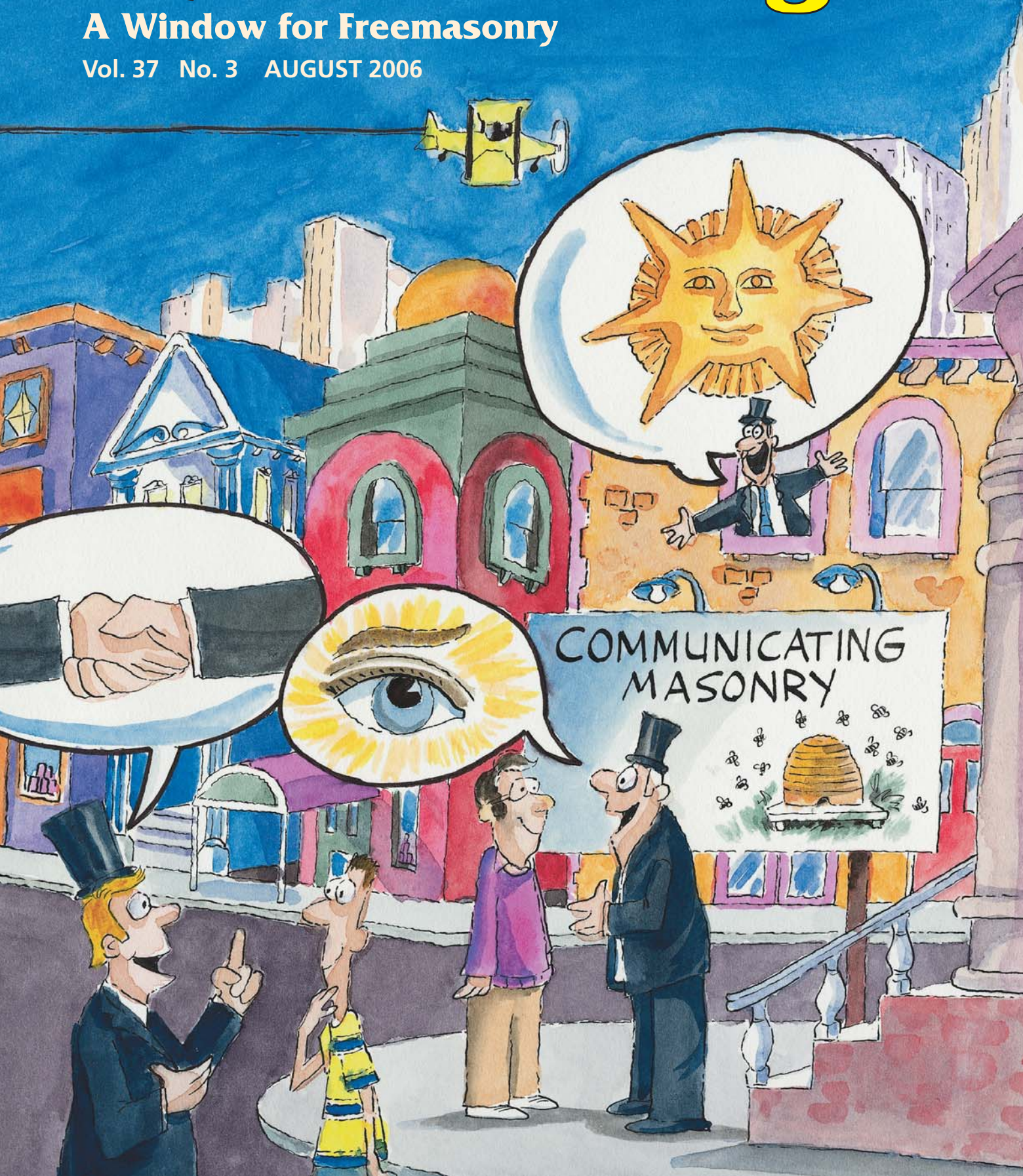


THE Northern Light

A Window for Freemasonry

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Features



4

6 Approaching A New Renaissance

by Jay M. Hochberg, 32°
Scholar predicts bright future for Scottish Rite.

10 A Mason At the Brickyard

Bro. Sam Hornish Jr. wins the Indy 500.



10

8 Restoring the Center

by Wayne T. Adams, 33°
Organizations that prosper find what they do best and focus on it.

12 Two Thousand Stories

by Alan E. Foulds
Harry Brahmstadt's First-Day Cover Collection.



12

14 Making the Grade

Dr. David Winters visits the learning centers.

Also:

10 Why the Brickyard? • **11** Indy 500 and the Indy Racing League • **15** 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children, Inc. • **16** Walk or Run to Help Children with Dyslexia • **16** Sponsor-A-Child • **16** Masonic Word Math • **17** National Heritage Museum Online • **17** In Memoriam: Ill. Terry D. Bentzel, 33° • **25** Twain Award to Honor Lodge 'Awareness' Program • **25** Deyo Appointed to Fill Vacancy • **27** Quick Quotes • **30** Hiram • **30** On the Lighter Side

Columns

- 3** Sovereign Grand Commander
- 18** Notes from the Southern Jurisdiction
- 19** Brothers on the Net
- 20** Scottish Rite Charities
- 21** The Stamp Act
- 22** Book Nook
- 24** HealthWise
- 26** Views from the Past
- 28** Today's Family
- 29** More Than Just Books
- 30** Readers Respond
- 31** Footnotes

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“We must not lose sight of the fact
that we have a message to convey.”

— John Wm. McNaughton, 33°



Examining the Basics

As our organization undergoes another period of transition in leadership, there is always a concern among the membership about the jurisdiction's future course. What can one expect from a new Sovereign Grand Commander? Will there be immediate changes? What kind of challenges lie ahead and how will they be handled?

Throughout every leadership transition — whether it be at the local lodge level or at a state or national headquarters — there is one common thread. Our Masonic roots are firmly implanted with core values that will not change. There may be many distractions in life, yet the moral principles expressed through our ritualistic ceremonies must continue to serve as the basis for a successful existence.

Each new Mason is asked a simple question. “In whom do you put your trust?” We may come from different backgrounds with a wide variety of interests, but we have all answered in the same manner. We have all based our Masonic career on that answer.

Recently a broadcast journalist was discussing paradigm shifts and made the simple observation that with every paradigm shift there are winners and losers. If Freemasonry is to continue to maintain a viable presence, it needs to be a winner. How can we do that?

For any fraternity to survive in a changing world, it need not change the basic principles of the organization. But it must continually examine the way in which it expresses those principles not only to the membership but also to the public at large.

During the middle of the last century, the Masonic fraternity was overwhelmed with such an increase in membership that lodges were finding it difficult to keep up with the demand. Our lodges were faced with a situation of conferring degree after degree to keep pace. There was little time for anything else. As the pace subsided and lodges found the need for fewer degree conferrals, many could not adjust to the extra time on their hands.

Grand Lodges have provided a platform for exceptional degree presentations through special statewide classes, but unless the local lodge finds a way to reinforce the lessons exemplified in the degrees, a candidate is left with little knowledge of the deeper understanding of Freemasonry.

A similar situation has existed within the Scottish Rite, where reunions once welcomed an overwhelming number of candidates and now greet much smaller classes. How do we compensate for this shift? We must not lose sight of the fact that we have a message to convey. Perhaps we can strengthen our degree conferrals with discussions so that not only candidates but also the entire membership can attain a better understanding of the depth of the lessons expressed in the ritualistic work.

We can all benefit from the reminders of these moral lessons. The net result is both individual improvement and a stronger membership. That combination provides a greater opportunity for us to carry out our fraternal, social and charitable endeavors.

John Wm. McNaughton
Sovereign Grand Commander

Communicating Masonic Principles

By RICHARD H. CURTIS, 33°

*Carry the message
beyond the lodge room*



In many parts of the world, Freemasonry survives without public recognition. There are no signs or symbols on the exterior of the buildings, and Masons do not wear a square and compasses pin in their lapel. To the average non-Mason in many of these countries, Freemasonry does not exist.

The fraternity in the United States, however, has taken a different approach. Masonic buildings are easily identified for all to see — perhaps some

better than others — and members don't hesitate to flash rings and pins.

Yet for all the exposure the Masons attempt to display, there are so many non-Masons in this country who know little or nothing about the Masonic fraternity. In fact, a moviegoer leaving the theater after viewing "National Treasure" was overheard commenting to his friend, "I wonder if the Masons are still around."

References to Freemasonry in recent films and Dan Brown's novels have inspired a sense of curiosity among many people who have not been familiar with the fraternity. The curiosity factor has created a renewed interest among those who are seeking what Freemasonry has to offer.

Once the curious bystander eventually locates a Mason, there is frequently an awkward pause, because the Mason does not feel comfortable answering a Masonic question from an outsider.

Perhaps it is because he feels he has been sworn to secrecy that he will not reveal "anything." If such is the case, we have done a very poor job of educating the member.

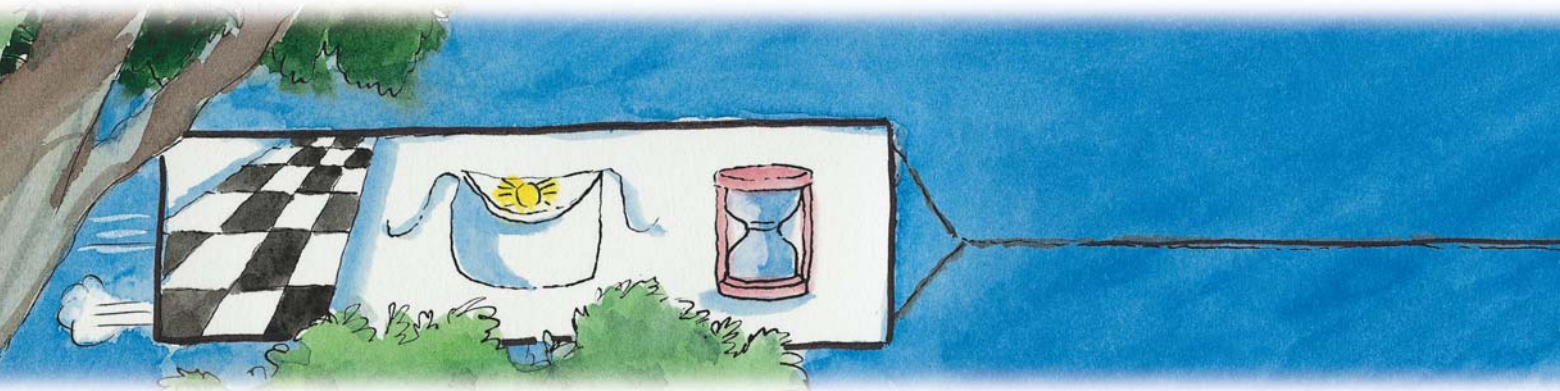
What is secret, and what is not? Certainly the grips, words and signs are intended to be shared only with Masons. There is a reason for it. There is a bond of trust among Masons, and for one

Mason to recognize another Mason he can use those means of communication.

But what about the philosophical principles and the moral lessons? Certainly Freemasonry holds no exclusive rights to the lessons exemplified in the ritualistic ceremonies. There are basic principles portrayed that would make the world a better place if everyone followed them, but they are not exclusive with Freemasonry.



The emblems can make the moral lessons easier to understand, but occa-



ONE ON ONE

Non-member: You're a Mason? Tell me more about it.

Member: Oh, I can't tell you. It's a secret.

Non-member: I see that symbol with a letter G in the middle. What is that?

Member: I can't tell you. Only Masons know what that means.

Non-member: That big eye on the dollar bill — does that have anything to do with Masonry?

Member: I don't know.

Non-member: The apron that Masons wear — do they wear that in the kitchen?

Member: No.

Non-member: What's the ballot box that they talk about?

Member: Oh, you'll have to join to find out.

Non-member: What are the benefits of being a Mason?

Member: There aren't any.

sional reminders of their significance help the Mason realize his responsibility. The symbolism is an outgrowth of the period of the Enlightenment.

A sophisticated public relations campaign can wake up the general public to make everyone aware that Freemasonry still exists, but it is the individual Mason who is the best source of advertisement. The way in which he lives his life is the showcase for the fraternity.

It is also important that a Mason let his membership be known. The proverbial "light hidden under the bushel basket" is too often the way some members maintain their as-

sociation with the fraternity.

Perhaps it is a lack of Masonic education that makes some Masons feel uncomfortable about discussing Freemasonry with others. Some have been led to believe that the fraternity is so secret that they cannot disclose anything. This has led to the misconception that the organization has something to hide. And that is unfortunate.

One way to solve this problem is to make sure that each new Mason gets a better understanding of the principles expressed in the degrees. We need to do a more thorough job of Masonic education.

If a non-member were to approach you to inquire about Freemasonry, how would you answer? Read through the "One on One" dialogues and determine for yourself which one has a deeper knowledge of the fraternity and which one is fearful of answering even the most basic questions.

The way you communicate Masonry will determine the future strength of the fraternity. Remember, you are the most effective means of communicating the message.



ONE ON ONE

Non-member: I understand that you're a Mason. What's it all about?

Member: Well, Freemasonry is a fraternity based on trust. We all agree to live by certain principles, and that gives us a common bond.

Non-member: It's a secret organization, isn't it?

Member: Absolutely not. If it were secret, you wouldn't know I was a Mason, and you wouldn't know where Masons meet.

Non-member: But I can't go into a Masonic building, can I?

Member: Of course you can. I'd be happy to show you around. The only time it is restricted is when a meeting is taking place.

Non-member: But what will I be allowed to see?

Member: I can show you the entire building and even explain some of the symbolism of the organization.

Non-member: You mean it's not secret?

Member: There is nothing secret about the emblems that are used to symbolize virtues.

Non-member: It sounds like a religious group.

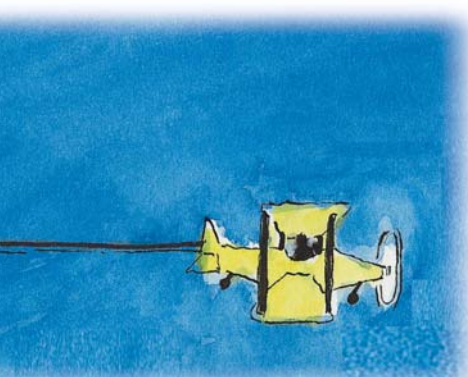
Member: The virtues don't make it a religion. They are basic moral principles that everyone should follow regardless of their religious belief.

Non-member: So it isn't a religion?

Member: No, and it doesn't pretend to be. It encourages its members to show respect for all people by suggesting a way of life that can make this community and the world a much better place to live.

Non-member: What do I have to do to join?

Member: If you're serious about it, I'll show you the way.



Approaching A New Renaissance

*Scholar predicts bright future
for Scottish Rite*

A noted Masonic scholar called on the Scottish Rite to prepare for a new generation of students and seekers and to relish its long-held purpose as the university of Freemasonry.

Addressing New Jersey Council of Deliberation's annual session June 3, Ill. Robert G. Davis, 33°, made his second appearance in two years to this statewide Scottish Rite meeting as the guest of Ill. Verdon R. Skipper, 33°, Deputy for New Jersey.

Davis is Executive Secretary of the Scottish Rite Valley of Guthrie, Oklahoma, in the Southern Jurisdiction. He has built a lengthy Masonic resume, especially in the areas of scholarship and publishing. His most recent book is *Understanding Manhood in America*.

Davis' speech defined the Scottish Rite as the creation of free minds striking a balance between reason and faith; exhorted the brethren to embrace a new age of spirituality; and placed both messages within a stunning historical context.

"In the history of the world, there have been two periods when a spiritual awakening has taken place across every culture at the same time which resulted in a redefinition of religion and a global awakening of man," Davis told his audience of more than 100 Scottish Rite officers and members.

He explained that during this "first axial period," between 800 and 300 BCE, the philosophies of Confucius, Lao-Tze, Socrates, Plato and Aristotle and the religions of Judaism, Buddhism and Hinduism all assumed the

Ill. Robert G. Davis, 33°, addresses the New Jersey Council of Deliberation.



forms as we know them today. "It was an extraordinary global transformation," he added. "To this day, we live in the structure of consciousness that was shaped in this 500-year period."

The second axial period was described as a smaller movement that shaped Western civilization. This 400-year period saw the rediscovery of classical learning in the Renaissance; the redefining of religious doctrine in the Reformation; the flourishing of the rights of man in the Enlightenment; and finally man's harnessing of sciences and technologies in the Industri-

al Revolution.

"There is little doubt that the system of teaching we now call the Scottish Rite took its form during the period midway between the second and third of these movements," Davis said. "Our founders enjoyed the benefit of the Renaissance and Reformation ideas; and they associated with those intellectuals and Enlightenment thinkers who were preparing for the great political upheaval which became the Revolution." Specifically, as dual forces in the creation of the Scottish Rite, Davis cited Kabbala, "which gave man a map of consciousness for exploring the nature of Deity and his relationship with the Divine," and Humanism, "which embraced the value

JAY M. HOCHBERG, 32°, is a past presiding officer in the Scottish Rite Valley of Northern New Jersey.

of the individual and his right to self-improvement."

"The Rite is built on the clear understanding that men need to be engaged in a quest for self-improvement," Davis continued. "Men have to be initiated into manhood and they have to be anointed by other men. It's all about awakening the slumber of his consciousness. I can think of no other organization in the world that exists principally for this purpose."

Expanding on that point, Davis outlined the teachings of the Rite's four bodies. "The degrees of the Lodge of Perfection relate to the shadow side of our own existence — our ruffians within. The (early degrees) awaken our psyche to a sense of incompleteness, of something missing, as symbolized by the death of Grand Master Hiram Abiff. But what is really missing is the unfinished business we have with ourselves. (Later degrees) symbolize the chasing down of these internal ruffians and bringing them to justice. In the 14°, we discover the divinity within us and know that the quest for perfection is attainable."

The purposes of the Council of Princes of Jerusalem and the Chapter of Rose Croix are "to purify the light of discovery and knowledge and make it the guiding force in our life. We learn

"We are on the cutting edge of something bigger than we know."

In our near future, Davis sees not only enormous promise for the Scottish Rite as "a powerful path to mature masculinity, personal development, and spiritual transformation," but also the dawn of a third era of human spiritual advancement.

"There has never been a time when I have been more excited about our potential in presenting ourselves as the university of Freemasonry, and the reason I'm so excited is that we are moving into a new axial period," he said. "We see it in the breakdown of traditional forms of worship, in the frantic experiment of new models of religious forms tied to a culture that

'unchurched,' and in the stubborn resistance of younger generations to blindly follow the established faith systems of their fathers without independent examination."

"We are on the cutting edge of something bigger than we know," he added. "The Scottish Rite can be an integral part of this new dialogue if the purpose of our beginnings becomes known. We communicate two very complex, but essential notions: First, that mankind is made in the image of God; and second, that each of us reflects, in miniature, the structure of the universe."

This foundation is stable, Davis explained, and ready for a new generation. "Those young men born after 1975 are looking for older adult male role models who can give the knowledge of their learning and the wisdom of their experience."

They want to be on the quest for self-improvement and spiritual development. We have a window of opportunity here that will launch our own organization into another renaissance if we are just smart enough to connect with this generation in positive, intellectual, and fraternal ways. But we have to deliver on the promises we make. We have to really live the lessons of what we learn in lodge and in the Rite."

"My brethren, what we build matters," said Davis in conclusion. "There is no such thing as an unimportant action. We primarily build ourselves, and the selection of the materials we use for our own intellectual and spiritual life are the most important decisions we will ever make. The Scottish Rite gives us the tools to have whatever life we want. We need only to select well, examine carefully, decide fairly, live spiritually, and love mightily." 🐾

"We have a window of opportunity that will launch our organization into another renaissance."

that differences in religion do not matter; that truth prevails in people's words and deeds." In the Consistory degrees we "learn that reason and logic can only take one so far; to truly communicate with the godhead requires faith; yet faith alone is untrustworthy. We find that reason validates the faith experience and this balance between faith and reason is where true religion is found."

thrives on being entertained. We see it in a sustained growth in spiritually based secular organizations, and in a new craving for esoteric disciplines and individual practices. We see it in the insecurity of established religions in the wake of movies and books. We see it in a new curiosity about secret organizations and hidden knowledge. We even see it in the unprecedented numbers of people who are

Restoring the Center

By WAYNE T. ADAMS, 33°

*Organizations that prosper find
what they do best and focus on it*

*The following excerpts from an address delivered
at the Maine Lodge of Research, Leeds, ME, in June
2005, preceded an endorsement emphasizing the
importance of a Masonic research lodge.*

It is one of the axioms of life that the person who succeeds is the person who seeks and finds that which he or she does best and then does it. The same is also true for an organization. Those organizations that prosper find what they do best and then bring their focus to bear on that strength.

In Freemasonry today, we seem to have a great uncertainty about what we do best — where our true vocation lies.

There are those who think the most important thing is to do ritual well. They devote their energy to achieving a perfect rendition of our degrees.

There are those who believe that fellowship is the most important aspect of Masonry, and their primary focus is in spending time with other people in congenial and pleasing pursuits.

There are those who think that the most important aspect of Masonry is its outward expression in terms of community service and involvement in charitable activities. They readily point to successful lodges that are doing just that and having a good measure of success.

In spite of some notable successes in each of these areas, I believe our fraternity as an organization is adrift because it has lost sight of its primary purpose.

If a man is primarily interested in performing, there are community theaters where he or she can find great satisfaction.

If a man is primarily interested in fellowship, there are many other organizations that can provide congenial social outlets.

If a man is primarily interested in public service and community outreach, there are other organizations that are focused on that goal, have done it longer, and seem to do it better.

We need all those men and have to respect their particular interest, but an organization needs one fundamental focus. The particular interests of individual Masons cannot be allowed to warp the main focus of Freemasonry.

This, of course, brings us to the question: What is the unique quality of Masonry? What is its mission and unique vocation?

I believe that the purpose of Masonry is

- ➔ to show the path to self-knowledge,
- ➔ to instill a philosophy,
- ➔ to offer a method or system for staying connected with and living by that philosophy.

When a person or an organization tries to do something that is not its true vocation, it fails. Let me offer an extreme example to illustrate the point. A school's vocation is to teach. It is organized to accomplish that purpose. It selects its leadership and establishes a decision-making process with that purpose in mind.

Suppose it then decides that it also wants to make textiles. The staff and faculty are bright people, and they can probably figure out that they have to buy some yarn or thread. They have to buy some weaving machines, and they have to develop a marketing plan to sell the product.

**“What is
the unique
quality of
Masonry?”**

These teachers and administrators certainly are capable enough to figure out what has to be done, but for a school not really focused on that objective, not equipped to do that, and not organized to do that, the likelihood of being successful in making textiles is remote.

It won't be very successful in making textiles, and since it is trying to do something removed from its proper vocation, it won't do a very good job in attracting and educating students either.



WAYNE T. ADAMS, 33°, is a Past Grand Master in Maine and a member of the Scottish Rite Valley of Portland.

“We have a 17th-century philosophy, embedded in 18th-century ritual, entrusted with 19th-century organizational structure, as we enter the 21st century.”

Let us look at Masonry. If the purpose of Masonry is to instruct men in a philosophy and a system to enable them to make right decisions and to maintain good relationships and to give them some guidance in that direction, it is probably not going to be very successful if it shifts its focus to community service or to perfect ritual or to fellowship activities.

If any organization abandons its primary vocation, it is not going to succeed in attaining that vocation or any other vocation very well. And so it is with Masonry.

From my perspective, all Masonry is found at the local lodge level. It would be an overstatement to say that Grand Lodges are a necessary evil, but they can be a detriment whenever the leadership does not resist the temptation to undertake tasks for which it has no effective organizational structure and for which it has no open participatory decision-making process.

If we are realistic, we have to admit that we have a 17th-century philosophy (which we don't think about very much), embedded in 18th-century ritual (which we perform almost by rote), entrusted to a 19th-century organizational structure (with customs and priorities which got seriously out of step with contemporary society in the 20th century), as we enter the 21st century (with leadership that spends 95 percent of its time making ceremonial appearances).

This is hardly a remedy for success, and no one attempting to design a successful organization today would ever create such a structure.

So we have an organization that is uncertain of its focus and trying to do a lot of things it was not designed to do. The center has given way.

As one Grand Master has said, “We don't have a membership problem; we have a mission and vision problem.” He is correct. Membership gain is not a goal; membership gain is the result of a goal achieved.

So what can we do that will make a difference? We clearly need to either re-

cover the original focus of the fraternity or adopt some new focus. And we need to either tailor our organization to meet the needs of our traditional focus or re-tailor it to meet some new focus and purpose.

Of course, I have my preference. I would like to see this fraternity become once again a thinking man's organization. I'm not saying that everyone needs to be a scholar. I am saying that we need to establish an intellectual center, a common Masonic culture that can

- restore direction to the fraternity,
- give it the guidance it needs to function in the 21st century,
- create a common culture where those who seek more light can find it.

By intellectual center I don't mean a place or an organization. I mean a core of men who are knowledgeable about Masonry and acute observers of the world around them.

We have the capability to create such a center and to create a vibrant Masonic culture. Bearing in mind that institutions tend to fossilize, I think we need several points of activity. Let me suggest a few points that could make up a lively and creative center.

A Masonic college is now in the advanced planning stages in Maine. The college is developing seminars and courses on the history of our ritual, the role of myth and symbolism in Masonic thought and teachings, explorations into the tenets and moral values of the

craft, analysis of popular books that feature Masonic allusions, Masonic music, and the relationship between the Roman Catholic Church and Masonry.

A second important element in creating a common Masonic culture and a common frame of reference would be a well-designed and structured reading program. The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania has an Academy of Masonic Knowledge offering a three-level reading program with works of increasing complexity.

A third important element to an active Masonic culture could be a lodge of research. American research lodges could make a greater contribution to reenergizing the craft. I would like to see our lodges of research shift their focus from the past to the present, because I believe they can make a valuable stimulating contribution to the present.

A fourth element would be the establishment of new lodges having a special focus.

These four elements can be important parts of a creative, vibrant, intellectual center for Masonry.

There is nothing wrong with ceremony. There is nothing wrong with good public relations. There is nothing wrong with good community service.

My point is that all these things have to be emanations of a common philosophy and belief system that is now, always has been, and always will be the product of study, reading, reflection and discussion.



**“Membership gain is not a goal;
it is the result of a
goal achieved.”**

A Mason At the Brickyard

*Bro. Sam Hornish Jr.
wins the Indy 500*

Summing up the importance of the classic Indianapolis competition to the sport, and its placement among sporting events, legendary driver Al Unser once said, "Every race I run in is in preparation for the Indianapolis 500."

In May a member of the Scottish Rite was first to cross the finish line at that famed racing spectacle as Sam Hornish Jr., 32°, claimed victory and won the 2006 Borg Warner Trophy, emblematic of Indy 500 triumph.

Bro. Hornish, a member of the Valley of Toledo, was raised a Master Mason at Omega Lodge in Defiance, OH, his hometown. He joined the Scottish Rite in November 2004. A family affair, he followed his father, Bro. Sam Hornish Sr., into the craft. In fact family has always been a major factor at the turning points of his life.

Sam's first interface with motor sports came on his 11th birthday as he entered a father-son go-kart race. Just ten years later he joined the Indy Racing League (IRL).

The league features several races throughout the calendar with points



Sam Hornish Jr., driver of the #6 Marlboro Team Penske Car, winner of the 90th Indianapolis 500 with American flag in the winners circle.

earned for each victory. His third-place finish at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway was his best as a rookie. In his sophomore year he went all the way, beating out reigning champion Buddy

Lazier and winning the series.

In 2002 he repeated his victory of the year before. His back-to-back victories still make him the only two-time champion of the IRL. With 15 first-place



WHY THE BRICKYARD?

The Indianapolis Motor Speedway, probably the most well-known auto racing track, was built in 1909 on 300 acres of farmland just north of Indianapolis.

Initially planned as a testing facility for the burgeoning auto industry, occasional races were conducted, matching cars from various manufacturers.

The original surface consisted of crushed rock and tar. According to the official history of the track it proved "to be disastrous at the opening motorcycle and automobile racing events in August 1909."

During a 300-mile race the surface was torn up, making conditions treacherous.

Several people were killed and the race was stopped before completion. To solve the problem, more than three million bricks "were laid on their sides in a bed of sand and fixed with mortar." This new innovation inspired the track's nickname, "The Brickyard."

Although most of the bricks are still there, they have, for the most part, been paved over with a modern asphalt surface, with only a yard of bricks exposed at the start and finish.

Helping keep the name alive is a NASCAR event now held there, known as the "Brickyard 400." It began in 1994.

finishes in league races, he is also the tournament's all-time winner.

On May 28, in one of the most exciting editions of the nearly century-old race, Hornish won the big prize at Indianapolis. A short while before the end, victory did not look promising.

A pit stop error resulted in a penalty, dropping him from second to eighth place with only a quarter of the race to go. By the second-to-last lap, though, Hornish had battled back to second, behind only rookie Marco Andretti.

He saved the best for last. According to the *Indianapolis Star*, at the last corner "Hornish made the pass look easy as he took the inside line to victory."

The margin was only 0.0635 seconds, representing 15 feet, and the second closest finish in the race's history. He says, "You can't cut it much closer than that."

Adding to his honors in 2006 Bro. Hornish was awarded the "Scott Brayton Driver's Trophy" best exemplifying the character and racing spirit of the late Scott Brayton.

The honor is given annually to a driver who shows both tenacity and friendliness. Brayton was killed during a practice session at the speedway in 1996.

Sam Hornish lives with his wife Crystal near his hometown of Defiance.



© WILLIAM MANNING/CORBIS

Sam Hornish Jr. in the #6 Marlboro Team Penske Car speeds through the first turn in the 90th Indianapolis 500 early in the race. Hornish goes on to win the Indianapolis 500 in the second closest finish in Indy 500 history at an average speed of 157 mph.

Competition History

2000: Indy Racing League
2001: Indy Racing League - Series Champion, three first-place finishes
2002: Indy Racing League - Series Champion, five first-place finishes
2003: Indy Racing League - Series 5th

place, three first-place finishes

2004: Indy Racing League - Series 7th place, one first-place finish

2005: Indy Racing League - Series 3rd place, two first-place finishes

2006: Indy Racing League - Three first-place finishes to date, including Indianapolis 500 victory



Indy 500 and the Indy Racing League

On May 30, 1911, an American tradition was born. After drawing disappointing crowds at early races, the owners of the track dedicated the site to one large event per year.

They scheduled one race — 200 laps, 500 miles — with a large prize of \$20,000. A qualifying speed of 75 mph was set, and 40 cars and drivers were at the starting line of the inaugural race. It has been run on an annual basis during the Memorial Day weekend since that time, with only two gaps.

The first World War caused the shortening of the 1916 edition to 300 miles and the next two were canceled outright. World War II caused a suspension of the event from 1941-45 as well.

Many traditions surround the famed race. One had its origins in 1936. HickokSports.com

states that Louis Meyer celebrated his third Indy victory by drinking his favorite beverage, buttermilk.

The American Dairy Association (then known as the Milk Foundation) saw the publicity possibilities and began presenting the winner with a bottle of milk immediately after the finish. For the most part the ritual has lived on to this day.

In 1994, track owner Tony Hulman George formed the Indy Racing League (IRL). It established a competition between racing teams taking place at many tracks, originally ending at Indianapolis. Points are awarded for each race on the circuit.

The first year's schedule included just three locations, but the list has grown to 14 race tracks throughout the country.

Two Thousand Stories

Harry Brahmstadt's First-Day Cover Collection

It is hard to decide which fact is more impressive — Bro. Harry Brahmstadt's amazing collection of first day of issue stamps; the incredible organization skills that he used in cataloging them, or that more than 2,000 Masons have been featured on first-day covers.

Earlier this year Ill. Harry R. Brahmstadt, 33°, a member of the Scottish Rite Valley of Chicago, donated his enormous collection of first-day covers, or caches, to the Van Gorden-Williams Library. The institution is a part of the National Heritage Museum in Lexington, MA, and is one of the main charities of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction.

The stamp collection fills eight shelves and consists of 83 volumes. Bro. Brahmstadt has them placed in binders by year and by country. U.S. stamps fill 36 volumes while the rest are mostly of European origin.

He commented that there is a substantial investment in the storage of the caches. All elements are manufactured of dust-proof and acid-free materials to assure permanence. Harry says, "Each binder costs \$75 and the inserts that hold the envelopes run \$5.50 apiece."

With a collection of this size it is expensive to maintain but is worth it, he commented, "because the items are protected and the collection is accessible."

And accessible it is. According to Catherine Swanson, archivist at the library, "The collection is not restricted in any way."



ALAN E. FOULDS, is the Assistant Editor for The Northern Light, and author of the recently published book, Boston's Ballparks and Arenas.



Cache from the Harry Brahmstadt collection depicting Marechal Lannes, a French military man and close friend of Napoleon.

"We welcome members of the public that are interested in stamp collecting, and in particular of Masonic stamps, to come to the library and view it."

When asked if he had any particular favorites Harry said no, but there are many "sub-collections" within the volumes that he has enjoyed. For instance, at one time he had a cover for every Masonic admiral and general from Great Britain.

He also has a set of Masonic baseball players. The caches, featuring such notable athletes as Joe Tinker (of Tinker to Evans to Chance fame), Ty Cobb, and Jimmie Foxx, and stamps showing historic stadiums, were released in New

York, Chicago, and Detroit on June 27, 2001. There are many other interesting stories found within the pages as well.



Ill. Harry R. Brahmstadt, 33°, is a member of the Scottish Rite Valley of Chicago.

Caches are envelopes printed or hand-painted with images or stories about the stamp.

— Dr. Guy Dillaway

An early item in the collection depicts Bro. George Rogers Clark on a stamp dated Feb. 25, 1929, and debuted in Vincennes, IN.

Famous actor William S. Hart was known as the “first of the white hat cowboys” based on his reputation of remaining true to his “good guy” character even off the screen. His stamp was first issued at Hollywood Station Oct. 31, 1944.

Bro. Winthrop Sargent served as a major with General Knox during the American Revolution. He later became the first governor of the Mississippi Territory. He is shown on a stamp celebrating the sesquicentennial observance of Mississippi in 1948. The stamp was released in Natchez, MS, and the cache shows Sargent with the square and compasses.

Another set features Masonic Nobel Prize winners such as Frank Kellogg, secretary of war under Coolidge; President Theodore Roosevelt; Rudyard Kipling; Ralph Bunche, one of the authors of the United Nations charter; Alexander Fleming, discoverer of penicillin, and author Alex Haley.

Bro. Brahmstadt started collecting stamps in 1978 but decided early to concentrate on caches or first-day covers.

Although he has samples from many genres most of his items are Masonic in nature. Sprinkled in among the stamps with a fraternal connection are a few Americana subjects such as Betsy Ross and the Pony Express. In addition to the stamps, the caches include a brief biography or story of the featured subject.

Brahmstadt is a retired electrician who spent much of his career involved with show business.

He spent time on the road with traveling productions. He also has worked in every Chicago venue, with many years spent at the Arie Crown Theater at the McCormick Center. He proudly says it is the third largest in the nation behind only Radio City Music Hall (which it was modeled after) and the

Kennedy Center.

The cache collection is quite valuable, according to appraiser Guy Dillaway. A dentist by profession, Dr. Dillaway has a deep background in stamp collecting.

He is a certified philatelic appraiser and has done work for the American Philatelic Society and the American Stamp Dealers Association. He also served as president of the Spellman Philatelic Museum in Weston, MA, for 20 years.

Dillaway categorizes this as a collection of “event covers.” Many of the stamps are from their first day of issue while for some “the thrust is the event or person.” Caches, he explains, are envelopes printed or hand-painted with images or stories about the stamp featured on the cancellation. They began to appear in the early 1920’s.

“The early ones were lithographed or, in some cases, printed with a rubber stamp.” Many of the caches in this collection, he points out, “were created by Edsel — the printer, not the car.”

Edsel, he explains was known for

producing Masonic collections using American stamps.

Dr. Dillaway described the collection as being extensive and well ordered. It contains many interesting pieces. One he pointed out as noteworthy features the penny black stamp on a folded letter sheet.

This particular stamp, depicting Queen Victoria is well known among collectors as the first adhesive postage stamp. He said that it is not particularly rare but is highly collectible. The stamp was issued on May 6, 1840.

Bro. Harry states that his purpose in amassing the stamps was not for profit. He says “I went in with the idea, not for making money, but to collect, and to concentrate on particular subjects. That is the difference between a collector and an investor.”

Harry Brahmstadt’s meticulous care in creating this collection and his generous donation to the Van Gorden-Williams Library has assured that this piece of Masonic heritage is not only preserved, but is also available to all. 🐾

Stamp and cover of the late Winston Churchill, prime minister of Great Britain. He was initiated in Studholme Lodge No. 1591.



Making The Grade

*Dr. David Winters visits
the learning centers*

In order to operate a network of learning centers it is not enough to raise the money, hire the appropriate staff and enroll the students. When the doors open for the first time, the work really begins.

The 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children, Inc., has been very successful for more than a decade in spreading its good work across the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction. As one of its leading charities, the Scottish Rite has built more than 50 centers dedicated to helping children overcome the results of dyslexia, and they are open to all children free of charge.

Operating such a premier network of centers mandates the attention of a myriad of dedicated people. Required, of course, are a top-notch group of tutors and center directors as well as local boards that are responsible for procuring space and finding the money to open and operate these invaluable resources.

As with any worthwhile and large-scale project, there are always duties that are absolutely necessary, but, for the most part, go unheralded. One of these is the chore of assuring that all centers are on script. At regular intervals each center's operation is examined. Lesson plans are looked at, notes are checked, and personnel are interviewed. Considering that the centers are located in 15 states, this can be a massive undertaking.

That job falls to Dr. David Winters, 32°, executive director of clinical affairs for the program. He says that roughly 25 to 30 percent of his time is spent on the road as he makes his regular swings around the jurisdiction.

In between a couple of his frequent road trips, Dr. Winters explains that his center visits are set up on a two-round approach. Shortly after a new site comes online he makes his first visit. While there he takes a tour of the facility and



Dr. David Winters, 32°, and Joyce Gillis, center director at Lexington, review lesson plans for the upcoming academic year.

interviews the center director. His records review consists of random checks of students' and tutors' paperwork. What he is looking for, Dr. Winters says, "is to assure that lesson plans are done properly and proper notes are taken and kept."

During his stay he observes full lessons delivered by at least two tutors, one of which must be a trainee. When possible he also meets with the local board of directors, where he can deliver any news from headquarters and field their questions as well.

Finally, he conducts an exit interview with the center director. This segment of the day works in two directions. In addition to offering feedback and passing on ideas from other centers, he takes suggestions. One center may have solved a problem encountered by another. The flow of information can often

help resolve issues already faced by someone else.

These visits can make for some lengthy days. Dr. Winters says that he is often there late into the evening, but the dedicated staff members are always willing to remain as long as it takes. After his first visit to Fort Wayne, a particularly long day, he discovered that center director Kurt Walborn was running for a position on his local school board and that Dave's arrival came on the last day before the election. Although it ate up valuable campaign time, they stuck with it until the review was complete, with never a complaint or comment from Kurt. Dave added, "Fortunately, he won."

On his trip to Tenafly, NJ, he arrived in a blizzard. There were no students there that day, but center director Georgette Dickman and the board were on

hand.

Some time after a center visit, a report is produced, which contains an evaluation and recommendations.

Dr. Winters says that the initial round has been completed for centers now in existence, but first-time visits will take place at new centers as they are opened.

The second round works in much the same way, with only a few changes. "The idea is to look at a center in a normal setting, after it has been in operation for a while," he says.

This subsequent review resembles the initial visit with a few modifications. For instance, a meeting with the entire board is not necessary. Additionally, changes requested in the final report of the initial site visit are examined to see if they have been implemented. Also, a main focus of round two is training.

Dr. Winters says the face-to-face meetings are very helpful. "It adds a personal touch to the clinical side." He gets to know the people who run the centers and he sees them in action. They no longer seem just a name of some far-off place. He says that it is exciting to see the "centers filled with children and parents."

Bro. Winters added that a number of parents have made a point of telling him the learning centers have made a profound impact on their lives, not just those of their children.

The visits have confirmed the superb quality of the program, and also give him the chance to observe the unique features and issues of each center. He says "It helps to see first-hand which policies work and which may need adjustment."

His sentiments are echoed by Linda Martin, center director in Central New York. She commented that she is always happy to see Dr. Winters. His input, suggestions, and overall recommendations are of value and helped us to get further on track as a fully functioning center."

She says, "Another benefit of the visit is the ability of the board members to talk to him directly in a familiar and comfortable atmosphere." She feels that the more interaction that people at her center have with the administration in Lexington, the easier it is to communicate with them.

Kurt Walborn, center director in Fort Wayne, adds, "Dave is great. When he is here, he has come to help. His expertise assures that clinically we are doing our best for the kids." Dr. Winters made his most recent visit to Fort

Wayne in April 2006 when he took a look at the curriculum, observed students and their reactions, and reviewed paperwork. Walborn says that Winters looks out for the center directors as well, helping them to stay focused on their immediate tasks. He says, "Dave is willing to give the directors freedom within the overall structure. He listens to their ideas and views, while offering advice. The flow of ideas goes both ways."

Many of the center directors added the thought that the visits make them feel connected to the learning centers as a whole. Although they meet with each other twice a year — once during the International Dyslexia Association Conference and once at Supreme Council headquarters — the one-on-one visits give each of them an ear for hearing

their individual issues.

As David Winters prepared to head off on yet another cross-country journey, he summed up this time-consuming portion of his job by relating a story from one of the centers. He says that he begins each tutoring observance by asking the child, "Is this helping you?" In one instance, the answer was "All the things I've tried before haven't worked, and this one is getting through." In another case, on a day which happened to be a week before a six-year-old's birthday, the tutor said, "I hope you have a nice day." The boy responded, "I hope to get to read here forever."

Those affirmations from the children helped make all of Dr. Winters' traveling and time away from home very rewarding.



32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children, Inc.

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Akron, OH | Madison, WI |
| Allentown, PA | Milwaukee, WI |
| Altoona, PA | Moline, IL |
| Bangor, ME | Nashua, NH |
| Bay City, MI | New Castle, PA |
| Bloomsburg, PA | Newark, NJ |
| Burlington, NJ | Northfield, NJ |
| Burlington, VT | Norwood, OH |
| Cambridge, OH | Peoria, IL |
| Canton, OH | Pittsburgh, PA |
| Central NY | Portland, ME |
| Chicago, IL | Providence, RI |
| Cincinnati, OH | Reading, PA |
| Cleveland, OH | Rochester, NY |
| Columbus, OH | Scotch Plains, NJ |
| Dayton, OH | Scranton, PA |
| Detroit, MI | Seacoast, NH |
| Erie, PA | South Bend, IN |
| Evansville, IN | Southern Illinois |
| Fort Wayne, IN | Steubenville, OH |
| Freeport, IL | Tenafly, NJ |
| Greater Boston, MA | Toledo, OH |
| Greater Lowell, MA | Waterbury, CT |
| Harrisburg, PA | West Michigan |
| Hasbrouck Heights, NJ | Wilmington, DE |
| Indianapolis, IN | Worcester, MA |
| Lancaster, PA | Youngstown, OH |
| Lexington, MA | |

32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children, Inc.

WALK or RUN

TO HELP CHILDREN WITH DYSLEXIA

Proving the old adage that you must learn to walk before you can run, this year's annual walks to help children with dyslexia have added a new feature.

In the fall of 2006 five of the centers have added a 5K race, running in concert with their annual walks.

Three years ago just two centers ran pilot walks, established to gauge interest and to work out the kinks.

The intention from the start was to create an annual event at most or all the learning centers. Based on the model of the first two sites, by the

second year many centers were exploring the possibility of hosting their own walks.

In the mode of other charity walks parents, members, and townspeople are urged to commit to a two- or three-mile walk and sign up sponsors.

The walks are held amidst a festive atmosphere, usually including a bar-becue, entertainment, and hats or t-shirts for participants.

Over the last two years the number of events soared to more than 40, spread throughout the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction.

This year the number of walks is nearing 50 and found in almost all the states of the jurisdiction.

The addition of the races adds a new dimension and includes a new set of participants.

The Walks/Runs to Help Children with Dyslexia begin this year in Portland, ME, on Sunday, Aug. 13, and take place throughout the fall. Check the website at dyslexiawalk.org for more information.

Sponsor-A-Child

The approximate cost to tutor one child for one year at a 32° Masonic Learning Center for Children is \$5,000. Typically a student remains in the program for two years. To help defray the costs the learning center office created a "sponsor-a-child" program and is accepting donations for \$5000 for full sponsorships or \$2,500 for co-sponsorships.

For more information on making a donation call the Development Office at (800) 814-1432 ext. 3326 or send a check directly, payable to 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children, Inc., PO Box 519, Lexington, MA 02420.

To see a list of those who have sponsored a child during the past year check the website at: childrenslearningcenters.org/centers/sponsorachild.html

MASONIC WORD MATH

How to solve: Start with the first word. Add to it the letters of the second word. Then add or subtract the letters of the following words. Total the remaining letters and unscramble them to find a word

(GEOMETRY) + (DETOURS) -
(STORM) + (WESTERN) - (EYES)
+ (MASS) - (MEAT) + (CLOCKS) -
(CRUST) - (CROSS)

=

Clue for this puzzle appears on page 7.

Answer from previous issue: CAMARADERIE

The National Heritage Museum, located in Lexington, MA, may not be within an easy drive for much of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction but there are ways of visiting just the same.

The institution's new website unveiled during the past year (www.nationalheritemuseum.org) supplies a wealth of information and allows the visitor to look at a portion of the collection, locate volumes in the library, listen to a lecture, or even shop in the museum store.

Taking an online tour of a part of the museum's holdings is easy.

On the main page of the site simply click on "The Collections" and from there go to "The Treasures" page.

Visitors will find images and descriptions of 100 items, ranging from furniture to glass and ceramics to Masonic and fraternal regalia. Perusing the artifacts one might see a sideboard with Masonic symbols or a Master's chair.

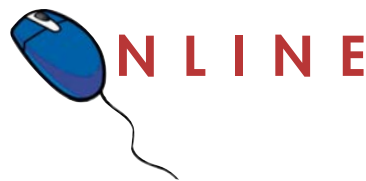
Items from a permanent exhibition called "The Enchanted Clocks of George McFadden" are there as well. Such pieces as a Knights Templar or Royal Arch sword, Masonic artwork, a ballot box from the Modern Woodmen

of America, and an Odd Fellows banner are on display.

The Van Gorden-Williams Library and Archives serves the Masonic community as a repository of the history of Freemasonry and as a research facility.



**NATIONAL
HERITAGE
MUSEUM**



ONLINE

It preserves Masonic and other fraternal history and is used by Masonic scholars and researchers. The online catalogue enables users worldwide to become familiar with the holdings.

The online Heritage Shop is full of Masonic items, some of which were designed by the museum. Also found are items relating to American history, as well as cards, books, and gifts.

All can be purchased from the comfort of your home.

A new feature at the site allows for listening as well as viewing. For instance one can hear a podcast of a recent talk presented as part of the Lowell Lecture Series. This can be found under the category of "Lectures." At the "Online Exhibitions" section are brief oral histories, recorded in conjunction with "Teenage Hoboes in the Great Depression."

The staff hopes to add to this "virtual museum." Hilary Anderson, director of exhibitions and collections at the National Heritage Museum, says "We hope to bring the museum closer to the entire Northern Masonic Jurisdiction." She says that suggestions for the website are always welcome. Click on "Contact Us" to submit your comment.



In Memoriam

III. Terry D. Bentzel, 33°

Ill. Terry Dean Bentzel, 33°, an Active Member of this Supreme Council for the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, died on June 21, 2006, at York Hospital.

Bro. Bentzel was born in York, PA, the son of Ervin J. Bentzel and Lorraine (Roser) Bentzel, on March 10, 1938. He attended the York city schools and the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Florida.

He worked for 36 years with the Ervin J. Bentzel and Son insurance agency in Dallastown, PA, retiring as president and CEO in 2005.

On Sept. 23, 1961, he was united in marriage to the former Patricia Ann Gable, who survives with their two sons, Robert of Cockeysville, MD, and Trent of Windsor, PA, and two grandsons Cody and Mitchell.

Locally active, he was past president of the York chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America, past president of the York Area Independent Insurance Agents Association, and past director and treasurer of the Credit Bureau of York and Adams Counties. For many years he also played saxophone for the Bob Huska Quartet.

Bro. Bentzel was raised a Master Mason in York Lodge No. 266, in 1972. He became Worshipful Master of the lodge in 1979. For the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania he was District Deputy Grand Master from 1982-92 and aide to the Grand Master from 1996-99. He was also a member of numerous Masonic appendant bodies.

He was a past presiding officer of York Rite bodies in York and was awarded the KYCH in Penn Priory No. 6. He was also a past Sovereign and past Recorder of York Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine.

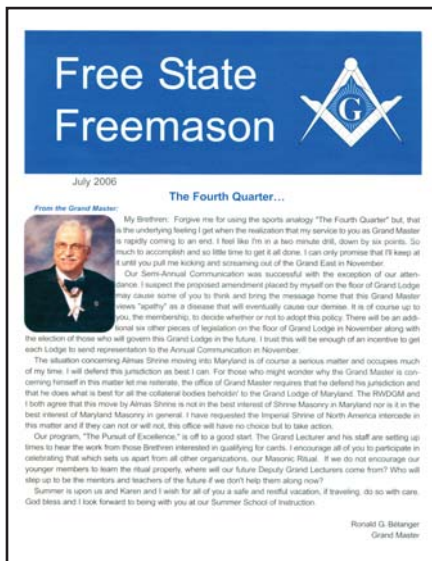
Bro. Bentzel completed the degrees of the Scottish Rite in the Valley of Harrisburg on May 18, 1973, where he was Sovereign Prince in 1985 and Commander-in-Chief from 1997-2000. For the Pennsylvania Council of Deliberation he was chairman of the State of the Rite Committee from 1989-97.

He received the 33° in 1987, was appointed an Active Member in 2001, and was appointed Deputy for Pennsylvania in 2003, a position he held until 2005.

NOTES FROM THE **SCOTTISH RITE**[®] OF FREEMASONRY ✧ SOUTHERN JURISDICTION ✧ USA

Southern Jurisdiction Announces Publishing Partnership with Maryland

The Southern Jurisdiction Supreme Council and the Grand Lodge of Maryland have entered into a unique publishing partnership. Starting with the March-April 2006 issue of the *Scottish Rite Journal*, the *Freestate Freemason* was bound inside the *Journal* as a special supplement for all members of the Grand Lodge of Maryland and all members of the Southern Jurisdiction



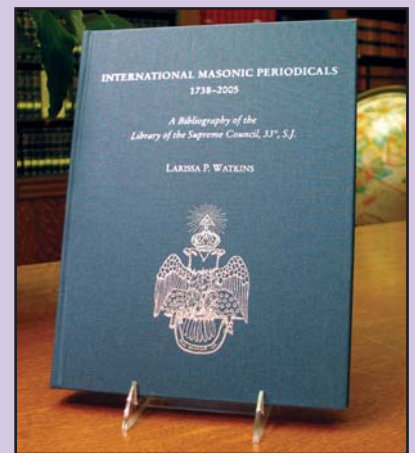
living in Maryland. SGC Ronald A. Seale, 33°, said, "The blue lodge is the foundation of Freemasonry. Anything the Supreme Councils can do to work with Grand Lodges will benefit both organizations. If this experiment with Maryland is successful, we hope to add more partners to the advantage of all." Other grand lodges are waiting to join Maryland with their own inserts.

The Grand Lodge of Maryland will be able to print a four-color magazine and distribute it to its members plus Master Masons sojourning in Maryland. MW Ronald G. Bélanger, 33°, Grand Master of Maryland, is enthusiastic about the cooperation. "This partnership has the potential to enhance Maryland Freemasonry — blue lodge and Scottish Rite."

The Supreme Council will send the *Scottish Rite Journal* to about 14,000 Maryland Master Masons not in the Scottish Rite and thereby introduce the Rite to them. Dr. Hans R. Wilhelmssen, 33°, Sovereign Grand Inspector General in Maryland, is excited about the opportunities for all. "We are ready to answer questions about the Scottish Rite for any Maryland Master Mason."

Scottish Rite Children's Theatre of Austin Texas

The Valley of Austin, TX, has created a children's theatre that uses the Valley's auditorium, stage scenery, and props to showcase first class productions. During 2005 their stagings included *The Sword in the Stone*, *Treasure Island*, *Aladdin*, *Charlotte's Web*, *Foxtales*, written by Dr. Charles Pascoe, 32°, and *Toys Take Over Christmas*. A recent *Austin Family Magazine* poll declared them the "Favorite Live Theatre for Children." Each performance brings in hundreds of patrons and showcases the Scottish Rite to the community. Children from charity groups such as Big Brothers/Big Sisters are also invited in for the performances. Austin has found a great way to bring in revenue from theatrical productions while making new friends for the fraternity. Visit www.scottishritechildrenstheatre.org or call 800-754-3079 for more information.



Library Publishes International Masonic Bibliography

The Library of the Supreme Council, 33°, S.J., has just published Larissa Watkins' *International Masonic Periodicals, 1738-2005*. It is the companion volume to her 2003 masterpiece, *American Masonic Periodicals, 1811-2001*. *International Masonic Periodicals'* 352 pages catalog the 555 non-US periodicals in the Supreme Council's library.

The countries covered range from Algeria to Yugoslavia, and nearly 300 years of Masonic publishing are represented in this one volume. The library is proud that it has preserved many magazines that no longer exist in their home countries because of wars and other disasters. Mrs. Watkins' two bibliographies are an invaluable tool to serious researchers who previously had to travel to Washington to explore the library's holdings.

The Supreme Council hopes that both *International* and *American Masonic Periodicals* are found on the shelves of research libraries — Masonic, academic, and others. To order, visit: www.srmason-sj.org/acatalog

Today we're going to kick back and have some fun on the Internet.

I know that

Yahoo has made the Net more entertaining (if not always more informational) through its new "Answers" service.

Answers.yahoo.com is so enjoyable because questions are answered by the people who visit the site. Yes, that's right! You can become an instant Internet celebrity by responding to questions posed on Yahoo Answers.

Just about every conceivable topic — and I do mean that — may be addressed. One of the more popular subject areas is travel. This exchange, which took place on June 20, is quite typical:

Question: Is Phoenix a good vacation place?

Answer: The Pointe South Mountain is very nice. It has its own water park, horseback riding, golf, and good restaurants.

Answer: Only if you want to get sunburned.

Questions are all over the field. For example, "Judith Z" is: "looking for a place for the 4th of July weekend with my dog." Meanwhile, "Hagar" posed this puzzler: "Is it true that there is a provision in the Australian constitution that allows for annexation?" Only one person responded: "Of New Zealand?"

Yes, users often post questions about Masonry. For example, one person asked how he could become a Mason. The answers were quite accurate and helpful, such as: "You should be someone who does, or wants to learn to, enjoy the company of other men from all different social classes, faiths, backgrounds, races, countries, etc. Masonry is universal in its ideals."

Then there were these queries "Why do most Masons drive Cadillacs?" "How much power do the Masons have politically and what are their goals?" and "My husband wants to join the Masons. What should I expect?"

Brothers, there is opportunity for you to make certain these and countless other Masonic questions are answered accurately.

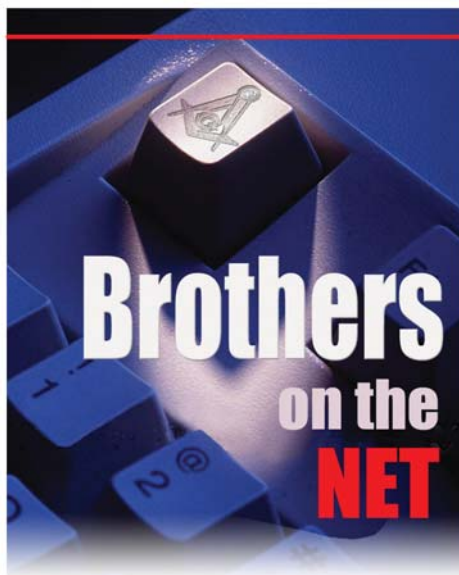
To locate the Masonic questions on Yahoo Answers, just type "Masons" or "Freemasons" in the "Search For Questions" box at the top of the home page.

They paid what?

Let's satisfy a drive common to all humans — native curiosity. And never mind that old adage about the snoopy cat.



Leigh E. Morris, 33, works in corporate communications for a major utility company. He is a member of the Valleys of Milwaukee and Springfield, IL.



Information, useful and otherwise

One of this year's popular parlor games and topics of cocktail party conversations involves real estate values. We want to know what the boss paid for that new home. Stockholders are curious about the price of the CEO's digs. And we all want to know just how much our brother-in-law spent to get that dream home out in the 'burbs.

Of course, this information always has been available — if you had the time to go through the public county records. Thus, few people nosed around until some enterprising sorts began putting that information on the Web.

Domania.com, zillow.com and realestate.yahoo.com/Homevalues/ are among the many sites that will allow you to discover home sale prices, valuations and other information.

Though interesting, these real estate snoop sites do not

yet have data for every county in every state.

Wiki Wiki

According to information found online, "wiki wiki" is Hawaiian for "fast" or "quickly." From this word, we now have a "wiki" Web site, which allows users to add, delete and edit content.

The largest wiki is Wikipedia (en.wikipedia.org), created to serve as a free online encyclopedia.

Wikipedia's entry for Freemasonry begins:

"Freemasonry is a fraternal organization whose members are joined together by shared moral and metaphysical ideals and — in most of its branches — by a constitutional declaration of belief in a Supreme Being.

"The fraternity uses the metaphor of operative stone masonry and the tools and implements of that craft to convey these ideals."

While Wikipedia can be useful, one must approach it with some caution. Since it can be edited by any user, its accuracy has come under scrutiny and criticism. Though I personally find Wikipedia to be useful, I view many entries with a healthy dose of skepticism.

In print

Perhaps my favorite of all sites is books.google.com.

Interested in Masonic books? You'll find everything from "Freemasonry and the Birth of Modern Science" by Robert Lomas to "True Principles of Freemasonry" by Melville Rosyn Grant.

And just to demonstrate how thorough the Google site searches for books, I managed to find 44 books that at least have some reference to my town of Arenzville, Illinois.

Please send your comments, questions and thoughts to me at [<studebaker55@casscomm.com>](mailto:studebaker55@casscomm.com).

CHARITIES

Where There's a Will There's a Way

***"What is serving God?
'Tis being good to man"***

— Benjamin Franklin

Whenever one needs a dose of Masonic and individual inspiration, Brother Franklin is quite a reliable source. He embodied the spirit of a man who lived our values of industry, humanity and charity. His autobiography is still a must-read primer for developing personal character.

Franklin's substantial commercial and political successes sometimes obscure his role as a humanitarian. Beyond his fame as an architect of the Declaration of Independence, he also laid the foundation of this nation's social institutions. In Philadelphia, Franklin was responsible for establishing the first public library and public hospital in the nation. Furthermore, upon his death, Franklin bequeathed great sums to Boston and Philadelphia, his native and adopted home towns. In Boston the effect of his legacy lasted for almost two centuries, funding many public initiatives, including a technology school that bears his name.

You and I can share Franklin's vision and optimism. We can be architects of a wonderful future through Scottish

Rite Charities — perhaps you already have.

Each year Brethren and their ladies perpetuate their support of our charities — the 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children, the National Heritage Museum, Abbott scholarships and schizophrenia research — because they thought to include Scottish Rite in their wills. These legacies have been generous. Our only regret is that all too often we could not say thank you beforehand.

So in the spirit of our Bro. Franklin and all our Brethren through the years who have set their own examples of charity, we have established the Cornerstone Society. To join all you have to do is inform me that you have included any of the charities of the Scottish Rite in your estate plan — will, trust, insurance beneficiary, whatever.

That's it. As a member, we will enroll you as a member and thank you with a handsome gift immortalizing your name and Brother Franklin's wording in cast metal.

If you wish to enroll, we have a brochure that can assist your attorney or planner, and a simple form to return to us.

Below are the most recent members of the Cornerstone Society. Should your name be on the list? Call Scottish Rite Charities at **800-814-1432 x 3326** and request a brochure.

Ira A. Abrahamson
Joseph Atkinson
Giles W. Bahrt
Henry G. Bailey
Herbert D. Bailey
Thomas R. Barber
Fred E. Bear
John W. Beaver
Leroy R. Beck
Joel Berger
William A. Boharsik
John W. Bowen
John R. Bradshaw
Jay G. Brossman
Stephen R. Brown
F. R. Carlson
Harold L. Clark
Robert A. Cox
Ronald J. Crislip
Ralph E. Deaton
Jerry E. Deeds
Paden F. Dismore
Orlando P. Diwa
Laverne E. Durlin

Harold I. Dutton
Harold R. Edmondson
George F. Edwards
Herbert W. Ellms
Robert J. Emmons
David B. Finney
Arnold W. Frear
Dale V. Gant
Thornton R. Gebensleben
Charles E. Gorham
William D. Gregory
Randall V. Greig
Paul H. Griffin
Jack E. Grover
Burton L. Hasselberg
Dallas E. Haun
Nicholas S. Hero
Larry K. Higginbotham
Richard E. Hildebrand
John A. Himmelspach
Dale W. Horn
Jerry W. Horn
Foster S. Horne
Richard W. Hummel
Frederick E. Jackson
Richard F. Jakubowski
Raymond R. James
George Kavorkian
Kenneth V. Kettlewell

Vincent G. Kling
Paul D. Kofink
Warren H. Krogstad
Dan Komadina
C. W. Lakso
Raymond H. Lang
Paul E. Lange
Joseph E. Leah
Fred L. Leamer
Frederick H. Lorensen
Richard J. Luckay
Michael A. Lunn
John H. Macquaide
Dennis M. Marinelli
William H. McDaniels
William H. McDonald
John S. McKinley
Albert F. McMahon
John L. Miller
George H. Money
Terran S. Montrom
Thomas E. Moody
Hubert E. Morlan
George W. Murray
William J. Murray
Glenn W. Oakes
Erwin W. O'Dell
J. Tim O'Neil
John G. Polzin
Dean C. Pope
Steven E. Prewitt
Robert E. Price
William E. Rathman

Michael W. Reed
Ismael Reina
Myron E. Retske
Ralph C. Rickard
Harry L. Ridenour
Charles E. Rimer
Douglas E. Robinson
Charles A. Rousselet
Ronald R. Rud
Ernest L. Rutherford
Frank J. Scala
Alvin D. Schaaf
George C. Schneider
Ernest T. Shaw
Peter R. Shovelski
Zdenek J. Skala
Verdon R. Skipper
Cal B. Slade
Arthur J. Smith
Frank B. Stein
William E. Stockum
Walter W. Stolz
William E. Traynor
James F. Truske
James K. Vinton
Edward H. Wagner
William H. Walter
Garneth L. Ward
William D. Welch
Harold L. Wyatt
Charles F. Yingling
Peter Yurecko
Gary R. Zeiders



**Steve Pekock, 32°
Director of Development**



The Stamp Act



In April 2006, **Austria** issued a souvenir sheet to honor Freemasonry in that country. It pictures a meeting of the Lodge "Zur Neugekronten Hoffnung" about 1790.

This first official Freemasonry stamp of the Republic of Austria had First Day ceremonies in Vienna and Schloss Rosenau, the location of the well-known museum of Freemasonry.



Sweden issued a stamp in 1979 to commemorate the bicentennial of the birth of **Jons Jakob Berzelius**. He was trained as a physician but became interested in chemistry.

After practicing medicine for a number of years, he was appointed professor of botany and pharmacy at the University of Stockholm in 1807 and professor of chemistry at the Caroline Institute in Stockholm from 1815-32; he discovered three elements — cerium, selenium and thorium.

He was made a member

of the Royal Academy of Sweden in 1808. Because of his knowledge of chemistry, King Charles XIV of Sweden made him a baron in 1835. He died in 1848.

Bro. Berzelius was made a Mason in 1805 in St. John and St. Erik Lodge located in Stockholm.



Jonas Furrer was initiated on Jan. 16, 1830, in Akazia Lodge No. 34, in Winterthur, Switzerland, and was passed and raised seven years later.

He served as Speaker (Chaplain or Orator) from 1844-46 and was made an honorary member in 1849. He played a leading role in the formation of the Grand Lodge Alpina of Switzerland in 1844. He served as a Grand Officer and was made an honorary member in 1849.

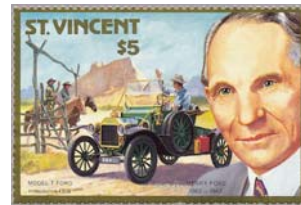
Dr. Furrer was born in Winterthur in March 1805 and received his education in Zurich, Heidelberg and Göttingen. He practiced law after 1832, was elected to the Grand Council in 1842 and mayor of Zurich in 1845.

He was one of the chief supporters of the New Federal Constitution of 1848 serving as president of the Grand Council during the adoption.

Upon unification of the Swiss Confederation, he be-



came the first president of the federal government. He died in Bad Ragaz in July 1861. Switzerland honored Dr. Furrer in 1961 with a stamp picturing him.



Bro. **Henry Ford** was a member of Palestine Lodge No. 357, Detroit, receiving his degrees in 1894. He was never an officer but was a staunch member and visited several other lodges besides his own. He was concerned, however, that his notoriety would detract from the ritual presentation.

He received the Scottish Rite degrees in 1940 at the age of 77 as his son Edsel took over more of the corporate responsibilities. By special dispensation, he was accorded the 33° at the same time.

Many nations have honored Bro. Ford with stamps. This one was released by St. Vincent in 1987.

Henry Ford was born in July 1863, on a farm near Dearborn, MI. Early in life he learned the machinist's trade and became chief engineer for the Edison Illuminating Co.

In 1904 he established his own firm to manufacture cars. He was not the first automobile manufacturer nor was he the first to use mass production methods, but his idea that everyone could own an inexpensive automobile was revolutionary as was his use of conveyor belts to speed assembly lines.

Robert A. Domingue is secretary for St. Matthew's Lodge, Andover, MA, and editor of *The Philatelic Freemason*.

The fortune he built established the Ford Foundation, the world's largest private trust fund, which has made grants to worthy causes amounting to several billions of dollars. He died in April 1947, at his estate in Fairlane, not far from his birthplace.

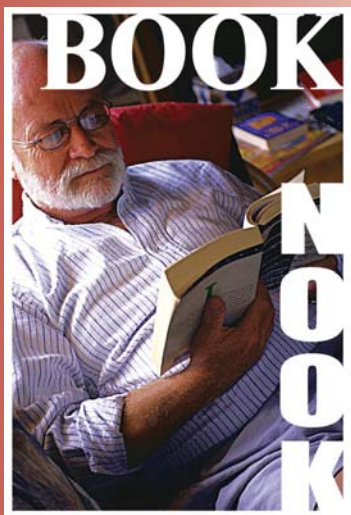


Francisco Morazan, one of the best soldier-politicians Central America has ever produced, was born at Tegucigalpa, Honduras, Oct. 3, 1792. He entered politics early in life and by 1824 was secretary-general of his homeland. When Honduras and Salvador revolted against the president of the Central American Confederation, he rapidly came to the forefront as a military leader.

After a series of brilliant military exploits, he was elected president of the confederation in 1830 and served two terms. No provision was made for a successor and the confederation dissolved. He found refuge in Peru until 1842, when he returned and assumed the presidency of the San Jose Confederation. A revolution followed; he was driven out, later captured and shot on Sept. 15, 1842.

Bro. Morazan was initiated in a lodge in Costa Rica and there is a lodge named after him in Honduras. He is pictured on many stamps. The stamp shown here was issued by Honduras in 1942.





Reviewed by Thomas W. Jackson, 33°

General Trexler's Masonic Legacy

Edited by Charles S. Canning. Published in 2005 through the Harry C. Trexler Trust. Can be obtained via a donation to the Harry C. Trexler Masonic Library, 1524 W. Linden St., Allentown, PA 18102. (Can2938@aol.com)

General Trexler's Masonic Legacy is a compilation of a series of lectures presented in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the birth of General Harry Clay Trexler in 1854. The lecture series was created via a grant from the Harry C. Trexler Trust as a *Celebrate the Legacy* project. The project's purpose was to acknowledge the philanthropic and entrepreneurial contributions Gen. Trexler made to society in the Lehigh Valley.

Its significance to Freemasonry is a result of the major contributions Gen. Trexler made to the craft in the Allentown area, and is the reason Freemasonry received a grant. He was Quartermaster General of the Pennsylvania National Guard, hence his title.

The most outstanding subordinate lodge library that I am familiar with is the Harry C. Trexler Masonic library in the Masonic Temple of Allentown, a gift from him to the lodge. It is interesting that little was known about the extent of his activity in Freemasonry until this grant was issued. Extensive research then exposed his considerable involvement in many branches of the craft.

Most of the papers compiled for this book were written and presented by the editor, Charles S. Canning. However, Brother Theodore W. Schick Jr., Ph.D., a noted professor of philosophy, authored one paper and co-authored a second and Brother S. Brent Morris, Ph.D., authored another.

The book also presents and discusses the development and construction of the Masonic Temple in Allentown that remains one of the finest examples of neoclassical revival architecture in Pennsylvania and the only one built for York Rite Freemasonry.

It is a book that will generate interest not only in the Lehigh Valley area but also among Masonic history buffs.

Response to Freemasons for Dummies

(Reviewed May 2006)

My brothers, when I write a review of a book, I am writing my opinion and my reaction to that book. This fact must be kept in mind when you read it. You may agree or disagree with me. That is your right and privilege, and I have absolutely no qualms with disagreements.

Over the 16 plus years that I have been writing the reviews for *The Northern Light*, I have received many responses from readers of the column and in some cases from the authors. By far, the majority has been positive, but not all. One author even challenged me to meet him in a back alley to settle his disagreement with my review of his book. If I am not honest, however, with my reviews, I do you a great disservice.

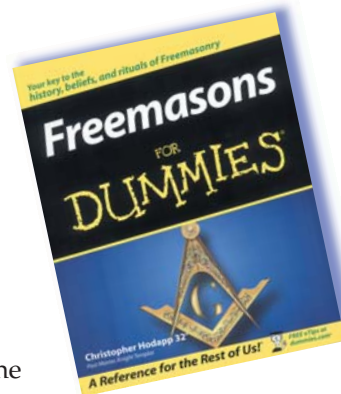
I found it somewhat surprising that the reaction to my review of *Freemasons for Dummies* was greater than from most others, because I recommended it to both Masons and non-Masons as a "dang good book," and I have had numerous brothers come to me to tell me they were purchasing it because of my review.

Following my review of Christopher Hodapp's book, we received an e-mail from the author (see "Readers Respond," page 30).

I wrote to Chris regarding the title and told him "I just hate to see any reference to the craft that tends to reflect the current knowledge level of most North American Freemasons." I also observed, "I was not questioning his right to write with limited time as a member but was trying to justify why some of his observations may not have been totally accurate."

I also received a communication from my friend and colleague, Brother Ralph A. Herbold, regarding the review. Ralph was pointing out that the book has sold a considerable number of copies because it was written in "the style of the *Dummies* books."

I responded to Ralph that although I understand the concept of the books for dummies, I find it diffi-



cult to accept that an organization that attracted some of the greatest minds that ever lived and changed the course of civil society has now become subject to a title of a book for dummies.

My brothers, I have used the *Dummies* books on some subjects and have found them valuable to me, because in those fields I fit the category. For many years I have been traveling the world and observing the significance today of Freemasons and Freemasonry in a considerable number of countries. I therefore continue to have great difficulty in finding a need to rationalize that we in North America must appeal to those most ignorant of the craft. In my mind our fraternity is an organization that should operate on a much higher plane.

So, my brothers, I will continue to write my reviews as I judge them to be. If I find significant errors, I will point them out to you and if I disagree with what is written, I will say so. I adamantly disagree with Bro. Chris that the "Mission of the masonic lodge is to make new masons..."

There were errors in the book, as I stated, simply due to his lack of experience as a member. I am continually impressed with how little I know about the craft and my life has been Freemasonry for close to 44 years, well over half my life. No author writes a perfect book. The errors did not, however, prevent it from being a good book to read.

I appreciate hearing from you whether you agree or disagree with me. At least it shows me that you read what I write.

The Complete Idiot's Guide to Freemasonry

by S. Brent Morris. Published in 2006 by Alpha Books (Penguin Group). 375 Hunstville St., New York, NY 10014. \$18.95.

After writing my response regarding *Freemasons for Dummies*, I find myself writing a review on *The Complete Idiot's Guide To Freemasonry* and although I might have preferred a different title it does not annoy me as much since it sounds less like an appeal.

This book could very easily have had many different titles and been just as informative to the members but would probably not have attracted as much attention.

The book is laid out in five parts; The Basic Organization of Freemasonry provides basic information such as the definition of the craft, it's birth, it's development in America and it's variations in structure and style.

The Eastern Star, York Rite, and the Scottish Rite, presents, as the title implies, discussion of these appendant organizations.

Building Higher, Having Fun and Doing More deals with the other organizations appendant to Freemasonry along with Masonic charities.

Masonic Myths and Misunderstandings relates extensively to those subjects that have become part of the

mythology that tends to credit Freemasonry with more than it deserves and confrontational issues used to damage the craft.

A Field Guide to Masonic Symbols and Jewelry delves into the meaning of Masonic symbolism and the extensiveness of its symbols as well as its regalia.

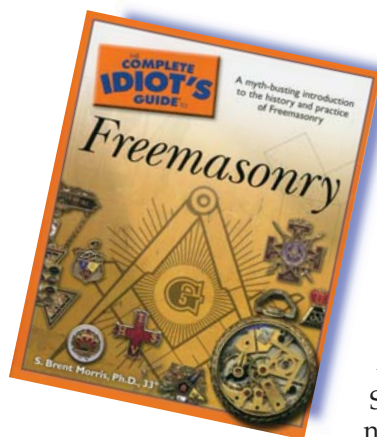
It also includes four appendices providing additional value to the text. These include a glossary of terms providing definitions to assist in understanding Masonic use, the second providing a listing of web sites, reference books on Freemasonry and contact information for Masonic philanthropies, and also a broad listing of some of the more famous Freemasons. Additionally it includes an appendix giving two very early and extinct degrees.

In developing the layout of the book, Morris has provided boxes along the way, with icons to point out assisting information.

These include, *A Good Rule* designed to eliminate misunderstanding on the part of the reader, *Hits and Myths*, that directs the reader away from frequently accepted myths concerning the craft, *definition* giving meaning for the specialized vocabulary of Freemasonry, and *The Square Deal* that provides anecdotes and quotes to clarify text material.

Interestingly, *Freemasons for Dummies* and this book were both written for the same purpose; to provide information concerning the craft in a simplified style.

This book provides an extensive amount of information in a form that is easily understandable and readable. It reflects the author's considerable experience and knowledge of the Masonic arena.



There were a few points with which I might take issue, because of an all-inclusive phraseology, two of those found in the "A Good Rule" icon box in which he is quoting others. In each case it becomes misleading by the use of the word "all." Virtually **all** lodge rooms do not have two pillars in the West, nor do **all** have the letter G over the master's station, and all Scottish Rite initiates do not necessarily receive a *Fourteenth Degree Ring*. There will be knowledgeable Freemasons

who will observe these statements as not being necessarily so but they do not detract from the book's value.

The Idiot's Guide will be a valuable addition to any Masons library as well as to any library or individual wishing to have a simplistic guide for the understanding of Freemasonry. I recommend it to be part of yours.

THOMAS W. JACKSON, 33°, was formerly Grand Secretary for the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. He is Executive Secretary for the World Conference of Masonic Grand Lodges and the book reviewer for *The Northern Light*.

Health Wise

ideas
for
health
and
fitness



Fish: Food for your brain

Want your brain to stay young or get younger? Research at Rush University studied mental function of people age 65 and older. They found that those who ate fish rich in omega-3 fatty acids once a week slowed their rate of cognitive decline by ten percent.

Preventing cataracts

Tufts University researchers have found evidence suggesting that vitamin supplements, particularly long-term use of vitamin E, may slow the development of cataracts. The studies done for the Nutritional Epidemiology Program and the USDA show that people reporting supplementing their diets with vitamin E for at least ten years showed significantly less progression of cataract development. Those who reported higher intakes of riboflavin and thiamin had a similar decrease. In 2001, Tufts researchers also saw a similar role for vitamin C, all indicating that taking a multivitamin is recommended. Lutein is also important for eye health.

Recognize stroke early

Only ten percent of stroke victims receive important clot-busting drugs, which are most effective in the first few hours after a stroke. Mainly, it's because people don't recognize stroke in themselves and others.

While other symptoms can indicate a stroke, such as difficulty seeing out of one or both eyes, the Cincinnati prehospital stroke scale offers these tests.

1. *Crooked smile.* If one side of the smile doesn't move or seems to droop, it could be a sign of stroke.

2. *Arm drift.* With eyes closed, have



"Yes, I fasted for the blood test, if you count the four hours in the waiting room."

the person hold arms straight out in front for ten seconds. If one arm doesn't move or drifts down more than the other, it could be a sign of stroke.

3. *Slurred speech.* Have the person say, "You can't teach an old dog new tricks," or some other familiar saying. If the speech is slurred, or words are wrong, it could be a sign of stroke. Get emergency treatment.

Statin reverses artery blockage

For the first time, doctors have shrunk plaques that clog arteries supplying the heart by treating patients with a high-dose cholesterol-lowering statin.

Over a two-year period, the treatment with Crestor reduced plaque by 6 percent to 9 percent, according to the Cleveland Clinic Foundation. The new study is the first to show that aggressive treatment can reverse the process that leads to heart disease and stroke.

The drug also increased good cholesterol by 14 percent.

Coffee and antioxidants

Recent newspaper stories claim that coffee is the number-one source of antioxidants in the American diet.

Researchers at the University of Scranton, however, say coffee has some antioxidants, though not nearly as much as fruits and vegetables.

Good sources of antioxidants include tomatoes, bananas, and potatoes.

Vitamin D for bones

A new study reported by Tufts University shows that if you aren't getting enough vitamin D, it may not matter how much calcium you are consuming.

Parathyroid hormone (PTH) is the most important regulator of body calcium and a key indicator of bone health.

Higher levels of vitamin D were more closely associated than high calcium levels in normal PTH. They recommend vitamin D supplements of 500 milligrams daily.

In northern climes, 700 milligrams daily are recommended during winter months.

Getting plenty of vitamin D can make up for a shortfall in calcium, but the reverse is not true.

New, fast staph test

In many hospitals, it takes up to 48 hours to identify drug-resistant staph, which can cause skin and bone infections as well as pneumonia. Now, Becton Dickinson & Co. offers a two-hour test for drug-resistant staph, but at this time only one in ten hospitals has it.

Twain Award to Honor Lodge 'Awareness' Program

The Masonic Information Center has established an award to recognize blue lodges that create an awareness program. The Mark Twain Masonic Awareness Program is designed to heighten Masonic identity and restore energy of Masonry within a lodge and throughout the greater community.

Lodges have an opportunity to submit a letter of intent but must do so as soon as possible. This will allow a lodge to participate in an Internet communications network with other lodges in the program.

The network is coordinated through the Masonic Information Center (MIC), a division of the Masonic Service Association of North America based in Silver Spring, MD. The MIC was formed in 1993 to provide information on Freemasonry to both Masons and non-Masons and to respond to critics of the fraternity.

Charged with the assignment of developing a Masonic public awareness

program, the MIC published a pamphlet, "It's About Time! Moving Masonry into the 21st Century." This report, the result of a lengthy study by an MIC task force, points out that "our Masonic resources are great. Our resource management skills are rusty."

Among a list of suggestions to energize lodges, the MIC recommends sharing success stories with other lodges. To facilitate this process the Twain award was created. Participating lodges can benefit from the networking process during the year. At the end of the year, each lodge submits a report of its activity for judging.

Lodges with outstanding programs will be recognized with the presentation of the Twain award.

For further information, contact the Masonic Information Center, 8120 Fenton St., Silver Spring MD 20910. Full details of the award program can be found on the following website:

www.msana.com/twainaward

IDEAS FOR DISCUSSION

- Apply concepts of education and self-improvement to current print and non-print communication tools of individual lodges, Grand Lodges, and national Masonic organizations and societies.
- Improve the environment of lodge-based fellowship; refresh the look of the lodge; welcome new members; improve presentation skills; provide mentoring to study degrees; strengthen communication skills.
- Organize group activities based on education and self-improvement that can enrich lodge-centered fellowship, such as: welcoming committees, lodge renovation and clean-up campaigns, leadership development conferences, mentor meetings, workshops on such things as Masonic ritual, history, symbolism, architectural works, art, and cultural works.
- Initiate workshops on Masonic personal growth topics, such as leadership, stewardship, ethics, philosophy, and spirituality.
- Call on local educational faculty to present topics that enrich the body, mind, and spirit of the Brothers.
- Tap the talents of individual members and build a community of experts to help facilitate Masons to improve themselves and their community.
- Improve community accessibility to Masonry through public outreach activities.
- Offer Masonic recognition and incentive programs for education initiatives, visitor programs and Chamber of Commerce presentations.
- Share success stories with other lodges through the Twain Award network.
- Create ways to communicate regularly with neighboring lodges.

Deyo Appointed to Fill Vacancy

Ill. Jim S. Deyo, 33°, a Supreme Council Active Member for Ohio, has been appointed to the position of Grand Lieutenant Commander.

The position was previously held by Ill. John Wm. McNaughton, 33°, who automatically filled the vacancy of Sovereign Grand Commander following the death of Ill. Walter E. Webber, 33°.

Both men assume these positions until the next annual meeting of the Supreme



Council at the end of August.

Ill. Bro. Deyo has been an Active Member since 1997. He is currently chairman of the Supreme Council Investment Committee

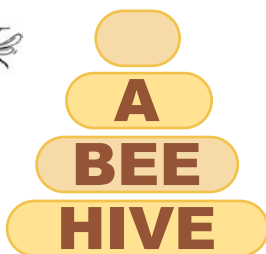
and has served as Grand Marshal General.

In 2004 he was elected Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ohio and was general chairman of a special "Become a Master Mason in One Day" event that generated more than 7,000 new members in April 2002.



VIEWS

FROM THE PAST



A Masonic lodge should resemble a beehive in which all the members work together with ardor for the common good.

Masonry is not meant for cold souls and narrow minds that do not comprehend its lofty mission.



Here the anathema against lukewarm souls applies.

To comfort misfortune, to popularize knowledge, to teach whatever is true and pure in religion and philosophy, to accustom men to respect order and the proprieties of life, to point out the way to genuine happiness, to prepare for that fortunate period when all the factions of the human-family united by the bonds of toleration and fraternity, shall be but one household; these are the labors that may well excite zeal and enthusiasm.



— John Lloyd Thomas,
Brotherhood,
July 1915



Directing Our Course

It takes mental vision to look back on the early days of Freemasonry to fully appreciate the foresight of those who laid the foundations on which we are the builders today. Suffice it to say, they built wisely and well. Time has shown that these early Brethren were leaders in the craft. Freemasonry would not be cheap in those early days, for the entrance fee alone would be equivalent to three weeks earnings, where today three days allowance would more than cover the necessary fee. Any man looking for that which is noble in life will find the means to attain it, and that is the man for Freemasonry.

Today we live in a rapidly changing world. Our mode of living, our outlook on life, our home and family life has changed. New interests are always before the eye. But as spectacular and far-reaching as these changes may be, the high standard of Freemasonry must, and will ever remain, unchanged. Who are those who will hold the reigns for such a rich undertaking?

In all associations and organizations, leadership comes first — after that, leaders in all branches — to render certain the success of the undertaking. Masonic moral principles demand higher leadership and are of greater responsibility than all other concerns. It is not a matter of beating the other fellow in price; it is the matter of keeping up the price, preserving Freemasonry with its true value.

Leadership, therefore, rests on the shoulders, so to speak, of Grand Masters, District Grand Masters, presidents of boards, Grand Secretaries, chairmen of committees and Masters of lodges. No body of men can be called upon for a greater undertaking to guide and direct the furtherance of Masonry, to maintain and uphold its preservation for all time. Such preservation can be maintained only by holding its values — both in pounds, shillings and pence — and moral outlook in the individual.

— Albert E. Roberts,
The Ashlar, Brisbane, Australia,
March 1963

The Seasons

It has been frequently the task of the moralist and poet to mark the particular charms and conveniences of every change; and, indeed, such discriminate observations upon natural variety, cannot be undelightful since the blessing which every month brings along with it is a fresh instance of the wisdom and bounty of that Providence which regulates the glories of the year. We glow as we contemplate; we feel a propensity to adore whilst we enjoy.

In the time of seed sowing, it is the season of confidence; the grain which the husbandman trusts to the bosom of the earth, shall, yield its seven-fold rewards. Spring presents us with a scene of lively expectation. That which was before sown begins now to discover signs of successful vegetation.

The laborer observes the change and anticipates the harvest; he watches the progress of nature and smiles at her influence, while the

man of contemplation walks forth with the evening amidst the fragrance of flowers and promises of plenty, nor returns to his cottage till the darkness closes the scene upon his eye.

Then comes the harvest, when the large wish is satisfied, and the granaries of nature are loaded with the means of life.

The powers of language are unequal to the description of this happy season. It is the carnival of nature; sun and shade, coolness and quietude, cheerfulness and melody, love and gratitude, unite to render every scene of summer delightful.

How wise, how benignant then is the proper division. The hours of light are adapted to activity, and those of darkness to rest. Thus, every season and every hour has a charm peculiar to itself, and every moment affords some interesting innovation.

— Carl A. Miller,
Chicago Scottish Rite Magazine,
June 1945

THE VOICE OF YOUTH

The task before the craft today, if we read the signs right, is twofold; First, to know more about Masonry, and second, to do more with Masonry. The second is dependent upon the first, if we are to keep the order true to its tradition. If Masonry is ever perverted, or even diverted, from its historic aim and ideal, it will be by Brethren who do not know its past.

Here lies the profound importance of a knowledge of Masonry, its history, genius, and purpose. For that reason, we hold it to be unwise to allow the matter of Masonic instruction to go haphazard. Our leaders must realize this situation, and take up seriously the training of young Masons in Masonry, if only to hold their interest. These reflections are suggested by a number of letters from young men of the craft, in which they speak out plainly what they think and feel. For example:

"Let me give you a series of kicks. I entered the order in utter ignorance of it, beyond its good name in town. I saw the ritual, but was not told anything about it beyond its moral teachings, which every man knows already if he is fit to belong to a lodge. In short, I was marked, branded, and turned loose. I knew nothing about Masonry until I read *The Builders*. Is it fair for a lodge, or a Grand Lodge, to treat a young man in that way?

"The ritual gives a man the feel of Masonry, and something of its meaning. So far, so good. In my new enthusiasm I attended lodge, but I saw the same thing over and over again. First degree, second degree, third degree, then the other way round. That is to say, I spent my time at lodge watching other "Men made Masons." Aside from the routine business, nothing else was done — not one thing. Nobody told me anything about Masonry.

"No wonder I lost interest. When I dared to suggest that the lodge might occasionally do something else, I learned that more men were waiting to be initiated. There was no time to do anything but make Masons. We of this age are serious enough, but we are not solemn. I thought there ought to be more so-

cial life in the lodge. but it was too busy. Just one eternal grind. Besides, the older men thought me frivolous. We do have a Ladies' Night once a year, and a St. John's Day celebration.

"So far as I can see, Masonry does nothing but make more Masons. Kiwanis Clubs, Rotary Clubs, Lions, and the rest, meet in good fellowship, hear public questions discussed, take part in the life of the community, and do many interesting things. Masonry never does anything of the kind; it just goes on grinding. The only kind of talk I have ever heard in our lodge is the usual exhortation to take Masonry seriously and be better men. And there it ends.

"Intellectually, I am bound to say, Masonry is quarantined from the world and its issues and affairs. Any living question, no matter how non-partisan, is dubbed "politics," and that makes it taboo. Really, if a man goes to lodge, he might as well leave his mind at home. The ritual is all he sees or hears, and that is an old story. Of a certain statesman it was said, "The air currents of the world did not ventilate his mind," and I am wondering if that is not true of Masonry.

"Anyway, I have given you a piece of my mind. It does seem to me that Masonry ought to do more and be more than it is. It is a wonderful order, and I hope I appreciate its value. I am just a youngster who feels that Masonry is out of touch with life today. I may be all wrong, but your book is to blame for it."

There speaks the voice of youth, alert, eager to know and do and get somewhere, and it behooves us to hear and heed it. In another letter, a brother asks, why was it necessary to form Masonic clubs, such as have grown so strong in recent years? Why should not what the clubs do be done in the lodge, by the lodge? The questions raised are so interesting and important, and the point of view expressed so suggestive, that we invite discussion of both. Is Masonry doing all it should do? What can it do, and how can it be done?

— Joseph Fort Newton,
The Master Mason, May 1925

Quick Quotes

As long as you're going to be thinking anyway, think big.

— Donald Trump

Humility does not mean you think less of yourself. It means that you think of yourself less.

— Ken Blanchard

Argue for your limitations and sure enough they're yours.

— Richard Bach

Flaming enthusiasm, backed by horse sense and persistence, is the quality that most frequently makes for success.

— Dale Carnegie

We have a choice: Plow new ground or let the weeds grow.

— Jonathan Westover

The best thing about the future is that it comes one day at a time.

— Abraham Lincoln

It isn't hard to be good from time to time. What's tough is being good every day.

— Willie Mays

The family fireside is the best of schools.

— Arnold Glasgow

Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome.

— George Washington

Three grand essentials to happiness are something to do, something to love, and something to hope for.

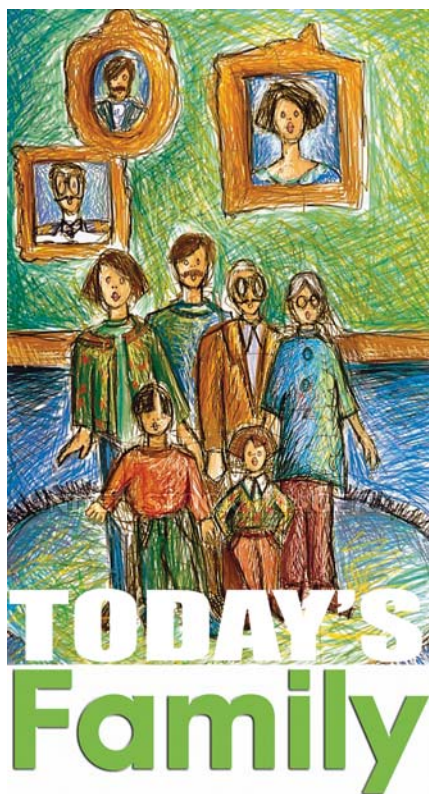
— Jose Addison

Start by doing what's necessary, then what's possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible.

— Saint Francis

A learned blockhead is a greater blockhead than an ignorant one.

— Benjamin Franklin



Too many squirrels?

If you've had trouble with squirrels digging up your bulbs and plants and eating your flower buds, the editors of *This Old House* magazine may have an answer for you.

They tried several smell-repellents and taste-repellents, and these worked for a while. But the products have to be applied every week, which can turn out to be quite a chore.

They found that bribery worked best. They put ears of dried corn in the very back of the yard in both spring and fall. This kept the squirrels fed so they were less likely to eat the landscape and flower bulbs.

Never use bone meal to fertilize if you have many squirrels. It's like catnip for squirrels, they say.

How to improve photos

Whether you are using a \$10 disposable camera or a \$2,000 digital single-lens-reflex camera, these tips will help you improve your photos.

Follow the *National Geographic* rule. Photojournalism experts at San Francisco State University say 90 percent of their photographs are taken 15 minutes after sunrise and 15 minutes before sunset. The light is gorgeous and

actually lasts several hours in the morning and late afternoon.

Avoid cliché pictures of sunsets, buildings, and scenery. You will enjoy the photos much more if there is a member of your party in the picture.

Get closer to the subject, then closer yet. Avoid photographing with the sunlight over your shoulder.

Get candid. Take pictures of people doing something rather than posing for the camera.

Guest room can be small

Need an extra bedroom for the holidays? It can be a big decision about whether to have a convertible sofa in the living room or to turn a smaller store room or porch into a sleeping space.

Advisors quoted in the *Indianapolis Star* say any place is better for guests than having to bed down in the middle of a living room. If there's little or no room to walk around a convertible sofa in a small room, guests can turn the bed back into a sofa when they get up.

Finding your lost cat

So your indoor kitty bounded out the door when you opened it, and now you can't find him. The editors of *Prevention* have this advice for you:

Indoor-only cats tend to hide close to home, but they probably won't come when you call them. Check under the deck or porch. See if some-

one closed the door of the shed, closed the garage door, or lowered the lid on a trash container. The cat could be trapped there.

With a flashlight, check under bushes, boats and cars. Look up at trees and scan rooftops. Then do the same in your neighbors' yards.

If you have seen your kitty and called several times without it coming back, buy or rent a humane trap. Cover the floor with shredded paper and bait the trap with smelly bits of sardines or chicken. Wrap the outside with a towel. Leave the back open so he can see through it.

Attention all keepsake hoarders

Nearly everyone has boxes of stuff they save.

Now, authors Louisa Jaggar and Don Williams tell what to save and how to do it in their book *Saving Stuff: How to Care for and Preserve Your Collectibles, Heirlooms, and Prized Possessions*.

First, they provide a worksheet to prioritize keepsakes and determine what to keep and what to toss.

One of the keys to saving stuff is knowing what can damage it.

Light will fade everything from photos to textiles and paintings. Both sunlight and fluorescent light can be harmful. To protect valuable wall hangings, switch to lower-wattage lights.

Temperature extremes make many items brittle. Museums keep their thermostats at 70 degrees.

Moisture will dissolve your treasures. Keep them in a plastic tub with a tight seal. Never wrap anything in plastic cling wrap.

Air pollution, tobacco smoke, and oily polishes are bad for antique furniture. Use furniture wax to protect it.

Bugs and critters are dangerous to keepsakes. Maintain your home so mice can't get in.

Handling with bare hands can damage delicate papers, fabrics, metals, and ceramics. Wear cotton gloves when handling antique books and papers.

Guard against flooding. If you must store important keepsakes in a basement, be sure they are stored in a tightly closed plastic container.



More than Just Books . . .

Van Gorden-Williams Library at the National Heritage Museum

Turning Up the Volumes

The Van Gorden-Williams Library at the National Heritage Museum in Lexington, MA, contains 1,600 serials titles, the majority of which are Masonic publications. They provide fascinating insights into Masonic life over the course of nearly 200 years.

The oldest American Masonic periodical in our library is the *Freemason's Magazine and General Miscellany*, published in 1811.

New additions are received daily from Valleys, research lodges and other organizations. Publications sent to the Supreme Council become part of the library's permanent collection.

In the 19th and 20th centuries, magazines were important avenues of expression and communication. In the pre-television, pre-radio, pre-Internet eras, magazines entered homes as sources of entertainment and enlightenment. They were major sources of inspiring stories, poetry, anecdotes, songs, and discourses on Masonic themes. Nineteenth century publications such as the *Kentucky Freemason* were illustrated with charming engravings. Group photos and pictures of Masonic temples became important additions to publications like *The Builder* in the early part of the 20th century. Advertisements shed light on the interests of each era.

Masonic publications have followed the trends of their times. Serious publications continue to serve as in-depth presentations of research and as forums for discussion. In addition there has been an increase in local and specialized newsletters. Organizations can keep their membership advised on their activities. Many are desktop published and serve as calendars and reports of activities.

Increasingly, periodicals are appearing in electronic form on websites or as e-mailings.

It may be that you are involved in the publishing of a Masonic serial as an editor or publisher. Think of yourself as creating history. Your pub-



Julie Triessl, serials librarian at the Van Gorden-Williams Library with items in the serials collection.

lished product may well be examined in the future as a source of information about Freemasonry in the early 21st century. Your great grandchildren may be fascinated to learn about the details of life as you are living it. History isn't just the distant past. It is being created each day. The following is offered to assist you in creating a finished product that will meet publishing standards.

A regularly published piece should include:

A title

- It identifies your product and establishes an identity in the minds of your users.

Publishing information

- A formal masthead such as you'll find in this issue of *The Northern Light*
- The name of the publisher, the place of publication, and the date of publication.

Issue identifier

- Recurring publications identify themselves in terms of volumes and issues. Volumes have traditionally been expressed in Roman numerals (more about that later). Issues are numbered in sequence. Some publications appear on a calendar year schedule. A monthly issue of this type would have the January issue as No. 1 and the December issue as No. 12. A

bi-monthly publication would have numbers 1-6. A quarterly numbers its issues 1-4. Many publications begin their numbering with a September issue and wrap around into the following year.

These days many folks have forgotten everything they ever knew about Roman numerals, except at Super Bowl time. Masons, and others alert to their surroundings, are familiar with Roman numerals from their presence on older cornerstones. Crossword puzzle fans find them useful for solving arcane clues.

But for editors and publishers they are sometimes the source of mystification — and may result in great displays of creativity. Librarians are fond of collecting examples of inventive attempts to create a Roman numeral. Ours includes such interesting specimens as: LVV, XLXII, or XXXXVIII.

Let me suggest that most dictionaries provide a list of Roman numerals. Elementary aged school children are also a good source of information.

As an editor or publisher the content and how it serves your audience is your primary concern. You have many choices to make along the way but you also have guidance. Check manuals of style. Ask a local librarian. Contact us.

We welcome your questions on this, or any, subject. Please let us know how we may be of help to you.

READERS



RESPOND

Freemasons for Dummies

Wow! I just got my copy of *The Northern Light* on Thursday, and the calls started at 11:30 that night from brethren pointing out Tom Jackson's review of my book (*The Northern Light*, May 2006). If he thought *Freemasons For Dummies* was offensive, wait'll his copy of Brent's (S. Brent Morris) *Complete Idiot's Guide To Freemasonry* hits his mailbox.

Next time you see Tom, please find out how long I have to be a Mason before I'm allowed to write about it. LOL!

Christopher Hodapp, 32°
(Bro. Hodapp is author of the recently published *Freemasons for Dummies*.)

Commander Webber

Following the death of Sovereign Grand Commander Walter E. Webber the Supreme Council received hundreds of letters conveying sympathy and support. The following is a very small sample:

This is indeed very sad news that we hereby receive today. I do not have the words to express our sadness and our feelings. Please convey to Leslie and family our heartfelt support.

Eduardo R. Perez
Past Sovereign Grand Commander
Supreme Council for Colombia

His leadership and vision will be greatly missed.

Robin Furber
Grand Secretary General
Supreme Council for England and Wales

Ill. Bro. Webber was a great Mason and an exceptional leader not only of your Supreme Council but also of the worldwide AASR family. We will miss him.

Nedim Bali
Grand Chancellor
Supreme Council for Spain

On behalf of all the members of the Supreme Council for the Italian Jurisdiction I wish to express sincere condolences for the tragic passing of Commander Webber. We share in your grief. He was, and shall remain, a shining champion of Brotherhood and an outstanding example for all, because he was a special man endowed with rare gifts of humanity and understanding.

Corrado Balacco Gabrieli
Sovereign Grand Commander
Supreme Council for Italy

On the Lighter Side

*Traveler's delight:
English signs in other
places:*

- *Bucharest hotel:* The lift is being fixed for the next day. During that time we regret that you will be unbearable.
- *Athens hotel:* Visitors are expected to complain at the office between 9 and 11 a.m. daily.
- *Austrian hotel for skiers:* Not to perambulate the corridors in the hours of repose in the boots of ascension.
- *Menu of a Swiss restaurant:* Our wines leave you nothing for you to hope for.
- *Menu of a Polish hotel:* Salad a firm's own make; limpid red beef soup with cheesy dumplings in the form of a finger; roast duck let loose; beef beaten up in the country people's fashion.
- *Tokyo hotel:* Is forbidden to steal hotel towels please. If you are not person to do such thing is please not to read this notis.
- *Leipzig elevator:* Do not enter the lift backwards or when not lit up.
- *Zurich hotel:* Because of the impropriety of entertaining guests of the opposite sex in the bedroom, it is suggested that the lobby be used for this purpose.

HIRAM™

By WALLY MILLER



Footnotes*

* **Family Values.** Josef Gapko was a sixth grade student in Eau Claire, WI, in 1996 when he won first place in a Family Life essay contest sponsored by the Valley of Eau Claire. His inspiring essay was reprinted in the August 1997 issue of *The Northern Light* as well as his local Wisconsin newspaper.

What made the words so poignant was the fact that Josef had muscular dystrophy. He opened his essay with these words: "Two of the most important things I have learned from my family are to have a good attitude and to stay optimistic."

His positive outlook carried over to his love for music. His father, Laurie, points out that Josef enjoyed singing and performed frequently for various groups. He also played the piano.

Laurie has since joined a Masonic lodge and the Scottish Rite. He recalls an incident that took place after Josef's essay appeared in *The Northern Light*. A reader was so impressed with the essay that he sent an anonymous donation through the Valley of Eau Claire with instructions that it be given to Josef.

We received word that Josef died last month, but his parents can be proud of the lessons they instilled in a young man beset with a disability. He was an inspiration to those who knew him.

* **Contributing.** The dyslexia program may be a major charity of the Scottish Rite, but the 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children have also been receiving support from many other Masonic organizations.

The latest report comes from Vermont, where the Vermont Eastern Star Home has contributed \$2,000 toward the Burlington learning center. The check was presented by Mrs. Sally MacPhee. She and her husband, Tom, have been very

active in the Eastern Star. Tom is also an officer in the Grand Lodge of Vermont.

* **Leadership training.** The Supreme Council Committee on Masonic Education and Program Development, chaired by Ill. Richard W. Elliot, 33°, Deputy for New Hampshire, is preparing a series of leadership training seminars for the coming fall and spring. Scottish Rite officers will be invited to attend the regional programs. The seminars are designed to provide valuable information, encourage creativity and heighten leadership skills.

* **Public interest.** It may have been a result of the success of Dan Brown's *DaVinci Code* or the film "National Treasure" or perhaps a combination of both, but there has definitely been a renewed interest in the Masonic fraternity in recent years.

In mid-April Charles Gibson broadcast ABC's "Good Morning America" from the Southern Jurisdiction headquarters in Washington, DC.

In May television specials about Freemasonry appeared on the History Channel and National Geographic Channel.

In June John Tierney's story about the fraternity appeared in the *New York Times*.

On July 18 an article by Colleen O'Connor appeared in the *Denver Post* with the headline "Mysteries of the Masons."

Perhaps much of the current interest was timed to coincide with the release of the film version of "DaVinci Code," but all the interest creates a curiosity factor.

There are continuing reports that Dan Brown's next novel is based in Washington, DC, with some attention focusing on Freemasonry. The

publisher has indicated that the title of the book has not been released and that the earlier name, *The Solomon Key*, was merely a working title. The book is tentatively scheduled for release in May.

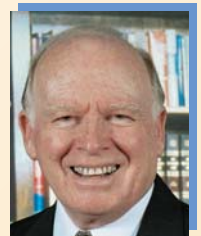
If the speculation holds true, then Freemasonry can expect another flurry of interest in learning more about the fraternity.

* **Looking ahead.** The annual meeting of the Supreme Council meets in major cities throughout the jurisdiction. This year's meeting is scheduled for Chicago at the end of August. Only twice has a meeting been held outside the jurisdictional borders. In both instances the chosen location was St. Louis. The Valley of Southern Illinois stretched across the Mississippi River to serve as host for both meetings.

Next year, however, the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction will be embarking on a unique experience. The annual meeting of the Northern Jurisdiction will be held jointly with the biennial meeting of the Southern Jurisdiction. The joint meeting of the two Supreme Councils will take place in Washington, DC.

The idea generated from discussions between Sovereign Grand Commanders Ronald A. Seale and Walter E. Webber soon after they took office in 2003. The two Commanders developed a warm relationship and frequently shared thoughts.

A larger than normal crowd is expected to attend this special event.



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