



Masonic Times

Serving the Masonic Community Since 1963

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

Volume 44

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February 2006

Nationally Known Masonic Scholars at Valley of Rochester Function



Mark Tabbert



Thomas Jackson



Nelson King



Kathleen Kutolowski

The Damascus Shrine Center, 979 Bay Road in Webster, will host the Masonic Education Fair, sponsored by the Valley of Rochester, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, as part of the ongoing *College of Freemasonry* on Friday, March 3rd, and Saturday, March 4th. This function will begin at 6:00 p.m. on Friday with a social hour and

dinner. Entertainment will then be provided by Historical Re-enactor, Brother Paul Stillman, appearing as the 26th President of the United States, Brother Theodore Roosevelt. This program is open only to members of the Scottish Rite and their Ladies.

Saturday

A full day for Masons and

non-Masons is planned on Saturday, beginning with a Continental breakfast at 8:00 a.m. A box lunch is also included in the registration fee.

Mr. Mark A. Tabbert, Curator of the National Heritage Museum; Mr. Nelson King, Editor of *The Philalethes* magazine; Mr. Thomas W. Jackson, Masonic Scholar and Book Re-

viewer; and, Ms. Kathleen Kutolowski, Chairman of the History Department at SUNY Brockport will be delivering presentations to enlighten the audience on Masonic history. Brother Stillman will also make an appearance, this time portraying Galileo. (See page 13 box ad for more details.)

Continued on Page 14

Welcome
New Subscribers!

Eagle

Lodge No. 619

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



Master
W.: James
Boyer
586-7337

Secretary
Paul Farnung
473-0958

4994 County Road 36
Honeoye 14471

We extend a warm welcome to the newest organization of subscribers to the *Masonic Times*, the Brothers of Eagle Lodge No. 619. Look on Page 9 for this month's article detailing some Lodge activities.

If you are, or can be, in their neighborhood on February 16th, be sure to support the Spaghetti Dinner, which they are co-sponsoring with Eagle Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star. Serving is from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Join them as District Deputy Grand Master, R.:W.: Eldon White, makes his Official Visit on February 14th. *

DeMolay is Alive and Well!

By Gary Burke

Well, it's been a while in the making, but we are now being rewarded with the fruits of our labors. Rochester Chapter, Order of DeMolay, is up and running. We began in March when two new members (Brothers Sam Friedman and Chris Stump) were inducted into the Chapter at the Grand Master's Class held in Utica at the Masonic Care Community. Then two more (Brothers Mike Bailey and Ben Short) were inducted at our State Convention held in August. Brother Justin Mulrooney became the

fifth new member when he received his Degrees at Camp DeMolay in September during a camp-out by Ridge Council Chapter (Lackawanna, NY).

Most would say that this record was pretty impressive, five new members in a newly revitalized Chapter. Well these young men didn't stop there! They had friends, and interested adults from the Masonic community had sons, who were interested in joining. Word began to spread and interest increased. You could feel the excitement building.

That excitement led to seven, YES 7, new petitions being

submitted and those young men joined the Chapter on December 20th. We welcome Brothers Zach and Josh Buell (truly brothers), Ian Grady, Keith Dreitien, Andrew Landgren, Jesse Hoyt and Sean Goodrich to the Chapter. Each of these twelve young men is a shining example of what is right and good about the youth of today and why we need to support an organization such as DeMolay in our community.

Many of these young men have been participating in events for the Scottish Rite and Shrine during the past several months. Be it a Movie Night, Halloween Haunted House or something else, they were

there to lend a hand. Participation in other such activities is being planned for the future, as well. Look for these young men and welcome them to the Masonic community. They are our future.

The Chapter thanks Rochester Consistory and Damascus Shriners for stepping up to the plate and becoming co-sponsors of the Chapter, as well as Wakan/Hubbard Lodge for allowing us to utilize their Lodge building for our meetings.

The Chapter meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. of each month and would welcome visitors at any time.

Keep watch! The excitement is not over. *

What's Inside?

Editor's Corner	2
Genesee/Wyoming	7, 8
Grotto News	11
Hot Numbers	2
Late Arrivals	10
Livingston District	8, 9
Looking Ahead	3
Masonic Service Bureau	2
Masonic War Veterans	11
Memorials	16
Mid-Day Bowling	3
Monroe District	4-7
Order of Eastern Star	16
Ontario/Seneca/Yates	9, 10
Scottish Rite News	12, 13
Shrine News	14
Tall Cedars of Lebanon	13
Taxes, Taxes, Taxes	10
Wayne District	4
York Rite News	15
Your Legal Rights	13

www.monroemasonic.com

By Jay McCullough

Have you looked at this website recently? It's coming to life as a viable source of information on this Craft of ours, emphasizing activities and historical interest items for the Monroe District community.

We are continuing some fine tuning, some graphics that should make you proud and we're making some corrections. The most recent edit involved getting the site to work well with all browsers. This type of background activity will be a continuing effort for the next few months as the originator of monroemasonic web experts will tell you. Your help, please!!

Masters and heads of Concordant Bodies or their designees can "fill in the blanks" by mailing or emailing the names of Officers and trestleboard data to the attention of Barbara Goodrich or Skip Waterstreet at the Masonic Service Bureau office. They, in turn, will forward it to Bureau webmaster Brother Andrew Tascione, to include in his upcoming revisions. Ask for the matrix prepared last Fall if you need another copy.

We'd really like to be in good shape by the time the Masters head for New York so they can tell their counterparts "look us up on the internet." *

Save the Date!

April 22nd

Widows Luncheon

Burgundy Basin Inn
1361 Marsh Road, Pittsford

Information is now in the hands of Officers of your Organization, or contact the Service Bureau, 671-9730, for more details.

Sponsored by

Masonic Service Bureau of Greater Rochester, NY Inc.

Masonic Development Course

February 20, 7:00 p.m.

Wakan-Hubbard Lodge Hall, Penfield

Dated Material



Editor's Corner

The news is not ALWAYS bad! As you can see on the front page, we have a new subscriber - Eagle Lodge in Honeoye. It was interesting to me to see that the required time commitment of those involved was the cause of the demise of their newsletter. I don't know how often the *Eagle/Star* was published, but I hope those who contributed manuscripts will continue to supply copy to the Master and/or Secretary so the *Masonic Times* becomes a suitable replacement. Welcome!

Postage
As previously mentioned, the increase in postal service rates is one of the reasons our subscription prices increased. I am still waiting for the first issue to be mailed under the new figures (this one!) to see just what the difference is. We mail to many areas and each has its own postal service designation and price structure. Some of them went up; some went down; I'm anxious to learn the results of these changes.

Moving?
Most publications, if not all, are not forwarded to you when you change your address. They are returned to the publisher at a fairly steep price. For the past few years, that rate has been \$.70 per copy, which is billed annually on the invoice to your organization.

We have just received our first returns under the new rate, which is \$.75. This is an appeal to you, if you plan to move, to get your new address to us as quickly as possible. You will save your organization an additional charge and won't miss an issue of the *Masonic Times*. (Organization Financial Officers, please make a note of this new price so you won't be surprised in the Fall.)

On the same topic, we make an effort to take care of snowbirds. If you let us know when you leave (giving us your Winter address), we will change the mailing list and send issues to you while you bask in the sunshine. Please, though, let us know when you return so we can put the local address back in the system. We haven't found

a sure-fire way to plug names and addresses into a program which will sound an alarm when the individual's date change occurs so we can automatically go to the other address. Any suggestions? Call us!

We try to have the paper ready to mail by the last week of each month. The goal is to have it in your hands before the first so you are able to read about events early in the month and plan to participate in them, if you so desire. If your move should cross over that time period, please be sure we get the address change the week before (third week) so the paper will be where you are, not where you just left.

Submissions
We nearly missed an article this month. For some reason, it didn't appear in our email inbox. Fortunately, the author called to see if we received it, and re-sent it to us, when he was given our negative reply. This gives me another opportunity to request you follow up on submitted material. Ordinarily, Barbara will be sending out a reply message (for articles submitted by emails). When things are hectic, this step might be overlooked. It would be wise for you, the submitter, to check on everything you provide for publication, if you haven't received confirmation from us.

If you have submitted material and information changes, and you think there is a chance the paper hasn't gone to the printer, please give us a call. We want to be accurate in what we report and we realize that sometimes circumstances require adjustments. We will try to accommodate your needs.

Edits
I reserve the right to edit! This is my title and my job. Warm and friendly conversations do not necessarily lead to good

copy for publication. We also have space limitations. I try to let all mentions of events of the past month (or maybe two) go, particularly when they refer to people involved in something. I do eliminate the day of the week, exact hour of the program and other information of that type, which I feel are irrelevant after the fact.

Give me names!
What we DO want are the five Ws of journalism - Who, What, When, Where and Why. And I place special emphasis on the "WHO" (with names spelled correctly, please!). You can tell everybody how appreciative you, or your organization, are for someone's help with an event by publishing it here.

All that being said, I make no apology for what I do and I will not allow an author to "chastise" me in the next column she or he writes for the *Masonic Times*. [You may not use this as a forum to chastise your Sisters or Brothers, either!]

Our Editorial Board Chairman is Jay McCullough; our new President is Jim Ghent. Feel free to contact either or both of these men with any complaints you may have, which you may not want to address with me directly. I have no problem with (and will not seek revenge on) anyone who may dislike what I do. I'm never going to please everybody. David and I have tried, and will continue to try, very hard to give you an attractive and interesting publication.

We welcome your constructive criticisms and/or suggestions. We would also welcome assistance from anyone, with some time mornings of the days in the middle two weeks of the month, who is interested in writing or proof reading articles for the *Masonic Times*. Give us a call.

Thanks for reading.

Hot Numbers

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
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Rochester, NY 14618-4617
Phone: 264-1690, (h) 264-1692</p> |
|---|---|---|

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

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By Jim Ghent

The 2005 Masonic Service Bureau Nominating Committee, consisting of Past Presidents Larry Canfield, Jay McCullough and Angelo DiCataldo, put forth the following individuals, who were subsequently elected by the voting members, for office for the ensuing year.

President Jim Ghent
Vice President M. Don Darrohn
Executive Director Skip Waterstreet
Treasurer Bill Lindsay
Secretary Barbara Goodrich

This year, at the request of Grand Lodge, the Masonic Service Bureau will support a statewide interfaith service on September 10th. In addition, the Bureau will continue to

host: Scholarship Awards and Charity Grants, June 21st; Widows' Lunch, April 22nd; and the Interfaith Service and Brunch, October 29th.

One of the many services provided and/or supported by the Masonic Service Bureau is the Loan Closet, where more than 1,000 items are available for loan at no charge. There is a \$25 wheelchair deposit, refunded when the wheelchair is returned. Included in this list are approximately 200 wheelchairs. Volunteers are needed to help maintain these items.

The Service Bureau continues to meet on the second Wednesday of the month, except July and August, to review Service Bureau operations. We invite every Worshipful Master and Worthy Matron to select one of their members, or themselves, to attend the meetings and participate in the Service Bureau.

We look forward to a productive year in which we increase

the number of services we provide and increase the participation in the funds and in-kind donations available through new sources.

In the box below is the list of individuals serving in offices for 2006. Some were just elected and some are serving multiple-year terms, having been elected at prior annual meetings.

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Do you have a small business? Are you willing to promote your business in support of this publication, the *Masonic Times*? Your business or product will be exposed to over 4,000 Masons in the Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Seneca, Wayne, Wyoming and Yates counties, around the United States and into several foreign countries. Interested? Call 671-9730 for details.

(We cannot guarantee response)

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Terry Wihlen	Joy Woodley	Robert Zahn
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Herbert Spencer	Fred Stahl	Beverly VanHuben
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Are You Moving?
Print your NEW address below (including seasonal changes)

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LET'S GO BOWLING



By Jay McCullough

Kessler shows real talent! Dick Kessler, of Unity Lodge, performed a hat trick on the lanes the beginning of this New Year. At just the right time, with all others as spectators, his ball was seen to roll true as he picked the 2 - 7 - 10 split, hitting the 2 on the right and sending it into the 7 which flew across the alley (we're old guys, remember, so we still say alleys and gutters!) and resoundingly whacked the 10 into submission. We all agreed it would be a long time before we'd see that feat again. We tried to credit him with two splits in one, but that old sticker John Specht, of Hesperus

Lodge, would have none of that. You'd think he read the rule book!

The Senior Masonic Bowlers operate in the realm of the *Masonic Times* at the Rose Garden Bowl in Bergen. Each Tuesday at 1 p.m., we gather in a warm and friendly atmosphere and try to recapture some of the skills of our youth. We have the "Four Caballeros" from Byron and points West, who carpool to the bright lights of the bigger village of Bergen (masters of the lanes, Ron Starkweather and Jack Spencer, are joined by Dave and son, Don Liles, who always have happy dispositions (how do they do that?). Again, Hesperus is the key home Lodge.

Pam sets up two large containers of her special coffee blends and keeps them full and

hot. Harris feeds those who come a little early to have lunch at the connected Viking Valhalla. Owner and Brother Tom Sardou kibitzes as he buzzes about the place and gets us underway.

The practice screens light up and we are underway on another Tuesday afternoon. On this first week of the New Year, Derek VanHouten, of Craftsman Robertson Lodge, held on to the five pin. He outlasted attempts by a couple of others, like Jay and Don Liles, who were afraid they were going to wrest it from him, but he prevailed. Seems he sees it as a very tiny object when it stands there alone, waiting for his wobbly attempts to wipe it out. The rest of the time, he's known as "Pin Blaster" Derek, for the power of his swing.

Specht has begun to lose his touch at claiming pots at the card table. With others getting their due, he expects he'll now have only enough for a one-way trip to Valdosta, Georgia, where he intends to spend a couple of weeks. We all express our sympathy in the usual fashion, but no one seems concerned he might be unable to return.

Remember, we're at the "alleys" at 21 Buffalo Road in Bergen. The invitation stands for all who would like to bowl to join us at any time. We have your spot reserved.

Haven't bowled in the past two or three decades? Or ever? Not to worry. You'll fit right in, so long as you don't take yourself too seriously. Bring a Brother or a buddy and we'll bid you a hearty welcome. x

Looking Ahead

March

3 & 4 Valley of Rochester Masonic Education Fair Shrine Center

10 Masonic Development Course Wakan/Hubbard Lodge

29 School of Ritual Webster Lodge

April

1 Livingston District Ladies Night, Conesus Golf Club

8 Ontario/Seneca/Yates Surviving Spouses Luncheon Dairyman's Diner

20 Feast of the Paschal Lamb

22 Monroe District Widows' Luncheon Burgundy Basin Inn

29 Scottish Rite Degrees Shrine Center

Reunion Banquet Burgundy Basin Inn

May

19 Joint Investiture Fairport/Flower City Lodge

22 Livingston District Communion Breakfast Mt. Morris

September

10 Grand Lodge Interfaith Service


October

29 Monroe District Interfaith Service and Brunch Logan's Party House

For additions, call the Masonic Service Bureau at 671-9730



CAMPAIGN for DISCOVERY BENEFIT



Featuring Lily Tomlin
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For sponsorship and general information, please contact:
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A Family "Thank You"

To Whom It May Concern:

My Grandmother (Bernice Wright), was a resident in the Saranac Household at the Masonic Care Community from November 11th-13th for the Respite Program. I would like to express how impressed I was with your facility. I came to visit her for a short period of time on Saturday. The place is huge and confusing, and every employee I stopped for directions was extremely helpful, courteous and friendly. There was one who I didn't even ask for help; she saw that I was confused and volunteered to assist me. My Grandmother's room was like a hotel room and not like a nursing home room. The staff was attentive and kind, and the place was spotless. The quality of the physical appearance of the building and rooms and the quality of staff made me wonder - was this really a nursing home??

The fact that my Grandmother had virtually no complaints speaks volumes in itself. Thank you for taking care of her so well!!

Heather Gay, Ilion, New York x

Ronald McDonald House

By Mike McBride

This is the second request for help. We are in the malls again from Wednesday, February 1st, through Tuesday, February 14th. We need help manning the booths from all Masonic and Concordant Body Brothers and Sisters. (Family members and friends are also welcome!)

Please remember that we are representing Masonry and are also guests of the malls. Dress should be jacket and tie or sweater and jacket, or similar attire.

CONTACTS
Eastview Mall
 Richard Greenaway (Margaret) at 527-8802;
Marketplace Mall
 Eugene Crews (Betty), phone 225-7949; or
 Janet Porter at 663-6719;
The Mall at Greece Ridge Center
 David Sylvester (Kristin), phone 594-9779; or
 Mike McBride (Jean) at 663-4636.

Please help
 We have raised well over \$180,000 for the Ronald McDonald House, and we need to keep this going! It has been a

traditional community event since 1988. All Masonic and Concordant Bodies share in the accolades expressed in appreciation of our efforts.


Last year, the total amount collected was \$13,417.10! Let's work hard this year to top that figure and exceed the \$200,000 figure for total receipts!

As you know, 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 arises and space is available. It has been used by families from every County in New York State, as well as families from forty-two States.

For more information on the Ronald McDonald House check out their website:
 www.ronaldshouse.com

Questions, suggestions, comments, complaints or checks (made out to Ronald McDonald House) can be addressed to me, Mike McBride, 33 Barcrest Drive, Rochester, NY 14616. Call me at home, 663-4636, or send me an email message at: mcbride1@rochester.rr.com or Michael_mcbride@nexpress.com.x

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My Brothers, January was a slow month as far as the Edict Degree was concerned. No Lodges were scheduled for Degree work. So far in February, I am scheduled for Humanity with a 3rd Degree on the 8th, Sodus with a 3rd on the 21st and Clyde with a 2nd on the 27th. As of now, I have all but two Lodges scheduled.

On January 12th, the Masters and Wardens Association meeting was held at Wayne Lodge in Ontario, with a dinner preceding. This is being written prior to that meeting, so I am unable to give you any further details.

District Deputy Grand Master



Monroe District

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334-8265

dswlew@rochester.rr.com

Nothing inspirational, strictly business

What have you done for Masonry today? What will you do for Masonry tomorrow? The second half of the Masonic year is just as important as the first. There are decisions and preparations to be made.

Secretary's, please complete and forward the Lodge Secretary's Report to me as soon as possible.

The Have-a-Heart Campaign will be kicking off soon after you read this edition of the *Masonic Times*. Volunteer now to help, if you haven't already done so. As Brother McBride so eloquently noted in the December edition of the *Masonic Times*, Masons are a key supporter of the local Ronald McDonald House. Brothers, we have much to be proud of when considering this. This affords us again for some great public relations and marketing for our Craft.

Churchville Lodge is exemplifying the 3rd Degree on March 22nd. I have enlisted the talents of many Brothers in the District to assist Churchville Lodge in accomplishing this goal. I am not satisfied. I want to hear from Brothers who will simply come and support the night. Let us make this a celebration of Monroe District Masonry. W.: Jesse Noble continues to assure me that we will be enjoying some fine Bar-B-Qued Chicken and Ribs for the low price of \$10.00 a person. Please contact me at:

dswlew@rochester.rr.com or 334-8265 if you will attend. My thanks to those Brothers who have responded to my call for support.

Senior Wardens should begin planning for their year as Master now and start thinking about their trestleboard. It creeps up fast, my Brothers.

That is about all I have for now, so until next month may the Great Architect of the Universe be with you and yours. ✕

Drumlin Square Lodge No. 1180

1st & 3rd Wednesdays

Master
V. W. David R. Rising

(315) 331-7337

Secretary
R. W. William C. Jones

(315) 986-9150



161 East Main Street
Palmyra, New York 14522

Welcome to February, my Brothers! With January gone, all the holidays are now behind us. On January 18th we exemplified the 1st Degree on one candidate, who was initiated as an Entered Apprentice. The Degree work went well with our Senior Warden, Robert Wharmby, sitting in the East.

Elections

All Lodges need to review their trestleboards and be sure to hold their elections the very next meeting following Grand Lodge. Contact me immediately if you anticipate a problem. My successor should enjoy the opportunity to assume his responsibilities without any leftover concerns.

Lodges are working together to put on Degrees. As a reminder, dispensation is required from the Grand Master when you want to have a candidate go through the Entered Apprentice Degree at a Lodge other than the one where he was elected for membership.

Dispensation from the District Deputy Grand Master is required when he/they take the 2nd and/or 3rd Degree at another Lodge.

Thank you for your continued support and hard work. I look forward to completing my term with all the energy and excitement with which I started. ✕

Grand Sword Bearer



Monroe

R. W. Donald A. Tubman
889-4725

datubman@yahoo.com

Another great YEAR in many ways. I am bearing and wielding the sword, and having a great time. I trust everyone had great holidays. The road to the East is the road less traveled, and is still an exciting journey. Look for more sword metaphors in March!

I wrote about Brother Jason Scheerens and W.: Joe Gingold last year, who were in Iraq and are now safely home. We are still not out of the Desert and there will be other Brothers and some of our sons and daughters who are placed in harms way. Put those folks in your prayers and thoughts.

I think about the many things we have to be thankful

Our next big order of business will be the conferring of the Fellowcraft Degree on February 15th with Junior Warden Charles Harris in the East. I hope we can get some Brothers out to the meetings so that our new Brother will not be greeted by empty chairs on the sidelines. We want new members and we also need to show our support for them. The rehearsal for this Degree will be held at the Lodge room on Sunday, February 12th at 2:00 p.m. Our 3rd Degree will be held in March, with more to come on that.

MDC

I have started taking the Masonic Development Course which began in January and runs in February and March. I hope this will assist me in running your Lodge. I am still hoping to hold a Past Masters night and a Knights Templar night in the future.

Looking ahead

Grand Lodge is in May and the Annual Meeting with Election of Officers and awards presentations on May 3rd.

Until next month may the Great Architect of the Universe be with you and yours. ✕

for living in this country, and it makes me often proud that we have the FREEDOM to practice Masonry. So take an old gray beard and maybe take a prospective candidate to Lodge. If you see a serviceperson, thank these courageous men and women for their sacrifice.

MDC

Underway at Wakan/Hubbard Lodge.

Road to the East

I hope many of you have signed on for the *Road to the East* program, but if you haven't, there will still be time, as we start sessions this month. Please call me if you have been overlooked and wish to participate in this program (QUICKLY).

We are looking at three sessions (all in February) and we are working with the Livingston District as of this writing. We have several skilled Masonic Educators lined up for the presentations. I anticipate a great class. If YOU are interested contact ME at 889-4725. Leave your telephone number and I will return your call. I believe that Masonic Education is very important to us as individuals and as a Fraternity. The *Road to the East* provides a system of Lodge management and education that can benefit everyone from the sideliners to the Master. You can learn what is expected of a Brother and how you can support the Master and the Lodge. The *Road to the*

East will be taking on the mission of my message as extolled previously and as inculcated in the 3rd Degree charge, that we have one face, one tongue, and one heart and that we should make every effort to be the same person in our public, as well as, our private lives. I am still waiting for your trestleboards! ✕

**Assistant Grand Lecturers
MONROE DISTRICT**

V. W. John Dyer 503-4270
V. W. Joseph Oelgoetz 265-2914

john.dyer@kodak.com joeyo11@mac.com

Grand Master's Edict Important!

The Grand Master's Edict is still in force! Specifically, I (or my partner, V. W.: John Dyer, or another designate) must observe each and every Lodge in the District in its performance of one of our three beloved Degrees. Additionally, it CANNOT be the same Degree that was observed by the AGL previously.

I have sent each Lodge Master and Secretary the "Annual Lodge Degree Schedule Form." I will be following up via telephone to those Lodges which have not provided that form to us to date.

Please, Brethren, help me by returning a completed form (with your Lodge Seal embossed), as soon as possible. Send it to me: Joe Oelgoetz, 44 East Pointe, Fairport, New York, 14450. If you have questions, please contact me at 425-9969.

Joint Investiture

We are in the planning stages of our annual Joint Investiture for all incoming Masters for the 2006-2007 Masonic year. So, to all Senior Wardens, please put Friday, May 19th, on your calendar. We will be planning to have a dinner beginning at 6:00 p.m., with the Investiture Service beginning at 7:30 p.m. Location will be Fairport/Flower City Lodge Hall.

Our guest speaker will be R. W.: Neal I. Bidnick, Deputy Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York. Reservations will be needed for dinner and can be submitted to

either of the two Assistant Grand Lecturers.

School of Ritual

Our final School of Ritual for the 2005-2006 Masonic year is scheduled for March 29th at Webster Lodge. The subject for the evening will be "The Walk-about" and the Installation Review and Update. The work will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Temple building

As we are called to build and perfect ourselves as that Temple where God resides, we are called to continue to pursue learning. Whether it is Masonic history, astronomy, rhetoric or any other liberal art, one can only improve himself via continued lifelong learning. With this in mind, I highly recommend that each and every Mason seek further light by way of the Masonic educational offerings such as The Masonic Development Course, *The Road to the East*, and the Masonic Service Association of the United States. If interested in the Masonic Development Course or the *Road to the East*, contact your Lodge's Secretary or Master. To secure a year's subscription to the Masonic Service Association's Short Talk Bulletins (highly recommended) you can contact them at: (301) 588-4010 or on the web at: www.msana.com. Their short talk bulletin program provides Masonic "light" on various subjects that would be of interest to all Masons. They cover almost everything from the "Old Charges" to providing insight into giving a well-organized rhetorical presentation. A great source of learning for the typical liberal arts of science, history, music, etc., is the *Teaching Company*. I personally, have purchased a couple of their DVD/CD based courses and have found them to be very instrumental in my journey in building my Temple. They can be contacted at: 1-800-TEACH-12 (1-800-832-2412); or their website: www.teach12.com

Whether you formalize your continued learning via opportunities such as listed above, or simply, and importantly, attend your Lodge meetings on a consistent basis. You will NOT be disappointed in the quest for lifelong seeking of "light." Good luck on your journey! ✕

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**Monroe District
Masters &
Wardens
Assoc.**



President
W.: Hugh Woodside
248-2106
hhw@rochester.rr.com
Secretary
Timothy White
328-3732
tim.white@rotork.com

Winter is here, and we are busy throughout the District. The Masonic Development Course has begun, and the Road to the East should be underway shortly. The Have-a-Heart Campaign is also about to begin, and I hope you'll get out to support it also.

The Masters and Wardens are preparing for Grand Lodge in May. We organized a social gathering in late January for the Masters and their wives who are planning to go to Grand Lodge, and I hope that we can have a similar event in the coming months. Please be sure to join us at the monthly Masters and Wardens meetings to participate in the planning process.

I've recently seen a preliminary operating budget, and I know that the By-Laws are being reviewed for modification. Our goal is to have a draft operating budget and draft By-Laws out to the Masters and Wardens no later than March 1st. This will give you ample time to review and comment on them so that both documents can be adopted at our April meeting.

We are scheduled to have four more meetings this Spring, on the following dates: (1) February 15th; (2) March 15th; (3) April 19th and June 21st (in each case, the third Wednesday of the month). There will be no meeting in May. All meetings will be held at the Country Village Restaurant on Long Pond Road in Greece. All are dinner meetings that will begin at 6:30 p.m. and adjourn no later than 8:00 p.m. We look forward to seeing you there.

**Member
Development**

R.: W.:
**Joseph Privitera
Monroe District**

Widow's Luncheon

I have good news! The Widow's Luncheon date is scheduled back in the early Spring. After a few scheduling bumps and other situations, the Masonic Service Bureau has re-scheduled this event for Saturday, April 22nd, at the Burgundy Basin Inn. So, we have a new date and a new place. Linda Zahn made the arrangements and has done a fantastic job in reviving the Lun-

cheon. We all owe her a debt of gratitude for all she has accomplished. I am very grateful that Linda has stepped in and has done such a wonderful job.

To the Masonic widows who receive the *Masonic Times*, please mark the date on your calendar and communicate the date to other Masonic widows. You all should receive some kind of notification from your late husband's Lodge. I realize that some Lodges do not exist anymore and that Lodge, more than likely, has consolidated with another. So some may be unintentionally missed. If you do not receive notification by the end of March, please call me at: 392-5583.

To the Lodges, now is the time to get your widows' list up-to-date. Start by visiting Eastern Star Chapters associated with your Lodge, get a list of Brothers who have passed away in the last few years and find out if they were survived by a wife. I will be working on my list. I hope you will be working on yours.

School of Ritual

There is a School of Ritual at Unity Lodge in Spencerport on January 31st. The instruction will be on the 1st Degree. If you can't park on the street, then park in the municipal parking lot in the rear of the building. The next School will be in March. Stay tuned to the *Masonic Times* for details.

**Brotherhood
Fund**

R.: W.:
**Derek VanHouten
Monroe District**

As the cold temperatures keep many of us inside where it is warm and toasty, many of our hard-working Lodge Brotherhood Fund Chairmen are busy asking you, the Brethren in the 14 Lodges in the Monroe District, to look at your own situation and give generously to the Brotherhood Fund.

Only through this Fund are the various programs of Grand Lodge able to be successful in providing quality opportunities for you and your families. Remember that any donation is tax deductible.

To the Masters

Please encourage your Lodge Chairman to take a couple of minutes in every meeting to talk about the Brotherhood Fund Campaign. If your Lodge has a monthly trestleboard, or your Lodge has an article in the *Masonic Times*, make sure that you get in a word or two about the Brotherhood Fund.

Last year we collected over \$31,000 dollars from the Monroe District. We acknowledge that the increase in Grand Lodge dues may have had a negative impact for some to

give but PLEASE, Brothers, don't let this keep you from reaching into your pockets for a dollar or two. You may never know how much you have helped someone by giving and besides, the feeling that you did a good deed for the day should help make a dreary day turn into a bright one.

Thank you for letting me have some of your time.

**Valley/Simes
Lodge No. 109**

2nd Tuesdays
7:30 p.m.



Master
W.: Joseph H.
Gingold
637-6008
cptg03@aol.com

Secretary
R.: W.: Herbert Spencer
334-7493
hspence1@rochester.rr.com
979 Bay Road, Webster 14580

I hope that everyone had a great New Year's celebration and is having a great year so far. Thanks to the hospitality of W.: Glenn Stahl and his wife, Carol, the Lodge was able to enjoy a wonderful evening at their home in December. All who attended had a great time and each lady received a gift from the Fellowcraft Club.

The evening wrapped up 2005 very nicely and we had a great beginning in this year, thanks to the Shrine Degree Team, who did an outstanding job of conferring the 1st Degree on January 10th. It was an evening to remember, with exceptional work done by all the members. We welcome our new Brethren; please join us in getting to know the new Brothers and seeing them passed to Fellowcraft on Tuesday, February 14th. We will be enjoying a dinner catered by the Dinosaur Bar-B-Que.

I am getting into the swing of being in the East and, from a personal prospective, it is great to be working with the Officers. We have been meeting and developing some great solutions to the challenges of our Lodge.

Our Junior Warden, Mike McBride, has several projects that he is heading up for us and needs our support. The first is the Have-a-Heart Campaign; he needs Brothers to volunteer to help sell hearts at Market-place Mall on Tuesday, February 7th, noon to 9:00 p.m. and Saturday, February 11th, noon to 9:00 p.m. Please give him a call and let him know when he can schedule you.

His next project is a special Child ID event at the Rochester City Hall, Wednesday, February 22nd. Please give Mike a call to let him know when you can help. This is one of the most rewarding programs that we, as Monroe District Masons, are able to participate in; it gives us high visibility and may directly have a positive impact on a child's safety and security.

His third project is to line up volunteers for the Shrine Circus; we will be staffing a food booth and a novelty booth.

Mike is also working on a Ladies Night for us, which will include a wonderful meal and entertainment. Thank you, Mike, for your dedication to our Lodge and your great contributions to the Craft last year.

Changes

Here are two changes I am implementing. The first is the time and format of the Lodge

Officers' meetings. We will be meeting on Saturday mornings at the end of each month. Our next meeting is February 25th at 9:00 a.m. at Mel's Diner on West Henrietta Road. The meeting is open to any member of the Lodge who has any issue to bring to the attention of the Officers. Please join us for the fellowship and to address the Lodge's future.

A second change and/or concern of mine is the Lodge decorum. It is paramount, for us to conduct our work as a Lodge, that we foster an environment where Brothers are comfortable attending meetings regularly and in which it invokes a reflection of how special it is to attend a meeting as a Mason. In that vane, I request that each Brother please, first off, make every effort to attend our regular communications and to do such whenever possible, attired in a tie and sports coat or suit. This is especially important on nights we are conferring a Degree, when the Officers and other Degree participants be attired in a tuxedo.

Sickness and distress

We received notice that R.: W.: Richard Snyder was hospitalized for a short time in mid-January. He is doing well now, but will be undergoing some tests to determine what is making him sick. Please join us in sending your well-wishes to him; he can be reached by calling his local phone number or at his email address.

Sadly, our Secretary has received the news that two of our Brothers passed away: W.: Bruce Harrington, Master of Frank L. Simes Lodge in 1974, passed away December 17, 2005. He was a Mason for 44 years.

Brother Robert Schicker, a 50-year member, passed away on December 18, 2005.

Additionally the Secretary was informed of the sad news that Brother Adam Jurzyniec's mother passed away on January 4th. Please remember to include these families in your prayers.

I extend my sympathy and condolences to the families for their respective losses. If you are in any need at your time of sorrow, please let us know so we my assist you. Our time is short in this realm and it is important for us to help each other at every opportunity, as well as to incorporate fellowship into our lives.

I look forward to seeing you in Lodge and sharing evenings of fellowship.

Brotherhood Fund

By R.: W.: Mathew Gingold
The response from the members of Valley-Simes Lodge for this year's campaign has been FANTASTIC; especially for a total membership of 138. To date my report to Grand Lodge shows a response from 124 members. I didn't receive even one note saying they couldn't afford our request for a \$1 donation. In fact, some have made additional donations stating they wanted to make-up for anyone who found it a burden to contribute anything this year. There have been so many requests from many different sources needing financial help. We hope that perhaps another time will prove to be a better position for all to show their financial support, as well as their heartfelt desire to help.

I thank everyone for such a great effort. This campaign will continue until May, so I will gladly accept any additional funds sent to me to be forwarded in your name and credited to the Lodge.

Once again, if you don't have a Masonic Brotherhood Fund envelope, mail your check, payable to the "Masonic Brotherhood Fund" to me and I will attend to the additional requirements for you.

May the Blessing of Heaven rest upon you and yours and may we all prosper from your efforts.

**CLIO
LODGE No. 779**

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



Master
W.: Harry J.
DeHollander
244-2615
NY4HARRY@aol.com

Secretary
W.: Sean Noonan, 392-8156
snoonan@esl.org
287 East Avenue, Hilton, 14468
www.mastermason.com/clio779

Let me start by telling you that Clio Lodge has a newly raised Master Mason, Brother Aaron Spallina. For those of you wondering what happened to Clio's 3rd Degree, read on. A dispensation was secured from the District Deputy Grand Master to bring our Brother to Unity Lodge and off to Spencerport we went. Some 23 Clio Brothers were there to support our Brother Aaron. We all truly enjoyed a very well performed 3rd Degree.

Along with our Brother Aaron, Unity had four Fellowcrafts taking the Degree. R.: W.: Cliff Short, Unity Secretary, reported there were 97 Brothers in attendance, and that at least 60 Brothers had enjoyed the Ham and Scalloped Potato dinner prior to the Degree. Congratulations to all five of our Craft's new Master Masons and a big thank you to Unity Lodge from your Brothers up North at Clio!

Our meeting of December 20th was changed from the scheduled 3rd Degree to a general business meeting. It was good to have Brother George Todd back in his Junior Warden's chair. Our Secretary gave a report on several members who were dropped from our roles on January 1st for non-payment of dues and informed us of dimit requests. We had a very busy meeting discussing these items.

The Lodge is in the process of moving our fiscal year to coincide with the Grand Lodge fiscal year of January 1st to December 31st, as shown on your dues card. This involves moving our budget back to the same dates, not an easy task. At the same time, our ensuing year for the Officers and trestleboard will be from June (Installation of Officers) to the 2nd meeting in May (annual summons, election of Officers).

Hopefully, the Senior Warden and I will have a 2006 budget proposal read at our January 17th meeting, so it can be voted on at our February 7th meeting. If you have any questions on these issues, we will answer them at that time. Also, for your information, to comply with the above

Continued on page 6

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Clio Lodge

Continued from Page 5

changes, the specific wording in the Lodge By-Laws was changed and approved quite some time ago. These changes, and a few others that have been reviewed, if accepted, will need to be printed in proper By-Law form.

Glad tidings

A great big "thank you" to the several Clio Brothers who rang the bells for the Salvation Army in the Hilton area. Our Past Master, W.: David Goodrich, who acted again this year as the Army's Hilton-Hamlin chairman for the Bell detail, reports the following: \$16,896 was raised in his area, which was \$3,000 more than last year. \$10,718 came from the Hilton area and \$6,178 from Hamlin. Good job, Brothers!

Assistant Secretary

Brother Michael Postilli has accepted the appointment of Assistant Lodge Secretary. He will be a great help to Brother Sean. Michael has extended computer knowledge, which will be helpful in computerizing Clio's files as required by Grand Lodge. He has also agreed to stay on as one of our Stewards. Thank you, Brother Mike.

Spaghetti Dinners

Wednesday, February 15th, will be our only dinner this month. Brothers, we need a few more helping hands to fill in for our snowbirds.

Condolences

It becomes my sad duty to inform you of the following deaths. Clio Lodge Brother Stanley F. Durbin, 83, of N. Ft. Myers, Florida, died on December 27, 2005. Brother Stanley was a 59-year member of Clio Lodge, initiated on March 5th; passed on April 2nd and raised May 21, 1946. He was Potentate of Araba Shrine in Ft. Myers in 1990.

We have just learned that our Brother Martin B. Wright passed away in Florida. Brother Martin was a 65-year member of Clio, initiated February 6th; passed February 20th and raised April 16, 1940. Resolutions of Respect were read at our meeting on January 17th and a copy sent to the widows of each of our deceased Brothers.

On December 13, 2005, Audrey Pfund, wife of our brother, Douglas Pfund, passed away. Brother Doug and Audrey had been married for 57 years and raised 3 boys.

On December 29, 2005, Elma H. Mercer, mother of Clio Past Master, W.: Allen Mercer, passed away in her 100th year. Brother Allen's mom had been active for many years in the Brockport Methodist Church, and was a past Noble Grand of the Monroe Rebecca Lodge, Rochester.

Sickness and distress

Our Treasurer, Brother Frank Sassone, was not able to attend our meeting on December 20th due to a back injury.

I spoke by phone to Dick Scorse who reports his dad, W.: Leonard Scorse, who is 93, and a 61-year member of Clio Lodge, is now living at St. John's Home. W.: Leonard was Raised at Clio in 1945 and was Master in 1956.

At our meeting on December 20th, Brother Gus Neidrich III, our Senior Master of Ceremony, reported his dad, Brother Gus Jr., our Tiler, was


not feeling well. Gus Jr. and Gus No. 3 are both on medication for health problems.

Brother Tom Burger had knee replacement surgery in January and Brother Denny Wright was hospitalized with high blood pressure.

Let's keep all of these Brothers in our thoughts and prayers.

"IN GOD WE TRUST" ✕

Wakan/Hubbard
Lodge No. 154
2nd & 4th Mondays
7:30 p.m.



Master
W.: Hugh H. Woodside
248-2106
hww@rochester.rr.com

Secretary
W.: Theodore J. Snyder
467-0165
ted3078@aol.com

Assistant Secretary
W.: Donald C. Bell
334-7768
don_bell@hotmail.com

Secretary
W.: Theodore J. Snyder
467-0165
ted3078@aol.com

1822A Penfield Road, Penfield 14526

I hope that everyone has gotten a good start to the New Year. The Lodge kicked off the year with an Entered Apprentice Degree, and we now have three Brothers who will be taking the 2nd and 3rd Degrees this Spring. Thanks to Ron Lalik, who presided over the Degree, and all those who participated for doing such a fine job.

Before highlighting some information about the February trestleboard, there are a few important things to address. The first is sickness and distress. A number of our Brothers and their families have had a difficult couple of months, including John and Edda Tijou, Bob Pettit, Ray and Hilde DiJames and Sean Brown, among others. As I write this, my understanding is that all are doing well. However, I'm sure they would appreciate a phone call, if you have the time. Please be sure to let me know if you are aware of any Brother or widow who is having difficulties of any kind—the Lodge cannot help if we are not informed!

Thanks to the Brothers who volunteered to visit the Lodge's shut-ins during the month of December. My understanding is that the visits were enjoyable and much appreciated. I thank the Lodge, and a number of individual Brothers for their support of the Adopt-a-Family Program in December. The Lodge adopted the DeCarlis family for Christmas. LaTasha DeCarlis, together with her three children, reside at Wilson Commencement Park in Rochester. WCP is the first transitional program in Rochester specifically designed to address not only the immediate need for affordable housing among the single-parent population in the city, but the causal factors which contribute to chronic housing instability. These factors include inadequate educational training, poor or non-existent job skills, the lack of adequate and/or affordable childcare and an inability to resolve personal problems, which hinder independence and self-sufficiency. The generosity of the Lodge allowed us to purchase clothing for each of the three children. Support from a number of individual Brothers enabled us to purchase some toys and sporting goods for the kids, games for the family and some gifts for LaTasha. I have spoken to

the staff at WCP since Christmas and understand that the DeCarlis family was very grateful for the Lodge's generosity. Thank you again for your support. This is a worthwhile program, and I hope that the Lodge will consider supporting it in the future.

Upcoming Masonic Year

Brother Mike DiCataldo, our Senior Warden, is busily preparing for the upcoming Masonic year. In doing so, he is in the process of putting together the expected line of Officers. There are four key openings for next year, including the Secretary, Junior Warden, and two Trustees' positions. It is critical that all of these roles be filled, and I encourage you to lend a hand. In addition to these key chairs, there are a number of others which need to be filled, as well. I believe that there are a number of Brothers out there who would be interested in taking a more active role in Lodge, but it is hard for us to know who to talk to if we don't know who you are. Please don't wait to be asked—if you think you may be interested, please step forward and say so. Please contact Mike DiCataldo at 654-5866 or via email at: nyra@frontiernet.net if you are interested. WE NEED YOUR HELP.

February Trestleboard

First on the list is the monthly Officers' meeting, to be held on Monday, February 6th at 7 p.m. at the Lodge. The fun really begins at our first communication of the month, on February 13th, which will be a joint Valentine's Day Ladies Night with ERAC, Valley-Simes, and Craftsman Robertson Lodges at the Shrine Center. Dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m. Information concerning the menu and cost of dinner should have been made available to you by the time this is published. Importantly, please note that the event will be held at the Damascus Shrine Center on Bay Road in Webster. Please go there directly. If you have any questions, or would like to make a reservation for dinner, please contact our Junior Warden, Ron Lalik at 377-0097 or via email at: ronlalik@rochester.rr.com no later than Tuesday, February 7th. Please note this change to the trestleboard.

The Table Lodge with ERAC will now be held Monday, March 13th, at the Shrine Center.

Our second communication in February, on the 27th, will feature a Fellowcraft Degree. Brother Mike DiCataldo will preside. We'll have three candidates that night, and we're looking forward to another good evening. Information about the rehearsal the week prior will follow.

Have-a-Heart Campaign

The Lodge is scheduled to man the Have-a-Heart booth at Eastview Mall on Sunday, February 5th and Sunday, February 12th, from 12 noon to 6:00 p.m. We'll break this down into three two-hour shifts each day, and I hope to have at least four people per shift. This is a great opportunity to have your spouse, children or grandchildren, join you to support a worthy charity. As you know, all funds raised through this annual campaign go to support the Ronald McDonald House Char-

ities. Please contact me directly if you can assist.

See you in Lodge! ✕

Seneca Lodge
No. 797
2nd Tuesday
7:30 p.m.



Master
W.: Richard N. Shellman
383-8288
shellman@rochester.rr.com

Secretary
W.: Robert C. Green, Jr.
407 Bluhm Road, Fairport 14450
223-5953
green407@earthlink.net
30 Orchard Street, Webster 14580

As I write this February message on a lovely Rochester Winter day, I hope, as you read this *Masonic Times*, you also are having a wonderful day, whether you are in Rochester, Arizona (hello Joe and Erdine) or wherever you may be.

By the time you read this article we will have completed our 1st Degree with five new candidates and will be looking forward to our 2nd Degree in just a few days. It is a pleasure and, along with diligent work to confer the Degrees, the rewards are bountiful. This is our opportunity to see our Craft grow and expand our knowledge by meeting new people and introducing them to true Masonic light. For those in the region, I would request you make every effort to attend these Degrees to support your Officers and meet the new members of the Lodge.

With only a few months left before the new Masonic year begins, let me remind you of a few exciting events coming up. Our annual Ladies' Night will be on March 4th at Oak Hill Country Club. Contact Brother James Koch for reservations. At our March meeting we will present R.: W.: Paul A. Vick with his Grand Representative's Apron. Also, that evening we welcome our guest speaker Dr. David Meisel, Professor Emeritus of Computational Astrophysics, SUNY-Geneseo. The title of his presentation is "Why is the night sky dark and other astronomical riddles."

On April 9th we will host the Seneca Tea honoring three distinguished Brothers of the Lodge. Then, just a few days later, we have the distinct honor of raising our new Brothers to the sublime degree of Master Mason.

In May our Masonic year will conclude with the election of Officers.

As we look ahead in our personal lives and plan for our own needs, let us consider the needs of our Fraternity and its necessity to cultivate new members. This is the perfect time to take a moment of your valuable time to think of someone YOU can inform about our Fraternity. Masonry is often times misunderstood and we should make it clear that we are all about helping others

while working together to bring men and families to a higher moral, social and civic standard. Start your mind in motion to seek out those who you feel could not only benefit from our Fraternity, but whom we would be proud to call Brother. It is not too early to be considering candidates for our next set of Degrees.

With the beginning of a new year and with five new Lodge Brothers, I think this is a perfect time to review the three obligations we all took and to re-read the working tools we were given when raised as a Master Mason and, if necessary, adjust our life-style to live within the due bounds of their true meaning.

As always, I look forward to the next time we meet. ✕

FAME
Lodge No. 722
2nd & 4th Tuesdays
7:30 p.m.



Master
W.: Frank Churnetski
671-7551

Secretary
W.: Michael Bell
244-2895
mbell6@rochester.rr.com
4275 CULVER ROAD

Our first Lodge meeting for the month is February 14th; there will be an Italian Dinner at 6:30 p.m. at a cost of \$8.00 per person. Lodge meeting to start at 7:30 p.m., we have planned a Degree for that evening. It is important to have a good turnout, so I hope that the weather will cooperate. We will have a practice Saturday, February 11th, at 10:00 a.m. at the Lodge.

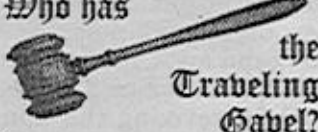
Fame Lodge's 2006 Lady's Gala will be held on Sunday, February 26th at the Sea Breeze Inn, 4581 Culver Road. We will gather for an attitude adjustment and harmony at 3 p.m., followed by Nick's Buffet with unlimited non-alcoholic beverages. Dinner will be \$14.00 per person. Following dinner we will repair to the Lodge for sweets, wines, coffee and tea. Reservations can be made by calling Michael Bell at 244-2895.

Our second Lodge meeting is on February 28th and there will be NO DINNER beforehand. The meeting starts at 7:30 p.m.

Please try to get your dues and donations for the Brotherhood Fund in as soon as possible to help make our book-keeping a little easier.

Please remember in your prayers all our Brothers and their families who find themselves in sickness or distress.

Happy Birthday to everyone with a February Birthday. ✕

Who has

the
Traveling
Gavel?

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Union Star Lodge No. 320
 3 North Main Street
 Honeoye Falls 14472
 2nd Mondays
 7:30 p.m.
 Master
 W.: Gary Sanford
 425-4240
 ggsanford@aol.com
 Secretary
 Robert Sweeney, 381-5286
 38 Cullens Run, Pittsford 14534
 rob@robsweeney.com

please let me or one of the other Officers know so that it can be addressed. x

Craftsman Robertson Lodge No. 969
 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m.
 Master
 R.: W.: Derek Van Houten
 247-2920
 hooter95@rochester.rr.com
 Secretary
 W.: Thomas W. Kendig
 (315) 524-4063
 tkendig4@hotmail.com
 979 Bay Road, Webster 14580

the direction of our program Chairman, Brother Warren Doerrer. Brother Warren has consistently had monthly programs from all corners of the County for the past four years and is to be congratulated for the diverse speakers and subjects that we have enjoyed over those many months. A tip of the Master's Hat to you, Warren.

We send greetings to all the members of Craftsman Robertson Lodge and to the many widows who have supported us over the years. I know that there are many good Brothers and Ladies who we do not see on a regular basis, either because of health reasons or living in far away places like Cape Coral, Florida, Ballston Lake, New York or Winter Haven, Florida and many other places. Wherever you may be, we are thinking of you and wish you the best. Drop us a note sometime, if and when you are able.

Widows Luncheon
 The 2006 Widows Luncheon will be at the Burgundy Basin Inn on April 22nd. The widows will be contacted shortly for their reservations. x

Assistant Grand Lecturer

 V.: W.:
 George R. Springett
 247-3557
 grandpoohbaa@frontiernet.net
 Genesee/Wyoming District

Is it time to give the Grand Hailing sign?
 Our declining numbers indicate that it may be. But, wait a minute, there is still a glimmer of hope. There are still new members joining some of our Lodges - pockets of hope for our future.

"In the beginning God created the Heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void: and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness." (Genesis 1, verses 1 - 4).

This Bible verse is the first lesson about light, that light, our Ritual, which cements us into one common mass, a common mass of Fraternal Brothers with a belief in God, the Great Architect of the Universe.

Our Ritual continues to teach us about that magnificent light separated from darkness. It gives us guidance for all our actions and the relationship we share with the Brotherhood of Man, be he in light or darkness.

Our strength as a Fraternity comes from the perfection in the correct presentation and understanding of our Ritual, that light which separates us from all other fraternities.

Our Ritual, when you are able to recite it with both accuracy and understanding, gives you the tools of life for both you and our Fraternity. Your exacting knowledge of our Ritual will make you able to spread the light of our Fra-

Webster Lodge News



Wes Beard, Mark Fenton and John Clapp presented Howard "Russ" Kyper with his Pin and Certificate for 45 years as a member of Webster Lodge. Russ was unable to attend the Lodge Awards Ceremony, so the Lodge Brothers took the Award to him. Russ and his wife, Joy, live in Englewood, Florida, where he is active in the Shrine, among many other activities. We had a pleasant lunch with Russ and our spouses to celebrate his long service to the Craft.
 (Photo and article submitted by John Clapp)

At our first meeting in January we completed our annual communication of the receipts and expenditures for our Lodge, and accepted a budget for this ensuing year.

The second meeting of January was very busy. This was the first time in a number of years that our Lodge had the honor of conferring the 3rd Degree in its entirety by our members. I had the privilege of sitting in the East for the first and second section of the Degree. Thanks to the current Officers for completing their parts in the first section and W.: Bud Ripley for the Working Tools. These members stepped forward for the second section work: W.: Kerry Ripley, W.: Norm Johnson, W.: John Williams, Brother Gene Gordon, W.: Bud Ripley, Brother Scott May, W.: Richard Bull, Brother Brian Miller and W.: Ron Morthorst. Thanks to the other Brothers present for the canvas work and filling the sidelines. Prior to the Degree, we had an excellent Omaha Pot Roast Dinner, with all the trimmings, thanks to our Secretary, Rob Sweeney.

We held a family bowling get-together on January 29th at Clover Lanes.

Please keep the donations coming in for the Brotherhood Fund Campaign as we are still behind our goal. If you have misplaced your envelope, please contact Brother Will Nersinger at 787-6887 or you may mail it to our Secretary and I am sure he will forward it to Will. It would be great if we were able to have all our Lodge members return a donation, even if it only were a dollar.

February
 We will be supporting the Have-a-Heart Campaign on Sundays, February 5th and 12th at the Marketplace Mall.

The District Deputy and Staff Officers will be having their Official Visit with us on Monday the 13th.

March
 Our meetings this month will be on the Walk-About Program and a Table Lodge on the 4th Monday. On the 29th, there will be a School of Ritual at Webster Lodge at 7:30 p.m. This year has been going by fast and we are now on the downside of it with plenty of items on our trestleboard yet. If you see something that needs doing or that is missing,

What do LST's, LSD's or LD's have in common with our Lodge, you may ask? It's interesting sometimes to find out what some of our Brothers were involved in, in earlier times. Brother's Earl Pearce, Clyde Siverd and I were heading out to interview a candidate for Lodge when talk somehow developed on our service to our country. We found out that we all served in the Navy and this really got interesting. Both Earl and Clyde served on the same type of ship, but not together. Brother Earl was on the USS Rushmore (LSD-14); Brother Clyde did his time on the USS Fort Mandan (LSD-21), both during the Korean War. I mean really, how often does this happen? To say the least, it was a very warm animated discussion, one which we will remember for a while.

Speaking of Brother Clyde Siverd, he wants you to remember the date of April 11th for our annual Fellowcraft Dinner, which will be at Rick's Prime Rib House at the same time and cost of last year. For more information or to make reservations, contact Clyde at 384-3642.

As you read this, the Have-a-Heart Campaign is in full swing and once again we are at the Mall at Greece Ridge Center. The Masters and Wardens group is to be acknowledged for their efforts and specifically Brother Mike McBride for handling the details for this most noble cause. As the article in the *Masonic Times* indicated we, as Masons, have contributed over the years more than \$180,000 from the generosity of the public.

I thank those Brothers who helped out delivering the beautiful Poinsettias during the recent Holiday Season. Those who received them were very thankful that they were remembered.

Happy Birthday
 Each month we send Birthday greetings to our Lodge Brothers and February is no exception. The following Brothers are celebrating that special day: Gerald Brumfield, Robert Burns, Kenneth Goodrich, Ronald Hibbard and John Walker.

Remember, on February 6th there will be dinner with the ladies at the Nutcracker, with another great program under

ternity on all who come in contact with your life's circle. This knowledgeable ability to spread this light through your words and actions will always brighten that light which shines upon our altar and will enlighten the world to why our Fraternity is so great.

My Brothers, there is only one way to present our Ritual, and that is to present it correctly and with full understanding of its meaning. By knowing your Ritual and understanding it completely, you can go forth comfortably to suggest that a trusted friend or relative should seek membership in the Masonic Fraternity and give them some knowledge and understanding of the meaning of Masonry. It also gives you the ability to enlighten that material which may not be of the quality for our Fraternity and aid them and society in the understanding of our Masonic Fraternity. With this tool at hand, there will be no need to give the Grand Hailing sign for the lack of continued growth of the greatest Fraternity in the world, Freemasonry. x

good taste. We will be offering these in June of this year. If you attended Lodge here this year, you are probably in it.

Join us!
 The Ladies Night Out Dinner will be a great way to say thanks to that special Lady. Why not enjoy the time with fellow Masons and Ladies of the Eastern Star? This is an open event and you are welcome to invite your friends to join us. Early reservations can be made by contacting Harry Tyson at 494-1137.

Degrees
 Hesperus just presented another 1st Degree on January 5th and it is now time to get ready for the 2nd Degree. Our plan is to confer this Degree on February 16th. Brother Cortney Gale is in charge.

Gourmet treats
 Our Big game dinner is going to feature several game meals including venison, possibly duck, elk, and some fish. We have a wonderful group of chefs who amazed all who attended last year, with many ways of enjoying these gourmet treats. The same chefs are returning for this year and it will again be a great feast. We also have some games and even door prizes that are just out of sight. Last year we gave out several hunting supplies as well as several fishing rods and reels, a couple gag gifts, with other sorts of related outdoor equipment. Here is the information about the feast:

February 18th - 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Hesperus dining hall (Bergen). \$10.00 for the meal.

Our March 5th dinner/musical activity has been postponed until we can get a date that does not conflict with Concordant Bodies and their celebrations.

I will finish this communication with this thank you. I thank all the Brothers of Hesperus Lodge, especially our Secretary, Brother Leo Vainio, Senior Warden Brother Cortney Gale, and Junior Warden, Brother Donald Kunego, for all of their efforts in bringing back to the Craft so many Masons who had fallen out of touch. The effort was very rewarding. Great job Brothers. As I say so many times, you are "Masonically Positive, and Positively Masonic." x

HESPERUS Lodge No. 837
 1st and 3rd Thursdays
 Master
 W.: David H. Smalley
 392-3988
 Secretary
 Leo E. Vainio, Jr., 548-2470
 12 Lake Avenue, Bergen 14416

- Calendar of events**
 February 2nd - Table Lodge 6:30 p.m.
 February 11th - Ladies Night, 6:30 p.m.
 February 16th - 2nd Degree, 7:30 p.m.
 February 18th - Big Game Dinner, 4:00 p.m.
 March 2nd - Past Masters' Night, 7:30 p.m.

Our Table Lodge celebration will be organized by Brother Donald Kunego. His organization skills have been appreciated for meals, snacks, and our ongoing DVD that he is creating to document this year. We get to see snippets of his handiwork at every meeting. He is funny and comical, yet has

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Oakland Lodge
No. 379, F. & A.M.
1st and 3rd Tuesdays
(Jan., Feb., Mar.: 1st Tuesday only)



Master
W.: Kenneth
E. Smith
768-7731

Secretary
W.: Richard L. Smith
493-5408

134 South Main Street, Castile 14427

I hope this article finds all my fellow Brothers having a happy and healthy start to the New Year. I also hope that everybody had a wonderful holiday season. I can say that I did. My family was blessed with a baby girl on Christmas Eve. Rachel Jean Smith joined our family at 7:32 p.m. on Christmas Eve. I just can't put into words how wonderful a gift this was and how special Christmas will be from now on.

Apron Presentation

I had the pleasure of presenting W.: Henry Robinson his Past Master's Apron at our January 3rd communication. This was a surprise to W.: Robinson, as well as many of the members of Oakland Lodge who attended that communication. This presentation was kept a secret from most of the members of Oakland Lodge in order to keep it a surprise. W.: Robinson was escorted to the East by his brother and our current Senior Deacon, Art Robinson. This was a token of our appreciation for the many years that Henry served as Oakland's Master.

Great Degree work!

I would like to say how proud I was of the Ritual work performed by the Officers of Oakland Lodge at our recent conferral of the Fellowcraft Degree. I felt the Degree Ritual was performed flawlessly and every member of Oakland Lodge should be proud. I thank the members of Constellation and Attica Lodges for their help in conferring this Degree. Every member of these two Lodges should be proud of the Ritual work performed by the members of their Lodge.

Congratulations

I congratulate W.: Richard Smith, who is the only current Brother who was raised in the month of February. W.: Richard Smith was raised February 16, 1982.

Brotherhood Fund

I will again be the Brotherhood Fund Chairman for Oakland Lodge this year. The best place to make your donations is at our monthly communications. For those who are unable to attend, please mail your donations to: Kenneth E. Smith, 137 Lake Street, LeRoy, NY 14482. If you would like your donation to be designated towards a certain category, please inform me of that in the memo section of your check or a note included with your donation. For those donations that do not state a designated category, you leave me no choice but to designate your donation for you. I thank

all the Brothers of Oakland Lodge for any donations received towards this Fund. This is just one of the ways that we can show support for our great organization and those who are our Brothers.

February

The only regular communication for the month of February will be Tuesday, the 7th.

Let us never forget those who have fought and are still fighting to keep our great Nation free and safe. Always remember that freedom isn't free. May the blessings of heaven rest upon all Masons and their families wherever they are throughout the world. *

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



1st & 3rd
Mondays

Master
W.: William P.
Geitner
wgeitner@aol.com

Secretary
W.: Kenneth Kohlhagen
591-9598

2473 Route 20A, Varysburg 14167

Last month in the *Masonic Times*, the Master of Oakland Lodge was wondering how we were going to pay for the nice weather we are having this Winter. We are not using as much fuel oil as they want us to, so in the past few days the price of gasoline went up 15 cents. That's how we will pay. Did your paycheck go up 15 cents? Mine didn't! Somehow, I think this is not quite fair.

I hope everyone had nice holidays. My family came home for Christmas and everyone made it home safely. It was great to have all the grandchildren home, but it's good to see them get back home safely again.

West Star has had some fun meetings. At our last meeting on January 2, 2006 we had ten Brothers present, all who were Master Masons. Again, we had some great laughs. I know this doesn't sound like a lot, but ten Brothers present is more than 20% of our membership. I think we should be proud of that. I almost forgot to mention the Limburger and onions on rye. It was a hit. Duncan even took a sandwich home for the next day. I enjoyed the liverwurst.

At our meeting on January 16th, we practiced the footwork of the 1st Degree. I will give a better report next month.


I don't have any thing to report under sickness and distress. This is good news! If you know of anyone who is ill, please be sure to let me know.

On February 6th, we will have a Fervency and Zeal Program for anyone who is interested in Royal Arch Masonry. Again all the Lodges in the District are welcome to bring interested Brothers to West Star.

Our February 20th meeting is open. If there is anything you would like to do at Lodge, give me a call.

We will be glad to see you at Lodge. Take care until then. *

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



1st Wednesdays
7:30 p.m.

Master
W.: Nevin A.
Brick
768-6473

Secretary
W.: Douglas S. Poole
584-3601
dspool@frontiernet.net

8 West Main Street, LeRoy 14482

February is a great month to stay home and rest up for Valentines Day. Who wants to go out and attend another meeting? We are very appreciative of those who can give up some time to support the Lodge, both with your presence and your dues.

Extra help needed

The cost of heating our building this year is especially hard. Due to the construction techniques in the 1860's, when our Lodge was built, we cannot cut the heat back in Winter. If we don't maintain a temperature of 60 degrees, the plaster falls off the walls. Dues are not enough to cover all the costs and we are using our endowment funds. Extra help would be appreciated.

Welcome!

By now our newest Brother will have taken his Fellowcraft Degree. We really need new blood. Maybe you know a few good men. We need members, not just names in a roster book. *

District Deputy Grand Master Livingston District



R.: W.:
Roy W.
Moses
346-9260

At a recent Lodge meeting, the Master had an important dignitary coming as a guest speaker and asked all the Lodges to come and help him to have a good attendance. Six out of the eight Lodges in the District were represented that night. I sat in the meeting asking myself, "What brings out these Brothers?" At the beginning of our term as Grand Lodge Officers, R.: W.: Richard Trescott and I talked about trying to get the Lodges in the District to pull together and ask for help, not only to accomplish the best for the present mission, but to promote Masonry and the camaraderie that every Lodge and Mason needs. This night was proof that we had accomplished this goal. The amazing thing is that we really didn't do much. Once we got the ball rolling, it has kept right on going. We are seeing six to eight Lodges at Degrees, Table Lodges, dinners or any functions the District might have.

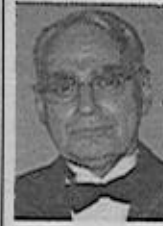
I have said all along that Masonry is alive and well in the Livingston District. The Brothers want to help one another, be a part of other Lodges, and be with great friends, because this is what Masonry is all about. It started with the obligations we have all taken, to help, aid and assist all worthy

Brothers. After being sluggish in the District for years, we have come alive. We are thriving in this area and must not become static again.

I am pleased to report that the Traveling Gavel is on its way, under the new rules established by the District Association. Geneseo Lodge presented it to Livonia Lodge on January 4th. This gives Livonia Lodge six weeks to pass it on to another Lodge. It will be great to see it travel around the District.

The next few months are going to be busy around the District with Degree work. At least six of the Lodges have candidates who have stemmed from Brother Bring-a-Friend nights. Congratulations to these Lodges and let's get together and support these Lodges in their Degrees. *

Grand Sword Bearer Livingston



R.: W.:
Richard J.
Trescott
226-9042
rtrescot@frontiernet.net

We certainly have had a great year so far! We are now making arrangements for the Grand Lodge trip for the 225th Annual Communication on May 1st and 2nd. If you have not told us about wanting to go with us and if you are planning to bring your wife, another Brother or a friend, please do so ASAP, so we can make arrangements as a group.

Reminders


Don't forget the *Road to the East* program is on February 4th, 11th and 18th. If you signed up for this program, I am sure you will enjoy it and get a lot out of it!

The Livingston District Ladies Night on April 1st is at the Conesus Golf Club. I am sure this will be a great evening for you and your Lady. Don't forget to invite the widows. Last year the widows all seemed to have a great time, and I am sure they will again this year!

The Communion Breakfast is on May 21st at Mt. Morris. It will be hard to surpass last year with attendance, but I am sure that we can do it. There is a new Livingston District Business Directory being put together now. Soon it will be available to Brothers in the District who might be interested in Brothers doing business with Masons. If you are interested, please let someone at the Association know!

These last two years have gone very fast! I have enjoyed being Grand Sword Bearer in this District and it is hard to think that it is almost over! I thank the Livingston District for all the support that you have shown to R.: W.: Roy Moses and myself. Thank you. *

Livonia Lodge No. 778



1st & 3rd
Wednesdays

Master
W.: Gordon J.
Lawrence II
243-4569
kiplawre@aol.com

Secretary
R.: W.: Richard Trescott
226-9042
rtrescot@frontiernet.net

65 Big Tree Street, Livonia, 14487

The Holidays were celebrated with an open Christmas Party after our December 21st meeting. Brothers and Ladies enjoyed a festive atmosphere; music, food and companionship. We all agreed that we should have a party each Christmas.

A 55-year Service Pin was presented to Brother Richard Wood and a 45-year Service Pin was presented to R.: W.: Richard D. Brown.


The Lodge hosted the Grand Lecturer's Convention in October. An unexpected large number of Brothers attended and the work done by Union Lodge was excellent. Our Order of the Eastern Star deserves credit for serving 71 dinners, when reservations were for only 56.

The Brothers have been busy at the Lodge meetings; we had the Livingston Treatment Court Attorney speak about Juvenile delinquency. On December 7th we held a 1st Degree. We appreciate the helping hands from other Lodges.

The recreation room is progressing; we have added a TV, VCR, DVD player, and a dartboard. The Brothers have been playing cards after Lodge, developing brotherhood.

The 2006-year will hopefully be better. I remind any Brother who has not paid his dues or contributed to the Brotherhood Fund, to please do so. *

Eunice Lodge No. 830



1st Thursdays
7:30 p.m.

Master
W.: Derek
Howlett
395-1912
dhowlett@bcs1.org

Secretary
R.: W.: Francis E. Oberer
9501 Asbury Road, LeRoy 14482
768-6698

Senior Grand Warden Visits

R.: W.: James E. Sullivan came to our January communication. His visit brought out many from our District and Lodge. R.: W.: Sullivan gave a speech discussing change and trying new things within the Lodge. We need to keep trying new ways to become more visible in the community, fundraising, Masonic education and recruiting new members. The Senior Grand Warden also discussed how Lodges need a vision for the

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Claude H. Wright
President

future. We all need to ask ourselves, "What should the Lodge expect from you?" To have a successful future, we must plan and prepare.

R.:W.: Sullivan then highlighted different events Grand Lodge has planned for the coming year, including plans for 9/11 and Grand Lodge's 225th Anniversary. Overall, the meeting was inspirational for me and a great launch for the second half of my year.

I thank Brother Rick Lafave, W.: Lynn Pease and R.: W.:

Roy Moses for their work in organizing this event.

Road to the East

This year's *Road to the East* Program will again be at Eunice Lodge. The dates are February 4th, 11th and 18th from 8:00 a.m. until noon. This is a great opportunity for young to learn and old to re-acquaint with the workings of a successful Lodge.

Degree work

February 16th is our 2nd Degree, with a dinner starting at 6:30 p.m. Please join us. *

Eagle
Lodge No. 619
2nd & 4th Tuesdays
7:30 p.m.

Master
W.: James Boyer
586-7337

Secretary
Paul Farnung
473-0958

4994 County Road 36
Honeoye 14471

upon three candidates. Brother Tom Shafer was in the East that evening and his Ritual work was impeccable! A worthy contingent of Brothers from OSY, as well as Livingston County, was on hand with R.:W.: Eldon White in attendance. Our thoughtful Brothers from Garoga/Sincerity Lodge left us a lovely present, the *Traveling Trowel*, which we can't wait to give to some other deserving OSY Lodge.

Eagle Lodge put on a 2nd Degree in January with Brother

Official Visit

On February 14th, R.:W.: Eldon White, DDGM, will make his Official Visit to Eagle Lodge. We will be having dinner at Ace's at 6:00 p.m. sharp. The cost and menu are still under debate at this time, but it will probably be a Roast Beef Dinner, buffet style, and the cost will be in the \$13-\$14 range. *

District Deputy Grand Master
Ontario/Seneca/Yates District



R.:W.: Eldon N. White
924-1603
ewhite01@rochester.rr.com

The Masonic Development Course is being offered in the OSY District January 28th, February 18th and February 25th. All sessions will take place at Geneva Masonic Hall at 8:45 a.m. Please contact R.:W.: Herbert Goodman as soon as possible to attend. It is especially important for newer Masons to take this Course to learn to truly enjoy their Masonic career.

The OSY Association meeting is Saturday, February 11th. Breakfast begins at 8:00 a.m. at the Dairyman's Diner, corner Route 14 and Main Street, Dresden. Following breakfast, we will meet at the Dresden Masonic Hall. A program has been scheduled.

On March 30th, members of the District will portray a retired version of the 3rd Degree. We will not confer the Degree upon anyone, but this is a way to learn about the past. A dinner will precede the program; the location is yet to be determined. More details will be available soon. Check the website: osydistrict.org.

Correction

The correct date for the Surviving Spouses Luncheon is April 8th, not the 6th as was

indicated the January article. Anyone planning to take the Grand Lodge trip, please make your deposit as soon as possible. If you do not yet have the application for the trip, please contact me as soon as possible. The trip is not limited to OSY or Wayne District members, but is open to all.

OSY Brotherhood Fund
The 2005-2006 Campaign is more than half over and, as of December 31, 2005, 87 members, less than 10% of the OSY District membership, have contributed just over \$4000. My Brothers, please contribute to the Brotherhood Fund and show that the OSY District is second to none in our support of Masonry.

Website

The District Website is:
www.osydistrict.org

My Brothers, in addition to the static information that is presented, the website is for your use to announce events that happen in your Lodge and within the District. To have an item listed, go to the website and click on the "Email Us" button at the far right side of the site. This will open a new email message window where you can enter your information. When you have completed your message, click send, and you are done! You may also go directly to your email program and address your message to:
webmaster@osydistrict.org
Thank you.

Upcoming events

OSY Charities, February 3rd.
OSY Association, Saturday, February 11th.
Official Visit, Milnor Lodge
Official Visit, Eagle Lodge *

Eagle/Star Newsletter
This is our first article in the *Masonic Times*. Our Eagle/Star Newsletter was a noble endeavor, but very time consuming for those involved with its production. I realize that some members of our Eagle/Star community are disappointed with the decision to disband the newsletter, but hopefully our communication through this medium will be expedient and insightful!

Degrees

On November 22nd, Eagle Lodge conferred a 1st Degree

tion, the best is yet to come."

Our Lodge leaders of the past 200 years tried very hard to promote Masonry's one and only product, the Brotherhood of Man. These past leaders sought to make our Masonic Fraternity more meaningful, not only to our Brothers, but to the public at large. How to get good men and make them better, resulted in a greater Masonic exposure of our mission and goals of our Masonic Craft in our changing world.

Now comes the challenge! Who are the Brothers to lead and direct us to that great celebration of our 200th anniversary on September 8, 2007 R.:W.: Neal Bidnick, Deputy Grand Master, has already accepted our invitation. Brother William Sardone has been informed of our 200th anniversary. Brothers Colegrove, Rouse and I have met five times. I have been in touch with Brother George Peter, Grand Lodge Historian, who was one of the leaders of Scipio Lodge's 200th anniversary (1797-1997) celebration.

We have less than two years to go! All Brothers must be involved and give of themselves to this magnificent anniversary celebration. A booklet must be printed. Events must be planned, arrangements made, invitations sent, advertisements arranged for, programs made, reception and dinner planned, chairmen of committees appointed, politicians and other Lodges invited to participate in our celebration. Please come forward!

Masons meet, act and part

Congratulations to our Brother, Lance Ward, on his election and installation as Potentate of the Damascus Shriners. Brothers Jeff and Jim VanHouten and John Warder, attended the meeting.

I met Brother Raymond R. Smith, who had hip replacement, at Wegman's. We had a nice chat.

My Brothers Harry George, John Stelter, Max Kaufman, Robert Inscho, Bill Kashouty and Ramon Baroody have good health.

Letter from Red Cross

"Dear Tony and Ark Lodge Brothers:

Gary Warren presiding in the East. Brother Warren was most eloquent and articulate in his portrayal as the Worshipful Master. As in the 1st Degree in November, the participants made the Degree very inspiring and moving. I never cease to be amazed by the Eagle Lodge determination and ability for Ritual endeavors.

The Eastern Star put on dinners before the 1st and 2nd Degrees and I can honestly say I don't know that you will find a better meal anywhere on the planet!

On behalf of the American Red Cross of the Finger Lakes, I wish to extend to you our appreciation for the recent Blood Drive in November, hosted by Ark Lodge. Each donor takes great pride in their giving. As a dedicated Blood Drive sponsor, Ark Lodge leadership is deeply appreciated by all the people of the Red Cross. Sixty-six donors gave and 198 patients will be helped.

Thank you very much. Pamela Thompson, Red Cross Blood Coordinator."

I received a nice letter from Barbara Dickinson, widow of Past Master, Melvin Dickinson. She thanked Ark Lodge for their Christmas Party invitation, which she sadly had to miss. She would have loved to see everyone who she truly misses. Barbara sends greetings to everyone and appreciates the remembrance of her and Brother Mel.

I also received a beautiful Christmas letter from Brother and Rev. Richard Hartand and his wife, Elizabeth. His letter brought the word of "hope." Hopes for peace, family, friends, to give world leaders wisdom, good judgment and may they follow the Golden Rule in their judgments. Hope for justice and reconciliation where there is strife and war.

On December 15th, Brothers Howard Colegrove, Robert Stivers, Bill Colin, Terry Trenchard and his wife, Melanie, Lance Ward, Jed Brandow and Henry Funk joined me in delivering 64 Christmas food packages to senior citizens of the Lewis Street and Court-yard Apartments.

Brothers Tom Bryan, Tom Abraham, Howard Colegrove, Charles Rouse and I rang the bells for the Salvation Army in December. Thank you, my Brothers.

Trestleboard dates

February 1st - Officer's meeting at lodge, 7:00 p.m.

February 11th - OSY Officers meeting at Dresden Lodge. 8:00 a.m. breakfast, with meeting later.

February 15th - Ark Lodge meeting with program about George Washington. *

Spaghetti Dinner

Honeoye
Masonic Civic Center
4994 County Road 36
Honeoye, NY

3rd Thursday
of each month
Serving from 5 - 7 p.m.

Sponsored by
Eagle Lodge and
Eagle Chapter, OES

Garoga-Sincerity Lodge No. 200

1st & 3rd
Tuesdays
Master
W.: William
Sergeant
(315) 521-0906
tsergeant@rochester.rr.com

Secretary
R.:W.: Clayton Ruggles
315-548-3573
cruggles1@rochester.rr.com
67 Ontario Street, Phelps 14532

Sickness and distress

We wish Brother Jim Piper a speedy recovery, as he was ill and couldn't make it to the meeting. Brother Paul McIntyre told me that he is recovering from a serious staph infection after his back operation, and that he's receiving a lengthy process of antibiotics twice a day. He reports that his blood work is good now. He's getting stitches out soon and overall, he's healing well now. Brother Don Fridley is scheduled to have a hip replacement operation on February 20th. He says things are good, it's just the waiting. This is not a first for Don; I believe it will be his 3rd. Let our prayers be with these Brothers as they face challenges.

Thanks

It was the Salvation Army Bell rung by Masons that was heard all day at the "Big M" Grocery in Clifton Springs, December 22nd. Many thanks to Brothers Bill Walp, Fred Gifford, John Sherman, Terry Mays, Don Allen, Robert Spink and Bob Dorgan for their service.

Good as new

Our downstairs carpet looks almost good as new. A carpet cleaner was hired to come in and steam-clean it. A good part of the day was used for this project, which was completed in time for our Christmas Party. We had almost a dozen children who met Santa Claus (Brother Ernie Day) and received gifts, which their parents brought. Snacks and beverages were available. Our Senior Warden, Brother Ron Galens, was very much involved in both of these projects.

Continued on Page 10

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

3rd Wednesdays

Master
R.:W.: Anthony Khoury
(315) 789-6420

Secretary
Peter Einset

3394 Sutton Road
Geneva 14456

The Brothers of Ark Lodge can be proud of our record of almost 200 years of continuous Masonic service and activity. To "meet, act and part" in a succession of Masonic communications for that great length of time is, indeed, truly remarkable.

"And now, my Brothers, I ask what of the years ahead?" Our great Masonic educator, Brother John Stelter, asked this of me. He noted to me that the Lodge has had many ups and downs in membership

(1928 - 668 members; 2006 - 88 members), moving to other buildings (17 of them), finances and in our Masonic spirit. We have survived the great Morgan Affair of 1825, where 400 Masonic Lodges disappeared. We have had many trials, challenges, rough seas and uncharted waters to overcome.

Dr. John relates to me that Ark Lodge is a vital cog in the wheel of the Finger Lakes community, doing so many wonderful works. Over its 200 years, we have had many Brothers, rich in Masonic spirit, giving wonderful Rituals, along with giving many of its resources to the community. He said, "We respect the past work, we appreciate the present challenges, but are we ready to cope with the future?" Brother Clement Stone said, "What the mind of man can conceive and believe, can be accomplished." A Past Grand Master, M.:W.: Charles W. Froessel, said, "The future is ours and, with confidence, determination and much dedica-

At his Official Visit on January 6th, R.: W.: Eldon White, District Deputy, gave the Grand Master's message, the details of which may be found in the last issue of *Empire State Mason*. Before he closed, he called Senior Warden Ron Galens to the East. Staff Officer, R.: W.: Herbert Goldman, congratulated Brother Ron and presented a Certificate of Completion for the *Road to the East* Course. Everyone applauded.

We had several notes of appreciation from widows for the poinsettias they received just before Christmas. It's always a pleasure to visit with them.

Degree

We are planning a 1st Degree for February 7th, with possibly three candidates. This will be a good night for Brothers to come, see and hear their first introduction into Masonry. If you have forgotten the password, we have it for you.

Do-gooders!

There is the incident of the Irish cop who stopped a car full of Shriners for speeding. When he saw that they were wearing fezzes he said, "Oh! You're Shriners are you? Then I'll let you off this time because they do a lot of good. BUT if you were Masons, I'd run you all in."

Dates to remember

February 7th - 1st Degree
February 18th - Roast Pork Dinner

February 21st - 1st Degree
Historical Lecture

March 7th - 2nd Degree

Happy Birthday in February to Brothers Perry Adams, 3rd and Jesse Gillespie, 15th.

Congratulations to those Brothers raised in past Februaries; James Piper, February 28, 1945 and Donald Sabin, February 6, 1951.

Secretary's note

We have been recognizing Brother's birthdays in the *Masonic Times*. However, for reasons unknown to me, I have a number of Brothers who all share January 1st as a common birth date. A few have brought this to my attention. According to Lodge records, the following all have January 1st birthdays:

Lloyd Akin, Harold Bloser, William Dean, Roy Farnsworth, Donald Fridley, Elvin Grube, Nelson Gulvin, Robert Hines, Albert Kamm, Robert Kloepfel, Robert Lannon, Robert Lash, Milton Lum, James Newman, Kenneth Pedersen, John Record, Donald Sabin, Elmer Smith, Lee Walters, Glen Webster and John Werner.

If you find your name listed and you wish to be recognized on your true birthday, contact me by mail: Clayton Ruggles, 1348 Griffith Road, Phelps, NY 14532; by email: cruggle1@rochester.rr.com; or by phone: (315) 548-3573. *

Milnor Lodge No. 139
2nd & 4th Thursdays
Master W.: Randy Henry
Secretary R.: W.: Kenneth R. Hall
289-3801
gsosy@rochester.rr.com
21 Maple Avenue
Victor 14564

Thanks for your help on the December Spaghetti Dinner. All are welcome to attend the next dinner on February 15th. The times have been changed. Dinner will be served from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Visit change

The visit by the Staff Officer has been changed. It was originally scheduled for January 12th. Due to a scheduling conflict, it has been rescheduled for February 23rd.

Planning ahead

February 4th is our Annual Turkey Dinner. February 9th is the Official Visit by our District Deputy. February 23rd, is the Staff Officer visit and our 1st Degree. *

Canandaigua Lodge No. 294
1st & 3rd Mondays
Master W.: David Mason
981-9340
Secretary R.: W.: George N. Stanton, Jr.
394-6829
Shortsville 14548

Greetings Brothers of Canandaigua Lodge. It has become my sad duty to report the passing of W.: Jack Cowen at the age of 92. He is survived by his loving wife, Lucile. His service to the Craft did not stop after he served as Master of our Lodge. Brother Cowen was also Past High Priest of Excelsior Chapter, R.A.M.; Past Master of Palmyra Council, R.S.M.; Past Commander of Sagoyewatha Cammandry, Knights Templar; Past Patron and Past District Grand Lecturer of the Order of the Eastern Star. He was also a Knight of the York Cross of Honor.

Brother Cowen was a shining example of an upright man and Mason, knowledgeable in the Craft and giving of his time and talents. He will be sorely missed in our lives, as well as in our Lodge. Our hearts and prayers go out to Lucile in her time of need.

Well my Brothers, a new year has begun. I hope you all had a happy and safe holiday season. December 17th we had our annual breakfast with Santa and the turnout was pretty good. Our Santa for the

second year in a row, and again doing a wonderful job, was W.: Richard Stanton. The Palmyra Canal Town Queen and her Court, who acted as Santa's elves and also helped us to serve and clean up, joined us again this year.

December 19th we took our ladies out to dinner at Schooners in Canandaigua. It was a lot of fun and everyone had a great time.

This year, as part of the Grand Master's edict, we are conferring the 3rd Degree. As you all know, this is the longest of the three Degrees and requires a large number of participants. I strongly encourage as many Brothers as possible to attend the next few meetings so we can prepare and do a good job on this Degree.

I look forward to seeing you all. God bless. *

Churchville Lodge No. 667
2nd & 4th Wednesdays
7:30 p.m.
Master W.: Jesse Noble
321-1995
Secretary W.: George R. Burke
293-1629
www.geocities.com/churchvilleg667
20 South Main Street, Churchville, 14428

There will be a very important meeting in February regarding our merger with Unity Lodge. We also will be discussing the 3rd Degree, to be held March 22nd.

The first rehearsal is scheduled for February 11th at 11:00 a.m. at Churchville Lodge. I'm looking forward to seeing all the Officers there. If there are any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 321-1995 or 720-3036; or George Burke at 293-1629. *

NORTHFIELD Lodge No. 426
Instituted March 1857
1st & 3rd Thursdays, 7:30 p.m.
Master W.: Randall Griswold
787-3357
W.: John A. Dudley, Secretary
586-6426
jdudley1@rochester.rr.com
17 Church Street, Pittsford 14534

I will start this article by saying "Hello" to all and I hope our snowbirds are doing well. We miss you and I'm jealous.

I thank Brother Jim Deasey for stepping up when called upon to fill the chair of Junior Deacon. He is doing a great job.

Degrees

The 1st Degree will be over by the time this goes to print, so I will report on it in the next article. We have candidates and we are excited!

The 2nd Degree will be held on February 16th. There will be a dinner at 6:30 p.m. Contact the Treasurer, Dean Smith, at 586-9298 for reservations.

Have-a-Heart Campaign
The Lodge will be manning the booth at Eastview Mall for the Ronald McDonald House on February 9th from 12 noon until 8:00 p.m. Anyone who can help is welcome. Please contact me at 797-5076.

That's it for now. Come out to the 2nd Degree and meet our new Brothers. *

Ladies Mite Out Sweetheart Dinner February 11th

At the
Viking Valhalla Restaurant

Bergen, NY

Cash Bar at 6:30 p.m. Dinner at 7:30 p.m.
Choices: Prime Rib, Breaded Shrimp or Stuffed Chicken Breast
(includes soup, salad bar, garlic bread, potato, coffee, tea, dessert)

Reservation's Only
by February 6th

Karl Reich
426-6836

Harry Tyson
494-1137

Taxes! Taxes! Taxes!
By Tom Michielsen

Amended Tax Law

The New York Corporation Tax Law has been amended to provide a new method for computing the business allocation percentage (BAP) for all Article 9-A taxpayers. When calculating the tax on the entire net income base, the minimum taxable income base, and the capital base, these affected Article 9-A taxpayers will allocate their business income, alternative business income and business capital to New York State as follows for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2006, and before January 1, 2007; taxpayers will use a 60% weighted receipts factor, a 20% weighted property factor, and a 20% weighted payroll factor. Thus, in computing the business allocation percentage, the receipts factor will be multiplied by three and added to the property factor and the payroll factor and the sum will be divided by five.

On December 7, 2005, the Internal Revenue Service issued proposed guidance on the disclosure or use of tax return information by tax return preparers. A key principle underlying the proposed guidance is that tax return preparers may not disclose or use tax return information for purposes other than tax return preparation without the knowing, informed and voluntary consent of the taxpayer.

A taxpayer's consent to each separate disclosure or use of tax return information must be contained on a separate written document, which can be furnished on paper or electronically. A taxpayer's consent to a tax return preparer's disclosure or use of tax return information must include the name of the tax return preparer, the name of the taxpayer, and the date on which the taxpayer signs the consent. If a taxpayer consents to a disclosure of tax return information, the consent must identify the recipient or recipients of the tax return information and the intended purpose of the disclosure. If the taxpayer consents to use of tax return information, the consent must describe the particular use authorized. If the

tax return preparer intends to use tax return information to generate solicitations for products or services other than tax return preparation, the consent must identify each specific type of product or service for which the tax return preparer may solicit use of the tax return information. Examples of products or services that must be identified, if solicited using tax return information, include, but are not limited to, refund anticipation loans, balance due loans, mortgage loans, mutual funds, individual retirement accounts, and life insurance. A consent to use or to a consent to disclose tax return information must clearly state that the information may not be used for any purpose not specifically prescribed in the consent. The consent must specify the particular items of tax return information to be disclosed to each recipient or used by the return preparer. It must include the contact telephone number for the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA), 1-800-366-4484. This telephone number allows taxpayers to report suspected unauthorized uses or disclosures of tax return information. All consents to use or disclose tax return information must be signed by the taxpayer.

Scams

It's that time of year when unscrupulous people come out of the woodwork. Watch for scams that ask for upfront preparation fees and personal information to obtain a fraudulent refund of Social Security taxes paid in. Also watch for identity theft Internet scams promising income tax refunds to taxpayers who enter their name and Social Security number on an official looking form. These forms are not legitimate.

Due dates

February 15th - January Payroll Taxes

February 28th - Farm Tax Returns for those who do not estimate their taxes

Paper W2's and 1099's mailed to Social Security and IRS

March 15th - February Payroll Taxes

Corporate Tax Returns

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

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Lalla Rookh **GROTTO** News

Monarch
Norman Austin

Legion
Clowns
Caldron
Historian



Grand Historian



Home phone
(315) 589-9021
Grotto office
671-6320

Kenneth Hutchinson, PM
hutchkv@yahoo.com

One of the first published newsletters of Lalla Rookh Grotto was *The Grotto Men*. In one issue they printed a list of distinguished members of the pre-1919 era:

S. Nelson Sawyer, 33°, Past Grand Master, Grand Lodge of New York; John B. Mullan, 33°, Past Grand Commander, Grand Commandery, New York; Frederick R. Smith, 33°, Past Imperial Potentate, Imperial Council Mystic Shrine; Arthur Warren, Commissioner of Appeals, Grand Lodge, New York and Past Grand High Priest, Grand Chapter, RAM, New York; Joseph A. Crane, Grand Treasurer, Grand Chapter and Past Grand High Priest, Grand Chapter, RAM, New York; George Edward Hatch, Past Grand Master, Grand Council, KT; Charles Mead Colton, 33°, Grand Lecturer, Grand Council, New York and Past District Deputy Grand Master, Grand Lodge, New York; Frank B. Goble, 33°, Secretary, Scottish Rite Bodies, Rochester and Past Potentate Damascus Shrine; Edward C. Way, 33°, Treasurer, Scottish Rite Bodies, Rochester and Past Potentate, Damascus Shrine; J. Hungerford Smith, 33°, Past Commander-in-Chief, Rochester Consistory, A.A.S.R.; George F. Loder, Past Grand Monarch of M.O.-V.P.E.R., Past Deputy Imperial Potentate of Imperial Council Mystic Shrine, Past Potentate of Damascus Shrine; Esten A. Fetcher, 33°, Past Potentate Damascus Shrine; Emil D. Schmidt, Past Potentate Damascus Shrine and Fred D. Morgan, Past Potentate Damascus Shrine.

In those days we had hundreds of members. During the meetings, if it called for it, the Damascus piano was rented for \$1.50 to add music to the Ceremonial. Afterward, the "good old boys" had their cigars and beer. A bill would be presented for \$2.00 to cover the cost of the cigars.

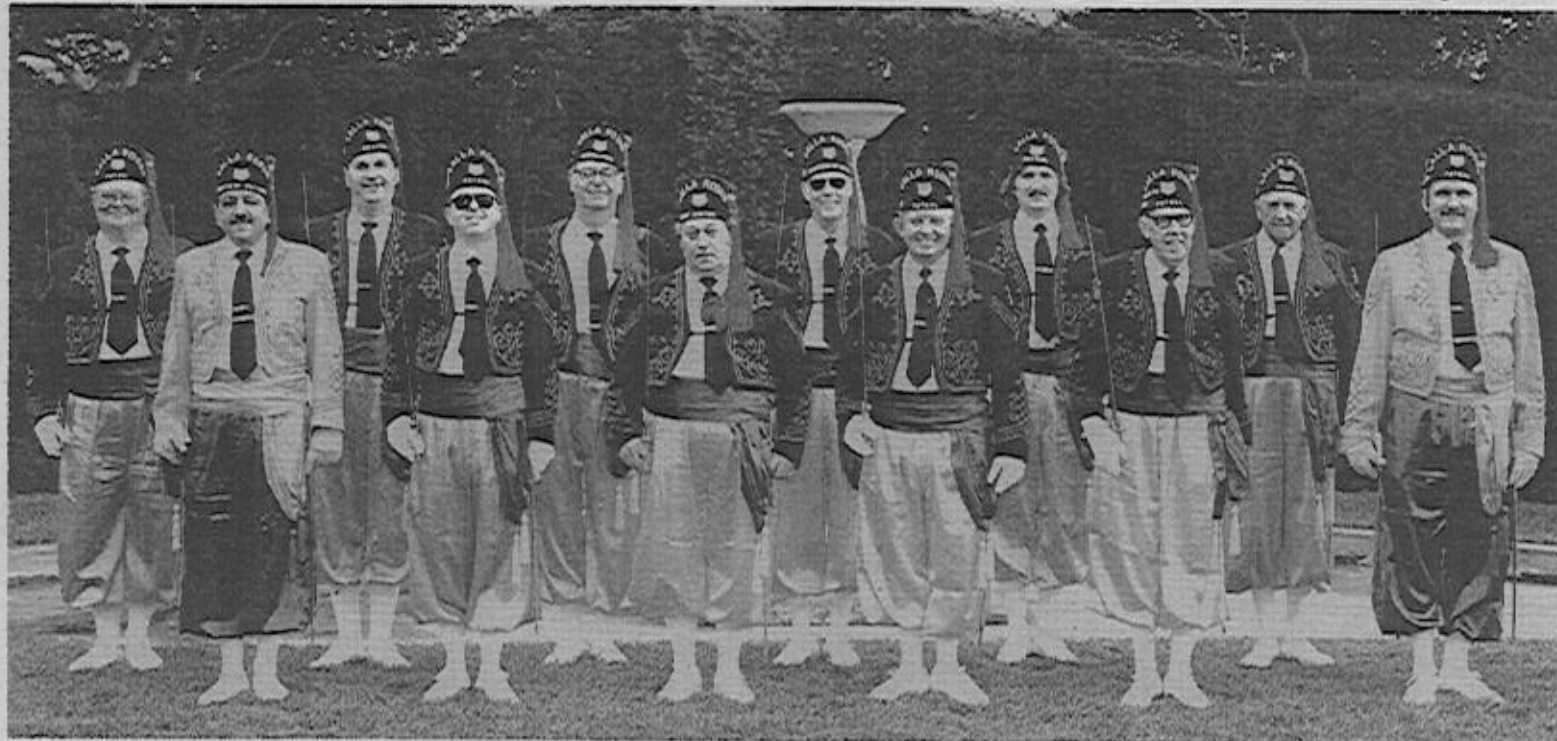
In the first and last analysis, the object of the Order was not only to promote good fellowship, but to keep the object in perfect harmony with all the high ideals Masonry stood for. x

Secretary's Column

By Kenneth Hutchinson, PM

The January Installation meeting, giving as they do, opportunity to renew the old and form new ties, are a delight and pleasure. This year we had a closed Installation, with Kenneth R. Milner, PM, as Installing Monarch and Michael Bell,

HOW MANY CAN YOU NAME?



Answers next issue.

PM, as Installing Marshal.

The Officers for 2006 were installed on January 18th and are as follows:

- Monarch **Norman P. Austin**
 Chief Justice **Michael Bell**
 Master of Ceremonies **Richard Topel**
 Secretary **Kenneth V. Hutchinson**
 Treasurer **Brian Bills**
 Venerable Prophet **Joseph Minas**
 Marshal **Michael Batz**
 Captain of the Guard **James Toogood**
 Orator **Gregory Ludwig**
 Steward **Ernest Swan**
 Inside Sentinel **Frank Ghyzel**
 Outside Sentinel **William Fredenburg**
 Chaplain **Richard Bull**
 3-year Trustee **Easton Kelsey**
 1-year Trustee **Kenneth Rhodes**
 3-year Board members **Luigi Campaniello, Frank Ghyzel and Heinz Gunkel**

Sickness and distress

It is with deep regret I report the passing of Frederick C. Ambeau, PM, on November 27, 2005. Fred was Monarch in 1985.

Prophet Jim Pray had triple by-pass surgery in December and is resting at home.

Prophet Howard Topel also had by-pass surgery and is doing well.

Prophet Harold Bollotin was hospitalized for three weeks and is now home and on the mend.

Alfred Pulcino III had foot surgery in January.

Please keep these Prophets in your thoughts and prayers. If you know of anyone in sickness or distress, contact your Monarch or any Officer.

Now, let us all take hold with willing hands and a steadfast purpose to help our incoming Monarch accomplish more and better things this year. Only in this way can our Grotto become what we wish it to be, the greatest and best of all social orders. x

Chief Justice

By Michael Bell

Prophets – The Chinese Ideograph for opportunity includes the characters for both gain and loss. The coming year for our Grotto would seem to offer a welter of either. The Monarch has prepared a full schedule of activities, which will provide all of us with opportunities for travel, brotherhood, fun, partying, sympathy and good fellowship. If you don't take advantage of any of these opportunities, the loss will surely be yours.

I look forward to meeting, talking, laughing, traveling and simply being with you this coming year. x

Master of Ceremonies

By Richard Topel, PM

FREE! In February, you may enjoy a Swiss Steak Dinner at no charge, if you have your 2006 dues card.

In March, we will have Beef Bar-B-Que for lunch after the meeting. I hope to have something different for lunch after each meeting. x

Caldron News

By Betty Madison, MCO

I wish a happy birthday to Lalla Rookh Caldron. We will be celebrating our 58th birthday on February 7th. Our Birthday Banquet will be Saturday, February 4th, at Rick's Prime Rib on Buffalo Road. We will be meeting at 5:30 p.m. The menu is as follows: Prime Rib, \$17; Chicken French, \$13 or Orange Roughy at \$14. Please call Merlene Bueg, PMCO, at 458-8258 with your reservations.

The next meeting will be February 9th. We will be voting on a petition and celebrating Valentine's Day.

If you have outstanding petitions, or know of anyone interested in joining, please contact our Rodeval, Susan Wilson at 436-0064.

There will be no Executive meeting in February. Our Con-

Entertainment Committee

This year we are going to revive the Entertainment Committee, an idea of Past Monarchs, Jerry Spero and Alfred Pulcino, III. The goal is to create a list of guest speakers and entertainers to be called upon and make every Grotto meeting a memorable one. To join the group and add your ideas, contact Jerry or Al. x

Membership

By Leon Randall, Chairman

Ask yourself, "What do I do to sell my Masonic Brothers on Lalla Rookh Grotto?" First, let me say that you have to be a good member of your own Grotto, taking an active part in all events and ceremonials, with real enjoyment in your work, serving on committees, etc. If you are thus sold, it is not hard to create the necessary desire among our Brothers to join with you in this Fraternity of good fellowship.

If you need petitions, call me, the Membership Chairman, at 638-2194. I will be glad to see that you get some. x

vention and Executive meetings will be changed to the fourth Thursday until the end of the year.

Get well wishes go to the following Daughters:

Hilde DiJames, who is recovering from surgery. The report is that she is doing great and hopes to be out soon.

Ann Towle is recovering from bronchitis.

Doris Bell is recovering from hip surgery at her home.

Grace Jackson is now recovering in her apartment. She hopes to be out soon.

I know these Daughters would enjoy calls or cards.

Happy Birthday

Birthday greetings to Jean Wood, February 3rd; Doris Bell, February 8th and a Big Birthday wish to Pearl Smith, who will be celebrating her 99th on February 22nd.

I'm hoping to see you all at our events. x



**James A. Hard/
Wayne Charter**
Post No. 12

Commander
Frederic F. Cornell, Sr.
352-6477
Adjutant
Vance R. Collom, Jr.
217-9817

By Fred Cornell, Commander
We have had a very active holiday season. On December 7th we participated in the Pearl Harbor Celebration at Charlotte pier, by launching a wreath in the Genesee River at 7:59 a.m., the time Pearl Harbor was attacked by the Japanese in 1941. My Brothers, if you have never been to Hawaii and observed the Memorial of the U.S.S. Arizona, it is definitely a sight to behold.

On December 9th, with the help of eight Veterans, we rang bells for the Salvation Army at the Mall at Greece Ridge Center. We thank Al Pulcino III for making the arrangements.

Our Annual Christmas Party was held at Fame Lodge on December 17th, with 41 in attendance. Everyone had a good time.

We do not meet in January or February. Our March meeting will be the 23rd at the Nutcracker Restaurant. We will order off the menu. x





Scottish Rite NEWS

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

Commander-in-Chief



Robert D. Pedersen, 33°
388-7595
pedersen@frontiernet.net

Have-a-Heart

The Ronald McDonald House has been referred by many as the "home-away-from-home." This center provides family housing during the unfortunate hospital stay for those families in need while a loved one is undergoing treatment. The Masonic Fraternity of Monroe and surrounding counties have supported this wonderful endeavor. To demonstrate our continued support, the Valley of Rochester has chosen Thursday, February 9th, at Marketplace Mall, to participate in this event. Please join the Valley, anytime from noon - 9:00 p.m. The Booth will be occupied as follows;

Noon-3:00 p.m., DSA's
3:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m., MSA's,
6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m., 33°s.
Come out, show your support, and assist the Valley in this worthy cause.

2006 Abbott Scholarships Eligibility and deadline

Application forms for Abbott Scholarships are now available in the Scottish Rite Office and may be obtained by calling 264-1160, or printing the application form online at: www.supreme.council.org/charities/Abbott

Leon M. Abbott Scholarships provide financial support for the continuing education of young men and women from Scottish Rite families and Masonic-related youth groups.

Since 1951, more than \$3 million has been awarded to students from each State in the Northern Jurisdiction.

Eligibility: Any of the following criteria are used to determine the eligibility of applicants for the program:

Acceptance at an accredited college or university.

A child, or grandchild, of a Scottish Rite Mason in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction.

A member of a youth organization sponsored by the Masonic Fraternity in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction.

A graduate of one of the 32nd Degree Masonic Learning Centers for Children in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction.

Deadline: Completed applications and all supporting documents (in duplicate) must be in the Valley Office by April 1, 2006.

Mark Your Calendar

February 11th, Saturday, at the Damascus Shrine Center, 17° - Knight of the East and West, and 18° - Knight of Rose Croix, Perfect Prince Freemason of Heredom.

The Chapter of Rose Croix will open and the Degrees will begin sharply at 9:00 a.m.

Rite Events Calendar

See article for details
(All events at Shrine Center unless otherwise noted)

Thursday, February 9th
Have-a-Heart Campaign

Saturday, February 11th
Meeting, 17° and 18°

Thursday, February 16th
Day of Tebeth Table Lodge

Tuesday, February 28th
Book review, *Foucault's Pendulum*
Scottish Rite Office

Friday, March 3rd
Masonic Education Fair Dinner, AASR only

Saturday, March 4th
Masonic Education Fair, Open

Thursday, March 16th
Meeting, 4° and 6°

Saturday, March 30th
Meeting, 14° and 16°

Thursday, March 16th
Meeting, 4° and 6°

Saturday, March 30th
Meeting, 14° and 16°

Thursday, April 20th
Feast of Paschal Lamb

Saturday, April 29th
18°, 30° and 32°, Shrine Center
Reunion Banquet, Burgundy Basin Inn

Continental breakfast will begin at 8:00 a.m.

Friday, February 17th, Day of Tebeth, a tiled program, denoting the cold time of the year; used by later Jews denoting the tenth month of the year. This is a Brother Bring-a-Brother program, presented in a "Table Lodge" format. Come and enjoy the festivities presented by the Officers of the Council of Princes of Jerusalem.

This program is open to all Master Masons. This evening will be a part of the membership activity of the Valley.

Free

If a Scottish Rite member brings a candidate, both dinners will be provided FREE of charge. Details will be provided in the flyer you will receive soon, or call the office at 264-1160 for reservations.

Book Review

February 28th, Book Review Club; 7:00 p.m., Scottish Rite Office, 3300 Monroe Avenue, Suite 320. *Foucault's Pendulum* will be discussed.

Further Light

College of Freemasonry

March 3rd and 4th

Note: The Saturday program is open to all Master Masons. The Friday evening portion is open to all Scottish Rite Masons. There is a limit of 200 people per day - Reserve NOW!

When a man is raised to Master Mason, he has learned much. But he is left with many questions. Not everything has been answered in the Symbolic Lodge. He has received some answers, but with answers come more questions.

The Valley of Rochester is pleased to announce Masonry-Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow. The College of Freemasonry (aka Scottish Rite) is thrilled to present "further light" to any and all Freemasons. Join us as we strive to understand the timeless truths of Freemasonry that have withstood the test of all ages. Friday evening (Scottish Rite nite) we will have a guest speaker; Brother Theodore Roosevelt, 26th President and Master Mason, after a great Fish Fry Dinner. Saturday will commence with registration at 8:00 a.m., and renown guest speakers, authors and mu-

seum curators will present their views on the Fraternity, both past, present and the foreseeable future. Closing will be a panel discussion, lead by W.: George Nasra, 32°, which will feature Grand Lodge leaders from the Northeast.

We hope to see you at this event. Take this walk to further knowledge and light. It will surely be a stepping-stone into your enlightenment, and the future of Freemasonry.

So Mote It Be. x

Blue Caps

By Jerold J. Gilmore

Hello, fellow Blue Caps. This is another reminder that our show, *Lion King*, is coming up on the 2nd of April. Please call the Scottish Rite Office and reserve your tickets. Bill Lindsay has all the information or you may also give me a call and I will fill you in on the details.

At the Top Three meeting on January 5th, I reported that the DSA Summer Outing for

August 18th had been locked in for Wildwood Country Club in Rush. Forest Hill's Ginny was a tremendous help to me. The menu items will be Steak and Shrimp Scampi. Warren Doerrer, who worked on the 2004 Outing, has consented to co-chair this year's Outing with me. Thank you, Warren. Mark your calendar now so we will have a full house.

The following is an historical event in which one of our Blue Caps, Al Miller, took part in WW II.

"It occurred to me that you might like to learn of an experience I had in France not long after the Germans surrendered. I had served in the 121st Regiment of the 8th Infantry Division during the invasion and before the breakout at St. Lo into December, 1944, and the Battle of the Bulge. Sent to the hospital in early December, I was released in early January and ordered not to be returned to combat duty. I soon found myself at Fontainebleau, a city South of Paris,

Valley of Rochester A.A.S.R.

3300 Monroe Avenue, Suite 320

Rochester, NY 14618

Meetings at Damascus Shrine Center

979 Bay Road, Webster, NY

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

Fax: (585) 264-1161

Commander-in-Chief

III.: Robert D. Pedersen, 33°
(h) 388-7595, (w) 464-4806
pedersen@frontiernet.net
rpedersen@pfudier.com

Deputy's Representative

III.: Stephen R. Whittaker, 33°
(h) 223-7630
swhittaker@monroelitho.com

Secretary

William R. Lindsey, 32° DSA
(h) 621-3573, (w) 264-1160
Fax 264-1161
wrl@rochester.rr.com

Thrice Potent Master

Joseph E. Bourcy III
(h) 334-6762, (cell) 703-0343
jboucy1@rochester.rr.com

Sovereign Prince

Reginald R. Reed
(h) 288-1993
rreed43@rochester.rr.com

Most Wise Master

Michael A. Knolla
(h) 732-7680 (cell) 732-6880
mknolla@manning-napier.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

III.: Walter E. Webber, 33°
Grand Minister of State
III.: Norman L. Christensen, 33°

Grand Lieutenant Commander

III.: John W. McNaughton, 33°
Deputy for the State of New York
III.: Harold L. Aldrich, 33°

Active Members for New York

III.: Frederick D. Greene, 33°
III.: Peter J. Samiec, 33°

III.: David P. Spencer, 33°
III.: Edward R. Troian, 33°

Active Emeriti Members

III.: Gary A. Henningsen, 33°
III.: James F. Niehoff, 33°

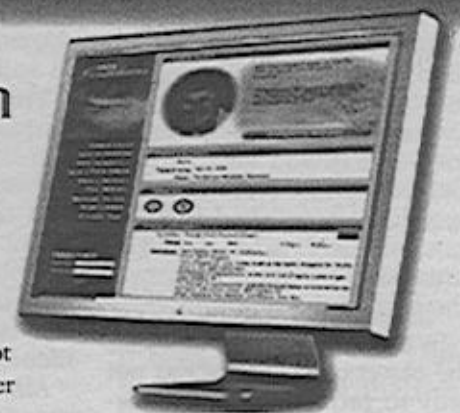
III.: Bruce Widger, 33°
Past Deputy for New York
III.: Richard H. Welkley, 33°

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in a service unit. One Saturday our CO, who was a Mason, and had learned of other Masons under his command, passed the word to us that transportation would be available the next morning to take us to Paris for the re-opening of the Grand Lodge of France.

No way would I miss this opportunity! So off we went by truck at 6 a.m., sans breakfast. I had a very small Hershey bar, which helped a little!

The meeting at 9:00 a.m. was in a palatial room, beautifully decorated. Everything was spoken in French and repeated in English. In attendance were many military personnel, enlisted men and officers, from France, Belgium, England, Canada, United States, Brazil and other countries. Many were of high rank, including several Generals with lots of medals showing. It was good to be able to follow the Ritual and to recognize the depth of feeling that, at last, the French Masonic

Lodges could, after several years of German occupation, again operate openly. During the occupation, the Masonic membership simply "disappeared," and treasures of Lodges were hidden, for Hitler did not trust the Masons.

Imagine my delight when, at the close of the meeting, we were invited for refreshments on the first floor. I lost no time going downstairs for, with the exception of that little chocolate bar, I'd had no food since Saturday's supper, and I was hungry! (At that time I was a fully qualified "chowhound," first class!)

Oh, they had refreshments! I should have known, the very best champagne! I was not to pass it up, but had a tiny bit!

C'est La Vie! C'est La guerre! Vive la France! Thank you, Al, for relating that historical event.

In closing, may the Great Architect look over all of us, keeping us safe and healthy.



A limited number of tickets for the Sunday, April 2nd, afternoon performance of Disney's *The Lion King* at the Auditorium Theater, are still available at the Valley of Rochester Office. Sales are now open for members of the Scottish Rite, their families AND their friends. Call 264-1160 for further details, or send your check for \$45 per ticket to reserve your seat(s).

Valley of Rochester
Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite
(College of Freemasonry)

Masonic Education Fair
March 3 & 4, 2006

Damascus Shrine Center
For reservations and further information
Contact the Valley Office, (585) 264-1160

Friday - March 3, 2006
6:00 p.m. Social Hour; 7:00 p.m. Dinner
Dinner with a presentation by Historical Re-enactor, Paul Stillman, as Theodore Roosevelt, Mason and 26th President of The United States. This event is open to Scottish Rite Masons and their Ladies. The cost is \$10 per person for the Friday Dinner, or \$15 per person for Dinner and the Saturday Masonic Education Fair.

Saturday - March 4, 2006
8:00 a.m. Registration, Continental Breakfast
9:00 a.m. Presentations
Open to Masons and Non-Masons
Cost is \$10.00 per person

There will be presentations by Nationally Known Masonic Scholars:

- Mark A. Tabbert, 32°, Curator of the National Heritage Museum and author of the book, *American Freemasons - Three Centuries of Building Communities*;
- Nelson King, FPS - Editor of the *Philaethes* magazine, *Journal of Masonic Research and Letters*;
- Ill. Thomas W. Jackson, 33°, - Masonic Scholar and Book Reviewer for the *Book Nook* section of *The Northern Light* magazine, the official magazine of The Northern Jurisdiction of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry;
- Kathleen Kutolowski, Professor, and Chairman of the History Department at SUNY Brockport;
- Paul Stillman will give a Historical Presentation as Galileo.

The final event is a Panel Discussion concerning the Future of Freemasonry.

Scholarship Applications Due

The Leon M. Abbott Scholarship applications are due on or before April 1st, in the Valley of Rochester Office. Contact William R. Lindsay, at 264-1160, if you need assistance. The application is available in the Valley Office or online from the Supreme Council website. A link is on the Valley of Rochester website at: www.valleyofrochester.com.

The following criteria are used to determine eligibility of applicants for these scholarships, which provide financial support for the continuing education of

young men and women from Scottish Rite families and Masonic-related youth groups: 1) A currently enrolled freshman, sophomore, junior or senior at an accredited college or university; 2) A minimum grade point average of 2.75 on 4.0 scale; 3) A child or grandchild of a Scottish Rite Mason in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction; 4) A member of a youth organization sponsored by the Masonic fraternity in this; and, 5) A graduate of one of the 32nd Degree Masonic Learning Centers for Children in this Jurisdiction.

Rochester Forest No. 133

Tall Cedars of Lebanon of North America
4th Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
Penfield, NY 14526
Norman P. Austin, GTC
494-2223
Donald C. Bell, Scribe
334-7768

By Don Brugger, PGTC

By the time you read this, hopefully, the Officers of Rochester Forest are duly installed. We wish them the best for the

2006 Cedar year. Rochester Forest was instituted in 1946, so that makes this our 60th year of existence. The Supreme Forest was constituted on March 18, 1902. That makes Cedarism in its present form 104 years old. Last year we initiated five candidates, increasing our membership by over 15%. Let's make that a habit.

Membership

Our February 25th meeting will be a good opportunity to inform the uninitiated about the Tall Cedars and our philanthropy. If you know of anyone

who is interested in our organization, please let us know so that we can arrange an informational presentation for this meeting.

Talk to your Lodge Brothers, friends and neighbors about Rochester Forest. Tell them about the Muscular Dystrophy Foundation, our charitable objective. If anyone is interested in joining us, or wants more information, please let the Officers know so they can follow up and perhaps invite the interested party to an informational session. Petitions are available, both for the Lodge and Forest, from Don Bell, our Scribe, at 259-

0647, or me at 458-6125. This is your Forest. If you want it to survive, we need candidates.

Sickness and distress

Betty Tripp, who was reported ill prior to our Christmas Party, has recovered. Freda Silver, who had a bad fall just prior to the Christmas Party, has had surgery to repair her hip and is in Kirkhaven Nursing Home for rehabilitation. Jim Scobell continues to have problems and is on oxygen most evenings. Jane Denton is at home with walking pneumonia. Hilde DiJames had surgery in early January. At this writing she is recuperating at home.

I'm sure those mentioned above would welcome cards or a phone call. If you know of any Woodsman or Cedarette who is ill or in need of our aid or sympathy, please call one of the Officers, or me.

Looking ahead

Remember, we still need help in contacting our members regularly. Join our Calling Committee and get back in the mainstream. It will involve making only three or four calls, once a month. This is your Forest, let's help support it. I hope to see you at the next meeting. If you need a ride, we will try to accommodate you.

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

Challenging your health insurance denial

It can happen. Your health insurer refuses to provide coverage for a procedure it deems to be medically unnecessary. Even if your doctor and his staff "go to the mat" for you, it may not be enough. Insurance companies are large bureaucracies. Not everyone has the time, patience or inclination to "squeak" loud and often enough to get noticed.

Sometimes a "no" answer is nothing more than a tool to manage by frustration. Fortunately, State and Federal laws provide some measure of protection. Health insurers are mandated by law to provide an independent appeal procedure. This is a quick, relatively inexpensive procedure to challenge a denial of coverage.

This article will provide a brief oversight on how to request and use an external appeal procedure. For more information, I recommend two

websites. The first is collaboration by the Kaiser Family Foundation and Consumers Union. This website can be found at:

www.kff.org/consumerguide

This website gives a broad overview of appealing health care benefit denials.

The second website is focused on how to file the appeal itself. The NYS Insurance Department has a good FAQ page and links to download necessary forms. This website can be found at:

www.ins.state.ny.us/extappqa.htm#standes

To understand how appeals work and why they are necessary, let's first review how health insurance coverage can be denied.

Health care benefit coverage can be denied for two main reasons. First reason: the procedure isn't medically necessary. Second reason: you obtained medical care from a provider who isn't a member of the health care plan "network" of recognized providers.

Before challenging a denial, first determine why you were

denied. Many health care plans are managed in a way to save costs. Some managed care plans, to save costs, negotiate fees up front with physicians. Physicians who choose to accept these rates can become members of a provider network. This network is essentially a group of physicians who will accept rates as set by the health insurer.

Let us say that you obtain medical care from a physician who does not participate in this network. Depending on your type of managed care health plan (POS-Point of Service or PPO-Preferred Provider Organization), your health insurer either denies coverage or only pays a percentage of the total medical bill because you used a non-networked physician. You will have a hard time prevailing on an appeal challenging a denial if you chose a provider "outside the network." A notable exception is if you needed emergency care.

Another source of denial is obtaining services from a specialist without first having obtained a referral from your primary care doctor. It's now an article of faith in managed health care that you cannot see a specialist unless referred

by your primary care physician. Your primary care physician is the gatekeeper. In order to obtain health insurance coverage for services provided by a specialist (i.e. surgeon), your primary doctor has to:

1. Refer you to this specialist;
2. Obtain prior authorization for this referral from your health insurer.

As a side note, you may be required to obtain the prior authorization yourself.

Just as in obtaining coverage outside the network, you will have a hard time prevailing on an appeal denying coverage unless you obtain a referral, and prior authorization for the procedure that forms the basis of the referral. A notable exception is if you needed emergency care.

Presuming you followed the rules and cut square corners and the health insurer still denies your claim for coverage, the first step is to review your health care plan booklet. Steps on how to immediately challenge a denial can be found inside this booklet. If you no longer have it, then a call to either your employer's human resources department or to the customer service telephone

number of your health plan, will get the process rolling.

If your dispute cannot be resolved directly with the health insurer, then the next step is to file an external appeal. An external appeal is a review of your claim by an independent third party.

To start this process, you must file an appeal form with the State Insurance Department. This form can be obtained online at:

www.ins.state.ny.us/extappqa.htm#standes

The form itself must be filed within 45 days of being notified that your claim was denied. The 45-day rule is strict. If the State Insurance Department does not receive your appeal application within these 45 days, then you lose your right to an external appeal.

Once the appeal is received by the State, the appeal must be determined within 30 days. This is known as a standard appeal. If there is a medical emergency involved, and if your physician certifies as such, then a 3-day expedited appeal is available. Depending upon which health plan you are enrolled in, you may have to pay a \$50 fee to have your appeal assigned to a reviewer.

979 Bay Road
Webster, NY
14580-1736

Phone - 671-7701
Fax - 671-7702



Damascus Shrine Center No. 2

Shrine News

Website - www.damascusshriners.org

Email addresses:
office@damascusshriners.org
recorder@damascusshriners.org
njackson@damascusshriners.org
plozon@damascusshriners.org

Potentate - Lance Ward

From the Potentate

Shrine Office - 671-7701



Lance Ward

What upstanding righteous man wouldn't want to partake in this reachable goal? Our mission this year and, hopefully for years to come, is to go out and find these men, bring them into our Fraternity and let them enjoy being part of this great philanthropy.

In numbers there is strength. By increasing our numbers, we will guarantee the future of our Hospitals and the Damascus Shrine Center will be there in the future.

The focus in 2006 will be to use Public Relations throughout our Shrine territory to inform the public of our mission and ask for their support and participation.

Events

I have some great trips and events planned for you this year. The first is the Springfield - Boston trip which will be March 24-25th and will include touring both Hospitals, visiting the Fox Run Casino and the New London Submarine base. Noble Ken Pollard has worked up a great program for this event and the application and package price will be in March's article. Hope you can make it.

Ill. Sir Bob Anderson and I are working on an Event Calendar book to give each of you so that you will have all the dates of future event. I don't want you to miss any of these exciting things we have planned for you.

Let's make 2006 the year that we bring our membership back over one thousand. With your help, I know we can. x

Thank you, Nobles, for giving me the honor to be your Potentate. My thanks to Ill. Sir Rodney Rittenhouse and Ill. Sir Cyrus Kloner for the great Installation. I thank all the Nobles who stepped up to plate as Officers, appointees, the committee chairmen and committee members. Ill. Sir Bob Anderson has been a great help in preparing me for this year and I thank him. Without all your support, it would be impossible to run an organization of this size.

Goal

This year I have set the mission of the Damascus Shriners to promote what we do and what we stand for. Yes, we are the playground of Masonry and yes, we support the world's greatest philanthropy, but we are also Masons who care for world's distressed children and are willing to do something about it. The Shriners Hospitals are twenty-two shining examples of our goal to provide excellent care to children in need at no cost to them or their families.

From the Recorder



Shrine Office
671-7701

James Slocum
367-2425

Shrine Reservation Line
671-3565

The new Divan has been installed and are hard at work with the busy 2006 schedule. It's time for our Nobles to step up to the plate and participate in working on all the projects we have ahead of us and toward our philanthropy of helping children.

During the month I will be away at the Recorder's Seminar in San Diego, California. This year's Seminar will be on Membership Building in the Shrine. As was stated in the January meeting, we started out with 931 nobles, and as of 12/31/05 we still have 931, which includes black camel, new nobles, restored, affiliated and dropped. We are still holding strong.

This year's calendar sales have gone very well. Thank you to all the Nobles who have pitched in and helped. We have a tool raffle and another motorcycle raffle coming up. If everyone pitches in to do their part, we will be successful in reaching the goal that the Potentate has set for donations to the children's hospital.

Remember, February 5th-11th is Burn Awareness Week and the Shriners Hospitals urge everyone to prepare, prevent, respond and recover. x

Education Fair

Continued from Page 1

A panel discussion, led by George Nasra, will conclude the program. Panelists, who will include some of the featured speakers plus Grand Lodge Masonic leaders, will answer questions from the audience.

There is a limit of 200 people for each event, so call the Valley Office, 264-1160, promptly to make your reservation. Each day is \$10 per person; Scottish Rite members may register for both events for \$15. x



Teddy Roosevelt
(aka Paul Stillman)

Wheelers

By Andy Rueby, President

Welcome all present Wheelers, wives and significant others. Our first meeting of the New Year was held January 24th at the Jade Palace in Webster.

Our new line of Officers for this year were installed in the usual Bruce Chilton fashion, wise guy comments, jocular-ity, and genuine sincerity. Thank you, Bruce. You always provide a good time.

For 2006, I will be President. I was previously Vice-President with Bruce Chilton when the Wheelers were re-invented back in 1997, and Vice-President to Skins and Debbie this past year.

The First Lady this year is my wife, Chris, and we both look forward to another fun year with the Wheelers.

Vice-President is Tom Parone, known to most as "tootall," and his Lady, Chris.

Our Treasurer this year is none other than Boss Hogg, real name Dick DeCroce, and his Lady, Jeanne.

My personal thanks to each of these guys and their ladies for taking on these offices.

I also thank Skins and Debbie for all their support and willingness to help with various events this coming year. When you see Skins and Debbie, please give them your thanks for the fun times we all had being Wheelers this past year.

In addition, I thank Bruce for his guidance and support with the upcoming events in 2006, especially the annual Cross Lake Summer Picnic, hosted by the wonderful Dot Chilton.

Rob Cowley, and his lady Sue, thank you for all your support he received the past two years as the Treasurer and previous years of being Vice-President.

If you were not able to attend the dinner meeting, and would like a schedule of 2006 events sent to you, please let me know at:
roadking03@frontiernet.net
or call me at 734-8524.

The Wheelers are looking for new members. If you know any Shriners who like to have fun, please let any of the current or past Officers know their names, and we will call and invite them to our next meeting. The only requirements is that they are, or want to be, Shriners and want to have fun.

Our next meeting is Saturday, February 18th, starting at 3:00 p.m. at the Shrine Center and will be a combination Hog Degree, Chili cook-off and Euchre Tournament. For more information, call the Shrine Office at 671-7701.

This year was to be Ron "Ugly" Albright's year as President of the Wheelers. In your memory, Ron, thank you for your friendship; all the Wheelers miss you.

To all the Wheelers, past and present, thank you. x

Check out our Website
www.monroemasonic.com
A work in progress! Help us by keeping your information current.



Damascus Wheeler's

Annual Euchre Tournament

Saturday February 18, 2006 at The Shrine

Beginning at 3:00pm with the "a must - if you haven't"

Hog Degree and

the Chili cook off



\$5.00 to enter your batch of chili (2 gallons)

Registration deadline Friday February 10th

One Prize of \$75.00 for the best chili voted by the public

\$5.00 to taste all the chili's and vote

\$5.00 to take the

Hog Degree



\$5.00 for Euchre

Tournament

starts at 7:00pm

To register e-mail Andy at

roadking03@frontiernet.net or call at

585-734-8524

Can't visit the Masonic Care Community?

We'll come to you!

The Masonic Care Community of New York is undergoing quite a transformation. To learn more about this new skilled nursing facility at the Health Pavilion, adult care at Wiley Hall, and independent living at Acacia Village, all Brethren and their spouses are cordially invited to visit its beautiful 400-acre campus in Utica. Free bus tours are available for Lodges and Districts.

If it's difficult for you to get to Utica, a member of the Masonic Care Community staff will be happy to

come to you - to visit your Lodge or District meeting - and make a brief presentation about the institution that has served Masons and their families for over 100 years and which, in turn, has been so generously supported by members of the Fraternity.

Brother Ira Cooperman, Director of Development, or Brother Robert Lauduci, Director of Volunteers, will gladly arrange to come and speak at one of your meetings about the exciting developments at the Masonic Care Community.

For further information please contact:

Ira B. Cooperman, CFRE

Masonic Care Community of New York

2150 Bleeker Street, Utica, NY 13501-1788

Telephone: (315) 798-4703 or Toll-free: (800) 593-3353

24th, 25th, 27th & 29th Districts - RAM
8th Cryptic District - R&SM
Zones 11 & 12 - Knights Templar

York Rite NEWS

York Rite College
Judas Maccabeus

District Deputy Grand High Priest



24th
District
RAM

R.:E.: Cy White
(315) 597-9546
ukey@juno.com

Congratulations to all the new Officers, elected and appointed, throughout the great 24th Capitular District.

Upcoming on February 11th, the 25th Capitular District will be hosting the Order of High Priesthood at the Salem Town Masonic Temple, Route 414 North and Balsley Road in Seneca Falls. The Anointing is scheduled for 1:00 p.m. All current High Priests and Past High Priests are urged to attend.

Albany

Grand Chapter will be in session March 3rd and 4th in Albany. All Companions in good standing are not only invited to attend, but it is also recommended that you come share this Masonic experience.

Charities

The Chairman of the Royal Arch Charities, R.:E.: Aldo A. Ghirarduzzi, has issued the results of the 2005 Charities Drive. The 24th Capitular District was not noted in any of the honors. However, our District, at 10.8% participation, improved over our 2004 effort, but was still substantially behind the average participation of the Grand Chapter at 17%. Let us, in the true tradition of our Order, vow to do better next year!

News around the District

Newark Chapter has gone dark for the months of February and March.

Wayne (Sodus) Chapter will meet on the 4th Tuesday of the month until further notice.

Remember to STOP, LOOK, AND LISTEN to all of the wonders offered to us by Royal Arch Masonry.

I'm looking forward to seeing you, and I do mean YOU, around the Holy Altar of Royal Arch Masonry.

Palmyra/Eagle Chapter No. 79

1st Monday, 7:30 p.m.



High Priest
David R.
Rising
(315) 331-7337
drising3@msn.com
Secretary
R. Stuart
Smith
(315) 597-9763

161 East Main Street, Palmyra 14522

Welcome to my first article to you as your new High Priest for the Capitular year 2006. Having just been installed on January 2nd, I have not yet compiled a trestleboard. My immediate plans are to carry on the work of our immediate Past High Priest, R.:E.: Stu Smith and work on our Ritual. I especially want to concen-

trate on the opening of Chapter. I would like to get some candidates and then be able to do some Degree work this year and bring some new Companions into our Chapter. We must all work together to do this.

To start with we need more Companions to attend our meetings. I know this is difficult with only 20+ members, but even a couple will help. Thank you for your trust in me, my Companions, and I will do my best for you.

Hiram Chapter No. 62



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

E.: Joseph F. Oelgoetz, High Priest
425-9969
joeyo11@mac.com
E.: Charles M. Roberts, Secretary
225-6533
cholyono@frontiernet.net
17 Church Street, Pittsford 14534

New Chapter Year

It is the beginning of a new year for Hiram Chapter. I have been honored, once again, by being elected as your High Priest. I thank all those Companions who agreed to take on their roles once again. The Officer line of Hiram Chapter is as follows:

- High Priest **Joseph F. Oelgoetz III**
- King **TBA**
- Scribe **George R. Springett**
- Principle Sojourner **Thomas Paglia**
- Chaplain **Donald Brugger**
- Captain of the Host **John Zabel**
- Royal Arch Captain **Richard Horton**
- Master of Third Veil **Michael Adamus**
- Master of Second Veil **TBA**
- Master of First Veil **TBA**
- Sentinel **Raymond Beardsley**

Recorder **Charles Roberts**
Treasurer **James E. Nersinger**

Upcoming events

Our first meeting on February 9th will be a dinner meeting with our Ladies in observance of Valentine's Day. Please contact our Scribe, V.:W.: George Springett, at 247-3577 for reservations.

We will be having our annual Table Chapter on February 23rd. Please plan to attend and bring along a Brother Mason who you would like to see become a member of Hiram Chapter.

Grand Chapter

The annual Grand Chapter Convocation will be held the weekend of Friday and Saturday, March 3rd-4th. The meeting will take place at the Holiday Inn, Wolf Road, Albany.

Self-reflection

It is that time again (the beginning of a new year) where it is suggested by many as a time to take stock on oneself: to reflect on the previous year, and to make course corrections in one's life, if need be. I personally have been doing a self-reflection during my time off from work. It has been a wonderful exercise and I feel more grounded now than I have in

the most recent past. I recommend to all of our Companions to take some time to reflect. It is a good exercise to look at our past actions, past messages and past shortcomings. Do you need to make amends with someone? How about making good on a promise? Or just taking some time out to look at what is really important in life? How about getting right with the Grand Master of the Universe? As the Scriptures state in Isaiah 30:15: "In repentance and rest is your salvation. In quietness and trust is your strength." Take some time to rest and gain some quietness in order to reflect. I wish you all a wonderful 2006.

LeRoy Chapter No. 183 RAM



4th
Tuesday
7:30 p.m.

High Priest
E.: Douglas S. Poole
584-3601
dspooles@frontiernet.net
Secretary
E.: Garry R. Hutchurson
494-1395
ghutchurson@yahoo.com
8 West Main Street, LeRoy

Welcome to another year in Le Roy Royal Arch. I know this is a month late, but my mind was on vacation in December. Too much Figgie pudding!

For 2006 we left most of our Officers in the same positions. We have a large crew of new members who need a little more seasoning, and some of us who need to shake out a few cobwebs. Practice is good for all of us.

This month will be a practice for Opening the Chapter. It would be great to have full sidelines. Many of our Officers could use a guiding hand. Put your knowledge to work.

For those of you who have not been to a meeting in a while, here is our meeting schedule. We meet the 4th Tuesday of the month January - May and then September through November. Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. and are held at Olive Branch Lodge Hall in LeRoy. We look forward to seeing you there!

Palmyra Council No. 26

Cryptic Masons
1st Thursdays, 8:00 p.m.

Master
I.: George N. Stanton, Jr.
394-6829
gnstanton@aol.com
Secretary
David W. Taber
388-0629
161 East Main Street
Palmyra, New York 14522

Palmyra Council is alive and well. Two new Companions received the Royal Master Degree and one is in the works.

The February 2nd meeting will be in Shortsville, agreeable with our By-Laws. Dinner will be enjoyed by all who wish to join us at the Lehigh Valley (former Steak Out) Restaurant at 6:15 p.m. Each will choose from the menu. The Royal Master Degree may be conferred

again depending on the availability of our candidate.

March

There will be no meeting in March, as many of the Officers will be attending Grand Chapter in Albany.

Condolences

We have lost a good friend. R.:I.: John P. Cowan passed away on December 18th. He was a gentleman and will always be remembered for his Masonic support and friendly smile. Our sympathy to his wife, Lucille, and family.

Doric Council

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



Ill. Master
Joseph F.
Oelgoetz III
425-9969
joeyo11@mac.com

Donald W. Wright, Recorder
621-5764
dwright3@rochester.rr.com
17 Church Street, Pittsford 14534

Toys for Tots event

In December we had a wonderful charitable function. I thank all the Companions and their family members who attended our Toys for Tots event. We had good attendance, which generated many toys for those children who are less fortunate. We were blessed with the attendance of Lance Corporal A.J. Tascione from the local Marine Corp Reserve. I especially thank Companion Jim McConnell for the salad he provided.

Looking forward

We are into the year 2006 and we will be entering our Degree season within Doric Council. By the time this article is read in February, we will have had our Royal Master Degree, directed by M.:I.: William Whittaker. Thank you, Bill, for your support.

Doric's meeting on February 15th will be an evening out with our ladies. We will be having dinner and fellowship at Romano's Macaroni Grill on 760 Jefferson Road in Henrietta. Plan to meet around 6:30 p.m. with dinner around 7:00 p.m.

On March 15th we will be performing our Select Master Degree. If we schedule a dinner prior, we will be getting the word out. Please plan to attend.

For reservations to dinner, please get them in no later than the Friday before the meeting by either calling me at my home: 425-9969 or e-mailing me at: joeyo11@mac.com

Take time

I have been given a chance to really look into myself with the "time off" from work. This time has been God-given and I have begun to reflect on my values, my actions, my beliefs, and my faith. I have found a greater closeness to my faith in God. As the new year is upon us, I recommend each and every one of you take some time to reflect on yourself.

Most men have not carefully reviewed their life view by a personal search for truth and obedience to God. Instead, we rush from task to busy task, but

we do not call enough timeouts to reflect on life's larger meaning and purpose.

Rather, we live from day-to-day; we live under the tyranny of today's problems. Our lives are consumed in actions as we react to the seemingly endless menu of options that vie for our attention, time and resources. As the Book of Sacred Law states: "In repentance and rest is your salvation. In quietness and trust is your strength." I urge you all to slow down and give yourself rest and quietness at the beginning of this new year to think about what is important in your lives. As Ghandi said, "There is more to life than increasing its speed."

I will be looking forward to seeing each of you in the Secret Vault. God Bless.

Sagoyewatha

Commandery No. 17
3rd Saturday, 9 a.m.



Commander
SK L. Ronald
Edwards
394-3205
redwards@frontiernet.net

Recorder
SK David Taber
(585) 388-0629

Phelps, NY

By R.:E.: Cy White

As Winter is swirling around us in upstate New York, our Commander SK L. Ronald Edwards, is enjoying warmer climes in sunny Florida for a couple of months. He will be returning to duty for our March meeting. In the meantime, yours truly will fill in.

The next Conclave will be on Saturday, February 18th at 9:00 a.m., at the Phelps Masonic Hall, Ontario Street, Phelps. At this Conclave we will have a dress rehearsal for the Inspection embracing a full form opening, to include the reception of visitors, and the sword manual. The individual recitations will not be performed, unless those assigned want to, but the logistics of their presentation will be worked out. This is in preparation for our inspection.

Let's do our very best to support our Sister Commanderies. I know it will be appreciated as we appreciate their support of Sagoyewatha.

Don't forget breakfast at the Blue Ribbon Restaurant prior to our February Conclave at 7:31 a.m. As always, it's still Dutch treat!

SK Ron ends his column with some Maine humor, so I will finish up with some English humor. Come on folks, what were you expecting, you know that Englishmen have no sense of humor.

I look forward to seeing you, and I do mean you, around the Holy Altar of our Order.

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In Memoriam

December

Lamb, Frank T.

The Mayor of the City of Rochester from 1964-1970, Frank passed away on December 20th at the age of 83 years. He was a member of ERAC Lodge, Rochester Consistory and Damascus Shrine. He is survived by three children, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Durbin, Stanley F.

The great Architect of the Universe claimed Stanley on December 27th. He was a member of Clio Lodge, Cyrene/Monroe Commandery, KT and Hiram Chapter, RAM. He leaves his wife, Lucille, four children and five grandchildren.

January, 2006

Becker, Clifford A.

Clifford entered eternal rest on January 2nd at the age of 88 years. He was a member of Eagle Lodge and is survived by his wife, June, three daughters, five grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Ellender, Harry S.

A 1984 Master of Charlotte/Corinthian Lodge (now Unity Lodge), Harry met his Maker on January 3rd at the age of 89 years. He belonged to Rochester Consistory and Hiram Chapter, RAM. Harry leaves one son.

Rupert, Charles E.

Death claimed Charles on January 3rd. A member of Craftsman Robertson Lodge, he leaves his wife, Diane, two children and one grandson.

Vroom, Clifford G., Jr.

Clifford passed away peacefully on January 9th at the age of 91 years at his Florida residence. A member of Unity Lodge and Rochester Consistory, survivors include his wife, Jeanne, three children, six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Waddington, Eugene H.

Wakan/Hubbard Lodge lost a member with the passing of Eugene on January 10th. He was 81 years old and leaves three children, eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Deaths reported with no specific information.

Harrington, Bruce W.

A 1974 Master of the former Frank L. Simes Lodge (Valley-Simes Lodge), Bruce died December 2nd in North Carolina.

Schicker, Robert G.

Robert was called Home on December 17th. He was a member of Valley-Simes Lodge and resided in Delaware.

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Hello to all our members and friends as we head down the 2006 road. With the good January weather, Monroe District formed its new Line Officers' Club. What a wonderful group we have for the New Year; lots of enthusiasm and ideas, spirit and good times ahead!

We will have our School of Instruction at Fairport Lodge on February 7th, with donuts and coffee at 9:00 a.m. and the meeting at 10:00 a.m. All members are welcome.

Some of our projects to look forward to this year are the Have-a-Heart Campaign at the malls, a walk-a-thon, a Bar-B-Que, the Lilac Luncheon for the residents at Oriskany, Christmas phone cards for service personnel and more. We hope you will all come and join in for fun and fellowship.

Remember our sick and shut-ins for Valentine's Day. They love sweethearts!!

Keep tuned, for next month we will have more times and dates.

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Deadline for the Masonic Times

BIG CALENDAR FEBRUARY 2006

Gem - Amethyst
Flower - Violet

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Drumlin Square - Palmyra ¹ Livonia Olive Branch - LeRoy Damascus Shrine	Eunice - Caledonia ² Hesperus - Bergen Northfield - Pittsford Webster RSM - Palmyra Council		3 Road to the East - Eunice Lodge, 8 a.m. OES - School of Instruction - Fairport Lodge, 9 a.m. OES - Rochester Chapter - Unity - Spencerport Milnor - Victor, Turkey Dinner
	5 Canandaigua - Shortsville West Star - Varysburg RAM - Palmyra/Eagle OES - Etolian, Irondequoit KT - Cyrene/Monroe - Pittsford	6 Clio - Hilton Craftsman Robertson Garoga/Sincerity - Phelps, 1* Oakland - Castile OES - Fairport, Lilac Star, Nolatka	7 Churchville Oatka - Scottsville Masonic Service Bureau Monthly Luncheon Meeting OES - Canandaigua Fenogowone - Shortsville, Corinthian Fellowship	8 Milnor - Victor, OV Union - Lima RAM - Hiram Lalla Rookh Caldron		10 KT - Sagoyewatha - Phelps Road to the East - Eunice Lodge, 8 a.m. Scottish Rite - 17* & 18* 9 a.m. Breakfast, 8 a.m. Daughters of the Nile, Zama Temple - Fairport OES - Charlotte Chapter - Spencerport
12 Clio Lodge Spaghetti Dinner Wednesday 15th East Avenue, Hilton Milnor Lodge Spaghetti Dinner Wednesday 15th 21 Maple Avenue, Victor Lincoln's Birthday	13 ERAC - Shrine Center Fairport/Flower City, 1* Union Star-Honeoye Falls, OV Unity - Spencerport Wakan/Hubbard - Penfield RAM - Excelsior - Shortsville	14 Arcade Eagle Lodge, OV Fame - Irondequoit Seneca - Webster Valley-Simes, 2* RAM - LeRoy OES - Leah - Hilton, Mary Jane Holmes Valentine's Day	15 Ark - Geneva Drumlin Square - Palmyra 2* Livonia Olive Branch - LeRoy RSM - Doric Council, Pittsford Lalla Rookh Grotto MON - Masters and Wardens Country Village Restaurant	16 Eunice - Caledonia, 2* Hesperus - Bergen, 2* Northfield - Pittsford, 2* Webster Scottish Rite		17 Road to the East - Eunice Lodge, 8 a.m.
19 Canandaigua - Shortsville West Star - Varysburg KT - Cyrene/Monroe - Pittsford OES - Etolian, Irondequoit Presidents Day	20 Clio - Hilton, 1* Craftsman Robertson, 2* Garoga/Sincerity - Phelps Oakland - Castile OES - Nolatka, Lilac Star, Tri-Star - Palmyra	21 Churchville Oatka - Scottsville Tall Cedars of Lebanon OES - Canandaigua Fenogowone - Shortsville, Corinthian Fellowship Washington's Birthday	22 Milnor - Victor, 1* Union - Lima RAM - Hiram	23	24	25
26 ERAC - Shrine Center, 2* Union Star - Honeoye Falls Unity - Spencerport Wakan/Hubbard - Penfield	27 Arcade Eagle Lodge Fame - Irondequoit Valley-Simes RAM - LeRoy OES - Leah - Hilton	28	Burn Awareness Week Feb. 5-11 2006 			