

TROWEL



GRAND LODGE OF MASONS IN MASSACHUSETTS SPRING 2021

A New Morning in Masonry



SPECIAL
RESPONDER'S
ISSUE



From the East of Grand Lodge
MOST WORSHIPFUL RICHARD MAGGIO

Brethren,

Hope springs eternal, and that is especially true this spring season. As I write this, it is Friday, April 30th. Governor Baker's COVID-19 executive orders are trending toward a full reopening by August 1st of this year. Every adult in Massachusetts is now eligible to be vaccinated. Things are truly looking up.

The Pandemic, although devastating and disruptive, allowed us to learn a lot about ourselves. Cherishing that which we previously took for granted, we now have a greater appreciation for what is important. To compensate for lack of personal contact, we now embrace technology! Our Brethren from around the world now join us via online and hybrid meetings. Together we move on to a brighter and better future.

When I look back on the first quarter of 2021, I will be particularly grateful for how charitable each and every one of you has been. On Christmas Day, 2020, a fire destroyed the home of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of RI. Recently, I had the honor of presenting a \$50,000.00 check to Grand Master M. Wor. Clarence R. Snead, Jr. These collective funds were raised from Massachusetts Masons, our Lodges, and appendant bodies. As Prince Hall Masons now work to put those funds and others to good use to rebuild their home, we must all work to rebuild the strong foundation of our Lodges and meet our members' post pandemic needs.

Now is the time to contact a friend, coworker, or family member. Find a good man, a man just like you, and offer him the gift of Freemasonry. If time is a factor, then let him know we will have a One-Day Class on September 11, 2021, in honor of our First Responders, open to all candidates and those who need to finish their degrees. It is time to return to labor, open our doors, and bring our Craft into the future.

In closing, I want to say how proud and honored I am to be your Grand Master. We have gone through difficult times. Your help, aid, and assistance, not only to me, but to each other, as well as your charity in the community continues to be an inspiration to me.

I look forward to seeing you all during my travels. God bless you, your families, and your Lodges.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Most Worshipful Richard Maggio

Grand Master

P.S. "Brother, when you are in need, lean on me..."

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<https://tinyurl.com/MasonPlate>

Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts
Most Worshipful Richard Maggio



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The Darkness is Ending

I snap out of bed. Yes, I'm old, but still I have zero interest in the temptations of the snooze button: buzz - buzz - buzz, feet hit the floor. Time to get going. At one point, in my misspent youth, I decided to not sleep. I'd pulled all-nighters. I'd stayed up ridiculously late. But then I'd had enough — sleep was something to avoid. Too much wasted time. I thought I could pass on the whole dreamy affair.



I was wrong. After about three days, I collapsed and returned to the world of being well rested. Yet, to this day, I sleep very little. For me, there is nothing worse than forced sleep. When the flight leaves at 4am and I must get some sleep before departing, then I grind my way to sleep at 7 or 8 pm. I try, but with little joy.

The sleep of the pandemic on our Lodges is that forced sleep. None of us wanted to stay home on our Lodge night. I know for me, time at Lodge are moments among friends, moments for charity, and moments to move a small bit toward either my or one of my Brother's betterment.

But we slept. We were forced to sleep, and we complied. So, sleep we did, but the sun is rising once again. I knew there was a change when I called Rt. Wor. James Orgettas in the Grand Master's office. I was confused about the Quarterly — was it online or did I need to trundle to Grand Lodge? He had just had a couple of cancelations, so he invited me to come downtown.

Rt. Wor. Bro. Orgettas and I were the only people wearing the white aprons, not in tuxedos, in the room.

And yet, it was as though the sun had just crested the horizon with the promised gift of a new day beginning. Another gift from God — a new dawn. We are watching that dawning from darkness. COVID is on the wane, Freemasonry will shine as it did, but more brightly. In my Lodge, we are trying to pass seven, yes seven, new Brothers to the Fellowcraft degree. I've seen raisings, charitable jaunts, and countless zoom and other communications.

While the end of the impact of the pandemic is not as smooth and predictable as the sunrise, it is a moment of hope for the Craft. The alarm clock is ringing, the sun is rising, and our Lodges, our joys, are returning.

Fraternally, Lee H. Fenn

*Special thanks to Corey Seeman for
allowing us to use his photo on the cover.*

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: JULY 14, 2021



<https://tinyurl.com/MasonPlate>

*Do you have an experience
from seeing or having
a Masonic plate? Send it
to the Editor of TROWEL at
editortrowel@gmail.com.*



A Fraternity within the Fraternity

For those of us who are currently serving or have served in the United States military, we know it to be quite a special fraternity. We build lasting relationships with each other that transcend time and distance. However, many of us who no longer serve miss the life of structure, challenge, and esprit de corps. So, we search for something to fill that void, sometimes not knowing what we're looking for.

Then, we discover Freemasonry. For most of us, this fills that void well. It is a place where organization, timeliness, attention to detail, enlightenment, and brotherhood are the norm. The members are dedicated, polite, and motivated about the Craft. Today's military prepares its members for leadership positions in civilian life, so it is no surprise that they accept officer positions in the lodge, learn ritual, and begin to master floor work. It is certainly a comfortable fit for a military service member in search of fellowship.

At some point, many of us discover Major General Henry Knox Lodge, one of only a few military lodges in the world! The void is now filled as the conversations are much more relatable and normally light-hearted regarding deployments, duty assignments, and wild and crazy adventures within each. Many of our country's founding fathers

were Freemasons, and in the military, as well. We refer ourselves to each other as "Twice-Brothers," which is similar to the way the military founding fathers felt about their circle of men.

Recently, we conducted a reenlistment ceremony for one of our members. Military traditions allow those reenlisting to freely choose the details of the ceremony. The only requirements are that there is a commissioned officer (active or separated) to administer the oath, and a US flag present. Many of us have witnessed *continued on page 32*



The Benefit of Prayer

by *Rt. Wor. and The Rev. Brian R. Marsh*

Our Masonic journeys contain a great many impressions and memories. Many of these memories are implanted deeply in our hearts and consciences. This is as it should be — the initiatory rites of our great Fraternity are designed to remain with us, to serve as guideposts in our Masonic travels.

Early in our Masonic education, we are introduced to the idea of the Grand Architect of the Universe. This is the vivid metaphor that Masons often use when they refer to God. God, who is beyond time and possessed of an omniscient understanding, is the creator of the world and all that exists herein.

While God may be accurately regarded as a supreme creative artist, a philosopher, a fount of all wisdom and any number of divine qualities, Masons emphasize the concept of God the builder, the Supreme Architect of the Universe.

Ancient stone masons, our Masonic forebears, learned and practiced the building trades. They are regarded by history and Masonic tradition as the builders of the great cathedrals and other religious structures. Because of their dedication to the builder's craft, especially as it related to the creation of temples dedicated to God, we know that they began and ended their labors in prayer. Before the first foundation stone was laid, prayers were recited. God was asked to look with favor upon the work undertaken by the faithful stonemasons, and that they would serve God in all the works of their hands. God was also asked to give the workmen "the competency of

[God's] Divine Wisdom." This prayer asked that a measure of God's architectural wisdom and understanding might enter the minds and hearts of the faithful workmen.

Our individual Masonic journeys also begin with prayer. It may surprise the Masonic novice, blindfolded, and surrounded by darkness, how much prayer he receives when he first enters through the Masonic doorway. At such a moment, prayer is entirely appropriate. Just as the benefit of prayer is necessary at the beginning of any monumental work of sacred architecture, so is it

necessary to the candidate for Masonic degrees. The candidate who enters through the doorway for the first time begins his journey toward the creation of a spiritual building, the "house not made with hands."

The Masonic journey is surrounded by the benefit of prayer. Prayer opens and closes our meetings. Prayer is offered for candidates at each stage of their Masonic journey. Prayer is offered for the newly installed Worshipful Master. Prayer is offered for departed Brethren. Prayers are part of our lives as Masons at the beginning and at the end, when the strong grip of the Grand Architect of the Universe stretches forth his hand and raises us to eternal life. ■



Rt. Wor. and the Rev. Brian R. Marsh, Grand Chaplain, is a past District Deputy and a Bishop in the Anglican Church in America.

THE MARCH 2021 QUARTERLY COMMUNICATION

OF THE GRAND LODGE OF MASSACHUSETTS



by *Wor. Lee H. Fenn*

On March 10th at 1:15, District Deputies, honored guests, the Officers of Grand Lodge, including the Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts, Most Worshipful Richard Maggio, and others gathered in the hall and the Lodge room in anticipation of the Spring Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts. This gathering at and of Grand Lodge was the largest since the Covid pandemic. While still within governmental requirements, Brothers who had not seen each other for over a year glowed with glee at the prospect of being in Lodge with each other.

The Grand Marshal ensured the meeting would be securely tyled by reminding those online to use a headset

and be where non-Masons do not have access. The Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts, Most Worshipful Richard Maggio, entered the Lodge room with the Officers, members of Grand Lodge, the District Deputies, and the number of guests allowed. “Good afternoon Brethren, COVID-19 — 1 year held hostage!” said the Grand Master. “And a long year it has been. One year ago, to the day, we cancelled our March 2020 Quarterly. And now here we are, still working under the Commonwealth’s Guidelines. Now, please join me now in the Pledge of Allegiance to our Nation’s flag.”

The Grand Master saw to tying the physical Lodge room, Grand Chaplain Rt. Wor. Richard Haley offered a

The Grand Master introduced the guests for the Quarterly.:

M. Excel. Ernest A. Bean, Grand High Priest, Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts
M. Illus. Andrew C. Maninos, Most Illustrious Grand Master, Grand Council of Royal and Select Master Masons of Massachusetts
Sir Knight James S. Stone, Sr., 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

Illus. David A Glattly, 33°, Sovereign Grand Commander
Illus. Donald M. Moran, 33°, Deputy for Massachusetts
Illus. Peter R. Smith, 33°, Active for Massachusetts
Illus. Robert C. Schremser, 33°, Active for Massachusetts
Illus. George F. Hamilton, 33°, Active for Massachusetts
Illus. C. William Lakso, 33°, Active Emeritus for Massachusetts
Illus. Robert E. Godbout, 33°, Active Emeritus for Massachusetts

Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts

M. Wor. Timothy R. Downes, Grand Master
Rt. Wor. Gerald R. Thaxton, III, Deputy Grand Master
Rt. Wor. Justin Petty, Senior Grand Warden
Rt. Wor. William H. Walker, Junior Grand Warden

M. Wor. Nicholas Locker, Past Grand Master and Grand Representative to the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts
M. Wor. Thomas Edward Pulkkinen, Past Grand Master, Grand Lodge of Maine
Rt. Wor. Anand J. Murti, Grand Secretary, Grand Lodge of Japan
Rt. Wor. Oscar M. Zepada, Grand Representative, Grand Lodge of Baja, California

Representatives of the Shrine International

Ill. Robert S. Johnson, Potentate, Aleppo Shrine
Ill. Garth O. Parker, Potentate, Melha Shrine
Rt. Wor. and Dad Philip Drouin Executive Officer, Order of the DeMolay, Massachusetts
Most Worthy David D. Frizzell, Worthy Grand Patron, Grand Chapter of Massachusetts, Order of the Eastern Star
Sir Knight Mark Z. Stought, Grand Royal Patron, Grand Court of Massachusetts, Order of the Amaranth
Rt. Wor. Kenneth R. Blake, Chairman of the Board, Masonic Health Systems

Representatives from the District of Panama

Rt. Wor. Albert C. Hopper, District Grand Master
Rt. Wor. George O’Masta, Past District Grand Master
Rt. Wor. Gerard A. Dowden, Past District Grand Master
Rt. Wor. John A. Bamber, Past District Grand Master
Rt. Wor. Victor D. Cruz, Past District Grand Master
Rt. Wor. Jack R. Tatzauer, Past District Grand Master
Rt. Wor. Donald P. Garrido, Past District Grand Master
Rt. Wor. Charles R. Lavalley, Past District Grand Master
Rt. Wor. W. Eugene Bondurant, Past District Grand Master

Past Grand Masters of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts

M. Wor. Albert Timothy Ames
M. Wor. Arthur Eugene Johnson
M. Wor. Donald Gardner Hicks, Jr.
M. Wor. Jeffrey Black Hodgdon
M. Wor. Harvey John Waugh
M. Wor. Paul Fulton Gleason



Rt. Wor. George A. Wiseman supplied the organ procession and interludes during voting.



The members of Grand Lodge enter the Lodge room.

prayer, and the Grand Master opened the Spring Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts. After expressing hope for the June Communication to be fully reinstated so that we can “continue to do the work of the Craft and be a beacon of light to society,” he introduced the invited guests.

The Grand Master introduced the Production and Information Services Committee, the Brethren who make the online experience possible: Rt. Wor. Elliot Chikofsky; Wor. Ethan Gilson, production; Wor. Charles Carolselli, audio; and Wor. Patrick DelVal, video and “our Grand Organist, Wor. George Wiseman, for lifting our spirits with his music today.” The Grand Master explained the voting procedure online: 30 seconds to vote, buttons will appear if you are eligible to vote. M. Wor. Bro. Ames explained the voting power of Lodges and the recognition of Proxies—both of which were approved by vote.

Rt. Wor. Peter J. Lawson reported on the Committee on Charters and By-Laws, chaired by Rt. Wor. Robert V. Jolly, Jr. Seven changes were all or in part approved; one was all or in part was not approved. Rt. Wor. Peter Culbertson, Deputy Grand Master, reported on the necrology. We lost nearly 300 years of Masonic living with our departed six Brothers. Forty-seven of those years were held by Rt. Wor. Wilbur Evans, Sr. of Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. He was eulogized by Rt. Wor. Walter Hunt, whose words may be read on the next page.

Rt. Wor. Bro. Haley, Grand Chaplin, prayed for all about those departed. The Grand Master embarked on the unpleasant task of suspensions or expulsions. Fortunately, only one man had failed to uphold the high standards set for all Freemasons. He has been given an indefinite suspension from the Craft.

Turning to international relations, the Grand Master presented Grand Representatives. Rt. Wor. Kenneth G. Sallale is our representative to The Grand Lodge of Malta.

In addition, the Grand Master recognized and presented Rt. Wor. Oscar M. Zepeda representing the Grand Lodge of the State of Baja California in Mexico to us. The Grand Master announced the following Lodge Anniversaries. Each will be given the appropriate certificate to be presented by one of the District Deputies Grand Masters.

Manchester Lodge: 100 years

January 17, 1921 • M. Wor. Arthur D. Prince

Charles River Lodge: 150 years

December 14, 1871 • M. Wor. William Sewall Gardner

Columbian Lodge: 225 years

March 14, 1796 • M. Wor. Paul Revere

Washington Lodge: 225 years

March 14, 1796 • M. Wor. Paul Revere

“Should your lodge desire a re-dedication ceremony, I will be happy to accommodate and re-present this citation at that time,” offered the Grand Master.

“Brethren. Today is an extraordinary day for Brother William Swenson, Jr.,” announced the Grand Master. “We are very fortunate that he is able to join us on live stream from Titusville, Florida. Brother Swenson has been a member of Ezekiel Bates Lodge for 68 years, but, more importantly, today is his 90th birthday and I do want to wish him a happy day and thank him for letting us be a part of his special day. Brother Swenson, unfortunately, due to Pandemic restrictions we are not able to sing to you today, but on behalf of all of us — Happy Birthday Brother Swenson.”

The Grand Master announced the recipients of the Grand Master’s Award for 2020. He congratulated all the Lodges on “a job well done and I encourage your continual

Eulogy for
Rt. Wor. Wilbur Evans, Sr.
of Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts

“In life, particularly as we get older, we crave permanence — to have things as they are and remain as they are. It is a comfort, a way of reassuring ourselves that the world is as it should be. So it is with Masonry as well. We are proud of our time-honored rituals, of our long history, of the propriety and probity of our traditions. We like things a certain way, and we like things to remain that way. What some might characterize as a resistance to change, we would view as a fondness for familiarity and really no failing at all.

And yet in life, and certainly in Masonry, we are constantly responding to change. If the last 12 months have taught us nothing else, it is to prize what we have, and adapt to what life throws at us — knowing that we have friends whom, within the tyled doors, we are pleased to call Brothers, and whose continued presence — even at a distance — reassure us that some things remain the same. When we lose a Brother, it is a painful parting, confronting those who remain with the knowledge that we shall have to navigate the road ahead without his counsel, his steady friendship, his presence.

So it is with Right Worshipful Brother Wilbur Evans, Senior. He was a Boston native who served his country in the Army Air Corps during the Second World War, serving overseas in the Pacific Theater. He returned to his native city to raise a family — and what a family! Five children, seventeen grandchildren, twenty great-grandchildren, and four great-great-grandchildren. Family reunions must have required a room the size of Ionic Hall!

He came to Masonry a little late, but as so often is the case, he arrived in good time. He took his Blue Lodge degrees at Mount Zion Lodge #15, Prince Hall Affiliation, in the spring of 1974. Ten years later he became Master of that Lodge, and shortly after served as Worthy Patron of Celestial Chapter #6, Order of the Eastern Star. He was active in York Rite Masonry in St. Stephen’s Chapter and in his Commandery he served as Right Eminent Grand Commander. In the Scottish Rite he rose to be Sublime Prince of Holy Sepulchre Consistory, and also served as Potentate of Syria Shrine Temple #31. But most of us knew him as Grand Marshal, and subsequently Grand Marshal Emeritus, of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts — a regular and distinguished visitor to our Communications.

In the spring of 1995, after a considerable amount of negotiation, our Grand Lodge and the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts achieved mutual recognition. It was a joyous occasion — Most Worshipful David W. Lovering occupied the Oriental Chair at that time, and your humble scribe was sitting in the balcony as presiding Master and had the privilege to vote for that momentous resolution. At the next Communication in June, Most Worshipful Edgar MacLean was present to greet our Grand Lodge and offer some memorable remarks. At his side was Rt. Wor. Wilbur Evans, Sr., his Grand Marshal. He was in this room, in this place, when our Masonic world changed for the better.

And he was here many times after. A distinguished, friendly man, witty and careful in his speech, smiling and courteous, Brother Evans was often present to be introduced with the Grand Master’s other guests. His welcome presence became a familiar sight, even as other representatives of his Grand Lodge came and went. He occupied an office that our Grand Lodge does not possess — that of Grand Marshal Emeritus. As for our Past Grand Marshals — we often fit them for the nicest hat in the room. While I don’t know what occasioned the choice of that title, it seems logical to assume that it was bestowed upon Brother Evans as a tribute to his hard work, sagacity, and loyalty to the Craft. It could hardly be otherwise.

And now it has changed, to our regret. Most Worshipful Brother Lovering has passed from our midst, as have many, many other Brethren who were there on that momentous day — and Right Worshipful Brother Evans has joined them in the Celestial Lodge, where he is recognized by an even more distinguished Grand Master. He has laid down his working-tools after a long life marked by generosity and grace.

We will miss him.

-Rt. Wor. Walter Hunt



The Grand Master enters the Lodge room.



The Grand Master addressing the Brethren present and online.

path on building a vibrant lodge and engaging members.”

“These awards are well deserved,” said the Grand Master. “If I am unable to personally present it to your lodge it will be presented by your District Deputy on my behalf.” While Sinim Lodge, one of the recipients below, is in Japan, another Massachusetts Lodge is in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Caribbean Naval Lodge. The Grand Master bestowed a Scouting Certificate for their being very active in the Scouting Program on the base, having directly contributed to the quality of Scouting and to the success of young men earning their Eagle Scout rank.

The Grand Master started his address. “Good afternoon,

Brethren. As I stated earlier, COVID-19, one year later, still held hostage!” He updated the Brethren on the current guidelines from the Governor, all of which were adhered to during the Quarterly. “Starting on April 1st, I expect all lodges to start meeting in compliance with the requirements of the Grand Constitutions and their own by-laws,” he continued. “My ‘blanket dispensation’ is terminated on March 31st, 2021. You may continue to offer hybrid meetings, and I would encourage you to do so. Since the Covid Guidelines are fluid I recognize there may be instances or situations that will require dispensation. To expedite dispensations, email them to Rt. Wor. James Orgettas with a cc to me,

The 2020 Grand Master’s Award Recipients

Lodge	Worshipful Master	Senior Warden	Junior Warden
Azure Lodge, A.F. & A.M.	Wor. Jeffrey W. Miller	Wor. Thomas H. Agahigian	Wor. William Noun
Caleb Butler Lodge, A.F. & A.M.	Wor. William V. Woodward	Bro. Thom P. LeBrun	Bro. Robert A. Lindberg
Celestial Lodge, A.F. & A.M.	Rt. Wor. Glenn L. Kubick	Bro. Robert W. Menyhert	Bro. Michael Bitados
Dalhousie Lodge, A.F. & A.M.	Wor. Stanley Y. J. Chu	Bro. Richard C. Leung	Bro. Douglas J. Wagoner
Daniel Webster Lodge, A.F. & A.M.	Wor. David P. Price	Bro. Peter T. Leonard	Wor. Steven W. Anstatt
Garden City Lodge, A.F. & A.M.	Wor. Mark D. Elsner	Wor. Joseph A. Manzo, Jr.	Wor. Jeffrey S. Levy
King Solomon’s Lodge, A.F. & A.M.	Wor. Zachary J. D. Atwell	Bro. John A. Kendzierski	Bro. Mark F. Aubuchon
Macedonian Lodge, A.F. & A.M.	Wor. Brandon M. Rosebrugh	Bro. Marcus A. Narro	Wor. Marshall W. Bates, III
Mount Olivet Lodge, A.F. & A.M.	Wor. Louis M. Ciano, III	Wor. Keith C. MacKinnon	Bro. Joseph A. Rossetti
Orient Lodge, A.F. & A.M.	Wor. Christopher J. Rogers	Bro. Eric D. Shute	Bro. David M. Brenizer
Pequossette Lodge, A.F. & A.M.	Wor. Arthur J. D’Amico, III	Rt. Wor. Paul A. Bushey	Wor. Mark J. Giragosian
Prospect Lodge, A.F. & A.M.	Wor. Elias Semaan	Bro. Robert W. Menyhert	Wor. Moussa A. Bechwati
Saint Alban’s Lodge, A.F. & A.M.	Wor. Gregory W. Wood	Rt. Wor. James E. Carroll	Bro. James M. Field
Sinim Lodge, A.F. & A.M.	Wor. Ashton N. Moore	Bro. Thomas V. G. Partridge	Bro. Patrick C. McDonnell
Star of Bethlehem Lodge, A.F. & A.M.	Wor. Alan D. Gray	Bro. Craig S. Foland	Bro. Paul E. Orr
Weymouth United Lodge, A.F. & A.M.	Wor. Ryan C. MacLeod	Bro. Stephen J. DiGiorgio	Bro. Eric H. Perlman
William Parkman Lodge, A.F. & A.M.	Wor. Greg W. Irvine	Bro. Stephen J. Vessella	Bro. David P. Jackson
William Sutton Lodge, A.F. & A.M.	Wor. John J. Cole	Wor. Todd O. Galarneau	Wor. Stephen E. Bruce

followed up by US Mail.”

In addition, the Grand Master granted dispensation to all lodges that do not meet during June, July, and August. Notices must be sent out, as usual, 10 days before the communication and, as usual, notification sent to the office of the Grand Master. The Grand Master is allowing hybrid meetings to continue. The Information and Services Committee will expand with new teams and initiatives. They will focus on video and broadcast support, and “determine best practices for Lodge hybrid meetings, and to assist Lodges with technology and websites. We would like to identify Brethren with such skills and talents who might join these teams and help us. Please encourage those interested to look at the new Technology Teams page on MassMasons and mark their areas of interest. Or they can contact Rt. Wor. Elliot Chikofsky at webmaster@massmasons.org,” announced the Grand Master.

The Grand Master conducted a very limited installation for the Feast of St. John, which was live streamed, conducted the annual organizational meeting, with breakout sessions, installed Rt. Wor. David Pace as Master of and celebrated Bro. George Washington’s Birthday both at Winslow Lewis Lodge, helped with a contactless supply drive for homeless women sponsored by Lynnfield Zetland Lodge, Star of Bethlehem Lodge, the 13th District, and Grand Lodge, conducted three First Responder Town Hall Forums, and two Grand Master Listening Tour meeting. He also attended, approximately 60 meetings via Zoom, including The Conference of Grand Masters of North America, Boards, Trusts, and Committee meetings. “The Grand Lady and I had the pleasure of touring the Holy Land on Zoom with M. Wor. Gary Kaufman and Lady Miriam via Zoom,” the Grand Master recounted.

“I had the pleasure of speaking via telephone to some of

our distinguished members over the last 3 months, including Bro. Kenneth Peirce, 70 years a Master Mason and father to Rt. Wor. Henry Peirce, Grand Chaplain. Pick up the phone, call a Brother, you will enjoy it as much as they will,” the Grand Master reminded the Brethren. He heralded the excellent Lodge of Instruction programs, Lodges reaching out making “health checks,” and Masonic Building associations opening their doors to the Red Cross. “The Lowell Masonic Center [for example] recently received a thank you letter from the American Red Cross congratulating them for not only collecting 525 pints of blood in 2020, but for collecting a total of 15,254 pints since 2006. They are currently on track for 1000 pints in 2021. INCREDIBLE!”

“Wamesit Lodge in Tewksbury partnered with Merrimack Valley Daylight lodge. Together they formed a community partnership with the Tewksbury Rotary Club. They ran 14 blood drives in the past year and collected 565 pints of blood! District 13, led by Lynnfield-Zetland and Star of Bethlehem Lodges, with the sponsorship of the Grand Lady, held a successful contactless drive for Homeless Women, collecting donations exceeding over 35 thousand dollars,” said the Grand Master. All of this was done in a partnership with My Brothers Table in Lynn. The Grand Master expressed his delight in “the number of Masons and Masonic Organizations in Massachusetts who contribute liberally to all our Masonic Charities.”

The Grand Master was saddened by the Christmas Day fire at The Prince Hall Masonic Temple in Providence, Rhode Island. The temple dates back to the 1700s. In the fire, significant regalia and artifacts were lost.

“Any Massachusetts Mason, Lodge, or recognized body who would like to donate, please send a check to Grand Lodge made out to ME and CT with a note in the memo section Prince Hall RI. I will present all dona-

The Brethren of Grand Lodge after the Quarterly Communication.





Wor. Patrick DeVal from the Information Services Committee was the Director of the livestream broadcast.



Rt. Wor. Elliot Chikofsky, the Chair of the Information Services Committee, managed the online voting system and monitored audio and video quality as it was seen in MassMasons.

tions, along with a recognition list of all donors to the Grand Master of Prince Hall in Rhode Island in April. I have been invited by M. Wor. Gary Kaufman to attend an event where he, as Grand Master of Rhode Island, will also be presenting donations to M. Wor. Clarence Snead, Grand Master of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Rhode Island.”

A Deacons Academy will be held to provide a foundation for the future leaders of the Craft. In addition, it will give every Brother “who desires to acquire leadership skills and become the best he can be,” announced the Grand Master. There will also be a Trustees Training Program and the Grand Lecturer’s workshops will be held in person with a possible online component. Turning to the work of the Membership Committee, the Grand Master extended the time limit for Rookie and Master Builder award applicants currently in progress, through April 2022. “Many rookies want to take a tour of Grand Lodge but have been unable to do so because of the pandemic, and our tour guide program is still on hold,” said the Grand Master. “However, Any Mason, especially Rookies who would like a tour of Grand Lodge may contact Rt. Wor. Jim Orgettas in my office to set up a tour. Tell him I sent you!”

The Grand Master reminded Brethren that their notices may be transmitted through a range of means, but “the Lodge Notice should be treated like a Lodge Communication and follow the same Constitutions and Regulations.” Regarding the statewide Open House, the Grand Master said, “Many lodges feel our statewide Open House is a waste of time. We are working on that concept to address your concerns.” He reminded us all that, “Every month



should be an open house. Invite potential candidates to your monthly dinner, social events, and anything your lodge does as a group. Every member is charged with continuing our traditions by bringing in new members.”

The Grand Master announced that the Masonic Plate Program, also known as Freemasonry Specialty Plate, currently has 2,625 members, which translates to over 50 thousand dollars yearly to benefit the Brotherhood Fund and Grand Lodge charities. There have been some issues in getting the plates. The Grand Master has called 857-368-8031, and you can as well. At this number, he reached a helpful person. “Grand Lodge will continue to reimburse you for the application fee. Contact Rt. Wor. Craig MacPherson in the GL office,” the Grand Master noted.

The Grand Master is looking forward to the end of the pandemic and reminded the Brethren that now is the time to plan for post-pandemic events, such as large town-wide and family events. Grand Lodge will be planning several events. The Grand Master envisions parades with 1,000 Masons in Top Hats, a Unity Picnic with all related bodies, and multiple one-day degree classes.

“We are planning a one-day class with degree teams from the Police, Fire Fighters, and EMTs for our First Responders, planned for 9/11/2021. Maybe another with our several other special degree teams.” The Grand Master authorized a 250th Anniversary Committee to celebrate the founding of our nation and a 300th Anniversary Committee to celebrate 300 years of Constituted Masonry in the Western Hemisphere. The latter committee is focused on July 30th, 2033. This is envisioned as “a celebration of Freemasonry, a spectac-

ular gathering of Freemasons including Grand Masters from around the world.”

“Brethren, over the past year I have been questioned by many of you as to why I have not made any public statements regarding political, social, or public events, demonstrating our position on the same.” The Grand Master introduced his manifesto, stating, “I now offer you the fol-

lowing.” (Read the full manifesto below.)

The Grand Master’s final thought was, “There is no better way to change opinion or teach than by demonstrating through good example. Please, go spread the light of Freemasonry. Thank you for joining me today,” and with that sentiment he closed the Grand Lodge Quarterly Communication in ample form. ■

The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Massachusetts A Masonic Manifesto 2021

Freemasonry unites men of every country, sect, and opinion. This is a foundational principle of our Craft. Among Masons no contention should ever exist except who can best work and best agree. Our Fraternity seeks to impart to us the wisdom of this simple but powerful truth.

Down through the ages there have occurred local and world events which have shocked the conscience of mankind and caused bitter divisions among men. Now, against the backdrop of an unsettling worldwide pandemic our nation has become politically more polarized and socially more divided than it was only a few years ago. Scenes of protest and unrest in our streets are daily features on the news and in our social media feeds.

Our perceived silence should not be taken as evidence of indifference to the important issues of the day, or an implied approval of features of our society and world that can and should be improved. In response to any inquiry, let it be known that Freemasonry in Massachusetts, as a matter of deepest principle, scrupulously refrains from participation in, or official comment on, the various matters that divide men into different political parties, sects, and opinions, as being contrary to the ancient Charges of our Order.

Individuals may differ in their interpretations of causes and events as well as their beliefs and loyalties, but within the realm of their Masonic life their differences must be forgotten, and only their unity as Brothers remembered. Each Mason is someone’s impression of Freemasonry. Collectively, we are society’s impression of the Masonic Fraternity.

Since 1733, when the first Masonic lodge was chartered in Massachusetts, Massachusetts Freemasons have exercised their prerogatives of free thought and action in all matters, religious or civil. They have done so as individuals and not as spokesmen for the Fraternity. No Member, Officer, or Body of Masons has the right to speak or act in the name of or on behalf of Freemasonry except as to matters exclusively Masonic. It is no trifling coincidence that even the mere discussion of controversial matters like politics and religion is barred from Masonic meetings. When Masons hold themselves out as Masons, whether individually or collectively, whether in person or online, they must bear in mind that how they act and what they say will reflect on every other Mason, and shape perceptions of the Craft among the profane world.

Freemasonry purposely has neither the facilities nor the desire to ascertain or proclaim the views of its members on social, economic, political, religious, or other non-Masonic issues. Any attempt to align the Craft on any such issue – no matter how well-intentioned – could not but help bring disaster to Freemasonry. Any such innovation in the body of Masonry would completely detract from the Craft’s overarching mission of bringing the light of Masonry to a divided world and uniting men of every country, sect, and opinion in the truth that we are all united as one Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of one God. We can rest assured that no proclamations on matters political or social will equal the impact of us as Masons practicing outside the Lodge the lessons, we are taught in it.

All Massachusetts Masons wheresoever disbursed over the face of the earth are hereby directed to take due notice thereof and govern themselves accordingly. It is hereby ordered that once per year this Manifesto be read in every lodge and posted at the Tyler’s Station.

Signature of the Grand Master

As directed on March 10, 2021, by M. Wor, Richard Maggio, Grand Master

Signature of the Grand Secretary

Attest: March 10, 2021, by M. Wor, Albert Timothy Ames, Grand Secretary

Grand Masters of Massachusetts

by Rt. Wor. Walter Hunt



Most Worshipful Stanley Fielding Maxwell 1975-1977

“The Best is Yet to Be”

The thirty-seventh installment in the continuing series focused on our past Massachusetts Grand Masters.

Author’s note: though we never spoke, and may have only met in passing once, I feel a certain affinity with M. Wor. Brother Maxwell. In his last Allocation as Sovereign Grand Commander, he held forth on someone he called “one of our nation’s few authentic geniuses” – a man named Walter Hunt. My namesake was born in 1796 and was an inventor in the mid-to late 19th Century. He lost out on a number of inventions that were credited to others. According to Bro. Maxwell, Hunt “lacked faith in himself and his ideas,” and warned that “it must never be said that we are like Walter Hunt” – noting that “without faith in Freemasonry and confidence in ourselves, our words and our ceremonies are useless.” He believed, however, that the Craft and the Scottish Rite would not lose that faith – and that “the best was yet to be.” He might have found it amusing to know that another Walter Hunt, nearly four decades later, would be singing his praises.

When writing a biography, the writer is reliant on research – who the subject was, when he lived, what his world was like, what he wrote, and what he said. The further back in the past, the more it is necessary to frame the discussion – to introduce the reader to the subject’s world, since there is no one around to give first-hand accounts. When the subject is someone for whom there is still present memory, the process is somewhat different. When it comes to someone like M. Wor. Brother Maxwell, who was a well-known figure to our most senior members, it requires a certain delicacy. We say that we can see far because we stand on the shoulders of giants, but in the case of the generation that older Masons remember, we stand directly on their shoulders, and work that they performed has a direct effect on the work we do today. Rather than being shrouded in the mists of history, the portrait is of someone who is part of the structure of the recent past.

Stanley Maxwell is a remarkable figure in Massachusetts and American Freemasonry. Born in 1910, he came to the Craft at a very young age, being raised in Good Samaritan Lodge in 1931. He was involved in his lodge’s Service Committee for several years, but eventually joined the Officer line, and assumed the East in 1944-45. As an active Mason in the Malden 7th Masonic District, he came to the attention of Grand Lodge. Grand Master Thomas Roy appointed him as a Grand Steward in 1952; Grand Master Whitfield Johnson appointed him as District Deputy Grand Master for 1954 and 1955, and Grand Standard Bearer in 1956. M. Wor. A. Neill Osgood chose him as his second Deputy Grand Master in 1964.

M. Wor. Bro. Maxwell was also active in the appendant bodies. He was exalted in Reading Royal Arch Chapter in 1946 and became High Priest in 1955. From 1961-1963, he was Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Massachusetts. He joined Melrose Council Royal and Select Masters, and both Reading Commandery #50 (where he was knighted in 1951) and St. Bernard’s Commandery #12. His journey in the Scottish Rite began in the Valley of Boston in 1959, eventually reaching the office of Commander-in-Chief of Massachusetts

Consistory from 1970 to 1972. He was created a Sovereign Grand Inspector General, 33°, in September 1965, becoming an active Member-at-Large of the Supreme Council in 1973.

This list of his accomplishments is impressive but is only a prelude to the distinguished career Brother Maxwell undertook afterward. In 1975, he commenced both a three-year term as Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts, and a ten-year term as Sovereign Grand Commander of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, of which he had been the first Executive Secretary, serving during the ten previous years. At the outset of his Scottish Rite administration, he supervised the relocation of the Scottish Rite from the Statler Building in downtown Boston to its new headquarters in Lexington. During his second year as Grand Master, America celebrated its bicentennial. Brother Maxwell was thus at the center of momentous events – as the late Dick Curtis said of him in his 1997 memorial published in Northern Light, “There have been few Masons who have accomplished so much for the Fraternity as the late III. Stanley Fielding Maxwell, 33°. Freemasonry was his life.” He noted that the two positions – Grand Master and Sovereign Grand Commander – were both demanding, and he handled both efficiently.

Brother Maxwell was an excellent, insightful, and inspirational speaker and writer. Many of his speeches are available, including his Allocutions as Sovereign Grand Commander and his addresses at Grand Lodge, and they give great insight into who he was, and what he believed in.

“Our greatest task at the moment, it seems to me, is to instill in our sons and grandsons the faith that we should show toward the future. True, this is a difficult task in these days of dissension, demonstrations, crime, political turmoil, and promises that are quite surely to be readily broken, and yet, we, as Masons, must lead and show the way to peace, tolerance, and brotherly love.” – *Anniversary Celebration, Pilgrim Monument in Provincetown, August 1976.*

“A loser believes in fate; a winner believes that we make our fate by what we do or fail to do.’ That is what we believe as Masons. We have the basic responsibility to keep alive the idea that each of us has the inner capability of achieving greatness.” – *Quarterly Communication, December 1977.*

“Let us take our stand with our Nation and then we will

be able to say with Carl Sandburg, ‘If I have added to their pride in America, I am happy.’ If you and I add to the pride of our country and Freemasonry, then we have every right to be both proud and happy, for we will have fulfilled our responsibility as citizens of these United States, and members of this great Fraternity.” – *Feast of St. John, December 1978.*

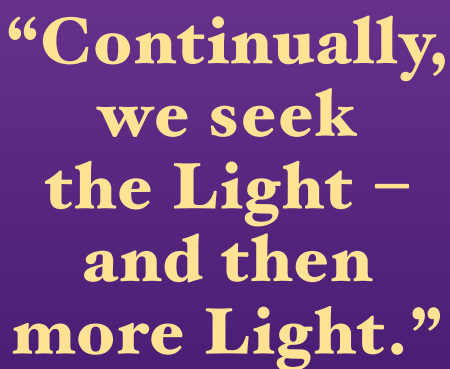
“The world needs Masonry today – probably as much or even more than at any other time in our history. We need men to join our Order who have vision; men who will look with us into the future; men who have imagination and new ideas that can help us to see the needs of our communities, the state, and the nation. The Great Light of Freemasonry tells us that “Where there is no vision, the people perish.”” – *Allocution, 1977.*

“As Masons...we are committed to excellence in our lives and we are not willing to compromise ourselves for the sake of popularity. One time, the great German mathematician, Karl Gustav Jacobi, was asked why he decided to spend his life at work in such an obscure field. He replied, “For the honor of the human spirit.” That is the reason why we, as Masons, give our lives affirming our beliefs in moral conduct, brotherhood, and compassion. We do it for the honor of the human spirit.” – *Allocution, 1979.*

“Today, Freemasonry stands on the human frontier. We continue to be the heralds of freedom and the exemplars of independence. At every point, we ask ourselves the essential questions of life. What am I? Whence come I? And, whither I go? Continually, we seek the Light—and then more Light. We are conscious of our imperfection, of our limited knowledge, of our need for further understanding. This is our pledge as Freemasons; we shall continue in the Light!” – *Allocution, 1980.*

We read his words and his convictions come through loud and clear. Brother Maxwell believed in the strength of human character, in the greatness of America, and in the pivotal role that Freemasonry had played – and would continue to play – in the world. He believed, in the strongest possible terms, that the world was changing, and we would need to change with it, and that the past was informative in viewing the future yet to come.

We stand on the shoulders of giants such as Stanley Maxwell, a leader in our Fraternity, singular in his skill and firm in his purpose. He was certain of the usefulness of Freemasonry, and confident that the best was yet to come. ■



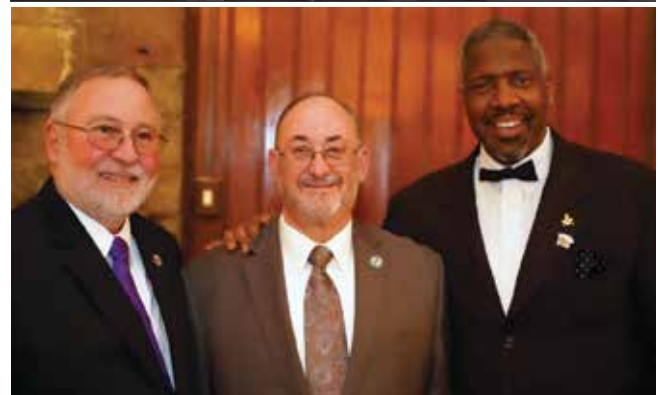
“Continually,
we seek
the Light –
and then
more Light.”

Prince Hall Grand Lodge Rhode Island burned-Mass Masons Stepped Up

by Wor. Robert Huke

On Christmas Day 2020, a conflagration destroyed the home of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Rhode Island in Providence, RI. Determined to rebuild, they quickly launched a fundraising campaign to help them realize their goal. The Grand Lodge of Rhode Island soon announced they had offered their Prince Hall Brethren the use of their building and Scottish Rite Temple, and that financial support would also be provided. Following the lead of the Grand Lodge of Rhode Island, Grand Master M.W. Richard Maggio, initiated an appeal among Massachusetts Freemasons to support the plan to build a new home for the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Rhode Island. After making the announcement, donations from individuals, lodges, and appendant bodies poured in, and in two short weeks, 480 contributions totaling almost \$60,000 were received.

On April 17th, at a testimonial dinner for M.Wor. Gary S. Kaufman, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Rhode Island, Brother Maggio presented a check to M.Wor. Clarence R. Snead, Jr., Grand Master of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Rhode Island. Our Grand Lodge Board of Directors voted to make a donation once the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Rhode Island determines the full extent of their needs. A naming opportunity is going to be explored to permanently symbolize Massachusetts' support. Finally, Rt.Wor. Peter M. Culbertson, Deputy Grand Master, and custom wood craftsman, has offered to design and build a new altar. This gesture by Massachusetts Freemasons vividly demonstrates that we are linked to our Brethren by an indissoluble chain of sincere affection, and how we will help, aid, and assist each other.



Above: The Grand Ladies, Jody L. Maggio and Miriam A. Ross, with their respective Grand Masters. Below: Grand Master M. Wor. Richard Maggio of the Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts, Grand Master M. Wor. Gary S. Kaufman of the Grand Lodge of the Most Ancient and Honorable Society of Free and Accepted Masons for the state of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, and Grand Master M. Wor. Clarence R. Snead, Jr. of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Rhode Island in Providence.

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|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Pedro E. Acosta | James B. Beauvais | Christopher I. Borglund | Michael P. Cannon | Andrew R. Cleasby |
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| Ludwig Alban | William C. Beimler | Knights Templar | George H. Carey III | Earl W. Cole Jr |
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| Alexander D. Augst | Lawrence E. Bethune | Jonathan D. Buck | Arnaldo R. Castillo | Andrew J. Costa |
| Stephen G. Austin | Earl H. Bethune | Francis J. Burke | Patrick J. Cavanaugh | Antonio A. Costa |
| Baalis Sanford Lodge | Eric F. Betsold | John L. Burke | Leonard Cercone | Matthew Crockett |
| David W. Babb | James H. Birch III | Dana A. Burke | John C. Chani | Donald W. Crookes Jr |
| Ryan L. Bacigalupo | Michael J. Bisceglia | Daniel E. Burns | William E. Cheetham | John T. Crosby |
| Jayne K. Baker Sr | Jonathan C. Black | Ernest R. Burt | Walter E. Cheney | William J. Cummings |
| Renen C. Ballovar | Kenneth & Wanda Blake | Peter J. Butt | Joseph W. Chevarley III | Charles E. Curtiss IV |
| Donald E. Barry Sr | William B. Blumsack | Stephen Cadigan | Ernest A. Chiaradonna | Leo J. DaCosta |
| Richard P. Barry | Robert J. Boisselle | David L. Cafarella | Elliot J. Chikofsky | Dalhousie Lodge |
| Ralph H. Bartlett | Ruthven Bonaparte | Robert J. Campbell | Frederick G. Christensen | David D'Amore |
| Donald A. Bates | Jonathan H. Bond | John A. Campbell Jr | William K. Clapp | Michael S. Daoud |
| Jeremy R. Beaupre | Robert M. Booth | Alfredo J. R. Canhoto | Michael P. Clark | Richard J. Davidson |

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 Gilmar C. De Oliveira
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 Eugene A. Degre
 William P. Delaney
 Patrick H. DelVal
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 Mikhail C. Higgins
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 William S. Hildreth
 Scott A. Hirtle
 Truman G. Hix
 Warren D. Hodgdon
 David A. Hodges
 William E. Holland
 James C. Holmes
 Alan Horvitz
 H. Robert Huke III
 Scott D. Inglis
 Robert E. Jackson
 Vincent W. James
 David R. James
 David E. Jenkins
 Timothy B. Jennings
 Joel H. Prouty Lodge
 John T. Heard Lodge
 Ozell Johnson
 K. Stanford Johnson
 Robert V. Jolly Jr
 Peter A. Jones
 Charles H. Jones
 Alan H. Jones
 Joseph Warren-Soley Lodge
 Dale M. Joubert Jr
 Donald G. Jourdian
 Adam S. Karlgren
 Michael D. Kasparian
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 Bryce M. Keeler
 Charles Kekeh
 Brian S. Kelley
 Timothy J. Kelly
 Joseph A. Kennedy
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 Andrew A. Liss
 John T. Lohr
 Gordon Lothrop
 James A. Luker Jr
 Patrick J. Lupien
 Scott C. Lush
 William E. Luther
 Martin D. Lydgate Driggs
 Lynnfield-Zetland Lodge
 Timothy I. Macaulay
 Christopher A. MacDonald-Dennis
 Jason D. MacKeen
 Mark S. MacLagan
 John M. MacNeill
 John J. Maihos
 Robert H. Mandel
 Derek A. Marazzo
 Mariners Lodge
 Anonymous
 Robert H. Marlatt
 Massachusetts Consistory,
 A.A.S.R.
 Mayflower Lodge
 Peter A. Maynard
 Shaun G. McDonald
 David A. McFadden
 Vincent J. McHugh Jr
 Richard B. McKinnon
 Robert J. McNabb
 Peter J. Mee
 Wilfried Mehring
 William G. Melchin
 Robert A. Melloni
 Steven H. Mesnick
 Metri R. Metri
 Nicholas G. Mikita
 Mountain Lodge
 Herbert W. Mower
 Jeffrey C. Mui
 Bruce W. Munson
 Kenneth M. Murnane Sr
 James A. Murray
 Jeffrey S. Mushnick
 Michael N. Myers
 Mystic Valley Lodge
 Michel M. Nachshen
 David M. Narkunas
 Joey Nguyen
 Matthew A. Niedermeier
 Hugh R. Nisbet
 Nils L. Nordberg
 Philip A. Nowlan
 Christopher G. O'Keefe
 Orient Lodge
 Oriental-Martha's
 Vineyard Lodge
 Edward M. Pacheco
 Timothy M. Parella
 Jeffrey R. Parker
 Richard R. Pastore
 Keith D. Patch
 Matthew W. Patsky
 John K. Paulik III
 Henry I. Peirce
 Michael C. Perez
 Paul R. Perkins
 Walter Peterson Jr
 Richard W. Pettengill
 Guillaume Pfefer
 Kenneth W. Pfeiffer
 Philanthropic Lodge
 Andrew D. Pike
 Willard A. Plummer
 James H. Pollard
 Kevin J. Price
 George S. Pultz
 Richard A. Quindley
 William J. Ralph Jr
 Everett H. Rhodes
 Carl G. Rhodes
 Paul F. Ricciardi
 Walter E. Rice
 Neville J. Richen
 David A. Risgin
 David L. Rivers
 Russell E. Robbins
 Norman L. Robinson
 Gregory B. Roche
 Christopher J. Rogers
 Glauciano Rodrigues Rosa
 Lucas M. Rose
 Charles H. Rose
 Donald M. Ross Jr
 Craig S. Rothman
 Judd A. Rowe
 Andrew P. Rowe
 David F. Roy
 John Ruggiero Jr
 Rural Lodge
 Mason W. Russell
 Clayton T. Ryan Jr
 John E. Ryder Jr
 Eric J. Rzepka
 George R. Sachs
 Eduardo J. Sagarnaga
 Saggahew Lodge
 Saint Paul's
 Royal Arch Chapter
 Anthony M. Salvatoriello
 Tyler C. Sanborn
 Edward L. Savage
 Dana E. Savery
 Uwe Schneider
 Frederick H. Schulenburg
 Donald L. Scribner
 Ralph I. Sewall
 Kenneth R. Shaw
 Stefan Shcherby
 Steven A. Sheeky
 Robert B. Sherry
 Robert L. Sherwood
 Harvey H. Shore
 Bryan E. Simmons
 Ronald C. Simon
 Michael K. Simon
 Charles E. Sloan
 Bruce E. Smith
 Timothy J. Smith
 Jay R. Smith
 Ronald F. Spicer Sr
 Donald W. Spradlin
 Michael S. Spurr
 Christopher M. St.Cyr
 David B. St. Onge
 Star of Bethlehem Lodge
 James I. Starratt
 Charles H. Steeger
 Donald S. Stevens
 Thomas E. Stoakley
 Roy L. Streeter
 Dennis C. Strock
 Joseph K. Susmeyer
 James M. Sweet
 Robert J. Sweet Jr
 Michael B. Switzer
 Alan B. Taplow
 Scott A. Taylor
 The Consolidated Lodge
 The Harvard Lodge
 The Massachusetts Lodge
 Raynald R. Theberge
 Gerald F. Thompson
 John T. Thomson
 David E. Tierney
 Byron R. Titus
 Brendan H. Toomey
 Bradford T. Torrey
 Frederic Tudor
 Joseph G. Turner
 George J. Tzortzis
 Union Lodge
 United Commandery No. 21.
 Knights Templar
 Richard W. Van Doren
 Willem M. VanEssendelft
 Mauricio Vargas
 Bryan R. Vaughn
 James D. Vengren
 Keith M. Vicari
 Douglas D. Vickery
 Wayne M. Vinton
 Danny C. Vogel
 David G. Vogel
 Edward W. Vossler
 H. Duane Wadsworth
 William F. Wagner
 Robert G. Wallace
 Robert J. Walsh
 Kort Walsh
 Wampatuck Lodge
 Richard D. Ward
 Walter J. Waring
 Robert H. Warren
 Washington Lodge
 Richard A. Waterhouse
 Harvey J. Waugh
 Ross E. Weaver
 Richard T. Wedegartner
 Walter C. Wedlock
 Bruce D. Wedlock
 Paul Weinberg
 Jacob A. Weiner
 Kenneth S. White
 D. Roger Whitehead
 Michael E. Whitman
 Kevin S. Wilkinson
 Edward M. Williams
 Kevin J. Willis
 Leonard A. Wilson
 Phillip R. Winders
 Brian C. Winsor
 Thomas L. Winter
 Richard L. Wise
 Michael D. Wolfe
 Brian E. Wolfe
 Scott M. Woodward
 Nicholas G. Xenos
 A. Charles Young
 Clifford E. Young
 Joshua A. Young II
 Nicholas M. Zallas
 Earl W. Zimmerman Jr
 Robert C. Zoebisch



FIRST

THROW BAGS FOR POLICE FROM JH PROUTY LODGE

Joel H. Prouty Lodge requested a project from the Auburn Police Department for this Masonic year. This would be a project that the Brethren as a lodge could fund. The police department had a need for each one of their cruisers to have a first responder device known as a 75-foot Throw Bag. These are used for ice and water rescue so that an on-scene officer responding can start the process of rescue even before additional help arrives. The Brethren researched the device and contacted a supplier. The lodge funded 25 bags which arrived at Auburn Police Headquarters, with a training video, and officers were trained in their use. The bags were distributed to 25 police cars.

-Wor. Kevin J O'Donnell



Kevin O'Donnell, Master of Joel H. Prouty Lodge, with Auburn Police Officers Daniel Dyson, Brian Kennedy, and Matthew Rodwill. Photo by Sgt. Fred LaFlash

Webster Lodge Members, L-R: Bro. Mark Swierzbis, Bro. Ken Wilson, Lodge Master Wor. Mike Chiler, and Wor. Richard Clark as lunch is delivered.



WEBSTER SOUPS UP SAVERS

If you watch commercial television, you are baraged with commercials from a variety of insurance companies. They all have their own way of telling you how they will be there for you in your time of need, Johnny on the spot. No offense to those companies or their commercials, but there is only one group that you can truly depend on when your need is greatest. They do not make commercials. The folks who will be there for you when you need them most are the First Responders in your respective communities. Our real lifeline is that 911 number that will summon an ambulance, a fire truck, or a police cruiser. These are the professionals who will transport you to the hospital, put out a fire, or protect you from those who would do you harm. Insurance companies might be there eventually,

RESPONDERS

POLICE SQUARE & COMPASSES

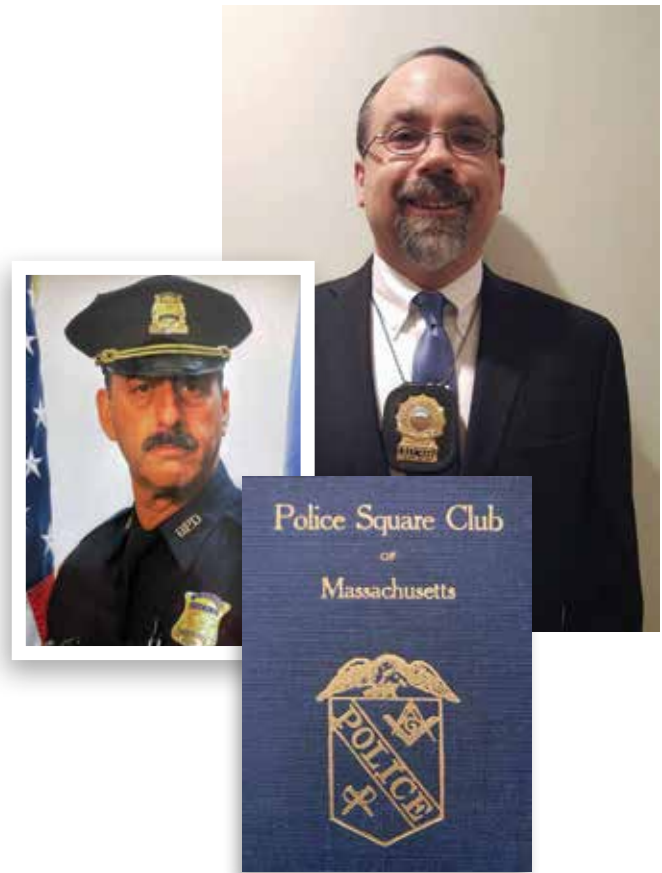
“Each of us in this short life must create his own small “world”, his own happiness or unhappiness, success or failure. Man and his life are what he, himself makes of them. A wretched Napoleon III may lead his country to disaster and himself to a pitiful surrender, while the son of a humble blacksmith becomes the great Faraday, creator of the electric power that lights the world. Each must create his own world for himself; to make a success of that task, two things are necessary: ERNEST WORK AND HARD THOUGHT.”

-Police Square Club of Massachusetts 1938, Man Creates and Lives, In His Own Worlds, Unknown Author, Page 79

I am proud to announce the rebirth of The Police Square Club of Massachusetts. As a retired Sergeant, Boston Police Department, active Mason and Past President of the Police Square Club, I felt it my duty to apply “ERNEST WORK AND HARD THOUGHT”.

Calling all Public Safety Brothers, help me make a success of this task. Please contact Bro. Sergeant Michael Fish at mikefishbpd@yahoo.com. Membership is open to Masons who are EMTs affiliated with Law Enforcement, Court Officers, Sheriff’s, and Constable, Special or Auxiliary.

-Bro. Sergeant Michael Fish



but not in those precious few minutes when everything may well hang in the balance.

On February 22, 2021, Webster Masonic Lodge, in a show of appreciation for the work of the First Responders in Webster, MA, provided homemade soup and sandwiches for members of the Police Dept., Fire Dept., Dispatch, and EMS. The idea originated with the Master of Webster Lodge, Wor. Mike Chiler. A master chef in his own right, Wor. Bro. Chiler is well acquainted with old slogan, “... nothing says loving like something from the oven.” Accompanied by members of Webster Lodge, Wor. Bro. Chiler dropped off the goodies in time for lunch and, as was noted by one firefighter, lightened the workload at one local pizzeria. It was hearty food and smiles all around, and a well-deserved message of thanks to those who are always there FIRST.

-Wor. Richard Clark

Webster EMS Lt. David Majorowski (L) and Webster Master, Wor. Mike Chiler



MASONIC CHARITY

by Wor. Michael D. Grim

Charity is a frequent topic of discussion in Masonic writings and gatherings. During the COVID-19 pandemic, it has become even more front and center, but many people do not understand what is meant by the word charity in a Masonic context.

If you ask 10 randomly chosen people what the word charity means, I am confident all of them would say something about giving money or other aid to people in need. If you ask any 10 Masons, you are likely to get a similar response. This, in fact, is how the word is generally used and defined today. It is not, however, the meaning that was understood for this word when the Bible was translated into English, or when our Masonic ideals were being put into writing and ritual.

Charity is a central theme in one of our three degrees. A well-known piece of scripture is used to describe the nature of charity, and its vital importance to man's character. In First Corinthians, Chapter 13, Verses 1 through 13, Paul goes to great lengths to show what charity is not. In Verse 3 he says, "And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing."

Clearly, simply giving to the poor is not charity since you can give all your goods to the poor and still not have it. Certainly, giving to the poor or to a distressed worthy Brother is associated with charity. It is evidence of it, but not the thing itself. A person's smile is evidence that they are friendly, and mean you well, but it is not proof of their feelings toward you. It is the motivations for the giving and the feelings of the person giving aid toward the recipient of that aid which makes it a charitable act or not.

Some translations of the Bible use the word love, in place of charity, in the verses of First Corinthians. Why is that? The New Testament of the Bible was first written in the Greek language, later translated into Latin, and then into German and English. The Greek word that is translated as charity or love, is "agape." The Greeks have different words for different types of love. Eros is the word for romantic or sensual love, philia means brotherly love or friendship, and storge is used to describe the love between family members. What then does agape mean?

Agape love is rarely encountered in Greek literature, but it is used frequently throughout the New Testament in the Christian Bible. The word is used to describe God's perfect, unconditional love for God's creation, for us. It is more

than emotion. It is sacrificial and is demonstrated through action. Translating agape as "love" in English loses the very specific, unique, and awesome nature of agape. The word charity used to convey the meaning of agape more accurately, as it originally contained more than just the act of giving to the needy as it is commonly used today. In the mid-1800s, charity was still used to convey a type of expansive, all-inclusive love. Lincoln's second inaugural address illustrates this fact. In it he says, "With malice toward none and charity for all..." Here President Lincoln used charity as the opposite of malice, conveying the generally understood meaning of unconditional love that was conveyed by charity during this time. Dictionaries still list this unconditional love as a meaning of the word charity, but it is now considered archaic, and I would argue it is a little-known meaning among men or Masons.

The meaning of words evolves and changes with time. This is inevitable. Another illustration that we no longer use the word charity in the same way it was understood when

our rituals were written is the common expression, "Charity begins at home." One often hears this phrase cited in lodge during a discussion, on whether to meet a local organization's request for money. The idea being conveyed with the statement is you must take care of yourself first. This is the meaning generally accepted for this expression. However, I take a different meaning from it. If you define charity as an all-inclusive love, the phrase then makes sense, as home is where

most of us will first experience unconditional love, in the form of the love from our parents.

With this new understanding of the meaning of Masonic charity, our charge to develop this characteristic within ourselves becomes much more significant, and much more difficult. You might be thinking, "But I give to the Grand Master's Fund every year, and I always donate to Toys for Tots at Christmas, so of course I have charity in my character." My understanding says it is not so simple. As Freemasons, we are to develop, nourish, and grow a feeling and practice of unconditional love toward all people. If every time there is a request for money from Grand Lodge, I contribute but do so only to be seen doing so or grumble and complain the entire time, in this moment, I do not have charity. If someone cuts me off in traffic, or swoops in to grab a parking space that I was heading toward, and I react with anger and judgement, in this

continued on page 32

"And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing."

Bringing the Past Into the Present

by Bro. Brian McHale

Brother Kamel Oussayef has embarked upon a journey in which he is bringing France in 1761 to us, in 2021. This bit of time travel, some 260 years in the past, is the result of his translation of a manuscript from that time. Fortunately for us, Bro. Kamel is fluent in English and French, as well as being a Mason. The manuscript touches on several subjects, including The Enlightenment and Women in Masonry.

The language in the manuscript is nothing short of poetic in many places. Witness this excerpt:

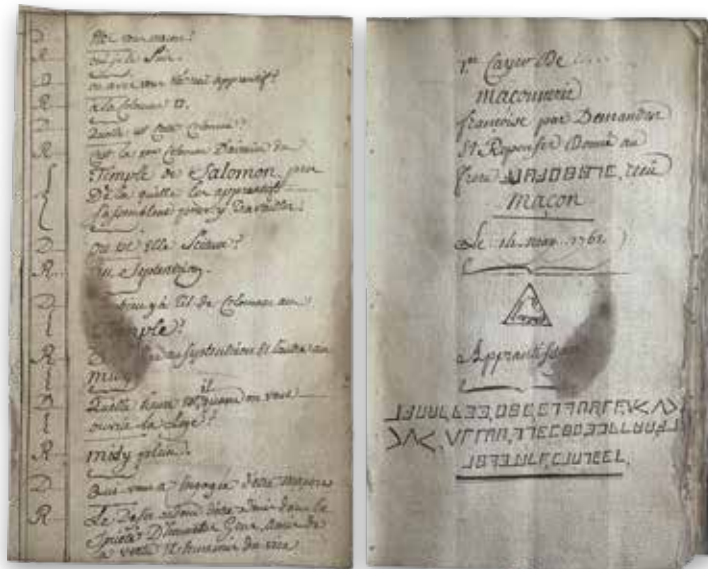
Q: What symbol does the Trowel carry?

A: As the Trowel is used to stir and separate the rough stones^[1] from the sand, so does it teach me to sort my soul to find the gifts of honor and virtue that I have and put them to use at building the edifice of a more noble society.

The process by which this series of thoughts and experiences was transcribed for posterity is nothing short of awe-inspiring. The author did not simply go to Staples for pencil and paper. The ink used was culled from a cuttlefish, a relative of octopus and squid, and the material written

upon was “made of crushed bleached cloth, then slowly dried in a type of rectangular sieve (depending on how big you want the sheet of paper to be),” Bro. Kamel informed me. Bro. Kamel has also witnessed this process “for hours... near a river by artisans in Vaucluse, South of France where Petrarch, the philosopher lived for a while and even participated in this work.” Let us not forget the arduous task of writing with a feather quill for a pen.

The translation will be published in book form by the Scottish Rite in the very near future. I highly recommend it for both Bro. Kamel’s insights, as well as his lessons in history. The language of the manuscript is a feast for both the eyes and ears. I consider myself lucky to have been selected to assist Bro. Kamel with his rare and wonderful project. He is truly a master of his craft. ■



[1] According to an email dated 3/9/2020 from x, PhD, a Canadian Masonic scholar, the real expression is “remuer et tirer le faux du Semet” (from the Latin, “to search oneself to find what is authentic”). This is an allusion to the biblical passage “to separate the wheat from the chaff” (Matthew 13:24-43).



<https://tinyurl.com/MasonPlate>

Plates Make Meeting With Grand Master

On a snowy Valentine’s Day 2021, I was out for a walk in my hometown of Salem (MA). As I was passing the Hawthorne Hotel parking lot, a couple was approaching their vehicle that had Masonic plates. I approached them and introduced myself. Much to my surprise and honor, it was the Grand Master M. Wor. Richard Maggio and his lovely wife Jody! We chatted for a while as the snow fell on us and hoped to meet again in better times.

-By Ann Marie Marr, widow of Bor. Barry K Johnson, Past Master of John T. Heard Lodge and Grand Lodge Supply Officer.

The Prodigal Mason

by *Wor. Richard Thompson*



My Masonic journey officially began on the evening of March 26, 1965. That night I joined Lowell Chapter, Order of DeMolay. On June 26, 1971, my journey continued when I took my Entered Apprentice Degree in St. Paul Lodge, then in Ayer and now in Gardner. St. Paul was my father's lodge, so you might say my journey started a few years earlier

when I started accompanying my father to any number of public events at his lodge. When you consider my grandfather was a member of Pentucket Lodge in Lowell, I have been around the Fraternity for my entire life. I may have officially started my journey in 1965, but I was getting ready for it all my life.

I mention this only because with all my years and with everything I have done in our Fraternity, I was sure that as I started my 50th year as a Mason, I have seen it all and done it all. I could not have been more wrong. One telephone call from a friend took me from "Been there, done that, bought the tee-shirt," to "Lights! Camera! Action!" My Masonic journey includes 41 years in the Scottish Rite. I started that leg of the journey in Lowell, but I moved my membership to Nashua when I moved to New Hampshire in 2006. Since I had retired from my career in the news business, I was able to get active in the life of the Valley of Nashua. My activities there included appearing in a number of Scottish Rite degrees.

I really think one of the greatest things about our Fraternity is no matter where we are, we are not really strangers. All we have to do is find the Masonic apartments and you are literally about to find some new friends. That is what happened when my wife and I moved to Nashua. We went to a Rainbow breakfast in the Nashua Masonic Temple. When we walked through the doors to the banquet hall it was instant friendships. As I often say, I have 6 million friends! I just have not met most of them yet. This COVID-19 pandemic has been a real challenge for the Masonic Fraternity. When you take an organization that

Richard Thompson is the Secretary for Merrimack Valley Daylight Lodge. He will sign autographs any time before or after a meeting.

treasurers the camaraderie of the meeting to the extent we do, a lockdown can be devastating. This pandemic required Masons around the world to be inventive.

We turned to social media to communicate with each other. In Massachusetts, we saw the Zoom meeting with a Zoom opening and closing. The Scottish Rite Northern Masonic Jurisdiction invented Thursday Night at the Rite. On Thursday Nights, Scottish Rite used the internet to broadcast videos of some of its degrees. It was a members-only event. I tried to tune in to that first Thursday Night at the Rite but I could not make it a go. I figured there was some kind of glitch at work. It turned out the glitch was too many Scottish Rite Masons were trying to watch the degrees. We overwhelmed the system. I suppose if you have to have a glitch, that is the one you want.

Thursday Night at the Rite became as much a part of a Scottish Rite Mason's weekly television schedule as any network show. But as the pandemic wore on, the Supreme Council quickly used all of the degrees it had filmed. It was faced with having an endless series of reruns, so it had to get inventive. The Supreme Council started filming Valleys presenting the degrees. New Hampshire Consistory, of which I am a member, was invited to present the 30th Degree. I ended up with a part in the production, and I was not the only Massachusetts Mason in the cast.

The other Massachusetts Mason was Wor. Richard Johnston, a member of Lawrence United.

Getting ready to be in a filmed degree was exciting and fun, but I have to admit we worked hard on this degree. For me I worked harder on this degree than I ever did for any live production. I was faced with the reality that if I do not turn in a stellar performance for a live production, it will, one day, be gone and forgotten. For the video, if I was not at the top of my game, that performance would live forever. At the time I am writing this, I have no idea what the final video is like. We are a week after filming and a few weeks before the premiere. I can only hope my performance was as good as those I saw that day.

No matter what, I can assure you this experience has not changed me in any way. I am just the writer I have always been, but I do find myself thinking of a line Peter O'Toole said in the 1982 film *My Favorite Year*, "I'm not an actor, I'm a movie star!"



Wor. Richard Johnston and Wor. Richard Thompson, ready to step into the bright lights of the 30th Degree.

PRUDENCE

by Wor. Lee H. Fenn

***“Dear Prudence, open up your eyes
Dear Prudence, see the sunny skies”***

-The Beatles

I can hear it as soon as I think of it. “Wouldn’t be prudent,” Dana Carvey doing President George H. W. Bush, the finger pointing off screen to some option that maybe would be prudent. “Look before you leap,” expresses prudence. Of course, there is imprudence. “Just do it”—which seems to mean just buy our shoes now.

The soldier can be urged to imprudent action:

*Half a league, half a league,
Half a league onward,
All in the valley of Death
Rode the six hundred.*

Now the battle *The Charge of the Light Brigade* may have been prudentially reasoned—though it ended badly—but the soldiers could not take time to be prudent. Sometimes, even the leader of another ill-conceived battle pushes onward, despite knowing a prudential moment may be correct:

*March on. Join bravely.
Let us to it pell mell
If not to heaven, then
hand in hand to hell.*

Richard the Third in Shakespeare’s play of the same name led his men into battle that ended with him dying and calling, “A horse, a horse! My kingdom for a horse!” Anti-Prudence is seen in Naruto, an anime character who persistently rushes into every conflict, despite friends yelling, “No, Naruto, stop,” as he runs off.

Of course, there is a negative of Prudence. There is the fable of the donkey. He stands an equal distance between two equally sized bales of tasty hay. The donkey starved to

death. He kept deliberating between the two and could not find any way to choose. There is also procrastination. Prudence has its pitfalls. Prudence is everywhere, but usually with meanings, like above, that seem tangentially related to prudence the virtue.

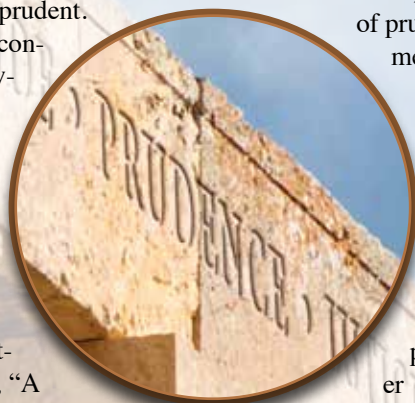
Prudence reared its head in Aristotle’s *Nichomachean Ethics* as σωφροσύνη, *sophrosune*. Basically, the naked definition is forethought, or considering the alternatives, weighing the options, or a cost/benefit analysis. For example, if I am hammering a nail and have two different hammers, say a brass hammer and a standard claw hammer. I can look at the hammers, think about the nail, consider the work I am doing, focus on the wood into which I am hammering the nail. Eventually, I will decide and hammer that nail. If I made the wrong choice, I will know and reconsider. If I am right, I will pick up the next nail. (I picked the claw hammer, of course. I am not going to dent a brass hammer on a nail!)

That type of analysis, be it between hammers, or cars, or restaurants, is an immediate and practical application of prudence. And it is valuable. For me, the hammers are my neighborhood of decisions whereas the most important questions, cars, restaurants, etc., are decided by my bride.

That decision, to leave certain things to others—mainly the bride—is also a prudential decision. We make that measured choice all the time: wives, government, bosses all make decisions about our actions because we have given that power to them. That choice, to allow another to make decisions about how you spend your time, is another example of prudence. We decide to allow it because it provides greater goods such as a peaceful society, a paycheck, and a happy home life.

But Masonic Prudence extends the basic meanings of prudence. For as Masons, we must make our prudential choices with a core focused on the goodness of others, of our actions, and of the consequenc-

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*Naruto:
Imprudence Personified*



*Richard III:
Arrogant Imprudence*



*Opposition House:
Prudence Protects the Lodge*



*Freemasonry is an
Open Terrarium for Prudence*

FRATERNITY News & Events

Family Surprises Wor. Thomas C. Baum

On Monday, November 2nd, Elm-Belcher Lodge held its regular communication. Along with the good feeling of getting back to a somewhat normal routine, the lodge was also treated to a visit from the DDGM, Rt. Wor. Michael S. Nemeth who was there to present his “Point Within A Circle” lecture. During the presentation, RW Bro. Nemeth summoned Wor. Thomas C. Baum to the East to assist in a demonstration. While his attention was focused on the presentation at hand, Tom’s family was escorted into the lodge as RW Bro. Nemeth surprised him with the presentation of the Joseph Warren Distinguished Service Medal. Tom’s surprise to both his family being present and the medal being awarded was clearly evident and he summed up his Masonic personality in his speech to the lodge when he stated that, although receiving the medal was a great honor, we do what we do for the good of mankind, not for the recognition.

Tom was joined by his wife Jody, his son Christopher, his daughters Katie and Carey, and his son-in-law Luke. Katie presented her father with a gift from the family, a crystal beehive, representing Tom’s industrious nature to his family and to Freemasonry. She also shared some interesting family history as their ancestor, Paul Dudley Sargent, fought alongside Joseph Warren and was wounded at the Battle of Bunker Hill.

Since becoming a Mason in 2003, Wor. Baum has been



Wor. Thomas C. Baum with his family in the East of Elm-Belcher Lodge.

an active member in his lodge and community. During his term as Master, Tom spearheaded one of the first and most successful Widows Programs in the district, which he still leads today. After his term in the East, he took on the responsibility of becoming Lodge Secretary for over 10 years along with serving as District Deputy Grand Secretary in 2013. Always being active, Tom now serves as the lodge’s Assistant Secretary and Junior Deacon. On weekends, he can be found giving tours of Shriners Hospital for Children in Springfield as a member of the Melha Shriners Directors Unit. During his free time, Tom spends quality moments with his family in Maine where he is an avid fisherman and an affiliate member of Union Lodge #31. This balance of his personal, professional, and Masonic duties exemplifies Tom and makes him an inspiration to his fellow brothers.

-Wor. Max Rubacha

Sir Knight James Ian Olgilvie, Eminent Grand Captain General surprises Sir Knight Rick Baccus, Past Commander of Calvary Commandery #13 in East Providence, with the Order of Merit.



Bro. Baccus Receives Order of Merit

On Saturday, March 6th, a surprise presentation of the Order of Merit was made on behalf of the Grand Commandery of Massachusetts and Rhode Island. The recipient of the award was Sir Knight Rick Baccus, Past Commander of Calvary Commandery #13 in East Providence, and the presentation was made by Sir Knight James Ian Olgilvie, Eminent Grand Captain General. This prestigious award is given by the Grand Commander of Knights Templar for MA/RI to an individual in recognition for distinguished service to the Grand Commandery and cannot be applied for or requested by any Sir Knight.

Sir Knight Baccus was recognized for outstanding service in support of the five Templar Nights Lecture Series held throughout the 2018-2019 Templar Year. He provided countless hours of effort to ensure that the nationally and internationally renowned speakers could make in-person presentations to the Sir Knights, their ladies, and guests at multiple venues. The award presentation was delayed due to busy schedules, various “lock-downs,” and the need for surprise. Sir Knight Baccus is commended for his effort and will be remembered for “action above and beyond the call of duty.”

-SK Richard W. Van Doren, PGC

Fellowship Lodge Honors Local Veterans

A few years ago, I was traveling through central Pennsylvania and I noticed several banners hanging from light poles along the main street. On my return through the town of Elizabethville, my curiosity got the best of me and I pulled over to get a better look. The banners were about two feet by four feet, and each one bore the name and picture of a veteran, their dates of service, and the name of the sponsor of the banner.

The program stuck in my mind because of the picture of the veteran on each banner. The picture personalized the commitment and sacrifice that each of those vets made for their country. It was so much more than just a name on a plaque or a wreath once a year. They had given at least a couple of years of their lives and in some cases given their lives for their country and their small town was recognizing their sacrifice.

Arriving home, I began making phone calls to the contacts I had gained through my door-to-door campaign in that small town. I contacted the company that had made the banners and asked for a sample that I could borrow. It just so happened that they sent me a banner of U.S. Navy Nurse from the Vietnam era. I turned that information into a presentation that I took back to my next lodge



Permanent plaques were made and placed in the War Memorial High School Auditorium. They honor the seven young men that gave their lives in service to their country since the regional school was built in 1963.

meeting. My lodge made the initial financial commitment to the program and a few Brothers jumped on board with both a personal commitment and their contacts with other social and fraternal organizations in town. A group of volunteers, Brothers, businessmen, and a few veterans formed Bridgewater Hometown Heroes to run the project.

The program took off from there with a dozen banners up by the 4th of July, and 30 by Veterans Day. Last year was the third year of the program. When we took them down for the winter to prolong their life and extend the program, we had over 150 banners on display around town from Memorial Day through Veterans Day. It has been a true community project with support from the town, businessmen, social, and fraternal organizations. Along with the display of banners, we have assembled a book of all of the banners, as well as many interesting stories of the men and women from WWI through current day. While the banners were down for the winter, we had a display in the main hall at the Bridgewater Public Library.

The group has also been able to publish a book of the 150-plus banners and many interesting stories about the Veterans are featured.

-Wor. David Moore

Left: Banners on display at the Bridgewater Public Library. Right: Retired Master Sargent Bro. William LaBossiere and PM David Moore installing the banner of Retired SSG Bro. Albert Smith in front of the lodge to kick off the 2021 season. Bro. Smith took the responsibility of putting together the banner book, Bridgewater Hometown Hero, as his rookie project. All Veterans with a Bridgewater hometown connection are welcome.



CONVERSE LODGE IS RISING



Wor. Joe Turner, Converse Lodge; Grand Lady Jody Holden-Maggio, and Grant MacDermott

Converse Lodge Malden Supports Successful Supply Drive

Forty-five Masonic volunteers showed up in below freezing temperatures to guarantee the success of a Contactless Supply Drive in honor of the Grand Lady of Massachusetts Masonry, Jody Holden-Maggio, the wife of the current Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts,



The Grand Master and Grand Lady amongst the donations for My Brother's Table.

Most Worshipful Richard Maggio. The drive's purpose was to collect supply items (especially for women) that are in need during this pandemic. The beneficiary of this drive is My Brothers Table, a privately funded soup kitchen that provides free meals and warm clothing to women, men, and children in need. The Masonic lodges that meet at the Wakefield/Lynnfield Masonic building, Star of Bethlehem and Lynnfield-Zetland Lodges, hosted the event and the event was sponsored by the 13th Masonic District. Brothers from Converse Lodge, who meet at the Masonic building in Wakefield, also volunteered for this drive.

Gift donations are always welcome at My Brothers Table via regular mail, 98 Willow St, Lynn, MA, 01901, email, volunteercoordinator@mybrotherstable.org, or by phone, 781-595-3224. Their website is www.mybrotherstable.org.

-Wor. Joe Turner



Snow, Fun, Cubs, and Converse Lodge

All Cub Scouts in Pack 609 of Malden received gift subscriptions to Scout Life Magazine this weekend. The donation, received by Cub Scout Pack Cubmaster Ernie Jankowski was presented by Wor. Stephen C. Butland, Master of Converse Masonic Lodge of Malden, as part of the lodge's ongoing community partnership with Malden civic organizations. The donation was coordinated by Wor. Rick Boudreau, former Master of Converse Lodge, who is also the Assistant Cubmaster of Pack 609. The presentation was part of a special outdoor Fun in the Snow meeting at Amerige field in Malden on February 13th, 2021. Cub Scout Pack 609 meets at St. Joseph's Parish in Malden and welcomes boys and girls aged 6 to 11.

-Wor. Joseph Turner

Converse Lodge Steps Up and Leads Blood Drive

Wor. Robert D. Frechette, Blood Committee Chairman for Converse Lodge in Malden, fulfilled an American Red Cross request for a Blood Drive that was scheduled in another building. The other building was not allowed to have the drive there because of COVID-19 concerns. The drive was held at the Wakefield/Lynnfield Masonic Building in Wakefield, MA on Friday, March 12, 2021.

Wor. Bro. Frechette has four other blood drives scheduled for this year, with a goal to exceed last year's total of 485 pints of blood. Wor. Bro. Frechette is no stranger to this activity. He has been Converse Lodge's Blood Committee Chairman for over 10 years, coordinating blood drives several times each year.

This current blood drive generated 32 pints of whole blood and 6 powered units of blood equaling 12 units, for a total of 37 units collected at this fill-in drive.

-Wor. Joe Turner



Left to right: Wor. Robert D. Frechette, Wor. Joseph Turner, Madison Roberts (American Red Cross Coordinator), Wor. Stephen Butland, and RW Andrew Maninos. Photos by KN



Left to right: Rt. Wor. Chris St. Cyr receiving his jewel from Bro. Rick Lavergne with Wor. Larry Burbridge and 24th Masonic District Deputy Grand Master Rt. Wor. Anselme B. Maxime overseeing the presentation.

Long Awaited Presentation at Quinebaug Lodge

On Monday, March 1, 2021, a group of Master Masons, family, friends, and dignitaries gathered at the Quinebaug Masonic Lodge in Southbridge to witness the long-awaited presentation of the Junior Grand Warden (JGW) Jewel to Rt. Wor. Chris St. Cyr and a 50-year Masonic Veterans Medal to Rt. Wor. Raymond Benoit.

-Bro. Vincenzo Jimmy Falzone



Homecoming!

Museum & Library Committee learned that a piece of Grand Lodge history was up for auction. It was a silver platter awarded to M. Wor. Winslow Lewis in 1860 for his service as a Trustee of Grand Lodge. A call went out to some Brothers to fund a bid to and return it to the Grand Lodge. M & L has no budget for acquisitions and relies on gifts to expand our collection.

Our bid won the platter. It will be formally presented to the Grand Master at the June Quarterly. It is now on display in the Library and will be joined by other items of our collection to be on a rotating display of historical objects for members to see.

-Rt. Wor. H. Robert Huke III

A Brother's Children's Book is Published

This spring, Bro. Ed Pacheco of Quittacus Lodge in New Bedford had his first children's book published. The title is *Little Lamb Shenanigans*, and the book has been in the works for over 20 years. The idea came to him from a song he made up to sing to his four daughters when he would put them to bed. As he described the process, "I would pick up the story, play with it, put it away, another daughter would come along, I would change careers, life would happen, but I would always keep the book in the back of my mind." It is a story about a little girl who has trouble getting to bed on time and the shenanigans her family endures to help her. It is geared to be a book that an older child can read on their own or as a family book used at story time or bedtime.

In addition to those four daughters who helped inspire the book, Ed now has two "bonus" daughters. The six girls range in age from 12 to 24 years old. "The main character is a combination of all my daughters' characteristics: intel-



ligence, kindness, compassion. I am a fortunate dad."

Bro. Ed has hidden a Masonic "Easter egg" in the book as a tribute to the Fraternity as well as in recognition of his lodge in his author biography. "My daughters have spent a fair part of their childhoods in the lodge, helping with dinners for the needy and other events so it is only natural that I include Freemasonry in one way or another in this book." One daughter, a junior at Johnson and Wales University,

has even been a recipient of a Grand Lodge Masonic Scholarship.

Bro. Ed, a 12-year member of the Craft, has served his lodge in several roles. He has been a Junior Steward, Senior Steward, an Ambassador, and ultimately the Secretary for five years. Recently, he served the lodge as the organizer of the Funeral Committee, which created an appropriate travel kit to be able to perform

Masonic funerals for Brethren who have passed on.

It is his hope that as COVID restrictions become relaxed, he may be able to do readings for the children and grandchildren of the lodge as a family friendly event. The book is now available for pre-order on Amazon.com and Barnesandnoble.com. It is published by Fuzzybear Press.

-Bro. Adam Pimentel



Recruitment During The Pandemic

On Monday night April 5th, 2021 Brethren gathered to a meeting to congratulate 2 young local men who were raised to the sublime Degree of Master Mason. Brother Terrance Mount and Brother Nathan St Marie both from Dudley. This is a good sign for Freemasonry when this next generation of young men ask the question "IS THERE GREATNESS IN YOU". Due to the Covid-19 pandemic it was a long and winding road for these 2 brethren to get where they are today due to setbacks and restrictions of no social gatherings.

-Bro. Vincenzo Jimmy Falzone

Recipients of diplomas and plaque from left to right: Bro. Nathan St. Marie, Bro. Robert St. Cyr, RT. Wor. Larry Burbridge in the background and Bro. Terrance Mount.



Norah Proper receiving the Grand Lady's Service Award, (DDGM) RW. Anselme B. Maxine. and Bro. Robert St. Cyr.

Quinebaug Masonic Lodge Presents Service Awards

On March 1, 2021 the Quinebaug Masonic Lodge was open to family and friends due to next phase of the Covid-19 restrictions being lifted from the Governor Baker. Norah Proper, of Sturbridge, was presented with the Grand Lady's Service Award and Wor. Mike Sgariglia of Auburn was presented the Right Worshipful Robert Johnston Service Award. These awards were presented by the (DDGM) 24th Masonic District Deputy Grand Master Rt. Wor. Anselme B. Maxine.

-Bro. Vincenzo Jimmy Falzone

Wor. Mike Sgariglia receiving the RW. Robert Johnston Service Award from (DDGM) RW. Anselme B. Maxine.



Bro. Joe Andrews (with the box of cans) joins Bros. Stan Kuyct, Michael Paciorek, Doug McGill, Donald Carberry, and Rt. Wor. Michael Shawn Nemeth to work with Cans 4 Cancer 2.0.

Cans for Cancer in the 29th

Masons from the 29th District worked with Duane Ranney, the founder of "Cans 4 Cancer 2.0," collecting returnable cans. Duane works on this project at Valley Recycling in Northampton collecting returnable cans and bottles, which he keeps in a large green walk-in container. The "2.0" is to distinguish his project from others with similar names. Duane is a cancer patient himself and plans to cash in the cans and bottles he has collected and use the proceeds to help low-income and elderly cancer patients with their medical bills.

-Rt. Wor. Michael Shawn Nemeth

Phoenix Lodge 1st Degree at Rainbow Camp

In late April Phoenix Lodge met at the Rainbow Camp in Hanson to introduce three men to Freemasonry and the First Degree. Phoenix Lodge is fortunate to have the Rainbow Camp in Hanson so close by, just 8 miles from their Lodge in Hanover and grateful that they are allowed to use the facility for outdoor degrees. This was the third time Phoenix used the camp by setting up a Lodge Room on the tennis court. Plans are to conduct the Second and Third Degrees there in May and June.

-Bro. Jonathan Hall Bond





Go Brotherly Camping!

by Wor. Bill Woodward

As Master of Caleb Butler Lodge in Ayer and Marketing Chairman of the 14th District, the winter of 2019-2020 was running on all cylinders like a well-oiled machine. We were distributing our Massachusetts Freemasonry tote bags all over the state for our public awareness and charity fundraiser campaign. We had multiple LTC (license to carry) gun safety classes that raised thousands of dollars for Fisher House, Boston, and Run to Home Base, supporting our military veterans. I had eight candidates in the queue and degree work was well underway. In February, we held at Caleb Butler Lodge, our annual Tri-Lodge Fellowcraft Degree night with Simon W. Robinson Lodge, Lexington Lodge, and Corinthian Lodge of Concord. I was proud to host over 90 brothers for a candlelight Fellowcraft Degree for District Deputy Rt. Wor. John Toto's Fraternal Visit. Also attending was Deputy Grand Master Rt. Wor. Peter Culbertson and the Grand Master of New York, M. Wor. William Sardone.

Rt. Wor. Bro. Toto introduced a Men's Health Night for LOI focusing on physical and mental health. It was an extraordinary LOI with four doctors from the 14th speaking. After that night, with the help of Worshipful Larry

Corcoran, I got our diets in check and I was closing in on the hundred-pound club. Then March hit, and it all came to a screeching halt. The COVID-19 pandemic shut down everyone and everything. Over the next several months we spent our time checking in on our elder brethren and our widows. Bro. Kev Hayes of Caleb Butler was in training for the Tough Ruck Marathon to raise money for veterans and this sparked an idea. As part of our Men's Health campaign, I thought this would be a great way to get brothers and their families out into nature. New Bros. Craig Williams and Joe Lewis Scott, Jr. said we should meet once a week and get in some local hiking. This not only got us out and together in a safe way but encouraged us to get back on track with our personal health. Bro. Hayes took brethren and their families on the higher impact hikes.

Campgrounds started to re-open and we were able to travel and meet up with more friends to enjoy nature. In September, Bro. Hayes wanted to start a hiking club and begin hiking the Presidential Range of New Hampshire and parts of western MA. A month later, while camping on Columbus Day weekend, Wor. Bill Woodward was eating breakfast with his wife Bonnie. He talk- *continued on page 32*



There and Back Again - A Brother's Tale

Wor. Bro. Paul Scheeler and Wor. Bro. Alan Gray

On February 17th, 2021, during our Regular Stated Communication, Star of Bethlehem Lodge, located in Wakefield, MA, welcomed (virtually) the Grand Master, M. Wor. Richard Maggio, District Deputy Grand Master of the 13th Masonic District, RW Vincent Marino, and members of Forest Lodge No. 166, Fredonia, NY, including special guest speaker, Wor. Bro. Paul Scheeler, Historian and Archivist. After our business meeting was closed, and the Lodge placed at recess, Wor. Bro. Scheeler and I shared in presenting the story about Commander William Cushing and his connection to Star of Bethlehem Lodge.

An 1865 certificate, once owned by a famed Civil War hero who was praised by President Lincoln, commended by Congress, and given a large financial reward, has been discovered after 156 years in the archives of Fredonia's Forest Masonic Lodge No. 166. His ornate certificate is dated March 20, 1865 and is signed by William B. Cushing himself. It was found during an archival inventory with a letter from attorneys serving as executors for Cushing's two daughters. On January 12th, 2021, Wor. Bro. Scheeler contacted Star of Bethlehem Lodge via a posting on our Facebook page, suggesting this discovery might be something our members would enjoy learning about during one of our virtual meetings. And now, to quote American radio broadcaster icon, the late Paul Harvey, is "the rest of the story..."

William Barker Cushing (November 4, 1842 – December 17, 1847) was the youngest commissioned Lieutenant in the United States Navy on July 16, 1862, at age 19. He received many letters of commendation from the Secretary of the Navy and is best known for planning and sinking the Confederate ironclad gunboat CSS Albemarle during a daring nighttime raid on October 27, 1864. For this, he received the thanks of Congress and an award of \$50,000, worth about \$1,000,000 today.

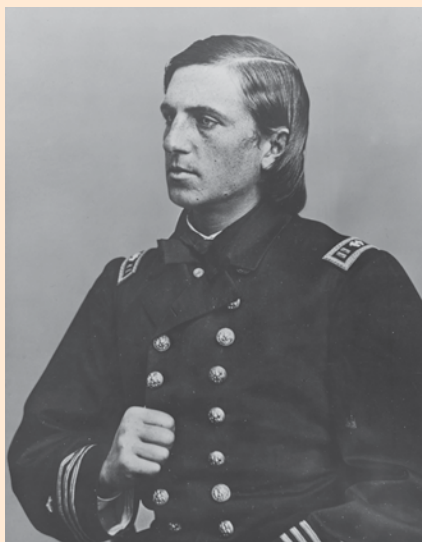
In a 1912 essay published in U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings (Vol 38, No 2), Charles W. Stewart recounts

William's life, noting he was expelled from the U.S. Naval Academy just before graduation for pranks and poor scholarship. At the outbreak of the Civil War, however, William pleaded his case in a letter to Gideon Welles, the Secretary of the Navy. He was reinstated and went on to achieve a distinguished service record, frequently volunteering for the most hazardous missions, earning a reputation for heroism and his calm demeanor under enemy fire.

Cushing attained significant national fame, both prior to and after his death at age 32 in 1874, essentially "going viral," making the cover of the November 19, 1864, edition of the national periodical, Harper's Weekly, which chronicled his exploits and life story. In 1957, a best-selling book was published entitled, Lincoln's Commando, The Biography of Commander W.B. Cushing, U.S.N., by Ralph J. Roske and Charles Van Doren. The authors credit the sinking of the CSS Albemarle as a turning point against the mounting national sentiment that the Union could not win the Civil War, and thus bolstered Lincoln's bid for re-election in November 1864. Author Robert Schneller also credits Cushing's exploits behind enemy lines in his book entitled Cushing, Civil War SEAL, as the precursor to what is known today as Navy SEAL Teams.

After meeting President Lincoln and waiting for new orders, Cushing decided to visit family and friends in Chelsea, MA. While a guest of William and Cordelia Pearmain (his mother's sister), this Civil War hero was greeted on March 15th by the citizens of Chelsea and a The Chelsea Brass Band before dining with the Governor. On March 20, 1865, he received all three degrees in Star of Bethlehem Lodge, originally in Chelsea, with special dispensation from the Grand Master, M. Wor. William Parkman, who was in attendance with a total of 134 Members and Brothers.

William Cushing had three older brothers, Milton, Howard, and Alonzo, who all served in the military. The oldest, Milton B. Cushing (1837-1887), was the US Navy Paymaster. Howard B. Cushing (1838- *continued on page 32*



Above: William B. Cushing (circa 1864), NH 63224, Naval History and Heritage Command, Washington, D.C.

A Shot of Hope

The Overlook in Charlton Charges Toward Beating COVID-19 with Robust Vaccine Rollout



Here at The Overlook in Charlton, one of Massachusetts' top-rated Continuing Care Retirement Communities, we are giving it our best shot, the vaccine shot, that is, when it comes to beating COVID-19. We have already administered more than 815 doses of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine to residents living in our five-star rated healthcare neighborhoods, making them fully vaccinated, giving our most vulnerable population sufficient protection from this world-altering virus. Our first vaccination clinic for independent living residents happened on February 1, when more than 350 people received their first dose. The clinic was an efficient, all-day door-to-door affair, set up that way for convenience and safety. Residents did not need to leave their homes or hallways, making the process easy and extremely safe for them. You can see by the banner we created to commemorate the occasion, proudly held by independent living residents who received the vaccine during this first round of shots, that the long-awaited day brought more than just increased security and safety. It brought hope.

While you cannot see their full faces through the masks, it is easy to tell they are smiling! "The last few weeks have been a huge first step toward conquering the impact of this awful virus," said Mike Quirk, Executive Director for Independent Living at The Overlook. "We're so grateful for the efforts that our staff has put forth to help manage, and now help us get past, this pandemic. We're going to continue being careful, of course, but we are excited for the pos-

sibilities that this vaccine brings."

Members of our community are also optimistic about what will come this year:

"Many of us can remember the excitement we had in our younger years that came with the development of the polio vaccine and lining up for our polio shots. Here, in our later years we experienced the same excitement for a second time, this time about the development of the COVID-19 vaccine and we lined up for our COVID-19 shots.

Even though we have months to go of social distancing, masks, and restrictions on how we go about our daily lives, there IS light at the end of the tunnel. THANK YOU to our administrators who worked through the bureaucratic red tape to bring the vaccine to the Overlook independent living. And a THANK YOU to our fellow residents who have kept wearing masks, even when it's annoying, and honoring social distancing guidelines as painful as they may be at times. There IS light at the end of the tunnel—this time it comes from the point at the end of a needle! Thank you, Overlook! *-Janet Goodrich*

For evidence of the rapid vaccination progress we have already made, as of this publishing 99% of our healthcare residents in skilled nursing and memory care have received both doses of the vaccine, and 99.3% of our independent living residents have received both doses of the vaccine. Soon, and after about a year of managing the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, our community will be more excited than ever to return to some of the normal activities and social happenings that make this hilltop community so special. To stay up to date on what is happening at The Overlook, we recommend that you follow along by visiting both our Facebook page and our website. For more information about making this safe, inspiring place your home base for an active and independent retirement lifestyle, call 508-434-2318 to request a private, personal appointment (in-person or virtual). We look forward to meeting you!

The Vax Shots at The Overlook: A Resident's View

Living at The Overlook for the past couple of years has been a great experience for my wife and myself. There are so many things offered here for us to participate in and enjoy. Not only are the grounds well maintained, but the management team makes you feel welcomed and appreciated. Life is good.

Oops. Then came March of 2020. The whole world was informed that a deadly virus was in the process of spreading around the world. The Overlook team immediately stepped up to the plate and were determined to form a plan of action for keeping us protected from that virus. Meetings were held and policies established. We all learned how to wear masks and social distance. Everyone got on board and followed the guidelines.

In January, our CEO, Tameryn Campbell, put together a committee consisting of our Director of Care Coordination and Health Transitions Karen Marino, our Health Care Administrator Ellen Belanger, our Executive Director of Independent Living Mike Quirk, and our Director of Life Enrichment Stephanie Beilman, to formulate a plan with CVS Pharmacy to vaccinate everyone on campus with the Pfizer serum. On February 1st, the staff from CVS arrived and systematically vaccinated the entire community. This same procedure was repeated on February 22nd when we received our second shot.

It was some block party! When it was your turn, you sat outside your apartment door and waited for your shot. Some of the residents assisted the CVS crew by monitoring our 12-minute rest period after the shot. A candy cart brought us treats and we were then allowed to return to our normal activities with greater assurance that the shots will protect us. Life is even better now. We are grateful to the entire staff for a job well done without complaints from anyone.

-Bro. Bill Kenyon

The vaccine is for everyone, even number 16 of the Boston Celtics, Satch Sanders.



▶ Prudence continued from page 21

es. And, perhaps most importantly, the goodness of ourselves. When deciding about different options, the quality of the other people involved is part of the picture. The prudence we practice works with the goodness of others. This starts within the Lodge.

A Lodge is a group of “strangers” who have become Brothers and who all have our best interests at heart. These men, these Brothers, whom we are with every month in Lodge, show that they are reliable men, charitable men, and that they try, at least as hard as we do, to be good. Over the years, we realize that most men who believe in God are potential Brothers. As a result, our view of the world and the people in it slowly shifts from being among strangers to living a life among friends and potential Brothers. Therefore, when we are exercising prudence, it is based upon a fundamental assumption of the most likely goodness of others. That expectation is a prudential position in that a person who is not a good person will stand out.

We take actions all the time. Walk on this side of the street. Take this route to work. Eat this piece of bacon, perhaps the crunchy one. All involve prudence, choices. However, there are actions which require the virtue of prudence. We try to be sure our actions are good. From being on time for our Brothers, to helping with dishes after a collation, every Lodge communication is a moment of finding and practicing good actions. Small or large, they all add up to a habit of good action. When we are involved in difficult moral decisions, this training in Lodge makes it easier for us to act prudentially.

Some acts are a “clean” good, like acts of charity. We can donate to the Grand Master’s Appeal or we can shovel a neighbor’s walkway. These actions are easy. Charity has no downside which prudence helps to steer us from.

Actions especially taken by the Lodge, however, are tricky. It is somewhat difficult to find actions that do not have unintended consequences that may be negative or have broader applications. For example, in 1807, a road was planned in Cambridge. This road would later become Harvard Street. Some who were against the road, overnight, built a house that blocked the “street.” If Masons were asked to lay the cornerstone to the Opposition House, as it has been called, then their action would have seemed good, but resulted in taking a political position.

Prudence protects us. Prudence is based on a fundamental goodness that, for Masons, starts as a practice and becomes a way of life. From going to Lodge, from assessing our own actions and that of the Lodge and Freemasonry, we become habituated to move in prudential ways. Freemasonry is an open terrarium for prudence. Inside, it is the perfect training ground for Brothers to learn and grow prudential skills. The open top allows our cultivated prudence to expand into the world and makes Brothers in their daily lives reasonable, reliable, and prudential men. ■

▶ **Camping** *continued from page 29*

ed about how it was nice to meet up with the brethren. She suggested, “Since you’re glued to your phone why not start a Facebook page or something?” What a great idea. So, the MA Masons Camping, Glamping, and Outdoor Adventures Facebook page was created. This group is for Massachusetts Freemasons and their families to enjoy, share, and plan outdoor experiences as part of the 14th District’s Men’s Health program. All types of outdoors adventures are highlighted on the page such as hiking, camping, RVing (aka Glamping), kayaking, canoeing, rock climbing, biking, and any outdoor nature setting activities or simply chilling out at your campsite. This is a new way for brethren to connect with one another and as Rt. Wor. Bro. Toto has said, “Get together outside the lodge room.”

On the first day of the Facebook page, we had 20 brothers. One was Deputy Grand Master Rt. Wor. Peter Culbertson saying, “Now this is a page I can get behind.” The page now has nearly 200 members. We see everything from daily strolls around the block, group hiking, family bike trips, winter camping in the snow, campfires, rock climbing, mountaineering, and most importantly, brothers congregating with one another and their families. We expect this group to grow as the years go on and I hope it encourages us all to get together outside the lodge room and enjoy the great outdoors. After you sign in, the Facebook page is www.facebook.com/groups/1709898682503272. ■

▶ **A Brother’s Tale** *continued from page 29*

1871) served in the Union Artillery, survived the Civil War, only to be ambushed by Apaches at age 33, becoming known as “The Custer of Arizona.” Alonzo H. Cushing (1841-1863) was a Union Artillery Officer who died on the third day of the Battle of Gettysburg during Pickett’s Charge. His heroism was recognized 151 years later when Alonzo received the Medal of Honor posthumously from President Obama on November 6, 2014.

With Alonzo interred at West Point and William at the Naval Academy, the Cushings are the only family in American history with members buried at more than one of the United States Service Academies. “This reminds us of the bravery of all who have fought in battles throughout the history of the United States, especially fraternal brethren during the bloody years of the Civil War,” said David Ludemann, presiding Master of Forest Lodge No. 166.

At the end of the presentation, Wor. Bro. Scheeler announced, on behalf of the Master and Forest Lodge, their plans to return Cushing’s Masonic Certificate to Star of Bethlehem Lodge. This whole experience makes us wonder what other artifacts are still out there in the archives of Masonry. There must be more! Does your lodge have some hidden treasures just waiting to be (re)discovered? ■

▶ **MGH Knox Lodge** *continued from page 3*

creative reenlistment ceremonies on the football field of an NFL team, in a Middle East desert, on a snowy mountain-top, or on a ship at the equator! However, even in a lodge room, surrounded by the brothers who have all been involved in the same patriotic ceremony, makes for a memorable location.

Brother (MSgt, USAF) Robert M. Serricchio had completed 31 years of faithful service in the Air Force and was eligible to reenlist for three more years. Right Worshipful Brother (CDR, USN) Thomas A. Morris III was more than honored to administer the Oath of Enlistment. As the presiding Master of the lodge is a former Marine, with a Coast Guard Brother looking on from the sideline, and the photographer a retired Army Soldier, this was truly an allied, joint effort! Congratulations Brother Serricchio on your reenlistment. We wish you the best of luck on your next three years!

We have all had the honor of being thanked for our service many times in our careers. However, we take this opportunity to thank all of YOU for your SUPPORT! Without it, we could not have made the sacrifices we did.

-Wor. Bro. (SFC, USA Ret.) Michael J Alves, Secretary MGHK

▶ **Masonic Charity** *continued from page 18*

moment, I do not have charity. If I feel jealous when a Brother receives some recognition or award, in this moment, I do not have charity. You get the idea. If we examine our actions every evening, we will undoubtedly identify times where we acted without charity earlier in the day. This is a discipline worth developing.

You might be thinking at this point that nobody can achieve the kind of unconditional love for all people that God has for us. Perhaps you are right, but aren’t we all called to try? It is certainly not easy and requires a lifetime of daily effort. To me, this is a major part of the real work of Freemasonry, to build a character within ourselves that is full of charity. It is not learning to do perfect ritual, though that is important. It is not rising to positions of authority in the Craft, though it is necessary those positions be filled. It is no less than working every day at making ourselves into the kind of men that the Supreme Architect has shown us he wants us to become. Perfection is an elusive, possibly unattainable goal, but with work, we can get ever closer to that goal. Think of the profound impact that would have on your life and the lives of those around you.

I believe the majority of the world’s problems are man-made. They are the result of our collective faults, our greed, our fear, and our self-centeredness. Freemasonry offers a path to solving these problems, by making better men. If we want to help solve the problems plaguing our world today, we need to work on ourselves, every day. We need to have charity. We need to have agape, and so does mankind. ■



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Our Grand Master, Most Worshipful Richard Maggio, has authorized a **One Day Class!**



The date is September 11th, 2021, which marks the twentieth anniversary. The day's theme will be **“Honoring our First Responders”**.

If this One Day Class format better suits your Lodge's potential candidate(s), join us at The Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts for what will surely be an historic day.

