

TROWEL



GRAND LODGE OF MASONS IN MASSACHUSETTS WINTER 2017-18

The Vote, The Installation, & The Feast



The Grand
Master's Appeal



From the East of Grand Lodge

PAUL F. GLEASON

Brethren,

Being a Freemason can be an extremely rewarding experience - I know it has been for me. The most rewarding aspect of membership I value is the friendships I have made and the camaraderie I have experienced during Masonic activities. I hope I am not alone in feeling that way.

In my view, it is the small ways Freemasonry changes our lives that makes the biggest difference. Consider the following:

- You notice a Masonic lapel pin on someone near you. This means you are in the presence of a potential friend simply by virtue of your common membership.
- Perhaps you decided to donate time to a Masonic charity—whatever it may be. While contributing to a worthwhile cause that helps others, you also enjoy the benefit of working side by side with friends and brothers in a common cause.
- When you enter a lodge room you have never visited, you experience the companionship of “friends you have not yet met.” Nice experience, isn’t it?

I urge you to “give back” to your brethren. It is a valuable and enjoyable part of being a Freemason. How? Visit other lodges, initiate and support charitable efforts of your lodge, greet every brother who enters your lodge and never let a brother sit alone! You will receive more than you give—it’s the Masonic way.

As I write this, I have just returned from enjoying lunch with our brethren living in the Overlook residence in Charlton. It was a real pleasure to meet and talk with others who are well versed in a Masonic way of life.

I will soon visit our brethren in Florida to share with them the activities taking place “back home”. At every stop, I look forward to a friendly greeting and making happy memories.

When I return at the end of March, I invite all of you to join me at “Brotherhood Night” on Saturday the 24th in Concord, N.H. Call the Grand Secretary’s office for details. I hope that you will be able to join with me – it’s an irreplaceable reward of membership in our fraternity!

Respectfully,

Paul F. Gleason

Grand Master

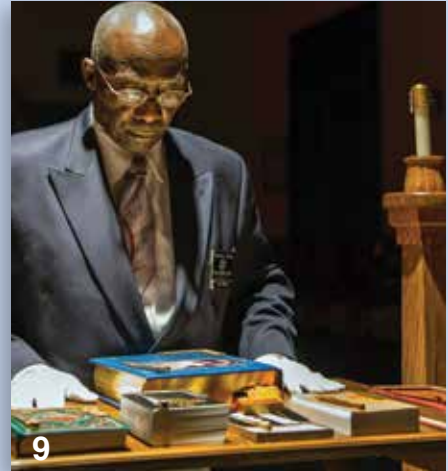
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Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts
MW Paul F. Gleason



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Masonic Action: Birthplace of Betterment

“As we learn from our ritual . . .” Masons can affix that phrase to just about every decision we make. This is a core message we can communicate to our new, straying, and regular attending Masons. But how do we communicate the Masonic nature of our actions?



As we learn from our ritual, there is a difference between accidental and essential. A table, for example, can be blue or green or natural wood—these are accidental differences. But if the table does not stand as intended by the design, then it is no longer a table. These differences would be essential—the essence of the table has changed. In our ritual, when we praise essential differences over accidental ones, I quietly, with great zeal, pump my fist.

While this is an allusion to Aristotle's Categories, the issue is more immediate to our daily lived Masonic life. This can be made clear with the example of charity.

Many people do charitable acts. This is a good thing. Any act of charity in and of itself is a good of a perpetual nature: it out lives us and moves our actions into the realm of eternity. All acts of charity are similarly good.

We Masons do charity through the Grand Master's appeal, our Lodges, and appendant bodies. In Masonry, however, we attend to the man. Masons are improved by theory and action: the theory is in the ritual; the action is in what we do.

For example, earlier in my Masonic life, I started donating blood. I saw the blood donor number on my dues card, so I went. I was thrilled when I realized that I got snacks, and sometimes pizza, when I gave blood. The second time I gave blood, I am embarrassed to say now, the food motivated me. I was doing charity, I was helping, and that was good, but I had not grown as a man in Masonry.

Over the course of time, after giving blood whenever I could, the food remained, but my motivation changed. I had somehow, without my direct knowledge, changed from giving blood for food, to giving blood because it is how I help. Now, I do enjoy more of the Oreos and juices than most of the folk there, but I go because I am slowly becoming a Mason who helps.

This is the difference between doing charity, which is accidental—we can be doing lots of different things—and being a charitable Mason—which is essential, it is a way of being. The actions were the same: I gave the same blood from the same veins. But that action, repeated over time, had made an essential change in me; it made me a charitable Mason. We can help the new or strayed man stay in our Lodges long enough, take enough Masonic actions, to become essentially Masons.

Fraternally, *Lee H. Fenn*

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE
APRIL 11, 2018



(Left to Right) Wor. Arthur Papas received the Joseph Warren medal with Tom VanKuilenburg, Wor. John VanKuilenburg, Bro. Jack VanKuilenburg. It was presented on November 14th at Thomas Talbot Lodge during official visit by Rt. Wor. Mark Leonard. Wor. Bro. Papas is Wor. John VanKuilenburg's father-in-law.

-Wor. John VanKuilenburg

Grand Commandery Offers Mutual Support and Cooperation

The Grand Commander Knights Templar & the Appendant Orders of MA/RI, Sir Knight Glen Melvin Cunningham met with the Grand Master, Most Worshipful Paul Fulton Gleason in November to discuss ways that the Knights could provide support for Blue Lodge and Grand Lodge functions.

One such support effort included providing an honor guard "Arch of Steel" on Wednesday, December 20, 2017. The event was a joint meeting of Ezekiel Bates Lodge of Attleboro, MA and Providence Lodge No. 1 of Rhode Island. The Arch of Steel was to provide an escort into the Lodge for The Grand Masters of each state, M. Wor. Bro. Gleason of Massachusetts and M. Wor. Peter Iacobucci of Rhode Island. Also, being received as a special guest was the Grand Master of Connecticut, M. Wor. Theodore J. Nelson.

Other possible support efforts by the Knights for Blue Lodge and Grand Lodge events include a roster of speakers for Table Lodges or other special evenings, a colorful Manual of Swords demonstration [open to ladies and other guests], and a brief talk on the Flags and Banners of the Templar Order.

If your lodge would like to have a contingent of Knights to provide support for your important evening, please contact Sir Knight James S. Stone, Sr., the Grand Senior Warden of MA/RI at jamesstonesr@gmail.com or through the York Rite Office in Boston at Yorkriteboston@gmail.com.

Please contact Sir Knight Stone a minimum of 30 days in advance of the event [or more] so that adequate preparation can be made. ■



April 28th 2018

Ezekiel Bates Lodge A.F. & A.M.
71 North Main Street, Attleboro, MA
eb1870.org/masonic-con-2018



The “Other” Empty Chair

by Rt. Wor. and The Rev. Dr. Keith C. Alderman

If you have been around the Masonic fraternity for some time, perhaps you have encountered the ceremony entitled “The Empty Chair.” The Empty or vacant Chair ceremony dates back to 1875, a decade after the close of the American Civil War when it was used in Masonic lodges to pay tribute to those who did not return from the war. Since then it has been used by many lodges at Veterans’ Day, Memorial Day, and to pay homage to those Brother Masons who fell during WWI, WWII, Viet Nam, and other wars. It is sometimes adapted to remember Past Masters, or members who have passed on and reside in the light and love of God Almighty in the Celestial Lodge above.

Sometimes, when I go to Lodge, I think of the Empty Chair in another way as well. For example, I know a man named Brad. Brad is in his mid-fifties. Many times I have asked him to consider becoming a Mason. He always said, “No.” I know that his father was a Mason, and his brother and several uncles. I have a strong suspicion that Brad would really have liked the fraternity, had he given it a chance. Brad is not in the best of health, and recently needed to have some extensive medical care. He generally keeps to himself, and does not seem to have many friends who can help him. He needed a ride to his doctor and his local hospital. He was having a difficult time finding someone who could take him to his appointments. I thought to myself, you know, if Brad had joined the craft years ago and perhaps been an officer in his local lodge he would have had many friends in his Lodge who might be able to help him at a time like this. After all, who doesn’t need more friends? I think Brad not joining a Lodge has been a loss to both himself and to the Masonic fraternity. What could have been his chair remained empty. A loss to him, a loss to us.

Friendship has strong spiritual power. Lots of organizations say they want to help people to change for the better. As Freemasons, we have the unique opportunity to offer something that is unique, powerful, and life-changing. One of the most powerful stories of the power of friendship in the bible is told to us in the Book of Ruth. In this book, a Jewish family from Bethlehem

has left the Promised Land during an extreme famine. Life is very hard, and during the famine a woman named Naomi loses both her husband and her two sons. Other than her two foreign daughters-in-law, Naomi had no one. Ruth, one of the two daughters-in-law, knows that if Naomi is left on her own she will certainly die in the famine. With Ruth’s help, perhaps Naomi will survive. They return to Bethlehem, and things are not good. Ruth is reduced to gleaning in the barley fields. There, Ruth encounters a man named Boaz, who instantly takes a liking to her and offers her gleaning privileges in his fields, which for Ruth and Naomi is the difference between life and death.

There is real power in this story of the friendship between Ruth and Naomi. Ruth could have left Naomi after her husband died. She could have taken the easy choice, and left but instead took the hard choice, and stayed. It was like this for her: by taking care of Naomi as a true friend she is doing the right thing by God even though it meant that she is putting herself in a precarious situation. What is a friend? Time and constancy. Time and staying true to a person even when they know who you really are. Think of the power of this quote from the Book of Ruth that Ruth told Naomi when things were really tough in their world: “Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me” (Ruth 1:16-17, NIV). Think of this as a definition of friendship. Think of this as a model for friendship. This is being present. This is being fully committed. This is truly being there with someone for a long period of time, no matter what else is happening. The Masonic fraterni-

continued on page 32

Rt. Wor. and Rev. Dr. Keith C. Alderman is the Chaplain of Columbian Lodge in Boston, and twice served as Master of Village Lodge No. 29 in Collinsville, Connecticut. He has been a Grand Chaplain since 2009. He is the Senior Pastor of Pilgrim Congregational Church, UCC in Leominster, and resides in Westminster.



THE DECEMBER 2017 QUARTERLY COMMUNICATION

OF THE GRAND LODGE OF MASSACHUSETTS



by *Wor. Lee H. Fenn*

The election of Senior and Junior Grand Wardens was up in the air as the Brethren assembled for the December 13, 2017 Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts Quarterly Communication. Four fine Brothers, the candidates awaiting the vote, moved nervously around the Lodge room. At 1:30, the Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts, Most Worshipful Paul F. Gleason, entered.

Presenting the flags of the United States and Massachusetts were members of the Scouter's Lodge. Wearing the appropriate garb for the Boy Scouts of America, were Wors. Matthew Niedermeier, Adam Jolicoeur, Rt. Wor. Geoffrey Kromer, and Bro. Michael Daniell.

Standing, and saluting from the Brothers who had served in the Armed Forces, and all others with hands reverently resting over their hearts, the assembled pledged their allegiance to the flag and sang the National Anthem with one voice.

The Rt. Wor. Grand Marshal retired to the anteroom and escorted Patricia Latham and Lisa Hastings into the hall. They awarded Wor. Charles Philip Morton, King Hiram's Lodge, and Wor. David John Goodrich, Paul Revere Lodge, with Secretary of the Year awards. Wor. Bro. Goodrich's award was accepted by Rt. Wor. Daniel West, DDGM of the 17th District.

The Grand Marshal escorted Patricia Latham and Lisa Hastings from the Lodge room. The psalm "Oh God Our Help in Ages Past" rang through the hall. Heads were bowed as Grand Chaplain Rt. Wor. and Rev. Matthew Wissell led those present in prayer, and the Grand Master declared the Quarterly Communication open.

The past Grand Masters of the Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts in attendance were M. Wors. Albert Timothy Ames, Arthur Eugene Johnson, Jeffrey Black Hodgdon, Richard James Stewart, and Harvey J. Waugh.

The First Responders in attendance were Rt. Wor. Jerry Bergeron (Captain), Wors. Jack MacNeill, Wally Therrien, Ed Burg, and Bro. Ryan Matthews.

The Grand Master gave the last call for ballots. The balloting for the Grand Master and Wardens must be on paper. The paper ballots are distributed prior to the Communication. If any voting Brother did not have a bal-

The Grand Master introduced to the Brethren assembled the distinguished guests:

- M. Excel. Dana A. Jackson, Grand High Priest, Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts
- M. Excel. Charles R. Austin, Grand High Priest, Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts
- M. Ill. Demetrios J. Sarantopoulos, Most Illustrious Grand Master, Grand Council of Royal and Select Master Masons of Massachusetts
- Sir Knight Glen M. Cunningham, Rt. Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar, and the Appendant Orders, of Massachusetts and Rhode Island
- Sir Knight Kenneth G. Sallale, Rt. Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar, and the Appendant Orders, of Massachusetts and Rhode Island

Representatives of The Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the USA

- Ill. Donald M. Moran, 33°, Deputy for Massachusetts
- Ill. Peter R. Smith, 33°, Active for Massachusetts
- Ill. C. William Lakso, 33°, Active Emeritus for Massachusetts
- Ill. Ralph I. Sewall, 33°, Active Emeritus for Massachusetts
- Ill. Robert E. Godbout, Jr., 33°, Active Emeritus for Massachusetts
- M. Wor. Thomas Edward Pulkkinen, Grand Master, Grand Lodge of Maine
- M. Wor. Nicholas Locker, Past Grand Master and Grand Representative (G.L. of MA),
- Rt. Wor. Wilbur Evans, Sr., Grand Marshal Emeritus, The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts
- Rt. Wor. and Dad Philip Drouin, Executive Officer, Order of the DeMolay, Massachusetts
- Sir Knight Robert Jessee, Grand Royal Patron, Grand Court of Massachusetts, Order of the Amaranth

lot, this was his last opportunity to get a ballot.

M. Wor. Bro. Ames explained the rules for voting, including the requirement that members of Grand Lodge are not allowed to delegate their votes.

Rt. Wor. Kevin J. Willis, Deputy Grand Master, had the difficult duty of announcing the necrology. Rt. Wors. Robert Sargent Phillips, John Charles MacDonald, III, David Pearce Duncan, Willard Bryant Cookson, Lynwood Pendexter Harriman, and John Haraden Day, Jr. brought over 300 years' worth of Masonic experience to the



Left: The Grand Master arrives for the Quarterly Communication. Right: The Color Guard from the Scouters Lodge, Rt. Wor. Geoffrey Kromer, Wor. Matthew Niedermeier, Wor. Adam Jolicoeur, and Bro. Michael Daniell.

Celestial Lodge. Rt. Wor. and Rev. Brian Marsh expressed our grief in prayer.

The Grand Master turned the Communication over to the Deputy Grand Master for the purpose of electing the next Grand Master. The Grand Master was escorted from the Lodge room and the Deputy Grand Master declared the ballot open. After all of the ballots were collected, the Deputy Grand Master declared the ballot closed. The Grand Marshal escorted the Past Grand Masters from the room to count the ballots.

As the ballots were being counted, Rt. Wor. Robert V. Jolly, Jr. reported that the Committee on Charters and By-Laws approved nine modifications.

After a musical interlude supplied by Grand Organist Wor. George Wiseman, the Past Grand Masters returned with the completed vote results. From the West of the Altar, M. Wor. Bro. Ames announced the results. M. Wor. Paul F. Gleason was re-elected as Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts. M. Wor. Bro. Gleason received loud applause as he entered the Lodge room, and was asked if he accepted his reelection. He humbly accepted the position and resumed the East.

“Rt. Wor. Grand Marshal, you will present to me Rt. Wors. David J. Raymond and Fred A. Dobson, Jr.,” said the Grand Master. He introduced the candidates for Senior Grand Warden for the final time, and directed the Grand Marshal to escort them from the room. He declared the ballot for Senior Grand Warden open.

The Grand Master asked, “Have all balloted? Is there anyone who has not balloted?” Seeing no responses, he declared the ballot closed. He appointed a committee of Past Senior Grand Wardens to count the ballots. “I appoint the senior Past Senior Grand Warden, M. Wor. Albert T.

Ames, as Committee Chairman.” The Committee was escorted out of the Lodge room to count the ballots and return with the Candidates.

During the count, the Grand Master moved for five suspensions for men who did not live up to our standards. The motion was approved and the suspensions were enacted. “It always saddens me to read these . . .,” mentioned the Grand Master. In addition, Rt. Wor. Robert C. Corr reported on the Committee of Records, and there was another musical interlude.

The committee completed the count, returned to the hall and M. Wor. Bro. Ames announced the election of Rt. Wor.

Fred A. Dobson, Jr. as the Senior Grand Warden, who accepted the position.

The Grand Master introduced the candidates for Junior Grand Warden, Rt. Wors. Nicholas J. Mantellow and Michael J. Jarzabek. A Counting Committee of Past Junior Grand Wardens was chaired by the Junior Past Grand Warden, Rt. Wor. Dennis E. Reebeel. After the ballots were cast and counted, Rt. Wor. Bro. Reebeel announced the winner. Rt. Wor. Michael J. Jarzabek accepted the position.

“I will entertain a motion for the Grand Secretary to cast one ballot for the remaining slate of Officers,” said the Grand Master. M. Wor. Bro. Waugh made the motion, it passed, and the ballot was cast.

At the behest of the Grand Master, the Grand Marshal escorted Rt. Wors. Michael Jarzabek, Walter Hunt, and Ed Iacovelli to the East. Rt. Wor. Bros. Jarzabek and Hunt presented two limited editions of a Star Wars/Masonic issue of the Fraternal Review, from the California Lodge of Research. Rt. Wor. Bro. Iacovelli presented a check from the Past Masters Association of the 15th District.

Other presentations included Amity-Mosaic Lodge,



Secretaries of the Year, Wor. Charles Philip Morton, King Hiram’s Lodge, and Wor. David John Goodrich, Paul Revere Lodge, honored in the East with Patricia Latham, Lisa Hastings and the Grand Master. Pictured and accepting for Wor. Bro. Goodrich’s was Rt. Wor. Daniel West, DDGM of the 17th District.

“ **DEMOLAY PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE LIVES OF THE YOUNG MEN WHO PASS THROUGH ITS DOORS; IT HAS BEEN AN INTEGRAL PART IN THE LIVES OF MANY MASTER MASONS AND CONTINUES TO HAVE THE SUPPORT OF THIS GRAND LODGE.** ”

Danvers, for the MSA Disaster Relief in Texas and Puerto Rico, William Sutton Lodge, Saugus for the MMRL, Mystic Valley Lodge, Arlington, for MSA Hurricane Relief, and the 300th Gala Committee for the Brotherhood Fund.

“It would be impossible to mention all of the warm and welcoming receptions I have experienced since we were together, so I’ll focus on the highlights,” said the Grand Master in the course of opening his comments. The Grand Master’s and Grand Lodge Officers’ travels included:

September 2017 - 12 events (9 in Massachusetts Lodges, 1 at the Explorateur Restaurant, 2 out of state)

October 2017 - 28 events (13 in Massachusetts Lodges (6 for the Open House), 2 out of state, 1 in Canada, 12 in England for the 300th Anniversary)

November 2017 - 9 events (5 in Massachusetts Lodges, 2 business meetings, 2 out of state)

Up to December 13, 2017 - 6 events (4 in Massachusetts Lodges, 1 DeMolay, 1 out of state)

“I just want to commend all of the candidates.... All four of you represented Freemasonry well in your travels these last three months, and I think our Lodges are all better from having enjoyed your company,” said the Grand Master.

The travels of the Grand Master and Grand Lodge Officers were extensive, and included a trip to England for the 300th Anniversary of the Grand Lodge of England. 138

Grand Masters were in attendance, with over 4,000 Masons, to celebrate 300 years of Freemasonry.

At a dinner in September, the Grand Master attended the Master Mason Rookie and Master Builder award recipients’ dinner. “It was energizing to be able to meet with some of the most enthusiastic, bright-eyed, and talented new Master Masons in each of your Lodges,” recounted the Grand Master.

DeMolay International bestowed the Grand Master with the honorary Legion of Honor early in December. “DeMolay plays an important role in the lives of the young men who pass through its doors; it has been an integral part in the lives of many Master Masons and continues to have the support of this Grand Lodge,” said the Grand Master. He thanked Rt. Wor. Bro. and Dad Drouin, the Executive Officer of DeMolay, and all the adults who work to make DeMolay grow and prosper.

Grand Lodge staff and the Membership Committee is working on a number of new initiatives, including a video that supports member retention. The York Rite Commandery have offered their resources to any Blue Lodge looking for added attractions, such as color guards and parades. The Scottish Rite has developed new material to complement our public message. “Initial planning has begun for a One Day Class to be held in several venues early in 2019. Remember Brethren, membership still takes place *continued on page 32*



During the balloting for Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, Rt. Wor. Kevin J. Willis assumes the East.

Left: Balloting for Grand Master. Right: The committee of Past Grand Masters announce the re-election of Most Worshipful Paul Fulton Gleason as the Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts.





ASK THE GRAND LECTURERS

by Rt. Wor. Robert F. Doherty, Chairman of the Grand Lecturers

A: As I write this, temperatures are in the single digits. Hopefully as you read it that is not the case.

Q: Since Exemplifications this year are on the First Degree, is it OK to bring candidates who have only completed their First or First and Second Degrees?

A: No. It could cause awkward situations. It is almost impossible to confine the agenda to a specific degree. A significant part of the discussions revolve around how the wording varies from degree to degree. We do not wish to discourage interested candidates but in this case it is best all around that they wait a year.

Q: Where is it determined which parts the First Section of the First Degree are to be done one candidate at a time?

A: Some of it is determined by the Grand Constitutions and some by Grand Master's Edict. Actually at one time it was required to perform the entire first section for every single candidate individually.

Q: When doing Blue Lodge ritual should Grand Lodge Officers wear their Grand Lodge aprons and regalia? If so how should they be addressed?

A: The wearing of Grand Lodge aprons and regalia by Grand Lodge Officers doing degree work is appropriate. However the Ritual applies to everyone and they are addressed by the title of the office they are filling. For example, if a Past District Deputy (or a Past Grand Master for that matter) is filling the station of Senior Deacon, he is to be addressed as Brother Senior Deacon.

Q: Why should Past Masters serving as Officers have to attend Exemplifications? Haven't they heard it all before?

A: The fact we have heard it all before does not mean that we heard it all correctly nor does it mean that we remember it all correctly. Perfection is limited to the Supreme Architect. The rest of us need to keep learning. Many professions require continuing education and as Masons we need to be willing to do this with or without requirements.

As important is that is, the example we as Past Masters set is even more important. If we take the position that as Past Masters, the rules do not apply to us, then our credibility with our newer Brethren is severely compromised. We need to show our Brothers what should be done not just tell them about it. ■

300th Photographer and Fundraising

Thank you to all those who attended the 300th Anniversary Gala at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Natick this past October. Due to the generosity of over two hundred Masons and their guests, a donation of over thirteen hundred dollars was made to the Grand Lodge Brotherhood Fund. The photographs in the Fall 2017 issue of the Trowel were courtesy of Bro. Evgenii Kozhemiakin of Simon W Robinson Lodge. *-Rt. Wors. Alfredo Canhoto and Mike Boucher*



On the Threshold of a New Renaissance: The Craft in the 21st Century Lodge

By Wor. Daniel Hrinko

Saint John's presentation, December 27, 2017

Grand Lodge of Massachusetts

Editor's note: Lodge room photos are from the Arts & Sciences Lodge of which Rt. Wor. Bro. Hrinko is the Charter Master.

I would like to introduce you to Joe. Joe is a 32 year old who has hit his stride in life. He has a job where he feels valued and is productive. His wife of eight years and two children, ages six and four, are settled into their home, and they are comfortable in their current circumstances. Joe comes from a family with some past history of Masonic membership: a grandfather on his mother's side and an uncle on his father's side. Even the father of one of his childhood friends was an active Mason.

As he goes about his routine, he finds things going well. He is established in his company, respected in his community, and sees a stable future for himself and his family. Yet, there is something missing. A richness, a fullness, a sense of purpose. He wants to find a way to make a difference beyond his current opportunities. But how?

He recalls the pride that he saw in those men who he knew were Masons and begins to search the Internet looking for information about Freemasonry. He finds abundant information that is sometimes frightening, sometimes ominous, but, sometimes promising. He decides that a personal conversation with an actual Mason may help sort out this cacophony of voices. He calls the offices of the Grand Lodge, learns about the local Lodge, and eventually sits down with a Brother from that Lodge. The conversation goes well. Questions are asked, honest responses provided, and, based on what he learns is possible, Joe decides that joining may be a good move. So now what?

Let's ask some very important questions about this situ-

ation. First, what is Joe looking for in his life? We know that men like Joe share several characteristics. They are interested in finding a way to make a difference in their world in some manner. They recognize the value of a spiritual experience and understand that life is more than what you get. They look forward to fun times, but see the value of hard work. Lastly, they do not tolerate dishonesty, broken promises, dogmatic bureaucracy, or the waste of time and resources.

How will Freemasonry fit into Joe's life? That depends on what happens over the next three months. Now we must ask, what will Joe likely experience in his journey into Freemasonry in that Lodge? And now the toughest question, how will Joe's experiences match up to his expectations?

Since Joe is 32, he is likely to be the future of Freemasonry. Joe and his friends could be running our Lodges in the next 20 years. We need to learn how to make Freemasonry relevant to Joe and his friends. We know that Joe believes you should get what you are promised. We know that Joe's time away from his family is valuable and should not be wasted. And last, we know that, to Joe, patience is a virtue, but to a point.

Since the process of becoming a contributing member of a Lodge depends on the development of a relationship between the Brother and his Lodge, what responsibility does the

Lodge hold in this ongoing partnership between Joe and his future brothers? What is the responsibility of a Grand Lodge in supporting the Lodges in fulfilling their duty to the Craft?

For over 450 years, Masons have been gathering to teach the skills of Speculative Freemasonry. For nearly 300 years, representatives from Lodges have gathered on occasions such as this, to examine the state of the Fraternity on a regional, national, and sometimes global



Wor. Daniel Hrinko

Our Lodges were not helping us learn, subdue our passions, or improve ourselves in Masonry.

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A Grand Installation



Above: The Grand Master takes his oath; 1: Rt. Wor. Fred A. Dobson, Jr. installed as Sr. Grand Warden; 2: Rt. Wor. Michael J. Jarzabek installed as Jr. Grand Warden; 3: Rt. Wor. Scott Jareo installed as Deputy Grand Master; 4: Rt. Wor. George O'Masta installed as District Grand Master (Panama); 5: The installation of the Grand Chaplains; 6: The installation of the District Deputy Grand Masters; 7: The installation of the Grand Lecturers; Right: The Garfield Urn carried in the procession by Rt. Wor. Kevin J. Willis

A Committee of Past Grand Masters retrieved Dignitaries from Other Jurisdictions

The Grand Lodge, Ancient Free & Accepted Masons of Virginia (1778)

Rt. Wor. Douglas Vernon Jones, Grand Senior Warden

The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York (1781)

M. Wor. Jeffrey M. Williamson, Grand Master

The Grand Lodge of Maryland, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons (1787)

Rt. Wor. Richard Philip Naegele, Rt. Wor. Deputy Grand Master

Rt. Wor. Mark Edward Pearlstein, Grand Representative to Massachusetts

The Grand Lodge of New Hampshire, Free and Accepted Masons (1789)

M. Wor. John E. Lobdell, Most Worshipful Grand Master; Rt. Wor. Kenneth A. Clay, Jr., Deputy

Grand Master; Rt. Wor. David S. Collins, Senior Grand Warden; Rt. Wor. Thomas S. Lowe, Grand

Secretary; M. Wor. John F. Gordon, Past Grand Master

The Grand Lodge of Connecticut, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons (1789)

Rt. Wor. Marshall K. Robinson, Rt. Wor. Deputy Grand Master

The Grand Masonic Lodge of Freemasonry Rhode Island and Providence Plantations (1791)

M. Wor. Peter Iacobucci, Grand Master; M. Wor. Stephen T. McGuire, Past Grand Master

The Grand Lodge of Vermont, Free and Accepted Masons (1794)

M. Wor. Victor J. Stone, Grand Master; M. Wor. George J. Deblon, Past Grand Master

The Grand Lodge of Delaware, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons (1806)

M. Wor. John W. Marinucci, Grand Master; Wor. Chad T. Robinson, Grand Marshal;

M. Wor. Dale T. Irwin, Past Grand Master

The Grand Lodge of Ohio, Free and Accepted Masons(1808)

Rt. Wor. Jess N. Raines, Deputy Grand Master

Rt. Wor. Daniel D. Hrinko, Past District Deputy Grand Master

The Grand Lodge of Maine, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons

M. Wor. Thomas E. Pulkkinen, Grand Master

M. Wor. George Pulkkinen, Past Grand Master

The Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia (1866)

M. Wor. John Millar Cody, Grand Master

The Grand Lodge of Qebec (1869)

M. Wor. Andre Oscar Boivin, Grand Master; Rt. Wor. Marc David, Deputy Grand Master

The Grand Lodge of Prince Edward Island, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons (1875)

M. Wor. Kevin B. Crozier, Grand Master

The Gran Logia de Panama (1916)

Rt. Wor. Manuel Ossa, Grand Secretary of International Affairs



6



7



Driving a Decade of Classic Cars, Community and Charity

Back in 2009, to help celebrate its 150th anniversary, United Brethren (UB) Lodge decided to put on a show – a classic car show, that is. Instead of taking place in a parking lot or field, like most shows and cruise nights, UB's would be held on two blocks of historic Main Street in downtown Marlborough, right in front of City Hall and the Lodge building. It had never been done here before, and only a few of us had even attended a car show, let alone produced one. But the Brothers voted to proceed and the plans came together over six months. I gladly lent a hand as a newly raised Master Mason.

On Sunday June 7, a dozen of us stood ready in the rising sun's rays, looking over a mostly empty Main Street. UB Senior Warden Wor. Bob Archibald, who'd conceived the show idea and led the committee, looked around, unsure if any cars would come. He'd solicited involvement of venerable hot rod club, the Push Rods of Waltham, to help promote the show. We knew we needed at least 20 cars to have a viable show.

UB Master Wor. Ken Urato, standing with us, worried that this would turn out to be an expensive boondoggle, rather than the good-will and visibility generator he'd hoped for. A local restaurateur marched up to us to complain about all the business he expected to lose that morn-

ing because of the street closing. So much for good will.

Then it happened. Three candy-colored vintage muscle cars rumbled out of the West in single file, idled up to our home-made registration sign and paid us the \$5 entry fee. Behind them came a black t-bucket rod with a skull for a hood ornament, then a lavender deuce coupe with silver flames. By 9 a.m., we were surprised and thrilled to see a continuous parade of show cars rolling down Mains Street. In late morning, more than 100 show cars lined both sides of the avenue.

Another surprise were the spectators. The street, normally deserted on Sunday mornings, was alive with families pushing kids in strollers, young ladies walking their Shih Tzus, kids on bikes, and Brothers from the 15th District. Strangers came up and congratulated us on the show; we were exhilarated and realized we had made something wonderful happen. Working his way through the crowd, Wor. Bro. Urato, clearly impressed, said to me, "We need to do this again next year." I remember thinking, how could we repeat this kind of success?

City dignitaries arrived before noon, invited to be guest judges. Susanne Morreale Leeber, CEO of the Marlborough Chamber of Commerce, judged and presented the show's first trophy, to soon-to-be Grand Master Richard Stewart, for his bright red T-bird. Marlborough Mayor Nancy Stevens presented the Mayor's Trophy. Later, however, Morreale Leeber approached Committee Chair Archibald and said, "Bob, you made a big mistake."

"What's wrong, Susanne?" he asked, fearing the worst.

"You only took two blocks for the show," she replied.

"Next year, you need to use the whole street."



BRETHREN

That was the moment that United Brethren's little one-time Lodge event began its successful journey to become a yearly community tradition and one of the most eagerly anticipated car shows in the region. It has also become UB's top fund raiser, generating more than \$125,000 for Lodge charities from sponsoring businesses and car registration fees. More than 300 cars now participate annually, filling the whole street and some parking areas. Thousands of spectators come annually, enjoying the infinite variety of cars, the music of DJ Dr. Dom and the Canton VFW Marching Band, and goodies from food trucks and Main Street restaurants, including that of the complaining restaurant owner, now a converted show enthusiast.

Of course, there have been plenty of bumps along the journey. Power failures, missing or late portable toilets (a real crowd-dis-pleaser), traffic jams, blown radiators, and early-bird cars arriving well before set-up time. The weather is always unpredictable, with a rain-out one year and 90-degree heat the next. But as my UB Brothers and Push Rods friends get ready for our 10th anniversary show on June 3, 2018, we offer the following lessons learned for a successful community event.

- Team up with people who know what they are doing – in our case, the Push Rods Car Club, who participated in the committee and promoted the show in the show-car community.
- Involve new Brothers in the event and keep the committee open to newcomers. Give them something meaningful to do. Don't let it become a clique.
- Get community business and civic leaders involved as supporters, and make their support meaningful and visible. The Chamber of Commerce and

continued on next page



Art of Aprons Lights United Brethren Lodge

The tall walls of United Brethren's Lodge room had been untouched for decades. Though they underwent a refresh with new paint in early 2017, they were still big blank canvases largely devoid of decorative features. That's all changed now -- UB's Lodge room now resembles a fine art gallery or a special exhibit at the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum in Lexington, thanks to an idea by Rt. Wor. Richard E. Johnson and the hard work and finan-

cial donations of UB members. Fourteen unique hand-painted lamb-skin aprons now adorn the walls, showcased in custom-built and lighted cases.

Created by artists in France, the aprons are reproductions of historic designs from the early 19th Centuries originating in France, Scotland and England. The colors are matched as closely as possible to source designs and the leather is given an aged look. Among the designs are a Kilwinning Apron (the Scottish Mother Lodge), a French Master Apron, a "Acacia" Master Apron, and a sublime Prince of the Royal Secret Apron (see freemasoncollection.com for

continued on next page



UNITED BRETHREN



Rt. Wor. John Doherty received the Joseph Warren Medal on January 3rd at United Brethren Lodge in Marlborough. On hand were M. Wors. Richard J. Stewart and Thomas Edward Pulkkinen. M. Wor. Bro. Pulkkinen, the Grand Master of Masons in Maine, is a former editor of TROWEL as is Rt. Wor. Bro. Doherty. Wor. Lee H. Fenn, the current editor of TROWEL, was on hand as well. (L to R) Wor. Lee H. Fenn, Rt. Wor. John Doherty, M. Wor. Thomas Edward Pulkkinen.



The Brothers of United Brethren who make the Car Show possible

Mayor's Office have participated annually. We also established a good relationship with the Marlborough Police leadership. Captain Timothy Naze has been helpful and supportive in managing the street closing, traffic and safety issues over the decade.

- Be consistent. Except for a few rain postponements, the show is always the first Sunday in June, one of the first big events of the car show season. People look forward to it.

- Promote the event. Marlborough's Main Street Journal has featured the show on its front page, and other media

always publish a notice. Car show newsletters and radio personalities pitch the show yearly.

- Leverage visuals. This event is colorful and exciting, so we use the visuals to promote it. Last year, we used a drone to shoot aerial footage and produced a professional one-minute video. It's now our digital calling card, posted on the show's website and Facebook pages and featured of the Marlborough Economic Development Corporation's site.

- Learn from mistakes. Clearer signage, better locations for food trucks and portable toilets, traffic flow patterns, parking processes and set-up times (earlier the better) have improved how the show works over the years.

- When raising funds, explain where the money is going and show evidence that you have dispersed the money raised. When people see that

their donations are used to support organizations like Shriners Hospitals for Children, local charities for school kids and families, and well-known veteran-care programs, they are happy to help.

- Enlist as many Brothers as possible to sell sponsorships, and support their efforts. For our 10th anniversary show, we created new print and online marketing materials and set a goal to break our record for annual funds raised and sign up one or more corporate-level underwriters.

UB is thankful for the success of the show and the Lodge appreciates the planning and hard work that the committee and show volunteers put in annually. We all look forward to hearing those classic car engines rumble down Main Street as we start our second decade of success.

-Bro. Richard Pastore



more information).

Such art doesn't come cheap, though Rt. Wor. Johnson says negotiated a 20% discount for the order. Thirty-three Brothers donated personal funds to make the purchase, and Lodge and building trustees kicked in to cover the cost of the frames and lighting system, which uses an array of LEDs that can be dimmed by remote control. The apron lighting provides a new source of atmospheric illumination for the Lodge. Brothers Johnson, Robert Mulvaney, Alex Hayes and Walter Demoorjian teamed up to get the aprons properly displayed around the perimeter of the Lodge room.

-Bro. Richard Pastore

How Do We Listen to the Lessons of Masonry?

By Rt. Wor. Jeffrey Gardiner, PSGW

We all join Masonry expecting to gain some new knowledge to improve ourselves. How do we gain this knowledge? Why do we think we can improve who we are and where do we find these Masonic lessons?

The lessons of Freemasonry reside within the ritual we recite each and every time we Enter, Pass, and Raise a candidate. They are nowhere else. These lessons have the ability to change who we are and to improve our most valued possession—OUR CHARACTER. But, if we do not listen carefully and focus on the meaning of the lessons contained in the ritual, can we ever hope to become that perfect ashlar that we strive to obtain?

Our Masonic ritual has been cautiously and faithfully passed down for hundreds of years. The creators of the ritual were far more perceptive and creative than many give them credit for. They developed and codified an initiation process which provides each of us the opportunity to adopt this new knowledge to help us become a better person and to raise our level of personal integrity.

In the First Degree when we hear the ritual, “What came you here to do?” and the response of, “To learn to subdue my passions and improve myself in Masonry.” Do you consider this to be one of the most fundamental lessons in Masonic lore? To subdue MY passions... To subdue my will, my self-interest, prejudices, personal opinions, negative attitude, greed, etc. And, to improve who I will become by learning those Masonic lessons within the words I am hearing or reciting. These lessons of Masonry are many and various. They are hidden by allegory within the story of each degree.

How often have you really listened to the scripture given by the Chaplain as the candidate is conducted around the Lodge prior to each Degree? Why did our forefathers choose this particular passage from the Bible? How does the meaning of this passage prepare us for what is to come in the degree? Is that meaning lost if we don't hear it? If the Chaplain is the only one involved with this recitation, who really benefits from the lesson? We need to listen to the words and try to understand the deeper meaning of the passage and how it relates to us as Masons.

We learn in the First Degree about the forming of a Lodge and the meaning behind each of the many parts of the ceremony: what the furniture and appointments of the Lodge are; who the officers are and whom they represent. We are also introduced to some of the early history of Masonry and how it has transcended many decades. We learn the basic Tenets of Freemasonry and the virtues we

should aspire to achieve in our lives. We are also reminded of our own mortality and our need for the love of God. In the First Degree we lay the foundation for our future moral and Masonic edifice.

In the Second Degree we learn about Faith, Hope and Charity and how being charitable will enrich our lives. We also learn where the roots of speculative Masonry were formed and how the practice of the art enriched the minds and souls of those who had been stifled by religious oppression and political ignorance prior to the Age of Enlightenment. How have these lessons, taught many years ago, formed the foundation of the rich, open culture we enjoy today?

We also learn that there are symbols that represent many things from the mundane to the spiritual. Each of us needs to be aware of and to understand these lessons in order to become a complete person and a true Mason.

In the Third Degree we learn the legend of Hiram the Builder. We experience his trials and tribulations and travel as he did through the many obstacles we face each day. The depth of this experience is what completes the basic structure of Blue Lodge Masonry. We learn how the most magnificent building in history, the Temple of Solomon, was constructed and who built it. We learn to be on the level and to keep a brother's secrets as our own. We learn to care for one another as Brothers. We learn the symbolism of the Emblems of the Lodge which we can use each day to remind ourselves how we as individuals contribute to the greater whole of society.

When you listen or recite the ritual of the Degrees, do you really listen to and understand the meaning of what you are saying or what is being said? Or, are you merely repeating words that you have learned by rote without delving into understanding the true impact that these words can make on who you are inside?

To truly benefit from the Masonic experience you must attempt to internalize these lessons and make them part of you. Not only while in the Lodge, but also in your daily life and your interactions with those outside of the Lodge. The best way to interest someone in becoming a Mason is to impress them with the depth of your character. In this way we will attract new members by setting good examples in what we do in the world.

In order to grow and become better men, we need to return to our very first Masonic lessons and practice Masonry in its truest form. ■

THE GRAND MASTER'S APPEAL

DONORS DURING 2017

The Grand Master's Appeal is the foundation of the charitable and educational programs of Massachusetts Freemasonry. Each year, your Grand Master sends a letter to every Massachusetts Mason encouraging him to make a tax-deductible donation to support programs such as The Brotherhood Fund, Grand Lodge Scholarship Program, the Samuel Crocker Lawrence Library, and many other great and important undertakings.

In 2017 we received almost 1,600 contributions from more than 1,300 Brothers and friends totaling more than \$205,000. Following is a list of donors whose cumulative giving throughout the year totaled \$50 or more.

To everyone who gave a gift to the Grand Master's Appeal: Thank you very much! Because of you, we are able to help others every single day.

I am very appreciative of the support we have received, but it does not diminish the continuing need for the Relief we can provide. Please consider a donation within the length of your cable-tow to the 2018 Grand Master's Appeal as part of your charitable giving this year. A convenient reply envelope has been included in this magazine for your use.

Thank you for your time and for your consideration. And thank you for everything you do on behalf of Massachusetts Freemasonry!

Sincerely & fraternally,

Paul F. Gleason

Grand Master

\$10000 OR GREATER

Massachusetts Consistory^{BF, SP}

\$7500 TO \$9999

Richard J. Stewart^{BF}

\$5000 TO \$7499

Boston-Lafayette Lodge of Perfection^{BF, MYG}
William K. Clapp^{BF}; *On behalf of the 10th Masonic District*
Columbian Lodge^{BF, SCL}

Giles F. Yates Council, Princes of Jerusalem^{BF, SP}
Mount Lebanon Lodge^{BF}
Richard A. Phillips Sr^{SP}, *In memory of Henry R. and Rena C. Philipps*

\$1734 TO \$4999

Massachusetts Consistory Guard^{BF}

Prospect Lodge^{BF, SP}

Theodore P. Theodores

\$1733

Paul F. Gleason^{BF}

Donald H. Laliberte^{BF}

\$1000 TO \$1732

300th Anniversary Gala^{BF}
Kenneth R. Blake
Charity Lodge^{BF}
The Colonial Craftsmen's Club
of Colonial MA^{BF}
DeWitt Clinton Lodge^{BF}
Richard E. Dyck^{SCL}
Frank W. Thompson Lodge^{BF}, *In memory*
of RW Everett A. Johnston
George L. Herbolsheimer IV
Donald G. Hicks Jr

John R.S. Higgins
J. Irving & Jane L. England Charitable Trust
King David Lodge^{BF}
The Lodge of St. Andrew^{SP}
Robert B. MacIntosh^{BF}
Richard D. Marden
May Flower Lodge^{BF}
Mount Moriah Lodge
Mount Olivet Chapter of Rose Croix^{BF, SP}
Norfolk Lodge^{BF}, *In memory of*
our departed Brothers

Oriental-Martha's Vineyard Lodge
Pequossette Lodge^{BF}
E. Joel Peterson^{BF}
Walter Peterson Jr
Philanthropic Lodge^{BF}
St. Bernard Commandery #12^{BF}
Social Harmony Lodge^{BF}
George L. Unhoch Jr
Harvey J. Waugh
Kevin J. Willis

\$500 TO \$999

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Association of MA
15th District Past
Masters' Association ^{BF}
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Amity-Mosaic Lodge
Thomas R. Appleton II
Lawrence E. Bethune
Alfredo J.R. Canhoto

Dean F. Clement
Corinthian Lodge ^{BF}
Peter M. Culbertson
Thomas W. Davies
Excelsior Lodge ^{BF}
James R. Franklin ^{BF}
Paul J. Harges
The Harvard Lodge ^{BF}
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Worshipful Masters Association
of South Eastern MA ^{BF}

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Ronald K. Bart
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John L. Carlson
Lee H. Fenn
Albert V. Ferguson
George D. Gatteny Sr
Clarence O. Gay Jr
Richard B. Hardy
Raymond C. Lantz Jr

Richard E. Lee
Clark B. Loth ^{BF}, *In memory of*
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John W. Maloney
Mystic Valley Lodge
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David E. Pace

Eric J. Rzepka
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Frederick L. Sewall
Brian R. Sewall
Marshall M. Sloane
Winthrop V. Wilbur Jr
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Graham A. Long
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David A. Anderson
Otto W. Anderson
Ronald D. Archer
Charles R. Austin
Paul A. Bachand
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Robert W. Bamford
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Frederick J. Bowe
Jeffrey B. Bower
James H. Boynton Jr
In memory of Brother Eugene
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Richard J. Freeman
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Guilford W. Full
John C. Fuller
Donald P. Garrido
Neilson C. Gass
continued on next page

In Memoriam

While we appreciate all donations to the Craft, gifts in memory of our departed Brothers are particularly meaningful. Just as these Brothers practiced the tenet of Relief during their lives, their passing inspired others to make a contribution in their memory. We are honored to be part of their legacy.

\$100 TO \$283 (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17)

Richard A. Gesualdo
John Gianakouras
Robert P. Gimes
Mark S. Giradin
Golden Fleece Lodge
Alan T. Gorrie
Gregory G. Gould
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Brian E. Gregory
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Christopher P. Gugger
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Allan L. Haskell
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Patrick S. Hayes
Gordon T. Helme
William C. Henderson
Jeffrey B. Hodgdon ^{BF},
*Honoring R.W. James K. Ray's
50 years of service to MA
Freemasonry, particularly his
three years as Grand Marshal*
William E. Holland
John C. Holmes
H. Robert Huke III
Edward G. Hyder ^{SP}
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M. Howard Jacobson
Sergio M. Jaramillo
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Frederick H. Morris
Mount Carmel Lodge
David A. Murphy
Mark P. Murray
Michael A. Nepi
Alexander J. Newlands
Wayne O. Newton
Norumbega Fraternity Lodge
^{SCL}; *In appreciation for
having the Joseph Warren
Bible at our meeting*
Jeffrey C. Nutt
Steven N. Orgettas
Francis W. Pease

Richard E. Peterson
Ulrick Petit-Homme
David M. Petto
Everett G. Pierce
Philip G. Post
Thomas E. Pulkkinen
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Quinsigamond Lodge
Philip S. Rand
Wilton G. Rangel
Erik Raudsepp
Sally E. Rhibany ^{SP}, *In memory
of Simon E. Rhibany*
Everett H. Rhodes
Peter G. Richter
Frederick H. Robinson
Barbara Roche *In memory of
Brother Eugene
"Geno" A. Marresse*
Robert C. Rohlf
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Samuel Sicchio
David J. Silva
G. Fredrick Slaney
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Charles H. Steeger
Richard J. Stewart ^{BF},
*Honoring Joel & Sue Peterson's
55 years of marriage*
Gloria Streeter
Harry Sugarman
Raymond F. Sundstrom Jr
Robert W. Taupier
Bruce K. Taylor
Walter F. Tennant
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Robert W. Comeau
David H. Condon
Dennis J. Confoey
Paul B. Conlin
Leo P. Convery
Michael J. Coolong
John G. Cosmas
Christopher Cotta
Robert J. Cotton
Paul B. Craigie
Harold L. Crochet
Robert C. Crockett
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David R. Cunningham Jr
Sava M. Cvek
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Lincoln E. Dietz
Thomas C. Doane
John J. Driscoll
Joseph S. Drown
Wilfred E. Ducharme Jr
Peter R. Duncan
Fred L. Dungan
Herbert G. Dunphy Jr
Clifton P. Elliott
Nathan S. Ellis III
Ronald G. Elz
Stephen M. Emery
Robert C. Endicott
continued on page 20



The Prodigal Mason



by *Richard Thompson*



We all have those moments when an event is so traumatic or so memorable we remember not only the event, but where we were when we first experienced it or heard about it.

For my parents' generation, I'm sure the attack on Pearl Harbor was the most important event in their lives. On Dec. 7, 1941 the lives of both my father and my mother changed forever.

And I'm sure most everyone reading this remembers where they were when they heard about the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in New York. For that moment, I was in my car, on Route 2, between Interstate 495 and my office in Concord, Mass.

The most important event for me, however, the one where I can remember every detail, came on Friday, Nov. 22, 1963. That was the day Pres. John F. Kennedy was killed. My memory of that event is deeply entrenched in my mind that even 54 years later I can take you to the exact spot where I was standing and the direction I was facing when I heard the tragic news.

Forty years ago there was an event so great we measure all other similar events to it. I will never forget where I was when the Blizzard of '78 hit New England. The snow started falling on the afternoon of Monday, Feb. 6, and continued through the night. For three days after that, the "world" stood still. Only those employed in what were called "essential jobs" were allowed to travel on the days immediately following the storm.

So, I can tell you where I was when the snow really started falling. I was in the Senior Steward's chair at Wamesit Lodge in Tewksbury.

The Lodge was conferring the Master Mason Degree, so there was a dinner that night. It had started snowing as the Junior Warden and I shopped for the evening meal. I can't quite remember what we served, but I'm sure it was either beef or chicken.

I remember the snow seemed bad, but we are New Englanders. Snow means nothing to us. We learned that night there is snow and then there is SNOW!

Dinner went well and I'm not sure if anyone looked out a window to see the snow accumulation. If someone did, it wasn't bad enough that word got to me. When the Master closed the meeting, however, we learned exactly what was

happening outside.

The Tewksbury Masonic Hall today has beautiful glass doors at the parking lot entrance. At the time of the Blizzard of '78, this door was solid with no glass in it. And the windows on the parking lot side of the building are quite small and high above the floor.

The front door of the Masonic Hall is not used. In fact, as far as I know, the only person to ever use that door to enter the hall for a Masonic event was M. Wor. Stanley Fielding Maxwell, who was Grand Master when the building was dedicated.

The first person to open the back door that night announced we have a problem. The snow in the parking lot was at least two feet deep.

The man who plowed the parking lot had opened a single lane for cars to get out. That single lane ran all the way to Main Street. That was all he could do since the town hadn't plowed the street the hall is on.

The job of getting the cars to that single lane began. Since I was much younger at that time (age 26) I started pushing the cars to that lane. I was joined in this effort by Bro. Kevin Gordon, who is even younger than me.

So, one by one we helped clean off cars and push them into that single lane. When we pushed the last car out, only Bro. Gordon's car remained. I remember commenting, "If we can't get your car on the road, we are in deep smoke!"

We did get the car onto the road, but I have to say it was quite the journey. The major streets were being plowed, but for some reason no matter where we were we couldn't make a left turn. Snow piled up on the left side of the street forced us to turn right. I didn't think it was possible, but we made it to my house by taking a series of right turns. It took us close to an hour to make a journey that was normally five minutes in length.

When we got to my house the snow was so bad Bro. Gordon opted to stay with my wife and I. We expected he would be with us for one night. It turned out to be for three days.

I often think about that night, especially when I hear the words "... if within the length of your cable tow." Before that night, I didn't think of those words in connection with little things. But it is the little things that can often perplex us most — getting a brother to a doctor's appointment, helping to paint a house or pushing cars onto the road as a blizzard began.

Each Feb. 6, as news programs remind us of the problems snow can bring, I remember helping my brothers get home in a storm, a series of right turns and the length of my cable tow. ■

Richard Thompson is a Past Master and the current Secretary for Merrimack Valley Daylight Lodge.

\$50 TO \$99 (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19)

Linwood M. Erskine Jr
 Richard B. Farrar
 Jack E. Ferebee
 Peter G. Ferraro
 George M. Flanagan
 Alfred M. Flaxington
 Robert G. Forsythe
 Joseph G. Fournier Jr
 William F. Fredericks
 Richard E. Fulkerson
 Charles N. Fuller
 Peter C. Furcinite
 Samuel E. Gagliardi
 Roger P. Galipeau
 Paul J. Gallant
 Donald H. Gardner
 Mark L. Gaudette
 Richard P. Gay
 James Geanakakis
 Thomas J. Gernux
 Harold L. Gilmore
 Charles T. Glodas
 Robert L. Goodwin Jr
 Richard F. Goward
 Kenneth S. Green Jr
 Peter J. Greenhalgh
 Dana R. Griffin
 Peter C. Grimm
 S. Sidney Grossman
 Robert E. Grunin
 Mark E. Guillemette
 George B. Hacking
 Louis S. Hadaya
 George K. Haile
 Richard E. Haines
 Theodore M. Haines Jr
 Richard E. Haley
 Robert R. Hall
 Roger W. Hall Jr
 Howard E. Hanley Jr
 Earl N. Hansen
 Carl R. Hanson
 William F. Harney
 George W. Haroutinian
 Leslie S. Harris
 Daniel S. Harrop III
 Richard A. Hart
 Robert A. Hartman
 Donald O. Hartson
 Samuel S. Hartson
 David P. Henry Jr
 Joshua E. Hetzler
 John R. Hinves
 Truman G. Hix
 Walter G. Hodgdon
 Stephen C. Hofmann
 Edward W. Horton
 Charles J. Housman
 Manuel J. Hoyo
 Scott P. Hume Sr
 L. Bradley Hutchinson
 Keith D. Inchierca
 Melvin F. Jay

Joseph A. Jaymes Jr
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 Philip F. Johnson
 Roland V. Johnson
 Kevin T. Jones
 Jack Jouthe
 Malcolm B. Judson
 Carlos A. Justus
 Jack E. Karlstrom
 Donald R. Kaupp
 Paul G. Kay
 John A. Kendzierski
 William F. Kennedy
 Vernon A. King Jr
 William J. King
 Eric P. Knight
 Richard C. Knoener
 William L. Knott
 Steven G. Koon
 Evgenii Kozhemiakin
 Peter L. Kramer
 Karl A. Krassler
 James A. Krecek
 Glenn L. Kubick
 C. William Lakso
 John J. Lannon III
 Luis G. Lara
 Bruce E. Lattinville
 Michael Laura
 Robert F. Lee
 Charles C. Leonard
 Martin I. Lesnik
 James J. Long
 Antonio Lopez
 William H. Low Jr
 George T. MacIntyre
 John R. MacKenzie
 Ronald P. Mahoney
 Leonard J. Main
 Gredg A. Manchester
 Arie D. Marcus
 Erik A. Marks
 Eugene A. Marresse
 Brian R. Marsh
 Raymond R. Mason
 James T. McAloney III
 Sherman D. McClaid
 Donald F. McElwaney
 Howard R. McGlauflin
 Robert B. McKay
 Thomas G. McLachlan
 James R. McLain
 Patrick W. McNerney
 Ralph B. Metellus
 Chris G. Metros
 Carl C. Metzler
 Herbert W. Mitchell
 George P. Milne
 John A. Milton
 Daniel Mooney
 Frank J. Mooney III
 John J. Moore
 Paul G. Moore

Robert A. Morgan
 Thomas A. Morris III
 Donald K. Moulthrop
 Richard L. Munroe
 Bernard P. Nally
 Preslely Nelson
 Charles R. Nichols III
 Roger E. Nicoll
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 Albert E. Ochiltree Jr
 Jeffrey Olinger
 Jairo G. Oliveira
 Kenneth R. Olson
 Walter R. Owens
 Ronald H. Paine
 Frederick Pais
 Benjamin V. Pano
 Lawrence A. Panzeri
 Arthur M. Papas
 Chester C. Paris ^{SP}
 George A. Parsons
 John H. Parsons
 Robert G. Parsons
 John L. Patten
 Flora A. Paul *In honor of the
 life of Fred Shaw*
 John K. Paulik III ^{BF}
 Donald D. Payne
 Gary C. Penteck
 Lawrence A. Perkins
 Peter M. Perrin
 Marcel R. Perry
 Albert A. Petruilis
 Isham Peugh
 Charles R. Philbrick
 Donald F. Phillips
 Jeffrey J. Phillips
 Charles D. Phipps *In Memory
 of Friends*
 Photios J. Photiou
 Evandro M. Pires
 Cortland R. Posluszny
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 Roy P. Preston
 Robert Price
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 Jonathan D. Pruett
 Robert S. Randall Jr
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 Carl S. Riedell
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 David A. Runge
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 Robert T. Russell
 Clayton T. Ryan Jr
 Charles A. Saari
 Sarkis M. Sarkisian

Gregory K. Saunders
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 Ellis R. Westcott
 Wilbur W. Wheeler
 Edward R. Wiest
 Paul Wilber *In memory of
 Frederick M. Shaw*
 Glenn Wilder
 Joseph W. Willman
 David S. Wirkala
 Robert E. Witt
 James D. Wolfe
 Sylvester M. Wrenn Jr
 Spiros Xerras
 Roger A. Young
 Robert W. Young
 Murl J. True

BF: designated for The Brotherhood Fund MYG: designated for Masonic Youth Groups
 SCL: designated for the Samuel Crocker Lawrence Library SP: designated for the Grand Lodge Scholarship Program

571 additional donors gave to the Grand Master's Appeal in 2017. Thank you!



Living Freemasonry

by Rt. Wor. Steve Cohn

Meet an Active Massachusetts Mason, Very Reverend and Worshipful Michael S. Bickford

One of the nicest things about DeMolay is the ability to impart many of the values of Masonry onto our boys and young men before they come of age. Having so many Masons involved as “Dads” says a lot about who these advisors are.

One of our Dads is not only active as an advisor, but his two sons are active in the Greater Boston Chapter, one as the Master Councilor, and the other as an Officer, and his daughter is a state level officer in the Rainbow Girls.

Wor. Michael S. Bickford is the presiding Master of Norumbega Fraternity Lodge in Newtonville. He comes with an impressive resume of activities. As a youngster, he became an Eagle Scout in Troop 44 in Randolph, MA., and is now an Assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 205 in Newton.

Wor. Bro. Bickford was raised in Norfolk Union Lodge in 1992, when it was in Stoughton. Due to his educational activities, he didn’t become active until 2008. At that time, he was a full-time Ph.D. student in theology, living in Newton, and affiliated with Norumbega Fraternity Lodge, becoming active in that Lodge due to its proximity.

Masonry runs in his family. His paternal grandfather was a Mason in East Boston. His younger brother joined with him, but later demitted. In the course of time, he became close to other Masons such as Rt. Wor. Lincoln Richards, Chris Koehler, and Rt. Wor. Robert C. Corr, who were able to teach Wor. Bro. Bickford patience, how to do things with excellence, and most importantly, how to leave an impact on each Masonic body he serves.

Fortunately, his wife is very patient with all of his Masonic activities. Serving in various bodies is nothing new for Brother Bickford. He currently is serving his second year as Worshipful Master of Norumbega Fraternity Lodge in Newtonville. He is an LOI coordinator for the 5th District, a Chapter Advisor for the Greater Boston

DeMolay, a past High Priest of the Newton Royal Arch Chapter, a past DDGHP for the 1st Capitular District, and current Grand Chaplain for the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts. Additionally, he has previously served as Illustrious Master of Cryptic Council of Royal and Select Masters, Grand Chaplain of the same organization, Eminent Commander of Gethsmane-DeMolay Commandery #7 of Knights Templar, Standard Bearer for the Bay State Conclave of the Red Cross of Constantine, and the Junior Deacon of Paul Revere Council #401 of the

Allied Masonic Degrees. In each body he served, he worked diligently to leave it healthier and more vibrant than he found it.

In Lodge, he works to develop a more disciplined planning process to include more community involvement, and he implemented an educational program. In Chapter and Council, he developed Officer and Line ritual standards, recruitment programs, created educational programs for candidates, and organized social events. In Commandery, he also developed educational programs, and organized an effort to confer the long form Order of Malta for the first time in decades. In DeMolay, he is working on leadership development and is at the point where the boys can now conduct a business meeting without adult assistance. Due to his assistance and efforts, the Chapter has seen significant growth in the past year, with nine new boys joining in 2017.

Being Master of a Masonic Lodge, or any other Masonic organization for that matter, is a tremendous responsibility and the time goes by very fast. As such, he has learned that you need to know what you want to accomplish before your term even starts, and work hard to stay on top of all the details to maximize the successes of the various projects and events.

In discussing the Grand Lodge’s Ben Franklin campaign,



Very Reverend and Worshipful Michael S. Bickford

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FRATERNITY News & Events

5th Past District Deputy Grand Masters Support Blood Drives



Past District Deputies with sponsors: Wor. Michael Bickford of Norumbega Fraternity Lodge, and other volunteer Brethren on the kitchen crew (including Greater Boston DeMolay and Manor Squires).

The 5th Masonic District has held its Blood Drive five times every year, and has been doing so for over 25 years. At the December 2016 blood drive, the 5th District Deputies decided to get together for a reunion to support the District, the current District Deputy, and the sponsoring Lodge. The five District Deputies got together and had a great time talking to all Lodge members, Masons giving blood, as well as members of the Red Cross and our community. We decided to hold our reunion at each blood drive



Past District Deputies (L-R): Rt. Wors. Lawrence E. Bethune, Stephen C. Cohn, Joseph Goldstein, Jeffrey L. Gardiner, Ralph I. Sewall, James R. Franklin, Dana A. Jackson, and Paul A.S. Bushey. Not pictured, but present was Rt. Wor. David C. Kramer.

From left to right, the newest Master Masons at St. John's Lodge, Newburyport. Left to Right: Bro. George Switzer, Bro Barry McBride, Bro. Ryan Marshall, Bro. Greg Lewis, Wor. Michael Switzer, Bro. James Kelcourse, Bro. Jordan Hathaway and Bro. Will Harney.



Son Raises Father and Father Raises Son at St. John's Lodge, Newburyport

Wor. Michael Switzer had the privilege of raising his Father, Bro. George Switzer and Bro. Lowell Oliver raised his son, Bro. Ryan Marshall. It was indeed a special moment and significant for those Brothers and the Lodge as a whole.

M. Wor. Thomas Pulkkinen, Grand Master of Masons in Maine, returned to his home Lodge with a contingent from Maine. Wor. Adolfo Velasquez travelled in from NYC with Rt. Wor. Ernest Hudson and Bro. Giancarlo Castillo representing Joseph Warren Gothic Lodge No.934. Wor. Stephen Calzini and the men of John T. Heard Lodge reclaimed their Travelling Gavel. It was a perfect day that put on display the strength of our Lodge and Freemasonry as a whole. We look forward to the impact these new Master Masons will have on our future.

- Wor. Michael Switzer

during the year, and this past December 2017, nine of the 22 living Past District Deputies got together for the 6th time at the Newtonville Masonic Building. All said, it was great, and two Brothers even drove up from Cape Cod to join the Brethren in attendance.

We challenge the other 13 Past District Deputies to join us in the future, and we challenge the other districts who have blood drives to start holding Past District Deputy reunions at each one. It is an easy way to increase fellowship among the District Deputies.

-Rt.Wor. Lawrence E. Bethune



Poinsettias for Widows

Pequossette Lodge held its Fifth Annual Poinsettias for Widows. Here Rt. Wor. Paul Bushey and his brother Wor Robert Bushey get ready to make a delivery. They even got to help clean the snow off a car or two. Every year further research yields more widows with the list growing to over 35 recipients this year.

- Rt. Wor. Paul Bushey



Charles W. Moore Lodge partnered with Avery Dennison Corporation to provide over 100 Christmas gifts to dozens of children at the Reingold Elementary School in Fitchburg, MA.

- Wor. Michael Cavanagh

Jordan Lodge Secretary Honored

On January 17th, Jordan Lodge's secretary, Bro. Adam Richmond was surprised when he was escorted to the east of his lodge and Rt. Wor. & Rev. Richard Haley along with the Master of the Lodge, Wor. Richard Davidson, presented him with the Robert Johnston Service Award for the outstanding work he has been doing as secretary. His father, Wor. Alan Richmond and his mother Gail were there to assist in the presentation.

- Rt. Wor. & Rev. Richard Haley





Wor. Thomas Andrea Sr. and Bro. Eric K. Langevin with their awards at Quinebaug Lodge.

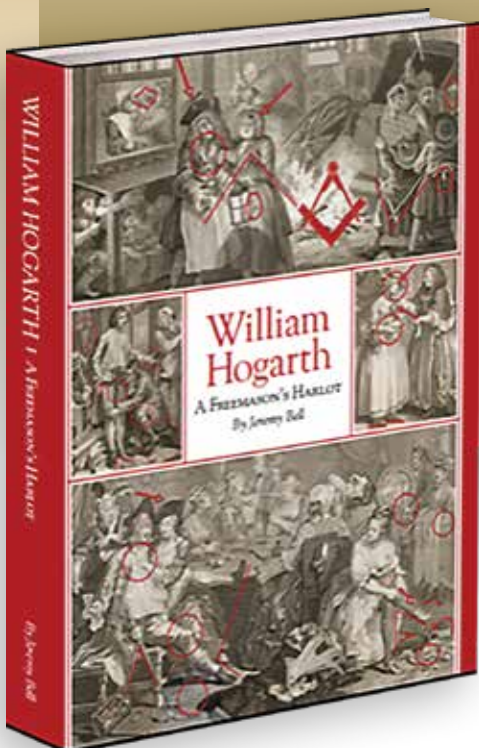
In Bitter Cold, Two Brothers Honored at Quinebaug Lodge

On a cold, snowy Monday night January 8th 2018, many Brethren and family members traveled to Quinebaug Lodge in the 24th District to attend an awards ceremony. The awards were presented to two extraordinary Brothers from two different generations. Presented that night was a 50 year Past Master Diploma to Wor. Thomas Andrea Sr. 1968-2018. He was also a Past Master in 1976. Back in those days you had to ask the question what is a Freemason

before they would even consider you or invite you to the lodge. Back in 1969 Wor. Bro. Andrea had the task of trying to raise money for a new lodge building due to a fire that burnt down the original lodge off of Main Street in Southbridge. Wor. Bro. Andrea formed a committee to raise \$69,000 for the purchase of the building where the Quinebaug lodge is located today.

Also presented that night was the Right Worshipful Robert Johnston Service Award to Bro. Eric K. Langevin. Bro. Langevin was awarded for his dedication and commitment to the lodge, and for all his outstanding and volunteer work he did to help raise money for the lodge. He loves to cook and is excellent at it. You can always find him at any of our functions or events in the kitchen or behind the grill. He had the idea of raising money for an A.E.D. (Automated External Defibrillator) for our lodge and started, along with a few other Brethren, to serve breakfast on the 3rd Sunday of the month. It became so popular we were able to purchase the A.E.D. Also all the donation money from the breakfast was donated to the Center of Hope in Southbridge, called The ARC. The Center of Hope Foundation which is an organization that helps families with disabilities and/or disabling circumstances. The donation money from the breakfast has allowed them to register participants into the Special Olympics

Both of the awards were presented by Rt. Wor. Christopher St.Cyr, DDGM 24th Masonic District and Wor. Bro. Bryon E. Hicks. The lodge had 58 people in attendance and dinner was served. The Brethren family and friends traveled that wet snowy night to witness and congratulate the two men. *-Bro. Vincenzo Jimmy Falzone*



A rare treat for seekers of the arcane

A review of Bro. Jeremy Bell's new book "William Hogarth, a Freemason's Harlot"

by Rt. Wor. Graeme Marsden

Many brethren in Massachusetts will recognize Bro. Jeremy Bell, author of this intriguing book; fewer will be very familiar with Bro. William Hogarth, who was one of the most well-known and significant artists of his age. In Britain, Hogarth retains his popularity as one of the best-loved artists of all time, known both for his amazing paintings and for his engravings.

In Hogarth's time (1697-1764) art commissions came from the wealthy, and whatever they wanted (mostly portraits of themselves) the artist had to create. In his lifetime, Hogarth substantially changed the system and made art available to any who had a few pennies to spend. He originated several series of progressive paintings, then made engravings (he was a skilled engraver) that were subsequently printed and sold to the public. You could consider him the forerun-



Rt. Wor. Michael Sandberg Honored

In Columbian Lodge on December 1st, 2016, Rt. Wor. Michael Sandberg was presented the Joseph Warren Distinguished Service Medal in recognition of his contributions to his Craft and Community. Rt. Wor. Bro. Sandberg was Master of Columbian Lodge from 1993 to 1995, was Columbian Brother of the Year in 2004, served as Master of North Reading Lodge in 2000 and again in 2010, and was District Deputy Grand Master for the 9th Masonic District in 2011 and 2012. Shown pictured from left to right are: Wor. Daniel Madore (who proposed the award), Rt. Wor. Bro. Sandberg, Rt. Wor. Timothy Ackerman (DDGM of the 1st District, presenting the award), and Wor. Peter Lawson (then Master of Columbian Lodge). *-Wor. Daniel Madore*



In October members of Pequossette Lodge flew masonic flags at their homes in support of the open house.

- Rt. Wor. Paul Bushey

ner of the strip cartoon. When each new series of prints was released, people from all backgrounds rushed to purchase them. Inevitably many craftsmen copied his work, and so by his strenuous efforts, Hogarth was eventually able to prevent theft of his intellectual property by obtaining an act of parliament - the first in Britain to protect works of art, and which to this day is referred to as "Hogarth's Act".

Hogarth is much revered because of his sharp and caustic eye for detail, his clever observations of the rich, the poor, and the 'middling sort'. All receive unsparing attention from his acidulous pen and his sharp engraver's burin. Hogarth the pictorial satirist recorded life as it really was in the streets of London. It makes a fascinating record, covering the good, the bad and the ugly. His sketches of street life originated in the very alleyways and

byways - Hogarth frequently made 'thumbnail sketches' by literally drawing on his thumbnail to capture the moment, and then by expanding this captured moment in the studio.

At the encouragement of his father-in-law, the painter Sir James Thornhill, Hogarth also became a Mason. It seems that he was one of the first brethren to receive the new Third Degree. Indeed, he was to later become a Grand Lodge officer, and was to present a Master's Jewel, which is treasured by the United Grand Lodge of England. You might therefore suppose that Bro. Hogarth might spare fellow Masons from his lampooning - but you would be wrong, for he skewers several brothers, including the illustrious Dr. Desaguliers, as detailed in Bro. Bell's book.

Hogarth's parodies of Freemasons are well known in the fraternity, but Bro. Bell's book adds to our under-

standing by pointing out the hidden Masonic artefacts that are concealed everywhere in Hogarth's artwork. This richly-illustrated book is a rare treat for any brother who is interested in hidden signs and symbols! Bro. Bell takes many Hogarth illustrations and delineates the hidden symbols and cryptic meanings, that render added depth to Hogarth's works - at least to those in the know. Readers will be fascinated to make a closer examination of other artwork that Bro. Bell does not cover even in this magnum opus. Most of Bro. Hogarth's art is viewable online, and be sure to check out brotherhogarth.com. ■



The Reunion Project Presents: The Women of The Overlook

Award-winning writer and photographer Lora Brody brought her most recent project on aging, The Reunion Project, to The Overlook. Through images and text, Lora offered women residents the opportunity to reflect on their life choices and decisions. This started a discussion about how the choices and decisions each woman made in younger yesterdays continues to influence and impact their tomorrows.

Lora connects with women 65 and older through a reunion or event in which women share a connection – either professionally, educationally, or socially. Each participant is asked to bring a photo of herself as a teenager, or from a yearbook that can be scanned; Lora sets up a studio at the gathering to take a current, formal portrait. Diptychs are created with the old teenage black and white photos side-by-side with the stunning new color portraits.

Individually, the women are asked to give a written response to 14 prompts including “Then I was / Now I am” and “I always thought / Now I know.” All responses remain anonymous. The written responses are collated to create a sampling of the women’s thoughts and perceptions.

A gallery is created depicting the passage of time, showing decades of life lived. An Opening Reception and an Unveiling of Gallery was held at the gala event on a

recent evening at The Overlook. The gallery honored and celebrated the women of Overlook, exploring their collective lifetime of experience and wisdom through photographs and words.

About Lora Brody

Well known for her images of Boston Red Sox fans, Lora’s photos from her Fenway portfolio have been exhibited at The Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, Harvard University, The Griffin Museum of Photography, and a public installation created by The Magenta Foundation on the Boston Harbor Walk. The Boston Red Sox procured several of her works for the team’s corporate offices.

Lora is also known for photographs documenting the final decade of an iconic snack shop at Provincetown’s Herring Cove Beach. Both the Fenway and Herring Cove

Beach portfolios have been recognized in juried shows and competitions. Lora received a Gold Medal award in the 2014 San Francisco International Photography Exhibit.

The Boston Globe Sunday Magazine and The Cape Cod Times have featured Lora’s photographs on their covers, as well as in feature articles. Also known for food photography, her work has been seen in Horticulture Magazine, Cape Cod Magazine, and Cooking Light. Lora is an accomplished author of 20 books associated with food and cooking.

Lora is a Resident Scholar in the Scholar’s Program of the Women’s Studies Research Center at Brandeis University, where she is working on her project about aging.

Lora is represented by Writers House in New York City, and by the Schoolhouse Gallery in Provincetown, MA. You may learn more about Lora’s projects, read her travel blog, and view her work, including The Overlook, at lorabrody.com. To schedule a personal showing, contact 508-434-2318.

The Overlook Reunion Project Gallery is on display through March 28, 2018. ■



The Overlook Wins Best of Central Mass Senior Living Community



It was a night to remember as The Overlook walked the Red Carpet at the Best of Central Mass 2017 Awards Event. The top three finalists, in each category of local businesses and services, were invited to a gala dinner affair held at the DCU Center in Worcester on Thursday, November 30th. Sponsored by the Worcester Telegram & Gazette, thousands of ballots were tallied for nominated restaurants, entertainment, places, health and well being, schools, shops, and vehicles across the region. Overlook residents, family, staff, and customers

cast their votes for the best senior living community providing outstanding services and lifestyle. First Place Winners were announced from the podium by Miss Massachusetts 2017, and The Overlook was awarded the top spot as the Best Senior Living Community in Central Massachusetts!

Receiving the Best in Central Mass First Place Award is deeply meaningful to The Overlook. This award is a tribute to each person who calls The Overlook home, and to each person who works there. We have patiently weathered the ups and downs together. We have so much appreciation for everyone remaining loyal and supportive. We have a long and rich history to guide us toward a very bright future!

Lynn Schwartzman, Chief Marketing Officer, accepted the plaque on behalf of The Overlook. On Friday, December 1st, the Worcester Telegram & Gazette publishes the Best of Central Mass special section in the newspaper, which will include all the categories, finalists, and winners. ■

► **Wor. Bickford** continued from p. 21

Bro. Bickford said, “It seems awkward to have to look back 200 years to talk about the importance of what we have done.” He feels that it would “be more germane to emphasize the impact the Fraternity can have on its members today. We live in a time of social isolation and economic stress, political acrimony, and emptiness.” He also said, “Freemasonry offers a tremendous way to engage life and the world and we need to communicate this!” He did say, however, that the statewide marketing campaign has done a great job in building name recognition.

He doubts the value of the semi-annual, or even annual, Open Houses conducted statewide. His Lodge, he says, gets very few walk-ins and its success comes from word-of-mouth and the good deeds they perform within the community. While they have received some leads from Grand Lodge, most unfortunately do not result in Candidates.

Bro. Bickford feels that we’re still trying to find our identity, and what we want to be. He sees a tug of war between those who want us to be all things to all people, and those who want us to be exclusive and special. He sees the Fraternity being better off when we get further down this process

of discernment.

As a coordinator of his Lodge of Instruction, he feels some of the key areas we can benefit from emphasis are the Masonic identity, creating a culture of excellence, project planning, additional leadership development, and moral formation. These are the qualities and traits which distinguish us from other organizations.

Masonry served as an escape from the intense rigor of the academic program at Fordham University while he was a Ph.D. student, and gave him the chance to socialize with other men. Since then, his involvement has become an integral part of his life, and the continued cultivation of leadership skills and experience in both work and Lodge are mutually beneficial.

Bro. Bickford was ordained July 23, 1995, in the Anglican Church of North America. He became styled as Very Reverend in 2012, as an overseer of schools and education when St. Aiden’s was launched.

Philosophically, Wor. Bro. Bickford said, “Too many of our Masonic bodies lack a culture of excellence.” He blames poor ritual, bad dinners, and inactivity outside of the meetings, and says that gives people little reason to get involved or to stay involved. He also said, “Numerical growth cannot be a goal. It can only be a side effect. The

goal needs to be creating organizations of purpose and excellence. If we focus on building something that is impressive enough that people will want to join, then we will have tremendous growth.” He says this is how Newton York Rite bodies have accomplished such a significant turnaround over the past eight years, and is how the Greater Boston DeMolay is beginning to grow now as well.

As can be seen, Bro. Bickford’s primary goals in any Masonic body involve leaving that body in a better condition than when he found it. Throughout his life, his passion has been centered on building, whether it be building model ships as a child, or working on the revitalization and building of churches, the creation and development of St. Aiden’s Institute, or the rebuilding of Masonic organizations. It has been immensely satisfying, and even more when someone follows him and takes that organization even higher. That’s when he knows he has helped to build something that will last.

The Very Reverend and Worshipful Dr. Michael Bickford is very excited when he thinks we have only begun to scratch the surface of what can be done in the revitalization of Masonry. In short, our best years may be ahead of us. ■

scale. At these gatherings there are celebrations of successes, the sharing of information, and the recognition of challenges to be faced. In all cases, the overarching goal is to improve the Fraternity.

But how do we improve our Fraternity? How do we assure that the values and lessons so treasured by our ancestors are respectfully passed on to future generations? One notable writer in this area was Bro. Dwight Smith, a PGM of Indiana, who wrote in 1961 about how Freemasonry was losing its direction and focus. He concluded his essay, “Whithering are we Travelling,” with the statement that the solution to Freemasonry’s problems is...Freemasonry.

In my 41 years of being a Mason, I have learned a few things. The first is that when I am faced with difficult questions, a helpful place for me to look is into our ritual. In our ritual, several phrases stand out as being very instructive about the reasons we gather. In the Entered Apprentice degree, we are told that “we come to learn.” In the lecture associated with the Middle Chamber, we are told that “tools and implements of architecture and symbolic emblems most expressive are selected by the fraternity to imprint upon the mind wise and serious truths.” These two statements offer us clear instructions about the purpose of Speculative Freemasonry. They offer us a clear starting point for addressing the current state of the way we practice Speculative Freemasonry.

A review of these two statements tells me that Lodges are expected to be places to teach and learn about Speculative Freemasonry. That the use of ritual, symbolism, and experiences are all designed to impart lessons of morality and to imprint upon our minds those wise and serious truths described so eloquently to us in the Middle Chamber. To me, this is a clue to what it means to make Masons.

To explore one way of fulfilling these purposes, I need to tell you a story about a group of Masons in central Ohio. In 2007 we began to gather, brought together by dissatisfaction in the way Freemasonry was being practiced in our Lodges. We discussed how our Lodges were letting us down. We shared stories about Lodges focusing on peripheral issues, such as what to serve at our next gathering, and who should get introduced when. We explored the frustration of our Lodges trying to figure out where many of the new men who recently joined the Fraternity were. We even heard stories of discussions lasting 30 minutes debating a \$7.50 expenditure.

We quickly realized that our Lodges were not helping us learn, subdue our passions, or improve ourselves in Masonry. Most importantly, they were doing nothing to help “imprint upon our minds wise and serious truths.” We realized our Lodges had lost sight of the purpose of Freemasonry.

This began a path of exploration. We wanted Masonic experiences that were meaningful, powerful, focused on the study of Freemasonry, and were worth our time. We started with a clean sheet of paper and designed what we thought would be the perfect Masonic experience for every aspect of our Lodge.

This was the beginnings of what would eventually become Arts & Sciences Lodge, chartered by the Grand Lodge of Ohio in 2010. I had the honor and privilege of being the Master under dispensation during the 2009 Masonic year, as well as the charter Master, installed at the time of our Consecration on October 31, 2010. This meant that it was my duty to take the dreams and hopes of this group of Brothers and bring them to fruition in the form of a working Lodge.

It is important to note that changes in the practices—not the body—of Freemasonry have been going on since the earliest days of Freemasonry. For example, there was no 3rd degree with a Hiram legend in 1717... illustrations of Freemasonry, such as going from chalk drawings on the floor to painted trestle boards of the late 18th and early 19th centuries ... wall charts arrived in the mid-19th century ... 35mm slides and filmstrips in the mid-20th century gave way to DVDs with a montage of



images to help illustrate our lectures.

These changes in the practices of Freemasonry have been done in an attempt to make use of the latest technology, and to keep Freemasonry relevant and engaging to the men of their time. This is important for each of us to embrace, for without remaining relevant to the culture in which we exist, we will surely die.

The changes we have adopted in Arts and Sciences Lodge are no different. We are evolving the practices of Freemasonry so that we can remain relevant to the men of today, who come to Lodge and are looking for a powerful, spiritual, and enlightening experience that is not available any place else. Therefore, we focus our Lodge experiences on our true and original purpose. To learn. To imprint upon our minds wise and serious truths.

We began by restructuring our meetings. The Grand Lodge of Ohio has an agenda in its code which is recommended, which means it is not required. Unfortunately, too

many Lodges failed to note the difference between the words recommended and required.

Our meetings at Arts & Sciences [Lodge] are structured with a ritual opening that is, as Bro. Rob Morris, a Past Grand Master of Kentucky put it, “presented as if in prayer.” It recognizes that the opening ceremony is what Bro. Jeremy Cross, in his early 19th century book *Illustrations of Freemasonry*, described as that sacred ceremony that transforms an ordinary space into a sacred space for the practice of Speculative Freemasonry. We do this by processing into the Lodge room in silence, where the room is illuminated only with subdued lighting.

We pursue excellence in all our ritual work, including the opening ceremony which, far too often, is delivered in a perfunctory manner. We not only focus on the accuracy of our work, but on the use of emotion and inflection to clearly convey that we understand the importance of what is about to occur.

Our meetings focus on the primary purposes of Lodges, that being the education of Masons. We do this by hosting Socratic discussions on a wide variety of topics related, either directly or indirectly, to Speculative Freemasonry. Topics have been wide ranging, including how our Masonic experiences have impacted the way we function as a husband, father, son, brother, and citizen. They can be as simple as a discussion regarding the charges of the Entered Apprentice, in which we are told that we have a duty to God, our neighbor, and ourselves. They can also be something focusing on a particular symbol, such as how the path from the rough ashlar toward the perfect ashlar can be a metaphor for life. How this path helps us understand that every decision we make on a daily basis can advance us toward our goal, or regress toward the characteristics of a rough stone taken from the quarry in its rude and natural state. We can also see if our decision is a distraction and therefore be deemed superfluous.

We recognize that one key characteristic of our Craft is our ritual. Through these experiences, we launch a man on a path toward enlightenment and personal growth. A path that is unavailable in any other place. For it is our ritual that separates us from charities, social clubs, and other opportunities to serve our communities. With something as critical as this, we should take pride and practice our craft with excellence.

In Arts & Sciences Lodge, we recognize that an accurate presentation of the ritual is only the first of many steps in the process of presenting quality ritual that can achieve its

ultimate goal. We recognize that a presentation done with passion is far more moving and effective. However, this requires a thorough understanding of the lessons of the ritual to be truly effective. Like everything we do, the true goal of our ritual is, as our Middle Chamber Lecture tells us, to imprint upon the mind wise and serious truths.

Other characteristics of Arts and Sciences Lodge that we believe make it relevant to today’s men are vibrant and engaging social events. We have dinner before every Lodge meeting at a local restaurant. We invite enquirers seeking information about Freemasonry to join us at our dinners so that we can learn about them, and they can learn about us well before any petition process is even mentioned. We share time together, toast each other’s accomplishments, and even sing to further bind us together as a group of men who truly enjoy spending time together.

We are told that Masons need to be charitable. This is a wonderful expression of our Masonic values and is a valuable byproduct of the changes that occur when a man studies Speculative Freemasonry. Such activities are examples of the good effects of his membership that show in his daily life.

The most important area where we embraced making improvements in the practices of Freemasonry is in the training of our newest Brothers. Rather than accept perfunctory recitations of the questions and answers expected from Brothers demonstrating their proficiency, we have chosen to expect every one of our new Brothers to complete a long, thorough, and rigorous system of education as they progress through their work.

Most men joining our Lodge take at least one year to complete their journey from enquirer to Master Mason. During that year, they will spend at least 75 hours in readings, discussions, meetings with their Master Craftsman, attending Lodges of Instruction, and other activities designed to thoroughly prepare them to be proficient in each degree to the best of their ability.

Enquirers attend at least three dinners before the petition process is explained. Petitioners, after clearing the ballot, participate in a School of the Profane to prepare them for their Masonic journey. Entered Apprentices meet with their Master Craftsmen and read supplemental materials and attend Lodges of Instruction for Entered Apprentices. Fellows of the Craft do likewise, as do the newest Master Masons. Our goal is to make sure that our Brothers not only know the essential elements of the degree, but understands their value and can apply the lessons of that degree in his daily life. *continued on next page*



We formed and operate Arts & Sciences based on a set of four basic principles. The first is assuring that everyone has a voice in the goals and activities of the Lodge. This empowers them to make a difference in the operation of the Lodge, resulting in them becoming owners of the success of the Lodge. Second, that everyone understands the vision or purpose of the Lodge. This consensus promotes cooperation and investment in the common direction of the Lodge and its long term success. Third, that everyone has an opportunity to take an active role to contribute to the life and success of the Lodge. Having responsibilities gives Brothers a sense of value and importance that encourages a strong commitment to the success of the Lodge. And lastly, the leadership knows how to organize, teach, and delegate, knowing when to get out of the way and let the Brothers of the Lodge work without undue interference. Trusting in your workers allows them to build confidence in themselves and strengthens their investment in success.

If we look at a corporate equivalent, we would find that the Brothers on the sideline fill several important roles. First, they are the ultimate customers. The Lodge needs to meet their expectations, or they will seek what they want elsewhere and will never enter our doors again. Second, they are the work force, for without them and their cooperation, nothing will get done in the Lodge. Lastly, they act as a Board of Directors, setting the general goals, expectations, and have the final say over resources. In fine, the Brothers of the Lodge expect those in charge to practice the principles of servant leadership, organizing the resources, and directing those resources in the achievement of the goals they have set down for the Lodge to be implemented by the leadership.

Many existing Lodges have begun to take notice of our success. How do I know we are successful? Since being chartered in 2010, our membership has grown from 24 to 42 in six years. Our average attendance at meetings hovers around 30. And the number of men that we have brought into the Fraternity, and who remain active in our Lodge is around 75%. Think about that. Imagine having 75% of the men that have been brought to light in the Fraternity remaining active after they have completed their proficiencies?

As other Lodges have begun to consider evolving their own characteristics based upon our experience, they, too, have met with resistance from members who have difficulty seeing the need for changes. So how do they deal with this resistance? How do we deal with Brothers who are

questioning or challenging our desire to change the way we practice Freemasonry?

Finding strategies for dealing with naysayers and other forms of resistance, like all difficult questions, begins in the ritual. A thorough study of our ritual clearly shows us the skills needed and the imperative to practice servant leadership where the best interest of the Craft is the basis of all decisions. The ritual directs us to teach Freemasonry in our Lodges. Our installation ceremonies tell us that we are to put the best interest of the Craft above all personal gains and opinions, and our ritual gives us the tools to circumscribe our passions and relate with our Brothers in a productive and respectful manner. All of these contribute to assisting us in dealing with those who have difficulty seeing how more light in Lodges can benefit all.

The first step in an evolutionary process is to have informal meetings where the Brothers of the Lodge discuss what they want from their Masonic experiences. These discussions should focus on being able to reflect on what they like about Freemasonry, what brought them into the Craft in the first place, and why they are willing to spend their time involved in Freemasonry. The discussions also need to explore what role the Fraternity can serve in modern-day society and explore why men continue to seek the Fraternity.

As these discussions progress, specific actions are soon identified that the Brothers find attractive and can help that Lodge improve the way it functions. Ideas are generated, and plans are made. However, before these plans can be implemented, it is important to have a broad base of support. This

begins with discussions with key members of the Lodge who hold great influence over the decisions of the Lodge. These men in positions of informal power should be reminded that the changes being considered are designed to directly fulfill the purpose of a Lodge as described in our ritual. In other words, when someone sits down with you and says because our ritual says this, we should be doing that, it's really hard for anyone to say no.

A place to start is to improve the quality of ritual in the Lodge by holding study sessions to learn our ritual and explore the most effective method of presentation. It helps to hold practices several days before the actual conferral of the degree. Practices create an opportunity where the ritual can truly be taught, the lessons conveyed and discussed, and the understanding of all in attendance broadened. I don't know about you, but I would really like for my surgeon to be well trained before he does the work on me rather than having on the job training.



Another place to consider initiating change is to look at the structure of the meeting. If the reason we gather is to learn and to imprint upon the mind wise and serious truths, then shouldn't that be right up front in the meeting?

To build a strong future, a Lodge should consider enhancing its candidate education program. Social scientists tell us that anything that is easily obtained is valued but little. Expecting new Brothers to do more than you ever did is an investment in the future of your Lodge. Learning the proficiency requirements for meaning, reading supplemental materials, and discussing the specific elements of the ritual all promote a deeper understanding of our Craft. It also promotes a special relationship between the Brother and the Lodge that is unique, and therefore, not to be discarded lightly.

My Brothers, the list of possible adjustments and improvements in our practices of Freemasonry are too numerous and too extensive to be thoroughly covered in this brief presentation. However, by paying close attention to the code, ritual, by-laws, and your desire to make meeting more meaningful can result in Lodge meetings no one wants to miss.

Imagine this. A Lodge opens with a solemn and meaningful ceremony. An educational program, discussion, or ritual work immediately follows. And then last, the administrative items are handled in a smooth and efficient manner. Isn't that the kind of meeting that is worth attending?

My Brothers, the recipe for building a successful Lodge either from a clean sheet of paper, as we did with Arts & Sciences Lodge, or to evolve an existing Lodge begins with returning to the purposes of having a Lodge. That purpose is to make sure that at every meeting we learn something. That we take time to study the lessons contained within our ritual so that they can achieve their purpose, which is to imprint upon the mind wise and serious truths. As Bro. Smith put it so well in 1961, "to bring Freemasonry back into Freemasonry."

Our meetings should be events that leave those in attendance seeing it as a good use of time, saying, "Damn I'm glad I came, I can't wait to see what's going to happen at the next meeting." This involves taking pride in the ritual, giving it the thorough study and practice it deserves. It involves having structured educational opportunities in every meeting, focusing on those lessons readily available to us. It involves providing social opportunities to build genuine friendships that go beyond what happens between the opening and closing of a meeting. It means providing an opportunity for everyone who chooses to be active in a Lodge, to have a say about what happens, and afforded with

opportunities to contribute to the success of the Lodge.

Members who are valued and realize that the success of the Lodge is a direct result of their efforts are likely to make the difficult choices to quit what they're doing, clean up, dress up, and come to Lodge.

The most difficult part of all of this is the fact that it takes a lot of work and effort. The leadership needs to make good plans, be willing to train others, delegate to those capable, and to keep the Lodge focused on their true purpose, that of bringing the light of Masonry to all in attendance.

As officers of the Grand Lodge, Worshipful Masters and, most importantly, Brothers who care about the future of our Craft, these responsibilities fall squarely on our shoulders. We will need to realize that for every hour we spend in a Lodge meeting, we will likely need to spend 10 hours in planning, organization, training, and practicing. Will this work? We know, as our 3rd Degree teaches us, that our efforts will be rewarded, since time, patience, and perseverance will accomplish all things.

Let's check in with Joe. You remember Joe, that 32-year-old who is curious about Freemasonry. If Joe experiences a typical Lodge with typical activities in a typical way, what do you think will happen? I am willing to bet that your records will tell you that there is a 90% chance that Joe will not be an active member after five years. He probably won't talk about his experiences in Lodge to his co-workers in a positive way. He won't find it to be a good use of time, and will soon stop attending, probably within the first nine

months after he is initiated.

However, what will happen if Joe experiences an innovative Lodge with Brothers who are seeking and teaching Masonic light? A Lodge that promotes social relationships that are rewarding, and finds himself growing in the process? What will he tell his friends at work? His friends in the neighborhood? His friends in the PTA or soccer league? What do you think will happen in his future relationship with his Lodge?

Brothers, let me leave you with these thoughts. Freemasonry has value. It always has and always will. To succeed, we need to find ways of bringing this value to our current culture, and learn to find the best way to make it available to qualified men. As our cultures change, the method of how Freemasonry interacts with that culture must change as well. We now have opportunities that are before us. We always have. It is up to us to embrace them, and launch a new Renaissance or let them pass us by. ■





“All four of you represented Freemasonry well in your travels these last three months, and I think our Lodges are all better from having enjoyed your company,” the Grand Master said to the candidates.

▶ December Quarterly *continued from page 7*

at the level of individual members. Replace, or if you prefer, duplicate yourself!” reminded the Grand Master.

“Hand in hand with raising new members is the necessity of, as we say, Guarding the West Gate,” said the Grand Master. “I cannot overstate the importance of careful screening of potential candidates through the dedicated efforts of your Investigation Committees. You have just heard the depressing roster of suspended brethren - a roster, that in almost all cases, is the result of careless and hasty investigations. Worshipful Masters, please consider this when you appoint your Investigation Committees.”

The Grand Master informed all about the extraordinary displays of Brotherly love and relief our districts provided in response to Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. Rt. Wor. Peter Culbertson conceived of the Brother to Brother Program, assigning Brethren in areas affected to Massachusetts’ Brethren, who would call and establish personal contact. The idea was that knowing a “bunch of Yankee Masons” knew and cared about their plight would convey some

sense of relief to the distressed Brethren. This was immediately adopted, and expanded to many of our Districts. The concept expanded to donations of gift cards for the relief of Masonic victims. “I also must mention the Masonic spirit of a Brother with connections to Marathon Lodge #323 in Florida, who drove there with a trailer load of needed supplies,” said the Grand Master. “While helping to rebuild Marathon Lodge, he opened his Florida home to the families of three Brethren made homeless by the hurricane!”

The Grand Master commended all of the participating districts and Brethren in this charitable endeavor. “What better exemplifies Brotherly love and relief than these efforts to reach out to our distressed Brethren?”

The Grand Master closed his remarks by urging all “to share the happiness and reward of Masonic membership with a friend or relative,” and to enjoy “good health, happiness, and the joy of the Holiday Season.” After a standing ovation, the Grand Master closed the Winter 2017 Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts, as he closed the Fall Quarterly, in ample form. ■

▶ “Other” Empty Chair *cont’d from p. 4*

ty is nothing without friendship, and without spending time actively fostering friendships. A lot of us are running around and getting another academic degree, or building a life and are believing we are doing things which are going to make a difference in the world, but truly one of the only things which will make the world a better place is in our friendships. What saved Naomi’s life? She was very poor, and had almost no resources at hand. It wasn’t a lecture. It wasn’t a great book. It wasn’t another self-help strategy, and it wasn’t a government program, it was through

friendship. Her economic and spiritual redemption all happened because of a friendship. Something we all can be, and something we all can do.

How are we spending our time? Think of the other “Empty Chair.” If we can help it, don’t let someone never find what we have to offer – like Brad. It is a great tragedy if we let the chairs in our lodges be empty because we don’t feel we have the time to be a friend to someone. Friendship unlocks personal energy, a dynamic spiritual power which is beneficial to all. It is through friendship – it is the only way that someone’s life is truly changed, in the end. Yours and theirs. Friendship, and for us Masonic

friendships, are a powerful way to change the world and we will only have about a handful of chances - opportunities - to do something about it in your life. Friendships take work and time and deliberate effort to succeed. Without them, a powerful channel of God’s power will be absent from us. How can our beloved fraternity succeed? By taking the time and effort to truly love someone. Use your friendships. They are God given gifts to us and for us to unlock spiritual power. They are a powerful agent of the life force given to us, and perhaps the only way to truly change the world. Love changes everything it touches for the better. ■

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Following up on a very popular Florida trip last spring, the Grand Master Paul F. Gleason and his wife Phyllis will again visit Florida in 2018.

M. Wor. Bro. Gleason looks forward to seeing members who have relocated to the Sunshine State, as well as “snow-birds” who winter there and sharing with them all of the news about happenings with Massachusetts Freemasonry. He will also take advantage of this visit to present Veteran’s Medals to brothers celebrating 50 years with the fraternity. The widows of Massachusetts Masons are also warmly invited to attend.

The Grand Master’s schedule is:

-  The Rusty Pelican in Tampa on Tuesday, March 20, 2018
-  The Forest Country Club in Fort Myers on Wednesday, March 21, 2018
-  The Atlantic National Golf Club in Lake Worth (near West Palm Beach) on Thursday, March 22, 2018.

We hope you can join the Grand Master and your fellow Massachusetts brothers! The cost of the luncheon is \$15.00 per person. Anyone wishing to attend should contact Patty Latham, in the Office of the Grand Secretary, at **617-426-6040** or email platham@massfreemasonry.org

