainment (above); later on the accordion, standing with Santa Claus.



Santa Claus (Monarch, Al Pulcino III), Mrs. Claus (Shirley Kothiringer) and their 3-foot tall elf (Christopher Lewandowski, Al's nephew). (Photos, Kenneth Hutchinson.)



3-year-old Ireland Sutton smiles after telling Santa her Christmas wishes.



Clown Tom Vasile (Kopper) entertains Pat Sutton holding 18-month-old Logan.

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James A. Hard/
Wayne Charter
Post No. 12

Commander
Kenneth V. Hutchinson
(315) 589-9021
Adjutant
Vance R. Collom, Jr.
217-9817

December 7th saw a few members getting up early, driving on darkened streets to the Charlotte Pier to commemorate Pearl Harbor Day. We stood shoulder to shoulder with veterans of many other



Members of James A. Hard/Wayne Charter Post who participated in the Veterans Day Program at the War Memorial.

veteran organizations.

At 7:50 a.m., a handful of Pearl Harbor survivors, all in their 80s, threw a wreath off the pier into the Genesee River which carried it out into Lake Ontario.

With the American Flag flying in the breeze, the Coast Guard Boat moving near by, a 21-gun salute was fired and a prayer offered.

December 7th will always serve as a date in history that will never be forgotten.

December 20th

Our Post Christmas Party was well attended. Bud Golding had made another original wooden item to be raffled off for the benefit of the Post. He confided in me that

he already has next year's item done. The after dinner auction was its usual fun time with many holiday wrapped items to bid on.

As we move toward a new year, I wish to thank the Officers for their assistance and the Color Guard for coming out to the various functions to Present the Colors. My thanks to Hilde and Joy for preparing the meals before our meeting.

There is no meeting in January. Our next meeting will be February 26th. Our Area Representative, Alfred Pulcino III, will have a speaker that evening.

May you and your family have a joyous holiday and a great New Year. ❖

Caldron News

By Doris Bell, MCO

On behalf of all the Masonic parents and grandparents, I thank Lalla Rookh Grotto and the Damascus Shriners for all the effort expended to make the Children's Christmas Party such a huge success.

Kudos!

A big "way-to-go" to Santa, Mrs. Santa, and the elf, Chris, for all the joy they provided to the children. The kids had a great time with activities, games and ice cream, cookies, and candy canes. The crowning touch of the party was the breaking of the piñata, graciously donated by Dan and Shellie Bell.

Birthday time!

Please mark February 7th on your calendar for the Annual Caldron Birthday Banquet, to be held at Rick's Prime Rib. We are taking advantage of the Early Bird Special to keep the costs down. We will gather at 5:30 p.m. Menu Choices are Prime Rib at \$17.00, Chicken Parmesan at \$13.00, and Orange Roughy at \$14.00. Please contact either Marcia Morrison at 256-7485 or me at 244-2895, by February 1st.

Come join us, we always have a great time. ❖



"Rudolph," "Chickie" and Windy at Christmas Party

where to find employment."

The MMRL's ability to link specific diseases to defective genes has opened up new vistas in the understanding of human disease and in the approach to the development of much needed therapies and cures. The molecular genetics program has made the Laboratory one of a handful of world centers capable of determining the genetic basis of cardiac arrhythmias responsible for sudden cardiac death in young adults, children and infants.

The Molecular Genetics Program, headed by Dr. Ramon Brugada, is receiving referrals relative to the Brugada syndrome and other inherited cardiac rhythm diseases from throughout the world, bringing a new dimension to the Heart Institute in our community. According to Antzelevitch, "The House member item that we have received thanks to the earnest effort of Congressman Boehlert, will position us well to meet the challenges of the 21st century and beyond, to ensure a healthier and better quality of life for each of us, our children and grandchildren." ❖

MMRL Vine of Life

Freemasonry's world renowned Masonic Medical Research Laboratory (MMRL) recently launched a fundraiser to help support its research called the Vine of Life. Medford Masonic Square Club, celebrating 25 years of community service, bought the first leaf off the MMRL Vine of Life for \$5,000.

"What a wonderful way to start the vine growing," beamed R.:W.: Harold G. Trabold of Patchogue, NY, Vice-President of MMRL, which is headquartered in Utica. Outgoing Medford Club President, R.:W.: Larry Gordon of Smithtown, made the gift presentation to R.:W.: Trabold on behalf of MMRL during the Club's combined Annual Christmas Party and Anniversary Celebration at the Harborside Restaurant in Patchogue. R.:W.: Trabold is also Supervisor of the Suffolk Masonic District of New York Grand Lodge Masons. Outgoing Medford President Gordon is also serving his second year as Suffolk District's Grand Director of Ceremonies.

R.:W.: Robert E. Sikora, Suffolk District Deputy Grand Master, spoke on behalf of MMRL's Director of Development, Ronald E. Kamp of Utica, who had been prevented from attending the presentation because of bad weather. "We're seeing tonight a restoration of Masonic pride, concern for community, and the betterment of our fellow man," said Sikora. "This is just what New York's Grand Master, M.:W.: Carl J. Fitje, has been seeking. Tonight Suffolk Masonic District is showing how well it is responding."

During the evening newly elected officers of the Medford Square Club for 2004 were installed by DDGM Sikora. The new officers are W.: John H.M. Findlay of Flanders, President; R.:W.: William McCauley of Manorville, Vice-President; R.:W.: Jack J. Ozer of Selden, Treasurer. (Courtesy Public Relations Committee, Suffolk Masonic District, NY Grand Lodge) ❖

MMRL Receives \$800,000

2150 Bleeker St.
Utica, NY 13501

Ronald P. Kamp
Director of
Development and
Communications

The House of Representatives passed the House-Senate conference report for the Fiscal Year 2004 Omnibus Appropriations recently. The bill contains \$800,000 for the new Masonic Medical Research Laboratory (MMRL) Molecular Genetics Wing, thanks to the efforts of Congressman Sherwood Boehlert. According to Boehlert, "The Laboratory is one of the crown jewels of the Mohawk Valley. Its new molecular genetics program takes full advantage of the Human Genome Project and is among the best investments that we can make to ensure that future generations receive the best that medical research has to offer and a critically important investment in the medical research capabilities of Upstate New York. Such an investment will help to facilitate state of the art medical care and bring skilled jobs to our region."

Over the past decade alone, the MMRL has garnered \$9.8 million in support from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), American Heart Association (AHA), and a variety of foundations and corporations on the basis of merit for scientific research. Included is a recent \$300,000 grant award from The Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida Counties, also given in support of the new Molecular Genetics Program.

Since its founding in 1958, the Laboratory has gained in-

ternational prominence as a medical research institute for cardiac research. Cardiac arrhythmias have been a major focus of the MMRL because it is a leading cause of death in the United States, taking the life of an American nearly every minute of every day. MMRL scientists have unraveled the basis for a number of inherited diseases including the Long QT, Short QT, and Brugada Syndromes, which take the lives of young adults, children and infants. Studies conducted at the MMRL provided the first definitive data linking Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) to the Long QT Syndrome, a syndrome that induces life-threatening abnormal rhythms of the heart, which can be readily diagnosed from the ECG and is amenable to treatment. The broad implications of this, and

more recent studies, are that with proper monitoring these babies could be identified and their lives saved.

"As the MMRL's reputation grew, so did our need for additional space," said Dr. Charles Antzelevitch, Executive Director and Director of Research. "As a result of our recent bold initiative, medical groups and centers worldwide have designated our facility as their primary affiliation for genetic screening for cardiac arrhythmias. The expertise that we have attracted as a result of this new effort has made our institute a worldwide hub for genetic screening of inherited cardiac disease. The new wing and program will assist us in attracting more grant funds to our region, thus creating high-skilled professional positions and new opportunities for gifted and talented students of the life sciences who previously had to venture else-

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In Memoriam

November

Rath, Douglas L.

Douglas passed away on November 29th. He was a member of Union Star Lodge and is survived by three children and four grandchildren.

Speary, Mary C.

November 23rd was the date of Mary's passing. She was a member of Tri-Star Chapter, OES and leaves her husband, Harold, one son and seven grandchildren.

December

Conable, Barber B.

A member of Attica Lodge, Mr. Conable was an influential Congressman and past President of the World Bank. He was called Home on December 1st, and is survived by his wife, Janice, four children and eleven grandchildren.

Daly, Richard

Richard was 98 years old when he died on December 10th. He was a member of Etolian Lodge and leaves his wife, Catherine, three sons, four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Field, Darwin E. "Darby"

Livonia Lodge, Rochester Consistory, and Damascus Shrine each lost a member with the death of Darwin on December 10th. He was 70 years old and leaves two children, two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Pulver, Dr. Donald W., Sr.

The Great Architect of the Universe claimed Donald on December 13th. He was a member of Garoga/Sincerity Lodge and is survived by his four children, eight grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Wilmot, Herbert E.

Herbert was 79 years old when he met his Maker on December 13th. He was a member of Clio Lodge, Rochester Consistory and Damascus Shrine and leaves his wife, Dorothy, five children, and seven grandchildren.

Buchanan, William G.

William was a member of ERAC Lodge when he died on December 14th.

This death was reported with no specific information.

McCoy, Charles R.

Charles was a member of Ark Lodge and died at his home in Texas.

Sudden Death Syndrome Link Association

A study linking a new clinical entity responsible for sudden cardiac death, termed the Short QT Syndrome, to an ion channel defect in the heart was published. The account by senior authors Ramon Brugada, MD, and Charles Antzelevitch, PhD, indicated these findings opened a new door in our understanding of causes of abnormal heart rhythms, known as cardiac arrhythmias, and their role in the sudden death of infants, children and young adults.

The Long QT syndrome has long been associated with a risk for life-threatening cardiac arrhythmias. However, little is known about prognostic implications of the reverse; the short QT interval, a disease that had been highlighted only in the last three years. These new findings describe the genetic basis for the Short QT syndrome, which can cause sudden death in otherwise healthy individuals. The study is the result of a collaboration among investigators in Europe and the United States. The team at the MMRL discovered the mutation responsible for the disease in a gene that encodes for a potassium channel in the heart. Hyperactivity of this ion channel was found to alter electrical activity within the cells of the heart causing it

to beat at very fast rates that could lead to sudden death.

The electrocardiogram of affected patients displays a very short QT interval and tall symmetrical T waves. Clinicians need to be aware of this deadly ECG pattern as it portends a high risk of sudden death in otherwise healthy subjects.

The identification of the genetic basis for the disease permits investigators to pinpoint drugs that may be candidates for the specific treatment of this syndrome. One of the great benefits of this identification is it provides us an understanding of the disease at its root cause, providing a means to diagnose, treat and someday cure the congenital dysfunction. Investigators are identifying therapies for patients who inherit the disease from their parents.

The Gift of Love

The Masonic Service Bureau greatly appreciates your contributions. If you have not made a donation for this year, would you please do so now, before you forget? If you have, would you consider increasing it?

Looking Ahead

2004

February 1 - 14
Have-a-Heart Campaign

February 21
Road to the East
Eunice Lodge
Caledonia

March 5 - 6
Grand Chapter RAM
Albany

March 20
Road to the East
Eunice Lodge
Caledonia

April 17 - 18, 24 - 25
State Bowling
Tournament
Doug Kent's Rose Bowl
Newark

May 3 - 5
Grand Lodge
New York City

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Deadline for the Masonic Times

BIG CALENDAR JANUARY 2004

Gem - Garnet
Flower - Carnation

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 New Year's Day	2 Webster Lodge Spaghetti Dinner 5-7 p.m. \$6 adult; \$3 Child 30 Orchard Street 3 OES - Rochester Chapter - East Rochester OES - Nolatka Chapter - Installation
4 Attica - Pancake Breakfast, 8:00 a.m. to Noon	5 Canandaigua - Shortsville West Star - Varysburg RAM - Palmyra/Eagle Shrine Lunch Club	6 Charlotte/Corinthian Clio - Hilton Craftsman Robertson Garoga/Sincerity - Phelps (SOV) Oakland - Castile Eagle - Honeoye Tri-Star - Palmyra (I) OES - Fairport, Webster	7 Attica Drumlin Square - Palmyra Livonia Olive Branch - LeRoy Damascus Shrine OES - Henrietta, Monroe	8 Eagle Valley - Bliss Milnor - Victor RAM - Hiram - Pittsford KT - Batavia Commandery Lalla Rookh Caldron	9 OSY Charities Dinner	10 OSY Association Meeting - Garoga/Sincerity Nolatka Chapter - Organizational Meeting Table Lodge - Perry (Hosted by Triluminar, Oakland & Constellation)
11 Mt. Vernon Lodge Pancake Breakfast 7:30 to 10:00 a.m. Clio Lodge Spaghetti Dinners Weds. Jan 14th & 28th East Avenue, Hilton	12 ERAC - East Rochester Etolian - Spencerport Fairport/Flower City Mt. Vernon - Java Village Union Star - Honeoye Falls Wakan/Hubbard - Penfield OSY Joint 3* - Garoga/Sincerity - Phelps Shrine Lunch Club	13 Arcade Batavia Fame - Irondequoit Seneca - Webster Valley-Simes RAM - 3x3, Dansville, LeRoy OES - Leah - Hilton	14 Churchville - 1* Oatka - Scottsville Triluminar - Pike Masonic Service Bureau Monthly Luncheon Meeting OES - Canandaigua Fenogowone - Shortsville, Corinthian Fellowship	15 Constellation - Perry Eunice - Caledonia Hesperus - Bergen Northfield - Pittsford Webster Scottish Rite RAM - Western Star	16	17 KT - Sagoyowatha OES - Rochester Chapter - East Rochester Let's Chat with the Deputy Grand Master - Union Star Webster - Red Cross Blood Drive
18 G/W Council of Masonic Activities, Hesperus - Bergen Arcade Lodge Pancake Breakfast 7 to 10 a.m., \$5.00	19 Canandaigua - Shortsville West Star - Varysburg KT - Cyrene/Monroe - Pittsford Lalla Rookh Grotto Legion of Honor Shrine Lunch Club - Ladies Day Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	20 Charlotte/Corinthian Clio - Hilton Craftsman Robertson, 2* Garoga/Sincerity - Phelps Oakland - Castile OES - Fairport, Tri-Star - Palmyra, Nolatka	21 Attica Ark - Geneva (SOV) Drumlin Square - Palmyra Livonia Olive Branch - LeRoy RSM - Doric Council, Pittsford Tall Cedars Lalla Rookh Grotto Board of Governors	22 Eagle Valley - Bliss Milnor - Victor RAM - Hiram - Pittsford KT - Batavia Commandery WYN - MDC, Session 1, Humanity Lodge, Lyons	23 Lalla Rookh Grotto Installation Rehearsal	24 Lalla Rookh Grotto Installation
25 Family Bowling Event, Clover Lanes, 1-4 p.m.	26 ERAC - East Rochester, 2* Etolian - Spencerport Fairport/Flower City Mt. Vernon - Java Village, 3* Union Star-Honeoye Falls Wakan/Hubbard - Penfield RSM - Nundawaga (OV) Shrine Lunch Club	27 Arcade Batavia Valley-Simes RAM - 3x3, Dansville, LeRoy, Wyoming OES - Leah - Hilton	28 Churchville Oatka - Scottsville Triluminar - Pike Tall Cedars of Lebanon (I) OES - Canandaigua Fenogowone - Shortsville, Corinthian Fellowship	29 School of Ritual	30	31 Daughters of the Nile Dinner, Shrine Center Oakland - Castile, 3*

Support the ElderWear Project now through January 31.