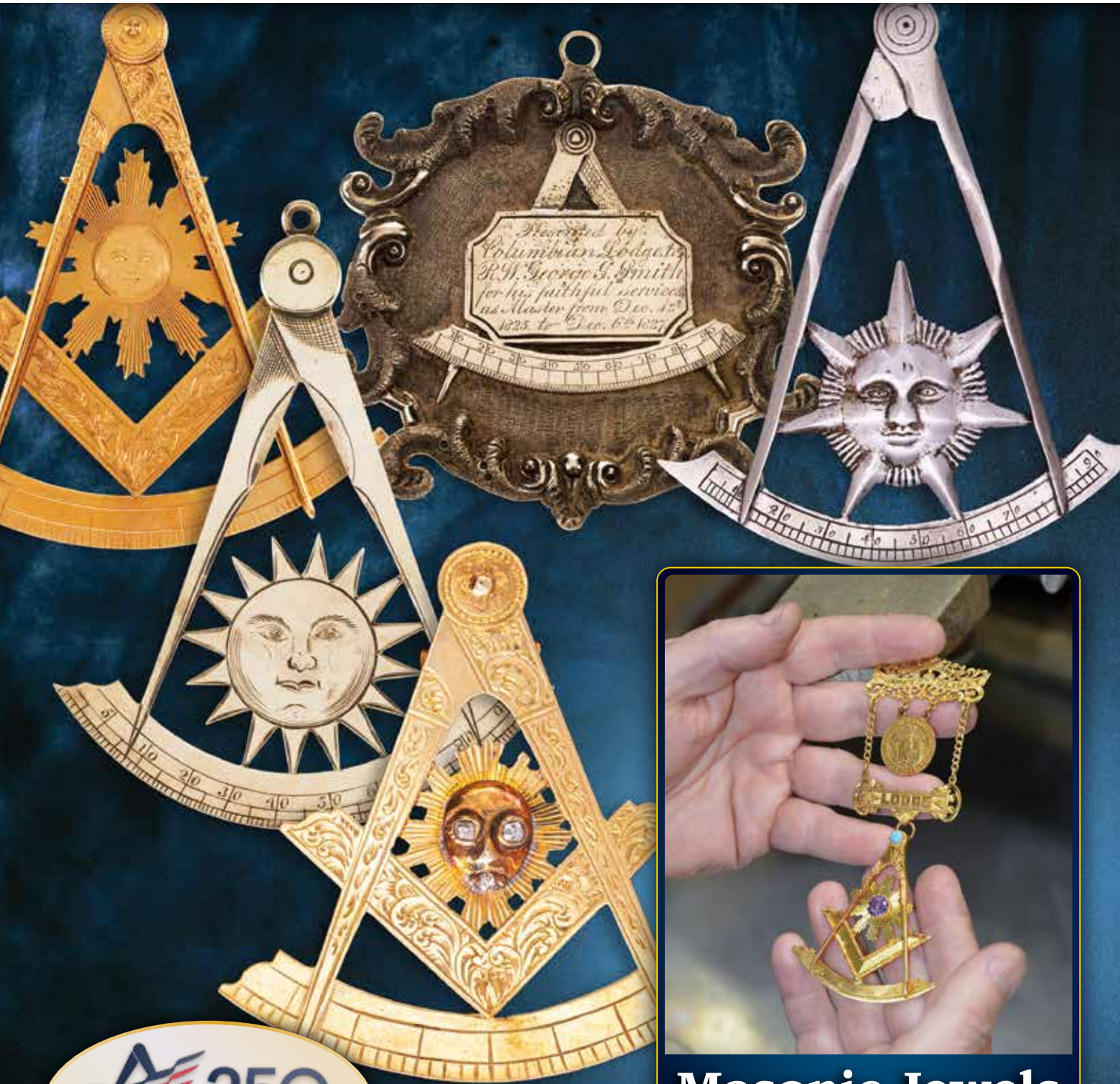


# TROWEL

GRAND LODGE OF MASONS IN MASSACHUSETTS SPRING 2024



**Masonic Jewels  
AND THE  
Masonic Jeweler**



*From the East of Grand Lodge*  
MOST WORSHIPFUL GEORGE HAMILTON

Brethren,

On my recent trip to the Conference of Grand Masters of North America, one of the speakers introduced us to a book written by Robert D. Putnam called *The Upswing, How America Came Together a Century Ago and How We Can Do It Again*. Following my trip, I picked up a copy and proceeded to learn that these troubled times we live in today are not that different from what was experienced in the past, and this may give us hope for our future in America. Freemasonry has always been there promoting the best in society and providing leaders in our communities, houses of worship, and the nation as a whole.

The author paints a picture of political malaise, social and cultural discontent, an increasing wealth gap, the politics of big business, growing political polarization, and a host of other social maladies that we are all too familiar with in 2024. After pages of depressing narrative, we learn his description is of the Gilded Age (1870s-1900) and not our own times. While the resemblance to today may be uncanny, it is what follows the last Gilded Age that can offer us some hope and inspiration. After the excesses of the late 1800s, the so-called Progressive Era began. We are taught in school about the politics of this era, about the muckrakers, and about leaders like Bro. Theodore Roosevelt, who helped reform some of the injustices of the day.

What I didn't know, and Putnam goes to great length to explain, is that the Progressive Era was less of a top-down political movement, and more a grass-roots social phenomenon that cut across all political, social, ethnic, and racial lines. "We the People" were inspired to focus more on our shared responsibility and sense of community, and to put aside some of the narrow self-interests that dominated the previous era. Politicians of all different ideologies served up what the public was demanding, and many creative solutions came to light.

I was surprised to learn that this renewed sense of community created a veritable boom in civic associations and clubs. Although Freemasonry and a few other groups like the Odd Fellows predated this awakening, nearly half of all the largest mass-membership organizations in American history were founded in the decades between 1870 and 1920. From the Red Cross to the NAACP, from the Boy Scouts of America to the Rotary Club, many of the organizations we take for granted today were all created during this small window of time. Membership flourished in civic organizations, including Masonic lodges, in the first half of the 20th century. It is possible, and perhaps even likely, that we will go through this same trend as we leave behind the present Gilded Age.

The last upswing, "created more than six decades of imperfect, but steadily upward progress toward greater economic equality, more cooperation in the public square, a stronger social fabric, and a growing culture of solidarity." Freemasonry will continue to provide that moral compass to guide men and bring honest debate to the issues of our age, teaching toleration, brotherly love, relief, and truth.

So, the question to consider is whether we can learn from history and, as Masons, build an even stronger sense of community to carry us forward in this next century. We did it before and I bet we'll do it again!

God bless our beloved fraternity and God bless America!

Sincerely and fraternally,



***Most Worshipful George Forest Hamilton***

Grand Master



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Grand Lodge of Masons in  
Massachusetts Membership  
Committee presents

**MASONIC FAMILY  
FUN DAY!**

**American Heritage Museum**  
- 568 Main St, Hudson, MA 01749 -  
**Aug 11th, 2024**  
Sunday 8am - 4pm

**FREE ADMISSION to the Fun Day**  
American Heritage Museum  
Admission \$10

Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts  
Most Worshipful George Hamilton



**TROWEL Staff**

*Executive Editor*  
Lee H. Fenn

*Design and  
Production*  
Kevin J. Papierski

*Copy Editor*  
Brian McHale

*Editorial Staff*  
Stephen C. Cohn  
David P. Newcomb  
Richard Thompson

*Office Staff*  
George S. Fontana  
Helena M. Fontana

*Information Officer*  
Elliot Chikofsky

*Photographers*  
Marcus Griep, Jim McIntosh, Joshua Mantello,  
Joe Raviele, Allan R. Sinclair, Bob Wallace

*Editorial Board:*

George Hamilton, Stephen H. Burrall, Jr.,  
Jeffrey L. Gardiner, Donald G. Hicks, Jr., David A. Libby

*E-mail all stories to Executive Editor:*  
**editortrowel@gmail.com**  
*Telephone: 617-401-7587*

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*E-mail: grandsecretary@massfreemasonry.org*  
*Grand Lodge telephone: 617-426-6040*  
*Grand Lodge web page: www.MassFreemasonry.org*

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## The Future of Our History

"Hey, Worshipful, where's my jewel?" yelled Wor. Keith MacKinnon across the lodge room in Cambridge. Usually, I was in a flannel shirt and cargo pants, carrying my tuxedo on a hanger when he yelled at me. In 2014, he'd made the mistake of giving me his Past Masters Jewel. It is beautiful, from the early days of Mount Olivet Lodge.



Every time I wear it, I'm terrified. What if I break it? What if I lose it? The coffin it rests in is roughly the shape of my phone. What if I think I have it in my pocket, but it is just my phone? But once I'm in my tuxedo, turned off my phone and left it in my cargo pants, seated and botched the opening (again), and his jewel is dangling from my pocket, then I feel safe.

But, I'm wearing his jewel. When I sit there, my mind empties of all of the ritual I've worked on, either for the last few weeks, or days. I know I am honored to be in that spot. I also know it is by some fluke, some mysterious collusion of chance. I am an imposter. But his jewel, and the jewel of the other Masters before him, creates a piece of history that I'm now part of. I get to carry forward a tradition on my pocket that spans over 100 years. Slowly but surely, I'll realize that I'm a part of the future of that history.

Part of stepping into history is enjoying the events of the 250th anniversary of our country, borne of Revolutionary Freemasons. But part of that history is the future: without a future, our history is a curio for academics to discuss.

The future of Freemasonry is in all of our hands: from the Tea Party, to the new Brother we bring to the One Day Class, to the jewel on our pockets. I've finally taken a small step into that history. I went to Art Gold in Everett, and asked Bro. Rinaldo Borges, the jeweler who made the George Washington Medals, and countless other jewels for Grand Lodge and other lodges, and had Wor. Bro. MacKinnon's jewel engraved with my name. It will still be his jewel, but I will get to yell at the next recipient, "Hey, Worshipful, where's my jewel?"

Fraternally, Lee H. Fenn

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: JULY 17, 2024**



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

**<https://tinyurl.com/MasonPlate>**



## Bro. Michael Segal Honored at Home

A presentation of the George Washington Military Service Medal was awarded to Bro. Michael Segal by Wor. Bradford E. Turnier, Master of The Henry Price Lodge. He was joined by Senior Warden Bro. Evan S. Fisher, Secretary Wor. Colin J. Turner, Marshal Wor. Daniel Weiner, Chaplain Rt. Wor. Ernest A. Pearlstein, and Bro. T. J. Oliver. This was presented at Bro. Segal's residence in West Roxbury, MA. It was a pleasure to hear the many memories of his service in the military and his service to our Grand Lodge. -Rt. Wor. Ernest A. Pearlstein



## The Sextant That Lost Its Way

A sextant was constructed by one of the Brothers of Saint Martin's Lodge in Chatham, MA. The Brother gave it to the lodge, which decided to use it as an incentive for the Brothers to travel. It is now the traveling sextant. The sextant is a usable size, about six inches tall, the box is inscribed, and there is a notepad. This way people could send Saint Martin's Lodge their address and let them know the location of the sextant. The last time the lodge knew the location of the sextant, it had traveled into the Boston area. Currently, the whereabouts of Saint Martin's Traveling Sextant is unknown. The Brothers of Saint Martin's Lodge are ready, and assembled to retrieve their traveling sextant. Who has it? Who wants a visit from the Brothers at the elbow of Cape Cod? They are at the ready.

Please contact Bro. Lee Brigham, [mason3579@icloud.com](mailto:mason3579@icloud.com), and the Brothers of Saint Martin's Lodge will be on the road to see you.

-Bro. Lee Brigham



# Finding Common Ground

by *Rt. Wor. & Cantor Seth Landau*

**B**rethren all, much has transpired since the last time I had the opportunity to address the Craft. Rehashing the pain points of recent history is likely not what you desire from one of your Grand Chaplains or clergy, for that matter. That being said, while the remnants of the pandemic still linger among us, a much greater risk to our future has taken hold, the risk that polarization will lead us down a path which will become permanent and irreversible. Polarization is not a new concept. The idea or expression of polar opposites originated in the early 19th century. The translated word polar in Latin stands for axis, on which the earth rotates around the imaginary line that passes through the north and south poles on opposite ends of the earth. Extrapolating from this simple definition, you need polar opposites to provide balance, which is critical to sustain life. In society, people have stood on opposite sides of issues throughout time. But, until recent history, we have felt hopeful that working together would lead to purposeful compromise and ultimate benefit to the whole.

Our expansive vocabulary is full of opposite concepts. Our vocabulary is full of opposite concepts. Of course, win and lose is how we measure most issues in society - sports, politics, competitions, job opportunities, the lottery, lawsuits, and even reality tv (although don't get me started on the irony of that). We feel the need for some sort of measurement to settle issues. At its finest, it pushes people to strive to do their best, to reach outside their comfort zone. The thought is whether you win or lose, you gain something. You learn respect, you gain knowledge, you educate, you gain perspective, you may even find a spiritual connection through productive soul-searching. There is always some form of respect between the opposites.

However, excessive polarization in society has in many cases turned that theory on its ear. There is little room for empathy. Life has become a zero-sum game. There are scant no common interests. Someone must lose completely in order for someone else to win. It seems okay to hate your opponent. This applies to politics, religion, economics, and war. It is like a perpetual 'color war' from summer camp when you were assigned to one side or the other. There was absolutely no fraternizing with the enemy during the competition. However,

this was summer camp, and when it was over, everyone came back together as friends. But, society today, in many forms, is like a color war that never ends.

Why is this so much more prevalent today than it was ten, twenty, fifty years ago? Is it because our world seems to move so much faster than it used to? More globalization? Increase in population over time, which has led to more poverty and socio-economic divide? Climate effect on our economics, politics, physical, and emotional states? A greater sense of isolation and loneliness? Technological advancements that have created an online twenty-four hour news cycle, along with social media that allow people to make shameful and anonymous comments about others without any consequences? Perhaps it's due to an increase of hate crimes and backwards policy as people are frustrated, and feel threatened by others that are not like them.

In reality, all of these actions are factors of the polarization that we experience throughout the world today. However, Freemasonry has spent its existence working to remove these triggers. Master Masons meet, act, and part on the level. We avoid religion and politics in our communications, but we promote and encourage faith in a supreme being. We show respect for our differences. We have a renewed focus on fraternalism. We cannot afford to stray from our moral tenets. When you take the Masonic oath, you accept the obligation to put others before yourself, and to not get caught up in your own individual needs and feelings. You can still have your opinions and beliefs. Those should never be taken away from you. However, if there is an opportunity to reverse this disturbing trend, then it starts with each and every one of us. Do not ignore your obligation to the Craft. Don't forget what you represent. Don't let external pressures lead you down the path of unwarranted conflict. Don't take for granted the special privilege you have as a Freemason. There is hope for a more prosperous future. We have the working tools to turn towards the right path. We are the leaders. We should always provide the best example. I am proud to be part of this special Fraternity. I hope you are as well. ■

---

*Rt. Wor. Seth Landau is the current Spiritual Leader of Congregation Sons of Israel of Peabody, and a Past Master of Norumbega Fraternity Lodge.*

# THE MARCH 2024 QUARTERLY COMMUNICATION

## OF THE GRAND LODGE OF MASSACHUSETTS



by *Wor. Lee H. Fenn*

The gauntlet was established outside the Lodge room. Brothers in purple lined both sides of the hall as the March 13th Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts was about to commence. The Grand Master, Most Worshipful George Forest Hamilton, entered the Lodge room at 1:30 to the cheers of the Brethren present. The Unspoken Degree Team, Wor. Kenneth Longo, Wor. Donald Sacco, Bro. Evan Fisher, and Bro. Darrell McTague presented the colors. Wor. Bro. Longo explained that the degree team, now in existence for seven years, is devoted to excellent ritual work, particularly on the 3rd

Degree and in installations.

After the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem, the Brethren sang *From East to West, o'er land and sea*, and prayed with Grand Chaplain, Rt. Wor. & Rev. Henry Pierce. The Grand Master opened the Quarterly Communication in ample form.

“Thank you for joining me this day. I thank you for joining me here this afternoon for our first Quarterly together,” said the Grand Master. “It now gives me great pleasure to introduce our guests who were invited to join us today in person or online.”

M. Wor. Justin A. Petty, Grand Master,  
Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts (1775)  
M. Wor. Thomas E. Pulkkinen, Past Grand Master,  
Grand Lodge of Maine (1820)  
Rt. Wor. Samir C. Bichara, Grand Representative of the  
Grand Lodge of Rio De Janeiro (1927)  
Rt. Wor. Leone Brandao, Grand Representative of the  
Grand Lodge of Minas Gerais (1927)  
Rt. Wor. Oscar M. Zepeda, Grand Representative,  
Grand Lodge of Baja California, Mexico (1933)

#### **Massachusetts York Rite Bodies:**

M. Excel. George Leonard Herbolsheimer IV, Grand High Priest,  
Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts  
M. Ill. Manuel Ferreira, III, Most Illustrious Grand Master,  
Grand Council of Royal and Select Master Masons of Massachusetts  
Sir Knight James Ian Ogilvie, Rt. Eminent Grand Commander of the  
Grand Commandery, Knights Templar, and the Appendant Orders,  
of Massachusetts and Rhode Island

#### **Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States of America:**

Ill. Scott D. Inglis, 33°, Deputy for Massachusetts  
Ill. Donald M. Moran, 33°, Active for Massachusetts  
Ill. Robert C. Schremser, 33°, Active Emeritus for Massachusetts  
Ill. Peter R. Smith, 33°, Active Emeritus for Massachusetts

#### **Shrine International:**

Ill. David P. Veo, Potentate, Aleppo Shrine  
Ill. Michael R. Cote, Potentate, Melha Shrine

#### **Other Masonic Bodies:**

Wor. & Dad Matthew S. Gerrish, Executive Officer,  
Order of the DeMolay, Massachusetts

M. Wor. John J. Schurman, II, Worthy Grand Patron,  
Grand Chapter of Massachusetts, Order of the Eastern Star  
Sir Knight Frederick J. Bowe, Grand Royal Patron,  
Grand Court of Massachusetts, Order of the Amaranth

#### **Other Masonic Introductions:**

Rt. Wor. Kenneth R. Blake, Chairman of the Board,  
Masonic Health System of Massachusetts

#### **Streaming**

##### **District of Panama:**

Rt. Wor. Eduardo Crocarno, District Grand Master

##### **Tokyo Japan:**

Rt. Wor. Anand J. Murti, a member of Sinim Lodge of this Grand Lodge,  
and Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Japan

#### **PAST GRAND MASTERS:**

M. Wor. Albert Timothy Ames  
M. Wor. Arthur Eugene Johnson (streaming)  
M. Wor. Donald Gardner Hicks, Jr.  
M. Wor. Jeffrey Black Hodgdon  
M. Wor. Richard James Stewart  
M. Wor. Harvey John Waugh  
M. Wor. Paul Fulton Gleason  
M. Wor. Richard Maggio

#### **First Responders**

Rt. Wor. Jerry Bergeron (Captain)

#### **Audio and Sound**

Wor. Charles Caroselli

#### **Information Services (providing our Live Stream today)**

Wor. Patrick DelVal



“The Gauntlet of Purple” outside the Lodge room before opening.



The Banner of Grand Lodge.

“Lastly, I would like to introduce several of our Brethren who have joined us here today from Sinim Lodge, a Massachusetts Lodge located in Tokyo, Japan. Many of you have had the opportunity to meet them over the last few days. Please join me in welcoming Rt. Wor. Andrew MacKinlay, Master and Grand Representative to Japan; Bro. Lyle Carr, Senior Warden; Bro. Gordon Campbell, Junior Warden; and Wor. Ashton Moore, Past Master.”

The Grand Master opened the floor for reports. The Grand Secretary, M. Wor. Bro. Maggio, explained the voting rules and reported on the proxies for 182 lodges, which was approved. Rt. Wor. W. Warren Richardson reported on the work of the Records Committee, which was approved. Rt. Wor. Stephen C. Cohn reported on the Committee on Charters and By-Laws. The report of seven approvals and three partial rejections was approved.

The Grand Master called on the Deputy Grand Master, Rt. Wor. Matthew Niedermeier for the Necrology. He chronicled the loss of nine Brethren who enhanced the Celestial Lodge above with their nearly 500 years of Masonic experience. With a prayer from Rt. Wor. & Rabbi Benjamin Flax, the Brethren mourned our loss.

“As Masons, we expect our members to behave in a civilized, lawful, and neighborly manner at all times,” reminded the Grand Master. “This applies to our behavior

in everyday life, as well as within the confines of the Craft. We want our members to be good members of society, and useful in the community.” He pointed to our “strict code of conduct,” and our high standards. “However, when the actions of any member are not in accordance with these principles, our disciplinary procedures are firm,” he said as

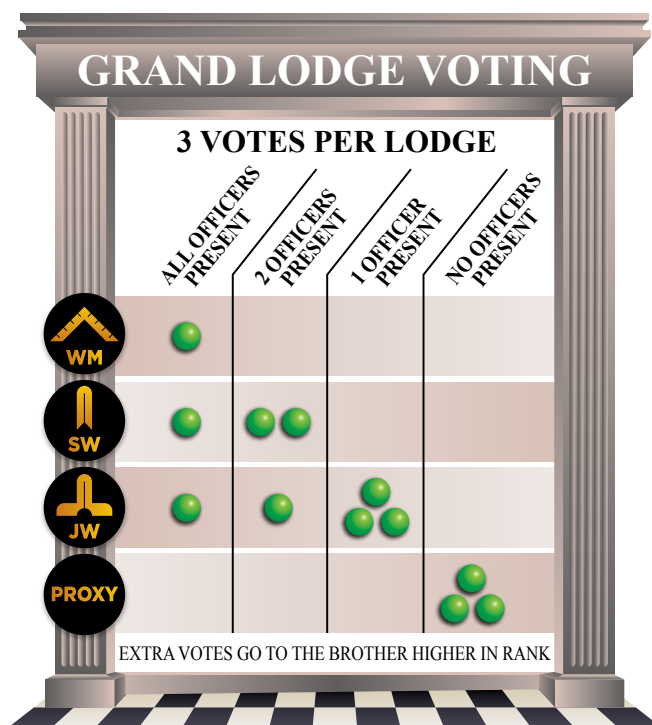
he recommended the suspension of three men who did not meet those high standards. “If a Brother conducts himself in an anti-social or dishonest manner, not only is his behavior unacceptable to society in general, but he is also bringing disrepute upon Freemasonry,” admonished the Grand Master. His recommendation was approved.

The Grand Master turned to the joy of lodge anniversaries, and asked the Grand Marshal, Rt. Wor. Michael R. Durocher, to bring representatives from Bay Path Lodge, celebrating their 100th, and Phoenix Lodge, their 150th.

The Grand Master provided the Grand Master’s Award to the following

lodges in their respective districts: Azure Lodge, District 7; DeWitt Clinton Lodge, District 20; Marine Lodge, District 20; Norfolk Lodge, District 5; West Roxbury-Dorchester Lodge, District 6; William Parkman Lodge, District 13.

“Rt. Wor. Grand Marshal, you will conduct Rt. Wor. Joshua Mantello to the East,” said the Grand Master. Rt.







The Grand Master enters to a standing ovation.



Rt. Wor. William E. Yanakakis settles in for his first Quarterly as Senior Warden.

Wor. Bro. Mantello participated in a worldwide Masonic charity fantasy football league, and he won. As the Masonic World Fantasy Football champion, much to the laughter of the Brethren, he got to choose the charity. He chose the Brotherhood Fund. In addition, a group on Discord kicked in additional donations. Both the league and the Discord group are sponsored by The Masonic Podcast, found on any podcast platform and YouTube.

In the East, Rt. Wors. George Calwell III and James Holmes made an anonymous donation to the Brotherhood Fund. This donation was from a Brother who had received help from the Brotherhood Fund. The anonymous Brother returned the money he'd received, plus additional funds. The Grand Marshal presented Rt. Wor. Gordon Craig and Bro. David Marascio to the East. Azure Lodge's Robert Burns Supper, with over 100 attendees, raised money for the Brotherhood Fund. Rt. Wor. Bro. Craig offered a poem with the proviso that "Bro. Newcomb doesn't have to worry about" being replaced as the Grand Lodge Poet. He read the poem (printed on page 9), which he authored.

"Rt. Wor. Grand Marshal, you will present Wor. Jeffrey Miller, Rt. Wor. Peter Culbertson, and noted Tea Party Craftsmen to the East," said the Grand Master. Also presented were Rt. Wors. Craig Erickson, Vincent Marino, Peter Lawson, and Russell Lowe. All met at Rt. Wor. Bro. Culbertson's workshop to help produce four quality Tea



The Grand Master with the members of Sinim Lodge, Japan.

Party crates, true to the crates thrown on that fateful night. One of those crates was presented to the Grand Master. Webster Lodge donated to the Grand Master's Appeal. Rt. Wor. Shawn C. Robichaud told of the ladies of the 6th District, with the help of the Brethren, raised money which he presented for the Brotherhood Fund.

"Brethren, it is my privilege to address you today. It is my first quarter into my second year of my term as your Grand Master," the Grand Master opened his remarks. "The 250th Committee was busy in December with the Tea Party celebration. From the Installation of St. John's Lodge on Friday, December 15th, open to the Masonic public, through the Ecumenical Service on Sunday, December the 17th, all the events were well attended. It was particularly great to witness many Brethren enjoying their first experience in our Grand Lodge building! The historical speakers were outstanding, bringing many guests from the public into our building. What a thrill it was to see over 1000 Masons dressed in commemorative aprons filling the streets from Grand Lodge to Griffin's Wharf! It was my privilege to be able to record video remarks which were displayed at the Faneuil Hall celebration and watched on the jumbotron screen for the viewing community to see at the Tea Party events. I want to thank the 250th Committee for making the Tea Party celebration a wonderful and memorable weekend," commended the Grand Master.

## LODGE ANNIVERSARIES



*Bay Path Lodge, 100 years*



*Phoenix Lodge, 150 years*

“We celebrated the Grand Lodge Installation of Officers and the Feast of St. John the Evangelist on Dec 27th. An inspiring oration was delivered by our Deputy Grand Master. A special cane was hand-crafted by Rt. Wor. Peter Culbertson. He chose a South American bolo wood, procured suitable hardware so it may be disassembled, and turned the cane on his lathe. On its head is the seal of our Grand Lodge. This cane was presented to the senior permanent member of our Grand Lodge, M. Wor. Albert Timothy Ames, and will be passed on to each successor in time. This cane is a symbol of the support that we offer Bro. Ames and will aid him to continue his leadership on which we have come to depend.” [See Page 16]

The Grand Master recalled the Deputy Grand Master’s reception at a joint meeting of Caleb Butler Lodge and the Scouters Lodge, and the Senior Grand Warden’s reception hosted by John T. Heard Lodge and held at Grand Lodge. Past Masters of John T. Heard Lodge and Budleigh Lodge made presentations recognizing Rt. Wor. Bro. Yanakakis who served as Worshipful Master of both lodges. The Junior Grand Warden’s reception was hosted by Wisdom Lodge at a special communication on March 9, 2024, at the Pittsfield Masonic Building. “The sidelines and balcony of this beautiful building were filled with Brethren and a wonderful day was had by all in attendance. The reception was followed by the annual District 31 Gala. Congratulations to the district on another wonderful event that draws Masons from the four corners of the state!” said the Grand Master.

“It was our pleasure to attend the annual session of the M. Wor. Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts back in December with a large delegation. On February 4, 2024, the Senior Grand Warden, acting as Grand Master, led a delegation to attend the public installation of the Grand Master. Congratulations to M. Wor. Brother Justin Petty!” He stood to receive the applause of the Brethren. “I look forward to working together during our respective terms,” he said.

# THE GRAND MASTER'S

*Azure Lodge*



*Marine Lodge*



*Norfolk Lodge*



The Grand Master recalled the merger ceremony was held for Thomas-Day Spring and Eden Lodges at the Monson Masonic Building. Dinner was served by the newly formed Pioneer Valley Chapter of the DeMolay. "We wish the best for Thomas-Day Spring Lodge as they start a new chapter in Freemasonry in Monson."

The Grand Master then outlined the Listening Tour, one visit of which already occurred at Joel H. Prouty Lodge and was well-attended. "The conversations centered on ways to improve the lodges and grow the fraternity." "The annual session of the Conference of Grand Masters of North America was held in Seattle, WA from February 17th to the 20th. Three of our past Grand Masters accompanied me, attending these sessions. It was encouraging that other jurisdictions are dealing with the same challenges as Massachusetts and, in many cases, they are implementing similar programs to solve these issues, allowing us to collaborate and share winning strategies." The Grand Master remarked on the Deacons Academy, the Capstone Class, and the Masters Path events coming this year.

"I was pleased to attend the Aleppo Shrine Ceremonial on January 13, 2024, along with your Pillar Officers and several of our Past Grand Masters. Congratulations to Illustrious Brother David P. Veo, who was installed as the Potentate," said the Grand Master to the applause of the Brethren. "A Masonic Family Fun Day will be held on Sunday, August 11, 2024, between 8am and 4pm at the American Heritage Museum, Hudson, MA. This event will be open to all Masonic families and friends to enjoy a full day of music, activities, food, and fun. It will be held rain or shine, with the museum offering some shelter in case of a shower. There is no entry fee to attend the Fun Day and a discount is offered to enter the museum that day. Food and other items may be purchased at the different

*continued on next page*

## ADDRESS TO THE GRAND MASTER

*by Rt. Wor. Gordon Craig*

Fair fa' yer honest kindly face,  
Grand Master in this hallowed space!  
Aboon them aw ye tak yir place  
W'others walked these halls with grace.

From Azure Lodge, by firelight's gleam,  
Where kilts did swirl and laughter streamed,  
We raised a purse, a noble sum,  
For those in need, 'neath fortune's thumb.

Wives, friends, and Brothers, hand in hand,  
Responded to the piper's grand,  
With poems, songs, and joyous din,  
The spirit flowed, let kindness win!

So now we offer, frank and free,  
This gathered wealth, for all to see.  
May Masonic hands, with wisdom sure,  
Spread hope and comfort, evermore.

A Brother's oath, we proudly say,  
May charity's bright flame hold sway,  
And when on future Burns Nights raise  
A glass to friendship, laughter, praise.

Remember too this noble deed,  
Of hearts that gave for others' need.

# AWARD RECIPIENTS

*West Roxbury Dorchester Lodge*



*William Parkman Lodge*



*DeWitt Clinton Lodge*



**Masonic tents and booths throughout the event.”**

**“The main purpose of this event is to provide family enrichment through programs of fellowship, discovery, learning, involvement, and entertainment. Any monies charged are designed to subsidize the cost of providing the food and activities. Surpluses generated may be kept by the District or Appendant Bodies. Masonic Districts and Appendant Bodies are invited to join us by hosting a tent or booth similar to the Grand Master’s Fair.”**

The Grand Master thanked Rt. Wor. Bill Kessler for stepping in as the Committee Chairman for this event. “I learned in September of Rt. Wor. Craig MacPherson’s desire to retire as Comptroller of our Grand Lodge this March. We are currently interviewing candidates to assume his duties. Bro. MacPherson has been employed by our Grand Lodge for over 20 years. He has been an immeasurable help to me as Grand Master, as I know he has to seven Grand Masters that preceded me. He has been a true steward of our Grand Lodge and the

Masonic Education and Charity Trust. It is with the greatest appreciation and fondest memories that we wish him and Sandy well in the next phase of their lives.” The Brethren applauded Bro. MacPherson for his service.

“On a personal note, I was proud to attend the Scouters Lodge on January 23, 2024, held at the Framingham Masonic Building. My sons Benjamin Warren Hamilton and Thomas Forest Hamilton were placed in the northeast corner of the lodge, as the youngest Entered Apprentices, in the same building where I stood 40 years ago this year! I look forward to the next two degrees.”

“I appreciate all the support and encouragement I continue to receive from the Past Grand Masters, the Business Office, the Grand Lodge Officers, Committees, and countless Brethren I have met in my travels.

May God bless the United States of America and God bless our beloved Fraternity.” The Brethren gave the Grand Master a standing ovation.

The Grand Master closed the Quarterly Communication in Ample form. ■



**Grand Lecturer, Rt. Wor. Nicholas Montello has a laugh with Rt. Wor. Eddie Savage.**

**PRESENTATIONS IN THE EAST OF GRAND LODGE**



## BRO. MAJOR GENERAL JOHN PATERSON - REVOLUTIONARY LIFE

by Bro. Sean T. LeBlanc

Conceived by Bro. Major General Henry Knox, and established by officers of the Continental Army in May of 1783 as a fraternal and charitable association, the Society of the Cincinnati outlined the defense of liberty, the promotion of union, and the preservation of friendships forged in war as its guiding principles. More than 2,200 names are listed on the roll of the Society of the Cincinnati. The first is Bro. General George Washington, and the second is Bro. Major General John Paterson.

Born in 1744 to a prominent Connecticut family in the greater New Britain area, John Paterson graduated from Yale College in 1762. He remained in New Britain, where he practiced law and was a Justice of the Peace until 1774, when at the age of 30, he moved to Lenox, Massachusetts. Arriving in Lenox, Paterson was elected a Selectmen, as well as the town's Clerk of the Property (Assessor). Paterson was also chosen to represent Lenox in the Massachusetts Provincial Congress in 1774 and 1775, and at the 1774 Berkshire Convention to consider potential responses to the Boston Port Act. This was part of the collective legislation or Intolerable Acts enacted by the English Parliament in the aftermath of the Boston Tea Party.

Commissioned a Colonel by the Massachusetts Committee of Safety on April 20, 1775, the day immediately following the Battle of Lexington and Concord, Paterson marched his assembled militia from Berkshire County to Boston. Arriving in Cambridge on April 23, 1775,

Paterson's regiment, consisting of 496 volunteers from Massachusetts and Connecticut, was designated the 1st Massachusetts Regiment. From the very beginning of the Revolutionary War, Paterson was actively involved and served at many of its most prominent engagements. These included the Battle of Bunker Hill, the relief of Montgomery's invasion of Canada, the crossing of the Delaware River with Washington on Christmas Eve 1776, the Battle of Princeton, the winter encampment at Valley Forge (where he was promoted to Brigadier General), and the Battle of Monmouth in June of 1778.

As the fighting transitioned from the northern to the mid-Atlantic colonies, Paterson was assigned to command the strategically critical fort at West Point, where he remained until the end of the war, performing various duties throughout the surrounding Hudson Highlands. In 1783, at the conclusion of the Revolutionary War, Paterson was promoted to Major General, discharged from the Continental Army, and returned to Lenox where he resumed practicing law. Between 1783 and 1790, Paterson remained an active civic leader, holding various local offices. These included town meeting moderator, selectman, tax assessor, and highway surveyor, as well as again being elected to represent Lenox in the Massachusetts House of Representatives.

In 1786, due to an armed uprising in Western Massachusetts, in opposition to the state government's

*continued on page 29*



Brother Major General  
John Paterson 1744 – 1808



**RECEPTION FOR THE  
JUNIOR GRAND  
WARDEN**



**RECEPTION FOR THE  
DEPUTY GRAND  
MASTER**



RECEPTION FOR THE  
SENIOR GRAND  
WARDEN



# FOR FAITHFUL AND DISTINGUISHED SERVICE: PAST MASTERS JEWELS

*Photos and captions courtesy of the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum and Library, Collections and Exhibitions Director, Hilary Anderson Stelling*

In 1819, John Howe, Master of Washington Lodge in Roxbury, presented a Past Masters jewel to his predecessor Asa Bugbee. On the occasion, Howe described the jewel as “a reward for your fidelity and a grateful tribute of the respect and confidence of your brethren...” Over time, Past Masters jewels in Massachusetts have been made of different materials, and in a variety of sizes and shapes, but their meaning endures. They are a token of the lodge’s appreciation of an officer’s service and signify the wisdom and experience of a Past Master.

**1** Over twenty-five years after he served as Worshipful Master of the Lodge of St. Andrew from 1832 to 1833, Charles Whitlock Moore (1801-1873) received this gold Past Masters jewel. An editor and writer, Moore was the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts for thirty-four years, while also publishing Masonic periodicals, most notably *The Freemasons’ Monthly Magazine*.

*Past Masters Jewel, 1859. Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts. Photograph by David Bohl.*

**2** The brethren of The Massachusetts Lodge in Boston gave this engraved silver jewel to Thomas Redman (1773-1820) in 1809.

*Past Masters Jewel, 1809. Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts. Photograph by David Bohl.*



*Elisha James Cleveland, 1860-1870. Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library, Gift of Virginia B. Squair.*

After he received a Past Masters jewel recognizing his service to Hammett Lodge, in East Boston, Elisha Cleveland (1821-1866) visited a photographer’s studio a few blocks from his home to have his portrait taken. In it, Cleveland wore his street clothes and the Past Masters jewel he received in 1860.

**3** In December of 1859, twelve men applied to the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts for permission to form Hammett Lodge in East Boston. After the Grand Lodge granted the group a charter in 1860, Elisha Cleveland (1821-1866) served as the lodge’s first Master. To commemorate his service to the lodge, Cleveland’s brethren presented him with this gold Past Masters jewel, inscribed with the message that it was given “by his friends, E. Boston, Apr. 6, 1860.”

*Past Masters Jewel, 1860. Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library, Gift of Virginia B. Squair. Photograph by Frank E. Graham.*



**4** Brethren at Columbian Lodge honored George Girdler Smith (1795-1878) with this silver jewel, fashioned in a distinctive shape, favored by some Boston lodges, in 1828. Almost two decades later, in 1846, the lodge added an engraved message on the back of the jewel, thanking Smith for the “faithful and distinguished services he has rendered the lodge as Master, during the Years 1828, and 1841 to 1844 inclusive.”

*Past Masters Jewel, 1828 and 1846. Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts. Photograph by David Bohl.*

**5** St. John’s Lodge in Boston presented this silver jewel to James Dickson (1774-1853) in recognition of his service as Master of the lodge in 1812.

London-born Dickson worked in Boston, first as an actor, and later as a merchant importing English fancy goods. An active Freemason, Dickson held multiple offices in his lodge and in the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts.

*Past Masters Jewel, 1812. Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts. Photograph by David Bohl.*



*Portrait of Joseph Darling, 1894-1910. Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library, Gift of Jacques Noel Jacobsen, Jr.*

An engineer who belonged to Starr King Lodge in Salem, Joseph Darling (1842-1938) served as Master of his lodge in 1893 and 1894. Here, a photographer captured Darling wearing his handsome Past Masters jewel and the jewel worn by Masters of his lodge.



# THE MASONIC JEWELER MAKES HIS MARK

by Wor. Lee H. Fenn

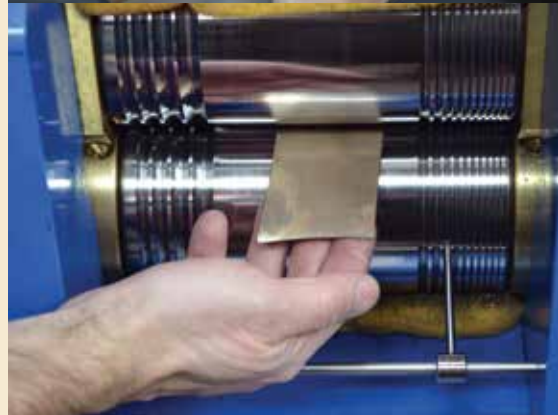
The showroom is beautiful. Incredible jewelry for men and women, elegantly displayed, easy to understand. The workroom at Art Gold in Everett, owned by Bro. Rinaldo Borges, the Masonic Jeweler, is very busy. His artisans work on well-worn benches creating wedding bands for excited couples, resetting diamonds in beautiful antique jewelry, and making pendants out of gold. Tiny flecks of gold are all around their workstations. For a non-jeweler, seeing gold in little dollops near serious tools and workbenches, is a little scary. A non-woodworker doesn't look at wood chips in a woodshop with fear. But, seeing that gold, in little pieces, which is money, on a workbench, is a little unnerving. "Every little piece is collected and used, don't worry," assured Bro. Borges. Later, Bro. Borges smelted some of those pieces into a piece of solid gold about double the size of a thumb nail.

Bro. Borges also makes Masonic jewels, awards, and medals. He has done everything from simple engraving and cleaning, to creating brand new Past Masters Jewels. Recently, he worked with a Brother to create, from scratch, a brand new gold Past

Masters Jewel. The design, the creation, and the finish work - Bro. Borges did everything with and for this Brother. It was solid work, 8 am to 8 pm, every day for Bro. Borges and his artisans. This went on for six days. He and his team created exactly what the Brother wanted. It is worn with pride every time.

Bro. Borges created new jewels for The Henry Price Lodge and the George Washington Armed Services Medal for Grand Lodge. The George Washington Medal was particularly difficult, made from pewter, a "cold" metal, which melts at a substantially lower temperature than gold. Contrary to expectations, melting cold metal takes a tool that is much larger than melting gold, and Bro. Borges' shop didn't have the room for the tool. As a result, to produce the George Washington Medals, Bro. Borges drove down to use a tool in Rhode Island for weeks. He cast, filed, sanded, and finished every single one. The hard part was making sure the relief of Bro. Washington was clear with each pressing. The joyful response of the grateful Brethren is a testament to Bro. Borges and the artisans of Art Gold's success. ■

*The Masonic Jeweler, Bro. Rinaldo Borges, third from the left, with his team of artisans.*





# Remarks of Most Worshipful Albert Ames

*From the Feast of St. John*

**M.** Wor. Grand Master, you expect me to follow that? Rt. Wor. Bro. Neidermeir, that was fantastic. My message is a bit different. It's about me. I never considered myself much of a speaker, other than somebody would call on me and I'd get up and tell a story or two of an experience. So, that's how I existed. But it seems as though the Grand Master had other ideas. So let me go along with what I think I've prepared.

M. Wor. Grand Master, distinguished head table, my Brethren all, thank you for this opportunity to speak with you this evening. When the Grand Master first asked me to consider this assignment, of course, I was honored. Why me? But, reluctantly thinking, who am I to deserve this? What could I possibly say? I think I'm okay getting up to just say a few words, but something more extensive. That's really not me. The Grand Master did say there was no pressure, think it over, and let him know. No pressure. When was any request from the Grand Master without pressure? So, I agreed to think about it.

Shortly after that, at a meeting, Rt. Wor. Bro. Culbertson gave an inspiring presentation based on a book he had recently read entitled *The Stranger in the Lifeboat*. Some of you were present when he made that little presentation. It was written by a friend or acquaintance of Bro. Culbertson's and Bro. Culbertson recommended the reading. I've only read the Kindle sample, but it seemed to give me the theme that is "who are you, for that matter, who am I?" This gave me rise to the thought that I have been a Mason, as the Grand Master said, for some 65 years. I didn't think I was that old yet. I just might be able to share some of my experiences with you, thus relieving the pressure, and being able to comply with the Grand Master's request.

So I stand beside, behind, before you - behind you, in front of you, in back of you, wherever you want to be, a humble man with a story to tell. I'll also tell you that I have

dyslexia and this was years before anybody knew what it was, so there was no educational correction, so bear with me. I am, as indicated by my age, a product of the Depression Era, growing up in the small town of Natick, Massachusetts. And I still live there, born there 91 years ago! It's my life plan, being that of a working man. Never a thought of college, or higher education. Just work to provide for a family. Who knows what life will hold? The years as a youth brought me to DeMolay. Which in turn, had me climbing those long flights of stairs at Meridian Lodge, for those of you who might have been there, for over 75 years now. And I still take the opportunity, once in a while - and the members

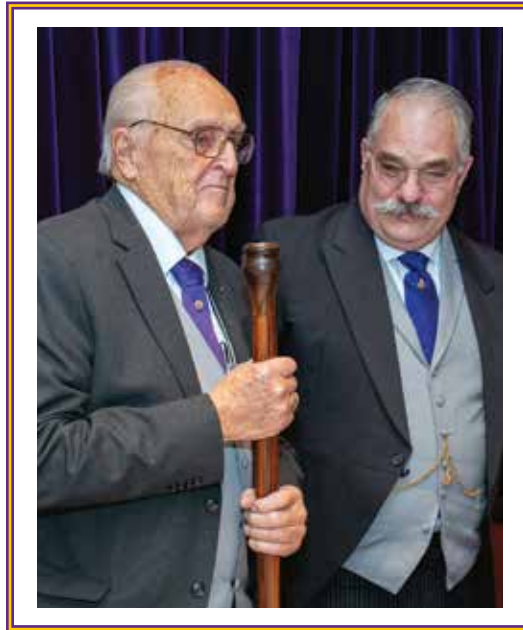
of the lodge will verify this - I do still climb those steps, even though there is an elevator. I must be honest, most of the time that climb is in the downward direction.

That DeMolay experience helped me to broaden my horizons, traveling across the state of Massachusetts, visiting DeMolay chapters from Cape Cod to the Berkshires, and from New Bedford to the extreme North Shore. A real experience.

A little aside, my brother was the State Master Councilor and I was the Marshal, but I had the car! We were in Hyannis on a particular evening. And the following evening, we were in Pittsfield, still going to school. Well, most of the

time! The following several years found me doing that thing that I had thought I was put on this earth for, and that was working. While in an effort working as a carpenter - a rough carpenter, not the finish type - I had lunch on a cold winter's day. When I was inside enjoying my lunch with a finish carpenter, and I was admiring his workmanship, one man spoke these words, "By whose superior skills and scientific workmanship, the Temple was beautified and adorned." Anybody ever hear that before? I think maybe. Wow. That impressed me.

I said, "Where did that come from?" He proceeded to tell





me that it was a part of his Masonic ritual. I said, “My Dad was a Mason.” But he now lived in California, so I never found the opportunity to join. Needless to say, that conversation led to an introduction to a member of my father’s lodge in Natick, Meridian Lodge. Again, that’s 65 years ago, and my life was forever changed.

You all know the process, with the pre-app and all that goes with it. And now it’s time for the Third Degree. Does anyone remember anything special about their Third Degree? There must be some special memories. Relax, I’m not doing a ‘reveal the secrets’ of the Third Degree, in case there might be an Entered Apprentice or a Fellowcraft, or, God forbid, a cowan present! But this, I will never forget. As I mentioned before, my Dad now lived in California, and had been there for several years. So on the night of my Third Degree, we had five candidates, and we went through a splendid first section. And then a fine roast beef dinner was served with green beans almondine, the standard Masonic dinner for the Third Degree with the Eastern Star serving. At this point, I’m informed that I’m to be the last candidate, which didn’t mean much to me at the time.

We were placed in the back hall of Meridian Lodge to sit and wait our turn. At last, it was my time. As I entered the lodge room, I noticed a person sitting to the right of the Worshipful Master. “That looks like my father! It can’t be. He’s in California.” A little closer. “It still looks like him, but not clear. It can’t be him. That person has a mustache, my Dad never had a mustache. Never.” But, as I approached the East, it became clear that it was my Dad. Well, all of you know what happens at that point, in the East, and what goes on, and I’m thinking, “Where’s my mother? What’s my father doing here? How did he get here? Where are they staying?” My mind is pretty much taken away from the Third Degree. The work performed, I’m sure was excellent, but I probably didn’t



remember a bit of it. I was concerned about my father and mother. And as a former DeMolay, I thought I knew every inch of that lodge, because as boys, we did quite a bit of exploring. “Where’s Mom? What’s Dad doing here?” Soon, as you all know, there came the light and life. And there, standing directly in front of me, was my Dad. The experience of a lifetime. With tears in my eyes and his, “Wow, now I am a Master Mason, time to get to work.”

I was very quickly placed in the line, at the bottom, in a used tuxedo, but very proud. My Masonic career was underway. As stated by the Grand Master, I had the opportunity of raising four sons, two of them while I was Grand Master, and three grandsons. But life is strange. My business, my family, my career, took a turn for the worse just as I was about to be elected Junior Warden. Everything seemed to be going in the wrong direction, so much so that I approached the Master and Wardens with a proposal which would perhaps be in the best interest of Meridian Lodge, for me to step out of line, rather than bring any embarrassment to the lodge during my impending bankruptcy and divorce. They would have no part of it. Speaking of Brotherly Love. They were my strength and support, all of them were old enough to be my Dad. They took me under their wings and carried me through. I’ll be forever grateful for their help in bringing me through that period of time.

With their support, after being Master of Meridian Lodge, I embarked on the journey of being Master of the Lodge of Instruction of the Natick 23rd Masonic District. We don’t use those terms anymore. Through this effort, I got to know many people. People to me, then, were icons. M. Wor. Herbert Harold Jaynes, M. Wor. Whitfield Whittimore Johnson Esquire. Ah, there are a few old timers here! When Bro. Johnson’s name was ever mentioned, the Craft would say Esquire at the end! Rt. Wor. Otis Oakman and a raft of

speakers, all of whom were active in Grand Lodge. As I moved along, in 1971, M. Wor. Bro. Jaynes appointed me as a Junior Steward. Rt. Wor. Paul Ralston was the Senior Steward, plus we had two more Stewards. Now, Rt. Wor. Paul Ralston, to this day, loves to take the opportunity to remind me that he was the Senior Steward and I was the Junior Steward. It's good fun, and it's still good fun today. In 1976, M. Wor. Stanley Maxwell appointed me as the District Deputy Grand Master of that same Natick 23rd Masonic District. I also received a Legion of Honor, and what an experience that was. I don't know how many of you have ever received it, but I had never received it. I hadn't really heard of it, but got recommended for it. I said that I had no knowledge of it and I was advised, therefore, not to attend any before my own.

When I attended that ceremony, I had to think, "Who are they talking about? They're certainly not talking about me." The accolades that were placed on me at that time were just beyond my belief. But, all it did was create in me a stronger will to work harder to live up to that.

In 1981, I should back up before that because in 1977, M. Wor. Arthur Harris Melanson asked me to be the Grand Marshal. I'd like to set the stage. I was in the process of building the house that I lived in, it wasn't finished, still isn't finished, and I had an old Case diesel backhoe, bucket loader, that came with the property. And I dug the hole, I did the whole thing. I was working in the yard, kind of making a driveway, and this old machine, you know, if you didn't stop every ten minutes and put the bolts back in, it would fall apart totally, it was a terrible piece of machinery. This Chevrolet came rolling down the dirt driveway with lots of ruts in it. I didn't really recognize the car, but when the person got out, it was Bro. Melanson. I knew him, but not any better than probably the least of which I know some of you here. He came to me and we talked a bit. I'm in cut-off jeans, a t-shirt, sweaty, grubby, awful. He said, "I've come to ask you if you would consider taking the position of Grand Marshal for our Grand Lodge." I said, "Oooo, you're gonna be the next Grand Master." He said, "I didn't say that! I asked if you would consider being the Grand Marshal for somebody."

So, just at that point, my wife, Nancy, came out of the house. We have this long narrow driveway and Bro. Melanson's parked right in the middle of it. So I'm all excited and tell my wife, "This is Arthur Melanson, he's gonna be the next Grand Master and he asked me to be the Grand Marshal." She said, "That's nice," and she turned to him and said, "Could you move the car? I have to pick up the chil-

dren." I figured that was the end of my Masonic career, right there. I had many many happy times with Bro. Melanson.

And as tradition is in our Grand Lodge, when you serve as Grand Marshal for three years, you become the Senior Grand Warden without all of this campaigning you have to do. But I had a campaign group, campaign managers. At that time, it was Rt. Wor. Bro. [J. Philip] Berquist, Rt. Wor. Bro. Patey, Bro. Chebookian, a whole bunch of them.

The morning of the Grand Lodge when we were going to have election, there were five of them running around the third floor, with torn old t-shirts with black magic markers that said "Senior Grand Warden: Anybody but Al." I won anyway! I have such fabulous memories. I could go on with stories, but I think, (checking my watch), the bus doesn't come 'til 9, so we'll talk a long time yet.

I'd just like to share a couple of the things that we did that were a little more serious. We were, at that time, searching

for membership, the same as we do today. Many of you remember the Grand Master's Fair, and what was involved in the Grand Master's Fair. For those of you who are too young to remember, I can tell you we got to the point where we'd have 20,000 people come to the Grand Master's Fair. We had traffic so screwed up on Route 20, that the state police wanted to shut us down. It was something that everybody was involved with. It was something that brought the Fraternity together. I was approached by Wor. Glenn Parker, who was the Chief of Police in the town of Westborough, and he had this idea. He said, "Let's run a relay, from Pittsfield to Boston. I'll organize it." I said, "Fine." So he

did. M. Wor. Bro. Hodgdon, who was an acquaintance at that time, flew me in his plane out to Pittsfield so I could be there for the start of this relay across the state. They came across, on the first day, to Springfield, and the second day, to Boston. Of course, he had flown me back so I was here, at Grand Lodge. That created quite a bit of interest and publicity for us. It was a good, good effort. It gave us exposure, and we should be doing things like that now.

I don't want to stray far off my notes, or I'll be here until tomorrow.

I was reminded, I have to tell you a story about M. Wor. Joseph Earl Perry. As a matter of fact, (turning to the Grand Master), I gave you his Past Grand Masters jewel today. When I was Grand Marshal, and it was the December Quarterly, Bro. Perry was, if not 90, he was very very close to it, and decided that he wanted to leave Grand Lodge. The Grand Master, Bro. Melanson asked me to escort him, which I did, and took him from the 5th floor down to the





# NEW HOME FOR ALEPPO MUSEUM

by Bro. John Wilder



**“Y**ou’re gonna need a bigger room!” This was the consistent refrain of almost all who visited the museum room, since it was opened just over five years ago. It was such a big step that less than two years after the archive was established, the museum room was built at the Shrine in Wilmington. I think it is fair to say that when this all started with my appointment as Historian in 2018, no one could guess what it would become. Our physical and digital collections are almost unrivaled in depth and breadth, and we have become known nationally for our efforts to preserve the history of the Shrine. As Aleppo’s Historian, the responsibility of being entrusted with the museum room has always been at the top of my mind. I was trying to constantly balance

between the mission of the archive, preserving items, and hosting a museum with informational displays to share the stories these items tell. As such, my usual greeting to visitors was, “Don’t mind the mess!”

I was cautiously honored, therefore, when late last year, I was informed that the conference room would be made available for my use. The move would be a big one, but it was an opportunity to start from scratch, and design displays with lessons learned as to what visitors want to see, while still presenting the wide variety of our collection and history. The plan was to have the new museum room open for the January ceremonial, but a sprained ankle earned in another Masonic history project put me behind schedule. There’s still work to do on a track lighting system and new lights for some of the displays. Some more items need to be pulled out of storage, but the room is now open and ready for visitors. Be sure to drop in during Shrine events and check out the displays!

I don’t like mentioning names, as I’m grateful to everyone who has supported me in this project, but I must mention the office and building staff (Steve, Maribel, Sheila, John, Tom, and Brad), Cliff and the Drifters for getting the large shelving display, and Carlos for donating two new mannequins. Most recently, thank you to the HONS for their very generous donation of \$3,000 to support the Museum Room! To everyone who has donated items or even just offered words of support, I say once again: THANK YOU! ■

Grand Master’s office. Bro. Perry had this old fedora of a hat. In those days, lots of people wore hats, so I said to him, “Bro. Perry, I know which hat is yours, everybody knows which hat is yours, but I don’t know what coat might be yours.” He said to me, “Young man, have you not learned that the first to leave is the best dressed?” Great, great words. I don’t think I’ll go on too far, other than to just tell you a little bit of what I thought might be worthwhile other than just stories. I want to say a

couple of things about protocol. Here in Massachusetts, we are very strict in the use of proper protocol. To the extent that we have produced a manual to set the guidelines. Unfortunately, too many have not read it. Twenty-six pages, tells you everything, tells you what to wear - except when you go to bed, maybe. And we also printed hand-outs, cards, with the proper titles, on one side, in black letters, the proper way to address any Brother. On the other side, in red, is the improper way.

I think most of the people that read the cards, read the red side, not the black side. But let me tell you one thing, as difficult as titles might be for you, there’s one title that you can never go wrong with. Whether it’s the Grand Master or an Entered Apprentice, if you call him Brother, you are correct. I am proud, anytime, anybody calls me Brother. So, keep that in mind.

So back to the inspiration that got me started with Bro. Culbertson, “By whose superior skills and scientific



# BROTHERS OF THE WHITE ASH

*“IT’S NOT ABOUT THE CIGARS.”*



*by Rt. Wor. Michael Douglas*

Those are the surprising closing remarks from long-time Brothers of the White Ash (BWA) President, Rt. Wor. Mike Douglas, at the most recent club meeting in January. As it turns out, it is truly not about the cigars, it is about fellowship, fun, and charitable giving. The brothers who braved the cold could smell the cigar smoke a block away as they approached the meeting. The warmth inside quickly replaced the chill in the air as the brethren enjoyed friendly banter, premium cigars, and a great lunch. Over 100 Master Masons were present at the White Ash Cigar Lounge in RI, including long time BWA member, Most Worshipful George Forest

Hamilton, who was presented with a donation for the Brotherhood Fund at the conclusion of the meeting. The BWA has nearly 600 members and has raised tens of thousands of dollars for Masonic charities since its inception in 2011. The club has certainly come a long way from the first meeting attended by nine brothers smoking in a tiny cigar closet! Look for the BWA Smoking Tent on the grounds of the Museum of our Nation Heritage for the MA Masonic Family Fun Day this August! The next meeting of the BWA is coming, they are scheduled every quarter. For information and reservations, please email [broswhash@gmail.com](mailto:broswhash@gmail.com), or call Brother Douglas at 774-955-2344. ■

► **M. Wor. Ames** from page 19

workmanship, the Temple was beautified and adorned.” The phrase sparked my interest, and as I worked, and yes, I worked, worked hard, learning ritual, degrees, and the proper way to do things, I appreciated more and more with keen interest what protocol was all about. It gave me guidelines to work within. I knew if I stayed within these parameters, I was doing the right thing. You know, each and every one of us can

go astray. Me, as much if not more than probably anybody else. We should start every day with that thought. It’s a way of life. Combine that with the opportunities for me, I thought of the challenge of the Beehive. The Beehive - one of my very, very precious parts of ritual. I’ll quote it to you now. (M. Wor. Bro. Ames recited the Beehive). So, my Brothers, if we tie these two bits of ritual together, the lesson should be use our superior skill so each of us - and each of us has a superior skill, yours is different

than mine or yours or yours or yours or yours - to not demean ourselves as so to be useless. Let’s be productive. We will promote and improve the Fraternity for the benefit of mankind. Thank you, Grand Master, for this opportunity to speak. May God bless each and every one of you and our families. May God bless this Fraternity. And may God bless the United States of America.

Thank you. ■  
*(Most Worshipful Brother Ames received a standing ovation.)*



# HARVARD BOOK CLUB

## Explores The Meaning of Masonry

by Bro. Gary Shapiro

The British historian Walter Leslie Wilmshurst (1867-1939) knew how to deliver a lecture. So it is no surprise that when he came to publish a series of talks that he had given, the result would be enlightening to read. The book, which was published in London about a century ago and later reprinted, carries the title *The Meaning of Masonry*. Allan Boudreau, a former curator and librarian of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the state of New York, described Wilmshurst as “a mystic with a practical knowledge and profound understanding of the religions of the world.” Wor. Christopher Viklund, who is the current leader of The Harvard Lodge Book Club and a former Master of The Harvard Lodge, chose *The Meaning of Masonry* at a pace of one chapter per month. He said Wilmshurst explored large existential questions you encounter when you “scratch below the surface” of Masonic symbolism. Wilmshurst writes that Masonry offers “emphatic and luminous answers” to profundities such as “What am I?” “Whence come I?” and “Whither go I?” A member of the book club said what first drew him to Masonry were just these kinds of large questions.

Bro. Edward R. Wiest describes Wilmshurst’s angle of vision, “There is more to Masonry than ritual. In the end, it’s all about the inner work. Ritual is a tool.” Wilmshurst argues that Masonry was designed to teach self-knowledge. It should be less a social institution where food is enjoyed, and more “a sacred and serious method of initiation into the profoundest truths of life.” Wilmshurst points out that the four sides of the lodge coincide with different modes of consciousness: North (sense-impression), West (reason), South (intellectual ideation), and East (spiritual intuition). Along the way, the book offers insights galore. For example, the author writes that the spiritual center of the lodge is

in the East. The lodge itself is a metaphor for the individual. Wilmshurst writes, “Masonry is here dealing with the building-work of no outward structure, but with the re-erection of the fallen, disordered temple of the human soul.” He calls it soul-building.

Bro. Colin Brown ran the group prior. He thought the book club was worthwhile for a couple of reasons. First, it allowed him “to read things that I would want to read, but might not otherwise make time for. I think that having philosophical conversations with our Masonic Brothers helps deepen the bonds of friendship and forces us to disclose some of our deeper thoughts, as well as to contribute to shaping and challenging each other’s thoughts.”

Brown led the group discussing works that offered a variety of types. “We did a novel (Umberto Eco’s *Foucault’s Pendulum*), an explicitly Masonic philosophical work (Manly P. Hall’s *The Lost Keys of Freemasonry*), and a general philosophical history (Dennis Rasmussen’s *The Professor and the Infidel*). Rt. Wor. Baruti KMT-Sisouvang and then Wor. Chris Viklund picked it up after me,” he said. Each second Tuesday of the month, Wor. Bro. Viklund convenes an intimate number of book club members who gather, beverages in hand, in The Harvard Lodge’s office in Grand Lodge. Others participate virtually on Zoom. He offers this because nearly half of The Harvard Lodge’s members live out of state, and it offers a way to include them actively in the life of the lodge. Elsewhere in Massachusetts are other book clubs. Essex Lodge has a Salem Masonic Book and Study Group. They have been discussing *The Rationale of Freemasonry* by Bro. Bobby J. Demott. Their flier offers up the amusing quote, “Making Good Men Better, One Book at a Time.” ■



Wor. Christopher Viklund,  
leader of  
The Harvard Book Club

# The Prodigal Mason

by *Wor. Richard Thompson*



Our Grand Master has a different, but wonderful, way to recognize those Master Masons who served in the military, but have since entered the Celestial Lodge above. He's doing this by having the flags that once draped a brother's coffin presented in Grand Lodge at a Quarterly Communication. I learned of this from Rt. Wor. Roy Leone, a Past Deputy Grand Master. He asked me if I would like to have my father's flag presented. I didn't have to think about it for long. I immediately said yes. There were two things my father was proud of - he was a Master Mason and he served his country when it needed him most.

I was raised by a Veteran of World War II. In fact, I was raised by two Veterans of World War II. My father was in the U.S. Army Medical Corps, and my mother was in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps. They met at the Murphy Army Hospital in Waltham, MA. My father was transferred there after three years in the South Pacific and my mother was sent there after three years in the European Theater. My father, Wor. John Russell Thompson, was one of the 161 million that went to war to protect this country and to free other nations. Unfortunately, of the millions who served, there are fewer than 20,000 remaining. In a few short years, that generation of Veterans will completely fade into history.

That really got me thinking about our Veterans. I learned that 5.7 million fought in Korea. There are only about one million remaining. Some 9 million served in Vietnam, of which there are 6.3 million remaining. In all, it is estimated that 297 million Americans have served in the military. Of all of them, we still have about 22 million. My father entered military service in 1940, a little more than a year before Pearl Harbor. He told me he was at Camp Forest in Tullahoma, Tennessee, a little town south of Nashville, when he heard the news about Pearl Harbor. He was in Tennessee for training to be a U.S. Army Medic. He said a month later he was in Pasadena, CA, where he got to see the Rose Bowl. He added he did not see the game, just the stadium. He got a really close view of that

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*Richard Thompson is a Past Master and the Secretary of Merrimack Valley Daylight Lodge.*

stadium. He and a thousand other GIs slept under the stands for a few weeks.

After spending some time in sunny southern California, he was off to Hawaii. He was part of a relief force being assembled to go to the Philippines. However, the US forces in the Philippines had to surrender before the Army could get the troops together to go to their aid. So, as my father told me, they were so disappointed that they had to stay in Hawaii. My father joined St. Paul Lodge, then in Ayer, and now in Gardner, in 1956. Though I never asked, I'm fairly certain my grandfather, Nelson Holmes, was part of his decision to join. My grandfather was a member of Pentucket Lodge in Lowell. My father worked in Ayer at that time, and a number of men he worked with were members of St. Paul Lodge, which explains how he ended up there.



I was old enough to go with my father to a number of lodge activities, such as suppers and the like. Because of that, I got to know some of the members of the lodge, many of whom, like my father, were Veterans of World War II. When I affiliated with Wamesit Lodge in Tewksbury, I got to know even more World War II Veterans.

I'm sure no one will be surprised to hear I could never get a Veteran, not even my father, to tell me what it was like to be in combat. They told me all the funny stories, but never the things they saw and experienced while in the thick of it. My father was a combat medic. Yes, he was one of those guys who crawled onto a battlefield when someone yelled, "Medic!" His first taste of action came at Guadalcanal. He was there from August of 1942 until early 1943.

In his three years in the South Pacific, he landed on a number of islands. His last landing was at Luzon in the Philippines. He did get to the Philippines after all.

For his service, my father was awarded a Combat Medical Badge, an award given to medics who served in units under combat conditions. Congress created the Combat Medical Badge in January of 1945. They were awarded retroactively to any medic serving in a combat unit during any time in World War II. In addition to being a Master Mason, he was a Scottish Rite Mason in the Valleys of Lowell and Boston, and a Shriner in Aleppo Temple. In the Shrine, he was a member of the Legion of Honor. He wore his Combat Medical Badge on his Legion of Honor uniform shirt. It is still there today. ■



# Baseball & Freemasonry

by Bros. Jack Johnston and Jon Hindmarsh



**B**atter up! Baseball is integral to life in America. It's even part of our language. The fellow who operates against big hardships has two strikes against him. When you defend someone, you go to bat for him. A person who behaves eccentrically is a screwball. A valuable accomplishment is a home run, and so on. But what about the origin of the game itself?

History reveals that the inventor of baseball, Alexander J. Cartwright, was one of our Fraternity. He was Past Master of Hawaiian Lodge No. 21 under the Grand Lodge of California. Consciously or otherwise, the game he is credited with inventing has many Masonic symbols. For example, other sports such as football, soccer, basketball, and hockey are played on a rectangular surface. Baseball is the only one played on a perfect square, tilted on a corner to form a baseball diamond.

Visualize a baseball diamond from the perspective of the pitcher so that home plate is up and 2nd base is down. Do you see a square and compasses? Home plate is the hinge of the compass with the compass legs stretching along the foul lines. The right angle of 2nd base forms a square. The number 3 is certainly significant to Masonry and it is revealed in baseball as a single number or in its multiples - 3 strikes, 3 outs, 3 bases, 9 men, 9 innings, 27 outs, 81 home games, 81 away games, 30 yards, or 90 feet between each base.

We also have the Masonic tenet of doing no harm to others. To that end Cartwright stopped the practice of throwing and hitting a baserunner with the baseball to register an out. Can you think of any others? Play ball! ■

*Bro. Jack Johnston was a professional baseball scout for the New York Mets.*



## PLATE STORIES

### A License Plate Connection

Upon returning to my car in Windsor Locks, Connecticut, on February 20, 2024, just two weeks after leaving the car in the parking lot for a vacation, I noticed a business card on my window. The card was left there by Carl Martin Andersen, Master of Saint Paul Lodge Number Three, A.F. & A.M., Saint Paul, Minnesota. Wor. Carl had seen my Massachusetts Mason license plate and left his card. I emailed him to acknowledge his card and to wish him well in his endeavors. He emailed back and replied that he is in his fourth year as Master and asked that I stop in for a visit if ever I got to Saint Paul. It is nice to know that Brothers recognize Brothers, even if only by a license plate.

*-Bro. Dan J. Gould*



## KEEPING YOUR GLOVES CLEAN

**A**fter you've worn your gloves for an evening, you might find that they are a little soiled on the palm side of the fingers. No need to put them in the washer! When you get home, put them on again and wash your gloved hands with soap and water. Hard soap or soft soap will work. Massage the soapy fingertips, then rinse with water. Gently squeeze them dry. Do not wring the water out, as this will tend to destroy the gloves, or crease them. Simply now hang them up to air-dry. If you find it more convenient to throw them in the washer, remember not to use bleach, as this will reduce the life of your gloves, or bleach out any imprint or embroidery. Next time you're in lodge, you'll be giving a clean handshake! ■



# From The West...of Boston

by Bro. Brian McHale

## Masons Really Are Everywhere

How many times can you clean the basement? For me, the answer was two. I'd retired and moved to Northeastern PA (NEPA). I was bored, and felt compelled to return to work. I'm now in an intermediate school (they were called junior high when I went). It's an easy 2.2 mile, 9 minute drive from home. All downhill. There's never any traffic. Not enough cars. "Here is your traffic update. Around home, traffic looks good. There are no incidents reported," says the wise and always-listening Alexa. The building was constructed in 1937, before many of our brave men and women were called to serve in WWII. It is old enough to have a fallout shelter, mortise locks, and ten-inch diameter air vents under each of the 903 wooden seats in the Art Deco auditorium. The view from my classroom is all sky and mountains.

In the Men's Lounge (no smoking) one day, the Attendance Officer and I were politely inquiring about our respective former vocations. I told him tales of Boston Public Schools, to which he replied he'd been a stone mason. "An operative mason?" I blurted this out before I knew what I'd said. He smiled, and replied, "As opposed to speculative?" "Absolutely," revealing the Square and Compasses tattoo on my inner wrist. We learned we had both served in the US Navy, albeit a few decades apart. He served in several capacities on various boats, while I worked on jets on a carrier.

From those few words, the world got smaller. Brother Mike Costello is the Secretary of Aurora Lodge #523 in Jermyn. (I was asked at an event if I wanted to see a lodge in Jermyn. "But I don't speak German." Blank stares.) He is the Secretary for the School of Instruction, the local name for the Lodge of Instruction.

I have since given him every copy of TROWEL, going back to the summer of '22. This allowed him to read about his friends in Garage Lodge #1, as well as those who ventured to Boston by bus. We learned that we both enjoy going to the range, and he was lucky enough to win an HK in a recent raffle. We are members of the Irem Shriners, located in Dallas. As cordial and polite as we'd been pre-

viously, we are now truly friends, happy to see each other daily at work. A hidden bond has been revealed.

Yesterday, he was wearing a Salem, MA sweatshirt. I asked, "Have you been?" Turns out he goes, every summer with his daughter. I suggested he take the Thruway in order to avoid Connecticut completely. He is going again this August. I told him about the Masonic history in the area and strongly suggested visiting the Grand Lodge in Boston. Maybe a Brother in Boston can give him a tour. ■



### Shared Plates

August, 2022. Dunmore, PA.

After visiting a local general store and cidery, we pulled into the Gertrude Hawk Chocolate Store parking lot, which is conveniently located next to the GHC factory. The air is thick with the smell of you know what. I immediately noticed a Pennsylvania Masonic license plate on the pickup truck parked next to us. As I exited my vehicle, I motioned to the driver to lower his window. "I saw your tag. Looks like we're Brothers." "Yeah. Looks like it. I saw the Square and Compasses on the back of your car when you pulled in," he replied. He is a member of Salem Lodge in NEPA, and served with distinction on an Army helicopter in Vietnam. He was pleased to learn that I had been in the Navy, and that my squadron was attached to a carrier. I'd never have spoken to this fine gentleman were it not for the Masonic license plate. ■

<https://massfreemasonry.org/community-programs/masonic-license-plate-program-2/>





# SINIM LODGE'S PILGRIMAGE FROM TOKYO TO THE GRAND LODGE IN BOSTON

by Rt. Wor. Andrew CW MacKinlay



In early March, 2024, the three current pillars of Sinim Lodge AF&AM made a historic trip to Boston, Massachusetts. Although perhaps hard to imagine for most Massachusetts Masons, this was in fact the first time ever since we were originally chartered in 1903 in Shanghai, China, that all three pillars (WM, SW, and JW) have been in attendance in person at a Grand Lodge Quarterly meet-

ing. As you may know, our beloved 32nd Masonic District is in Tokyo, Japan, over 6,000 miles east of the 31st District, so a trip to Massachusetts is somewhat uncommon, but will hopefully become a little more frequent - our last trip was for the Golden Gavel in 2022.

Of course, we can visit our Brothers at the Grand Lodge of Japan, but their ritual, lectures, and floorwork are all very different. Being a single-lodge district, the only memorable way for us to learn from our Massachusetts blue lodge peers is to see them in action with our own eyes! Luckily, my overbearing rhetoric seemed to have paid dividends when both pillars Sr. Warden Bro. Carr and Jr. Warden Bro. Campbell agreed to join the spring trip. We rented an Airbnb near the airport, got ourselves a little SUV truck to tour around with, and were well on our way.

Over the course of a week, we visited six blue lodges, including all 4 lodge buildings in the 8th District, where we were able to see very impressive 2nd and 3rd Degree conferals. The pace of the degrees, the flawless floorwork, and the impeccable lectures really stood out. Many notes were taken by all of us on how to do things "the right way," which will hopefully be implemented over the years to come!

We returned to Milton Lodge in Hingham, the venue where we temporarily acquired the 8th District's Travelling Gavel a couple of years back, and were delighted to be presented with a gold-plated Intercontinental Travelling Gavel to take back to Japan. At Rural Lodge in Quincy, we

*continued on page 28*

### Sinim Lodge Itinerary:

- March 6th Delta Lodge, Braintree (LOI and Practice) 8th District
- March 7th Rural Lodge, Quincy, 8th District DDGM visit and 3rd Degree
- March 8th 13:30 - Boston Symphony Orchestra
- March 8th Milton Lodge, Hingham, 8th District
- March 9th 10:00 Junior Warden Grand Reception, Pittsfield Masonic Building
- March 9th 18:00 31st District Black Tie Gala, Great Barrington
- March 10th Dim Sum in Quincy and Host Barbecue!
- March 11th 10:00 Grand Lodge tour and lunch with MW Hamilton!
- March 11th 19:00 Boston / St. Louis NHL ice hockey game
- March 12th William Parkman Lodge, Woburn - MWs Maggio and Gleason!
- March 13th 13:00 Quarterly Communication, Grand Lodge
- March 13th Norfolk Union Lodge, Weymouth, 2nd Degree

# FRATERNITY News & Events

## Southbridge Doric Chapter of Royal Arch Masons Still Thriving

On Saturday, February 17th, the Worcester Masonic Center parking lot was packed. Master Masons from throughout the state who wanted to continue their knowledge in Freemasonry and growth within this Fraternity, participated in the Royal Arch Masons One Day Class. Three local men passed through the Royal Arch Degrees: Bros. Eric Willard of Dudley, Clay Tull of Southbridge, and Joshua Kirkwood of Charlton. They took the next steps to fill their thirst for knowledge with the Southbridge Doric Chapter of Royal Arch Masons. The Southbridge Doric Chapter of Royal Arch Masons was formed in 1867, and has a rich history in the community. It was originally started at the Webster Masonic Lodge, and was called the First Webster Chapter of Royal Arch Masons. In 1871, the Webster Chapter voted to move the meeting place from Webster to the Southbridge Quinebaug Masonic Lodge, and the Doric Chapter of Royal Arch Masons continues to thrive to this day.

*-Bro. Jimmy Falzone*



*Bros. Eric Willard, Clay Tull, and Joshua Kirkwood standing tall and proud, wearing their new Royal Arch Masons aprons.*



## Who are these Brothers?

*Answer in the next issue  
(there may be a prize for the first  
Brother with the right answer sent  
to [editortrowel@gmail.com](mailto:editortrowel@gmail.com)).*



*Bros. Eric Willard, Will Proper, and Clay Tull with thumbs up, leaning on a pickup truck full of food donations.*

## Quinebaug Lodge Helps with Food and More

The Quinebaug Masonic Lodge hosted a food drive at Big Bunny Market in Southbridge. They also accepted personal items such as toothpaste and deodorant. They collected the food and sundries to support the Southbridge Community Food Share.

*-Bro. Jimmy Falzone*



*Major General Henry Knox*

## Massachusetts has a Military Lodge, and You Are Invited.

Did you know that there is a lodge right here in Massachusetts that is exclusively for former and current US military members? Major General Henry Knox Lodge is part of the Second Masonic District and meets at Grand Lodge in Boston. Instituted in the year 1926, on the deck of the *USS Constitution*, the name of Major General Henry Knox was selected for the lodge for two reasons. First, General Knox was a Bostonian by birth, and was intimately connected with the history of Boston and Massachusetts. Second, it was a name connected with both the Army and Navy. When General Henry Knox was Secretary of War, the War Department included both the Army and Navy. When the lodge was instituted, the Masonic record of General Knox was unknown. He was believed to have been a member of The Massachusetts Lodge, which was organized in Boston in 1770, shortly before Henry Knox became of age. To honor our namesake, the members of Knox Lodge make an annual trip in July to Thomaston, Maine, his final resting place. There, we participate in a graveside ceremony hosted by the Thomaston Historical Society. The celebration of his life and contributions continues at his mansion with lunch and a birthday cake. The space on the ninth floor of Grand Lodge that Major General Henry Knox Lodge occupies is painted in the same color scheme that adorned his office when he was the Secretary of War. Several historical mementos are also on display in our gathering room, including rare portraits of General Knox and other prominent military Masons, and a lifelike scale model of the *USS Constitution*, one of six ships ordered by him and

President George Washington.

Knox Lodge is currently comprised of members whose military service includes combat in the Korean, Vietnam, Desert Storm, Iraq, and Afghanistan armed conflicts. Also, the membership includes men from all branches of the Uniformed Services, Active Duty, Reserves, and National Guard. Knox Lodge is known throughout our fraternity for the annual Table Lodge that is held in April. This event had drawn crowds of nearly 100 Masons from all of the New England states. Past themes and honorees have included: The Greatest Generation, The Military Medical Field, and Brigadier General John Driscoll - Commander of the Massachusetts National Guard. The lodge meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month, excluding November and December, when it meets the Friday prior, at 6:30 PM for dinner in the Joseph Warren Dining Room, followed by our regular communication at 7:30 PM in any one of the lodge rooms in Grand Lodge. If you are a current or former military member, reach out to us. We would love to meet you, have you share dinner with us, and attend a meeting. We can be reached at [knoxlodge.com](http://knoxlodge.com), Facebook MG Henry Knox Lodge, or by contacting either Bro. Albert Smith III ([albertsmith@gmail.com](mailto:albertsmith@gmail.com) or 508-333-0526) or Bro. Bob Serricchio (413-519-5967 or [RMS42070@aol.com](mailto:RMS42070@aol.com)). You learned early in your Masonic journey to “knock and the door will be opened.” We hope to hear your knock soon!

*-by Bro. Robert M. Serricchio, Major General Henry Knox Lodge, Boston and Brigham Lodge, Ludlow*



## PLATE STORIES

### A Good Drive with Your Brothers

The thing I love about having a Masonic license plate in Massachusetts is when I travel through the cities and towns and see people with the Square and Compasses on their cars, I know that good men are spreading the message of the Fraternity through their words and deeds. When you see them coming down the other side of the road and you raise your hand off the wheel, you know that the man driving that car (or his very understanding spouse!) is someone you have a connection with. Having that connection in an age when our nation is so divided is hopeful to me. Whether it is a slight bow of the head while pumping gas or stopped at a light, or on lodge night where passersby can see a lot full of those plates, we are spreading awareness of the Craft, and that is why my red Chevy has the Square and Compasses proudly displayed.

*-Bro. Jason Philip Stark*



*Bros. Takayama and Campbell selling t-shirts at the US base, to benefit the orphanage.*

## All Year Round Sinim Lodge Prepares Christmas Cheer to Orphans

The air at ‘Ajie No Ie’ orphanage in Nakano was filled with joy and anticipation on December 2nd as the members of Sinim Lodge gathered for a heartwarming event titled “Orphanage Santa Day.” Organized by Bro. Gordon Campbell and supported by Bro. Hiroyuki Takayama, this initiative aimed to bring holiday smiles to the faces of the children. Bro. Campbell, renowned for his exceptional ability to build connections, has played a pivotal role in establishing ties that allow the lodge to support multiple orphanages. His deep association and robust professional network

with local US military bases have forged a unique bond between our lodge, servicemen, and volunteering opportunities. For this event, Bro. Campbell orchestrated a golf and steak charity event that raised a significant sum in a single afternoon, showcasing his dedication to charitable causes. Brother Campbell has consistently demonstrated such commitment, even spending a weekend selling concert t-shirts at the US Military base in Japan, and sleeping on a gymnasium floor to support orphanages. These relentless actions paint a heartfelt portrait of our commitment to the local community.

Bro. Takayama, known for his generosity and dedication, played a crucial role in coordinating the event with ‘Ajie No Ie,’ ensuring a smooth and safe handoff of the Santa packages, and setting the tone for a day filled with warmth and kindness.

The success of the event was made possible by the selfless dedication of several individuals. Special thanks go to Wor. Bro. McDonnell, Bros. Gyle Graham, Dan Aoyama, Toshiaki Shibagaki, Rt. Wor. Douglas Eames, Bro. Lyle Carr, and Bro. Riccardo Sanavio. They all woke up early to support deliveries to three orphanages, demonstrating their commitment to making a difference in the lives of these children.

In addition to their presence, Bro. EJ Dweben deserves recognition for his generous donation to the orphanages, undoubtedly contributing to the well-being and happiness of the children. The smiles on the children’s faces serve as a testament to the power of unity and compassion. Throughout the year, let us remember the importance of giving back and spreading joy to those who need it most. Together, we can make a lasting difference in the lives of these children, creating memories that will warm their hearts for years to come. **-Rt. Wor. Michael S. Craven, DDGM**

### ▶ Sinim Lodge from page 25

were honoured to be able to join RW MacLeod’s suite of officers and receive fine camaraderie well into the late evening. We met not one but two Past Grand Masters, M. Wor. Bros. Maggio and Gleason at William-Parkman Lodge in the 13th District in Woburn, and had an opportunity to thank again RW Chikofsky for providing us with a fine set of altar jewels two years ago.

At the weekend, we left at dawn, and voyaged out to Pittsfield for the Junior Grand Warden’s reception where newly-elected and installed Rt. Wor. Bro. Tonini was received into his mother lodge and fraternally welcomed with a friendly roasting by the Senior Grand Warden, Deputy Grand Master, past Grand Masters, his own father (who was Junior Grand Warden 40 years pre-

viously,) and even the Grand Master himself. We spent a bit of a late night at the 31st District’s Annual Black Tie Gala, and to be honest, our itinerary was filled with a smorgasbord of Masonic delight throughout the entire week – almost too much to mention in a single article!

We were fortunate to have an opportunity to visit and tour the Grand Lodge building next to Boston Common, and were honoured that M. Wor. George F. Hamilton even made time to have lunch with us. We brought with us Wor. Donald “Chip” Maury, who was originally raised at Sinim Lodge while stationed in Japan back in 1962. The Grand Master presented him with his Veterans Medal in person – it was the memory of a lifetime!

All in all, it was a really wonderful trip and we were even joined by our

Wor. Ashton Moore, PM, who made the short trip across from Detroit. The difference I always feel in Boston is a truly open heart - we all felt welcomed with these unspoken bonds of Brotherly Love wherever we travelled, and although perhaps somewhat undeserving, we were honoured several times with precious gifts, and even received a recognition at the Quarterly.

Over the years, I’ve visited several lodges around the world, but for me, the “Pot of Incense” really burns brightest in Massachusetts. Thank you to everyone who spent time with us and hopefully, with a bit of luck, Sinim Lodge will be back for even more warm memories at the 2025 Golden Gavel! ■

*Rt. Wor. Andrew CW MacKinlay is the Grand Representative to Japan, and a Past Master of Sinim Lodge - 2021-22 and 2023-24.*

## Masonic Explorers Climb Panama's Peaks

The Masonic Explorers Club is a recognized club for Massachusetts Masons in association with the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. Located in the Panama Canal District, the club undertakes monthly expeditions around the isthmus. In January, we climbed Cerro Ancon, a 653 foot hill that overlooks Panama City. In February, we climbed Cerro Chame, a 1,716 foot mountain overlooking the Pacific Ocean with a challenging route that traverses through thick jungle, pine forest, and ultimately tropical savanna. Following the hike, the club camped on the beach at Punta Chame.

-Bro. Ariel Weinmann-Rubino



### ▶ **Bro. Paterson** from page 11

increased efforts to collect taxes on both individuals and their trades, Paterson was recalled to military service. He led militia units in suppressing what became known as Shays' Rebellion. In 1790, Paterson was an investor in the Boston Patent, a large land grant in Broome and Tioga Counties, New York. The following year, he moved his family to Lisle, NY. He continued to remain active in politics, serving in the New York State Assembly for four years, and as Chief Justice of Broome County. From 1803 to 1805, he served as a Congressman representing New York's 16th District in the United States House of Representatives.

The historical record is incomplete about when Brother Paterson received

his Masonic degrees. It is possible he received them while living in Connecticut, but more likely, he was raised through American Union Lodge, an army or traveling lodge organized and chartered in 1776. Paterson's name first appears in Masonic history in the spring of 1777. Newly promoted to Brigadier General, and on furlough awaiting his next assignment, Paterson returned to Lenox. He was one of seven Revolutionary War Veterans active in petitioning the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts for a charter to establish Berkshire Lodge No. 5, located in Stockbridge. It was the first lodge west of Boston. Paterson served as Berkshire Lodge No. 5's first Worshipful Master.

Paterson's name appears again in 1779 at a Special Meeting of the

Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. A petition requested the granting of a charter for holding a traveling lodge. It nominated Brothers BG John Paterson as Master, Col Benjamin Tupper as Senior Warden, and Maj William Hull as Junior Warden. The charter was granted and became Washington Lodge No. 10. Bro. Major General Paterson passed to the Celestial Lodge on July 19, 1808, and was buried at Riverside Cemetery in Whitney Point, NY. Eighty-four years later, in 1892, Paterson's remains were moved to Massachusetts, and reinterred at the Paterson-Egleston family gravesite in the Church on the Hill Cemetery in Lenox. Today, a granite obelisk stands in the center of Lenox, honoring Paterson's pursuit of duty in service to our country as a soldier, statesman, and patriot. ■

## OVNA Home Care through Overlook

**O**verlook Visiting Nurse Association (OVNA) is a premier non-profit home care agency, providing at-home care that improves the quality of life for adults 18+. OVNA services are prescribed by a qualified physician. A plan of care is developed by a professional OVNA team to achieve each patient's specific medical and personal goals. The team includes nurses, therapists, social workers, and home health aides. Get the home care services you need to live your best life now!

For the convenience of patients and family members, admission to OVNA home care can be completed within 24 hours. Whether it's a private residence at The Overlook or at home, we'll make the transition easy and seamless. OVNA offers 15 care programs to address the most complex medical care and non-medical personal care needs. The goals are always to ensure safety and prevent re-hospitalization. The Overlook's home health, palliative care, and hospice teams work together to create a smooth transition

between levels of care. Palliative care and hospice care are similar, and in the event of a serious illness, it's common for a person to receive both. Palliative care includes medical care of a patient's symptoms, in addition to treatment intended to cure a serious illness. Hospice focuses on the compassionate care and comfort of a person with an incurable illness who is approaching the end of life. For more information about OVNA home health care services, give us a call at 800-990-7642, or contact us online.

Our service area covers more than 200 communities in Massachusetts, with offices in Charlton, West Springfield, and Sunderland, our team provides home health services to more than 800 older adults. ■

### Care and Services include:

- Assisted living services
- Skilled nursing care
- Rehabilitation treatments, including physical, occupational and speech therapies
- Medical social worker services
- Wound care
- Certified home health aides
- Homemaking
- Massage therapy
- Companion services
- Care management coordination
- Disease support programs
- Telehealth home monitoring
- Private care services
- On-call support
- Palliative care
- Hospice



*Bro. John Bibilos*

**I**n 2001, my father, Bro. John Bibilos, joined Golden Rule Lodge as part of a One Day Class. Dad loved lodge. He enjoyed breaking bread with his Brothers. He enjoyed getting dressed up for the evening. He enjoyed our annual table lodge, and steak and lobster dinners. He enjoyed the friendships he established. Perhaps most importantly, he enjoyed being able to do something with his son. The door to Freemasonry was opened late in life for my Dad, and he told me on more than one occasion that he wished he had decided to join earlier in life. Sadly, my Dad passed in 2004, and he was only able to enjoy the gift of Freemasonry for a brief period. He was pleased to have members of the lodge come to visit him during his illness,

# SEIZE THE DAY THE ONE DAY CLASS

*by Rt. Wor. George J. Bibilos*

particularly our lodge organist Rt. Wor. Bogie Peligian, whose company he truly enjoyed.

In 2024, two of my Dad's grandsons, my sons John and James, are going to join Golden Rule Lodge as part of the One Day Class we have planned for October 19 in Worcester. They will both be in college when they join, and I don't know what their initial engagement with the lodge will be, but they will take that important first step and become Freemasons. Do you have a dad that might enjoy joining our Fraternity and perhaps being able to spend some time with his son? Do you have a son or grandson that you would like to give the opportunity to join the Craft and learn about what we have been enjoying all these years? Perhaps you have a nephew or good friend that might want to join?

Why Freemasonry? It's simple, really. We're men, each trying to be the best version of ourselves possible. We find it easier to do that when we're with other men who share our values. We're there for our brothers no matter what life might bring, and our brothers are there for us. We help others, not just because it's the right thing to do, but also because it also helps us grow. We honor value and integrity. We believe there is always room to learn more. For those of us in the Fraternity, we know Freemasonry is something special, a gift to be passed on. I hope this fall in Worcester, my sons start to understand that concept and find more in Masonry. On October 19, 2024, we ask that you "Seize the Day," reach out to those people who mean a lot to you, and pass on the gift of Freemasonry to them. Our fraternity is counting on you. ■



## Rose of Sharon at Charlton



Front left to right: Wor. Jeremy L. Foss, Bro. Robert Knight, Rt. Wor. Jonathan K. Nietz (Past Master of ROS), Bro. Ronald DeBellis, Wor. Joseph L. Mondor  
Back left to right: Rt. Wor. Richard W. Heale, Bro. James E. Alexander, Rt. Wor. Robert C. Schremser, Bro. Stephen (Bob) Munier, DDGM Rt. Wor. Peter D. Pendergast

Rose of Sharon Lodge (ROS) was formed when the Masonic home was built for retired and elderly Masons in the early 1900s. It functioned with the assistance of other lodges, sharing the day to day running of the lodge. Most, if not all, degree work required assistance from other lodges also. Since the early part of the 21st century, ROS has slowly become more involved not only in the lodge, but also in and with the community. The brothers have started traveling more, and enjoying the benefits of the Masonic fraternity. ROS is now winning the Lodge of Instruction attendance trophies more often and becoming a lodge to be reckoned with. On February



### A final gift for Rose of Sharon Lodge

Bro. Richard Cornwell, a staunch supporter of the Rose of Sharon Lodge at The Overlook, passed away shortly after coordinating these Irish Dancers for the Lodge. He is in the wheelchair with the checkered shirt on the right enjoying the event. **-Bro. Dana Gould**

19, 2024, ROS paid a fraternal visit to our 24th District brother, Oxford Lodge, for the purpose of performing the Second Degree for three ROS candidates. After a delicious lasagna dinner, we repaired to the lodge room, where the degree was performed under the direction of Oxford's Wor. Robert Lajoie and his officers. Rose of Sharon's Senior Deacon Rt. Wor. Richard W. Heale, delivered the middle chamber lecture, Bro. Burt Goodrich the tools lecture, Bro. Bob Childs stood in as Senior Steward, and Rose of Sharon's Worshipful Master Jeremy L. Foss filled the Tyler's position. It was a well-attended event and impressed the candidates. *continued on page 32*

## Charles W. Moore Lodge Visits Charlton

On March 30th, 2024, Rose of Sharon (ROS) Lodge had the pleasure of welcoming Wor. Charles Jones and his Ritual Team from the Charles W. Moore Lodge in Fitchburg



for the second time. The purpose of this visit was to perform the second degree for Charles W. Moore Lodge Fellowcraft Bro. Chauncey Maynor. When Charles W. Moore Lodge was here on March 26, 2023, they performed the second degree with a ritual team from both lodges. This time, it was performed entirely by Charles W. Moore Lodge, and ROS's Bro. Harry W. Manuel filled in as Junior Deacon. Before the ritual began, we had the honor of receiving the Grand Master, M. Wor. George F. Hamilton, and his suite. Also in attendance was a contingent of Masons from the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, including Deputy Grand Master Rt. Wor. Matthew A. Niedermeier. The degree work by the visiting lodge was performed well. After lodge closed, the visiting members were treated to a tour of Overlook's Senior Moment Brewery and they enjoyed a lunch in Overlook's Acacia Dining Room, with Senior Moments to complement their meal.

**-Bro. Bill Kenyon**



# ASK THE GRAND LECTURER

by Rt. Wor. Nicholas J. Mantello

Senior Grand Lecturer of the Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts



We have observed and have been asked if it is permissible, when the Worshipful Master is conferring the Obligation of the Degree to the Candidate, to have the Brethren in attendance also respond during the Obligation? No, this is not permissible. This is a very solemn section of all the Degrees, and it is between the Worshipful Master and the Candidate.

With others responding, along with the Candidate, it would be a distraction for the Candidate, and it would be impossible to hear the Candidate's response. Looking at our Cypher, only the Master and Candidate have lines, not the Brethren.

Another question that was asked by a new Brother who attended a Grand Lodge Quarterly for the first time was, "Why aren't the three burning tapers lit when opening the Great Lights at Grand Lodge?" This question was a good one, and after searching the *Constitutions and Regulations*, and *Massachusetts Masonic Protocol*, and every reference book I could consult, I was left with no answer. So we turned to our Past Grand Masters. During our Grand Lecturers meeting in the Grand Masters Board Room at a Quarterly Meeting, we asked our Past Grand Masters, who gather in the Grand Masters Lounge adjacent to the Board Room. Our answer came quickly without hesitation. Most Worshipful Albert T. Ames came in and sat

down next to me, and with a big smile answered, "Tradition." He told us a story of a long Past Grand Master, who at his first Quarterly, opened with all the lights, raps, and signs, and was quickly informed soon thereafter, that it was not the traditional opening. Thank you, Bro. Ames, for all of your help.

Forty and Two thousand men. I know that phrase is familiar to all of us. But what is the exact number they are referring to? This is a question heard more than once. Again the research began. Our Grand Historian, Rt. Wor. Walter Hunt, found a hand written Standard Work from the archives that had written out 2,040 (40 plus 2,000), but not so in more recent books. Our next option was, we referred to the Great Light, and it went back and forth, depending on which version of the Bible you consulted, between 42,000 and 2,040. Thankfully, our Grand Lecturer, Rt. Wor. Donald S. Stevens, has a friend who is a religious scholar who answered our question with 100% assurance that it is 42,000.

A question often from Candidates is, "What is a Conflagration, Inundation, and Hecatomb?" Simply put, a conflagration is a fire, an inundation is a flood, and a hecatomb was a sacrifice of 100 cattle to the Greek or Roman gods. In practice, as few as 12 could make up a hecatomb. ■

To ask the Grand Lecturers a question, send an email to Rt. Wor. Nicholas Mantello, [nicholas.j.mantello@gmail.com](mailto:nicholas.j.mantello@gmail.com).



## PLATE STORIES

### Get a Masonic Plate. Be Safe!

While returning from a vacation in Virginia Beach, my wife and I were traveling on a four-lane highway in the third lane at a good clip. Suddenly, a car came up to our rear bumper and began tooting its horn. I looked at my wife and said this could be a problem. The car then changed lanes and moved up to my wife's door. We looked over to see a Brother holding a Masonic hat in one hand and pointing to it with the other.

What surprised us was that he was so excited that he had both hands off the steering wheel and he was looking at us instead of the highway! We exchanged smiles and waves and went our separate ways. We also saw a Masonic plate from Maryland during our trip. **-Wor. Douglas Battige**

### Rose of Sharon from page 31

At the March meeting, ROS Lodge performed, for the first time in years, the Third Degree for two of the same three candidates, entirely with ROS members. Before the end of this year's Masonic season, ROS is scheduled to perform the Third Degree for three more Fellowcraft Masons. ROS is having more candidates apply for membership, not only from The Overlook family, but also from the outside, and a growing number of brothers are applying for affiliation. ROS is becoming a stronger fellowship of brothers. **-Bro. Bill Kenyon**



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