



A DECLARATION

By the REPRESENTATIVES of the
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
In GENERAL CONGRESS assembled.

When in the Course of human Events, it becomes necessary for the People to dissolve the Political Bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of the Earth, the separate and equal Station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's GOD entitle them, a decent Respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the Separation.

We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness — That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness, Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient Causes; and accordingly all Experience hath shown, that Mankind are more disposed to suffer, while Evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the Forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long Train of Abuses and Usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a Design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their Right, it is their Duty, to throw off such Government, and such is now the Necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government.

— In CONGRESS, July 4, 1776

The Grand Master's Message

*Most Worshipful Past Grand Masters,
Distinguished Guests, Right
Worshipfuls, Worshipfuls and
Brethren all, Good Afternoon*

Words do not adequately capture the great sense of pride, honor and gratitude I feel having been elevated by you to the position of Grand Master, the zenith of my Masonic career. It is not only with honor but with great humility that I once again pledge my commitment to carry out the duties and responsibilities with which I have been entrusted and to serve you and this Grand Jurisdiction during my term of office. I assure you that I have a great sense of admiration, respect and undying concern for our beloved fraternity.

Each Grand Master, as he assumes office, has opportunity to have printed in the Grand Lodge "Bluebook" a saying or quote of some meaning to him. This year I have chosen the words of the great American orator and statesman, Daniel Webster, who once said and I quote, "If we work upon marble, it will perish; If on brass, time will efface it; If we rear temples, they will crumble into dust; But if we work upon immortal minds, and imbue them with principles, with the just fear of God and love of our fellow men, we engrave on those tablets something that will brighten to all eternity." My Brothers, to me, this statement captures the essence of the meaning of Freemasonry.

The term of office of a Grand Master is miniscule in relation to the age and enormous importance of our fraternity's existence. I am certainly under no grand delusions that ideas or programs that I might initiate will either serve as the panacea for or mitigate some of the important issues and problems we face today. But complacency, my brothers, will be our death knell. To act without rhyme or reason will accomplish little, however, to not act when action is necessary may undermine our fraternity's future prospects.

As I have traveled in other Grand Jurisdictions and been involved in the many Concordant and Appendant Bodies of Freemasonry I have observed

that we are faced with many similar issues and problems. I have also observed that there are many tremendous people out there analyzing those issues and attempting new and innovative methods to address those issues and problems. Some successful and others perhaps not as much, but what is important is that we not sit back on our haunches and allow the ravages of time to take its great toll on our Fraternity.

We need not try to make great and earth shattering innovations in our Fraternity. On the contrary, in my opinion, our Fraternity has existed for its lengthy lifetime as a result of those traditions and consistent principles which comprise its great core. I submit to you that we can be flexible with our ideas and efforts in addressing the needs of our times while simultaneously adhering to the great landmarks and traditional concepts that we have inherited and which should never, never change.

The several words which will frame our efforts this year will be promotion, communication and education. Borrowing from ideas which have been tried elsewhere, we have already embarked on promoting our Fraternity through a joint venture with other members of our Fraternal Family; the Order of Eastern Star, the International Order of Rainbow for Girls and the Order of DeMolay. This joint venture consists of promoting our Fraternal Family and particularly our youth groups by a continuously rotating slide advertisement appearing three times before each movie at the Warwick Showcase Cinema complex. This



BROTHER STEVEN E. SMITH
Most Worshipful Grand Master
Grand Lodge of Rhode Island

advertising will run over the course of a twenty-four week period during the heightened activity of the summer release of this year's new movies.

Several years ago as a result of a number of books such as Dan Brown's "The Da Vinci Code", movies such as "National Treasure" and a myriad of learning and mystery-type television programs, our Fraternity experienced an increase in public attention. We are now about to experience another round of exposure with a new Dan Brown novel, under the working title "The Solomon Key", and "National Treasure 2: Book of Secrets" some of which was filmed recently at the George Washington Masonic Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia. If we prepare properly, this notoriety affords us an opportunity to promote our Fraternity with our own defined message. We do not want our Fraternity to be defined by writers of fiction.

Our Public Relations Committee has been busy working on a major initiative scheduled for Saturday, October 13, 2007. On that day, throughout our Grand Jurisdiction, all of our Rhode Island Lodges will open

Rhode Island FREEMASON

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their doors to the general public. Beginning in September the Masonic Open House day will be preceded by a campaign of television, radio and newsprint advertising which is already in production. This concept will afford an opportunity to increase awareness of true Freemasonry, by re-establishing our presence in our communities, properly informing, educating and attracting potential members and to eliminate any misconceptions which may exist in the minds of the profane. It also provides our own members a chance to target select individuals for invitation for informational purposes. This initiative, to be successful, will require one hundred percent participation by the craft. So I ask you all to support our efforts to assist our lodges and our fraternity in putting forth our message. The Masonic Open House will be augmented by the "Bring a Friend to Lodge Program", a recruitment program which has already met with success for those who have used it. This program will be offered in a format, which can be adapted to the specific traditions and characteristics of any lodge while maintaining the several recommended aspects of the program which have proved successful. A team of experienced Brothers, under the direction of Worshipful Brother John Anderson and the Membership Renewal Committee is ready and willing to serve as consultants to any Lodge which might desire to take advantage of this program. *All you need to do is ask.*

Communications, both internal as well as through information technology is imperative to an efficient smooth running organization. I am a proponent of improved communication on all levels. We will be examining ways to improve our existing Grand Lodge officer communication and will be receptive to hearing from the grass roots of our fraternity, issues you feel are important or problematic. We know that the day and age is upon us where the internet allows one the ability to virtually read anything and everything about a particular subject, Freemasonry not excluded.

Continued on Page 8



Colors being presented by Overseas Lodge No. 40 at the Annual Communication (top left); Brother Carl B. Willi, Grand Master (R.) welcoming Brother Raymond P. Bellini, Past Grand Master and Grand Secretary Emeritus from the Grand Lodge of New Jersey (bottom left); Brother Benjamin A. Phillips, Past Grand Master, (R.) presenting the newly installed Grand Master, Brother Steven E. Smith, (L.) with his gavel (above).

**Grand Lodge of Rhode Island
Freemasons' Hall
222 Taunton Avenue
East Providence, RI 02914
Phone: (401) 435-4650
FAX: (401) 435-4423
E-mails: grandlodge@rimasons.org
rifreemason@rimasons.org
Web Site: www.rimasons.org**

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Summer Hours (July and August):
Monday - Thursday: 9:00 am—3:00 pm
(Closed Friday)**

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❖ Brother Carl B. Willi, Grand Master (l.) presenting Exemplary Service Medals to Brother John E. Tucker (c.) and Brother James Comstock during the Annual Communication (top left).

❖ The newly installed Grand Master, Brother Steven E. Smith, presenting Brother Carl Willi with his Past Grand Master's jewel (center left).

❖ The Grand Master, Brother Smith (r.) shakes hands with Brother Andre Gregoire (l.), Grand Marshal (bottom left).

❖ Brother Raymond E. Hassell, (r.) District Deputy Grand Master receives his collar and jewel from Brother Smith (above).

❖ The Commandery Honor Guard welcoming the Grand Master and his lady, Grace, at the Venus de Milo Banquet (below).



Metro District Helps Out At McAuley Village

By Brother Samuel A. Miller

The six lodges of the Metro District, St. Johns No.1, Jenks No. 24, Rising Sun No. 30, Redwood No. 35, Overseas No. 40 and Daylight No. 48, conducted the *Ladies at the Table* program. The program, on the evening of April 28, 2007, served to provide an opportunity for the Brethren of the District to enjoy an evening out with their ladies. It also proved to be an extremely successful fund-raising event.

There were 101 tickets sold and the hall at Grand Lodge was filled with participants. The Ladies at the Table corresponds to a traditional Table Lodge and provides the opportunity to remember and honor those women that gives us with friendship, loyalty, support and love.

That evening we had seven toasts, honoring the United States, volunteers, Masonic Ladies and special ladies, women in education, professional women, women everywhere, more especially the women in our lives and McAuley Village. Our hosts for the evening were Brother Kenneth N. Bruns, R W District Deputy Grand Master and his W Grand Master of Ceremonies, Brother Paul S. DeMonti. All of the Lodges in the District were represented.

The organization honored at the event as the Metro District Charity for this year was McAuley Village. Present, on behalf of McAuley Village, were Sister Holly Cloutier, RS.M. and Sister Margaret Wroblewski, RS.M. McAuley Village is located in Providence. It is a two year transitional housing program and includes apartment facilities and programs for low income single parents and their children, and addresses



Brother Samuel Miller (L.) Assistant Grand Lecturer and Past Master of Redwood Lodge No. 35 presents a check to Sister Holly (c.) and Sister Margaret at McAuley Village.

homelessness, unemployment, underemployment, domestic violence, substance abuse, safety and security issues. Day care facilities are provided on site for the younger children in order that the parent can devote their energies to learning new life skills to help them to become self sufficient.

The District, through ticket sales, a pie auction and donations was able to raise \$2,500 to present to McAuley Village. The donation was presented at McAuley Village on May 15 by Brother Kenneth Bruns and Brother Jerry Plemmons, W Master of St. John's, accompanied by his wife Carol, and Brother Samuel Miller, W Assistant Grand Lecturer for the Metro District. They were able to tour the impressive facility and meet with the administration, staff, parents and especially the children. The facility had wanted to purchase a permanent awning to provide shade for the Child Care Center's outdoor play area, but did not have the \$2,000 needed to purchase the equipment. Fate intervened in the guise of our fraternity. This event, combined with the first hand visit to the facility clearly highlighted the Masonic values we all hold dear and provided us all with a warm satisfying experience. The Metro District Charity Committee wants to express its thanks to all those that participated to make this event the success that it was, especially the brethren of Manchester Lodge, a Lodge that is not even in the Metro District, for donating their time to set up the room, serve the meal and clean up afterwards. Their assistance was invaluable.

All Masonic Picnic

Sunday, August 12, 2007

Buttonwoods × Warwick, RI

10:00 a.m. to dusk

Steak tickets > \$13.00

Hot Dog/Hamburger tickets > \$6.00

Tickets available from the District Deputy Grand Masters, the Shrine and the Grand Lodge office.





Funding for the Long Term

By Brother Norman D. Tierney, Jr., Grand Treasurer

In part, this article will be aimed at new development and at part at explanation of what many of us are working with and the limitations we face. This column has touched on funding of our operations in past issues, but has not gotten beyond the concept. This month I still want to talk about concept, but in more depth, as well present a few ideas for development of financial health of the organization.

Some organizations which may be classed as fraternal, or as social seem to move along smoothly on hand to mouth funding. The collections at a meeting finance the cost of collation, or the dues are set based on a conservative budget that does not look beyond the current fiscal year.

Some of these organizations can even get into larger projects when a perception of need arises due to some event. These projects are usually funded by special collections from members, or by holding some fund raising event.

While many of these organizations may exist and operate for many years, there is usually no sense of continuity, no expressed intent to be a perpetual operation. There are usually a few movers and shakers who provide the impetus for years, perhaps decades. When they fall by the wayside the continuation depends on some other members who are willing to make a similar commitment. Because of this, there is rarely any attempt to accumulate funds to support the operation or to generate income for projects.

Freemasonry, in the three hundred years or so of its current form, has always been about continuation and being able to provide for the future. No doubt many of the members have had personal funds that allowed them

to generously support their local lodge as well as its Grand Lodge. However, there have always been lodges without the generous beneficiary.

Some of our lodges function successfully without endowment funding. Others with enough resources to have, or to create endowment funding falter and merge or close. It is obvious that money in itself in no panacea. However, having resources does make life easier.

Looking at a few lodges that have made significant renovations to their buildings in recent years for which many members of the lodge have personally made very generous donations, one has to wonder how much easier it might have been on everyone if the funds had been donated/raised/saved over a period of time and invested to generate growth and income so the means for the renovations might have been at least mostly available from within the lodge.

There are two means of generating endowments. The one many of us like to think about is the benevolent benefactor who gifts, or bequests a large chunk of money. Unfortunately, these are few and far between. Also, such endowments are often tied up with restrictions as to use. Most of us are not blessed with clear fore sight, allowing us to make a gift to support something that may not even yet exist.

The second means of generating endowment is much duller, tastes like bad medicine, and is not as exciting. That's why so few of us are successful at it in our own lives. It is called saving. The reality is that it may be more difficult for our lodge than for us personally. At least in our own lives we can look ahead to some sort of personal goal when we try to force ourselves and families to put money away and leave it alone.

In a group situation we need to get the whole group together on the topic. Just one person can foster defeat by strenuously objecting to gathering any dues money other than what is necessary to fund an already tight budget. Putting a line item in the budget to increase endowment is like waving the proverbial red flag at a bull!

This approach isn't going to create a miracle in a year or two; But it can be a start. We need to look at the future. What projects will be necessary for the building? What would we like to do for the special ladies? What charitable effort would we like to be able to support? What will happen fifty years down the road when the next dip in our historically cyclical membership hits?

What about being able to support the lodge through a down turn in the economy? Or having the funds without ties to use the income for whatever interest is piqued in our Brothers?

You say your lodge is okay because you had that benevolent Brother? Maybe not. Go back to the issue of restrictions. You may have the money, but not the use.

Too often we hear the opinion, "It's our money. We can do what we want with it."

Not necessarily so! And if your treasurer allows it to happen, the fallout will be on his shoulders as CFO. He is required by law to see that the restrictions on gifted funds are followed. Can they be changed? Yes. In the courts, at great expense, IF you have a great case and get the right judge.

Why gamble on that? Talk about this. Get it into your financial considerations. Even if you have a good endowment, add to it, or create another fund. A few dollars per member per year can insure the future.

MEMORIAL DAY AT THE Rhode Island Veterans Cemetery



“Those who will may raise monuments of marble to perpetuate the fame of heroes. Those who will may build memorial halls to remind those who shall gather there in after times what manhood could do and dare for right, and what high examples of virtue and valor have gone before them. But let us make our offering to the ever-living soul. Let us build our benefactions in the ever-growing heart, that they shall live and rise and spread in blessing beyond our sight, beyond the ken of man and beyond the touch of time.” — *Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain Memorial Day 1884*



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GRAND MASTER'S SPEECH

Continued from page 3

Past Grand Master, Brother Carl Willi, an advocate of efficiency through communication, will be working with some of our IT savvy Brethren to enhance our existing website, from improved calendar aspects to enhanced service and educational tools, even preparing for the possibilities of an online "Freemason" or even online Masonic education for officers and members. I will also facilitate improved information for the general public. As we look to improve our Masonic education and promotion initiatives our information technology will play an important role.

Masonic education can be viewed as a three pronged concept; Education for our candidates and brethren; for our officers' corps; and for the uninitiated or general public. The candidate forums will continue its out reach into the districts. It remains necessary that each new initiate receive as much information as they desire and that they have the ability to truly explore and expand their search for light. In describing Freemasonry we often hear the phrase "we take good men and make them better". Perhaps we really need to examine what we actually do to deliver on that promise. Are our opportunities for leadership as limited as allowing a brother to become an officer and then letting them fend for themselves or do we really create a sound, nurturing atmosphere, short on critique and long on encouragement, to assist in the brother's leadership experience? I congratulate the great efforts of our Director of Masonic Education, Forum Director and Grand Lecturers Department. Theirs is not any easy task. We must provide them with the assistance and support they need to carry on their important mission. I will ask the Education Committee

to begin a review of our existing educational programs in order to seek opportunities for improvement particularly in relation to our enhanced information technology.

The Rhode Island Child Identification Program, the Teddy Bear Program and our Scholarship Program will continue to be center of our Charity and service related programs. Here, my Brothers, we do not need to reinvent the wheel. These programs have been proven to be valuable service programs, however, for these programs to remain viable they require renewed attention and refinement. I ask for your assistance in this regard.

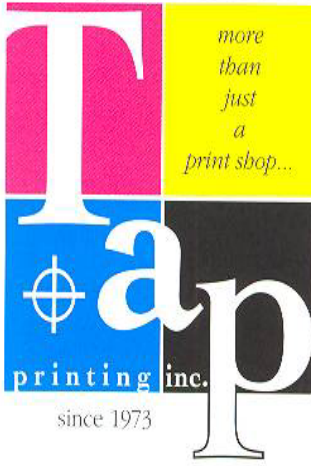
The Masonic Family Picnic will be held at Buttonwoods on Sunday, August 12, 2007. We will once again place the weather conditions in able hands of our Right Worshipful Grand Chaplain, Brother Judah Rosen.

September is Rhode Island Month at the George Washington Masonic Memorial, our National Masonic Shrine in Alexandria, Virginia. We are planning a short bus trip to tour the Memorial, explore some of the environs of Old Town Alexandria and to provide some Rhode Island Masonic information for display. Further details will be forthcoming.

The Grand Lodge Semi-Annual Communication is November 17, 2007. A Fall Festival will take place that evening at the Imperial Room of the Rhode Island Shrine.

Saturday evening January 5, 2008 is the All Fraternal Night, a time for us to strengthen the fraternal ties that comprise our Masonic Family and on January 18th we will embark on well needed Grand Master's 10-day Cruise to the Caribbean. For information on the Cruise, please see the Right Worshipful Grand Marshal or myself.

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SPEECH — ANNUAL COMMUNICATION*Continued from page 8*

Although I have not scheduled a one-day class this year, I, like my predecessor, will challenge any district to organize a District class with, my approval, if the demand is there.

My Brothers, the winds of change are about us. I believe we have exciting times ahead with a bright future for our fraternity. The trend in declining membership is beginning to flatten out. We are experiencing a resurgence in new memberships and most of our lodges are making great strides in processing those candidates. Now is not the time let up. We must keep the momentum going. It is hard work, but it must be done and we can't depend on someone else to do it for us. We each have an individual responsibility to commit ourselves to the future of Freemasonry. My Brothers, each of us can do good things; but together, we can accomplish great things.

The last word I will mention today is commitment and I will do so by referring to the words of Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. Holmes, a towering figure in American jurisprudence served as Chief of the Massachusetts Supreme Court and was appointed to the U. S. Supreme Court by a Brother Mason, President Theodore Roosevelt. But as a young man from Harvard he served with distinction in the 20th Massachusetts Volunteer Regiment during a most divisive time in the history of our great nation, the war between the states. America's Civil War, and although he became one of the 20th Centuries most influential public figures as a jurist and legal scholar, he took his most pride from his service with the young men of the Harvard Regiment and continually paying homage to his fellow soldiers and veteran organizations throughout his long life.

In a famous Memorial day speech given in 1884 to the veterans and GAR in Keene, New Hampshire he referred to the great sacrifices the young men made. He described the commitment they shared, ending in many instances, by them giving their last full measure. In looking back and describing that commitment Holmes said, "In our youths our hearts were touched with fire"—fire, my Brothers, for that which they so unequivocally believed in.

I now say to you, let your hearts be touched with fire—let your hearts be touched with the fire of Freemasonry. Let the embers that glow within your breasts be fanned by the bellows of hope and perseverance for the eternal future of Freemasonry. Let us, together, now do our share; let us leave our mark; let us build our own legacy for our beloved fraternity. May GOD bless the men and women of our armed forces wherever disbursed across the face of this earth defending our freedom. May GOD bless this wonderful fraternity and may GOD bless America. Thank you.

Cryptic Masonry Updates*By Brother John A. Lawson, III*

Companions, It's been a while since I've sent information in to the *Rhode Island Freemason* but here is what has been going on in Cryptic Masonry in Rhode Island. The Annual Assembly was held on the morning of April 14th 2007. On the evening before, there was a banquet at which Tamara Ringeling was presented with the Adult Leadership Award and Companion Robert Harrop was presented with the Cryptic Mason of the Year Award.

The 147th Annual Session was opened at 9:10 a.m. by Most Illustrious Marc P. Paul. We were honored by distinguished guests from several other Jurisdictions as well as leaders of other York Rite Bodies in the area. Companions Eugene Thibeault and George Young were awarded with the Ish Sodi Award and Cecil Kersten of Texas was given his 50 year jewel by our Most Illustrious Grand Master, Brother Marc Paul. Since that time Companion Marc Paul has made several visitations to other Jurisdictions and to Councils within this state including Doric Council No. 7 and making two of the three legs of the 76th Annual Triangular visitations between Providence Council No. 1, Attleboro and Hyde Park Councils. By the time this is printed there will also have been visitations to Adoniram Council No. 8 on June 7th and Webb Council No. 3 on June 28th.

The annual clambake will be held on July 21st at the Masonic building at 81 Sprague Street, Portsmouth, RI. Tickets will be \$25 per person. Also at the clambake will be a Lobster raffle at \$5 a ticket as a joint venture between the Grand Royal Arch Chapter and the Grand Council. First prize is 20 lbs. of live lobsters, second prize 10 lbs. of live lobsters and third prize, 5 lbs. of live lobsters. On September 7th and 8th in Mystic, CT our own Companion, Brother Raymond Hassell the Right Puissant Northeast Regional Deputy Grand Master will be running the 2007 Northeast York Rite Conference. This conference will include great information for Chapters, Councils and Commanderies especially when it comes to what all bodies need to deal with—*membership*. As more information from your Cryptic Companions comes to my attention, I will try to bring it to you in a timely manner.

**The Next Freemason Deadline
is August 5, 2007**



MASONIC GRAND LODGE CHARITIES OF RHODE ISLAND, INC.

Your Charities Efforts in Action



The last two meetings of your Board of Managers have included discussion of an educational (but not scholarship) grant, reviews of some legal work being done to simplify our annual audit and tax work, a clarification that membership in the Column Club is only through donation to Grand Lodge or Masonic Grand Lodge Charities, and lead-in work to review of the scholarship program.

Because of the proximity to the completion of the scholarship process, this seems like a good time to review it for the understanding of all our members. Once again we have had some questions and a few complaints which arose from supposition, misunderstanding or frustration.

Before the Scholarship Fund was formed, we gave a few scholarships from other funds. The Scholarship Fund was built from various donations and from fund raising events where all the participants knew that they were getting an inexpensive meal, some dancing, a lot of raffles, white elephant tables and good company—and fulfilling a good cause.

Once the funding seemed adequate, the scholarship effort was increased. Between the funding available, the number of applications and the costs of higher education, we were able to give small scholarships to most applicants and everyone was happy. A simplistic statement, but reasonably accurate.

However, we reached a point where a few hundred dollars was essentially ineffective given the costs of higher education. The Board of Managers decided that we wanted our money to provide more impact. The Scholarship Committee was asked to come up with recommendations. The result of a great deal of effort was a system which rated applications based on both need and academic performance and which resulted in awards which are three or four times as large as we were giving previously.

For the system to work, we needed information and cooperation from the applicants. We also had to make it possible to get the necessary work done

in a reasonable period of time. It is necessary to keep in mind that the Committee is composed of volunteers who give generously of their time, which is not unlimited.

Over the years we have refined the application and instructions, moved the due date around and changed the parameters by which awards and award amounts are determined. It has been an easier task because influxes of income have enabled us to maintain the levels of awards in the face of increasing applications.

Two concerns are causing us to look at changes in the program. First, as educational costs go up, the value of the established scholarship levels goes down. Second, the huge increase in applications and in those who qualified this year makes it unlikely that we can maintain this pace next year.

The Board will provide direction and parameters and the Committee will suggest ways to meet those goals. There are essentially three things that can happen. One, we can raise more funding to provide more revenue. This is not a short-term reality.

Two, we can retreat from the goal of making our awards have more impact and reduce the levels of the awards. Some people think our awards are too high compared with those provided by other groups. This requires some meaningful comparison. Are we in competition with the local garden club, or with an organization with equivalent funding and intent? Lower awards to more applicants will fulfill the desires of some who think, "I'm a member so my kid should get something."

Three, we can adjust some of the criteria for eligibility which would reduce the number of awards, but let the levels stay the same, or even increase. Perhaps, we can even invoke some means of implementing a cost of living feature to automatically change the criteria for need so that we would not have to perform this review so often. It should be noted that there are those who believe we should be awarding fewer grants, but much more significant ones to provide much better

support for really good students, or those in very real need.

This process will take some time and a lot of effort. Extra meetings have already been scheduled to deal with this issue. When there is something substantive evolving we will report what is happening. Please be patient.

There is another aspect of the program that needs to be reviewed. Everything begins with the application. We have worked very hard in conjunction the office staff to create a very clear set of instructions, and a straight forward application form.

When the application is received it is matched with the transcript and is checked for completion. Incomplete applications are rejected at that point. Complete applications go to the Scholarship Committee. The Committee reviews each application, rejecting those that do not meet the requirements and applying the rating process to those that do.

It is always difficult to reject an application, but it is incumbent upon the applicant to follow the instructions. Some people have asked why we cannot contact the applicant for corrections. The two major factors are volume and volume. The volume of applications and the volume of work at that time of year in the office.

The most frequent reasons for rejection are lack of signatures on tax returns, incomplete financial data, not being eligible for the program (mostly non-Masonic related applicants) and lateness. We do not try to relate the cause of rejection in the rejection letter because of the time it takes. Instead of a generic letter, it would require research and time is critical in the office at that time of year.

The process starts in January and ends in April. The heavy bulk of the applications are received in the last two or three weeks. Procrastination is normal behavior, but hurts this process. It is one item we may not be able to deal with, but it will be part of the considerations this summer.

Have a good summer. We'll look for you at the Grand Lodge picnic. Enjoy!

Reporting on Redwood Lodge No. 35

By Brother Moe Cohen

Redwood celebrated our 1294th regular stated and our 129th Annual communication with the election and installation of Brother Mark H. Freedman as our Master for the ensuing year. A reception was held by Redwood Past Masters and a dinner followed. Brother Freedman served as Worshipful Master for Redwood in 1986 and 1999 and Grand Marshal for Brother Arnold B. Wasserman. Grand Lodge 50-Year Service medals were awarded to Brothers Malcolm Bromberg, PGM, Richard Fierstein, Alfred Elman and David Penn.

Congratulations to our Junior Past Master, Brother Andrew Kaplan and his suite of officers for a very successful and enjoyable year. We are sure he enjoyed and learned from it.

Redwood voted Brothers James Warner, John Lopez and Paul Cardoza to Honorary Membership in Redwood Lodge. They are all Past Masters of Celestial Lodge No. 2, Rhode Island Prince Hall Masons.

Congratulations to Brother and Mrs. Richard Bookbinder on becoming Great Grandparents and to Brother Stephen Gordon who became a Grandfather.

A Memorial service was held for recently departed Brethren Samuel Price and Manuel Young. It was noted that Brother William St. James recently passed away. Our sympathy to their families.

Our congratulations to Most Worshipful Grand Master and his Grand Suite with our best wishes for a very fruitful year. Our congratulations and thanks to the Grand office ladies for a great year with a special thanks from Jerry and me for their assistance over the years.



Brother Richard Fierstein (l.), a Fifty-Year member, joins Brother Malcolm Bromberg (r.) at Redwood Lodge at the presentation of his Fifty-Year Award.

A get well wish to the mother of our Junior Steward, Brother Robert Franchetti. Congratulations to Brother Arthur and Judy Robbins on the celebration of their 50th Wedding anniversary. Also to Naomi Kaplan, wife of Brother Andrew Kaplan on receiving the Rising Star of the Year Award from MetLife.

Welcome to newest Redwood brothers Joseph Giomo, Joseph Ricci, Fredric Magnani and Jeffrey Sanders who were raised and signed the Bylaws of Redwood Lodge. Our congratulations and best wishes for many enjoyable years in Masonry and Redwood.

My Brother Jerry, our cousin Bob Davis and I just completed 60 years in Masonry in Redwood Lodge. Have a great and enjoyable summer.

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At a presentation for Fifty-Year Veteran's Awards at Redwood Lodge are (left to right): Brothers Kenneth N. Bruns, Alfred Elman, David E. Penn and Paul DeMonti.



News from Mt. Moriah No. 8

By Brother Roger Lepire

Brethren and Families, things could not be any better at Mt. Moriah. On Friday, June 1st, we raised five members to the degree of Master Mason. These are five young men with great social values, and they are already well versed in Freemasonry. Thanks to Brother Frank Ball they all did a great job on their proficiency which made us proud to have them as Brothers. Now to make the evening even sweeter, we also read the names of four more men who are interested in taking degrees in our next class at Mt. Moriah. This brings to five the number of candidates we presently have for next year. Obviously the latest four have yet to be interviewed. Now the evening was even more special because of the large turnout we had for this event. We had 28 members in attendance and 19 guests. This does not include our five newest Master Masons. That kind of attendance cannot help but impress new men coming into our grand and noble order. My thanks go out to all the members that came out for this meeting, and a special thanks to all our visitors that also took time out of their busy lives to be there.

There was no shortage of Grand Lodge Officers in attendance. Our District Deputy, Brother Russell R. Davis was there. Brother Richard Ault, Senior Grand Warden, and Brother Joseph McGrath, Grand Master of Ceremonies, came by and brought with them Brother David Gordon, a Brother from across the pond. Brother Gordon said that although there were a great number of differences in our degrees, the work is basically the same. Past Grand Master Brother Robert Yates was also there to view the work and Brother Robert Sweet was put to work as Assistant Grand Lecturer and prompter. Brother Sweet took this in stride and not only did an

excellent job, but was truly happy to have had the opportunity to take part in the work of the evening. There were other Grand Lodge members there, but I won't try to name them all. We do thank them all for being there.

On a different note, I'd like to once again say a few words about our CHIP Program. To those not aware of it, this is the Child Identification Program and it's one of the better things we do for the community. We videotape the children, take a record of the child's fingerprints and do a tooth print impression. There is a single copy of each and all the materials are given to the parents or guardian signing the release form for the child. This is a great program and it's absolutely free. However, this program is being administered by only a handful of brothers. Ask as we may, it's very difficult to get volunteers. The programs normally last about five hours, but if you can't do the whole five hours, maybe you could do two hours? For example, we did a job recently that went from 7:00 to 11:00 in the morning. Some early birds were there at 6:30 to set up but had to leave at 8:00 or 9:00. Others showed up at 8:00 and stayed until 11:00, or until everything was broken down and put away. This is a great program. No matter what district you're in make an effort to support it. It's also important to support the program, not just the jobs in your District. Well, I guess that's about enough preaching for one day. On a sad note Brother Harold Taylor passed away in April. Brother Taylor was 82 years old and had been a Master Mason since 1949. He affiliated with Mt. Moriah in 1974 and was active for many years. Brother Taylor made a generous donation to Mt. Moriah in his will; our thanks go out to Harold and his widow, Cecile. Our sincere prayers go out to his family. See you in two months, The Good LORD willing.

For Your Calendar

All Masonic Picnic ~ August 12, 2007

September ~ Rhode Island Month at the George Washington Masonic Memorial

Masonic Open House Day ~ October 13, 2007

Semi-Annual Communication of Grand Lodge ~ November 17, 2007

Fall Festival ~ November 17, 2007

All Fraternal Night ~ January 5, 2008

Grand Master's Cruise ~ January 18-28, 2008

GRAND MASTER'S OFFICIAL VISITATIONS

East Bay District/St. Paul's Lodge No. 14 ~ September 4, 2007

Metro District/Jenks Lodge No. 24 ~ November 26, 2007

Central District/Harmony Lodge No. 9 ~ February 12, 2008

Southern District/Washington Lodge No. 5 ~ March 3, 2008

Northern District/ Friendship Lodge No. 7 ~ March 15, 2008

Mother Lodge/Lafayette Lodge No. 47 ~ April 2, 2008

**Thoughts From the
Edgar M. Docherty
Memorial Library of
Roosevelt Lodge**



By BROTHER JACOB G. WOLFF
Right Worshipful Grand Historian
(May 21, 1988—May 17, 1999; Died May 6, 2003)

How the Bible Became the Great Light of Masonry

(reprinted from RI Freemason January 1989)

For some four hundred years in the history of Operative Masonry, a Mason like almost every other man in Britain or Europe, could not read or write, not only because there were almost no schools except for the very rich, but also because there was no printing, and whenever there was no printing, learning is a luxury beyond the means of the rank and the file of ordinary men. Yet, the circumstances under which such a Freemason then lived, and the exigencies of his own work, made it necessary for him to know an outline of the history of his own Craft (otherwise questions of Craft Jurisdiction could not be settled) and also to know the rules and regulations under which he had to work. When an apprentice took his oath, it was not a pledge to be true to general or abstract ideas, but a definite pledge to obey orders of his officers and to live and work according to rules which governed his tools, materials, clothing, behavior and many similar things.

The whole body of history, rules, regulations, obligations and laws was carried in the memories of the craftsmen and was passed on by the old members to new members by means of oral transmission. It had to be learned by heart. Since not only his happiness but also his right to work and to earn a living for himself and family depended on having it by heart, each craftsman made sure of having it letter perfect. There was no uncertainty about it, no vagueness, no liberty of each man to change it to please himself; from beginning to end it was as clear cut as a page of writing, as well organized as a book, and if we have any means to recover it, we could treat it as if it were a document.

In the middle of the 14th Century two changes occurred. The civil government enacted a law which required guilds and fraternities to reduce their rules and regulations to writing and to file a copy with municipal authorities. At London, at York, or at Gloucester, or perhaps at all three. Freemasons did not dissolve a Lodge after a building was completed, as had always been done before, but decided to make it permanent; this made it necessary for them to have a written charter, as was also required by law, therefore that Lodge employed a scribe to draw up a document. In this document the Lodge sought to show that it was entitled to a charter because Freemasonry was both ancient and honorable; it then made the claim, which the authorities accepted, that King Atheistan had granted a written Royal Charter to Freemasons in 926; and it concluded with a statement of rules, regulations, parts and points of Masonic Law. To conform to the civil law the Lodge kept this document exposed on a pedestal in front of the Master's station. Other Lodges followed the lead, and as each one did so it made a copy of the document. Since then the document has been variously styled Old Charges, Old Constitutions, Masonic institutions, Old Manuscripts, etc.

Within two or three years after it had been erected at London in 1717, the First Grand Lodge found it necessary to have such a document of its own, and for similar reasons; therefore, a committee was appointed with Dr. James Anderson

as Chairman, though George Payne had already written out the regulations. This Grand Lodge version of the Old Charges was printed in 1723, and was called the book of constitutions. As Lodges came under the authority of new Grand Lodge, or as new Lodges were chartered by it, they began to replace their manuscript copy of the Old Charges with a printed copy of the book, and apprentices took their oath on it. In the meantime, however, the ancient Old Charges had become so imbedded in the rites and symbolisms of the ritual that, though the new Lodges used the printed book, they still possessed, at least in substance, most of the old unprinted or unwritten history, rules and regulations, and that continues to be true.

But in some 12 or 13 years after the first Grand Lodge was organized in London, and for use by Lodges in and around London, Lodges began to be set up in France, Spain and in the Americas; and then after another short period of time, they began unexpectedly to multiply all over the world, as far away as India and Malaya. Since the rules and regulations in the book of Constitutions had been drawn in England and in English customs and on the basis of English customs, and use in England, Lodges abroad had difficulty in making use of the printed book of Constitutions. Something more general, more universal, was needed.

This was found in the Holy Bible, and it began gradually to replace the book of Constitutions on the Pedestal. But when thus used, the Bible was not taken to be a theological text book, but rather was used as a volume in which the fundamental principles of Masonic Law could be found, and therefore it was called the Volume of the Sacred Law. The Grand Lodge officially endorsed its use for such a purpose in 1760, when by formal action it declared the Bible to be a Great Light.

America's Most Patriotic Town ~ Bristol, Rhode Island

The first battle of King Philip's War took place here in 1675; although Philip was eventually defeated, his Indian name, Metacom, is now the name of a main road in Bristol. King Philip also made nearby Mount Hope (Montaup) his base of operations. "King Philip's Chair," a rocky ledge on the mountain, was a lookout site for enemy ships on Mount Hope Bay. After that was concluded, the town was settled in 1680 as part of the Plymouth Colony. It was sold for 1100 to four Boston investors by the name of Byfield, Walley, Oliver and Burton. It remained a part of Massachusetts until the Crown transferred it to the Rhode Island Colony in 1747.

During the American Revolutionary War, the British Navy bombarded Bristol twice. On October 7, 1775, a group of ships led by Captain Wallace and the *HMS Rose* sailed into town and demanded provisions. When refused, Wallace shelled the town, causing some damage. The attack was stopped when Lt. Gov. William Bradford rowed out to the *Rose* to negotiate a cease-fire, but then a second attack took place on May 25, 1778. This time, 500 British and Hessian troops marched through the main street (now called Hope Street) and burnt 30 barracks and houses, taking some prisoners to Newport.

Bristol also is noted for having the oldest continuous Independence Day celebrations in the United States. The first mention of this comes from July 1777, when a British officer noted sounds coming from across Narragansett Bay.

"This being the first anniversary of the Declaration of Independence of the Rebel Colonies, they ushered in the morning by firing 13 cannons, one for each colony, we suppose. At sunset, the rebel frigates fired another round of 13 guns, each one after the other. As the evening was very still and fine, the echo of the guns down the Bay had a grand effect."

The annual celebrations were established in 1785 and continue today, organized by the Bristol Fourth of July Committee. The festivities start long before the Fourth of July and end with the Military, Civic and Firemen's Parade, an event that draws over 200,000 people from Rhode Island and around the world. These elaborate celebrations give Bristol its nickname, "America's most patriotic town."

Some Notable Inhabitants:

JOHN SAFFIN; best known for his *A Brief and Candid Answer* to Samuel Sewall's *The Selling of Joseph* (1700) over the issue of slavery.

AMBROSE BURNSIDE; railroad executive, industrialist, politician and Union general

NATHANAEAL HERRESHOFF; yacht designer and builder
IRA MAGAZINER; chief internet policy advisor to the Clinton administration

ETHEL BARRYMORE COLT; actor and lyricist

SAMUEL P. COLT; entrepreneur, politician, lawyer, gentleman farmer and philanthropist

ANTHONY QUINN; actor

Articles can be submitted to the Rhode Island Freemason sending them to: 222 Taunton Avenue, East Providence, RI 02914-4556 or by e-mail to rifreemason@rimasons.org



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Internet Health Sites — Some You May Have Overlooked

Visits to health and medical Web sites have surged in the past several years, but you may be missing some of the best health information on the Internet.

Nearly one-third of all visits to the Internet are for medical help and news on health issues. Internet users clicked on health sites 27% more in May 2007 compared with the 19% a year ago. The WebMd.com site is by far the most popular, along with several other general health information sites; two favorites being MayoClinic.com and MedHelp.org. Here's a look a few other sites you might want to check out.



color coded graphic showing your risk and how you compare with the rest of us. The site give you kudos for the things you're doing right and, with one click, show you how a single change—like eating more fruits and vegetables—will shrink your risk.

The risk assessments were designed and reviewed by experts at Harvard's medical school and teaching hospitals and its School of Public Health. The site is eye-opening, using personal health information and colorful graphics to illustrate how simple lifestyle changes can lower your risk for some scary health problems.

< www.Medlineplus.gov You won't find a site with more useful information, or with more credibility—it is sponsored by the National Institution of Health in Bethesda, Maryland and its National Library of Medicine, the world's largest medical library.

The best thing about MedlinePlus is where it take you. The site contains countless links to sites like clinicaltrials.gov, which lists nearly 11,000 government- and privately-funded clinical trials, and PubMed, which health professionals use to search medical journals. Like all health Web sites, it requires some clicking around. The best way to start is to type a topic in the search box, and it will kick up a variety of credible links. The site includes interactive tutorials on 165 topics: narrated slide shows explain everything from barium enemas to hip-replacement surgery.

< www.YourDiseaseRisk.Harvard.edu For the past few years this site has focused only on cancer risk, but was updated to assess risk for diabetes, heart disease, stroke and osteoporosis. The user clicks on a type of illness and answers a series of questions about age, exercise, eating habits and family history. The result is a

< www.HealthWeb.org The site, sponsored by the National Library of Medical, is a one-stop site to find noncommercial health Web sites that have been evaluated by medical librarians from university medical schools. A visitor to the site simply clicks on one of the nearly 70 topics, including alternative medicine, nutrition or sports medicine, and is shown links to several other Web sites. If a site appears in the list, you know it has been evaluated by at least one of the more than two dozen medical libraries that support the site.


< www.Acor.org The Association for Cancer On-line Resources site lacks the jazzy graphics that make many health sites appealing, but if you can wade through all the test you will find an indispensable tool for navigating cancer information on the Web. The nonprofit group's site has numerous links to other sites, including information about clinical trials anc cancer-related books. But the best services on this site are the 70 online cancer information and support groups, where you can tap into the vast knowledge of the cancer patients and survivors to get answers to your questions.

The next Rhode Island Freemason deadline is August 5

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Lafayette Lodge Honors a Fifty-Year Veteran

By Brother John A. Whatmough

April and May were great months in the activities of Lafayette Lodge No. 47. In April not a single seat was available to see our District Deputy Grand Master, Brother Douglas E. Connell, make his official visitation to Lafayette. Brother William Mack, the W Grand Master of Ceremonies, had a very busy night by first announcing Brother Connell accompanied by a large suite from the Northern District. An alarm was sounded and a Suite from the East Bay District paid a surprise visit all wearing their Red Socks. Another alarm sounded, the Lodge went into darkness and entered the Most Worshipful Grand Master, Brother Carl Willi and his R W Grand Marshal, Brother Francis J. Ringeling wearing Miner's "head lanterns" and wearing Red Socks. At least it created attention and laughter from the Brethren.

Next was the presentation of a 50-year medal to Brother James Fitzpatrick, the 18th Master of Lafayette. The apron worn by Brother Jim that evening is an exact replica of the apron worn by President and Worshipful Brother George Washington. This apron, one of the Masonic treasures of Lafayette Lodge, is allowed to be worn only once per year.



Brother Douglas E. Connell, District Deputy Grand Master, (l.) escorts Brother James Fitzpatrick (R.) once around the Lodge Room after presenting him with a Fifty-Year Veteran's Award.

The May meeting was the Coronation of Lady Grace Smith, the wife of our now Most Worshipful Grand Master, Brother Steven E. Smith. Her court consisted of Meredith Jencks, Linda Gregoire, Mary Jannarelli, Jean Richard, Allison Thienel and Pamela Young. The ladies prepared the script and acted out the Coronation installation to the enjoyment of the lodge attendees. I

make no apologies for bragging about our new Grand Master and his Lady; Lafayette Lodge is honored to have them representing us.

Brother Steven E. Smith was the 34th Master of Lafayette Lodge, 1998-99 and the second Grand Master to come from our small Northern Lodge.

The Annual Communication on May 21, 2007 will be a day to forever treasure. Brother Smith was introduced by Brother Robert J. Allen, Most Worshipful Past Grand Master, and installed as the Grand Master of Masons for the State of Rhode Island by Brother Benjamin A. Phillips, Most Worshipful Past Grand Master. Our Grand Master has Brother Andre L. Gregoire as his Grand Marshal, also a Past Master of Lafayette Lodge No. 9.

The Lodge will be in session during July and August. Upon a favorable investigation, we will conduct the Entered Apprentice Degree on two candidates.

Brother Stanley Sorrentino, our 5th Master, is one of five living Charter Members. Recently, he and his wife Hope made a trip to Ireland to trace family roots. The March 2007 issue of the *Grand Lodge News, A.F. & A.M. Masons of Ireland* published an article of his visit to St. Johns Masonic Lodge No. 113, Killyeach, County Down, Ireland where he received a 250th Anniversary jewel. I will quote the article published in their Masonic Newspaper.

KILLYEAGH MEETS RHODE ISLAND USA

A special meeting of St. John's Masonic Lodge No. 113 was called on 5th June 2006 to welcome a Brother Mason Worshipful Brother Stanley Sorrentino, a member of Lafayette Lodge No. 47 in Rhode Island U.S.A. The members of Lodge No. 113 were joined by members of its sister Lodge-Truelues No. 30, and by our Provincial Assistant Grand Master, Brother Richard H. Gray and a number of other distinguished Provincial Officers from Down and Antrim. During the meeting, Brother Gray gave a short history of Lodge No. 113 (which celebrated its 250th Anniversary in 1998) and welcomed Brother Sorrentino to Ireland and the Province of Down. Brother Sorrentino then addressed the meeting of the reason for his visit to Killyleagh. His wife's Grandfather was a member of Lodge No. 113 and was Worshipful Master in 1881.

He and his wife had come to see the area and to try to discover the family roots. Worshipful Brother Sorrentino gave a brief history of his Masonic career in U.S.A. He received his 50-year jewel and thanked the Brethren for his reception.

The acting Worshipful Master on the evening, Brother Phillip Kinkead then presented Brother Sorrentino with a 250th Anniversary jewel and a gift for his wife. After the meeting, Worshipful Brother Sorrentino along with his wife and our guests were entertained to a buffet supper in the Lodge's Ante Room.

St. Johns Lodge Number One Providence Travels to New Jersey

By Brother Edward F. Ellsworth

It was St. Johns turn to make the alternate visit to Euclid Lodge No. 136 F. & A. M., at Hasbrouck Heights, NJ. This was our eighteen exchange visit between our Lodges and it came in our 250th anniversary celebration. On Saturday May 5th, thirty-five members of St. Johns Lodge gathered at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center and awaited our chartered bus. The Flagship arrived at 9:00 a.m. and as Brothers were boarding and loading our gear for Lodge, it was a welcome site to see our Worshipful Master, Brother Jerry Plemmons arriving with the coffee and donuts for the travelers. A quick head count was taken and we were off to New Jersey. While enjoying their coffee and donuts, the Brothers entered into lively chats over many subjects and events including the events schedule for today.

After a short stop to stretch our legs before reaching New York City, it was a welcome sight to see the exit for Hasbrouck-Heights. Our Flagship arrived at the Temple around 12:30 p.m. and was greeted by a large group of Brothers from Euclid Lodge. It soon moved inside too more chatter and the "light lunch," as they called it, with delicious hot and cold choices. But, at the end was a grinder. I wish I could have taken a picture; its' length was huge. They had arranged it so a single portion was already cut. During that enjoyable lunch, it was wonderful to chat with Brothers you hadn't seen for a year. For eight or nine of us, it was a chat with members of our own Lodge, for they are affiliated members of Euclid Lodge.

The call came for the tour at 2:00 p.m.. Euclid had arranged for us to board the submarine USS Ling SS-297. It was planned so we would open Lodge at 4:00 p.m. This is one of the highlights of every trip. We all meet upon the level and enjoy the surprises that follow. This year, Euclid Lodge had secretly forwarded a check to the Master of St. Johns Lodge for a special item to be made in Rhode Island. It was given to W Brother Michael F. Giuffre to present to St. Johns' during this visit. It was a large flag, with St. Johns name and emblem on a white back ground with a gold fringe in commemoration of our 250th Anniversary. Our special gift from Euclid Lodge will be in the East at all of our meetings. After the Masters exchanged their gifts, the members of St. Johns Lodge were assembled West of the Altar and presented with pens in commemoration of the occasion. The Worshipful Master, Brother Plemmons, had the members of Euclid assembled West of the Altar and each was given a robotic reading light. Euclid will make the return trip to Rhode Island in 2008.

Everyone relaxed, and now in casual travel wear, we sat down to a wonderful prime rib supper prepared to your choice. Chatter continued with the Brethren as our bus was loaded with our gear. Our goodbyes were given and we boarded our Flagship at 7:30 p.m. for our return home. When the bus lights went on again at 11 :00 p.m., all knew we had arrived back at the Scottish Rite Center having enjoyed another part of our 250th Anniversary.



St. Johns Lodge members getting off the bus in New Jersey to a large reception from Euclid Lodge .



A group of St. Johns' members West of the Altar at Euclid Lodge. The Altar cloth was our gift to Euclid Lodge, is double-sided with their name on the opposite side, to be used for our visits.



St. Johns Lodge Worshipful Master, Brother Plemmons, and Euclid Lodge Master, Brother Mike Giuffre unveil the new flag.

Four Generations of Grants

By Brother Lance W. Chappell

There has been a steady presence of the Grant family in St. Andrews Lodge spanning over 64 years. It is a commendable record of one family's dedication to Masonry.

The Grant family first came on the scene in the early 1940's when Russell James Grant Sr., first knocked on the door of St. Andrews Lodge on June 14, 1943 and worked his way through the line to become the 54th Master in 1947.

The lodge door received another knock on April 12, 1951 when Russell James Grant, Jr., made his way into Masonic life. He also worked his way up the line, becoming the 63rd Master in 1958 and was called up once again in 1985. He also served the Grand Lodge in the capacity of Associate Grand Lecturer for the East Bay District for a number of years and was honored by being appointed Grand Lecturer on May 17, 1999. He also served as Grand Representative of RI in North Carolina. Russell was honored with an Exemplary Service Award on May 17, 1999, the Fifty-Year Veteran's Award on March 8, 2001, the Distinguished Service Award on May 19, 2003 and the St. Andrews Lodge Mason of the Year Award in 2005.

The lodge door once again received another knock on March 27, 2004 when Douglas J. Grant, made his way into Masonic life. He is presently serving the lodge as Senior Deacon and is following the family footsteps to becoming the 105th Master. His father obligated him on his first night as an Entered Apprentice.

And the lodge door received yet another knock on March 8, 2007 when Christopher J. Grant made his way into Masonic life. He is presently working his way through his lesson books and will be signing the By-Laws of St. Andrews Lodge shortly. His father obligated him on his first night as an Entered Apprentice.

In the 112 years of existence of St. Andrews Lodge, there has been an active presence by the Grant family over 57% of those years. The Grant family has shown by deeds, their believe in this fraternity and the contributions that it performs, not only for the membership, but to the community at large. These brethren, past and present, truly believe in this craft and hopefully the tradition will continue for years to come.



Pictured above at St. Andrews Temple are Brothers Christopher J. Grant (l.), Russell J. Grant, Jr. (c.) and Douglas J. Grant (r.)

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St. Andrews Lodge and the Grant Family

Continued from page 18

Brother Russell was a unique individual who always sought to do things right, no matter at what cost. His insistence on doing the work correctly was either an inspiration to everyone, or a signal that perhaps this may not be for me. Back in the 1970's when there was an abundance of members in the lodge, officer seats were honored. To hold onto them required that the ritual be learned and performed correctly or a replacement would be appointed.

One statement that he made that rang true with me was at a rehearsal session one Sunday evening many years ago when he said, *"Everyone here has aspirations to receive a Past Master's jewel. This jewel has to be earned and that means you must do the ritual work assigned to your office proficiently and you must attend the rehearsals."*

Russ held a very high bar on the Master Mason's Degree. The ritual work had to be the very best, which meant everyone had to know their parts, or else the degree would not be presented. A few times he would not allow a degree to go on because he felt the officers were not proficient. He made it known that St. Andrews Lodge would be recognized for their ritual work and he strived to the end. This will be his legacy for all of us. He cared very much for his Mother Lodge and was protective of its future.

As the Ritual Advisor of the Lodge, you could say he was the "overseer of the work" and made sure that the work was "good and true." His prominent place in the lodge was before the lectern where he would always deliver his ritual as Chaplain to the candidates, as they passed before him on their journey, the Charges attached to the degrees and the history of the Master Mason Degree. This place in the Lodge will be different now that he has gone to the Celestial Lodge above. Brother Russ has laid down the working tools of the Craft; job well done, loyal and faithful servant.

Recollections of Brother Russell J. Grant, Jr.

I will always treasure my relationship with "Uncle Russ," first beginning as our Ritual Advisor in Loyalty Chapter, Order of DeMolay, where I first took a part in 1960. He was always there to assist with the necessary encouragement to make sure that the work was done correctly. I recall well in later years visiting St. Andrews [1985] as the sitting master of my own Lodge in Rochester, NY and who was there as the Master of St Andrews to make sure that I was received and seated in the East — Uncle Russ.

After being appointed as the District Deputy Grand Master of the Monroe District by then Brother Richard P. Thomas, Grand Master of Masons in New York [1990] the first congratulations card that I received was from Uncle Russ. Uncle Russ flew to Rochester, NY in May of 2002 to witness my obligation as the Commander in Chief of the Valley of Rochester, NY, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry.

We drove to Providence a couple of days later to see Brother Robert J. Allen installed as the Grand Master of Masons in Rhode Island. While sitting in Grand Lodge, who was one of the first to give me a special greeting — Uncle Russ. And so the treasured relationship has lived on.

"There's only one way to do the work — the right way." That thought which he taught us all well has always been with me. We have all benefited from his insistence on doing the right thing, the right way. It is so true that from the Order of DeMolay developed the Freemasons of the future; now we know why.

Fraternally,

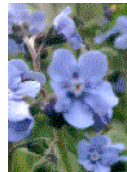
Steven Whittaker

Sr. DeMolay, Loyalty Chapter
PDDGM, NY

The Forget-Me-Not; THE STORY BEHIND THIS EMBLEM OF THE CRAFT IN GERMANY

As early as the year 1934, soon after Hitler's rise to power, it became apparent that Freemasonry was in danger. In the same year, the German Grand Lodge of the Sun in Bayreuth (one of the pre-war German Grand Lodges), realized the imminent problems facing them and elected to wear a little blue flower, the Forget-Me Not, in lieu of the traditional Square and Compasses, as a mark of identity for Masons. It was felt the new symbol would not attract attention from the Nazis, who were in the process of confiscating and appropriating Masonic Lodges and property. Masonry had gone underground and it was necessary that the Brethren have some readily recognizable means of identification.

Throughout the entire Nazi era a little blue flower in a lapel marked a Brother. In the Concentration Camps and in the cities a little blue Forget-Me Not distinguished the lapels of those who refused to allow the Light of Masonry to be extinguished.



In 1947, when the Grand Lodge of the Sun was reopened in Bayreuth by Past Grand Master Beyer, a little blue pin, in the shape of a Forget-Me Not, was proposed and adopted as the official emblem of the first annual convention of those who had survived the bitter years of semi-darkness, bringing the Light of Masonry once again into the Temples.

At the first Annual Convent of the United Grand Lodges of Germany in 1948, the pin was adopted as an official Masonic emblem honoring those valiant Brethren who carried their work on under adverse conditions. Thus did a simple flower blossom forth into a meaningful emblem of the Fraternity and became perhaps the most widely worn pin among Freemasons in Germany. In many Lodges, the Forget-Me-Not is presented to new Master Masons, at which time its history is briefly explained.

A Masonic Treasure

George Washington was inaugurated as the first President of the new republic on the 30th of April in 1789 in front of a vast multitude in the open gallery of the old City Hall in New York. The oath of office was administered by Robert R. Livingston, then Chancellor of the State of New York, and the open bible upon which the President laid his hand was the Masonic Bible borrowed for the ceremony from St. John's Lodge in New York City.

Among the distinguished gentlemen on hand were John Adams, who had been chosen to be Vice President, and George Clinton, Governor of New York. The crimson velvet cushion upon which the Masonic Bible rested was held by Mr. Otis, Secretary of the Senate. After taking the oath of office and kissing the sacred book, Washington closed his eyes and said, in true Masonic tradition, "So help me God!" Chancellor Livingston the exclaimed, "It is done!," and then turning to the people he shouted, "Long live George Washington, the first President of the United States." The first Presidential mansion was in New York and was provided for Washington by Congress. Among the furnishings of the first Presidential office was a fine writing desk, in what we now call the Sheraton style, which embodies simplicity of outline, carefully considered proportions and



Brother Kenneth W. Jencks
Past Grand Master

sparing use of classical motif. When the capital was relocated to Philadelphia, the desk remained in New York. Today, the original desk is enshrined in the Governor's Room, City Hall, New York.

Brother Kenneth W. Jencks, Most Worshipful Past Grand Master, began his term as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge

of Rhode Island on May 17th, 1976 and as the Grand Lodge offices moved from Dorrance Street in Providence to the Scottish Rite Cathedral on Broad Street in Cranston, among the furnishings in the Grand Master's new office was a replica of the legendary George



Washington Desk that had been recently purchased by the Grand Lodge in honor of the nation's Bicentennial.

This faithful reproduction, beautifully crafted in mahogany, was produced by the Kittinger Company of Buffalo, New York. The company was founded in 1866, and from 1937 to 1990 it was the chief furniture reproduction maker for the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. Today, these vintage reproductions are highly sought after, and are considered to be among the finest pieces of furniture produced in America in the 20th century. In fact a number of Kittinger reproductions can still be found in the White House, Washington, DC. And the "George Washington Desk" remains the centerpiece of the office of the Grand Master in East Providence.