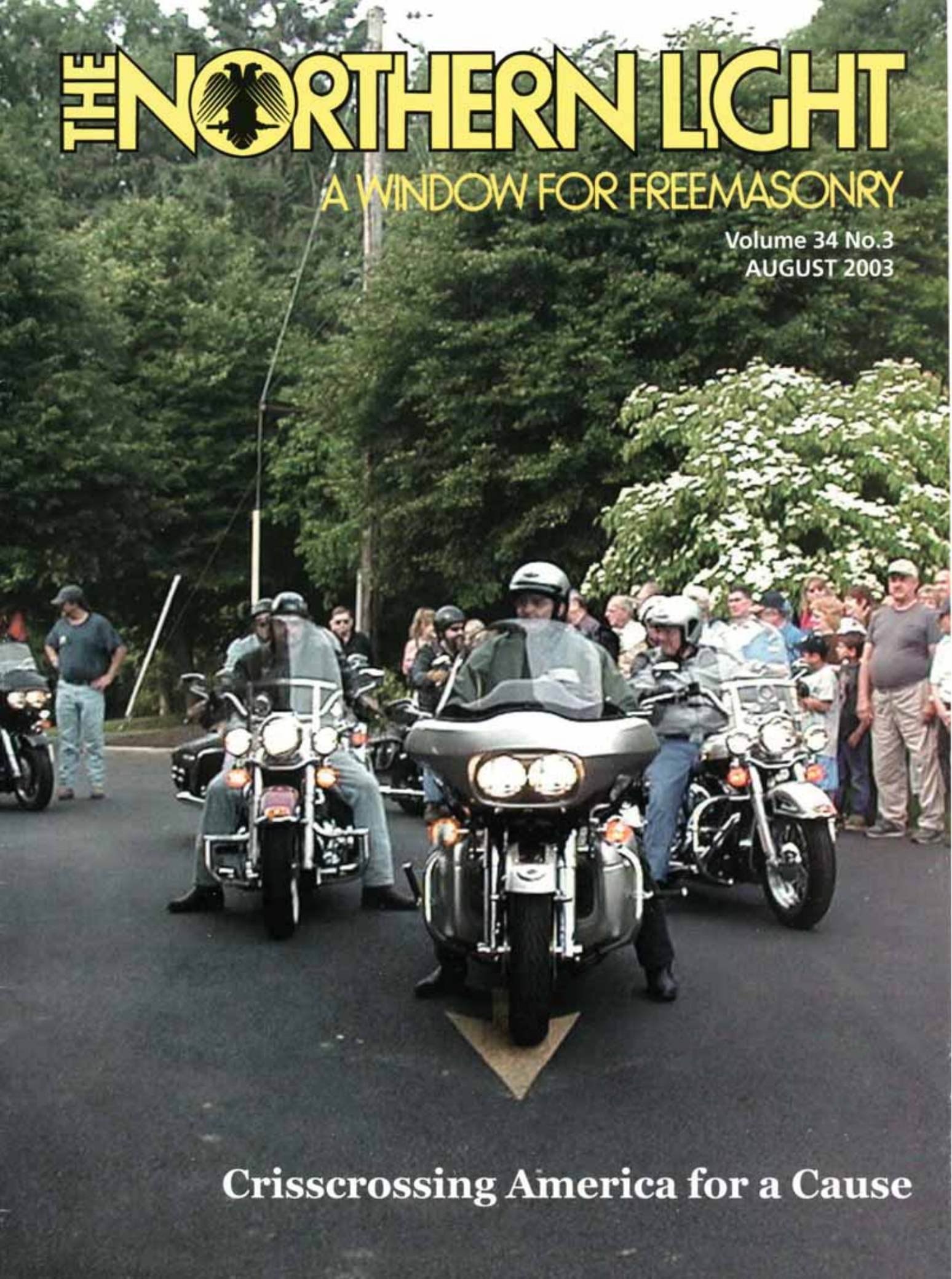


THE NORTHERN LIGHT

A WINDOW FOR FREEMASONRY

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Crisscrossing America for a Cause

A Change of Scenery



Robert O. Ralston, 33°
Sovereign Grand
Commander

“Now is
the time
to refill
the tank.”

Each of us can have an impact on the Masonic fraternity, but collectively we can accomplish a great deal more. It is the spirit of cooperation during the past ten years that has made my job as Sovereign Grand Commander so much easier.

When I accepted the mantle of leadership for 32° Masonry within our Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, I had no idea where the road would take us. At times it was a dusty road with many potholes. At other times it seemed like an open freeway allowing us to travel along at a tremendous speed.

Assigned the task of driving the bus, I have tried to avoid the potholes and proceed at a moderate speed over the dusty roads. The highway, however, has allowed the bus to make much faster progress.

I have always enjoyed getting behind the wheel, whether it was to take the family on vacation in a motor home to visit new sites or putting mileage on a car to attend a distant Masonic gathering. In most instances the drive was as much fun as reaching the destination.

So it has been with the position of Sovereign Grand Commander. Leading the way has been an excit-

ing experience, primarily because of the people on the bus. There have been so many people willing to share ideas, and those discussions have made the driving easy. The implementation of the ideas also proved to be exciting, since many of them have strengthened our Supreme Council and 32° Masonry.

It has been a busy and exhausting ten years, and we have not yet reached our destination. Yes, I could continue to drive the bus, but it has always been my feeling that one should not wait until the bus runs out of gas or the driver falls asleep at the wheel.

Now is the time to refill the tank and turn the wheel over to a new driver, who will steer us onward along a new highway. There are many other avenues to explore, and the change of scenery will allow our organization to continue to make steady progress along the road.

Thanks for sharing the ride during the past ten years and for being a proud supporter of 32° Masonry.

Sovereign Grand Commander

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SUPREME COUNCIL, 33°
Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite
Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, U.S.A.

SOVEREIGN GRAND COMMANDER
Robert O. Ralston, 33°

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Reflecting on A Decade Of Progress

By RICHARD H. CURTIS, 33°

*A review of the accomplishments
of the retiring Grand Commander*

Preparing for a change of command at the top of the Supreme Council provides an opportunity to take a look at the steps that have been taken during the past ten years. Sovereign Grand Commander Robert O. Ralston, 33°, announced a year ago that he would be retiring at the conclusion of this year's annual meeting in September.

Ill. Brother Ralston had been selected for the post because of his energy and leadership skills in the Valley of Cincinnati and other Masonic groups. He brought with him a contagious enthusiasm that he has been able to pass on to those around him. Knowing that he could not accomplish everything himself, he selected key people to coordinate the programs that meant the most to him, but he has been a driving force to see the ideas through to completion.

Learning Centers. The innovations during his tenure as Grand Commander have been significant. One that has drawn the most attention is the establishment of a new Scottish Rite charity. The 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children, Inc., began in 1994. It was adopted as a charity less than a year after Ill. Brother Ralston took office.

A year earlier, a foundation had been established by the 32° Masons in Massachusetts to provide assistance to children with learning disabilities. It was patterned after a series of clinics that had been operating in the Southern Jurisdiction of the Scottish Rite since the 1950s.

The focus of the learning centers in the Northern Jurisdiction, however, would be limited to children with dyslexia. To assist with the implementation, the Grand Commander called on Ill. J. Philip Berquist, 33°, who was instrumental in bringing the Massachusetts center to fruition. He also



Early discussions with Prince Hall Scottish Rite Masons led to an agreement by both Supreme Councils to extend fraternal recognition. Representatives from both Supreme Councils witnessed the official signing by Sovereign Grand Commanders Robert Ralston and Samuel Brogdon.

tapped a close Cincinnati friend, Ill. James W. Salmons Jr., 33°, to play a key role in the development of the program.

Each center would provide one-on-one tutoring, using the Orton-Gillingham method. Host Valleys were urged to provide space in their buildings for the learning centers.

Enthusiastic support from the membership got the learning centers off to a fast start. Although the members responded with financial support, centers were ready to open faster than funds were available. Today a development director is coordinating the effort to build a strong endowment to provide the funding for the growing charity.

The initial goal was to create eventually 55 learning centers. There are currently 43 centers operating and many new ones on the drawing board. The

most recent expectation is that the number of centers will far exceed the original goal.

Prince Hall. Working with his counterpart in the Supreme Council for the Prince Hall Affiliation, Ill. Brother Ralston met with Sovereign Grand Commander Samuel Brogdon, 33°, to discuss mutual recognition. Having been given authorization by the Active Membership in 1994 to explore the possibility of recognition, Brother Ralston arranged a meeting the following January. Both agreed in principle to present a resolution recognizing each other.

The two Supreme Councils approved the resolution in 1995 with the understanding that Scottish Rite recognition be extended within a state only after the Grand Lodge for that state agreed to exchange fraternal recognition. Today,

14 of the 15 Grand Lodges within our Northern Masonic Jurisdiction have recognized Prince Hall.

Procedural changes. After his installation as Sovereign Grand Commander in 1993, Ill. Brother Ralston began to examine all phases of Supreme Council procedures. Those attending the 1994 annual meeting saw a change of format that provided some vitality to another otherwise routine session. Each year there have been continual refinements to the program, and the reaction has been very positive.

He also appointed a long-range planning committee to develop a strategic plan for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction. Within a year a plan was presented and approved. This committee continues to be a catalyst for suggested changes in procedures.

In 1995, a pilot program was introduced to establish Deputy's Representatives in selected states. A representative was appointed in each Valley to serve as a liaison between the Deputy and the Valley officers. With the immediate success in the test areas, other states were allowed to introduce the program.

Also in 1995, the Grand Commander announced a new plan to assist clergy with application fees for Masonic and Scottish Rite degrees. There had been a number of recent attacks attempting to identify Freemasonry as a religion. Masons who are clergymen have understood that there is no conflict between Freemasonry and religion and have helped to overcome the confusion by speaking out. To provide additional spokesmen, Commander Ralston offered a plan to provide any member of the clergy seeking admission with the initiation fees for the symbolic lodge and Scottish Rite.

A proposal was made that year for the elimination of the need to ballot on candidates for the Scottish Rite degrees. Since a candidate must be a Master Mason in good standing who was previously investigated and accepted as a good man and true, it was his feeling that a candidate should need only the recommendation of two Scottish Rite members and the validation of a lodge secretary. The proposal was approved the following year.

Gourgas medals. One of his great pleasures was to present worthy Masons with the Supreme Council's Gourgas medal. As Sovereign Grand Com-



Creation of a new Scottish Rite charity to aid dyslexic children brought a growth of learning centers throughout the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction. Ribbon-cutting ceremonies similar to the one at the Newtonville, MA, center (above) became a common occurrence with the opening of 43 centers.

mander, he has presented four medals to 33° members. The recipients were Richard B. "Red" Skelton, Carl H. Lindner, John H. Glenn and W. Clement Stone. Much to his surprise, the Active Members voted without his knowledge to present the medal to him in 1998. Since the inception of the award in 1938, there have been only 33 recipients. The medal is presented "in recognition of notably distinguished service in the cause of Freemasonry, country or humanity."

In 1995, Commander Ralston created an award to honor those who have provided exceptional service to the Supreme Council. Since the establishment of the Medal of Honor in 1995, ten Scottish Rite Masons have been cited for this recognition.

Museum changes. Seeing a non-functional open courtyard at the National Heritage Museum, Ill. Brother Ralston envisioned a conversion to a useful conference center. A museum gift from the estate of the late Ill. James F. Farr, 33°, provided the incentive, and ground was broken in January 1996. The new space is a tremendous addition to the museum. As well as providing more gallery space, it also serves as a function room for museum activities. The conference center has also been an attractive rental facility for corporate and organizational groups.

Following the untimely death of museum director Thomas W. Leavitt, the Grand Commander was fortunate to find a seasoned replacement in John Ott. Brother Ott's museum experience has brought a new look to the museum.

Headquarters. Concerned about the crowded conditions at the Supreme Council headquarters in Lexington and the expanding programs, Ill. Brother Ralston saw the need for additional space, and received approval in 1998 to proceed. He overcame several stumbling blocks, but managed to break ground for the addition to the present building in the fall of 1999. The staff was forced to relocate for a year to the lower level of the museum during the construction phase. The building was ready for occupancy by the summer of 2000.

The new facility provides sufficient office space with room for future expansion. It also contains a much needed conference room.

Millennium. The year 2000 was fast approaching, so in 1997 Commander Ralston appointed a committee to find ways for the Scottish Rite to celebrate the new millennium. The committee came forth with a unique set of programs. The Commander had selected

(continued on page 25)

Repairing a Link to the Old World

By CATHERINE SWANSON

Francken manuscript preserved for future generations

A crucial link that helped connect the Scottish Rite to the New World has been restored. The Francken manuscript has gone through a complete restoration program, due to efforts by the National Heritage Museum at Lexington, MA.

The manuscript that chronicles the ceremonies and rituals for a Rite of Perfection from the 4° to the 25° is dated 1783 by Henry Andrew Francken.

The Dutch-born Francken came to the West Indies in 1757, where he was appointed Deputy Inspector General by Stephen Morin.

Francken handled many assignments

for Morin. In 1767, Francken traveled to New York and Albany, where he issued a patent for a Lodge of Perfection.

The patent and the original minute book for Albany are in the archives of the Supreme Council at Lexington.

Francken returned to the West Indies in 1770 and was granted a patent by Morin to create a Grand Chapter of Sublime Princes of the Royal Secret, 25°, in Jamaica.

It was perhaps the first grand chapter in the Western Hemisphere. Morin died shortly thereafter.

Over the next two decades, Francken continued his Masonic activity, which

included compiling the 300-page manuscript based on rituals passed on by Morin.

Many view this work as laying the foundation for the Scottish Rite in the Americas.

(continued on page 25)

About Francken and Morin

The Rite of Perfection that had flourished in France in the first half of the 18th century had been sanctioned by the Grand Lodge of France in Bordeaux, the oldest provincial Masonic center in France.

Stephen (Etienne) Morin, a traveling wine merchant, received his Masonic degrees in Loge La Française, Bordeaux. Several years later he became Master of a new lodge, Loge Parfaite Harmonie, which was concentrating on "higher" degrees. At the time, France was a hotbed for additional, or "higher," Masonic degrees.

Morin sailed to the West Indies with authority to spread the Rite of Perfection in the Western Hemisphere and to "create Deputy Inspectors in all places where the sublime degrees are not established." It was in Jamaica that he met Henry Andrew Francken, who was deputized by Morin and given authorization to take the Rite to the American colonies.

Francken's Masonic background is unknown. He may have received the degrees in Holland, although some historians believe he was initiated in the West Indies between 1762-67.

Both Morin and Francken played important roles in establishing the "higher" degrees in the Western Hemisphere and laying the foundation for today's Scottish Rite.



Catherine Swanson is the archivist for the Van Gorden Williams Library at the National Heritage Museum. She also maintains the archives for the Supreme Council. Among the prized possessions are the 1767 Francken patent issued to the Albany, NY, Lodge of Perfection and the 1783 Francken manuscript outlining the degrees of the Rite of Perfection. The patent is on extended loan from the Valley of Albany.



This manuscript, handwritten by Henry Andrew Francken in 1783, contains the Rite of Perfection degrees from the 4° to the 25°. The manuscript recently went through a complete restoration program. Francken's signature and seal appear on the page shown here.

The Strange Journey of the Francken Manuscript

While engaged in some research work in the library of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, your Grand Commander ran across a book of great interest and value to the Supreme Council, — a book containing 316 numbered pages in the handwriting of H.A. Francken, and dated 1783. Francken was the Deputy of Morin, — Morin being the one who brought the precursor of our Rite to the Western Hemisphere. Francken deputized Hays; Hays deputized Spitzer; Spitzer deputized Mitchell and De La Motta; Mitchell and De La Motta were founders of the Southern Supreme Council; and De La Motta later founded the Northern Supreme Council.

The book deals exclusively with the Rite of Perfection, containing:

- A classification of twenty-five Degrees of Masonry into seven classes;
- Laws and Regulations for a Lodge of Perfection, etc;
- Ritual of the Degrees of the Rite of Perfection from the Fourth to the Twenty-fifth inclusive.

All appears to be dated 1783 but, on June 24, 1794, Martin Matthias, Grand Secretary General, wrote in a page and a half of what was blank (before what Francken began on page 1), a copy of the Constitutions for a Grand Chapter of Princes of the Royal Secret.

What happened to this book after 1783 and before 1855 nobody knows. In 1855, it was acquired by an English brother who reported it to the fraternity through an article in the *London Freemason Maga-*

azine for 1855, page 506; and this was copied into the *Masonic Mirror and Keystone* of Philadelphia. On Jan. 5, 1859, Ill. Bro. E. T. Carson, 33°, an Active Member of this Supreme Council residing in Cincinnati, Ohio, purchased it from the English brother. When Bro. [Samuel Crocker] Lawrence bought the Carson collection, following the latter's death, he acquired this book. Upon the decease of Bro. Lawrence, his Masonic library became the property of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. Only recently has that Grand Lodge begun to learn anything concerning a great mass of manuscripts coming to it from Bro. Lawrence. This priceless book and other documents of inestimable historic value to the Scottish Rite have been unearthed within the past few months as a result of the work done in the Massachusetts Grand Lodge library by Bro. Tatsch.

The value of this book to our Supreme Council was pointed out to the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts and, as a result, on his recommendation, the Grand Lodge unanimously voted at its Quarterly Meeting, held March 13, 1935, to present the volume to our Supreme Council. The book is now in our possession. Certainly all of us join in deepest gratitude to the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts for its gracious and fraternal kindness in presenting this rare volume to us, thus returning it where it belongs.

—from the 1935 Allocution of
Sovereign Grand Commander Melvin M. Johnson

The Tree Of Life

Valleys celebrate Family Life in many ways across the jurisdiction

Picnics, barbecues and baseball games were among the events held this summer as part of the 2003 Scottish Rite Masonic Life Program. Valleys are already gearing up for fall with concerts, Halloween parties and dinners on the agenda. Each year a new theme is devised for the program. This year the theme is "Family: The Tree of Life," reflecting family's central role in strengthening the community and educating new generations.

The program was designed to nurture a Mason's natural tendency to spend quality time with his family. As children get older, finding time to be together becomes increasingly difficult. The Scottish Rite program offers ideas for events that will draw the family closer. It also promotes activities which young kids and grandparents can enjoy.

When the program was initiated several decades ago, Valleys were encouraged to organize events around Thanksgiving week. But in 1995, it became clear that the activities should take place throughout the entire year and the program was expanded. Easter egg hunts are popular in the spring and holiday gift exchanges often take center stage in the winter. Whatever the season, family events dot the calendar.

Many Valleys also plan charitable events as part of the family life program. Some collect food for local shelters, while others organize fundraising



Volunteers from the Valley of Augusta, ME, serve hot Thanksgiving dinners to a welcoming crowd.

drives. It's an opportunity for the whole family to participate.

Last year 61 Valleys took part in the program and 20 received awards. Judges based their decisions on a variety of criteria, including: the number of people who participated in the events, whether the activities could be enjoyed by a wide variety of age groups, and whether the celebrations could attract publicity and media attention for Masonic family life.

"I am so proud to see the effort and attention these Valleys put into making this a special time for our families," Sovereign Grand Commander Robert O. Ralston said.

The 2002 theme was "Family Life: America's Greatest Treasure." The winning Valleys found a number of ways to promote that theme and idea.

Augusta, ME, was awarded Best Overall Program for Valleys under

1,000 members. For the eleventh straight year the Valley organized a free Thanksgiving dinner for the community. The program has grown so popular that it was held at two separate venues.

More than 160 people donated their time, money and food for the volunteer effort. Meals are also delivered to shut-ins who can't make it to the festivities. A local newspaper splashed the event on its front page.

In addition, members created a Family Life float for Augusta's Fourth of July parade and a popular Family Life night was held at the end of November.

Quincy, IL, was awarded Best Overall Program for Valleys with 1,000-2,500 members for its ambitious charitable efforts and youth safety programs.

Its noteworthy "Family Read Night" receives a lot of positive attention. More than 200 teachers, students, par-



STEVE FERAZANI, is the Assistant Editor for The Northern Light.



Winners of the Valley of Detroit art poster contest happily display their creations.

ents and brothers came together at Dewey Elementary School for a night to read together. The program promotes literacy and family time. The event is so innovative that a local TV station broadcast live from the school.

In addition, the brothers weighed, measured, photographed and finger printed 60 kids throughout the evening as part of its child safety program. The ID program made stops at big events around the region this year and updated information was assembled for hundreds of children.

Best Overall Program in the 2,500-5,000 member category went to the Valley of Danville, IL, for its impressive display of charity, community outreach and family-fun events.

The brothers didn't have to eat crow to get word out about their fraternity.

No they only had to decorate one.

The Valley participated in the second annual crow-decorating contest at the end of September. Their entry was, appropriately enough, Ben Franklin crow. The patriotic crow held a Scottish Rite petition in one hand and a lodge sign in the other.

The Valley of Detroit captured Best Overall Program honors in the over 5,000 member category thanks to events such as an art poster contest and a summer reading challenge. More than 100 kids from an elementary school in Dearborn entered the art poster competition last March.

Winners received gift certificates to a local bookstore.

Students and teachers enjoyed the contest so much that organizers decided to hold a second round in the fall. ➤



The Valley of Quincy, IL, organizes its child ID program, signing kids up to be photographed, measured and finger printed.



2002 FAMILY LIFE RECOGNITION

OVER 5,000 MEMBERS

Best Overall Program
Detroit, MI

Honorable Mention
Boston, MA
Cincinnati, OH
Cleveland, OH
Columbus, OH

2,500-5,000 MEMBERS

Best Overall Program
Danville, IL

Honorable Mention
Peoria, IL
Reading, PA
Springfield, IL

1,000-2,500 MEMBERS

Best Overall Program
Quincy, IL

Honorable Mention
Buffalo, NY
Eau Claire, WI
Grand Rapids, MI
Moline, IL

UNDER 1,000 MEMBERS

Best Overall Program
Augusta, ME

Honorable Mention
Lancaster-Littleton, NH
Middletown, NY
Portsmouth-Dover, NH
Rochester, NY
Utica, NY

► This time it was even more popular. The Valley received nearly 140 entries. Once again prizes were awarded.

Many honorable mention recipients also hosted memorable events. The Valley of Portsmouth-Dover, NH, organized the annual Masons day at historic Strawberry Banke. The Valley sponsored entertainment, including clowns, a magician, pony rides and face painting, for the full-day extravaganza. A local radio station broadcast live from the event throughout the day providing great publicity for Masons and their causes.

The themes of friendship and patriotism were the focus during a special night sponsored by the Valley of Middletown, NY. The event featured a turkey dinner and rousing sing-alongs. "Uncle Sam" and "Franklin the Eagle" were on hand to entertain the kids. The event was promoted in a local newspaper column.

More than 300 students at a school in the Valley of Lancaster-Littleton, NH, heard about the dangers of driving under the influence from an individual seriously injured after crashing his car while intoxicated. The Valley sponsored the emotionally charged speech at Woodsville High School. In addition, inmates from a local correctional facility discussed the ways con-



Children from the Valley of Portsmouth-Dover, NH, enjoy a horse ride during their annual Masons Day at Strawberry Banke.

trolled substances led them down the wrong path.

During the annual family dinner, members produced two plays depicting the American Revolution and also explained the evolution of the nation's flag.

The Valley of Moline, IL, organized a hayrack ride and wiener roast. More than 100 members and family toasted marshmallows and enjoyed wieners at a local ski resort. Then they boarded the hayride for a 45-minute excursion around the area. The crowd was so big that the driver had to make four dif-

ferent trips. Kids from the Arrowhead Ranch boys home were included in the event. Organizers noted that it was the first time some of the boys had cooked over an open fire.

As you can see, the Valleys were incredibly creative in developing family-friendly activities and events.

Of course, there were no losers in a competition like this. The judges were impressed by the large number of people who participated in many of these events. One judge noted that the festivities seem to get bigger and bigger each year.

In Memoriam

III. Charles F. Greevy, 33°

III. Charles Fritcher Greevy, 33°, an Active Emeritus Member of this Supreme Council for the state of Pennsylvania, died on May 14, 2003.

Bro. Greevy was born in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, on May 2, 1914, the son of Charles Fritcher and Clara Wilhemina (Tepel) Greevy.

He attended the public schools of Williamsport and later graduated from Dickinson College in 1935 and the Dickinson School of Law in 1938. Brother Greevy began the practice of law in 1939. In August 1943, he reported for active duty in the U.S. Naval Reserve. For more than two years, Greevy served as an officer in the European, Atlantic and Pacific theaters.

He returned home in 1945 to resume his legal practice. Greevy was nominated for judge in 1951 and ascended to the bench in 1952. He was reelected for a second 10-year term and was commissioned the president judge of the courts of Lycoming County in 1964.

He was retained for an unprecedented third 10-year term in 1971. III. Brother Greevy served until Jan. 4, 1982.

He retained his robes as a senior judge throughout the commonwealth of Pennsylvania for 20 years and presided at an adoption hearing in December 2002 as his last official case.

He received the 33° on Sept. 23, 1959 and was crowned an Active Member on Sept. 30, 1965. III. Bro. Greevy was appointed a Representative for Peru in 1970. He served as Deputy for Pennsylvania from 1983 to 1987. Greevy became an Active Emeritus Member in 1989. He served on numerous committees and performed various special assignments.

A member of New Covenant United Church of Christ, he served as its first president. Judge Greevy served as a member of the executive committee of Lycoming College, and trustee of the James V. Brown Library.

On June 15, 1940, he married Eleanor Louise Seitzer, who predeceased him on May 4, 1999. He is survived by his daughter, Ann Shumaker, and three sons, Charles F. III, Robert and David. He had seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

What Do Masons Do?

By WAYNE T. ADAMS, 33°

Here are some answers to a frequently asked question

As Masons, we are often asked, "What do Masons do?" Often times, we don't give very good answers to that question. We say, "We do degrees," or "We give scholarships," or "We're a fraternal organization."

Those answers are not really responsive, and they do the fraternity a disservice. The answer to that question is really so simple: We offer men the opportunity to make good friends, to help others, and to nourish their own value system. Let me explain.


We offer men opportunities to make good friends. We are a very democratic institution. We have both the high and the low, the rich and the poor. We regard no man for his worldly wealth or honors. We are taught to look for the internal indications of a man's character and not his external ornamentation. This habit of looking for a man's quality of character is — and we may wince at the word — a spiritual exercise because it calls again and again on the very best that is in us.

We offer men opportunities to help others. We do help each other. We help, encourage and support one another. Not only that, but we try to help our elder brothers and their widows, and not only that we look beyond the lodge and try to be a positive force in our communities, especially with respect to young people. This habit of continually reaching out to help others is also a spiritual exercise, because it calls on the very best that is in us.

We offer men opportunities to nourish their own value system. As we reflect on

our degrees, especially our Entered Apprentice Degree, we note that it is filled, front to back, with a very definite philosophy. We hear about the tenets of our profession as a Mason: Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. We hear about the three theological virtues: Faith, Hope and Charity. We hear about the four cardinal virtues: Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence and Justice. When we participate in our degrees as a candidate, or as an officer, or as a sideline, we discover that hearing those words and reflecting on their significance is also a

spiritual exercise because it nourishes the best that is within us.

So, when someone asks you, as they will, "What do Masons do?" you will be able to tell them that Masonry offers men these opportunities to make good friends, it offers men opportunities to help others and it offers men the opportunities to nourish their own value system. Upon reflection, we can see that this is more than a simple answer to a straightforward question. It is a defining question because in answering it, we discover as we do, we are. 

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 associated with Masonry.

(TREASURED) + (HERESY) – (STAY)
+ (COMPARE) – (RUMOR) + (BIBLE)
– (REACH) + (REASON) – (POISE) +
(TACT) – (BLEED) – (RAT) – (BEAN)

=

Clue for this puzzle appears on page 27.
Answer from previous issue: HERITAGE



ILL. WAYNE T. ADAMS, 33°, is a Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine and an attorney with a law office in Kennebunkport.

Carving a Niche

Commander's wife finds a role in Masonry

Robert O. Ralston is wrapping up his decade-long tenure as Sovereign Grand Commander, which means big changes are on the horizon for Robert and wife Susann.

Recently, she had a chance to reflect on the ten years her husband has served the Scottish Rite and the impact it has had on her life.

Mrs. Ralston says the best part of the experience was meeting so many wonderful people. "It's been a neat experience. You are a guest wherever you go," she said. "I have made so many friends."

Ten years ago, the Ralstons relocated from Cincinnati, OH, to Lexington, MA, when Bob was selected to lead the Rite.

It was a difficult transition for Mrs. Ralston, who pointed out there are no guidelines or rulebooks for a Commander's spouse. But she proved up to the challenge.

Susann hosts the two ladies luncheon at every annual meeting. Two big surprises awaited Susann during the 1999 luncheon in Atlantic City. The meeting started on a sour note. A mouse was running up and down the aisles of the conference room, as the Commander's wife prepared to speak. "If Mickey goes up on stage, I'm gone," Mrs. Ralston recalls saying. Fortunately, the rodent scurried away.

The second surprise was much more pleasant. Due to a last minute change, Miss America of 2000, Heather French, became the guest speaker at the luncheon. Coincidentally, both Miss America and Susann graduated from the University of Cincinnati. Mrs. Ralston says she has tried to cling to her Ohio roots even as she has transformed into a world traveler.

Earlier this year, she met a pair of Cincinnati learning center tutors who were participating in the Boston



Sandra Inglis, Mona Baxter and Susann joined their husbands on a trip to Rio de Janeiro for an international conference of Supreme Councils in 2002.

Marathon, as part of the "Striding for Success" program. The Commander's wife enjoyed the chance to discuss her home city.

Mrs. Ralston said the most memorable Annual Meeting came in 2001. The meeting was held in Indianapolis, less than two weeks after the tragedy of Sept. 11. "We were the only convention that didn't cancel," the Commander's wife said. "The [hotel staff] was so nice to us, they were so happy we were there."

Susann noted that everyone in attendance really wanted to be there. She and her husband actually made the long drive from Boston to Indianapolis, because many flights had been canceled or rescheduled.

Susann believes she has had only a

minimal influence over her husband's leadership style. Though, she confesses to pushing him to limit the length of his speeches. "A speech is too long if you can't say it in ten minutes," she laughs.

But she noted that the Commander "never brings his work home."



Frequently she accompanied her husband on his travels around the jurisdiction.

Mrs. Ralston understood her husband's commitment to his fraternity early on. "Forty years ago he was installed as Master of his lodge," she said. "It has always been a part of our married life."

Her husband cherishes family and Masonry as two of the most important parts of his life, according to Susann. "Bob is always there for his family and friends," she said.

While the Ralstons have trekked across the globe during the last ten years, Susann said her favorite moments have come during the Canadian and Prince Hall annual meetings.



Susann has hosted the ladies luncheons during each Supreme Council Annual Meeting.

"You are treated so well, it's fantastic," she said. Mrs. Ralston thinks that the recognition of Prince Hall Masonry is one of her husband's two biggest accomplishments as Commander.

The other major achievement is the founding of the learning centers, according to Mrs. Ralston.

The Commander's wife believes she has not changed during the past ten years, despite her husband's important role.

"I hope I am the same person I al-

ways was," she said. "I will always just be Susann. I try to keep myself on the same level as everyone else."

She is looking forward to a quieter pace now. "It's wonderful being a grandmother and spending time with my grandkids," Ralston noted.

The couple has two grown children, who have families of their own now. "Everything has a start and an end," she noted.

Of course, for the Ralstons an end simply means a new beginning. 🌿

Susann comes into contact with people of all ages as she travels through the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction with her husband.



Getting Your Life In Order

By CAROLYN E. GRAMLING

*Organizational tips for dyslexics
that your family can use too!*

I'm late! I'm late!

For a very important date!

No time to say hello, goodbye,

I'm late, I'm late, I'm late!



—From the Walt Disney Film, *Alice in Wonderland*, 1951

Adapted from Lewis Carroll, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, 1865

This familiar refrain is that of the chronically tardy and flustered white rabbit who is always checking his pocket watch while racing to and fro.

In today's world, it is easy for everyone to identify with the white rabbit. From the minute we get up in the morning, we are in a race against the clock. We rush to work, to meetings and to doctors' appointments.

Kids are rushed off to school, musical instrument lessons, and athletic practice. There is even a sense of urgency to finish their homework so that they can hurry off to bed.

Through normal developmental stages, most people acquire the ability to organize themselves in order to deal with the demands of the world. Although adults long for the good old days when things were less stressful, and children would like more time to play, most of us somehow adapt. Sure,

there are some people who have more trouble than others, but when push comes to shove, even they are able to get their acts together.

Dyslexics, however, have a much more difficult time. Their brain circuitry is not wired in a way that fosters the skills of organizing. Consequently, they need good models to follow if they hope to keep pace with life. With the support of family and other members of the community, dyslexics can learn to overcome their problems with organization.

Although the following suggestions for developing organizational skills are designed to help dyslexics, they also serve as helpful reminders for anyone looking to get better organized.

Organizing for Daily Living

Good organizational habits are learned more easily when things are consistent. If the home is neat and things are put away in the same places every day, the dyslexic child has a model to depend on and to emulate. By following established routines and

procedures for various tasks, the dyslexic develops a sense of security and empowerment.

If it seems unreasonable to expect a child to be constantly running upstairs or to the other end of the house to put things away, provide a container in which his or her things can be placed temporarily. Plastic crates are sold at most office supply stores. Label the container with the child's name so that there is no confusion as to who is responsible for the redistribution of its contents. The container should be located in an area where the child spends most of his or her time.

Preparing for the next day is a routine that can become second nature for a dyslexic as bedtime approaches. First, place the school backpack at the door. Before leaving the family room area, the contents of the plastic crate should be emptied and put away. Finally, select and set out an outfit to wear the next day.

Many families benefit from sharing household chores such as making the bed, loading and emptying the dishwasher, putting away the groceries, emptying wastebaskets, taking out the garbage, mowing the lawn, and looking after family pets.

It helps dyslexics to have a checklist posted on the refrigerator or kitchen bulletin board as a reminder. Children can sign up for various chores at the beginning of the week. Reward the child with praise for accomplishing the tasks. Some parents place a sticker next to the child's name in recognition of a job well done. Not only does the child benefit from practice in organized living, the whole household will be more orderly.

Another way in which dyslexics can help to organize themselves is through the use of post-it notes. As ideas pop into their heads, children can be en-



CAROLYN E. GRAMLING, M.S.Ed., is a reading specialist and professor of reading at Suffolk Community College, Selden, N.Y.

couraged to jot down things that need to be done and then stick the note in a highly visible location close to the task needing attention. Because dyslexic minds often think in picture or graphic form, children can draw a symbol or picture on the post-it rather than going through the laborious task of writing out the words. Keep in mind that the goal is to help the child to organize his or her life, not to use the exercise as a spelling or writing drill.

Through modeling, families teach the dyslexic appropriate ways to approach and complete tasks. Initially, the child will need to be guided until he or she begins to "own" the tasks. This is not to say that the dyslexic will never need support with some gentle reminders. However, things will run a lot smoother than they would in a disorganized atmosphere.

The organizational skills that dyslexics develop as children have far-reaching implications. By learning to organize their lives when young, they can carry this support structure into adulthood. Whether applying for college, interviewing for a job, or working in an office or on site, the work habits they have accrued can make the difference between success and failure in life.

Organizing for School

In order to succeed in life, dyslexics need to do well in school. Parents can advocate for their child's success by keeping in contact with the teacher. Communication is essential to establishing and maintaining good organization.

When dyslexic children do not understand a particular concept, a feeling of disequilibrium undermines their feelings of an already shaky self-confidence. With dyslexics, there is always the fear of not knowing, of being labeled dumb. Their sense of inadequacy grows exponentially.

The confusion with a concept must be addressed immediately in order to rescue them from the overwhelming feeling of self-consciousness. The self-image concerns take precedence over the need to comprehend the concept. What was originally just a cognitive problem becomes an emotional problem as well.

Much of this negativity on the dyslexic's part is avoidable if the parents and teachers keep the lines of communication open. Even though

the teacher is aware of many of the dyslexic's academic needs, it is important to receive feedback from the parents regarding any specific areas of homework assignments that present problems for the child. With this knowledge, the teacher can re-teach concepts and give added support.

For the sake of academic achievement, dyslexics must learn the art of organizing their time, their space, and their materials. All three areas must be mastered if the child hopes to succeed. For example, what good is it if time and space have been set aside to accomplish a goal only to discover that the materials are in such a jumble that all the time reserved for homework is used up instead in organizing the materials? Or, what good does it do to organize the work area and materials when there is no time to work with them?

“ For the sake of academic achievement, dyslexics must learn the art of organizing their time, their space, and their materials. ”

By following some of these suggestions, dyslexic children can learn to operate more successfully within the confines of a structured, sequential, and organized environment. It's all a matter of establishing a routine, which children can easily adapt to if reinforcement is consistent.

Time

The brains of dyslexics work differently from the norm in that neurons take a circuitous path when learning, solving problems, or recalling information. In other words, despite their average to above average intelligence, they need more time to sort things out.

Whether the dyslexic child is in kindergarten or high school, he or she should take part in deciding how time

should be scheduled. This can be accomplished by first preparing a time chart that includes time slots for daily activities.

Begin by filling in the time slots that represent the "must do" activities, such as meals, personal hygiene, school, worship, and extracurricular activities. These might include such things as scouts or other meetings, team sports, dance, gymnastics and musical instrument lessons. Don't forget that some of these activities may require practice sessions as well as lessons and games. And finally, set aside time to be with friends.

After all the "must-dos" have been scheduled in, consider the best time of day to reserve for homework in the remaining hours of time slots left in the week. Keep in mind that just because there are many hours a week left over, this does not mean that all these hours should be reserved for homework!

Once the homework schedule has been determined, it is important to remember that dyslexics need short breaks to relax, to stretch, or to have a snack. The advantage to taking study breaks is twofold. Not only do dyslexics need a cognitive rest, they learn more by taking breaks. Research indicates that more is learned during the first ten minutes and the last ten minutes of the study session. Therefore, it makes sense to take a refresher break after about 30 to 45 minutes, depending upon the age of the child. By doubling the number of beginnings and endings, the amount of material learned increases.

Space

"I can't work with this mess on my desk," is a common complaint we have all voiced at one time or another. Since our brains can only concentrate well on one thing at a time, they work best when our workspace is in order. Another deterrent to concentration is noise. Not only should the workspace be organized, but it should also be free from interruptions.

Choose an orderly, quiet, space for homework free from distractions and temptations. While middle and high school students prefer to work independently, younger children usually need to work in an area close to a parent in order to feel secure. An anxious mind can be a bigger block to concentration than a little background noise.

Studying in the same place each ➤

► day facilitates comprehension. Just as people form a psychological association with a favorite chair when watching television or eating meals, so do students form a psychological association with a designated place when it is time to do homework. Over time, concentration will become easier, almost automatic. Since the bed is associated with sleep, older children who want to study in their bedrooms will need a table or desk free of clutter.

Materials

When setting up the work space for studying, make sure that the following materials are within easy reach: a box of supplies including pens, pencils, highlighters, paper, a ruler, a calculator, post-its, and an electronic spell check. Also, keep an age appropriate dictionary and a thesaurus close by. Too often, children (and adults) are discouraged from using the dictionary because it is "too far away."

Most dyslexics have a problem keeping their backpacks organized. For younger children, buy folders with pockets to separate papers for different subjects or to separate graded work from homework assignments. This will help cut down on lost and messy papers.

For older children, buy a three-ring binder, paper, dividers, and a paper punch. Label a section for each subject area for taking notes in class. In addition, purchase folders with pockets and label them for each subject area. Place new homework assignments in the left pocket, and put graded and returned papers in the right pocket.

It is important that the child participate in deciding how the notebook and folders should be set up. Remember, "owning" the task encourages responsibility and eventually autonomy.

Parents can support the child by checking the backpack each day for new assignments and feedback on previous homework papers. Help the child to reorganize the backpack each day by making sure that completed assignments have been placed inside for the next school day.

By forming specific work habits, children will become more organized with every day tasks both at home and at school. No longer will they be chanting the white rabbit's lament:

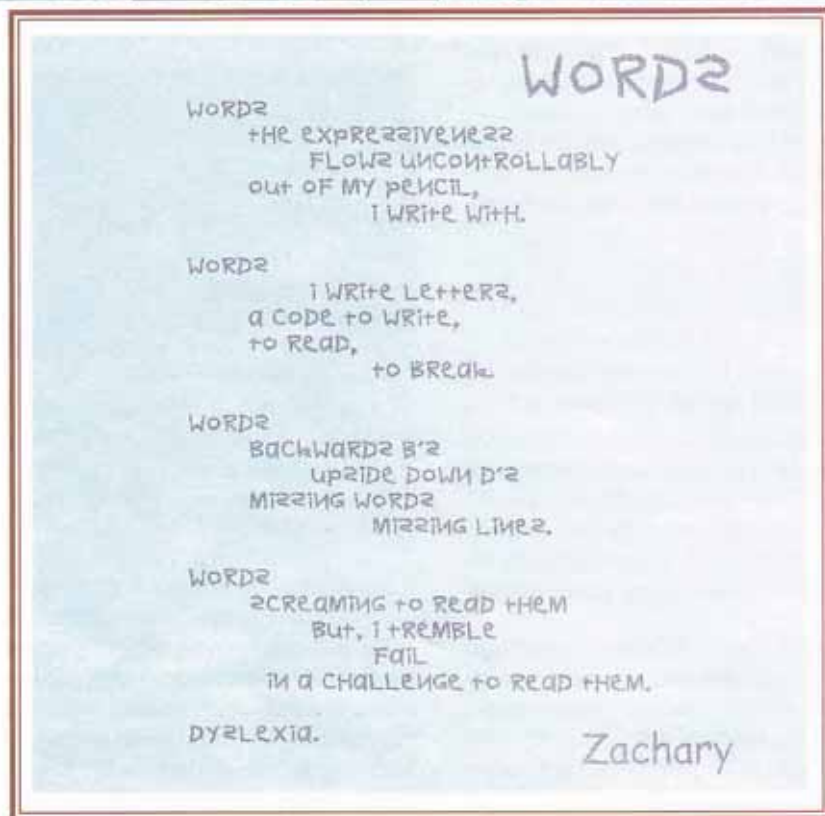
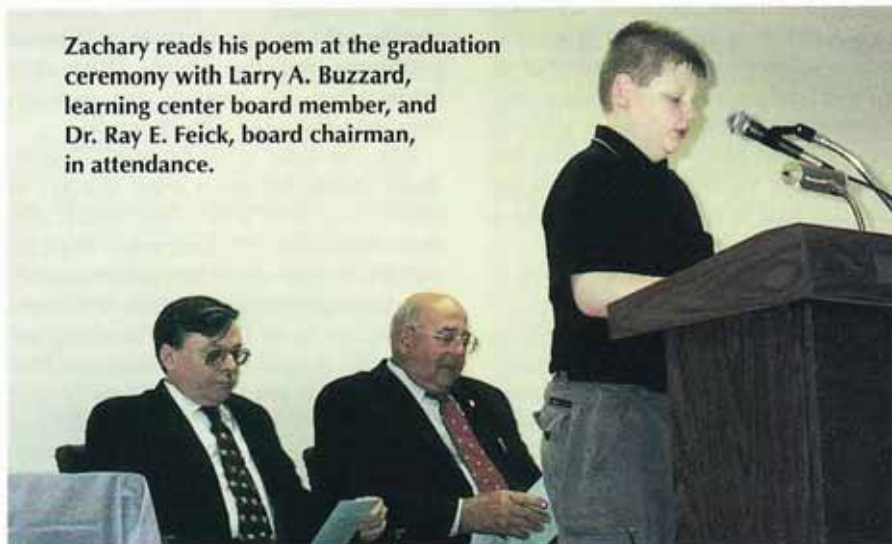
I'm overdue; I'm in a rabbit stew.

No time to say goodbye, hello, I'm late, I'm late, I'm late!



Special Words

Zachary reads his poem at the graduation ceremony with Larry A. Buzzard, learning center board member, and Dr. Ray E. Feick, board chairman, in attendance.



Graduation ceremonies took place at schools across the country this June. These events are held to honor the hard work and determination of students. Nowhere is that more evident than at the celebrations held by the 32° Masonic Learning Centers.

At the ceremony in Reading, PA, 13-year-old Zachary contributed his own poem.

The seventh grader recently completed his second year at the learning center. He initially created this poem for a school assignment. Cen-

ter Director Brenda Wise said she was so impressed by the effort, she decided to include it in the graduation exercises.

Zachary read the poem to all the graduates, their families and invited guests. The student wrote the words, while his parents helped him find a unique font that would express his daily frustrations, according to Wise. The learning center director noted that Zachary has made tremendous progress since entering the program.



Crisscrossing America for a Cause

Victor Frederick, 32°, seemed surprised, even perhaps bewildered, to see the large crowd that gathered to greet him outside the Lexington, MA, 32° Masonic Learning Center for Children. The audience broke into applause as the graying rider stepped off his motorcycle.

"It's great to see everyone," he said. Vic still appeared perplexed and a bit bashful in front of his new-found fans.

Frederick had just wrapped up the first day of his journey across America. He would be passing through every state in the continental U.S. in a quest to raise money and awareness for the 32° Masons' dyslexia education program.

The ride began on June 12 at his home base in Reading, PA. The send-off marked Vic's first taste of fanfare. A band played and a crowd cheered as Vic rode off to cross the country.

He concluded back in Reading a month later, on July 12, at the Pennsylvania Council of Deliberation meeting. But not before he trekked more than 11,000 miles and stopped at 12 Northern Masonic Jurisdiction learning centers along the way.

Frederick was a bike enthusiast long before he scheduled this trip. The former Thrice Potent Master in the Valley



Frederick packs up his gear as he prepares for the long trip.

of Reading, had founded Hiram's Riders, a Masonic motorcycle club.

When he started planning out the month-long trip, it seemed natural to turn it into a fundraiser for the learning centers. Vic said it would provide even more motivation to complete his mission.

The dyslexia program is free of charge to the families. All the funds raised during the ride will go directly to the centers. Despite the good deed he was attempting and the magnitude of the mission, Frederick seemed ill prepared for the attention he was receiving. He immediately seemed to shy away from the spotlight upon arriving in Lexington.

Frederick said a few words to the gathering, thanked them for coming, then made his way inside to the center.

He received a brief tour from Executive Director

Joseph J. Berlandi, 32°. Vic was clearly impressed with the facilities.

Having a chance to see where the funds would be spent, could only provide more motivation for the lone rider. Then Frederick quietly enjoyed a sandwich blending in with the masses.

But as a local newspaper reporter approached him for some comments, Frederick sprang into action. He breathlessly touted the efforts of the learning centers. Vic understood the importance of gaining attention for the cause and he proved adept at playing his part. As the lunch came to a close, Frederick stepped back on his trusty steed and waved a boisterous goodbye. Vic was learning to live under the spotlight and it seemed to fit him well.

He was the center of attention many more times along his route. Several other learning centers held celebratory welcomes for Frederick when he rode into town.



Brenda Wise, director of the 32° Masonic Learning Center for Children, Inc., in Reading, PA, stands with Frederick before he departs on his journey.

Sponsor-a-Child Program Nears Goal

The 2003 Sponsor-a-Child program is winding to a successful close. As of June 15, the program had raised \$825,000 for the 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children, Inc., just shy of the \$1 million goal. This year's drive wraps up on August 31.

A contribution of \$5,000 pays for

the tutoring costs of one child at a learning center for one year.

A variety of donors have participated in the 2003 program, including Masonic organizations, community groups and private foundations, and individuals, according to Executive Director Joseph J. Berlandi, 32°.

What it Means to Direct a Children's Learning Center

As a director of a learning center, I am always reassured that a student gets exactly what she needs.

As a public school teacher of eighth graders (my other job), I am painfully reminded that while I work very hard at instructing my pupils, I am not necessarily instructing them in what they need.

Passing tests and fulfilling mandatory curricular demands (science lab reports, social studies tests, English essays, etc.) supersede all else, even, sadly enough, teaching life-necessary literacy skills like reading.

In an effort to pass a child through a grade, we forget that learning to read is the paramount prerequisite to all academics.

Even if a teacher is fortunate enough to work for an enlightened director of special services, who provides extensive staff development in the area of multi-sensory reading, at the very best, she teaches the skills to an oversized group of children, who could be woefully mismatched.

In contrast, at a Masonic Learning Center, we assess each student at entry to determine her precise reading and spelling levels and teach her individually and prescriptively in accordance to her specific needs.

Philanthropically, being a director means being involved with an organization that gives a whole new dimension to the term "community service."

Dyslexia, the invisible handicap, is a visible burden to the child, his family, school, and community.

Undertaking the task of eradicating this disability is a noble cause with far-reaching impacts.

And the Scottish Rite Masons have decided to do just that with their learning centers.

Intellectually, directing a center uniquely fills core, multiple needs. I regularly read updated texts, articles, and cutting-edge research. I become intimately familiar with this material, so I can disseminate it in a logical, clear, and cohesive manner. Observing trainees provides me with endless opportunities to evaluate and re-evaluate the skills needed to deliver effective remedial practices.

As a trained teacher, speech/language pathologist and learning consultant, where else could I oversee the free, therapeutic instruction of 55 students a year?

How else could I assist parents with accurate information about dyslexia as I do at our annual parent information sessions?

Where else could I distribute information to teachers about wonderful teacher training opportunities?

The answer is quite clear: only at the Masonic Learning Centers.

If being at home means being at a place that fosters your intellectual, psychological and philanthropic goals, then I have found my home as the director of a 32° Masonic Learning Center for Children.

— Judy Shapiro, Director of the 32°
Masonic Learning Center in
Scotch Plains, New Jersey

Walk On By

A date has been set for the new Masonic Learning Centers' charity event.

A walkathon pilot program is scheduled for Sunday afternoon, Oct. 26.

Unfortunately, this year the fundraiser will be held only in Lexington, MA and Lowell, MA. But this is only the beginning.

Next year, plans are already in the works for walkathons near all 45 learning centers.

Organizers in Lexington are hoping more than 300 walkers will take part in the inaugural event.

Commemorative T-shirts and special prizes will be awarded to participants.

Walkers can choose between a five-mile and a five-kilometer (3.1-mile) route that will wind through historic Lexington.

It will begin and end at the learning center located at the Supreme Council headquarters.

The walk is open to anyone interested in participating. For more information, call (781) 465-3373.





Buying a computer...



By Leigh E. Morris, 33°

So, you want to buy a computer. Be prepared, purchasing a computer can be as challenging as buying a car.

The first decision you face is whether to buy new or used. While I do like used cars, I just don't see any real advantage in used computers. Also, I recommend against buying a custom-made computer. Stick with the name brands.

Now, where do you plan on buying your computer? The primary options are: A retail outlet that specializes in computers; direct from the manufacturer; through a mail order or online retailer, or a department, discount or electronics store.

Personally, I believe the first option is the best choice for most people – even more so if you have lots of questions or are not especially experienced with computers. However, the other two options are acceptable for many folks (and you know who you are). Pay with a credit card in the event of a dispute after you get it home.

So, what should you purchase? You can approach this in many ways. Price, reputation, and availability, could all be considerations. Actually, you are pretty safe by sticking with any of the major names in computers.

If you prefer a Windows-type computer, I like Dell and Hewlett-Packard. If you want to save money, I would strongly suggest looking at the Dell Dimension 2350. It is a very nice machine for a very reasonable price.

Of course (and regular readers know what this is leading to), my first choice is still Apple (Macintosh). I would suggest either the eMac or the iMac for most users. (Please, no letters from the Windows crowd railing against Macs! You'll only get frustrated and I won't change my mind!)

Another area of concern is (or should be) tech support. In fact, I hear more complaints about lousy tech support than any other single issue except spam. A recent issue of *Consumer Reports* magazine gave Apple the top score in tech sup-

port with Dell finishing second and Gateway third.

That same issue of *Consumer Reports* also scored the computer makers' repair rates. Again, Apple ranked the highest with Dell coming in second. This brings us to the question – What happens if your computer needs warranty work? Before you fork over any cash, make certain you understand the repair situation. Depending on the brand and where you buy it, you may be able to take it back to the dealer or you may be required to ship it back to the manufacturer or seller.

Also, make certain you fully understand the warranty provisions. They do vary from brand to brand with Dell and Macintosh receiving high marks from most critics. As a rule, I don't like extended warranties.

Before we close, a word about monitors is in order. Until recently, cathode ray tube (CRT) monitors – essentially a television set without a receiver – was the only option. But today, these old-style monitors are being challenged by liquid crystal display (LCD) flat-screen monitors.

Which to buy? Generally, you are best advised to get the monitor that comes with a new computer.

If you only need a monitor (or don't like the one that comes with the computer) and space and weight are not a consideration, you can purchase very good CRTs in the \$250 range. My choice would be a ViewSonic, though Sony makes a very nice monitor. Remember, CRT monitors weigh about 50 pounds.

If you prefer or need a space-saving LCD, I think all are acceptable choices. In *Consumer Reports* tests, only the Apple Studio Display received an "excellent" score. The ViewSonic, Sony, Gateway and IBM monitors also ranked high.

Questions or comments? Send me an e-mail at
studebaker55@casscomm.com

Generous couple receives honor

A Special Day

June 10 was a wonderful day at the 32° Masonic Learning Center for Children in Lexington. Members of the Board of Governors of the Learning Center, along with staff and well-wishers attended a dedication event to thank Ill. John G. Moy, 33°, and his



Ill. Robert E. Godbout Jr., 33°, chairman of the board for the Lexington Learning Center, presents a Teddy Bear Society plaque to John and May Moy.

wife, May, for their recent commitment to the Campaign for Learning. The Moys donated a property that funded an annuity trust. The trust will provide income for the rest of their lives, after which the proceeds will fund the endowment for the Lexington Learning Center. Observed Joe Berlandi, executive director of the 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children, Inc., "It's a joy to know that something that is good for the Moys today will also benefit efforts of the Lexington Learning Center in years to come."

Planned Giving

Despite the poor economy over the past year, Scottish Rite Masons did not fail to support the very special charitable projects. While some folks may have donated a little less, many Brothers and their ladies stepped forward and gave as never before. This year's Blue Envelope appeal — providing essential funds for the National Heritage Museum, schizophrenia research and Abbott Scholarships — received 23,000 donations, a 15 percent increase from the previous year.

Most impressive was support of this year's calendar. More than 52,000 members who received our 2002 calendar returned a donation to support the 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children program. In fact, donations were \$60,000 more than the previous year. Thank you!

Similarly, our effort to endow each of the Learning Centers through the Campaign for Learning has remained constant. Builders Council gifts and pledges totaled more than \$3 million this year. While a lot more support is required to reach our goal of endowing 55 Learning Centers (\$150 million is needed), undoubtedly, our membership is up to the challenge.

Annuity giving is one option that our members have used to provide both income for themselves and support for the Campaign for Learning. Here's how it works:

A gift annuity is a simple, contractual agreement between a donor and Scottish Rite Masonic Charities. Assets are transferred to the charity in exchange for a promise to pay the donor an annuity. If you itemize deductions on your tax return, savings from the charitable deduction reduce the net cost of the gift.

For a period of years, based on a government table of life expectancies, a portion of each payment received is considered a nontaxable return of your investment in the gift. This further increases your after-tax dollars available for spending or investing.

Annuity rates are higher for older annuitants and lower for younger annuitants, based on life expectancy. As a result, gift annuity contracts are generally more appealing to older donors because the purchasing power of a fixed dollar return can shrink over any long period, even with modest inflation.

For more information about this very sensible giving opportunity, call me at 800-841-1432 (ext. 3340).

You can also learn more about this and many other planned gift opportunities on our website. Simply go to <http://www.supremecouncil.org> and scroll down to access our planned giving section.

— **Steve Pekock**

Director of Development

The Stamp Act

A Philatelic Review



Sri Lanka Masonic Temple Issue. The island of Sri Lanka, known as Ceylon until 1972, issued a stamp on Sept. 5, 2002, to mark the Centenary of the Victoria Masonic Temple located in the city of Colombo. This island lies in the Indian Ocean to the southeast of India. Freemasonry has existed on this island for over 200 years. There is one Scottish Constitution Lodge and it meets in this Temple. Of the nine E.C. Lodges in Sri Lanka, five meet here and of the four I.C. Lodges, three meet in this building.

★ ★ ★

Sir Douglas Haig was initiated in Elgin Lodge No. 91, Levin, Scotland, on Dec. 27, 1881. He was passed and



raised 43 years later — in 1924 — and was installed Worshipful Master Dec. 1, 1925. He is pictured on a stamp issued in July 1999 to note the 200th anniversary of Sandhurst, the Military Academy.

Sir Douglas, a member of the family which produces the well-known whiskey, was born June 19, 1861, at Cameronbridge, Fife, Scotland. He attended Sandhurst Military Academy and Brasenose College, Oxford. In 1898 he was sent to the

Sudan and served in the Boer War from 1899-1902. In 1903 he was named Inspector General of Cavalry in India and was promoted to major general. Appointed chief of staff in 1909, he was promoted to Lt. general the following year. When Great Britain entered the First World War, Haig was commanding general of the British First Army. In 1915 he became commander-in-chief of the British Expeditionary Force and was in charge at the Somme in 1916, when tanks were first used and the BEF suffered 600,000 casualties. He was made a field marshal in 1917 and received the Knight of the Thistle. He retired in 1921 and died Jan. 29, 1928.

★ ★ ★

Manuel Roxas is shown on a "former president" stamp issued by the Philippines in 1963. He was born on Jan. 1, 1892, in Capiz and obtained his law degree at the University of the Philippines with high honors in 1913. His political career began with his appointment to the municipal council of Capiz. From there he gradually worked his way up to congressman. After World War II, he became the last president of the Philippine Commonwealth and the first president of the Philippine Republic. He died of a heart attack while on a speaking engagement at Clark Air Base on April 15, 1948.



Bro. Roxas was a member of Makawiwili Lodge No. 55 and served as Master in 1927. He was also a 32° Mason and attended several meetings.

★ ★ ★

Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben was born on Sept. 17, 1730, in Magdeburg, Prussia, into a military family. He was educated at Jesuit colleges in Neisse and Breslau and distinguished himself as a mathematician. He entered the Prussian Army in 1747 and rose to the rank of captain during the Seven Years' War. After dismissal from the army of Frederick the Great, he served as court chamberlain for Prince Hohenzollern-Hechingen and then as a colonel in Baden's army. He sailed to America in 1777 after Benjamin Franklin recommended him to George Washington. He reported to Valley Forge in February 1778, was designated Inspector General of the Continental Army with the rank of major general and was given the task of training the troops. He played several vital roles and was honorably discharged in 1784. He became a naturalized American citizen of Pennsylvania and New York and lived near Utica. He died Nov. 28, 1794.

It is not known where Bro. von Steuben received his degrees or the title of "Past Master," but it is presumed to have been in Europe —



possibly in the Military Lodge of the Blazing Star of Berlin. He was a member of Trinity Lodge No. 10 (now No. 12) of New York City and an Honorary Member of Holland Lodge No. 8.

★ ★ ★

Donald Campbell was born on March 23, 1921, in Horley, Surrey, England. He trained as an engineer and shared his father's interest in racing. He is the only man to set both land and sea speed records in the same year. He set the land speed record of 403.14 mph on Lake Eyre salt flats, Australia in 1964. Between 1955 and 1964 he broke the water speed record seven times achieving 276.279 mph on Lake Dumbyleyung in Australia on Dec. 31, 1964. On Jan. 4, 1967, he made his last and fatal attempt on Coniston Water when his boat was wrecked on the return run. He had achieved a speed of 328 mph on the first run.



Bro. Campbell was initiated in Grand Masters Lodge No. 1, London, on Feb. 16, 1953, and was exalted in their Royal Arch Charter in 1954. His land speed record was commemorated by a Great Britain stamp in September 1988.

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



By Robert A. Domingue



By THOMAS W. JACKSON, 33°

Legacy of the Sacred Chalice, by C. Bruce Hunter and Andrew C. Ferguson. Published in 2001 by Macoy Publishing & Masonic Supply Co., Inc., P. O. Box 9759, 3011 Old Dumbarton Road, Richmond VA 23228-0759. \$17.50

Most of us who have been active in Freemasonry fully understand that the history of the craft is shrouded in mystery and probably no one knows its origins for certain. But theories abound, and writers write. Yet another book, *Legacy of the Sacred Chalice*, presents a proposed history of the development of Freemasonry focusing on the origin of the rituals.

C. Bruce Hunter and Andrew C. Ferguson have undertaken the task of proposing a solution to this mystery of origin and of ritual. It is a result of more than 30 years of investigation, according to the authors. Frankly, their conclusions are no more absurd than many others I've read and indeed make a lot of sense. I have tried not to become cynical, but I've read countless theories regarding our origins. Of course, they cannot all be true. But these ideas do offer us the chance to explore our past.

The authors argue that Freemasonry is directly linked to the Knights Templar. I am well aware most scholars of Freemasonry reject this concept. But conclusive evidence is lacking on both sides of the proposition, so the debate remains stimulating.

The authors have inserted into the equation another variable regarding the origin and development of Masonic ritual. Hunter and Ferguson contend that ritual of the Royal Order of Scotland closely resembles the original ceremony. Scottish Masons retained the ritual, so that the true history and purpose of Freemasonry would not be lost, according to the authors.

The book spotlights the fraternity's commitment to maintaining intact, as nearly as possible, the ritual in the "pure" form prior to the changes of the 1700s, and the resultant workings of the United Grand Lodge after the union in 1813. In less than veiled form, it reveals the involvement of the Knights Templar at the battle of Bannockburn, when they allegedly saved the day for the Scottish king, Robert Bruce. The king rewarded the participating Templars by creating a new order of Knight-

hood, according to legend. This new organization "evolved into modern Masonry," the authors wrote.

However, the ritual, according to Hunter and Ferguson, is closely aligned with the Holy Grail legend revealed in the poem "Conte del Graal" written by Chretien de Troyes.

This poem details the search for the sacred relics, which may have been the avowed purpose of the Templars incursion into the Holy Land. Hunter and Ferguson contend that this poem could form the basis for the development of early Masonic ritual.

So, once again Freemasonry is brought into a relationship involving the Knights Templar and the Arthurian legends. We have no way of knowing whether there is any particle of truth in these theories and suppositions. But wouldn't they add great luster to our already illustrious history?

The book is interesting and easy reading. Part of it is history and other parts deduction and speculation. I think most of you would enjoy reading it.



From Colonials to Provincials, by Ned C. Landsman. Published in 1997 by Twayne Publishers, An Imprint of Simon & Schuster Macmillan, 1633 Broadway, New York, NY 10019. \$34.

The book is part of the Twayne series on American thought and culture. This volume focuses on changes in the American colonies between the years 1680 and 1760. This time frame covers the original early settlements up until the Revolutionary War. It was significant for the development of new thought regarding religious and civil affairs. Printing presses were multiplying and intellectual knowledge was being advanced during this time period. It was an era marked by the development of a scientific approach to learning. Early Americans did participate in this age of Enlightenment. It was also a time of expansion and development of Freemasonry.

During this time period, the early colonists began to diverge in thought and action from the British. That divergence led to the American Revolution. "As provincial citizens gained confidence in their economic and cultural resources, they became aggressive in their claims for political and cultural equality," the author, Ned Landsman, wrote.

The union of England and Scotland in 1707 resulted in an increased flow of educated provincials into the colonies. According to the author, these "professional elites in turn, influenced other leading residents in the colonies." Landsman presents some of those provincials and their impact on the development of early America.

*Legacy of the
Sacred Chalice*



C. Bruce Hunter
and
Andrew C. Ferguson

In addition, the advancement of printing permitted an increased acquisition of knowledge and an awareness of the early Americans as to where they fit in the British Empire.

The chapter on provincial enlightenment presents a clear and concise evaluation of the forms and styles of enlightenment active in the colonies. It is a unique evaluation of a phenomenon not often regarded as a characteristic of early America. Frankly, I was pleased to find that I was not alone in thinking that it was principally a European movement. In addition, the chapter on the religious awakening provides significant information regarding the evolution of religious freedom.

The provincials valued the idea of liberty above all else, according to the author. It is logical that the Enlightenment should have been a factor in the New World, since liberty of the mind must involve liberty of the man. This book traces the search for this liberty from the colonials to the provincials and to the empire.

While Freemasonry can hardly be disassociated from the Enlightenment, it is interesting that the only reference to the craft in any form was to the female Freemasons. This is not done in any derogatory fashion, but rather credits the craft. "The female Freemason like their male counterparts, manifest a zeal for literacy, education, sociability, and moral improvement," Landsman wrote. He does, however, deal extensively with Freemasons as contributory citizens. This has been a general characteristic of historians that has only recently begun to change. I do not find fault in this. Historians tend to write about men, instead of organizations.

This book was initially published in 1997. Normally, I would not review a book dating back this far. But I stumbled upon it while researching another project and found it shed some new light on the field of the American Enlightenment.

This is not the easiest book to read, but it does provide a great amount of knowledge on a period in our history not covered extensively in general history books. Even though the author does not dwell on Freemasonry, the reader will have little trouble relating to it.



A Magnificent Heritage, 150 years of Scottish Rite Freemasonry in the Valley of Cincinnati, by Jack P. de Vise. Published in 2003 by the Valley of Cincinnati, 317 East 5th Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202. \$30, including shipping and handling.

The purpose of this book is to document the history of the Valley of Cincinnati, and it could well serve as a prototype for anyone wishing to develop a history for his or her own organization. The information contained in it presents as complete a history of an organization as I have seen.

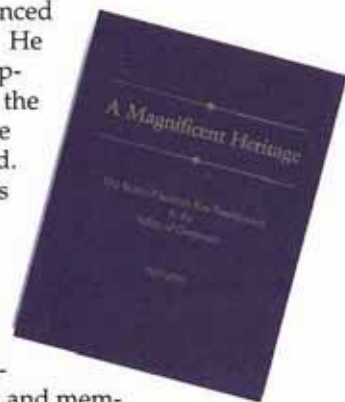
The author, Jack P. de Vise, is the resident historian of the Valley of Cincinnati. He has produced a compelling account of the Valley's past, including photographs of great historic value.

The book opens with a chapter dealing with the origin and development of the Scottish Rite as a Masonic organization. It is followed by two chapters tracing the beginnings of Freemasonry and the Scottish Rite in Cincinnati. The following chapters reveal the progress of the Valley of Cincinnati through its 150 years of existence.

The Valley has had many noted brothers. de Vise does an impressive job examining the backgrounds of the thirty previous Grand Masters and other notable members. He has presented each significant development in the ongoing evolution of the Valley. The author also discusses the contributions of the officers, the meeting places of the Valley, the important occurrences that impacted the Valley both from within and from the outside, and the disasters experienced during this span of time. He reviews the programs supported by the Valley and the contributions made to the society in which it existed.

The appendix increases the book's historical value by including, amongst other information, a chronology of the classes of the Valley, significant dates, officers, members of the 33°, and members of the Supreme Council.

Of course, the greatest value of this book will be to the members of the Valley of Cincinnati. However, it does contain information that will be interesting to the student of Freemasonry in general. It certainly could serve as a guide for those wishing to develop their own organizational history. What a value to the craft if each body could document its history as well as the Valley of Cincinnati.



The review of *Freemasonry on Both Sides of the Atlantic* in the previous issue of *The Northern Light* contained a typographical error. Several readers took exception to a statement as it appeared in print. I had pointed out that of the 30 writers that contributed to the book, nine of the authors were female. The statement that followed should have said, "It is significant to note that **much** of the better studies on our craft are being written by females." Unfortunately, "much of" was omitted.

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*.



HealthWise

Ideas for Health and Fitness

■ Ups and Downs of Coffee

Too much caffeine can make people jittery and sleepless. But Bennet Weinberg and Bonnie Bealer have written a book that details many positive attributes of coffee. Here's what they say in *The Caffeine Advantage*:

- It's a painkiller. Caffeine can be as effective a painkiller as ibuprofen and work faster, according to a study by the Diamond Headache Clinic in Chicago.
- It's a cancer fighter. A study published in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute* shows that drinking several cups of coffee every day is linked to a lower incidence of breast cancer.
- It's a stimulant. Caffeine has a positive effect on memory, reasoning and reaction time, according to the National Addiction Centre in London.



University. The vitamin initiates the healing process, allowing muscles to rebuild sooner and grow faster. Taking 400 IU of vitamin E, the most common capsule available, is recommended for muscle repair.

■ Tips to Boost Energy

If you are growing tired and fatigued in the middle of the day, the editors of *Prevention* have a few suggestions for that mid-afternoon boost:

- Eat a heavy breakfast and then a moderate-sized lunch.
- Check your iron levels. If you aren't eating enough iron-rich foods, you won't be at your best mentally and physically.
- Drink water. Mild dehydration can effect your daily performance.
- Take a walk. Physical activity stimulates the release of hormones that affect your brain and make you feel energized.

■ Discoveries may help battle Alzheimer's

Recent findings may help lead researchers to find new ways to battle Alzheimer's disease. Alzheimer's now affects nearly half the population over the age 85. Here are the latest discoveries:



- Vitamins and anti-inflammatories may aid in prevention. Drugs being studied as potential shields from Alzheimer's include vitamins E, B6, B12 and folic acid.

• An occasional glass of wine may lower the risk of developing the disease. Researchers in Copenhagen found that those who drank wine weekly or even monthly were significantly less likely to develop dementia than those who drank beer.

- High blood levels of homocysteine (an amino acid that is a byproduct of red meat) contribute to both heart disease and Alzheimer's, according to neurologists at Wake Forest University.

■ Treating a sting

If you are bitten by an insect, immediately wash the area of skin with soap and water to get rid of bacteria and any trace of venom. Take aspirin or ibuprofen if it really hurts. A single pill of antihistamine can minimize itchiness, say allergists at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.



■ Losing weight has additional benefits

The American Cancer Society says eating right lowers your risk of dying of cancer as much as giving up cigarettes. Here are some startling figures:

- 30 percent of cancer deaths are caused by obesity and bad diet.
- 30 percent of cancer deaths are caused by tobacco.
- 5 percent of cancer deaths are from people with family history of cancer.

■ Moderate exercise preferred

You will be more likely to exercise regularly if you don't overextend yourself, according to a University of Florida study. Those who exercise at a high level of intensity may feel like the workout is becoming drudgery. It makes exercise less enjoyable and makes people more likely to call it quits. However, high-intensity exercise is required for successful weight loss.

■ Women at risk from heart disease

More females are dying each year as a result of heart attacks than men, according to the American Heart Association. In the past two decades, the number of men who die every year of heart disease has fallen from 510,000 to 440,000. During that same time period, female fatalities have increased from 490,000 to 510,000.

A recent Mayo Clinic survey found that women with heart disease are less likely to be correctly diagnosed and treated, and they are less likely to get cardiac rehabilitation and psychological counseling.

■ Vitamin E helps heal

Vitamin E significantly reduces the damaging effects of high-intensity workouts, such as weight lifting, according to researchers at Ball State

The book went through many hands over the next century and a half before being donated to the Supreme Council by the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts in 1935. During his allocution, Sovereign Grand Commander Melvin Maynard Johnson, 33°, thanked the Grand Lodge for its "gracious and fraternal kindness in presenting this rare volume to us, thus returning it to where it belong."


Professional conservators evaluated the book earlier this year and reached many critical decisions.

First, the volume was unbound. Then the binding and pages were dry-cleaned where necessary. Tears in the pages were mended with Japanese paper and wheat starch paste. The sewing of the binding was reinforced and it was re-backed.

Handmade paper barrier sheets were inserted to protect the leaves from large wax seals. The volume was housed in a custom-made drop-spine box. The manuscript is now more stable than ever before.

The Francken manuscript was given top priority for conservation, because it is an invaluable source of material for all that engage in ritual research in the Scottish Rite.

These are the pattern rituals and the standard by which Masons may measure traditional values in the later rituals of the Rite.

The 22 rituals are spread out over 264 pages. The rest of the manuscript contains other documents related to the Rite of Perfection. 

REFLECTING ON A DECADE

(Continued from page 5)

Ill. Norman L. Christensen, 33°, an Active Member for Wisconsin, to head the committee.

The initial thought was to arrange a millennium cruise that would usher in the year on New Year's Eve. The widespread fear of an international computer glitch with the rollover to the year 2000 caused the committee to schedule the cruise for a week later. A second trip was set for England and Scotland in October designed to return to our Masonic roots. A number of Masonic sites were on the itinerary.

Perhaps the event that attracted the most attention was the millennium class on April 29, 2000. Each Consistory was asked to schedule the class so that all candidates throughout the jurisdiction would be receiving the 32° on that day. Fifty sites were selected, some Valleys coming together to share a location. A special program would appear at each location at precisely 5 p.m. EST. Through prearranged telephone connections, the Sovereign Grand Commander addressed the members on a live audio broadcast that reached 20,000 Scottish Rite Masons. His message introduced a special millennium video that had been shipped to each location just days before the event.

The 32-minute video was professionally produced by Communications for Learning, Inc., with close oversight by the committee. Narrated by Ill. David Goodnow, 33°, the film was designed not only to entertain but also to show the pride of 32° Masonry. The producers had arranged a special concert a month before the event at the National Heritage Museum and used the video recording of that session as the backdrop. The carefully selected music fit the various moods as the video progressed to tell the story of Scottish Rite



Red Skelton was one of four 33° members to be invested with the Gourgas medal during Ill. Brother Ralston's tenure as Sovereign Grand Commander.

history, philosophy and philanthropy.

The other major event planned by the millennium committee was a family day in July on the grounds of the Supreme Council headquarters. There were more than 3,000 people spread out over the 22 acres. The day featured children's games, an antique car display, a bagpipe band, a militia unit, a picnic and a host of museum events. A highlight of the day was the laying of the cornerstone for the addition to the Supreme Council headquarters.

Passport. Another aspect of the millennium program was the issuance of 32° Masonic passports to all members. For new candidates, the passport now


replaces the former 32° certificate. With the passport, members can maintain a record of the degrees they have witnessed. After viewing all degrees, a member receives special recognition from the Supreme Council.

To help the members achieve the goal of witnessing every degree, the Grand Commander urged the Valleys to present all degrees over a six-year period.

Pride in the Rite. Throughout the decade, Commander Ralston has had one thought in mind as he attempted to find ways to make improvements — make the members feel proud to be 32° Masons. He has devoted ten years of his life to reach that goal and bring a sense of satisfaction for others to enjoy.

Certainly a sign of an unselfish act was his spontaneous reaction a year ago to rush to the aid of a driver who had accidentally driven his car into a river. The diabetic victim had suffered an attack and was saved by the quick response of the Grand Commander, who happened to be close to the scene.

Accepting the position of Sovereign Grand Commander requires a certain amount of sacrifice. Ill. Brother Ralston and his wife, Susann, had to leave a lifetime of friends in the Cincinnati area and relocate to Lexington, MA. There are not only a host of administrative duties at the headquarters but also a great deal of travel required. He has visited Valleys and Grand Lodges throughout the jurisdiction, and he has participated in Masonic conferences hosted by Supreme Councils throughout the world. There has been very little time for rest.

When asked what he plans to do after he steps down in September, he responds, "It's time for me to return to a normal life." 

VIEWS FROM THE PAST

*Quotations selected
from the past
may not necessarily
represent
today's viewpoint*

The Lesson of the Scottish Rite

Life from infancy to old age is filled with lessons, with tasks to be performed, with questions to answer and aims to be accomplished, and indeed, he would be of small consequence who has not set for himself a goal, a height to be scaled, and the culmination of his endeavors should bring gratification and such reward as the efforts merit.

What is true of a single individual also applies to society at large, to the mass of mankind who live and should learn from day to day, avoiding the mistakes of yesterday and endeavoring to advance one step toward perfection.

The Letter "E"

Someone has advanced the opinion that the letter "E" is the most unfortunate character in the English alphabet, because it is always out of cash, forever in debt, never out of danger, in hell all the time, and has never been in Indiana, Ohio or Masonry.

But we call his attention to the fact that "E" has doubled up in Freemasonry and is never in war and always in peace. It is the beginning of existence, the commencement of ease and the end of trouble.

Without it there would be no meat, no life, no Heaven. It is in the center of honesty, makes love perfect and without it there would be no editors and no news.

—from *Tied to Masonic Apron Strings*, by Stewart M.L. Pollard, 33°, 1969

Scottish Rite Freemasonry, as the university of Freemasonry, recognizes the blue lodge as the foundation upon which to build; its lessons do not detract from the important and impressive degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft and Master Mason, but strive to enlarge and widen the perspective of the Master Mason, to give him a more intimate conception of what Freemasonry really means, just as the high school carries forward the studies of the pupil of the grammar school.

It is not so much the conferring of the various degrees with their lessons, but of daily effort to be better than one's self, to eliminate and correct faults, and to practice toleration in its many aspects. Such is the lesson of the Rite to each of its candidates and members; the task is not an easy one, but filled with sacrifices and denials.

—Jules J. Wehrli, *Missouri Freemason*,
reprinted in *The New England Craftsman*, April 1916

Challenge of Tomorrow

I fear we've been traveling on the street of "By and By" in Freemasonry for far too many years. We just may have lost too many opportunities of the yesterdays gone by to catch up with tomorrow.

Take the "can't" out of Freemasonry's vocabulary along with the word "impossible" and you'll be surprised at the success you'll achieve. Sure you'll make mistakes. The only way not to err now and then is to travel on the street of By and By toward the house of Never.

When we look at some of the problems confronting us today, we must realize they didn't come upon us

Common Sense

Freemasonry is one of the essential and powerful agencies which have the opportunity and responsibility of revealing to mankind those motives upon which civilization rests. Let us bravely face our task.

Our message is old but ever new, and it will challenge a new age fraught with much uncertainty and peril.

We must preach the Brotherhood of all mankind, based upon the worship of a common God—our Father. We must define just what we mean by this great doctrine and implement our affirmation of Brotherhood in our relations with all races, creeds and nations.

What a shame it is that other groups, professing the same purpose, condemn and censure us because we are unwilling to surrender ourselves to their control of our thoughts and actions. We make no attempt to control theirs. Any church or other organization which takes such an attitude fails in its duty to God and to man.

—from the 1946 Allocation
of Grand Commander
Melvin M. Johnson

overnight. They started years ago and have grown out of all proportion, mainly because we've been traveling on the street of By and By. Like the mythical ostrich, we've been burying our heads in the sands of oblivion. We've been hoping if we didn't look, if we ignored them, they would go away. They haven't—and they won't—unless we stop sitting on our hands and get off the streets of By and By.

Freemasonry's challenge for tomorrow must begin today. Far too much time, manpower, and resources have been lost forever.

—from *The Search for Leadership*,
by Allen E. Roberts, 33°, 1987

Not a Secret Society

Masonry is not, says George Lorimer, a secret society, but a society of secrets, and the difference is very marked. A secret society is one that covers up its tracks, that does not let its doings be known—a kind of “Ku Klux,” or “White Cap” sort of institution. But we are not of that kind. If a man comes along and asks me about Masonry, I am always willing to give him all the information in my power.

Really, there are very few things that are secret in our institution. The real secret of Masonry lies in a kind of incommunicable spirit that takes hold of a man as soon as he opens his mind to let the light in, and influences and governs him from that time onward; and that cannot be told because there is no speech to tell it.

There is an impression that a secret society is contrary to the best interests of a nation. Now, that depends upon the nature of the society. We all have our secrets. Is there a businessman, in company with his friends or partners, who hasn't? They are not plotting mischief against the community, but

they do not think it necessary to publish their balance sheet and send it out every day. In our families we have our secrets; so in our cabinet; so in government; so in the councils of churches; they all have meetings where they talk together about things that do not belong to the public in general.

Now it is with us. If we were plotting to undermine the government; if we were trying to defraud some people out of their right to suffrage; we should, indeed, be worthy of condemnation. My honest feeling, however, is that we are not a secret society, but only a society with secrets, and that adds to our strength.

There are times when man ought to hold himself in check; there are moments when silence becomes, indeed, precious and gracious, and silence is one of the special virtues that we inculcate. Silence is a great blessing. It teaches us that this world is not run by noise.

—editorial, *Masonic Review*,
September 1898

Bearing a Burden

In this world, burden-bearing cannot be escaped. Not even labor-saving machinery, nor any possible skill or ingenuity, can wholly obviate it. The telegraph and the telephone will not act if the burden-bearer's work has been neglected or omitted.

The mighty engine will stop if the engineer and his fireman fail in their duty. Indeed whatever may be done to avert them, burdens cannot wholly be avoided.

Even Solomon's Temple, which was divinely favored, could not be erected without the labor of seventy thousand bearers of burdens, and the great lesson taught thereby is impressed upon each Masonic neophyte.

Duty is imperative and must be performed, even at the expense of comfort and health. All around us hearts ache, and souls are laden with trouble, grief and woe. Widows, orphans, wives, husbands, brethren, find the load almost too heavy to

bear, and some perish beneath its weight.

To relieve distress is a duty incumbent on all men, but particularly on Masons. The sympathetic kind word, and the generous helping hand have raised to new life man who were almost in the very depths of despair, and who otherwise would have been crushed by their burdens.

Masonic charity and benevolence oft have thus blessed the weary and the heavy-laden, and thereby, eternal friendships have been formed and cemented.

Craftsmen, open your eyes to the misery that surrounds you. Scatter kind words and deeds as the husbandman sows wheat, or drills into the soil, and an abundant recompense of heavenly blessings shall be your reward.

—John W. Broton, *The Liberal Freemason*, December 1882

Quick Quotes

The mother's heart is the child's schoolroom.

—Jemru Ward Beecer

If you educate a man you educate a person, but if you educate a woman you educate a family.

—Ruby Manikan

When I am getting ready to reason with a man, I spend one-third of my time thinking about myself and what I am going to say and two-thirds about him and what he is going to say.

—Abraham Lincoln

Prosperity doth best discover vice, but adversity doth best discover virtue.

—Francis Bacon

There are two things to aim at in life: first, to get what you want; and, after that, to enjoy it. Only the wisest of mankind achieve the second.

—Logan Pearsall Smith

Ignorance is an evil weed, which dictators may cultivate among their dupes, but which no democracy can afford among its citizens.

—William Henry Beveridge

If a good person does you wrong, act as though you had not noticed it. They will make note of this and not remain in your debt long.

—Goeth

Opinions that are well rooted should grow and change like a healthy tree.

—Irving Batcheller

Few men during their lifetime come anywhere near exhausting the resources dwelling within them. There are deep wells of strength that are never used.

—Richard E. Byrd

The world is governed more by appearance than realities, so that it is fully as necessary to seem to know something as to know it.

—Daniel Webster

Favorite family dessert

Whoever said we all scream for ice cream was definitely right. On average, North Americans indulge in a bowl of ice cream or a cone 2.2 times a week, according to a survey conducted by Mintel Consumer Intelligence.



Pacifier concerns

Don't give your baby a pacifier in the first month if you are breastfeeding, says Dr. Joan Meek, of the American Academy of Pediatrics. The doctor says babies may experience confusion and can't latch on to the breast properly. After the first month, pacifiers may be associated with crooked baby teeth and ear infections. If you decide to use one, always check the rubber tips for rips. Also don't hang it around the baby's neck. It's a strangulation risk.

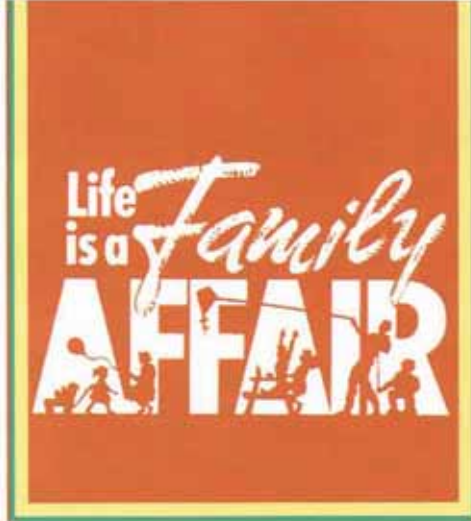
Gardening popular

Gardening continues to grow as a popular family activity. About 80 percent of U.S. households participated in one or more types of do-it-yourself indoor and outdoor lawn and garden activities last year, according to the National Garden Institute.



Go to bed, kids

Going to bed an hour earlier may be more important for kids than you realize. Most doctors recommend that children get between nine and eleven hours of sleep per night. Kids sent to bed an hour earlier got about 40 minutes more sleep, according to a study published in the journal *Child Development*. Even that modest amount of additional rest can improve their ability to remember new information and do better on tasks that required attention and focus.



Watch the iron

It is not unusual to have a child reach up and touch a hot iron or pull one down. ER doctors at Norwalk Hospital in Connecticut say it's usually the hands that get burned. But kids often don't let go of something that is hot, which can result in a second-degree burn that requires medical attention. Always unplug an iron as soon as you are finished. Put it in a high place to cool, and keep the cord curled up so a child can't pull it down.

Warmth of the Fire

A fireplace on the back patio is the latest step in outdoor decorating. Most of the new hearths are the permanent kind, not the movable chimneys that previously provided the heat. These hearths can provide a lot of warmth, but they can be expensive. That hasn't stopped the buying binge. Sales of outdoor fireplaces rose 17 percent last year, according to the Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association.



Other vacation options

Some families are avoiding the most famous vacation spots. Instead of visiting Disney World or Mount Rushmore, they are considering lake cottages or dude ranches. Liberty Travel of New Jersey says recent bookings to Colonial Williamsburg in Virginia have jumped 12 percent this year, while bookings to Washington, D.C., are down the same amount. Part of the shift is attributed to fears of terrorism in popular and well-known areas.

Kids unsafe in front

Too many infants and young children are riding in the front seats of vehicles, according to the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA).



These children face greater consequences from crashes or airbag deployments even if they are in safety seats. A recent study by the NHTSA shows that 15 percent of infants are riding up front, and 29 percent of 4- to 7-year old kids are in the front seat. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that children 12 and under ride in the back seat.

When in trouble find a mom

Yell and tell. Children should be taught to be very assertive when they find themselves in a potentially threatening situation, according to Gavin de Becker, author of *Protecting the Gift*. When someone says, "Don't yell," they should yell, "This isn't my parent," and run for help. Go to a mom. If a child is lost and scared, it can be difficult to find a security guard or police officer. Tell them to find a mom, someone with a stroller or a child in tow. Women are likely to stop and help a lost child. Of course, tell them never to get into a strange car.



Former President Called for Fraternity of Americans

The following is an excerpt from the book, *Our Common Country: Mutual Good Will in America*, by Warren G. Harding, originally published in 1921. A new version, edited by his great-nephew, Warren G. Harding III, 32°, was recently released by the University of Missouri Press (For more information, see page 30). The excerpt is from an informal address on the subject of fraternity delivered by the recently elected president, as he prepared to move into the White House. Reprinted by permission. Copyright © 1921 by the Curators of the University of Missouri.

The world has found itself lately very much committed to the idea of fraternity. It is the natural outcome of a new understanding of our relationships. Fraternity is one of the most natural things in life. You have seen it in the organization of men into small groups, of women in their societies.

You often see it in the animal world, where nature has somehow implanted love of life and at the same time the love of fraternity and association together, and if you stop to think about it you will discover that in animal life there is the fraternity of protection and mutual advancement. This finds expression in our human relationships in various forms.

I do not suppose there is a people in all the world that has so developed the fraternity idea as we have in the United States. I have sometimes wondered how many fraternal orders there are, secret and open.

But we find fraternity in all walks of life. It is a curious stage in human affairs when we have run really to excess in some forms of organization. It is only a development of the tendencies of men and women of common aspirations to get together to further their very natural interests. In a broader sense we have come a little nearer to a fraternity of nations.

The World War brought us to a new realization, that mankind, after all, is interested in one common purpose, namely, the uplift of mankind. Nations that were once looking at each other in envy and jealousy and rivalry have come to understand that their best interests are to be served in mutual advancement, and we have come to the stage in human affairs where we are seeking to put an end to war-

fare and to conflict and to dwell in a little closer understanding.

I know full well the impelling thoughts in any helpful organization. You seek to advance the standards of individual life; you seek to advance the standards of your common activities. You would not go into an organization if you did not think that, individually and collectively, you would be better off because of the association which you undertake.

And at the same time, while that is your impelling thought I know that not a single one of you would go into any fraternity that was ever proposed if you thought it involved the surrender of anything you hold essential to your own individual life.

I am infinitely concerned about promoting the spirit of fraternity at home. We of America have made a great Republic. We have developed material America, and we found out in the World War that we needed spiritual America. I never can forget a development during the early days prior to our entrance into the war, when the Senate was discussing the enactment of the armed ship bill.

That is, the bill which was to provide for arming our merchant ships for their protection against submarine warfare. A citizen of Marion — and I knew him well — wrote me and said: "Senator, why are you so anxious about protecting American rights? Don't you know, sir, there is no such thing as a distinctly American citizen?" This from an American. When I answered him, I said: "Maybe it is true, as you have written me, that there is no such thing as a distinctly American citizen, but if that startling statement be true, then, in God's

name, out of this turmoil of the world, out of this travail of civilization, let us have a real American come from Columbia's loins to leave us a race of Americans hereafter."

I am preaching the gospel of the maintenance of American spirit, of the development from this time on of a fraternity and a loyalty that will make us all, no matter whence we came, American in every heartbeat.

You cannot go on in any other way. Here in America we have no racial entity. We are a blend or a mixture or an association of all the nations of the earth, but, unhappily, up to the time of the war we were very much a collocation of peoples; but from this time on we want to be a fraternity of Americans.

Warren G. Harding (1865-1923)

was elected the 29th president of the United States, serving from 1921 until his death in 1923. Harding worked as a publisher of a local newspaper in Marion, OH, before moving into politics.

He won a U.S. Senate seat in 1914. Six years later, the Republican defeated Ohio Gov. James M. Cox, receiving more than 60 percent of the popular vote to reach the White House. Among his accomplishments, the president helped push through several treaties with European powers and developed measures to alleviate the agricultural depression. Unfortunately corruption charges plagued the administration. Several members of his cabinet were embroiled in controversy. Most notably Harding had to wade through the infamous Teapot Dome scandal involving his interior secretary. The president's health weakened and in 1923, while touring the country, he died from an apparent heart attack in San Francisco.

Harding began his Masonic career in 1901 when he was initiated in Marion Lodge No. 70, in Ohio. As a member of the Scottish Rite Valley of Columbus, OH, he was elected to receive the 33° but died two months before the scheduled ceremony.

Those who compiled this list swear that it is pure fact. Some products are American made, and some are from other countries, which may explain some of the wording

- Not dishwasher safe. Remote Control
- Not for human consumption. Pack of Dice
- Not to be used as a personal flotation device. Inflatable picture frame
- Open packet, eat contents. Peanuts
- Store in the cold section of the refrigerator. Grapes
- Will be hot after heating. Bread Pudding
- Objects in mirror are actually behind you. Bike Helmet Mirror
- Serving suggestion: Defrost. Frozen dinner
- This camera only works when there is film inside. Camera
- Warning: Cape does not give the wearer the ability to fly. Superman Costume
- Twist top off with hands. Throw top away. Do not put top in mouth. Soft Drink
- Use caution when using near fire, flame, or sparks. Fireplace Lighter
- This spray is harmful to bees. Insect Spray
- Warning! Never iron clothes on the body. Rowenta Iron

The Book Shelf

Over the years, many members have written books on non-Masonic topics. Unfortunately the writer of the "Book Nook" column can't possibly review all these works. Therefore, we occasionally provide listings and summaries of these books. We believe some of the books might be of interest to our readers.

Your Own Best Self, by Gary Puckett, 33°. Published by Fly Paper Productions, P.O. Box 324, Harrison, OH 45030. \$20.

A success-planning guide for young adults offering tips to build confidence, overcome failure and manage your time. The author, a professional speaker, develops strategies for choosing a career path, networking and standing out at work that is geared for recent high school or college graduates.

Our Common Country: Mutual Good Will in America, by Warren G. Harding. Edited by Warren G. Harding III, 32°. Published by University of Missouri Press, 2910 LeMone Boulevard, Columbia, MO 65201. \$14.95.

This collection of informal addresses by Warren G. Harding, given shortly before he assumed the presidency, was originally published in 1921. The new edition was edited by Warren G. Harding III, the former president's great-nephew. He also adds a new preface.

Harding addresses the nation's concerns following World War I, during a time of economic upheaval. He tries to provide reassurance and inspiration in the series of speeches to a variety of groups. The publisher believes the message is relevant today, as the country once again faces uncertain times. See page 29 in this issue for an excerpt from one of his speeches.

"Talking to fellow Grand Masters, I learned the following: Asking a Grand Master what he thinks about critics is like asking a lamp post how it feels about dogs."

— Neil E. Neddermeyer, Grand Master of Minnesota

HIRAM™

By WALLY MILLER



Footnotes*

* **For the record.** Kent Walgren had been working on a monumental research project for more than a dozen years. The net result was the recent publication of a two-volume bibliography of Masonic references. *Freemasonry, Anti-Masonry and Illuminism in the United States, 1734-1850* was published by the American Antiquarian Society. The National Heritage Museum in Lexington, MA, was one of the major contributors.

Although not a Freemason, Walgren got involved in the project because of the fraternity's association with the beginnings of the Mormon Church. He began his research not realizing how extensive it would be.

The work includes a list of all published material during the early years of Freemasonry in America. It is a remarkable achievement and a goldmine for any serious Masonic scholar.

Walgren retired last year from a position with the Utah Attorney General's office and relocated to Paris. *The Salt Lake Tribune* referred to his move to France as "a continuation of his kind of modern Thoreauvian experiment: 'Walgren Pond'."

The tragic part of the story unfolded soon after the books were published. Kent Walgren died at the age of 56 from an apparent heart attack in his Paris apartment. His labor of love will live on.

* **Washington exhibit.** The Supreme Councils for the Northern and Southern Jurisdictions have provided funding for a renovation to an exhibition at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria, VA. The two Masonic bodies provided initial support in 1964 to develop a gallery of Washington artifacts on the fourth floor of the stately building.

The renovation replaces the col-

lection of objects with a story that reveals various aspects of George Washington's life. Visitors will learn about Washington as a Virginia planter, a model citizen, a military officer, the nation's president and a Freemason. They will also see how he was viewed as a mourned hero and an American icon.

The new exhibition is scheduled to open this fall

* **DeMolay emblem.** When the DeMolay emblem was created, founder Frank S. Land suggested that it be a heraldic shield. On the shield he placed ten pearls that represented Land and the nine original members.

As each member died, the white pearl was changed to a red ruby. In Dad Land's words: "Years from now, there will be ten rubies to give testimonial that in the beginning there were ten who shared a dream together."

Jerome Jacobson, the last surviving member of the original nine young men, passed away recently at the age of 100. So all the pearls have now become rubies. Jacobson was the youngest of the original nine. He had turned 17 just days before his initiation into the Order of DeMolay.

At the June meeting of DeMolay's International Supreme Council, it was voted to replace one of the rubies with a diamond to honor the founder of the organization.

* **Oxford honors.** Ill. John Brademas, 33°, president emeritus of New York University and a Rhodes scholar in 1950, was honored recently by the University of Oxford. Dr. Brademas received a Doctor of Civil Laws degree as part of a recognition of the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Rhodes scholarships.

He was one of four Rhodes scholars selected to be honored by Ox-

ford. All four were chosen for having distinguished themselves in the fields of public service and academia.

Ill. Brother Brademas was president of NYU from 1981-92. He was elected to the U.S. Congress from Indiana in 1958 and served in the House of Representatives for 22 years, the last four as majority whip.

He is a member of Portage Lodge No. 675, South Bend, IN, and the Scottish Rite Valley of South Bend. He received the 33° in 1980.

Dr. Brademas is currently chairman of the American Ditchley Foundation and president of the King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center of New York University Foundation.

* **Supporting the charities.** Scottish Rite members have supported charitable efforts for a number of years. The annual voluntary appeals are one way in which you can offer your support.

The "blue" envelope campaign, which is scheduled to begin in early September, provides assistance to the fellowships for the schizophrenia research program, the Abbott scholarships and the National Heritage Museum.

A separate appeal will follow in November seeking support for the 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children. This appeal accompanies the distribution of the annual Scottish Rite calendar. Previous calendars have portrayed sketches of famous Masons. The 2004 calendar will highlight various aspects of the learning centers program.



RICHARD H. CURTIS, 33°
Editor



Children need role models

Sometimes it seems as if there are no role models left for our children – no one to set the right example for them to follow.

There are men who believe they must be role models – men who believe in moral and ethical behavior, men who are committed to traditional values, men who believe character does matter.

Who are these men? They are 32° Freemasons.



32° Freemasonry – Making a Real Difference!