

# TROWEL



GRAND LODGE OF MASONS IN MASSACHUSETTS • FALL 2011

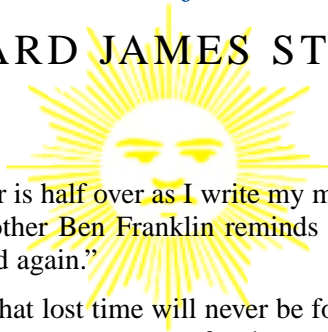


**The 2011  
Grand Master's  
Fair**

**Grand Lodge  
Scholarships**



*From the East of Grand Lodge*  
RICHARD JAMES STEWART



Brethren,

It is hard to believe that summer is half over as I write my message for the fall issue of our TROWEL Magazine. But as Brother Ben Franklin reminds us, "Time is not only quickly passing, lost time is never found again."

We at Grand Lodge do realize that lost time will never be found again and have been hard at work this summer on the many new programs for the coming Masonic year. We are fortunate to have so many truly dedicated brethren, who are willing to invest their time and effort in the various committees that make our Grand Lodge better in every way. At our September Quarterly, you will hear more about these programs that add to the renewed excitement and enthusiasm seen in Massachusetts Freemasonry.

Our co-sponsorship of the Boston Pops July 4th Concert and Fireworks was a huge success, with over three-quarters of a million people seeing our message. Our popular website, AskaFreemason.org, continues to bring us new members. It also answers questions from good men all over the country, and guides them to the jurisdictions where they reside.

For the first time ever, the other New England states will be joining with us for our fall open house: Square and Compasses Day. Virtually every lodge in each state plans to be open to the public on October 15. Even the Ben Franklin "Chats" on our website have taken on a life of their own—spreading virally by the You Tube Internet site and by lodge websites around the world. As one district deputy from another state wrote, "I believe every Mason should see these, because they are so focused on who we are and why we do what we do." If you haven't seen these videos, I encourage you to do so.

Speaking of what we do, you will see in the new Masonic year that we are continuing our journey "Back To The Future." Keeping in mind that there is no future without a past (our Masonic foundations) we will provide education at every level to ensure our lodge ritual is strong, our definition of greatness rings clear, and our future officers are well prepared to lead Freemasonry into the future.

Finally, I would like each of you to think about something that's been on my mind lately: the tremendous value we have in Freemasonry. No matter how much we give, we get back much more in return. That's what great value is all about. As long as men find great value in our fraternity, we will remain strong and vibrant. Please, give this some thought.

Again, I know I am asking much of you—continue to focus on our journey "Back To The Future."

May God bless the men and women who are protecting our great country in order that we may enjoy freedom and this great fraternity we all love so dearly.

Cordially and fraternally,

Richard James Stewart  
Grand Master

# TROWEL

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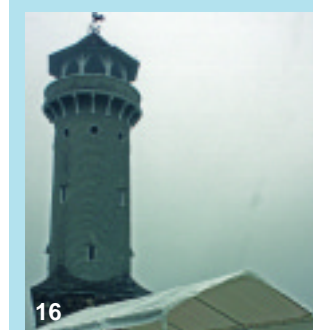
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Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts  
MW Richard J. Stewart



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By the time you receive this issue of TROWEL, your sons and daughters (or grandsons and granddaughters!) will be making their way back to their schools and colleges. One hundred ten students will be off to college with a Grand Lodge scholarship. I find this number stunning. Chairman Brian Noble and his scholarship committee have managed to increase the number of scholarships this year by an astounding 40 percent.



I know other organizations that provide an annual scholarship; and I know some who award multiple scholarships. But 110 scholarships awards? Who else does this? I don't know of anyone. Do you?

Rt. Wor. Bro. Noble with his committee volunteers, and (for many previous years) Rt. Wor. Bob Hartley and his volunteer members methodically raised money, prudently husbanded the funds, judiciously reviewed hundreds of applications, and quietly administered the award process for \$5.3 million in scholarships.

Yet another reason to be proud of being a Mason! Speaking of proud, men are rightly proud of the title of Worshipful. They know, and we all know, that they earned this honorific by serving their lodge as master, and for this achievement deserve the lifelong title of Worshipful.

In the summer issue's list of Veterans, two men were not identified as masters. Worshipful Thomas Lee Gould served as master of Pilgrim Lodge in 1989; Worshipful Harry Dean Wilkey served as master of Milton Lodge in 1968.

I sincerely apologize to these Masons for my errors.  
Fraternally, *John Doherty*

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We encourage readers to contribute to TROWEL by sending e-mails or letters. Letters will be subject to editing for length.

E-mail to [GLTROWELEditor@MASSFREEMASONRY.NET](mailto:GLTROWELEditor@MASSFREEMASONRY.NET)

Or mail to: Trowel Editor, Grand Lodge of Masons  
186 Tremont Street, Boston MA 02111

### TROWEL POSITIONS

*Trowel is interested in retaining editorial services for two of the magazine's tasks*

Copyediting/proofreading services are needed for the production of each issue of the magazine. Light proofreading of page proofs is needed. The time commitment for each issue is approximately ten hours.

Indexing work is needed to add each issue of Trowel to our cumulative periodical index which was begun in 1983. Electronically produced issues since 2003 now need to be added to the index.

*Masons with professional training or experience with either of these two skills are asked to contact the editor at [john.s.Doherty@verizon.net](mailto:john.s.Doherty@verizon.net) or 508-847-9081.*



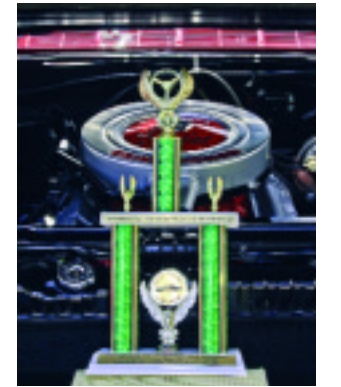
## United Brethren Stage Third Annual Car Show

United Brethren Lodge in Marlborough conducted its third annual classic car show on historic Main Street the first Sunday in June. Nearly 200 cars participated from across the state, double the previous year's total. The show attracted several new sponsors from Marlborough and beyond, and the money raised for charity rose more than 70 percent this year.

Once again, recently raised Masons worked side by side with past masters and other veterans to plan and execute this highly successful community event, in partnership with the Push Rods Car Club of Waltham.

—Bro. Rick Pastore

Marlborough's Chamber of Commerce winner for 2011.



Marlborough's Chamber of Commerce winner for 2011.

### ANNIVERSARY PHOTOS NEEDED

Later this year *Trowel* will honor Masons celebrating their 60th, 65th, 70th, and 75th anniversaries with our annual Masonic anniversaries listing.

Pictures of anniversary pin presentations are needed. Please keep *Trowel* in mind and send us photos of the event. As always, we need well-lit and nicely focused digital jpeg files which should be sent to Lee Fenn at

[TrowelLodgeNews@massfreemasonry.net](mailto:TrowelLodgeNews@massfreemasonry.net)

## Judge Steadman Receives Scottish Rite Medal of Honor



Past Deputy Grand Master Robert L. Steadman (at left in photo) was honored by the Scottish Rite at its annual convocation of the Massachusetts

Council of Deliberation in June. The Northern Masonic Jurisdiction's Medal of Honor is conferred "in recognition of distinguished service to Freemasonry, country, or humanity."

In making the presentation, Sovereign Grand Commander Illustrious John Wm. McNaughton (at right), enumerated Rt. Wor. Bro. Steadman's distinguished legal career, as well as his long service to Massachusetts Freemasonry.

In 1993, Judge Steadman retired as chief justice of the Superior Court of Massachusetts, having served 17 years as a trial judge, following 27 years as a trial attorney. He (continued on page 28)

## Joseph Warren - Soley Lodge Hosts Community Charity Mixer in Lincoln

Looking for a new and more proactive way to decide how to make the lodge's annual charitable donations, Lincoln's Joseph Warren-Soley Lodge invited representatives from a dozen local non-profit organizations to meet with lodge members, as well as guests from other lodges and the larger community. The June mixer succeeded beyond expectations, resulting in a greater awareness of the activities of local charitable groups.

This was a purely social and informational event, with no direct requests for donations. Catered refreshments throughout the evening contributed to a pleasant and festive atmosphere, with many new connections being made, and increased positive public awareness of the lodge.



Wor. Malcolm Burwell of Joseph Warren-Soley Lodge (left) chats with representatives of the Lincoln School Foundation and RW Geoffrey Kromer, DDGM 14th District (right) at the charity mixer.

Always interested in community outreach, JW-S Lodge realized that holding a social event around the selection process would provide value for the (continued on page 29)



# THE MASONIC LEADERSHIP SUMMIT RECHARGES THE CRAFT

by Wor. Alfredo Canhoto

The Masonic Leadership Summit was held on May 7 at the Scottish Rite Museum of our National Heritage. For the first time, interested Masons were asked to pay an admission fee to this one-day educational event. Two hundred Masons attended the sold-out session.

There was something for everyone. The summit kept participants engaged with discussions of *Leadership Begins with Self*, *Leadership in the Community*, and *Leadership in the Lodge and Fraternity*.

Grand Master Richard J. Stewart, opened the day by reminding attendees that the path “Back to the Future” begins

with strong leaders. He reiterated the

many programs that are offered by our Grand Lodge require the energy, skills, and talent of strong leaders.

In the *Leadership Begins with Self* session, participants received training from two military leaders who have been able to move higher in rank and have found great success by effectively using specific aspects of leadership. Commander Catherine Masar, a highly decorated officer who has held numerous active command positions, spoke to participants of the value in “knowing thy self” and of using socialization power to shrink one’s blind spot and increase self-awareness. Commander Masar engaged a large auditorium of Masons who were very willing participants in exercises and impromptu trainings. The second speaker was Captain Pete Harmon, who displayed leadership qualities as a successful Marine fighter pilot. Captain Harmon presented the participants with the story of his life and how a leader can conquer adversity and meet challenges to refocus on what is important.

A pair of Masonic leaders delivered a parallel session on *Leadership in the Community*. Rt. Wor. David Turner, the chief executive officer of the Masonic Health System, used that corporation’s meteoric rise as a model for using a customer service focus and a values-based system for growth. Rt. Wor. Richard (Dick) Manelis, who has a long and distinguished track record of community and worldwide volunteer service, engaged the participants with brainstorming and interactive sessions discussing possibilities of service to others.

*Leadership in the Lodge and Fraternity* included two hometown favorites. Rt. Wor. Joe DeNicola spoke about

leadership in a blue lodge—way beyond the Third Degree—and about setting the Craft at work and how important it is to begin that process as early as the junior steward position. He noted that nurturing good ideas within even the ranks of DeMolay enrich and build the future leaders of our fraternity.

Rt. Wor. Mason Russell spoke on the Future Leader Identification Committee of our Grand Lodge and on marketing the dream of Freemasonry. Brother Russell and his committee are always on the lookout for talented and promising individuals who may be called

upon to serve in numerous capacities.

Brother Russell

also spoke about the importance of effective marketing in a fraternal organization and how this hinges on caring, sharing, and education.

The keynote speaker was Mr. Kevin Sheehan, a local author and consultant who has dedicated his life to the understanding and coaching of leaders. Mr. Sheehan drew parallels between the forefathers of our country and our fraternity. Furthermore, the characteristics of modern leaders were presented and questions from the audience were taken.

The featured speaker, Mr. Travis Roy, perhaps best known for his tragic accident at a Boston University hockey game that left him a quadriplegic, captured every Mason’s attention. Accompanied by two brief videos, which showed Mr. Roy’s early years and the distressing eleven seconds of his first collegiate and last hockey game, Mr. Roy spoke about his life, what constitutes a real challenge, and how to grow to become a leader in the face of adversity. This young man brought the house to its feet with a double standing ovation and sense of wonder and awe at the triumph of the human spirit that carries one to that level of leadership.

A follow-up survey indicated that the 8-hour program was just about the right length, appropriate, informative, and of definite value to participants. Of the several comments, one anonymous brother commented, “There were no slow spots, all went at a pace that kept you involved and alert... The pace was such that the day was over before I knew it (something that never happens in any company event). It was different, spending eight hours in a meeting and leaving awake and alert.” ■



## The Grand Master’s Address

at the June 2011 Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts



The Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge was opened in ample form on June 8, 2011. Shortly after the opening, and, no doubt due to the ambient temperature of 90 degrees that afternoon, M.W. Albert T. Ames offered a motion calling for the formation of a committee to investigate the addition of air conditioning for the lodge room. The motion was readily seconded by M.W. Roger W. Pageau, who joined Bro. Ames in pledging \$1,000 to any future renovation fund. The motion was warmly approved by the 400 Masons in attendance.

### Travel to Foreign Jurisdictions

Grand Master Richard J. Stewart reported on travel during the first half of his first term. His priority has been to visit with as many Grand Lodges as possible to share information on membership development and programs. Toward that end he visited with Connecticut, Maine, Michigan, Quebec, Indiana, New York, New Jersey, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia. He was most pleased to have made new friendships or to have renewed friendships with so many of his counterparts in each jurisdiction.

### Program Highlights

The Grand Master was pleased to report on several of the new programs being introduced by the Membership Development Committee, chaired by Rt. Wor. Kenneth W.

Sprague Jr. The Master Masons Rookie Program has now awarded certificates to 194 Masons, who in turn have sponsored 176 candidates. One of the newest initiatives is the Cable-Tow Brothers: Lodge Mentoring Program, which has been developed to strengthen the candidate experience. It uses a mentor working one-on-one with a candidate throughout their introduction to the Craft. It is meant to ensure every candidate is properly instructed in the fundamentals of Freemasonry, made to feel comfortable in their lodge, and given direction to become an active and engaged member of the fraternity.

Grand Master Stewart also commented on the rapid progress being achieved by the Education and Training Committee, chaired by Rt. Wor. Ted N. Morang Sr. The lodge of instruction program has been refreshed; a new warden’s workshop program is ready; MLI has refocused on education; A lodge secretary training program is ready; and a new treasurer training program is being readied. The 2011 Leadership Summit held in May was attended by 204 Masons (who paid \$49 to participate) and was a resounding success.

Lastly, the Grand Master announced the formation of a new committee for Information Services and Communication. This committee, chaired by Wor. Elliot Chikofsky, will refocus our Internet presence and examine our social media content.



Left: Ex. Mark Stought and Most Ex. Lincoln Richards present Grand Master Stewart with honorary membership in St. Andrew’s Royal Arch Chapter. Right: R.W. Geoffrey Kromer, DDGM, is recognized for the 14th District’s donations to the U.S. Military for six straight years.







Above left: M.W. Richard Fletcher presents Past Grand Master Roger Pageau with the Masonic Service Association's Appreciation Award. Center: Wor. Master Kristian W. Clapp of John T. Heard Lodge in Ipswich receives the 2010 Twain Award from the M.S.A. Right: Ill. Potentate Gardner Whitney of Melha Shrine accepts the Springfield Hospital Trowel.

### Announcements Affecting Lodges

Beginning on September 1, requests for dispensation must be received by the Grand Lodge 45 days before the anticipated meeting. Also beginning in September new guidelines for the preparation of lodge communications will be issued by the Grand Secretary's office.

The Grand Master announced a new procedure at Grand Lodge and recommended its adoption by all lodges. If a brother is using his phone during a lodge meeting, the marshal will conduct him outside the lodge room. This step is the proper thing to do if a ringing phone or other interruptions from electronic devices occur during a meeting.

### Individual Recognitions

Most Wor. Richard E. Fletcher, executive secretary of the Masonic Service Association was present to make two awards. The first was presented to Most Wor. Roger W. Pageau for his outstanding support of M.S.A. during his term as Grand Master. Bro. Fletcher's second presentation was to John T. Heard Lodge, Ipswich, which won the prestigious Twain Award for outstanding Masonic awareness in

2010. Lodges interested in competing for this award should consult the M.S.A. web site for information on the process.

While working in the archives vault, Rt. Wor. Grand Secretary Jeffrey L. Gardiner discovered a commemoration trowel used during the dedication of the Springfield Shriners Hospital. The restored trowel was returned to Ill. Potentate Gardner Whitney on behalf of Melha Temple.

Grand Master Stewart was pleased to present a Fifty-Year Past Master's Diploma to Rt. Wor. Richard A. Gaudette. Bro. Gaudette served Phoenix Lodge in 1961; he is a past junior grand warden, and a recipient of the Henry Price Medal in 1985.

Three recent grand representative appointments were announced. Rt. Wor. Jaak Juhansoo has been nominated to serve for Estonia; Rt. Wor. Edwin R. Parsons for Nevada; and Rt. Wor. John S. Doherty for Maryland.

Bro. Wilfried Mehring received the Masonic Rookie Award from Grand Master Stewart. The seventy-nine year old Mason was presented certificate #141. Bro. Mehring also recently completed the Masonic Passport Program by visiting lodges during his recent trips to Germany. ■

Below left: Rt. Wor. Richard A. Gaudette of Phoenix Lodge receives his 50-year Past Master's Diploma. Center: Rt. Wor. Peter Dorr of Fellowship Lodge receives his 50-Year Veteran's Medal from Grand Master Stewart. Right: Bro. Wilfried Mehring, a member of Old Colony Lodge, is recognized for completing the Master Mason Rookie Program.



# GRAND LODGE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS FOR 2011-2012

by Wor. Jeffrey Northrup

The Annual Grand Lodge Scholarship Awards Ceremony was held on June 10, 2011. For the first time ever, more than 100 scholarships were given out—110 to be exact—amounting to more than \$405,000 for the education of the recipients. More than 200 students, parents, scholarship committee members, and Grand Lodge officers enjoyed a light buffet and hors d'oeuvres during the reception.

In one of the highlights of the evening, each recipient present was asked to introduce his or her family members. Rt. Wor. Brian S. Noble, chairman of the scholarship committee, introduced the committee members and commented on the newly revised program that has allowed for the distribution of more money to more students. This Grand Lodge program has awarded over \$5.3 million in scholarships since its inception in 1995.

After viewing a short excerpt from Grand Lodge's Greatness advertising campaign, attendees heard from Grand Master Richard James Stewart, who emphasized that the education of young people is vital to the future of the nation as well as the fraternity and that "is why this scholarship program is so important to us."

### First-time Recipients of Grand Lodge Scholarships

*This year, as a result of the major expansion of the scholarship program, there are 37 new recipients of Grand Lodge Scholarships.*

**Melissa Arcari-Wood** is the daughter of Scott and Janice Wood and the granddaughter of Bro. James W. Wood of Lawrence United Lodge. She is attending Rivier College in Nashua, New Hampshire, where she is majoring in nursing.

**Amanda Banzy** is the daughter of Bro. Edward Banzy of Mt. Horeb Lodge and Pia Haapanen-Banzy. She is a graduate of Arlington Catholic High School and is enrolled at Manhattanville College, where she will major in international studies.

**Timothy Blanchard** is the son of Bro. C. Steven Blanchard of Mayflower Lodge and Ellen M. Blanchard. Tim is a senior DeMolay, a past state officer of Massachusetts DeMolay, and a member of Mayflower Lodge. He is attending Curry College with a major in management.

**Danielle Brown** is the daughter of Bro. William Albert Brown Jr. of Mumford River and Solomon's Temple Lodges and Terrie Ann Brown. She is attending Framingham State University with a major in psychology.

**Tyler Chaffee** is the son of Wor. Philip Rodney Chaffee

of Fellowship Lodge and Carol H. Chaffee. He is also the grandson of Rt. Wor. David Ernest Chaffee of Fellowship Lodge. Tyler is a graduate of Bristol-Plymouth Regional Technical School and plans to major in graphic design.

**Angela Chrobak** is the daughter of Bro. Malcolm D. Chrobak of Eden Lodge and Karen E. Chrobak. She is a student at Bryant University, where she is majoring in business management. She is a graduate of Quabbin Regional High School.

**Rebecca Corshia** is the daughter of Bro. Daniel M.J. Corshia of Daniel Webster Lodge and Elizabeth Corshia. She is a recent graduate of West Bridgewater High School and plans to major in psychology.

**Bryanna Favor** is the daughter of Bryan and Robin Favor and the granddaughter of Bro. James Favor of Charles C. Dame Lodge. She is a recent graduate of Pen-tucket Regional High School and plans to major in marketing.

**Brittany Gage** is the daughter of Michael and Wendy Gage and the granddaughter of Bro. Bernard B. Shaw of Mt. Tom Lodge. She is attending Nichols College where she is a sports management major. She attended West Springfield High School.

**Jessalyn Gingras** is the daughter of Bro. Aaron T. Gingras of Pilgrim Lodge and Debrah Gingras. She is a student at Bryant College with a major in international business and was named to the president's list for academic achievement; she expects to graduate in 2013.

**Allison Godfrey** is the daughter of John Godfrey and Maureen Curran and the granddaughter of Bro. William R. Kennedy of Wampatuck Lodge. She is a student at American University, where she is majoring in history, sociology, and museum studies.

**Grace Greenland** is the daughter of Brett David Greenland and Carol Marie Schubert and the granddaughter of David Valentine Schubert of North Reading Lodge. She expects to major in early childhood education and was accepted at both the University of Hartford and Gordon College.

**Eric Jones** is the son of Bro. Michael Joel Jones of Ancient York Lodge and Sally J. Erdman-Jones. Eric is also a member of Ancient York Lodge. He is attending Bentley University with a major in business.

**Brianna Makalinaw** is the daughter of Mark and Melissa Makalinaw and the granddaughter of Bro. Stewart R. Holbrook of Montgomery Lodge. She is attending River Valley Community College and majors in nursing. She attended Mascoma Valley Regional High School in West Canaan, New Hampshire.



## GRAND LODGE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

First-time Recipients *continued*

**Shannon Marcoux** is the daughter of Ronald and Cheryl Marcoux and the granddaughter of the late Bro. Harold Albert Arnold of Marine Lodge. She is planning on majoring in nursing at one of several colleges to which she has applied.

**Nathaniel Mathews** is the son of Bro. John Albert Matthews of Pacific Lodge and Barbara Allen Matthews. He is a graduate of Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter School and plans to major in mathematics.

**Katherine Mowles** is the daughter of Bro. Michael Mowles of Saint Paul's-Algonquin Lodge and Lisa McLaughlin. She is attending Babson College with a major in business management and administration.

**James Murray** is the son of Bro. James A. Murray of Marine Lodge and Gwyndolyn H. Murray. He is attending Cape Cod Community College majoring in liberal arts. He is a graduate of Falmouth High School.

**John Musserian** is the son of Bro. John R. Musserian of Bethesda Lodge and Lalig J. Musserian, and grandson of Rt. Wor. Dr. John A. Musserian. He is attending Suffolk University with a major in business and information technology.

**Emily Nichols** is the daughter of Rt. Wor. Eugene Blake Nichols and Susan G. Nichols. Emily is a recent graduate of Foxborough High School and plans to major in psychology. She is a past worthy advisor of Middleborough Assembly of Rainbow.

**Caitlyn O'Shaughnessy** is the daughter of Rt. Wor. Thomas O'Shaughnessy of Charles Dame Lodge and Cyndi O'Shaughnessy and the granddaughter of Bro. Rufus C. Walker of Millennium Lodge in Dayton, Ohio. She is a recent graduate of Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School and plans to major in computer science.

**Emily Owoc** is the daughter of Wor. Thadeus J. Owoc Jr. of Rufus Putnam Lodge and Cheryl Ann S. Owoc and the granddaughter of Bro. Thadeus J. Owoc Sr. of Lodge of the Craft, Pennsylvania. She is a student at UMass Dartmouth with a double major in psychology and painting.

**Maryanna Owoc** is the daughter of Wor. Thadeus J. Owoc Jr. and Cheryl Ann S. Owoc and granddaughter of Bro. Thadeus J. Owoc Sr. She is attending Worcester State University with a major in communication disorders and sciences.

**Jenna Paradice** is the daughter of the late Bro. Richard Paradice of Weymouth United Lodge and Lois Paradice. She is a student at New Hampshire Technical Institute majoring in nursing.

**Christopher Podymaitis** is the son of Rt. Wor. Michael S. Podymaitis of Mystic Valley Lodge and Judith Anne Podymaitis and the grandson of Wor. Donald Carriger Sr. Christopher is a member of Mystic Valley Lodge and majors in sports management at UMass Amherst.

**Emily Pomer** is the daughter of Bro. Stephen F. Pomer of Charles C. Dame Lodge and Sandra J. Pomer. She is the granddaughter of Bro. Noel R. Metcalf of Wamesit Lodge. She is attending Fitchburg State University with a major in technical education and a minor in English.

**Hayley Roberts** is the daughter of Roy and Cynthia Roberts and the granddaughter of Bro. Maurice Roberts of Tyrian-Ashler-Acacia Lodge. She is a recent graduate of Essex Agricultural and Technical High School and plans to major in biology or biomedical engineering.

**Brett Roche** is the son of Damon G. and Marjorie A. Roche and the grandson of Bro. Herbert Nils Fredrickson of Phoenix Lodge. He is a recent graduate of Silver Lake Regional High School and plans to major in education, social sciences, and humanities or arts and sciences.

**Albert Rossner** is the son of Bro. Albert G. Rossner III and Holly Jeanne Rossner, and the grandson of Eldon Strickland Jr. of Caleb Butler Lodge. He is currently attending Jackson Community College with a major in nursing.

**Jesse Shablin** is the son of Robert Shablin and Laura Stockley, and the grandson of Bro. Robert Lavash of Quaboag Lodge. He will attend Framingham State University to pursue a degree in either business or history. He is a recent graduate of Quaboag Regional High School.

**Alexandria Smith** is the daughter of Bro. Shawn Smith of Pentucket Lodge and Jeanine Golden. She is a recent graduate of Chelmsford High School and plans to attend Lesley University with a major in secondary education.

**Mark Thompson** is the son of Bro. Mark Ray Thompson and Sheila Ann Thompson and intends to enter either Wentworth Institute of Technology or Massachusetts Maritime Academy with a major in either architecture or facilities engineering. He is a recent graduate of Barnstable High School.

**Courtney Walker** is the daughter of Cameron David Walker of Esoteric Sherwood Lodge and Kathryn Walker and the granddaughter of Most Wor. Herbert Kimball, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire. She attended the SABIS International Charter School and is planning to major in biochemistry in college.

**Dustin Walther** is the son of Bro. John Michael Walther of Cincinnatus Lodge and Robin Lynn Walther and the grandson of Bro. John Dickson Walther of Cincinnatus Lodge. He is attending Berkshire Community College, where his major is music.

**Ashlie Williams** is the daughter of Bro. Steven Williams of Belchertown Vernon Lodge and Barbara Archambault-Bridger, and the granddaughter of Bro. Benjamin Williams of Belchertown Vernon Lodge. She is attending Brown University in Providence with a major in development studies.

**Nicole Wood** is the daughter of Mike and Cyndi Wood and the granddaughter of Wor. Walter Cinsavich of William North Lodge. She is attending Plymouth State University in New Hampshire with a major in political science and Pre-Law.

**Alexa Zukowski** is the daughter of Bro. William A. Zukowski of Hayen Lodge and Laurie A. Zukowski. She is



Grand Master Richard J. Stewart with first-time recipients of Grand Lodge Scholarships for 2011–2012.

All photos by Rt. Wor. David Elsner.

a recent graduate of St. Mary's Junior-Senior High School in Worcester. She plans to major in psychology.

### First-time Recipients of Named Scholarships

*Fourteen students were first-time recipients of Named Grand Lodge Scholarship awards.*

**David W. A. Abbott** is the son of Bro. David A. Abbott and the late Susan Abbott. He was the 2010–2011 state master councilor of Massachusetts DeMolay and is a member of Rural Lodge. David is a history major at Bridgewater State University. He is the recipient of the M.W. Fred Kirby Bauer Scholarship.

**Samantha Falcone** is the daughter of Kevin J. and Kristen L. Falcone and the granddaughter of Bro. Louis Harmon of Bristol Lodge. She is a 2011 graduate of Marjorie Stoneham Douglas High School in Broward County, Florida, and plans to major in athletic training or biology. She is the recipient of the R.W. Robert C. Patey Scholarship.

**Robert Cole** is the son of Robert C. and Julie K. Cole and the grandson of R.W. Jeffrey L. Gardiner. He is a graduate of Methuen High School and intends to major in engineering. He is the recipient of the M.W. Albert T. Ames Scholarship.

**Chelsea Davis** is the daughter of Bruce and Rebecca Davis and the granddaughter of Bro. Warren Davis of Golden Fleece Lodge. She is a recent graduate of Merri-

mack Valley High School. She intends to major in education. She is a recipient of the M.W. Edgar W. Darling Scholarship.

**Martin Dunham** is the son of Bro. Arthur B. Dunham of William North Lodge and Jocelyn Dunham and the grandson of Bro. Arthur B. Dunham Sr. of William North Lodge. He is attending St. John's University in New York, where he is a sports management major. He is the recipient of the M.W. Arthur E. Johnson Scholarship.

**Charles Gibb** is the son of Bro. Donald C. Gibb of Norfolk Lodge and Lucy D. Gibb. He is attending St. Olaf College with a dual major in education and music. He is the recipient of the Donald S. and Dorothy P. Cunningham Scholarship.

**Henry Gibb** is the son of Donald C. Gibb of Norfolk Lodge and Lucy D. Gibb. He is a recent graduate of Stillwater Area High School in Stillwater, Minnesota. He is the recipient of the M.W. Donald W. and Drucille Vose Scholarship.

**Cara Haley** is the daughter of Rev. Bro. Richard Haley of Essex Lodge and Judy Haley. She is attending Hope College, where she is an English major. She is the recipient of the Wor. Allen Charles Weissinger Scholarship.

**Andrea Knott** is the daughter of Bro. Steven Mason Knott of Alpha Lodge and Ellen Patricia Knott. She is a recent graduate of Natick High School and plans to major in health education. She is the recipient of the R.W. Philip M. Turner, Masonic Home Scholarship.

**Vincent Pegurri** is the son of Ronald and Elaine M. Pegurri. Vincent is a member of Weymouth United Lodge and is attending Bentley University pursuing a business-related course. He is a graduate of Weymouth High School and a member of South Shore Chapter of DeMolay. He is the recipient of the M.W. Donald G. Hicks Jr. Scholarship.

**Christopher Rooney** is the son of David L. Rooney and Andrea M. Huwar. He is a member of Rural Lodge and a past state master councilor of Massachusetts DeMolay. Bro. Rooney is attending Bridgewater State University, where he is majoring in English. He is the recipient of the M.W. Roger W. Pageau Scholarship.

**Corinna Thompson** is the daughter of Bro. Robert W. Thompson of Pythagorean Lodge and Deborah J. Thompson and the granddaughter of Rt. Wor. Robert I. Wing, also of Pythagorean Lodge. She is attending Becker College where she expects to attain a nursing degree. She is a recipient of the R.W. Philip M. Turner, Masonic Home Scholarship.

**Ryan Weathers** is the son of Erik and Lori Weathers and the grandson of Bro. Robert Charles Bowers of King Philip Lodge. He is attending the State University of New York in Oneonta majoring in pre-med. He is a recipient of the R.W. Philip M. Turner, Masonic Home Scholarship.

**Courtney White** is the daughter of Bro. Theodore E. White of Charles River Lodge and Candace G. White. She is the granddaughter of Bro. Clarence O. Gay Jr. of Charles River Lodge. She is a student at Fitchburg State University, pursuing a degree in nursing. She is a recipient of the R.W. Philip M. Turner, Masonic Home Scholarship.



## GRAND LODGE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

*continued*

### Renewed Grand Lodge Scholarships

**Nicholas Atcheson** — Westfield State College  
**Jason Bornstein** — University of South Florida  
**Richard Burke** — New England School of Communications  
**Bridget Butterworth** — Fairfield University  
**Benjamin Chasen** — Northeastern University  
**Madison Currlin** — University of Florida  
**Kathleen Dempsey** — UMass Amherst  
**Darielle Grossman** — Ithaca College  
**Olivia Kotsopoulos** — Wellesley College  
**Lindsey Lavin** — University of New England  
**Kelsey McLaren** — University of Vermont  
**Andrea Nilosek** — University of Southern Maine  
**Kelly Moran** — Boston University  
**Olivia Napoli** — University of Connecticut  
**Paige O'Brien** — Emerson College  
**Halie Olszowy** — Providence College  
**Alissa Roland** — California Polytechnic University  
**Cassandra Schubert** — University of New England  
**Michelle Steinel** — Culinary Institute of America

### R.W. Philip M. Turner/Masonic Home Scholarships

**Erica Baker** — University of Denver  
**Skylar Belinski** — Lynchburg College  
**Bethany Butland** — Regis College  
**Danielle Cloutier** — UMass Amherst  
**Joshua Cooper** — University of Pennsylvania  
**Sarah LeBlanc** — Massachusetts College of Pharmacy

### Saint John's Lodge Scholarship

**Jason Bornstein** — University of South Florida

### Neponset Valley RAC Scholarship

**Austin Chafee** — Wentworth Institute of Technology

### M.W. Jeffrey B. Hodgdon Scholarship

**Danielle Davis** — University of New England

### E. Marilyn Oberle Scholarship

**Michelle Favor** — Massachusetts College of Pharmacy

### R.W. Graham Atwell Long Scholarship

**Thomas Hunter** — Worcester Polytechnic Institute

### Edward William & Elsa Oberle Scholarship

**Nancy Maleno** — Bay Path College

### R.W. Oscar A. Guinn Jr. Scholarship

**Kelly Robbins** — Western New England College

### M.W. David W. Lovering Scholarship

**Ashley Simmons** — Boston University

### R.W. James A. Menninen Scholarship

**Joseph Wesoloski** — Worcester Polytechnic University



Recipients of renewed Grand Lodge Scholarships for 2011-2012 with Grand Master Stewart.

### New Grimshaw-Gudewicz Scholarships

The third category of funding for scholarships awarded through our Grand Lodge is due to the generosity of the Grimshaw-Gudewicz Charitable Foundation. Bro. George E. Grimshaw and his longtime companion Irene Gudewicz established this foundation. He was a member of Star in the

Recipients of the Grimshaw-Gudewicz Scholarships with Mr. Andrew Shabshelowitz, trustee, and Grand Master Stewart.



East-Paskamansett Lodge in New Bedford. Mr. Andrew Shabshelowitz, one of the trustees of the foundation, and his wife Laurette attended the awards reception.

This foundation provided our scholarship program with funds again this year in order to help our Masonic youth in their educational pursuits. Scholarships given in the name of the Grimshaw-Gudewicz Foundation are for children or grandchildren of Massachusetts Masons who graduate from New Bedford High School as the first priority, and secondly to students who live in Bristol County. This year, 16 scholarships were renewed and nine new scholarships given through the foundation. The following students are first-time recipients of the Grimshaw-Gudewicz Scholarships:

**Mary L.L. Hedberg** is the daughter of Herbert Hedberg and Cynthia Hedberg and the granddaughter of William G. Hjerpe of Guiding Lights Lodge. She is a graduate of North Attleborough High School and is currently attending Brown University, where she is an engineering major.

**Christopher Pion** is the son of Ronald and Claire Pion. He is a member of Quittacus Lodge and is attending New England Tech as a surgical major. He expects to receive an associate in science degree.

**Sean Raudonaitis** is the son of Mark Peter and Cheryl Jean Raudonaitis and the grandson of Bro. Clifford Adelbert Brightman of Noquochoke Lodge. Sean is a graduate of Westport High School and is planning to pursue a course of studies in pre-dental or pre-medical.

**Jennifer Samson** is the daughter of John P. and Barbara E. Samson and the granddaughter of Bro. Kenneth L. Whitney of Beth-horon Lodge. She is attending Southern New Hampshire University. She attended Bishop Feehan High School.

**Alexander Sheehan** is the son of Stafford Sheehan and Karen C. Sheehan and is a member of Pythagorean Lodge. He is attending Brandeis University where he is majoring in psychology and East Asian studies.

**Mallory Sherman** is the daughter of Arnold H. and Laura L. Sherman and the granddaughter of Bro. Charles E. Rouleau Sr. of King David Lodge in Taunton. She is a recent graduate of Taunton High School and plans to major in nursing.

**Casey Tidwell** is the daughter of Bro. Bruce Tidwell of King Philip Lodge and Elizabeth Tidwell. She is a student at Framingham State University where she is majoring in psychology and expects to earn her B.S. degree.

**Timothy Walters** is the son of Gary A. Walters and Gandyce E. Moore-Walters and the grandson of Bro. Robert W. Moor of Baalis Sanford Lodge. He is a recent graduate of Taunton High School and plans to major in computer engineering.

**Darwin Werthessen** is the son of Sandra Strange and the grandson of Earl Goff Jr. of Eastern Star Lodge. He holds an associate in arts degree from the Community College of Rhode Island and is planning to obtain his B.S. in ocean science or marine affairs.

### Renewed Grimshaw-Gudewicz Scholarships

Those receiving continuing scholarships from the Grimshaw-Gudewicz Foundation are:

**Alexis Cochran** — Bridgewater State College

**Jayson Joyce** — Boston College

**Christopher Fredrickson** — University of Rochester

**Andrew Calvario** — Cornell University

**Bryan Haworth** — University of Pennsylvania

**Hillery Perry** — Curry College

**Michael Prew** — Bryant University

**Benjamin Sisskind** — Lyndon State College

**Andrew Walker** — University of Rhode Island

**Ariana Cole** — Pratt Institute

**Lydia Mozzone** — Skidmore College

**Kevin Walters** — Wentworth Institute of Technology

**Lilith Remy-Miller** — UMass Amherst

**Jillian Flett** — Fordham University

**Barbara-Ann Cheetham** — UMass Amherst

**Robert Fahey** — University of Hartford

## ASK THE GRAND LECTURERS

by Rt. Wor. Robert Johnston  
Chairman of Grand Lecturers



All of the exemplifications have been completed and, generally speaking, the work of the Master Mason Degree was very good. The smaller seminars held in each district were very successful. More questions were asked and a more personal feeling was evident.

The grand lecturers look forward to the fall, when we can be of help to the lodges and districts.

**Q** In the Master Mason Degree, what is the proper placement of the trestle-board at the beginning of the second section?

**A** *The trestle-board should be in the South at the junior warden's station.*

**Q** When is the light in the South turned off?

**A** *When the Craft is called from labor to refreshment during the Master Mason Degree.*

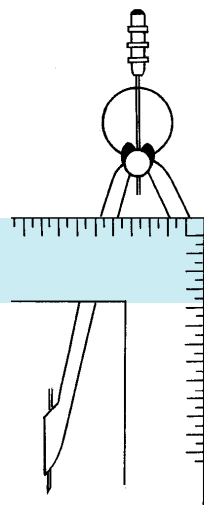
**Q** May white lambskins given to entered apprentices be worn at a regular meeting?

**A** *Yes.*

**Q** Is it mandatory that the worshipful master wear a top hat?

**A** *No, but it is recommended that he do so.*





## Meet an Active Massachusetts Mason

When it comes to getting things done, people often suggest giving the task to a busy person. They always seem to find the time to get it done and get it done right. Such is the case with

Wor. Frank J. Kautz II of Woburn's Mount Hermon Lodge.

He was raised in West Shore Lodge #681 in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania. His curiosity had been piqued by an advertisement placed in a local Harrisburg newspaper promoting a Masonic open house. Although his father was not a Mason, one of his uncles was, as were many men on his mother's side of the family. He would not find this out until he joined the Scottish Rite, where many of his maternal relatives were surprised to see him.

One of the men who influenced his early Masonic studies was Wor. Glenn Evans. He taught Brother Kautz his Pennsylvania Masonic Cultures, which are similar to our Candidate Lectures in Massachusetts. Brother Kautz says it was Brother Evans who first taught him what it means to be a Mason and what you can and cannot talk about. It was Evans who laid the foundation for Kautz's future Masonic journey.

Brother Kautz came to Massachusetts shortly after he married; he affiliated with Mount Hermon Lodge in 2002 and he served as its master from 2005–2008. He also joined two other Woburn lodges: Mount Horeb and William Parkman. In Massachusetts he was mentored by Rt. Wor. Mike Brown, a past DDGM for the Somerville 6th District. It was Brown who encouraged Kautz to get involved—smartly. Kautz says Brown is definitely the kind of fellow you want to emulate.

Kautz believes most active people get so much more out of the fraternity than they put in—and some put in an awful lot of time and effort. Brother Kautz says it is very easy to be motivated by the fraternity! He desperately wants to see it thrive and prosper and he is doing as much as he can to ensure that result. He absolutely encourages participation and freethinking because out-of-the-box thinking tends to lure new members and keep them active.

His biggest challenge has been the resurrection of Samuel Crocker Lawrence Lodge in Medford. The lodge

was steeped in history, but unfortunately had failed a number of years ago. It was Rt. Wor. DDGM Ken Sprague who convinced Kautz that a lodge based in Medford could succeed. With Mount Hermon Lodge's blessing (it was one of the original Medford lodges), it was decided to try to reconstitute Samuel Crocker Lawrence instead of forming a new lodge. Brother Kautz was reluctant to assume a leadership position; but after learning about Samuel Crocker Lawrence, he says the man became a bit of a hero to him and he agreed to be the first master. He sees everyone working together in the same direction and he hopes this will guarantee success. One of the biggest joys of Masonry, he says, is working with guys who are motivated and who really enjoy working together to achieve successes. In some cases, he notices that the more they accomplish, the more they seem to want to do.



Wor. Frank J. Kautz II

He says no lodge is a one-man show. A lodge needs the efforts of all its members. "In the end, it's not about me, it's about us!" One of his main influences was the book *Born in Blood* by John Robinson. He feels that book helped get Masonry out of the Middle Ages and on radio and television—just what the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts has been doing with the Ben Franklin campaign. These advertising programs are paying off and are causing men to seriously think about the fraternity. Mount Hermon Lodge has seen seven new members as a direct result. Brother Kautz says Samuel Crocker Lawrence Lodge has not seen any new members yet, but he feels the lodge is probably still too new and has not had enough exposure in the community.

Wor. Bro. Kautz is an attorney who focuses on foreclosure prevention. He says ethical pulses of the law are sometimes reinforced by the tenets of the Craft. Words, thoughts, and ideas from the lectures—especially the Third Degree lectures—sometimes work their way into his legal pleadings, much to the amusement of some judges.

What disturbs him is the proliferation of social media, especially Facebook. While he calls Facebook a great tool, he says we must be very careful as it is far too easy to post inappropriate and inaccurate information.

One thing Brother Kautz says we need to improve is pub-

licity. Photos and articles mean so much to a Mason and his family, not only for the present gratification of a job well done, but in the future, when they look at the visual record of the past. He wants every DDGM to have an official photographer at every event: medals, picnics, awards, social events, etc. It's all part of Masonic awareness! This he says he learned from Rt. Wor. Philip Nowlan many years ago; he now takes this advice to heart and practices it whenever he can.

Another thing he feels needs to be addressed is the practice in some lodges of introducing the new Mason to other Masonic bodies on the same night he is raised. That, he says, should be done at a subsequent meeting because the

practice severely detracts from the overall experience of the Third Degree.

Kautz is an MLI graduate and advisor; member of the Valley of Harrisburg; Zembo Shriners in Harrisburg; Mystic-Woburn Royal Arch Chapter; Medford Council; and Coeur de Lion Commandery #34; recipient of the Joseph Warren Distinguished Service Medal in June, 2010; past master of the 13th Lodge of Instruction; the current secretary of Mount Hermon Lodge; and chairman of the Grand Lodge Service Committee.

Wor. Frank Kautz is certainly a busy Mason who practices the tenets of our profession day in and day out and works hard to see the fraternity survive and prosper. ■

## The Old Secretary

Hello my friends and brothers,

Some of you will remember when my dad used to write this column some years ago. I have to say that he was a great guy, even if he was my dad, and he always told it like he believed it was. You never had to guess with dad and he never pulled his punches.

After dad passed on, the master of our lodge asked me if I would take over the secretary's duties until they could find someone to do it on a permanent basis. Well, you know, it's been quite a few years and I guess they are still looking because I am still the secretary. But that's kind of how it sometimes is in Masonry; those temporary jobs have a way of becoming permanent over the years. Now don't get me wrong, I do the job because I love the fraternity and I guess it is my way of showing my thanks. I don't get any money for it, but I always thought I was well compensated. Dad always loved the fraternity and he passed that on to me. I'm proud to be the secretary and I am even getting comfortable with being described as old.

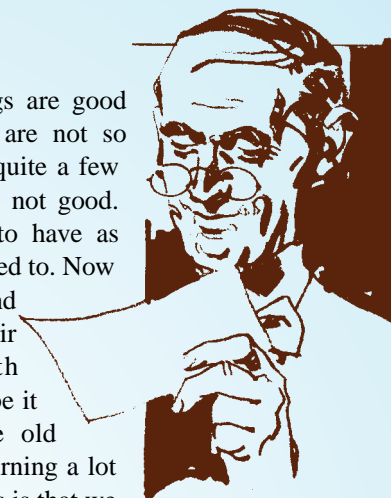
For quite a few years, I have been thinking about picking up where dad left off with writing articles for TROWEL. It just seemed that with work and raising a family, I never seemed to find the time. Dad always reminded me that family and work came first in that order. Some Masons enjoy the fraternity so much that they lose track of their priorities. I've been master of my lodge and I know there are a lot of important lodge activities. I know you want to be at that lodge meeting, but remember that your children are only young once and that dance recital or football game will never happen again. And remember your wife. She works hard too and deserves your love and thanks for all she does. You'd be surprised how much she will appreciate those unexpected flowers and an occasional romantic dinner that isn't at the lodge.

A lot of things have changed since dad was secretary.

Some of those things are good and some of those are not so good. We have lost quite a few members and that is not good. People don't seem to have as much time as they used to. Now both parents work and the kids have all their time occupied with their activities. Maybe it is just me, but the old world seems to be turning a lot faster. The good news is that we are getting a lot of new members. Many of them know more about Masonry than previous generations because information is more available. They are also committed to Masonry and that is having a positive effect on a lot of lodges. I also like a lot of the new programs. When I see or hear old Ben Franklin in our ads, it makes me proud to be a Mason. There's a lot of positive energy in the fraternity now and that is surely good.

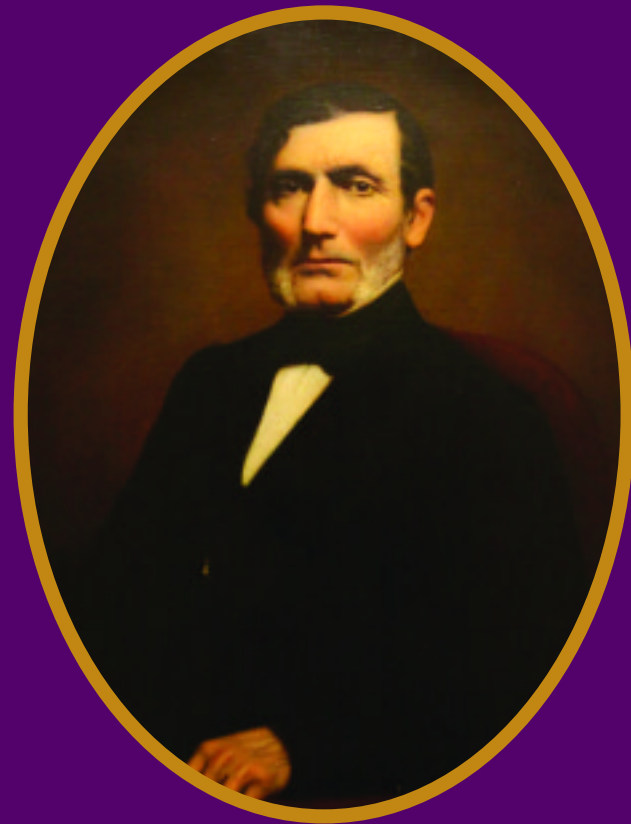
I guess it's time I end my first venture into journalism and let you enjoy the rest of TROWEL. I heard this new editor hasn't been a Mason too long but he's doing a great job. And that's not just because he asked me to write this article. As time goes on, I'm sure you will like some of the things I say and not like others. It's the same with my wife. She never hesitates to tell me and I hope you will do the same. —*The Old Secretary*

*Editor's Note—The very popular Old Secretary column appeared in Trowel for the first time in the summer of 1991 and continued for eleven years. The last of 42 columns was published in the winter, 2001 issue. The Old Secretary preferred to remain anonymous, as does the new Old Secretary. There is no actual familial relationship between the two secretaries.*





# Grand Masters of Massachusetts



## Joshua B. Flint Skilled Craftsman

*The third installment  
in the continuing series focused on  
the early history of our  
Massachusetts Grand Masters.*

*by Rt. Wor. Walter Hunt*

During the 1830s, the Craft in Massachusetts met many trials and surpassed many obstacles. This decade, overshadowed by the anti-Masonic movement, threatened Freemasonry's survival; but the men who led our fraternity in that time held to their vows and their beliefs. Many names are all but forgotten, and many figures have become no more than portraits dispassionately surveying our work today.

One of these brave men was Joshua Barker Flint, M.D., who served as Grand Master from February 1835 to September 1837. Born in 1801 in Cohasset, he was the youngest man ever elected Grand Master. He became a Mason in Columbian Lodge of Boston in 1822, and served five times as its worshipful master, in 1828 and from 1830-1833; in the latter year he resigned due to his appointment as district deputy grand master by Most Wor. Elijah Crane.

Grand Master Flint was chosen in an unusual circumstance. In December 1834, the Grand Lodge met and elected Francis Baylies of Taunton as its Grand Master for the coming year. Brother Baylies was a well-known speaker, who had delivered the address at the dedication of the new Temple in Boston, and had been appointed by the Grand Lodge to deliver a eulogy for the recently departed Marquis de Lafayette. He had been a member of the House of Representatives and the state assembly, to which he had just been re-elected, and would have been an outstanding leader for the fraternity due to his public stature.

However, when a committee of past Grand Masters communicated with Brother Baylies in February 1835, they received a reply that they were obliged to report to the Grand Lodge: "That for considerations which the committee deem sufficient, and which the chairman will communicate herewith, the R. W. Bro. Baylies feels obliged to revoke his former acceptance of the office of Grand Master." This answer must have shocked and disappointed the members of the Grand Lodge (of which there were only 22 present on that cold February day). There were two ballots to elect his replacement; on the first, Past Grand Master John Soley received a number just short of what was needed for election. On the second, Joshua Flint barely surpassed that number, and was declared elected. A week later, on February 11, he was installed in the chair in ample form, the youngest man ever to occupy it.

### The Grand Master's View of his own Election

Brother Flint wrote to Grand Master John T. Heard about his election and service later in life:

"That office, at all times an eminently honorable and dignified one, was esteemed by me peculiarly honorable to myself, in view of the circumstances and considerations which determined my selection. The institution was in the midst of a bitter persecution. Many of those who had been entrusted with responsible offices had been seduced by the allurements of political ambition, and betrayed the interests

that had been committed to them by a confiding fraternity, under assurances and engagements to fidelity which only the baseness of desperate villainy could disregard. 'We must refrain from our usual practice of devoting to the Grand Mastership some brother whose distinction in public life blends itself becomingly and favorably with the highest Masonic dignity,' said the brethren. 'We can't trust such candidates for political promotion,—we must find a man who has no such temptation, and on whose fidelity we can rely.' Herein was the special honor of the office as it was conferred upon me.

"'He will not betray us,' said that vote of the brethren of the Grand Lodge, who had known me well—a vote by which I was placed in the most responsible and dignified Masonic position in the Commonwealth. This assurance of their confidence was better than the office, and has been felt by me to be so ever since.

"During a large part of my Masonic experience in Boston, the institution was passing through the ordeal of a relentless persecution. It tried the spirits. It showed that many weak and some wicked persons had unfortunately found admission to an institution where the one class is almost as much out of place as the other. The former were too easily frightened or coaxed into a renunciation of their Masonic vows; the latter took their 'thirty pieces of silver,' gave the treacherous kiss, and imitated their great prototype in all but the contrition, which was his only redeeming trait. But it showed also that there were good men and true, worthy disciples of that ancient Masonic martyr whom they had all once personified.

"With an intelligent appreciation of their rights as citizens, and a lively sense of their Masonic obligations, these men were unmoved alike by legislative dictation, the denunciations of the press, the counsel of time-serving friends, and by every other form of action which the impertinent rascality of anti-Masonry assumed. They were 'true as steel,' those Masons of Boston and Massachusetts who breasted that storm, and defied those who raised and ruled it. I shall always honor and love them, and be proud in the recollection of having been even one of the least of so resolute and faithful a band."

### A Medical Man

Dr. Flint was one of several physicians who served in high station in the Grand Lodge. He originally studied as a private pupil under Dr. John C. Warren at Harvard University, where he graduated in 1820 and from which he received a medical degree in 1825. While he resided in Boston, he

was for many years physician for the Suffolk County Penitentiary, and was an expert on the emerging disease of cholera. In the late 1820s, he also established a course of popular lectures on anatomy, perhaps the first such course in America (and possibly the world) where it was taught publicly, with demonstrations of actual dissection. This was highly unusual for the times, as the dissection of human bodies and the public study of anatomy had only just become legal under the laws of Massachusetts. His renown as a medical doctor ultimately led to his departure from the state; he was invited by the Louisville Medical Institute to become the first chair of surgery in 1837. After three years at that position he was made a professor of surgery at the Kentucky School of Medicine—all before the age of forty.

### Achievements as Grand Master

His terms as Grand Master were marked by difficulty—lodges seeking remission of dues or surrendering their charters, strained finances, and reports of continued hostility from the anti-Masonic movement; but much of the latter had spent its fury by mid-decade, and Brother Flint's firm leadership kept the Grand Lodge attentive to its labors and dedicated to its ultimate goals. Though most of the Masonic activity in Massachusetts was focused on Boston, there was a slow but steady increase in participation, and the Grand Master reorganized the districts, appointing new district deputy grand masters in 1836 for the six active districts, and designating Rt. Wor. Gardner Ruggles, of Hardwick to act on behalf of the two functioning lodges in the far western part of the state. This organization prevailed until the fraternity's recovery in the late 1840s made other arrangements necessary. Also under Brother Flint's administration, the Grand Lodge was able to repurchase its Temple from the brother who had bought it earlier in the decade.

By the time of his death in 1864, the number of Masons who had personally known him was small. His portrait was painted from a small 'carte de visite' by the esteemed artist Frederick Billings, and its accuracy was confirmed by friends and family.

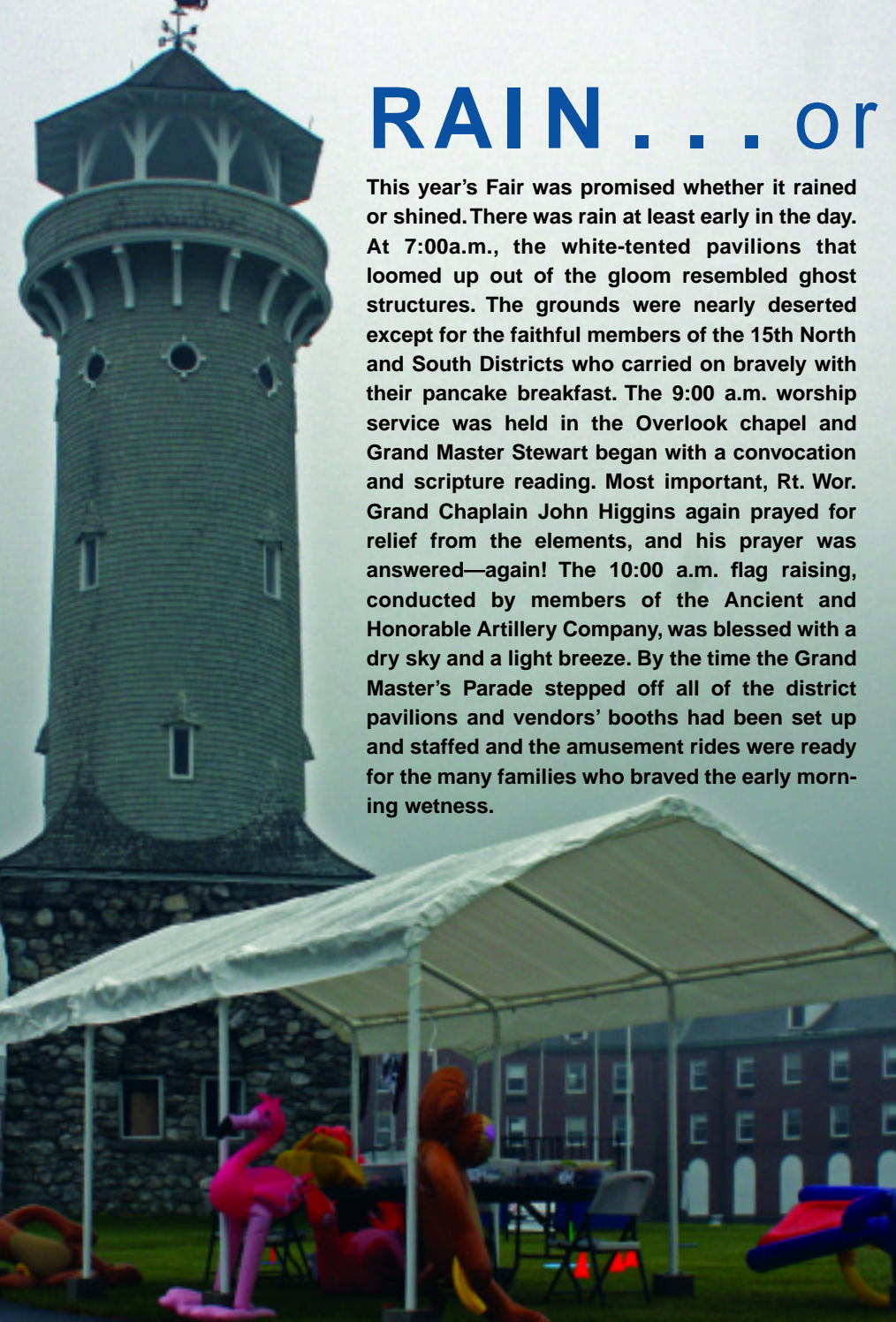
There is no lodge named for Joshua Flint, nor are there medals or other awards. The greatest monument to his service and fidelity to the Craft is the fact that, within a decade of his term as Grand Master, the fraternity was alive and growing. His legacy as a physician, as well as a Mason, is that of a skilled craftsman, loved by his brethren and revered by his successors. ■

*"The greatest  
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# RAIN . . . or SHINE! The 34th Annual Grand Master's Fair

This year's Fair was promised whether it rained or shined. There was rain at least early in the day. At 7:00a.m., the white-tented pavilions that loomed up out of the gloom resembled ghost structures. The grounds were nearly deserted except for the faithful members of the 15th North and South Districts who carried on bravely with their pancake breakfast. The 9:00 a.m. worship service was held in the Overlook chapel and Grand Master Stewart began with a convocation and scripture reading. Most important, Rt. Wor. Grand Chaplain John Higgins again prayed for relief from the elements, and his prayer was answered—again! The 10:00 a.m. flag raising, conducted by members of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company, was blessed with a dry sky and a light breeze. By the time the Grand Master's Parade stepped off all of the district pavilions and vendors' booths had been set up and staffed and the amusement rides were ready for the many families who braved the early morning wetness.



This year's edition of the Fair brought back some old fan favorites and some new, exciting exhibits: most notably, the Machine Jesse Green and his amazing chainsaw carvings.

As people disembarked from the buses at the top of the hill, children's amusement park rides whirled in front of them and delicious smells drifted up from the food court. Over 75 districts and vendors displayed goods or activities around the main loop of the Overlook Life Care Community campus.

Crowds gathered to greet the Grand

Master, Grand Lodge officers, and all other participants in the parade. Of course, children were thrilled to see the Shriners back with their mini-cars and wonderfully entertaining clowns.

Fair regulars Vic and Sticks, Bella the Clown, and Lucky Bob the Magician were, once again, giant hits with audiences of all ages. Their interactive acts delighted the crowds and kept everyone on their toes.

The Flamingsals, a 14-piece, all female, big-band orchestra, were invited back because of popular demand and, once again, blew away the crowd with music that soared from the main stage.

The day would not have been possible without months of preparations by the 2011 Grand Master's Fair Committee; all of our Masonic districts, volunteers, and the wonderful support of the Overlook Life Care Community residents and staff. Many thanks to all the participants and attendees, for a wonderful event. See you all next year!





## The Overlook at Northampton Salutes Veterans

Memorial Day typically involves family get-togethers, outdoor grilling, or trips to the beach. But this year the residents at the Overlook at Northampton wanted to memorialize its much deeper meaning; they wanted to take this day to honor U.S. soldiers who died during military service. Six veterans (all Overlook residents or employees), along with family members, and many other residents and staff gathered together in downtown Florence to participate in the town's Memorial Day Parade.

Two employees carried the MHS 100th Anniversary banner, commemorating our years of service to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Behind the banner walked two of our veterans—resident Rene Poulin and employee Sammy Boyle. Other employees handed out candy and waved to the crowd.

Rene and Sammy were followed by the Overlook bus that was filled with most of the other Overlook veterans and attendees, and a second car with additional residents and staff. Flags adorned both vehicles as the parade traveled down the streets of Florence.

The crowd showered the group with applause, which became more intense as people saw Rene walking the route in full uniform side by side with Sammy. The applause was also for the veterans and their families who rode on the bus. It wasn't just an ordinary round of applause; rather, it seemed to embrace the veterans with appreciation, pride, and support.

There were not many dry eyes that afternoon. ■

Staff and Veterans in the Memorial Day Parade.



## NEWS FROM OVERLOOK

### A Proper Victorian Tea

by Donna Scherer



Barbara Delano and Cynthia Brothers taking tea.

What do Earl Grey, Lemon Lift, fine china, and ornate hats have in common? They are the ingredients of a proper Victorian Tea.

The ladies at the Overlook set aside their fast-paced lives for a little bit of gentility on May Third to attend a Victorian Ladies Tea. The afternoon was complete with china teacups and saucers, finger sandwiches, irresistible desserts, and Earl Grey and Lemon Lift tea of course. The ladies were encouraged to wear their favorite hats and many used their creativity to turn an otherwise ordinary



## Tornado in Springfield – OVNA Carries On

The following is a letter from Elaine Stephens, executive vice president of Overlook Visiting Nurse Association, to Michelle Fuller, Vivian Williams, and the rest of the West Springfield team for their heroic efforts during the tornado that ravaged the Springfield region.

To Michele, Vivian, and all West Springfield Employees:

Thank you to everyone for all you did last week before and after the tornado to ensure that the patients and families cared for by Overlook Visiting Nurse Association (OVNA) received all of the care and services they needed to remain safe during a very difficult time.

headpiece into an elegant and alluring millinery creation.

To add to the fun, Pat Perry of Sneak Peek Productions entertained the ladies by educating them on calling cards, etiquette lessons, and the language of the flowers. Ms. Perry is a historical interpreter who enjoys sharing stories of the past with her audience. For example, did you know that red carnations signify admiration and my heart aches for you? Also, one should never hold ones teacup with the pinkie finger extended. This is improper and in most social settings is considered rude. Instead, place your index finger into the handle of the cup up to the knuckle while placing your thumb on the top of the handle to secure the cup. The bottom of the handle should then rest on your third finger. The fourth and fifth fingers should curve back towards your wrist.

This writer hopes you will practice this since it is proper tea etiquette. It is fun to practice being proper but most important just be polite and considerate as possible and you cannot go wrong. ■

At left: Noni Linton, Mimi Strack the Ladies in Pink

Below: Shirley Cornwell and Beth Bennett, the Ladies in Red.



Vivian and Michele, I know that you were each caught on the road in the middle of the storm in your efforts to ensure that all of our patient schedules were complete at the office and the needs of the organization were taken care of before you left. We are all so relieved that you are both safe and were not seriously injured. It is important to note that your efforts did not end there. In a car filled with debris, Michele went to a nearby hotel to make certain that you would be available to help our office care for the people of this region the next day. Vivian went home to comfort her children and then immediately began making phone calls and plans for the next day. I should say she did that after having glass shards removed from her arm that she suffered from a blown out window during the height of the storm.



Each of you and the entire West Springfield branch sacrificed your own well-being to make sure the patients continued to be cared for and worked diligently to have the office (with no power) open the next day. Your leadership sent some office staff to Greenfield, rolled the phones, and had the office operating as if it was just any other routine business day. When I arrived later on Thursday I found you and the other staff, working on laptops with batteries and flashlights assuring that the office was safe and back on track as soon as possible. The walk we took around the neighborhood—what was left of many of the buildings—was an experience I will never forget.

Throughout all the turmoil, you went on caring for our patients; referrals were taken and every aspect of the emergency plan of action was addressed in an organized, caring, and professional way.

You are an awesome team making a difference in the world!

Thank you for everything you did, and are doing, to make sure the community gets the best home care possible, even during the most challenging circumstances. I hope that Jane and her family are okay following the damage to their home. —Elaine ■



## Lincoln Tour for the Groves

On a beautiful Friday in June, residents were treated to a tour of the Town of Lincoln (home of The Groves) from a local's perspective. Resident Flo Caras recently decided to share her wealth of knowledge on historic Lincoln with other members in her community. After living in the quaint town for over forty years, Flo had a lot she wanted to show her new friends.

As soon as the June calendar hit resident mailboxes, the trip was fully booked and had a waitlist! Flo was ecstatic and worked to make sure every detail was in place. She visited town hall and secured maps of Lincoln for all her guests and she arranged for a stop at the local Council on Aging for a tour, treats, and a brief presentation by Director Carolyn Bottum, who gave a tour of their historic building and highlighted joint programming being planned with The Groves.

The next stop was at Minute Man National Park where participants were treated to "Road to Revolution" a presentation on the historic context for Lincoln. After visiting the park, residents were driven through the town while Flo gave history, pertinent information, and personal anecdotes—as only a local can. Residents truly enjoyed seeing Codman Farm, DeCordova Sculpture Park & Museum, Drumlin Farm, the school complex, town hall, and Pierce House—a beautiful historic home that was donated to the town by its owner.



Groves residents explore the DeCordova Sculpture Park.

Many stops highlighted Lincoln's priority for land conservation. Beautiful fields, forests, ponds, and walking trails dominate the landscape. Residents were truly amazed at how much farming was done in Lincoln, including the thirty-one acres of conservation farm land that is overseen by the Food Project, a local non-profit that teaches urban students about organic farming while developing leadership skills.

Residents were thrilled by the tour and Flo has agreed to give a repeat performance for those who could not make the first trip. Lincoln is a community that has a wonderful heritage that The Grove residents can now appreciate for themselves. ■

## Overlook Community Service Cup

The Overlook Community Service Cup was first awarded last year when Masonic Health System gave a generous donation to 4-H in honor of one of their employees, Holly Stevens, for her service to the community mainly through her work in 4-H. The cup is awarded to a 4-H teen that excels in the realm of community service and is also strong in leadership skills and project work.

This year's recipient is Sammy Barrett. Her community service projects have been many and varied! She has been very active over several years with the Best Buddies and Special Olympics programs. Her club collected over one ton of food for this year's 4-H Food Drive. She cares for the gardens at the middle and elementary schools in her town. She helps at the 4-H Fair and at



the county visuals program that her club hosts. She helps out at many community events with animal demos and presentations. This 4-H teen has spent many hours trying to make the world a better, happier place for others who are less fortunate.

In her 4-H story, she writes: "When I joined 4-H, I was a timid and shy six-year old and now I give visual presentations at the Big E and in school. Since being in 4-H, I have done a lot of community service. When people in my high school are worrying about how to get enough community service hours, I'm not. I just tell them to join 4-H. It's a lot of fun. My friends and I do many town-wide activities like having our annual Christmas tree lighting, an Easter egg hunt, and a fishing derby. We also have a bake sale to support the elderly in our town. I love these events because they bring our town together and 4-H has a big part in it.

"4-H teaches you to have fun while working hard to get things done, whether it's training your show steer or completing your records; it has also taught me to be myself and believe in my ideas and work to make things right."

Congratulations to Sammy Barrett of the Lancaster 4-H Club, this year's recipient of the Overlook Community Service Cup. ■



# The Prodigal Mason

by Richard Thompson



Forty years. Forty years! Forty years? When you are a young Entered Apprentice standing in the East and receiving accolades from the members of this group you just joined, forty years seems like forever. However, when you are standing on the other side of forty years, it seems like just an instant in time. That is what is happening to me.

In June 1971—forty years ago—I was standing in the East in a lodge in Ayer, listening while the master congratulated three candidates on taking their first step in Freemasonry. I was one of the three. The degrees are a blur. Everything seems to have passed so quickly. Before I knew what was really happening, it was October and I was a brand new Master Mason.

Saint Paul Lodge was my father's lodge. That is where I joined, but I have to admit that I was never active. I was a DeMolay advisor in those days, and joining a lodge was a way to help a chapter. Of course, that wasn't the only reason I joined a lodge. The men in my family are Masons. We are one of those multi-generational Masonic families and, to be honest, it is great we are. We learned about Masonry very young and tended to join at the first moment possible. I was 21 when I joined; my son was 18.

But I was a DeMolay first—a member of Lowell Chapter. I guess you can say that is where my journey really began. That is where I learned there is more to being a member than just carrying a dues card. I was a DeMolay member in Lowell, but I served as an advisor in Wamesit Chapter in Tewksbury. My cousin Wor. David Hicks was an advisor in Tewksbury and he asked me if I could lend a hand to that chapter. I lent that hand for fourteen years, nine of those years as the chapter advisor.

Since Wamesit Lodge sponsored Wamesit Chapter, I started attending that lodge's meetings. I figured knowing members of the sponsoring body was a great way for me to help my chapter. Before you know it, I was an affiliated

*Richard Thompson is a past master, forty-year member and a contributing editor for Trowel.*

member. There is a side benefit to that decision; it is something at the heart of the fraternity; it is what we really get in return for paying that annual dues bill. I got to know the members of the lodge.

I often say my favorite piece of ritual comes in the Master's Lecture in the Entered Apprentice Degree. It is at the point where the master explains the tenets to the candidate. He tells him brotherly love unites men from different backgrounds; men you would never know were it not for the Masonic fraternity. I didn't realize this as a DeMolay. I didn't realize this as a young Mason. It took some ten years of Masonic membership before I realized those few words summed up the strength of our fraternity.

Forty years! I never realized just how fast the time would pass. It seems like it was just a short time ago I was being installed as a junior steward, my first office in a Masonic lodge. It seems like it was yesterday that I was installed as a master.

Today, as I listen to secretaries read applications for degrees, I realize that I was a member before many of the applicants were born. In some cases, I was a past master before they were born. Talk about feeling old.

As I reflect on my forty years, my most prominent memories are of the men I have met, the men who have been my friends and still are my friends; I think of those who are gone now; I think of those who have moved away and I don't see any longer, but who I still think of as friends; and there are those who are still here and who I get to see quite often. In fact, I still get to sit in lodge with them from time to time.

As a young Mason, I remember watching my brothers get their fifty-year medals. I remember some on the sidelines saying, "I will never see that medal." I can remember thinking all things being equal, I should see my Veteran's Medal. Now with less than ten years before my fiftieth anniversary, I still say all things being equal . . .

During the last forty years, however, I've learned it isn't the length of a Masonic journey that is important. What's important are the brothers you have met, the times you have had, and lessons you have learned. What's important is the way you have treated others. What's important is knowing you have knocked a couple of jagged edges off your rough ashlar. ■



# SOCIAL NETWORKING AND FREEMASONRY

## The Next Steps

by Bro. John Stack

It's been a couple of years since I wrote my article about social networking and how Freemasons can leverage it. (See TROWEL; Fall, 2009: p. 20) Since that article, many Masons have taken advantage of it and other web technologies. We're in a very traditional organization but I know now that tradition did not stand in the way of Masons recognizing that people are very busy and that social networking tools truly help brethren stay in touch with each other, increase non-member awareness and knowledge, and promote deeper relationships. For me and many others, we'll be trying to figure out how to transition social networking into a valuable tool, discovering nuances of usage, and finding the intersection between social networking and other technologies and Freemasonry!

Which social networking tools are Freemasons using?

In the US, they're primarily using Facebook and to some extent Twitter. There are still a few group forums hosted by Google Groups; however, for most, it's Facebook. It is adequate for most people's needs since it has decent privacy features, is easy to use, and has options for notifications, photos, and events. Most mobile phones include sharing features to make it easy to upload photos.

Many lodges use social networking systematically and in fact, some use a Facebook page as their home page. In both an ad hoc and systematic way, various members post Masonic events, status updates about the successful events, or their feelings about events and photos. I'm sure that will continue. One other great benefit, and one that I spoke about in my earlier article, is that I've gotten to know more about my brethren. I hope you have too. "Ask" has also taken on new meaning.

Are you ready for the next step? For that, I think we have to figure out what it is! What are the newest social networking technologies and how can we use them? Are they worth it? For me, the newest social networking technologies are not as much about a new social networking infrastructure (like Facebook or Twitter) as much as peripheral technologies linked to Facebook and Twitter that increase the adoption of social networking and embed it into our everyday activities.

Check-ins have become incredibly popular for socially aware individuals. Facebook, Foursquare, and other sites have features to let their followers know they're at a location or "checked in." Having this feature creates additional awareness of the event; however, to me and many others, it's missing a few things. First of all, due to reasons of personal security, some people are really hesitant to let friends know where they are. Also, there isn't really a next logical step like "Join Me!" Wouldn't it be great to check in at a table lodge and let others know if they view a page, they can see who else is attending? I'm willing to bet the public would be surprised to see the number of attendees at a quarterly!

Have you seen stickers similar to the accompanying image?

It is what is called a QR or Quick Response Code. Using specific smart phone software such as Red Laser (free for your use on Apple, Android, and Blackberry), QR codes can be captured via the smart phone's camera. Once captured, the image is translated to a URL and your browser launches that specific URL.

Using the right smart phone software, the two-dimensional bar code here launches Google Maps in a browser and places a pin on the map for the location of the Grand Lodge. QR codes can be used as a launch point to a site where one could find out more information about your lodge or its events. How about taking the user right to a discussion forum that focused on the shared experiences of Masons everywhere?

There are many free websites that allow you to create and download a QR code. It takes less than a minute to do. All that is required is the URL you wish to launch. Once

the QR code is created, you can include the image on brochures, stickers, and cups, or popcorn bags!

Many Masons use SMS or text messaging to notify brethren of certain events. I don't know of any lodge using it systematically yet; however, websites such as Blast-SMS.com allow you to send SMS messages to lists of users for as low as \$0.09 cents per message. To me, this seems like a pretty simple thing to do. Is it worth spending an additional \$30 per month as an additional push to get more attendees at a lodge event?

Some lodges are starting to use web-based event management sites. EventBrite allows you to share the event in Facebook or Twitter and even allows you to accept credit cards. Google Calendar lets you plan entire Masonic years. Most of these technologies have social sharing features that provide the right level of integration into your public web stream.

So, for many of us, we're past the awareness, recruiting, educating, and retention phases of social networking and we're trying to understand how social networking might mature. We've seen that social networking can be synchronous (through texting, Facebook chat, and live web updates) as well as asynchronous (through seeing posts over time and clicking on shared links and photos). We've seen how users have matured and form their own groups, rallied members around Facebook pages for lodges and events. We've also seen how other technologies such as check-ins increase awareness, and QR codes let us get away from remembering URLs and get us straight to a website. But what is the next thing?

To me, the last stage of maturity in social networking is a more sophisticated means of collaboration. That happens when people can easily transition from ad hoc awareness of information about events and projects to talking about

(continued on page 26)

## The Young Tyler

Bro. David Riley

The young tyler was giving tours on Square and Compasses Day. When he walked into the kitchen, he found the lodge's officers gathered around the coffee pot enjoying a break between visitors. He took a cup and stared at it for a long time before finally filling it and then ignoring it.

"Something on your mind brother?" the senior deacon asked.

"Um? Oh, well . . . the last tour actually. This guy said he was a member of the Rotary and said that Rotary, the Lions Club, and the Masons were all the same. I don't think that's quite right," the Young tyler said, "But when I started to explain the difference, I got kind of confused."

Three past masters all started to explain the difference at the same time.

"We are a fraternity . . ."

"Charity isn't all we are . . ."

"Our obligation . . ."

The young tyler held up a hand and laughed. "Okay, okay, but one at a time." The three past masters chuckled and then allowed the most senior of their number to take the lead.

"There are many differences. We are a fraternity, not a club. That may sound like a small thing, but it means a lot. It means that at heart, our goal is to bring men together and

create real friendships among them. While we have our service projects and charitable activities, those aren't our only reason for existing or even, many would say, one of our main reasons for existing."

The young tyler interrupted, "But charity is important."

"Of course, it is. But we care more about teaching our members that they should be charitable and we care less about running our own charities. Or, at least, I think we should," the past master said with a shrug.

One of the other past masters added, "And, of course, our obligation sets us apart. Those promises we made when we first joined the fraternity define who we are in a way that no other organization I know has ever even attempted to duplicate."

"I did say something about ritual," the young tyler said.

"The ritual makes us seem different," one of the past masters said as he refilled his coffee cup, "but what it teaches is what truly makes us different. Other organizations simply serve a different purpose. Rotarians, Lions, and others do great stuff, but in the end, only Freemasonry is Freemasonry."

"Which is why it is often hard to explain to those outside the fraternity exactly what Freemasonry actually is," the senior past master said, resuming control of the floor. "You can't quite say we're like anything else because we may

look a bit like a service club one day, a social club the next, and a historical society on another. But none of those is what Freemasonry actually is—because the outward expression of what we do is simply incidental. What matters is the inward change we create in men that motivates them to the rest."

"I think I'm ready to do another tour," the young tyler said as he set down his cup and headed out. ■



Bro. John Stack is a charter member of The Independence Lodge, a member of St. Matthew's, and affiliated with St. John's (N). He is a mobile application software developer.

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# Collecting Masonic Treasures



by Wor. Joseph Goldstein



Masonic collectibles can take many forms, and can be old, new, or a combination. Some people collect Masonic post cards; others collect lapel pins; still others may collect tokens, regalia, aprons, Bibles; the list is endless. Like any other type of collectible, Masonic memorabilia may be found in the most surprising places.

## The Hunt: Online

Online auction sites have become very popular with collectors. Thousands of items may be viewed and purchased in a very short time, and the array of collectible items is vast: CDs and DVDs of clip art, song music and lyrics, ritual, reference works, and popular books.

Rings and other jewelry are abundant. Regalia are often available. Craft Masonry is represented, as are Scottish and York Rites, the Shrine, and other collateral bodies such as the Grotto and Job's Daughters.

A recent search of eBay offerings using the key words "Massachusetts Masonry," found the following items for sale: Lawrence Royal Arch penny; Prince Hall G.L. Bicentennial medal; Worcester Masonic Protective Assn. ID tag; 1911; Boston Masonic Temple postcard; Massachusetts Consistory medal; token from Howard Lodge in Yarmouth; Warren Lodge Centenary Celebration book, 1925; Veterans' medals (several) from Massachusetts; Master Mason diplomas from the 1800s; a Henry Price medal; and a Past DDGM jewel.



Wor. Joseph Goldstein is a member of Garden City and Boylston Lodges, as well as the Scottish Rite's Valley of Boston and Aleppo Shrine. His first contribution to TROWEL, "Protecting your Masonic Honors," appeared in the Fall, 2010 issue.



## On Foot

I have had much success adding to my own collection by attending estate sales. I've had the good fortune to purchase commemorative plates, ciphers, Masonic books, plaques, past master diplomas, certificates, Pairpoint cup plates, china cup & saucer sets, and Holy Bibles—usually at attractive prices. Estate sales prices tend to be much lower than antique shops. Real bargains, as well as surprise items, can often be found at estate sales.

Antique shops also provide a good source of collectible items. I have rummaged through antique shops to find jewelry, photographs, and documents. Although prices at shops tend to be higher than elsewhere, it's possible to stumble on

bargains. The ring I now wear was one I discovered inside a desk drawer of an antique shop in Dover, Massachusetts. I was lucky enough to find this 10k gold ring on a day when the store was having a sale, and it cost less than \$20.00! And while they do not always offer the best values, jewel-



ry stores often have rings, pins, and tie tacks available—many with age and character.

Not often thought to have Masonic fare, coin shops frequently offer commemorative coins, tokens, and medals that have Masonic connections. There is an offshoot of coin collecting (numismatics) that is concerned solely with tokens, medals and other exnumia. In addition, people sometimes sell whole lots of coins, tokens, medals, jewelry, and other items of disinterest (to them) to coin dealers, so an inquiry about Masonic items in a coin shop can produce several items that the dealer may want to clear from inventory at a reasonable price.

Flea markets can be a surprising treasure trove of fraternal items, and at reasonable prices. Aprons, china plates, cup and saucer sets are common, representing Craft Masonry as well as Eastern Star, York Rite, Scottish Rite, and the Shrine. Travels outside New England may turn up items from groups that are more popular in other parts of the country, including Tall Cedars of Lebanon, Job's Daughters, and Grotto. In fact, shops outside Massachusetts often sell Masonic treasures from Massachusetts at reduced prices.

## At Grand Lodge

Even our own Grand Lodge has Masonic collectibles available, including items commemorating the 275th Anniversary of Massachusetts Masonry. Through the official web site, the Grand Lodge offers a series of porcelain Sebastian collectible figurines for sale, each commissioned in limited edition by our Grand Masters, past and presiding. Additional information on Sebastian miniatures, including the Masonic issues, can be found at [www.sebastianworld.com/catalog/alphalist/index.html](http://www.sebastianworld.com/catalog/alphalist/index.html).



## Information Sources

To my knowledge, no clubs or organizations exist for the purpose of having members assemble to discuss and display their collections, although there are online groups that are of value. The Phoenixmasonry Masonic Museum and Library ([www.phoenixmasonry.org](http://www.phoenixmasonry.org)) is a wonderful collection of Masonic items, e-books, poems, essays, biographies of selected famous Masons, and even a "how-to" section. It is enormous in its scope, and is the most comprehensive collection of Masonic material I have found. The Museum pages have detailed photographs of items of all sorts, often with detailed descriptions and histories. Phoenixmasonry does not give values of objects that are shown. The Masonic Lodge Information Service ([www.masonic-lodge.info](http://www.masonic-lodge.info)) lists nearly 20 collectors' organizations and clubs, but all are specialized, either by item such as token or coin, or by region such as the U.K. None are for general Masonic collectibles. Exnumia.com ([www.exnumia.com](http://www.exnumia.com)) is a web site for collectors of tokens, medals, buttons, and scores of other items, including Masonic tokens, medals, coins, and Royal Arch pennies. While this site provides some educational links, it is concerned with buying and selling memorabilia.

## Opportunities to Display Collections

Some cities and towns may have local clubs whose scope includes Masonic items such as tokens and Masonic coins, and local coin shops are a good resource for these. Collectors usually display their collections in special areas within their home or office. But sometimes the opportunity to show in public arises. A few years ago I presented a program on Masonic collectibles at a lodge of



instruction, and was happy to be able to share my collection with others. I invited a woman friend to attend and display her collection of dozens of Masonic, Rainbow, and Eastern Star pins which she had collected over the years. She was thrilled at the chance to share her passion with others, and those in attendance were equally pleased to see her display.

### Economics

Masonic collectibles are desired not so much for their intrinsic value, but because they may be unique in the history they represent, or the fraternity they convey, or the special meaning they may have. A few years ago it was my privilege to install in the East of my lodge a brother whom I had sponsored, and it was my pleasure to present to him an antique Masonic Holy Bible I had found in an antique store. He was as pleased to receive it as I was to present it.



Masonic collectibles may increase or decrease in value, depending on rarity, age, materials, and condition. Jewelry made of precious metals fluctuates with the market price, as do past master and past DDGM pocket jewels. A letter claimed to have been written by Bro. George Washington is listed on eBay for \$24,000. In addition, Masonic collectors may be willing to pay more for items that will complete their collections. For example, A Masonic-themed postage stamp from Chile may command a higher price from a collector of South American Masonic stamps if it completes his collection. Unfortunately, I am not aware of any references available that lists values of Masonic collectibles. Values of some Masonic tokens and coins may be obtained by contacting some of the above groups, and philatelic sources may list the worth of Masonic-themed stamps.



### How to Get Started

My own collection is a modest one. It includes items that are old, or new, or unique, each having a special meaning to me. For example, I collect images, renderings, and representations of the building that houses my lodge in Newtonville, Massachusetts. At an estate sale I was able to get a commemorative plate of the 100th anniversary of the building. The plate is numbered 4 of 300 produced. I have a few old postcards from the early 20th century that have images of that same building, as well as a porcelain vessel made in Germany for the Orr Hardware Company of Newtonville, depicting the Masonic building. Mr. Orr moved to Newtonville at the end of the 19th century.



Among my most prized possessions is a plaster square & compasses on a plaster base with the words "Happy Bday Pops" that was a gift from my youngest daughter when she was a young girl. I also treasure the master Mason diploma presented to my father when he was raised in a lodge in Portland, Maine, in June, 1967.

So if you want to begin, or add to, a collection of Masonic items, here are a few suggestions:

- Narrow your scope. Don't collect everything Masonic that you see.
- Find what is meaningful to you, and treasure that collection.
- Set a limit on cost. Buy within the length of your cable-tow. Have fun! ■

you get an e-mail message with a link) and the way to take part (when you see the post in Facebook).

If you haven't tried logging into Facebook, please read my earlier article and jump into the stream!

*Just as we completed this article, Google+ was released to the public. It has many features comparable to Facebook as well as several other useful features like Circles (akin to Facebook personal groups) that let users control who can read certain streams. I've already created my personal Masons circle and I know others have as well. Also, the Chrome Extension lets you have a Facebook tab so you can see your Facebook stream from within Google+.* ■

# Are You Using Your Gavel?

by Rt. Wor. David P. Newcomb



Nearly twenty years ago I wrote what I hoped would be a thought-provoking article entitled "Behold How Swiftly the Sands Run." This TROWEL article discussed how Freemasonry was becoming difficult for members to handle—balancing the fraternity with work and family. It spoke about society giving us more choices than ever before. Freemasonry had competition with shopping malls, sporting events, concerts, and more. The article mentioned how demanding Freemasonry had become of our time. Today, we have the Internet, texting, tweeting—more distractions than ever before. Are things different now? Have we progressed? What can we do to make a difference? Let's take another look.

This year is my thirtieth year in Freemasonry. I imagine that I look at Freemasonry today, as do others with numerous years of experience. We seem to agree that things just aren't the way they used to be. I've heard some say that the new generation of Masons "just doesn't get it." Many don't attend lodges of instruction, travel with the district deputy grand masters on their fraternal or official visits, and they don't attend Grand Lodge Communications. They say, "We don't have the time." "We're not interested." "It's a volunteer organization." "I was told it was only one night a month." "Society is different now than it used to be. We can't do things the way they were done 25 years ago. Life is too busy today." In my earlier days in Blue lodge, that kind of attitude would precipitate a quick turnover in the officer's line. Where will Freemasonry be in the future with a viewpoint like this?

For me, and others with similar commitments, the question is, "How much time and energy do I have to commit to the fraternity?" For newer brothers, the question may be, "With all that is offered in the fraternity, what's the best way to decide what to do as a member?"

I believe we should review the rituals of our degrees and think about the words and meanings that we've all listened



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to for years. We may remember the words but are we really paying attention to them? Think back to the First Degree, when we were presented the working tools. We were taught to use the twenty-four inch gauge to divide our time, allowing a time for service to God and our worthy brothers, a time for work, and time for us. Then, we learned that the common gavel was a tool used to break off the rough and superfluous parts of stones, making them better for the builder's use.

Have the distractions in our lives got in the way of Masonry? Are we using our own twenty-four inch gauges to plan our time well and make the right choices in our lives? Are we using our personal gavels to break off the excesses in our lives? When we have distractions, shouldn't we as Masons endeavor to rid ourselves of these superfluous things that hold us back from our Masonic goals? After all, didn't we join Freemasonry to be Freemasons?

If we pay more attention to the lessons of Freemasonry, perhaps some time distractions will not seem so difficult. Freemasonry is a wonderful part of our lives and some of our so-called secrets are hidden right in plain sight. Perhaps instead of trying to shape Freemasonry around our lives, we might try shaping our lives around Freemasonry. Use our gauges to manage our time. Use our gavels to break off the excesses of our lives and we just might have more time for everything.

To be fair, it's also important to recognize the conflicts and difficulties facing our members and we should offer some helpful guidance. Which way should a member go when his time is limited? If I choose this one, am I missing out on that one? Can I do more than one program? How can I be active in multiple areas of Freemasonry? What about my family? How do they fit in? Freemasonry has a vast variety of opportunities available to us all. Let's organize these opportunities into just a few categories and offer a plan that can aid men who desire Masonic advancement and enlightenment to be integrated into their busy lives. Here are a few ideas.

**Service**—Become involved with one service program, activity or committee. There are events held throughout the jurisdiction for members, their families, and friends. These events improve the lives of all of us, and those around us as well. Our lodges and districts offer members the chance to visit other lodges; participate on com-

(continued on page 30)

### Social Networking *continued from page 23*

them in advance, taking part in their plans, and afterwards discussing them in post-mortem fashion to see what can be improved upon. It also means that people can copy previous successes. Some people call it R & D—not Research and Design but Rip Off and Duplicate!

I'm not sure we're there yet; however, I know of lodges that use collaborative tools such as Wiggyo and Google Groups to facilitate discussions and projects. What's missing from these sites are the intersection between those who are aware of the discussions taking place (similar to when





### Mumford River Lodge Holds Rededication Ceremonies

In May, 92 people attended the ceremonies of rededication for Mumford River Lodge. Grand Master Richard James Stewart and Rt. Wor. DDGM Robert Carl Schremser were accompanied by members of Grand Lodge, who performed the traditional Corn, Wine, and Oil Ceremony held on a special carpet for the rededication.

The ceremony was preceded by a parade over a half-mile route through East Douglas. A new banner for the lodge was dedicated, and an old one from the Blackstone Valley Masons honored.

M.W. Percival Lovell Evert, Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts, chartered Mumford River Lodge in East Douglas on January 25, 1877. The

### Steadman Honored from page 3

received many recognitions from his legal peers, including the Judicial Excellence Award, and an honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from Suffolk Law School. On his retirement, then Governor William Weld issued a proclamation commending him for his "outstanding dedication and service to the Commonwealth."

A past master of Weymouth United Masonic Lodge, and past district deputy grand master, Rt. Wor. Bro. Steadman previously received the Grand Lodge's two highest awards, the Henry Price Medal, and the Joseph Warren Distinguished Service Medal, as well as a 50-year Veteran's Medal.

Long active in the Scottish Rite Valley of Boston, Bro. Steadman received the 33rd Degree in 1989, and served as an active member of the Supreme Council, and deputy for Massachusetts. He is now an Active Emeritus. —*Wor. David A. Libby*

lodge met in several locations over the years. Since January 1901, the lodge has occupied Citizens Hall at the corner of Depot and Cottage Streets.

—*Wor. William Brown Jr.*

### George H. Taber Lodge Remembers Vets

George H. Taber Lodge assisted Fairhaven American Legion Post #166 in placing memorial flags on veterans' graves in Riverside Cemetery. Fairhaven has over 1,400 veterans' graves located in four cemeteries.

Shown left to right are: Bro. James Perry, Bro. Peter Josefek, Post 166 member Joseph Botelho, Post Adjutant Gerald Stabbell, Bro. Arthur Ryle, and Post 166 member John Mederios. —*Bro. James A. Cochran*



### Tri-District LOI Installation

In June the 23rd, 24th, and 25th Masonic Districts held their annual lodge of instruction installation, and enjoyed the finale of a very successful lodge of instruction season.

In addition to the customary instruction, a very exciting and educational Masonic Jeopardy game was held with all three districts competing. The game was the creation of Bro. Donald Lagasse of Boylston Lodge. The winner's plaque was awarded to the 24th Masonic District.

In addition, awards were given to the lodges within each district that had the largest attendance at LOI during the year. —*Rt. Wor. Bob Schremser*



### Masons Lay Temple Cornerstone in Gloucester

The legend of the Third Degree, one of our central Landmarks, is based upon the construction and preservation of the secrets of the building of Solomon's Temple. The opportunity to attend the Masonic consecration of a modern temple is rare.

Approximately 200 Masons from all over Eastern Massachusetts assembled on a bright Sunday afternoon in June to do just that. They formed a grand procession marching through the streets of the North Shore fishing community of Gloucester to the site of the newly constructed Temple Ahavat Achim, where they performed perhaps

### Joseph Warren-Soley Lodge from page 3

community in two ways: first, to help provide information to prospective donors in the area looking for local charities; and second, for local charities looking to build their local donor base.

The charities selected are all based locally or chapters of larger organizations that have a very local scope of influence. "It was our goal to make the selection process a difficult one for the charity committee, and with the charities we selected, I am sure we hit that goal," said Wor. Malcolm Burwell, master of the lodge.

At the June communication the following week, the lodge members voted to make contributions of varying amounts to all the participating charities. The lodge is already considering making this an annual event.

—*Bro. David Crisafi*

our most impressive public ceremony: the consecration of a symbolic cornerstone.

The procession was headed by a full complement of Grand Lodge officers, led by R W George J Bibilos, and followed by members of the Kilwinning Club, who set the solemn cadence of the march with their drummers and pipers. Next, serving as the Masonic guardians of the Temple, were a dozen officers of York Rite's Knights Templar. The column was completed with the officers and past masters of The Tyrian-Ashler-Acacia Lodge, the host for the event, followed by a long train of officers and members from all over Massachusetts.

The grand procession took its final turn down Mason Street, so-named because the original Tyrian Lodge—fifth oldest in Massachusetts—originally met at Prentice's Tavern, coincidentally only a few doors down from the present site of the new temple.

The formal consecration, conducted on the ceremonial carpet, was performed by the Grand Lodge officers including Rt. Wor. Mason W. Russell, Rt. Wor. David E Pace, Rt. Wor. Wayne M. Vinton, and Rt. Wor. Thomas A. Stark.

State Senator Bruce Tarr expressed the community's admiration saying, "All who attended the cornerstone ceremony were impressed by the respect shown to our community and Temple Ahavat Achim by our Masonic brotherhood. Moreover, they were truly inspired by the pageantry and sub-

### Bunker Hill Commemoration

On Friday, June 17, 2011, Grand Master Richard James Stewart placed a commemorative wreath at the foot of the statue of Most Wor. Joseph Warren. He was accompanied by a number of brethren, shown in the accompanying photograph. With the exception of Wor. Bro. Haska, all of the brethren accompanying the Grand Master are members of Major General Henry Knox Lodge, the only military lodge under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts.

From left to right, standing: RW W. Bradford Chase, Jr., Wor. Donald Haska, Wor. Khalil G. Laham, DDGM RW Philip Nowlan, MW Richard J. Stewart, Wor. Martin A. Samuels, Wor. Bruce M. Newman. Kneeling: Bros. Vincent T. Smith and Philip A. Dubey.

—*Wor. Bruce M. Newman, photo by Wor. James R. Manuel*



stance of a ritual flawlessly executed on a beautiful day in June. The day connected the importance of tradition, faith, and community spirit in all of our lives."

Rt. Wor. William E Yanakakis summed up the meaning of the ceremony for individual Masons: "The citizens of Gloucester and the members of the Temple Ahavat Achim were treated to a glimpse of Masonry rarely seen outside of the lodge room. To have such a diverse group of men marching together—friendship, morality and brotherly love uniting them—was truly inspiring."

—*Bro. Richard Lance Wise*

The Lodge News Deadline for the Winter Issue of Trowel is

**OCTOBER 19**

Send to

Lodge News Editor  
Lee Fenn at

TrowelLodgeNews@  
MassFreemasonry.net



## New Membership Development Programs to Launch

Grand Lodge's Membership Development Committee is rolling out several new programs this fall.

A *Master Builders Award* (similar to the Rookie Award) will now be available to all brothers who have a desire to become more active in the Craft. This award is for brothers who are no longer rookies, but want an enjoyable series of items to focus on and pursue. A brother can be a member of the fraternity for one year or 80 years. Everyone is welcome to participate. This new program encourages a brother to visit other lodges, get active in his district, and to make a connection with a member of his lodge who hasn't attended a meeting in some time.

The *Cable-Tow Brothers Mentoring Program* is being introduced this fall at lodges of instruction; the new effort is designed to provide an outline of how to work with an applicant and candidate as they progress through the degrees. Massachusetts Freemasonry has been very successful in bringing in new members to the Craft, but it is incumbent on all lodges to see to it that effort is made to involve new men. Each brother has something to offer his lodge and the Craft, and the Cable-Tow Brothers Mentoring Program will make a difference for new men as they begin to engage with Masonry.

*Square and Compasses Day* is scheduled for Saturday, October 15, 2011, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lodge ambassadors and secretaries will be receiving a packet that will include an

outline of marketing materials to be used to promote the event. Many of the more successful lodges in the state run co-operative programs like blood drives, MyChip events, youth organization events, breakfasts, etc., to help stimulate attendance and interest.

Many of our successful program

## Massachusetts DeMolay is Growing in 2011

DeMolay took a different approach to planning and executing events this year. We kicked off the year by bringing the leaders of our DeMolay chapters together for a leadership summit. We talked about the goals of all of our programs. The discussion centered on the core values that members would be able to recognize. Each event was dissected: what worked, what didn't, and what we could do to make them more effective. Each event was tailored to reflect members' demands and expectations. DeMolay has always been of the members, by the members, and for the members. This year's process exemplified this philosophy. We found that the best way to explain DeMolay is not to spend time explaining it, but to show it. We have done that with our events and brotherhood.

DeMolay is an organization where the members control where we go and how we operate. This year's DeMolay

ideas come as a result of suggestions from lodge members. If anyone has an idea that can benefit Massachusetts Freemasonry, please contact me at ken@kensprague.com. Membership is built by sharing ideas.

Visit [www.masonicambassadors.net/](http://www.masonicambassadors.net/) for additional information.

—*Rt. Wor. Kenneth W. Sprague, Jr.*  
*Chairman*



*State Master Councilor  
Bro. David W. A. Abbott*

Congress, an event for determining the future of our organization, was pivotal. Members showed their intelligence and political savvy by passing a record amount of legislation that will move our organization in the right direction. Congress gave the members the power, and the members proved that it was in the right hands.

Membership numbers are slowly but steadily rising. Massachusetts DeMolay had positive growth over the past two years and it is looking like we will make it three years in a row!

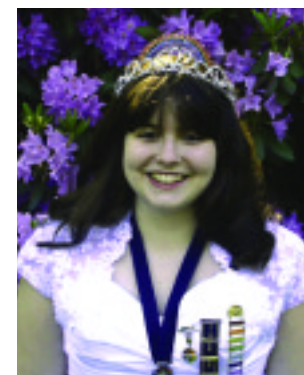
For me this year has been a whirlwind experience. I learned quickly that being state master councilor was more demanding than I ever thought; it has been a once in a lifetime experience; one that I would do again in a heartbeat. DeMolay changes the lives of everyone it touches, and I am no exception. —*Bro. David W. A. Abbott*

## Rainbow Active and Growing in 2010–2011

Grand Worthy Advisor Meghan K. Durgin, a past worthy advisor of Barre Assembly 114, kept assemblies busy this year with several statewide projects.

Massachusetts Rainbow has continued to grow, and holds an important place in the lives of its members, who have visited hospitals and spent many hours visiting local nursing homes and assisting the elderly.

Throughout the year, Rainbow Girls and their advisors collected items for the children at the Shriners Hospitals. These youngsters especially enjoy arts and crafts, so materials for these activities have been popular. Rainbow Girls also participated in the Burn Awareness Walk held in June for the benefit of the Shriners Burns Hospital.



*Grand Worthy Advisor  
Meghan K. Durgin*

Several girls and adults grew their hair in order to have the required ten or more inches cut for Locks of Love, which collects hair and creates wigs for children and teens who have lost their hair.

Youth Protection Day programs were held by Taunton, Natick, Lexington, and West Springfield Assemblies. Topics included Internet safety, eating disorders, drug and alcohol abuse, and personal safety. Three Grand Officers' Nights were hosted by Barre, Saugus, and Natick Assemblies. Attendance averaged 250 people, including members of sponsoring bodies. Initiation is held at these meetings and Rainbow is pleased to have guests see the exemplary work done by members!

—*Supreme Inspector Sandra Marshall*

## Bowling for Scholarships

Weymouth United Masonic Lodge held their first Ed Skarbek Bowling Tournament, named for their long-time chaplain, who was a teacher for more than 40 years. The tournament will be



an annual event, and is a way to keep his name attached to education while showing the community that Masons are still quietly doing their part as they have in Weymouth for 186 years.

A challenge was extended to other 8th District and surrounding lodges, and the event raised enough money to award scholarships to two young men.

At left—the winning team from Brockton's Paul Revere Lodge: Bros. Ricky Mates, James Monroe, Phil Hunt, Kevin O'Brien, Craig Mates.

—*Bro. Keith Stanley Spain*



## Williams Lodge Awards

In April, Bro. Tyler A. Pudvar became the first member of Williams Lodge in Williamstown to receive the Master Mason Rookie Award. Above: Bro. Pudvar is presented his certificate by (left) Wor. Master Craig A. Perercini and (right) Rt. Wor. Michael J. Hernandez, DDGM of the 30th Masonic District.

Rt. Wor. Frank Wellcome, past DDGM of the North Adams 15th District, was recognized for 75 years of service, and two brothers he raised 40 years ago, Wor. Keven Hamel and Wor. Richard Daniels, were present to congratulate him. Shown below are Wor. Kevin Hamel, Rt. Wor. Michael Hernandez, Rt. Wor. Frank Wellcome, Wor. Craig Pedercini, master, and Wor. Richard Daniels.



## Winslow Lewis Lodge PM at Shriners Hospital



Wor John Sugden is the new senior director of public and community relations at Shriners Hospital in Boston. Prior to this position, he served on the Board of Governors at Shriners Hospital for six years and held various positions including chair of the human resources committee, public relations, and vice chairman of the hospital's strategic planning committee.

Wor. Bro. Sugden is past master of Winslow Lewis Lodge, a member of the Aleppo Shrine, and past chair of the Grand Lodge Development Committee.

## Using Your Gavel *continued from page 27*

mittees; or serve on programs such as myCHIP, blood donation, widows, troop support, angel funds, and numberless local lodge activities customized for the community in which they live. The vast variety of opportunities available should allow every member to find his niche in Masonry. Then, make your choice according to your interests and goals.

**Leadership**—Freemasonry continues to offer the history and tradition that sets our fraternity apart from others. Help assure the fraternity's future by serving as an officer at the lodge, district, or Grand Lodge. We have warden's workshops, leadership summits, master's path, and the Masonic

Leadership Institute to help with education and training. Understand beforehand the time commitments you are making and make your decision wisely.

**Something Else**—Pursue your interest in other parts of Freemasonry, but take your time. Some join the fraternity with the intention of becoming a member of one of the collateral bodies such as the Shrine. (I personally believe that without a knowledge and understanding of Freemasonry and some experience in our Craft, interest in the collateral bodies may be short-lived.) We have several other bodies for members to join—Scottish Rite, York Rite, Grotto, Eastern Star, Amaranth, Tall Cedars, and more. They each have something to offer a man pursuing Masonic enlightenment. Choose discriminately.

The following quotation is attributed to John Wesley, founder of the Methodist Church.

“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.”

We could adapt it for Freemasonry by adding this, “without injury to myself or family.”

When we became Masons, we expressed a desire to be serviceable to our fellow creatures and to cheerfully conform to the ancient established usages and customs of the fraternity. Make use of your own symbolic gauges and gavels and you'll find that there is plenty of time for Freemasonry and all it has to offer. ■



# BE PREPARED

by R.W. David R. Lucas and R.W. & Rev. John Robert Higgins

Most people understand the basic concept of a will, the document that you leave behind that sets forth your intentions of what should happen after your demise.

## Why a Will is Important

“Be Prepared” is a motto familiar to all who have been Boy Scouts; it also has far broader applications in our lives. Life is complicated, and given the complexities of family structure and relationships, the need for a will that reflects your current situation is vital. Attorneys and clergy can provide a multitude of tragic examples of the problems—financial, legal, and personal,—which can emerge from a failure to have a will. Given the nature of life, one should not put off this decision.

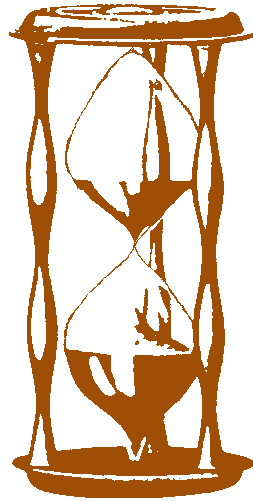
A resident of Massachusetts has a choice: he can take the time to have his wishes expressed in a legally binding document, or he can do nothing and instead let the Commonwealth of Massachusetts decide how his estate is disposed of. Understand that if you leave this decision to the state, the rules they use will not necessarily reflect your wishes (and might be in direct conflict to those wishes).

This is a direct and clear way you can provide an ongoing service to your loved ones as well as to groups for which you care.

## What Can a Will Accomplish?

**Plan your Estate.** The major purpose of a will is to determine who will get your assets upon your death, and how much. You get to control exactly how much each person or charitable entity will inherit. You can divide your estate into equal shares, provide for specific amounts of money, or make specific bequests. You can designate who will be in charge of all of this after you die (your executor or executrix).

**Care for a Minor or Incompetent.** Your will can be the foundation for two other important tools: trusts and guardianships. A trust can be created that provides a mechanism for holding property on behalf of



another person. This could be someone who has not reached a certain age, someone with serious mental disability, or someone with an addiction. You can designate who will hold onto that beneficiary’s money, for how long, and under what circumstances. A guardianship is used to provide actual care or custody of your children or other dependents. This is especially important for young families.

**Funeral Arrangements.** You can direct your executor or executrix how your funeral arrangements should be made. This can be tricky, however, as many wills aren’t even read until after the

funeral. Make sure that your loved ones know your desired funeral arrangements ahead of time.

**Tax Planning.** It has been said that the only two sureties in life are death and taxes. Bequests in a will can have important tax implications—a good reason why it is important to consult with a professional. Some of the taxes affected are the beneficiaries’ personal income taxes, capital gains taxes, and the dreaded estate tax.

**Peace of Mind.** Sometimes, this can be the biggest advantage!

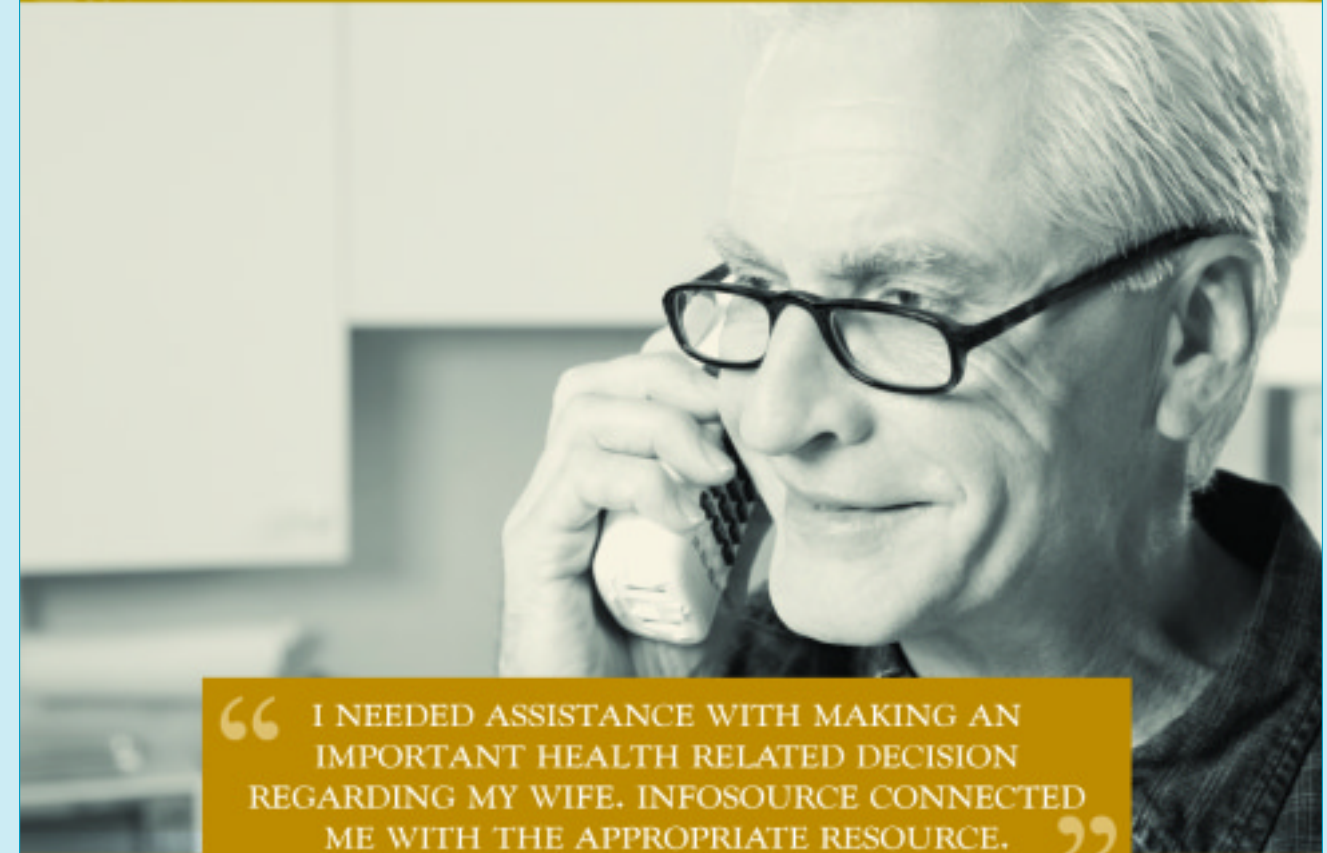
## A Final Word

Do not be penny-wise and pound-foolish. Hire an attorney to ensure that you have done your will correctly: someone who has a legal responsibility to you and your family to do it right. A will can be changed, amended, revoked, and re-written as many times as you choose, as laws, plans, and people tend to change direction. And do not be afraid of the cost. Rarely would a will cost you as much as \$1,000, more often \$500–\$1,000.

Having a will is a tangible sign of responsibility, a sign of caring, a sign of commitment in acting of our own free will and accord. There is sufficient grief at the time of death not to immeasurably add to the burdens one’s passing entails.

Brethren, this indeed is an area where you should take due notice. ■

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