

THE NORTHERN LIGHT

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AUGUST 2001

A WINDOW FOR FREEMASONRY



Pride of Membership



Robert O. Ralston, 33°
Sovereign Grand
Commander

"We can
take that
sense of
pride
even
higher."

Whether you are a new 32° Scottish Rite Mason or an "old timer," you share the same distinction that comes with membership in an honored fraternity. Today's busy lifestyles prevent many of us from active participation in the avenues open to us. Yet we maintain a sense of pride in being a part of 32° Freemasonry.

If you do have an opportunity to witness additional Scottish Rite degrees, keep in mind that your only ticket for admission is a current Scottish Rite dues card. There are no secret words or handshakes necessary. With each degree there is a moral lesson that serves as a reminder to uphold a set of standards in an imperfect world.

I realize that not every member is able to contribute time, talent or finances to our charitable programs, yet I want to assure you that your 32° membership is equally important to the cause. There is strength in numbers.

Our four major charities, supported by your 32° Masonic membership, are featured as a special section in this issue of *The Northern Light*. Each charity has grown over the years. Even our oldest charities — Abbott scholarships and schizophrenia research — have evolved to fit the situation of changing times.

The late Ill. George A. Newbury, 33°, founder of the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum of Our National Heritage in Lexington, would be proud of the direction in which the museum and library has been heading. And as we extend our reach beyond the walls of the

building, we can be of more service to an even wider audience. For instance, Mark Tabbert, 32°, the museum's curator of fraternal collections, provides in this issue an example of how he was able to be of assistance to a Masonic lodge in Connecticut.

Our newest charity, the 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children, has been creating excitement since its inception. Parents of dyslexic children are overwhelmed with the way in which these centers have transformed the lives of their sons and daughters. And this program has increased the sense of pride among our 32° members. Also in this issue of *The Northern Light* is an update from one of our learning center graduates who has turned his life around by being able to attend college.

One of the net results from the success of the learning centers is the response from the 32° members who have an even greater sense of pride in their Scottish Rite membership.

But let us not rest on our laurels. We can take that sense of pride and accomplishment even higher. Your input can help us plan for the future. I hope you will take a moment from your busy schedule to let me know what you would like to see 32° Masonry achieve. I look forward to hearing your thoughts.

Sovereign Grand Commander



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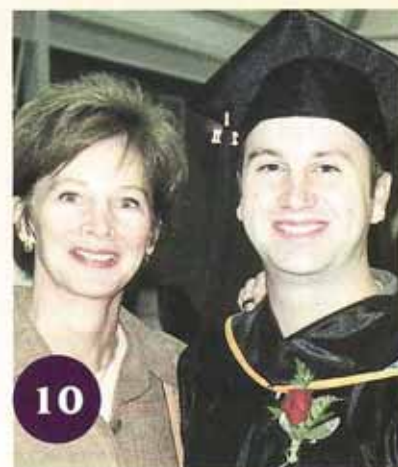
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SOVEREIGN GRAND COMMANDER
Robert O. Ralston, 33°

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Expanding Masonic Homes

Many Grand Lodges have added independent living units

As the average age of the population in the United States increases, so too does the average age of Masons. Masonic Homes once catered to a limited number of members who sought respite in the later years.

Today many Grand Lodges have expanded the Masonic Homes to cater to a growing need from members who are seeking independent living without the worries of home ownership.

One of the advantages of this arrangement is the manner in which a resident may move to another level of care if or when the need arises. These are referred to as continuing care retirement communities. Most of the independent living units are small cottages or one- or two-bedroom apartments. In most instances, the financial arrangements require an initial deposit and monthly fees, although other arrangements are also available.

When a person is unable to maintain an independent status, he can then move into an assisted living facility at the Home or, if needed, a nursing center. The Masonic Homes operated by most Grand Lodges already provided assisted living and nursing facilities. It was a natural extension to add the independent living residences.

The settings provide a quiet atmosphere, and yet activity abounds to the limits of the individual.

In each instance, this latest approach provides independent living for senior singles or couples who want to enjoy a maintenance-free lifestyle.

Massachusetts

Massachusetts is the latest Grand Lodge to expand its facilities. Situated on 400 acres of land in a country setting of rolling hills, the Masonic Home in Charlton has been continually upgraded. Several years ago the Grand Lodge conducted a survey among its members. The response among those over the age of 55 showed significant interest for health services and senior living.

Current plans include rebuilding and expanding the existing nursing facility and residential home, adding independent living units to provide a full lifecare campus, and establishing a network of home care agencies across the state similar to Connecticut's Masonicare plan, which is the largest home care provider in the state.

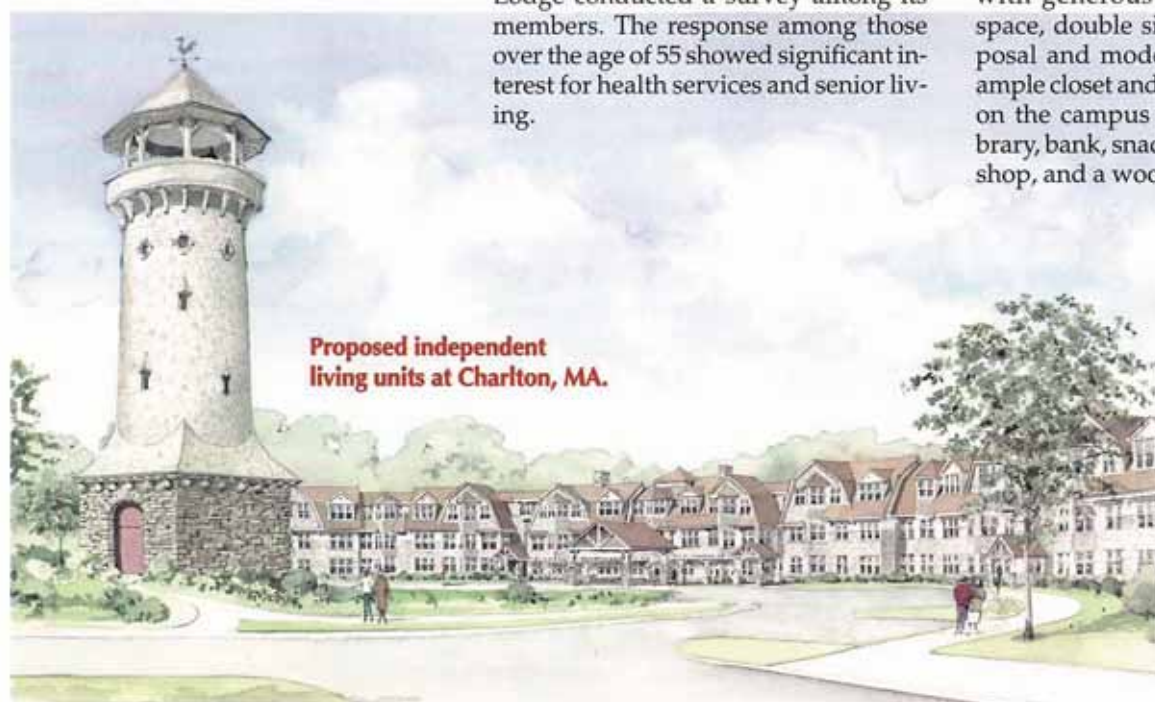
Although the final design has not been finalized, the plan will include both cottages and apartments. Construction is scheduled to begin soon.

Connecticut

Connecticut's Ashlar Village is located on a 168-acre campus in Wallingford. Built in 1984, the complex includes 172 apartments and cottages. Some overlook tranquil woods or meadows; others border an eight-acre pond; still others have commanding vistas of the town below or of far-off hills. The residences have a fully-equipped kitchen with generous counter and cabinet space, double sinks with garbage disposal and modern electric appliances, ample closet and storage space. Located on the campus are a village store, library, bank, snack shop, beauty/barber shop, and a woodworking shop.

New York

The Masonic Home at Utica, New York, was established in 1891. Acacia Village, built on the grounds of the Home, is a rental retirement community with a monthly fee based on the size of the apartment occupied. It is open to all individuals at least 62 years old who meet the financial





Ashlar Village at Wallingford, CT.

and medical criteria of the application process. The monthly fee includes the evening meal, twice-monthly light housekeeping, maintenance of building and appliances, groundskeeping, scheduled transportation to shopping, parking and all utilities except telephone and cable television.

New Jersey

The Masonic Charity Foundation of New Jersey operates the Masonic Home at Burlington, but an independent group organized under the Grand Lodge of New Jersey controls Acacia Manor in nearby Lumberton. The latter consists of a series of apartment buildings for senior housing with subsidies for those who need it. The Masonic Home itself provides residential health care, which is similar to today's assisted living, but those who live at Acacia Manor must make a new application to move to the Home.

Pennsylvania

The expansive grounds at the Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown, PA, offer plenty of room for future growth. The 1,400 acres of picturesque Lancaster County farmland is almost a community in itself. In addition to nursing and assisted living units, the recent development of independent living units continue to increase.

The first retirement living area provided for 16 cottages, 220 apartments, and a clubhouse, all of which can be accessed by enclosed walkways. The clubhouse contains a formal dining room, private dining room, cafe, branch bank, country store, mail room, hair care cen-

ter, craft room, library, resident lounge, and administrative offices to serve the residents.

Located on the campus are an art studio, ballroom, billiards, computer center, gardening plots, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, a wellness center, and a woodworking shop. There is also a 525-seat air-conditioned auditorium for movie presentations and live entertainment.

Delaware

The Masonic Home at Wilmington, Delaware, owns and operates residential living and intermediate care accommodations for Master Masons who have been members in good standing for at least three years, or a recognized lodge of another jurisdiction for at least five years provided the member has resided in Delaware during that period of time.

Ohio

Representation on the Ohio board of directors comes from the Grand Lodge, York Rite and Scottish Rite. The major complex located in Springfield provides continuing care from independent living to nursing. The board now has under its wing three campuses. It acquired an independent Masonic Home in Waterville, which includes continuing care, and it is now operating the former Eastern Star Home in Cincinnati.

Michigan

Originally located in Grand Rapids, the Michigan Masonic Home was relocated to Alma in the late 1920s. The small community in the center of the state offers independent living residences, assisted living residences, a skilled nursing facility, adult day services, various healthcare clinics, a licensed childcare program, and an extensive outreach program.

Preference on the waiting list is given to those who are affiliated with the fraternity, but, like many other states, Masonic affiliation is not required.

Indiana

The Indiana Masonic Home at Franklin offers both duplexes and cottages consisting of two bedrooms and two baths with approximately 1,500 square feet of living area and an attached two-car garage. Similar to other Homes, Indiana has several types of payment plans, a one-time entrance fee along with a monthly service charge and a fraternal care plan, where residents turn over all assets and are then taken care of for the rest of their life.



Duplex at the Illinois Masonic Home in Sullivan.





Residents at the Masonic Homes in Elizabethtown, PA.

► Illinois

Situated in central Illinois, the Illinois Masonic Home at Sullivan provides a variety of services and retirement lifestyles for Masons and their eligible loved ones. Since the inception of the independent living program in 1997, the overall mission has been to provide a continuum of care to the residents. There are currently 15 apartment units in a variety of sizes and floor plans. The building is interconnected with the rest of the buildings so residents never have to go outside to access other living areas.

Ashlar Estates is set in a community-like setting directly north of the main complex and consists of ten duplex units containing 20 individual living units.

Residents provide their own furnishings and window treatments. Each apartment has wall-to-wall carpeting and roomy closets. Duplex units include a full-size kitchen.

A prospective applicant must be at least 60 years of age and be an Illinois Mason for ten years or a 20-year member with the last five years in an Illinois

lodge. Eligible female relatives are wife, widow, mother, daughter, grandmother, sister, mother-in-law, step-mother, half-sister, or step-daughter.

Wisconsin

The Three Pillars Masonic senior living campus in Dousman is undergoing an expansion program to serve the needs of a new generation of Wisconsin Masons. The complex includes a Masonic Home, a Masonic Village on the Square, and a Masonic Health Care Center.

A recent study showed that soon-to-be-retiring generations want more square footage, more services, and more amenities. There was some thought to completely renovate the current Van Brunt Hall built in the 1920s, but the Masonic Home Board of Directors determined that new construction would be more cost effective than remodeling Van Brunt Hall for residential living.

The Hall will be converted to a center that will contain conference facilities as well as a five-star restaurant, which would be open to the public.



Cottage at the Indiana Masonic Home in Franklin.



Family Life 2000

Honor the past - Celebrate the future

SCOTTISH RITE MASONIC FAMILY LIFE PROGRAM

Winners

The Supreme Council has recognized 18 Valleys for outstanding programs in the 2000 Family Life program. The selection is made in categories based on the size of membership in each Valley. These are the winners in each of the four membership categories.

Over 5,000

Best Over All:

Cincinnati, OH

Honorable Mention:

Boston, MA

Danville, IL

Reading, PA

Southern Illinois

2,500 - 5,000

Best Over All:

Peoria, IL

Honorable Mention:

Milwaukee, WI

Springfield, IL

Williamsport, PA

1,000 - 2,500

Best Over All:

Quincy, IL

Honorable Mention:

Eau Claire, WI

Moline, IL

Utica, NY

Under 1,000

Best Over All:

Syracuse, NY

Honorable Mention:

Binghamton, NY

Green Bay, WI

Lancaster-Littleton, NH

Olean, NY

We Make House Calls

'Detective' Tabbert assists Masonic lodge in 'distress'

It was a warm day in Lexington, temperature 80 degrees, with clear skies. I was working the day shift out of Collections when a call came through from Connecticut. A brother Mason from New London was in "distress" and needed help with his lodge's historical material. I told him he had come to the right place. I am the Curator of Masonic Collections, my name's Tabbert, and I make house calls.

Wor. Steve Caplowe, Past Master of Union Lodge No. 31, as well as the lodge's historian, told me just the facts. The lodge, chartered in 1795, was planning to move out of their building and into another Masonic temple in Niantic. Like many other lodges, it once had very active bodies of York Rite, Eastern Star, Rainbow Girls and DeMolay meeting there, as well other fraternal organization and clubs.

In the last 25 years, membership had declined and the building was demanding too much time and money. What the lodge needed now was to find better quarters, to sort out their materials, and sell some of their artifacts for their future endowment.

I told him I would be happy to drive the two hours to investigate, take some photographs and hear his statement. When I arrived, Bro. Caplowe told me the lodge was one of the oldest in the state and has had a long affiliation with the U.S. Armed Forces, especially the Navy.

I appreciated its importance to New London's history and asked him if he

Early Masonic apron, c. 1899, attributed to J. Martin, New England. This apron from a Connecticut lodge was identified by being similar to one owned by the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts.



had first talked with the local and state historical societies. He said he had, but they were only interested in a few pieces relative to the history of New London. He was interested in keeping the Masonic regalia together and the museum could do that for them.

I then told him I could not proceed until I knew that he had received an "a-ok" from the Grand Lodge of Connecticut to sell or dispose of the lodge's historical material. Wor. Brother Caplowe assured me he had gone through all the proper channels and received a "go."

Touring the three-story building, we opened many closets, cabinets and bookcases and even visited the basement where generations of Masonic banquet dishes were stored. Steve showed me boxes of Masonic maga-

zines from the 1800s, several membership certificates, photographs, and costumes and regalia of the various Masonic bodies that once met there.

At the end of the investigation we were able to segment the lodge's furniture and furnishings into five groups:

- Chairs, desks, dishes and other miscellaneous furnishings that had little Masonic or historical value and could be confidently sold off.
- Regalia, costumes and other props left by other organizations that would be returned to the organizations.
- Regalia, furniture and special historical artifacts that the lodge would keep and take to their new lodge hall, such as the officers' chairs, altar, and Past Masters' portraits.
- Certificates, papers, photographs and other furnishings that I thought would be fine additions to the museum's collection, but Steve pointed out that he would need to get final lodge approval before they could be sold. ➤



MARK A. TABBERT, 32°, curator of Masonic and fraternal collections at the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum of Our National Heritage, is a member of the Valley of Boston.

➤ • Lastly, very rare and important artifacts, such as early engraved Masonic certificates, hand-painted aprons, a Civil War U.S. Naval American flag and a Mexican-American War officer's sword. All items would need to be researched before the museum could decide to buy them.

We had a quick lunch at a restaurant with a resident sea captain ghost. When we returned we inventoried the artifacts of the last two categories. With the help of a digital camera and a tape measure, a legal pad and a No. 2 pencil, we were finished in 63 minutes.

I thanked Steve for the lunch and hospitality before returning to the museum at 4:38 p.m.

Over the next two weeks, with the assistance of the museum staff, I researched and identified many of the artifacts under consideration. Using the catalog from the museum's 1976 Masonic apron exhibition, we determined the craftsman who made three of Union Lodge's aprons. One apron was made in 1805. The lodge also had two Master Mason certificates with Paul Revere's name as the engraver. Our museum archivist, Catherine Swanson, with the



Among the Union Lodge collection was a 1960s photo of U.S. Navy personnel serving as lodge officers. Union Lodge No. 31 is located at New London, Ct, home of a naval base.

assistance of the crackerjack Grand Lodge of Massachusetts library staff, determined the certificates to be later copies of Paul Revere's work.

Other artifacts, such as a 1912 photograph of Theodore Roosevelt as a Mason taken in Spokane, Washington, was more easily identified.

Further discussion with other members of the Collections Department resulted in a decision to ask for a set of lodge dinner china and copies of a few group photographs. The library staff agreed to purchase all Masonic periodicals and sheet music as a lot for later sorting.

In short order we sent Bro. Caplowe a list of over a dozen artifacts we would purchase for the museum. However, a few items still required more research before we decided to buy them.

The first item up for consideration was an unusual lamp made from a World War I era artillery shell. Embossed with a Masonic emblem and rose motifs, its three light bulbs were used as a signal to inform late arriving brothers which degree the lodge was open on.

Second on the list was the lodge hall's chandelier, made of white glass shades with etched Master Mason emblems.

The two remaining items included a Mexican-American War sword that was

returned to the lodge when the brother died in California in the 1850s, and a U.S. flag from the *Catskill*, a Civil War Navy monitor-class ship.

The museum decided it would like to acquire the artillery shell lamp and the chandelier for its connection to the U.S. Navy or Masonic uniqueness, but Steve

The museum staff was able to help Union Lodge with its dilemma

replied he could not sell them until the lodge approved. The museum understood the sentimental attachment the lodge may have to the lamp and its desire potentially to use the chandelier in their new quarters.

Union Lodge wanted the best home for the historic sword and ship's flag. They considered many options, including our museum. After researching both items, the museum's collection committee decided to decline them both because the items would be better appreciated in more suitable museums. Also, their potential value was more than the museum could offer.

Happily, the transition of artifacts from Union Lodge to the museum went extremely smooth. The lodge agreed to sell the lamp and chandelier to the museum, and we referred the lodge to a



This lamp, made by Bro. Robert T. Woolsey in 1923 from an artillery shell, allowed the Tyler to let late arriving brothers know which degree the lodge was open on.

qualified sword and flag appraiser.

In the event the lodge decides to part with these two heirlooms, no doubt museums and collectors will find these items of great historical value.

With a final approval from the museum's "skipper" John Ott, the chief administrator June Cobb issued a check to Union Lodge. The case was closed by the museum's able collection manager, Maureen Harper, and artifact handler and installer, Tom Keaney, who returned to New London to deliver the check, take the artifacts into custody and expedite them to the museum.

With the artifacts now safely locked up in the museum vault, I spoke again with Brother Caplowe. On behalf of the brothers of Union Lodge, he expressed his gratitude to the museum's staff for their professional advice and assistance.

Lastly, he thanked me for the peace of mind the lodge now had knowing that much of their history is safe and available for museum's visitors.

I replied that the museum was happy to aid and assist his lodge. We are also pleased to preserve the artifacts, sev-

eral of which will be included in the new Masonic exhibit opening next June.

But most important, I can report to my brother Scottish Rite Masons that

the resources they donate to the museum allows me to "travel in distant lands" to "make house calls" and to better help "brothers in distress."



A Union Lodge photo of Past Master George W. Moxely presenting his Past Master's jewel to his son and the lodge's newest Past Master, Frank G., in 1910.

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.

(RAILROAD) + (CHEW) - (LOWER) +
(KEELS) - (SICK) + (DIFFICULT) -
(DIET) + (BUSIEST) - (CARE) - (STUFF)
+ (ROAST) - (IDIOT) - (BLUES)

=

Clue for this puzzle appears on page 4.

Answer from previous issue: SERVICE

Web Access to Library Catalog

The catalog of the Van Gorden-Williams Library at the Museum of Our National Heritage is now searchable on the web. Users may access the site from a link on the library page of the museum Web site www.monh.org or go directly to www.vgw.library.net. The catalog is available 24 hours a day, except for short periods of time when information is being updated.

The new system lets you search the catalog by author, title, subject, and notes either separately or in combination.

Once you find the desired resource material, you can contact the library by clicking the blue "e-mail" line in the library staff section of the catalog Web site, or phone for more information.

The Library Collection is not available for circulation, but the staff will be happy to help you research your inquiry further.

LC grad Makes the Grade

Dyslexic student uses Learning Center to improve his future

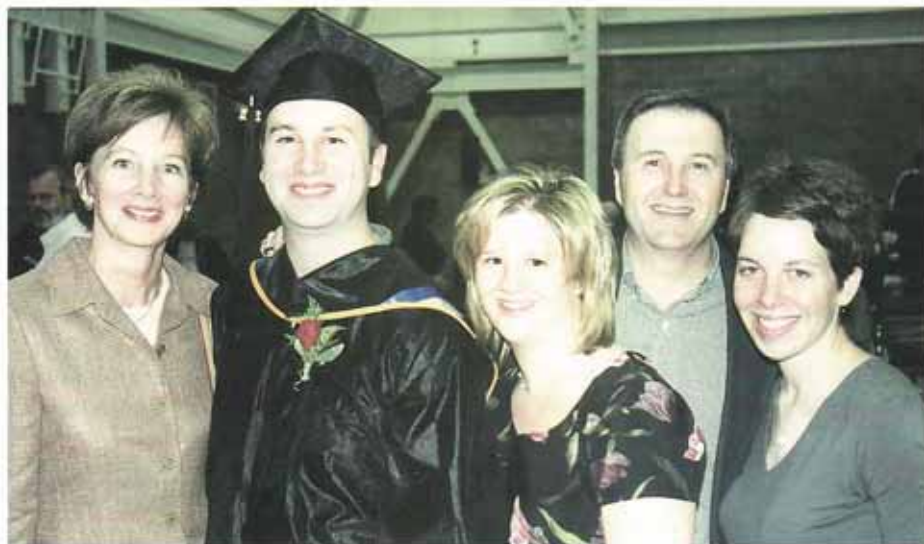
At the age of 15, Russell Bowen thought being a lifeguard was pretty cool, and he enjoyed his first season sitting by the pool. By his fourth summer, though, he was looking for something more.

Unfortunately, at the age of 18, he could see few options for his future beyond his lifeguard chair. Diagnosed with dyslexia in the third grade, he struggled with reading and schoolwork. Although he was a high school graduate, Russell had not received any successful tutoring to help him overcome his reading handicap.

This fall, however, the lifeguard who could barely read a restaurant menu will attend the University of Central Washington, (Ellensburg, Washington) to study wildlife biology. He hopes to work as a state or federal fish and wildlife conservation officer after he graduates.

Due to his reading disability, Russell's journey to the university has not been a direct one. He struggled all through school and failed at his first attempt at college. After experiencing the tutoring program, Russell said he felt he had been "pushed" through grade school.

"My reading level was below average, so I was put in the resource room. Then as a junior in high school I was mainstreamed," he said. "I felt I was more just passed through."



Landmark graduate Russell Bowen celebrates with (left to right) his mother Barbara Bowen, sister Lori Copsey, father Russ Bowen Sr. and girlfriend Bridgit Engstrom, moments after graduation.

However, once out of school, Russell wasn't about to let his reading disability determine his future.

After graduating from high school, he decided to attend nearby Atlantic Cape Community College. The college was not equipped to assist students with learning disabilities, and Rusty, as family and friends call him, continued to struggle academically.

"ACC didn't have the support structure I needed," he said. "It didn't work out. My grades were so poor, I left."

In 1998, he decided he needed to start from scratch, and with encouragement from his uncle, New Jersey Grand Master Wayne Hackney, 33°, he attended the 32° Masonic Learning Center for Children in Burlington, N.J.

Hackney's wife, Joanne, (the sister of Rusty's mother, Barbara) said seeing Rusty's progress made her proud that her family was a part of Masonry.

"Thank goodness we are involved in Masonry," she said. "The bottom line is what it did for this kid. It gave him a chance."

Joanne said as she watched Rusty grow up, she witnessed how he struggled with schoolwork, but suspected he had more potential.

"When they accepted him into the (learning center) program, it was the turning point of his life," she said. "He started to realize he could learn and how much he didn't know."

Joanne said she has seen her nephew become more outgoing and confident since having the opportunity to further his education.

"He used to be so shy and introverted," she said. "He came home from college just a different person."



ROBIN ROBINSON, Assistant to the Editor, is a former community newspaper editor and reporter with a master's degree in publishing and writing.

Several years ago Wayne Hackney noticed Rusty having a difficult time reading a menu when the family was out to dinner. He related the story at the 1999 Supreme Council Annual Meeting hosted by his state.

"A few years ago, I took my nephew to dinner. I found out he was dyslexic. He said, 'I can't read, Uncle Wayne.' That young man became a student in our Learning Center. He has since gone on to college. He has learned to read and write. He has a girlfriend. The young man has gotten confidence, he stands proud and walks like a man. Because of you, your love and your donation, that young man will be an asset to our society."

Once accepted into the program, Rusty made the three-hour roundtrip drive once a week. Atlantic City is more than 70 miles from Burlington where his tutoring took place.

According to Learning Center director and tutor Kathleen Bostock, his willingness to drive the distance was just one indication of his will to succeed. She said Rusty was extremely intelligent, but the key to his success was his motivation.

"He came and he had a mission and he finished it. He knew what was on the line," she said.

In just a year of tutoring with Bostock, Russell advanced from a third-grade reading level to high school level.

"When we got in there we pushed hard," he said. "Sometimes we went for three hours."

Rusty said he learned the program quickly.

"I picked it up right away," he said. "It worked for me."

Bostock also had to make a 70-mile drive to tutor Rusty, but she said his



Russ with (left to right) Deputy to New Jersey Donald (Pete) Miller, 33°, Valley of Burlington Learning Center Director Kathleen Bostock, and New Jersey Learning Center Board of Governors member Verdon Skipper, 33°.

progress and willingness to learn was "worth the drive."

Rusty credits Bostock with giving him essential tools for a successful life.

"She will forever be one of the most important people in my new life," he said. "She is the person who gave me hope that I had the ability to learn to read and that I could be a productive citizen. She started connecting things in my brain that had never been connected."

Once he mastered the Orton-Gillingham method and was able to read with more ease, he decided it was time to try college again, but he was wise enough to know that he needed more preparation before attempting mainstream academics again.

He and his family had heard about Landmark College in Putney, Vermont. Landmark's program is designed to provide students with learning disabilities with the skills needed for academic success. According to its Web site, it is the "only fully accredited college in the country designed exclusively for students of average to superior intellectual potential with dyslexia, attention deficit disorder or specific learning disabilities." At Landmark students are taught strategies and skills that are necessary for success in college and the workforce. Their disabilities are not bypassed; they are tackled head on.

According to Rusty, he never would

have made the grade for Landmark without his tutoring.

"It was Kathleen and the Scottish Rite that gave me the tools I needed to get into Landmark. Landmark is pretty strict, they only want people who really want to learn."

I knew my chances of getting in were slim since Landmark receives thousands of applications every year and only takes approximately 150 students per class, but I did it.

It is difficult for me to put into words how I felt when the acceptance letter to Landmark came. I'd like to be able to bottle the feeling!"

His next best moment was when he successfully finished his first semester for credit at Landmark with a GPA of 3.5.

Russell graduated from Landmark in May 2001, and Bostock was there to cheer him on.

"I felt great," she said proudly. "It was like payday. We helped him, and then he was able to do better as he continued."

His tutor at Landmark, Ann Wheeler, called him "a confident young man, a true scholar, an accomplished individual." She shared a few words at the graduation ceremony, including, "Since you arrived at Landmark in 1998, you have been as steady as a stream quietly finding its way... But streams do not stop until they reach the ocean, and neither will you." 🌿



Russ and his Landmark College advisor Ann Wheeler at his graduation ceremony.

Dyslexia Research Update

by CAROLYN E. GRAMLING

Genetics and phonetics findings provide valuable information

Two areas of interest in the field of dyslexia have been making headlines recently: the genetic link to dyslexia and the lower rate of dyslexia in Italy.

Although science is far from finding the underlying cause for this disorder, new research findings are exciting scientists and educators around the world and are bringing hope to the families of young dyslexics.

Genetic Link to Dyslexia

Now that the human genome has been deciphered, a new paradigm is emerging. Imagine, by the year 2010, predictive genetic tests being available for 25 health conditions, with gene-based drug interventions to reduce risk being available for most of them. This is what Francis Collins, head of the Human Genome Project forecasts.

He also predicts that, by 2020, gene therapy might be available for diabetes, hypertension, cancer, and mental illness. By the year 2030, complete genomic sequencing of an individual could be routine, costing less than \$1,000, and by 2040, gene therapy might be available for most diseases, creating an average life span of 90 years.

There are ethical concerns regarding the possibility that humans could eventually take charge of their own species' evolution. The moral considerations for the future generations boggle the mind.

So how does dyslexia figure in with this new view of life? Might dyslexia be one of the health conditions for which genetic tests and interventions will be available?

For almost a century, clinical research findings have indicated that dyslexia is heritable (runs in families). It was not until the development of technology over the past few decades that scientists have had the tools to concentrate on a search for the actual gene(s) linked to dyslexia.

The genetic markers under scrutiny have been those found on chromosomes 6 and 15. Working under the premise that the human gene count was approximately 100,000, this was indeed a formidable task.

It wasn't until last year when the genome was deciphered that scientists realized that the gene count was much lower (30,000 to 40,000).

Whether or not this futuristic dream of genetic engineering will ever be realized remains to be seen.

Although this is still an immense number, the scope of the task of identifying the correct gene(s) for all disorders has been considerably narrowed. Hopefully, the genes linked to dyslexia will be numbered among the geneticists' triumphs.

The research of Paula Tallal, director of the Center for Molecular and Behavioral Neuroscience, along with geneticists at Rutgers State University of New Jersey, has recently received considerable attention. This team of scientists is

currently involved in a genetic search for answers to dyslexia and other language-based learning problems, based on the hypothesis that genes regulate all language abilities.

Twenty-two families and many of their relatives from around the country are participating in this study. After testing for and identifying common reading problem traits in families, researchers then scan the DNA of these family members to find the responsible gene(s).

Although none of the scientists has isolated an exact gene yet, areas of activity (hotspots) have been identified on chromosomes 1, 2, and 15. Scientists theorize that a slight variation in a gene can be responsible for a problem with auditory processing, causing a child to test at the low end of normal in reading. Two variations in a gene could make the reading problem even worse.

Tallal suspects that by identifying the correct gene(s) linked to dyslexia, the chemical signals at play might be better understood, thus

enabling scientists to design predictive genetic tests and to develop appropriate gene-based drugs for intervention.

Whether or not this futuristic dream of genetic engineering will ever be realized remains to be seen.

Meanwhile, great numbers of young dyslexic children cannot wait on scientific supposition, nor do they have time for the protracted attempts of scientists and educators to procure government funding for further research.

To a dyslexic, every minute spent struggling to decipher words is like an hour. Classmates can be cruel to those who learn differently. Children with dyslexia need the kind of help that



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

works now, such as the Orton-Gillingham approach, offered by the 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children.

Low Rate of Dyslexia in Italy

Researchers from England, France and Italy compared the reading abilities of 72 dyslexics from their countries using positron emission tomography (PET) scans. Results of the scans revealed that even though all of the participants had the same abnormalities in the way their brains processed information, Italian dyslexics were the best readers.

Does one need to be born of Italian heritage to avoid the anguish of dyslexia? The answer is obviously, "No." However, it wouldn't hurt to be born and raised in Italy, assuming Italian is the only language heard, spoken, and written.

Italian is an easier language to learn than English.

— Dr. Eraldo Paulesu

According to the lead author of the study, Dr. Eraldo Paulesu of the University of Milan Bicocca, Italian is an easier language to learn than English because it has a simpler writing system.

Words used in English and Italian are formed from sound units called phonemes. These phonemes represent the sounds required to pronounce all words within the language. There are 40 phonemes in the English language and 1,120 different ways of spelling their representative sounds.

To emphasize the enormity of the task of learning English, consider the different pronunciations for the following words which end with the combination of the same four letters: *tough*, *bough*, *cough*, *dough*, and *through*.

Remember the old phonics rule used when pronouncing two successive vowels in a word? When two vowels go walking, the first one does the talking. This may work with *bead*, but certainly not with *dead*. The same problem arises with *fear* and *bear*.

Other letter combinations which confuse the beginning reader are *great* and

threat, and *dose*, *lose*, and *rose*. To a young child, it doesn't make much sense to pronounce the same letters differently.

To make matters worse, children have to struggle with the complexity of homonyms (words which are pronounced the same, yet have different meanings and, usually, spellings). Some typical examples which befuddle first graders are *dear* and *deer*, *one* and *won*, *sale* and *sail* and *to*, *too*, and *two*.

In addition to all these challenges, young readers are faced with consonants and consonant blends having more than one sound. Why can't the word phonics be spelled as it sounds (*fonics*)? Why doesn't pneumonia begin with the letter *n*? Wouldn't it make more sense to begin the word cereal with an *s*? It is no wonder that children have such difficulty reading and spelling!

The English language is filled with anomalies like these. Obviously then, a phonics approach is rudimentary to learning English.

In contrast, Italian has only 25 phonemes and needs only 33 combinations of letters to spell out these sounds. It is no surprise then that Italian educators employ with ease a phonetic approach to teaching reading. Dyslexic or not, it is easier to be brought up speaking Italian.

No wonder the reported rate of dyslexia in Italy is less than half the rate found in the United States.

It is interesting to note that according to Dr. Uta Frith, co-author of the study and a psychologist at the Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience at University College London, the original goal of the study was to establish a common neurophysiological basis for dyslexia. In that all participants in the study, regardless of nationality, showed the same brain abnormalities in processing information, the researchers reached their goal.

Although information gleaned regarding language-related issues was of lesser importance to the study, the findings reinforce the value of using a phonics teaching approach with dyslexics. While Italian educators use a phonics approach in teaching their children to read, American educators tend to downplay phonics, preferring a more whole-language approach.

Considering what the outcomes of this study imply, children who have been given the opportunity to attend the 32° Masonic Learning Centers are fortunate indeed!

COMMON SIGNS

The following difficulties may be associated with dyslexia if they are unexpected for the individual's age, educational level, or cognitive abilities. To verify that an individual is dyslexic, he/she should be tested by a qualified testing examiner.

Common signs for children pre-school to grade 4

- May talk later than most children
- May be slow to add new vocabulary words
- May be unable to recall the right word
- May have difficulty with rhyming
- May have trouble interacting with peers
- May be unable to follow multi-step directions or routines
- Fine motor skills may develop more slowly than in other children
- May have difficulty telling and/or retelling a story in the correct sequence
- May be slow to learn the connection between letters and sounds
- May confuse small words: at/to, said/and, does/goes
- May transpose number sequences and confuse arithmetic signs
- May have trouble remembering facts
- May be impulsive and prone to accidents
- May have difficulty planning
- Often uses an awkward pencil grip
- May have trouble learning to tell time
- May have poor fine motor coordination
- Makes consistent reading and spelling errors including:

Letter reversals — d for b as in, dog for bog

Word reversals — tip for pit

Inversions — m and w, u and n

Transpositions — felt and left

Substitutions — house and home

Source: "Basic Facts about Dyslexia: What Every Layperson Ought to Know." Copyright 1993, 2nd edition 1998.



Lexington Center holds dedication

In May, Charlotte stood in front of a room full of strangers and told them she had recently learned how to read. Since she is a fourth-grader, most people assumed she already had this ability. But Charlotte has dyslexia, and although an above average student, she had great difficulty deciphering words on a page.

In October 2000, she became one of 13 students who began the first academic session of the 32° Masonic Learning Center for Children at the Supreme Council headquarters in Lexington, Mass. It was at the center's dedication ceremony that Charlotte explained her feelings about her success with one-on-one tutoring at the center.

"The learning center has really helped me, especially the finger tapping and reviewing," she said. "It has made spelling easier. I am proud of myself and would like to thank everyone who helped build this wonderful place."

Her mother also spoke, mentioning that many people did not realize Charlotte's difficulty with reading.

"People were fooled that she could do more than she could," her mother said. "She had to try to remember everything, but her teacher sees the gap closing and the number of her mistakes are slimming."

Charlotte's mother said the learning center was a blessing for her daughter.

"She never would have received this quality of help anywhere else. I



Members of the first academic session for the Lexington Learning Center cut the ribbon at the grand opening ceremony.

am a proud parent willing to tell others how it has helped," she said.

Center Director Joyce Gillis said she has seen all the students who attended that first semester grow academically and emotionally as they acquired the skill of reading.

She explained, "Children with dyslexia become discouraged in the academic setting because they know they have the ability but just can't seem to become the readers they are longing to be. With the structured, multi-sensory program they receive at our center, they begin to understand how the language is structured and

for the first time reading begins to make sense."

Gillis said when the students go back to their classrooms, they can make use of the strategies they have been taught and they begin to gain the confidence to tackle the reading assignments on a more level playing field.

Gillis also echoed Charlotte's appreciation of the Scottish Rite participation in the program.

"We are very fortunate to be the recipients of the generosity from the Scottish Rite Masons who are playing an enormous role in providing the training and education necessary to meet the needs of these dyslexic children," she said.

The opening of the Lexington Center brings the total number of centers sponsored by the Scottish Rite to 31 across the 15-state jurisdiction. The Lexington Center opened with one full-time tutor, five trainees, and 13 students. The next academic session will begin with six permanent tutors, two part-time tutors, four trainees, and 27 students.

"In the majority of these cases, we are their last bastion of hope for gaining the reading skills so critical for their success in school and life," Gillis said.



Lexington Center Director Joyce Gillis stands amidst samples of Edward Sheriff Curtis (1869-1952) photographs, which are part of a unique, valuable, historical collection of Indian culture and life, donated to the center by Jack Naylor, 32°, Chestnut Hill, MA.

SCOTTISH RITE MASONIC CHARITIES AT WORK

Learning Centers Combat Dyslexia

The newest of the four Scottish Rite charities is the 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children, Inc. It is an ambitious program. We hope to have more than 55 centers by the year 2004, that will eventually serve some 1,500 children with dyslexia every year, and will train and certify an ever-growing number of dyslexia tutors for public and private schools and clinical settings. These tutors will, in turn, train other tutors, taking our mission of combating dyslexia beyond the learning centers.

Dyslexia was adopted as a key charitable priority in the mid-1990s after the National Institutes of Health finding stated that one in five people in America has dyslexia. The result is educational underachievement, juvenile delinquency, and poor adult employment prospects.



Scottish Rite in Action for the Benefit of Mankind

Since the founding of American Freemasonry in the early 1700s, we Masons have consistently placed our hearts, hands, and minds in the service of our fellow human beings.

As we enter a new century, the Scottish Rite remains wedded, through four principal charities, to our strong tradition of giving generously of our substance and ourselves to help others in need.

The 300,000 members of the Scottish Rite Northern Masonic Jurisdiction have every reason to be proud of our philanthropy, literally, our love of humanity. After reading about the four Scottish Rite Charities of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction in this special section of *The Northern Light*, you will better understand the scope of the work being done in your name and that you will have a better understanding of how to participate in this generous work.

Robert O. Ralston, 33°
Sovereign Grand Commander

While dyslexia cannot be cured, it can be treated. Children with dyslexia, an inherited disorder, are often extraordinarily bright and imaginative. The frustration they feel because of poor reading, writing, and math abilities is painful for these children, as it is for their parents and their teachers. Using an intensive one-on-one tutoring program, the learning centers have consistently helped students with dyslexia demonstrate extraordinary progress. Often, the younger the child, the better the results.

Scottish Rite Masons were motivated to launch the learning centers program because no other government program or private charity had taken the lead in confronting this unnecessarily devastating problem. As Ma-

sons, we are dedicated to the comfort and betterment of mankind.

Students are accepted into the learning centers program at no charge to their parents or to any schools from which they are referred. Nor do we consider the economic status, race, religion, or Masonic affiliation of any applicant.

The 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children, Inc. is a non-profit corporation organized under Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3). Over 92 percent of all contribution income goes directly to tutoring services for dyslexic children, which costs \$5,000 per child per year.

The 32° Masonic Learning Centers are supported by fund-raising activities undertaken by board members

Ways to support Charities: Annual Giving

Regular annual support for all four Scottish Rite Charities is as important as any single gift of capital or final "planned" gift.

Annual giving mainly comes from our fall "blue" envelope appeal, as well as from several fund-raising events held throughout the Valleys.

Funds accrued from "The Famous Masons" calendar program provide for operating costs of all the learning centers in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction.

"Annual giving is a primary element of support for our fraternity. My annual contribution is my way of saying thank you for the excellent work done by our charities."

— R. Thomas Peters, Jr., 33°, Secretary, Valley of Marquette

Blue Envelope gifts are distributed as follows:

- The Benevolent Foundation, which supports the Schizophrenia Fellowships and for the past several years, start-up costs of the 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children, receives 45 percent.
- The Scottish Rite Masonic Museum of Our National Heritage receives 45 percent.
- The Education and Charity Fund (which supports Abbott Scholarships) receives 10 percent.

SCOTTISH RITE MASONIC CHARITIES AT WORK

Learning Centers

continued from page 15

and parents at the learning centers, the annual calendar appeals to Masons, and grants from the Supreme Council's Benevolent Foundation, which is in part funded by "blue" envelope contributions. Current operating income of around \$4 million per year needs to increase to \$7.5 million to pay for the 1,500 students our expanded program will be tutoring by the year 2004.

New initiatives will help fill the funding gap. The first is our Sponsor a Child program, raising \$2,500 (co-sponsorship for one year), \$5,000 (full sponsorship for one year), and \$10,000 pledges (two-year full sponsorship) from individuals and organizations. Sponsor a Child is in its pilot phase through the 2001-02 academic year.

The second initiative is a fall 2001 launch of a \$150 million endowment. The endowment will be funded through major gifts from individuals and corporations, foundation grants, and testamentary gifts. Builders Council members who make at least a \$10,000 promise to the learning centers of a bequest, trust, insurance, or any other acceptable planned gift proudly sport a green teddy bear tie!

For information on the Learning Centers, contact Executive Director Joseph J. Berlandi, 32°, (781) 862-8518 or jberlandi@supremecouncil.org.

Paving the Way for Schizophrenia Research

In 1934, Scottish Rite Masons threw major support behind a research fellowship program to try to find the origins and treatment of schizophrenia. While the federal government now provides significant research funding, at the time the Scottish Rite Schizophrenia Research program began, Masonic interest in this frightening and seemingly incurable disorder was unique.



Schizophrenia is one of the most prevalent, destructive, and tragic mental illnesses, often striking young adults after an apparently normal childhood. The disease is now better understood after nearly eight decades of modern scientific research, yet no definitive cure has been found.

The initial appropriation of \$15,000 for research into the causes and poten-

tial cures for schizophrenia was directed through the National Committee for Mental Hygiene and later through the National Association for Mental Health.

In 1970, the administrative duties of the program were handled by a Supreme Council committee. A professional advisory committee reviewed annually a substantial number of proposals and recommended the recipients for the research grants.

By 1998, the emphasis shifted to fellowships presented to post-graduate students preparing dissertations in fields pertinent to discovering a cure for schizophrenia. Today a select group of universities throughout the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction choose the recipients.

The Scottish Rite Schizophrenia program is funded through the Benevolent Foundation.

The millions of dollars that have supported this research, have also directly or indirectly helped progress in Alzheimer's disease, Huntington's disease, and opiate addiction, as well as many other areas of genetic, biochemical, and neuroanatomical study.

For more information, contact Richard Burgess, 33°, at (800) 814-1432 ext. 3332 or rburgess@supremecouncil.org.

Ways to support Charities: Gift Planning

A final gift from your estate or other special "planned" gift is handled with the care that all such contributions deserve. Unless the donor states otherwise, our policy is to endow such gifts since they are not, by their nature, renewable in the way that annual gifts are.

Your will allows you, and you alone, to decide which individuals and charities you wish your estate to benefit. Bequests do not have to be made with cash. They can take the form of real estate and appreciated securities such as stocks, bonds, and Treasuries. You can also make the Scottish Rite Charity a beneficiary of life insurance or a retirement fund. These gifts may be deducted from the value of your estate as

allowed by current tax law.

The Scottish Rite Masonic Charities development office can provide information on the types of arrangements that are available, or an estimate of payouts from income-producing trusts. Your own tax adviser (CPA, banker, or attorney) should assist you to choose the best arrangement for your own personal financial situation.

Planned gifts include:

- Charitable remainder unitrusts (minimum gift of \$50,000), providing income for you and/or another beneficiary, with the Scottish Rite Charities receiving the remainder at the end of the term of the trust or the donor's lifetime;

Supporting Our Children's Futures with College Scholarships

Part of the proud Masonic charitable heritage is to help fellow Masons, whether by "passing the hat" at Lodge meetings to provide emergency assistance, or through more formal charitable acts, such as the annual awarding of Leon M. Abbott Scholarships.

While he was Sovereign Grand Commander, Ill. Brother Abbott inaugurated a college scholarship program with an initial appropriation of \$50,000 from Supreme Council funds. In 1932, by his Last Will and Testament, he bequeathed \$50,000 plus a share in the residue of his estate to establish the Supreme Council Education and Charity Fund. He had expressed the desire that some part of the income of the fund should be used "for college or university scholarships for superior attainment or proficiency

in the study of clean journalism."

The first Abbott scholarship was not awarded until 1951, when the fund reached \$100,000, the goal set by Commander Abbott.

For a number of years, the Supreme Council Education and Charity Fund continued to grow slowly by occasional contributions from Scottish Rite Valley and Councils of Deliberation plus a few individual gifts. It was not until 1980 that the scholarship program began to share a portion of the proceeds from the annual "blue" envelope appeal.

For many years, the scholarships were presented to journalism students at selected universities throughout the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction. In 1984, at the recommendation of Sovereign Grand Commander Stanley F. Maxwell, 33°, expanded the scholarship program was expanded by awarding grants to children and grandchildren of Scottish Rite members and to young people active in the youth groups affiliated with the Masonic fraternity.

The first academic year was 1985-86, when \$38,500 was allocated for 68 scholarships. As the allocation increased, the number of recipients have grown.

The amount allocated per state is determined by the previous year's contributions to the Supreme Council Charities received from the members of that state.



The number of recipients is determined by the Scottish Rite Deputy for that state, so the size of the scholarship will vary from state to state. The final selections are made within each state. In many cases, Councils of Deliberation or individual Valleys have chosen to supplement the allocation with additional funding to provide for more scholarships.

Application forms are distributed through the local Scottish Rite Valley offices.

**For more information on the Abbott Scholarships, contact:
Douglass L. Ziedelis,
Abbott Scholarship Coordinator
(781) 465-3316.**

Abbott Scholarships

\$400,000 was distributed to 412 students for college in the 2001-02 academic year.

Scholarships by state:

Connecticut: 36	Delaware: 12
Illinois: 33	Indiana: 48
Maine: 13	Massachusetts: 23
Michigan: 20	New Hampshire: 14
New Jersey: 15	New York: 30
Ohio: 90	Pennsylvania: 40
Rhode Island: 6	Vermont: 8
Wisconsin: 24	

- Retained interest gifts (for instance, a gift of your home that allows you to remain in residence during your lifetime);
- Gifts of life insurance, IRAs, and Keoghs;
- Charitable gift annuities and charitable remainder annuity trusts, minimum initial investment of \$10,000, providing income to you and/or a loved one, with the Scottish Rite Charities receiving the balance of the fund amount at the end of the term or at the donor's demise. You may defer payments for larger dividends;
- Charitable stock bailouts (a specialized way for businesses to arrange for succession and make a charitable gift);

- Bequests.

The Builders Council is a planned-giving society for donors of testamentary gifts to any or all of the four Scottish Rite Charities. These may be restricted, for instance, to the learning centers where the need is currently greatest, or given as unrestricted gifts.

The minimum pledge is \$10,000.

A special form is available; fill it out, send it to the Supreme Council, and be sure to append your pledge as a memorandum to your will.

You can fund your Builders Council gift with cash, property, or real estate.

SCOTTISH RITE MASONIC CHARITIES AT WORK

Uncovering Our Past —

The Museum of Our National Heritage

In the early 1970s, Sovereign Grand Commander had a dream. He envisioned erecting a national history museum of American history on the grounds of the Supreme Council headquarters.

It was his idea that the museum could be a gift to the American people from the Scottish Rite Masons at the time of America's bicentennial.

The facility would also be a repository for an extensive Masonic and fraternal collection and could show the visitors how Freemasonry is intertwined with the growth of the nation.

His chief administrator, Stanley F. Maxwell, 33°, who later succeeded Newbury as Grand Commander, was

responsible for supervising the museum's construction.

Since the museum was located in Lexington, it was fitting that the museum opened on April 20, 1775, during the 200th anniversary of the famed Battle of Concord and Lexington.

Since that time, millions of visitors have enjoyed the many changing exhibitions and public programs. In addition to the galleries, the facility also includes a 400-seat auditorium and the Van Gorden-Williams Library, which contains a vast collection of Masonic material.

The dedicated staff includes professional archivists, librarians, curators, registrars, and collections managers.

The museum and library were funded in part by a capital campaign in the 1970s and in part through endowed gifts, many of them in the form of bequests. Twenty years later, the museum is receiving many of those bequests. The endowment now provides 85-90 percent of the operating income.

The museum does not charge an entrance fee to the public but does receive voluntary contributions from its visitors. The "blue" envelope appeal also provides annual support for the museum.



The staff has been reaching out beyond the walls of the museum to provide expertise to Masonic groups and individuals on preservation and restoration.

In addition to monetary gifts, the museum has received many objects and collections, all of which are tax deductible following an appraisal and as provided by law.

For information on the museum and library, contact Executive Director John Ott, 32°, at 781-861-6559 (Ext. 102) or jott@monh.org.



Ways to support Charities: Endowment Giving

Annual operating support needs to be augmented by special gifts toward capital projects and endowment. In the case of endowment gifts, the principal is invested to provide income in perpetuity.

A new endowment campaign for the 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children, Inc., will begin in the fall.

Endowment gifts are generally large gifts of cash or ap-

preciated securities (stock), which may be pledged in multi-year installments or through a bequest in one's will.

Every one of these planned giving vehicles offers tax savings, sometimes substantial.

"It is easy to give stock, and it makes eminent good sense 'tax-wise' because we have given appreciated securities and we don't have to pay tax on the capital gain."

— Donald (Pete) Miller, 33°, Deputy for New Jersey

For more information, consult your tax or legal adviser or contact Development Director Frank Fletcher at (781) 465-3340 or ffletcher@supremecouncil.org.



Brothers on the Net

Explaining the mystery of e-mail



By Leigh E. Morris, 32°

Many of you have asked me to answer two simple questions. First, you want to know how e-mail travels from one computer to another. Second, you want to know why some e-mail moves quickly, while other messages take much longer to arrive and some simply vanish.

Well, I can't. It's a secret. What do you mean that you won't accept that answer? Why it's as Masonic as the square and compasses. (For the non-Masons in the audience, that was a little inside humor.)

OK, if it's an answer you want, it's an answer you'll get. I even checked it all out with an expert (my 7-year-old grandson), who assured me this information is right on target.

Now, the best way to visualize the Internet is to think of it in terms of an enormous railroad network. You know, like the massive Lionel layout you always wanted when you were a kid. High-speed trains (e-mail) are racing every which way. Your computer is a remote station on this gigantic system. Fortunately for you, all of this usually works much better than Amtrak.

After composing your e-mail, you hit the "send" icon. Your message travels from your computer through the modem and on to your Internet Service Provider (ISP). The speed at which this occurs is governed by two primary factors. The first is the speed (band) of your modem. If you are like most users, your modem has a maximum speed of 56K. That means your modem is, in theory, capable of sending or receiving 56,000 kilobytes of information per second. A byte is an acronym for "binary term" and is a unit of data, such as a single letter character. One kilobyte consists of 1,024 bytes. Yes, I know that kilo means one thousand, but I can't tell you why a kilobyte doesn't equal 1,000 bytes. That IS a secret!

More importantly, the speed at which you can send or receive information is governed by your connection. If you rely on copper telephone wire, your speed may be 28.8K or less – much less if you happen to live in a rural area. If you are fortunate enough to have a broadband connection, you can send and receive messages in the wink of an eye (that's the highly technical term for "really fast").

Your ISP takes your e-mail and sends it off on any number of tracks called "routers." These routers pass through major junctions called "gateways," which are intended to make certain your e-mail remains readable throughout its journey.

At long last, your e-mail begins arriving at the ISP of the intended recipient. That's right, it begins to arrive. You see, your e-mail does not travel as one train. Rather, it is broken up into many smaller trains. Once all of those parts are in the recipient's ISP, the message will (sooner or later) be dispatched to the recipient's station (mailbox).

When it all works, e-mail can move from one computer, through the network and to the recipient's e-mail inbox in a matter of minutes or even seconds. It will take longer when traffic is heavier. And when things go wrong, the result may resemble New York City's mass transit system when the power goes out.

One of the most common causes of e-mail SNAFUs is the failure of an ISP's mail server. When this happens, you can't receive or send e-mail. Sometimes gateways fail, resulting in garbled or lost messages. Then there are times when messages, like luggage entrusted to an airline, simply vanish. If you ask why, they'll just tell you it's a secret!

No one can say for certain just how many e-mails are lost, garbled or otherwise messed up on a daily basis. If you are concerned about e-mail arriving, indicate you want a "return receipt" before sending your message, though this is not always reliable. (You didn't want to hear that, did you?)

Furthermore, some ISPs do not support return receipts. I know. My ISP, Earthlink (slogan: "We can't tell you anything because it's a secret"), is one of those providers. If you're in the same boat, ask your e-mail recipients to notify you when they receive their e-mail.

Of course, you could send a letter via the U.S. Postal Service. It will only cost 34 cents (or it might be 35 cents by the time you read this). Just imagine the surprise your letter will cause when it arrives. Other than bills, sweepstakes notices and credit card offers, I bet your recipient hasn't received real mail in years!

Be sure to send your complete name, city and state of residence, Valley and e-mail address to me at <2r6@onemain.com> for our Masonic E-Mail Directory. Also, send along any and all interesting Masonic Web sites. Those will be included in the directory.

Until the next issue, enjoy the Net and promote our craft.

Questions or comments? Send me an e-mail at
2r6@onemain.com
(please note that this is a new e-mail address).

In Memoriam

III. Winslow Edson Melvin, 33°

III. Winslow E. Melvin, 33°, an Active Emeritus Member of the Supreme Council and former Deputy for New Hampshire, died on April 9, at Concord, NH. Born in Northampton, MA, on Sept. 1, 1907, he moved to Concord, NH, in 1912, where he graduated from Concord High School in 1925. He completed the apprentice course at the General Electric Company in Pittsfield, MA, and also completed I.C.S. correspondence courses in civil engineering.

Beginning his career in the Electro-Motive Division of G.E. in Worcester, MA, III. Brother Melvin was later employed as an assistant engineer by the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission in 1929 and then served as transportation director for the commission from 1935 until his retirement in 1977. He remained a consultant for the commission until 1986.

In 1939 Brother Melvin married Mildred Taylor, who predeceased him in 1999. Surviving is one son, III. Richard E. Melvin, 33°.

Raised a Master Mason in Eureka Lodge No. 70, Concord, NH, in 1936, Brother Melvin served as Master in 1947-48. He was later appointed District Deputy Grand Lecturer and District Deputy Grand Master for the Grand Lodge and also served as the Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of Greece and the Grand Lodge of Iran-in-Exile near the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire. He received the Major General John Sullivan Distinguished Service Medal in 1953 and the Jeremy Ladd Cross Medal in 1976. He was proclaimed an honorary Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge

of New Hampshire at the celebration of his 90th birthday in 1997, only the fifth member to be so honored.

Within the York Rite, Bro. Melvin was a member of Trinity Chapter No. 2, R. A. M.; Horace Chase Council No. 4, R. & S. M., and Mount Horeb Commandery, K. T.

Receiving the Scottish Rite degrees in 1937, he then served as Sovereign Prince, 1943-45; Most Wise Master, 1949-51; and Thrice Potent Master, 1952-54, all in the Valley of Concord. He was Valley Secretary from 1955-67. He progressed through the line of New Hampshire Consistory at Nashua and was First Lieutenant Commander at the time he was crowned an Active Member of the Supreme Council.

III. Brother Melvin received the 33° in 1954, crowned an Active Member in 1967, and was Deputy for New Hampshire, 1973-82. He was also the Grand Representative of the Supreme Council for Iran-in-Exile near the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction.

Brother Melvin was a member of Bektash Temple, A.A.O.N.M.S., where he was active in the Temple's Drum and Bugle Corps for over 50 years.

A charter member of Rumford Chapter, Order of DeMolay, and later an advisor, he was awarded the DeMolay Legion of Honor in 1955. In 1956, he was appointed a member of the first Grand Lodge DeMolay Committee. In 1965, the Grand Lodge DeMolay Foundation, Inc., was organized with III. Brother Melvin as its Secretary. In 1999, he was elected an Honorary Member of the International Supreme Council, Order of DeMolay.

III. Ralph Milton Tompkins, 33°

III. Ralph M. Tompkins, 33°, an Active Emeritus Member of the Supreme Council, died on May 25 at Wellsville, NY, following a lengthy illness. "Tim," as he was known by his friends, was born on Aug. 16, 1906, at Wellsville, and was educated in the public schools there. A 1929 graduate of University of Pennsylvania, School of Finance and Commerce, he owned and operated various companies producing crude oil. He was also a part owner of the Triangle Drilling Company, with oil wells in the New York state Allegany field.

In 1940, he married Mona Cochran, who predeceased him in 1995. He is survived by a daughter Marilyn, a son James and five grandchildren.

Throughout his life he took a very active role in community affairs and was treasurer, trustee and deacon of the First Congregational Church, where he also taught Sunday School and was a member of its men's club. From 1943-47 he was chairman of the board for the local hospital.

Raised a Master Mason in Wellsville Lodge No. 230 in

1927, Brother Tompkins was Master in 1935. He was president of the Wellsville Masonic Temple Association for 34 years. For the Grand Lodge of New York, he served in various capacities, including District Deputy Grand Master.

In the York Rite, he was High Priest of Wellsville Royal Arch Chapter No. 143 in 1941 and was an officer for the New York Grand Chapter. He was also a member of Corning Council No. 53, R. & S.M., and DeMolay Commander No. 22, K.T., Hornell, NY.

Brother Tompkins completed the Scottish Rite degrees in the Valley of Corning in 1929 and served as Thrice Potent Master, 1937-38, and Commander-in-Chief, 1949-55. He was a member of the board of trustees for the Valley, 1963-86, and was its chairman for five years.

When he received the 33° in 1939, he was the youngest member ever to be so honored. III. Brother Tompkins was crowned an Active Member of the Supreme Council in 1972, retired in 1975, and was elected an Active Emeritus Member in 1981.

The Stamp Act

A Philatelic Review



By Robert A. Domingue



Georges Hubin was born in 1863, the son of a simple stone-cutter. At the age of 11 he was working in the quarries but studied in his spare time and became a great leader in the rising labor movement.

In 1895, the Socialist Party at Vierset-Barse secured a majority in the common council and Hubin served as alderman for Public Works and then Education. In 1898 he was chosen a member of the House of Representatives and served in this role uninterruptedly until 1946.

In 1945, he was nominated Minister of State, the highest distinction in Belgium. He enlisted as a volunteer in the Belgian Army for World War I and took an active part in the Resistance in 1940 at the age of 77.

During the German occupation of Belgium in World War I, three Belgian lodges continued to work in exile. "La Belgique," operating in La Havre, France, initiated Georges Hubin. The Lodge "Les Amis de la Parfaite Intelligence" in Huy still keeps the jewel of the apprentice which he received at his initiation.

By 1919, Bro. Hubin's hopes were very much disappointed — the lodge in Huy, his home town, proved not open to the ideas of socialism, and he could not reconcile himself to this attitude with regard to the party he had created. Disappointed,

he turned away from Masonry.

Upon his death in 1947, the Lodge in Huy sent a large triangle of red gladioli and carnations as a token of admiration and esteem — a homage to a great man who might have been an ornament to Freemasonry.

★ ★ ★

Prince Philip has been featured on many stamps from different countries and is portrayed here from one issued by Palau in 1998 as part of a set to honor environmentalists.

The Duke of Edinburgh and husband of Queen Elizabeth was born June 10, 1921, a descendent of Queen Victoria of England and Prince Andrew of Greece.

He was educated in Scotland and became a British subject and naval officer. He was mentioned for his competency in a battle between British and Italian fleets in March 1941 while serving on HMS Valiant. He was present at the surrender of the Japanese in Tokyo Bay in 1945.



He married Princess Elizabeth, heir apparent to the throne, in November 1947 and George VI conferred upon him the title of Duke of Edinburgh. His title of Prince is Greek, not British.

The Duke was made a Mason in Navy Lodge No.

2612, London, on Dec. 5, 1952, at the age of 32.

His Queen's father had served as Worshipful Master of this lodge while Duke of York. However, Prince Philip has not been as active a Mason as his royal predecessors have.

★ ★ ★

Nicanor Abelardo, Father of the Philippine sonata, orchestra conductor, professor of music and composer was honored on a stamp issued by his homeland in 1982.



Born on Feb. 7, 1893, he only lived to the age of 41.

He acquired his formal musical

education at the conservatory of Music of the University of the Philippines and in 1919 was appointed instructor at the Conservatory.

His more than 200 musical compositions are a testimonial to his musical genius and express the true sentiments of the Philippine people.

In 1920, when the mortal remains of Bro. Marcelo H. del Pilar, the Father of Philippine Masonry, were brought to Manila from Spain, he composed "Burying M. H. del Pilar."

In 1930 he composed "Himno Masonico," which won first prize in a contest sponsored by the Grand Lodge of the Philippines.

He followed that with "March Triunfal," which he dedicated to Lodge Isla de Luzon No. 57, his Mother

Lodge. The Philippine Scottish Rite conferred the 32° upon him.

★ ★ ★



Gebhard Leberecht von Blücher (1742-1819), Prince of Wahlstadt, is pictured with Bro. Niedhardt von Gneisenau on a German Democratic Republic stamp released in 1963.

The Prussian field marshal, famous as a commander during the Napoleon Wars, was described as a rough, ill-educated man, endowed with common sense, fiery energy and indomitable courage.

His appearance on the right flank at Waterloo with his army completed Napoleon's defeat.

Bro. Von Blücher was initiated on Feb. 6, 1782, at the Lodge "Augusta zur godlenen Krone," in Stargard. He later affiliated with the Lodge "Zu den drei Balken" in Munster and served as Master of this Lodge.

At a Masonic Festival in Bautzen, he declared, "Sacred, therefore, is Masonry to me, to which I shall be attached till I die, and every brother will be dear and worthy to my heart."

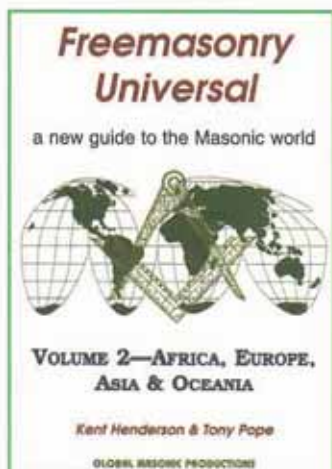
ROBERT A. DOMINGUE is secretary for St. Matthew's Lodge, Andover, Mass., and editor of *The Philatelic Freemason*.



By THOMAS W. JACKSON, 33°

Freemasonry Universal, a new guide to the Masonic World, Volume 2, by Kent Henderson & Tony Pope. Published in 2000 by Global Masonic Publications, PO Box 332, Williamstown, Victoria 3016 Australia. Obtainable in the U. S. from the Southern California Lodge of Research. \$24 plus \$1.75 postage.

Freemasonry Universal, Volume 1, was reviewed in the May 1999 issue of *The Northern Light*. This volume was written as a guide to members traveling throughout the Americas. Volume 2 covers the rest of the world, including Africa, Europe, Asia and Oceania. I recommend it to any brother wishing to visit Lodges in these areas of the world.



As with the previous volume it provides pertinent information to the sojourning brother. It gives a brief history of the origin of the Grand Lodge, its location in the world, the address of the Grand Lodge building, if applicable, as well as the way to contact them, including the telephone number. For those Grand Jurisdictions where the listing of subordinate lodges is practical, they, along with meeting information, are provided.

The authors have also included direction on how you should dress, what you might expect in the way of an examination, what type of refreshments, if any, are provided, along with other significant and interesting details to assist you and make visits easier and more enjoyable. They also cover what types of ritual are used and what research lodges are to be found.

Information that is probably more significant to the American traveler is the listing of other Grand Lodges. We do not experience in this country the numbers of irregular Masonic bodies that are to be found in many regions of the world and are not prepared to encounter them. There are many Grand Lodges that do not meet the criteria of regularity and are not recognized by the "mainstream" Grand Lodges. They are prohibited from being visited by members of Regular Masonic jurisdiction. This book is, therefore, of a greater value to us. It is our responsibility to know and the book gives us that knowledge.

Due to the instability of the craft in much of the world as the result of newly created Grand Lodges in the Soviet Block countries and Africa, as well as schisms within them and older Grand Jurisdictions, it is important to point out that some information in this book is already outdated. In addition, all Grand Jurisdictions are not in amity with all other mainstream Grand Jurisdictions. It must, therefore, not be regarded as the final authority. Anyone traveling should still consult with his Grand Lodge.

As with Volume 1, there is some information provided that has been outdated for some time, as well as some being in error. I don't know where the authors obtained their data, but some of their sources are wrong. For example, referencing the Grand Lodge of Ireland, they say, "Until very recent years, Ireland was the only mainstream jurisdiction in the Masonic world that did not print an official craft ritual in some form, or at least permit its ritual to be printed. Even the American Grand Lodges that will not print a ritual as such, still print monitors containing esoteric portions of their ceremonies." The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania has never printed or permitted to be printed its ritual in any form including any form of monitor. I am also informed that there may be a few other Grand Lodges with the same requirement.

As with Volume 1, whatever errors there might be, the value of the work far outweighs any possible inaccuracies. In addition, the book provides interesting reading as well as information that should cause the American reader to develop a greater appreciation of the more rigid requirements to become and remain a member in most Grand Jurisdictions outside of theirs.

All lodges should benefit by having a copy as a reference for their members and I recommend it.



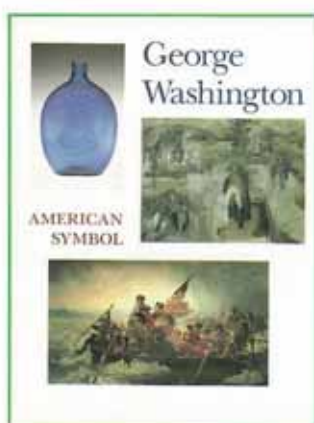
George Washington: American Symbol, edited by Barbara J. Mitnick, Published in 1999 by Hudson Hills Press Inc. Available through Museum of Our National Heritage, PO Box 519, Lexington, MA 02420. Hard cover, \$24.95, soft cover, \$13.95. Add \$4.95 for postage and handling.

This coffee table book is actually written by eight different authors including the general editor, Barbara Mitnick. These authors include one historian, six art historians and a sociologist. It was written to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Washington's death, in conjunction with a major traveling exhibition, that had appeared at the Scottish Rite Museum in Lexington. The book contains many photographs, in both color and black and

white, of images ranging from portraits, sculptures, and porcelains to caricatures, all indicative of the influence of Washington through the lifetime of America. The book is printed on high quality paper and the reproductions are suitable for framing.

To give you an idea of the contents, I will list some of the chapter titles: Life Portraits, Continuity in the Sculptural Image, The Literary and Visual Image, Commercialization of the Washington Image, The Marketing of an Icon, A New Man for a New Century, The Modern and Postmodern Image.

Masons will find one chapter particularly significant: Washington as the Master of His Lodge: History and Symbolism of a Masonic Icon.



The significance of this text lies in its emphasis on the importance of Washington in the origin and developments of this nation as well as his carrying power even into the present time. The influence of Washington to this day upon the ethics, idealism and commitments of this nation cannot be overstated, and the authors do a thorough job in depicting the impact he has had in many facets of our lives today.

The authors discuss the waxing and waning of his popularity during different times of our history and how it is reflected in the art, literature and attitudes of the people. It is interesting to see how the conception of him varies with those doing the conceiving ranging from the neoclassical to the derogatory characterization.

William D. Moore, director of the Livingston Masonic Library, and John D. Hamilton, former curator at the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum of Our National Heritage, wrote the chapter on Washington and Freemasonry and did a commendable job with it.

In a world that attempts to destroy its heroes' images, this book deals fairly with the images of Washington. It is a book which would make a desirable addition to either your library or your coffee table.



Masonic Curiosities by Yasha Beresiner. Published in 2000 by Australian & New Zealand Masonic Research Council, PO Box 332, Williamstown, Victoria 3016 Australia.

Masonic Curiosities is a paperback book edited by Tony Pope, co-author of the two-volume set *Freemasonry Universal, a New Guide to the Masonic World*. Upon reading the title, I thought it was a book about unusual collectibles, however, much more than that, it also includes

what the author regards as curiosities in the structure and workings of the craft itself. In addition, at least part of the book is a collection of papers he has written. This collection makes the book disjointed as it jumps to different subjects with Freemasonry being the tying thread.

The author was born in Turkey but now holds dual citizenship in England and Israel. He has a degree in law, having studied in Turkey, Italy, Israel, and England, and also has an extensive background in Freemasonry, about which he writes and speaks frequently.

The chapters referencing collectibles deals not only with those we commonly recognize, such as tokens, stamps, book plates and postcards, but also includes Masonic items which are not commonly collected. Many of these items were not produced in abundance in this country and therefore fail to stimulate much interest in collecting. Masonic newspapers, Masonic currency, and Masonic playing cards are examples of collectibles more commonly found in European countries and therefore create more interest there.

The section of the book relating to the structure and workings of the lodge are of a more stimulating nature to most of us. Since it relates to curiosities of the craft, it answers questions that we may have wondered about as well as some that we had not.

The chapters relating to the actual structure and furnishings of the lodge contain information about the columns, the pillars, the globes, the tracing boards, and other symbols of Freemasonry. He writes about the functioning of the lodge and its appendant bodies. The Mark Degree, Masonic Education, the Fourth Degree, and the Ahiman Rezon are all topics presented.

There is a sub-chapter titled, "What Induced Desaguiers," and a chapter (of which I do not understand the relevance) titled, "Freemasonry Italian Style — A Study in Confusion."

There are a few observations made which might be questioned for total accuracy. For example, he writes, "Yes, Catholics are now permitted to join our craft." This statement must be qualified in order to be accurate. He also writes, "The South American sub-continent was liberated from the Spanish yoke by Freemasons," and "All the South American heroes of the early 19th century were Freemasons."

This could be true, but I question it being all-inclusive regarding Freemasonry, as much as I would like it to be.

We must keep in mind in reading this book that it is "Masonic Curiosities," so it deals with the unusual in the craft. I learned from reading it and I think you would, too.

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

Calorie burn: aerobics vs. yardwork

According to the University of South Carolina Public School of Health, 45 minutes of vigorous yardwork equals 30 minutes of aerobics.

Following is the number of calories a 140-pound person will burn in 30 minutes doing various gardening tasks:



Mowing (power)	149
(manual)	191
Trimming shrubs (power)	111
(manual)	191
Raking or bagging leaves	127
Digging, spading	159
Weeding	143
Watering	49
Hauling branches	159

That big game could kill a guy

Netherlands researchers found that 50 percent more men died on the day of a championship soccer game than were expected to.

Reporting in the *British Medical Journal*, they blamed the high death rate on emotional stress, high alcohol intake, overeating, and heavy smoking during the game.

Women showed no increase in mortality on the same day.

Stop smoking: immediate benefits

When you quit smoking, you will feel better fast. Doctors at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston say blood vessels and coronary tissue respond almost immediately to quitting,

even in people who have smoked for many years.

The risk of suddenly dying begins to drop within weeks, and five years after quitting, it's nearly the same as that of someone who has never smoked.

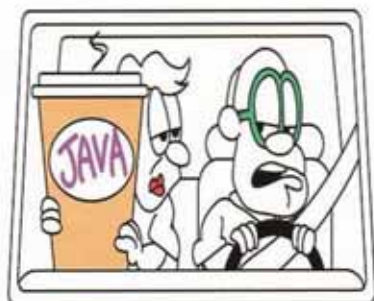
Quitting can eventually restore the lungs to their original form but the cells deep inside are not as healthy.



Morning glucose test is best

To diagnose diabetes, testing patients in afternoon office visits may miss half of all cases of the disease, according to a study in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

The test involves measuring glucose levels, which should be done in the morning after an overnight fast during which the person has consumed nothing but water. But people often visit a doctor in the afternoon when glucose levels in the blood tend to be lower. The study involved 13,000 people who were undergoing health examinations.



"Of course you realize we aren't stopping until we get there!"

Good news about glucosamine

The dietary supplement glucosamine actually soothes the joint pain of osteoarthritis (OA) and slows the progression of the condition. A report in the *Lancet* shows that people who took 1,500 milligrams of glucosamine daily had less pain and lost no additional knee cartilage. Those taking a placebo had a reduction in cartilage during the same period.

Get your doctor's approval if you are interested in taking the supplement.

Onion serves as medicinal cure-all

Burn yourself in the kitchen? According to the burn unit of University Medical Center in Lubbock, Texas, you can grab an onion for relief. Apply a slice of onion to the burn. Chemicals in the onion block substances that trigger pain, and onion juice has antibacterial properties that help to prevent infection.

German researcher Walter Dorsch found that onions contain a substance which he claims is more effective at fighting inflammation than some prescription drugs. When his study subjects drank onion juice before being exposed to irritants, bronchial asthma attacks were reduced by half. A second substance in onions may also relieve hay fever.

Onions contain dozens of compounds that lower cholesterol, thin blood, and prevent hardening of the arteries, all of which help to prevent heart disease. Their flavonoids have powerful antioxidant powers and can sweep up harmful free radicals.

Sulfa compounds in onions fight cancer by killing harmful bacteria that can cause stomach cancers. That same sulfur inhibits the allergic response in asthma, say chemists at the State University of New York at Albany. Surprisingly, it only takes a few small servings a day to have a significant effect on breathing.



The Builders Column



Five Reasons to Die Without a Will

There must be powerful reasons to avoid having a will because so many people die without one. In case you happen to be one of the seven out of 10 who will depart without a will, here are five reasons to buttress your position. You can use these to help you sleep tonight.

- 1) The court can do a better job deciding how to disburse your assets than you can.
- 2) The court can choose a better personal representative to handle your estate during probate than you can.
- 3) The court can choose a more caring guardian for your minor children than you can.
- 4) The government will use your estate tax dollars more efficiently than your favorite charity would use a charitable bequest.
- 5) Your grieving loved ones will be better off looking after your affairs without your will.

Powerful reasons? Hardly. Nonetheless, people unwittingly affirm these reasons year after year as they continue to put off the minor inconvenience of making a will.

All of us affiliated with The Supreme Council Scottish Rite Masonic Charities urge you to take action now.

Your family will appreciate it. The charities you support will appreciate it. And you will appreciate the peace of mind you get from fulfilling one of your most important stewardship responsibilities.

Like many people, you may be uneasy about going to an attorney. Yet, an attorney who specializes in estate planning knows the right questions to ask and the best ways to help you accomplish your goals. These professionals are well-trained and normally well worth the time and expense they require.

Frank Fletcher, our Director of Development, can help you with this. He will provide you with helpful printed material on making a will and, if you like, supply information on ways you can include charitable giving in your plans.

Would you like to learn more about making a will? Simply fill out the response form and mail it to us. And while you're at it, please let us know whether you have included (or intend to include) Scottish Rite Masonic Charities in your estate plans. This information helps us plan more effectively for the future.

The "blue" envelope appeal begins next month

For generations, the "blue" envelope appeal has been a part of Scottish Rite Freemasonry. Through this annual mailing, we are asked to lend our support to the good works of the Scottish Rite Masonic Charities.

These three charities reflect the commitment we make as Scottish Rite Masons to set ourselves the highest goals in service to our families, our communities and our nation.



- ☐ Please send me free literature about making a will.
- ☐ Please contact me about a personal visit or other assistance.
- ☐ I have already provided a bequest for The Scottish Rite Masonic Charities in my will.
- ☐ Please send me information about the Builders Council.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

email: _____

Date of Birth _____

**Please return completed form to: Frank Fletcher,
Director of Development, Supreme Council,
PO Box 519, Lexington, MA 02420
Phone: 781-465-3340
Fax: 781-863-1833
Email: ffletcher@supremecouncil.org**

VIEWS FROM THE PAST

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

The Cable Tow

As to the meaning of the expression, "the length of my cable tow," it is somewhat difficult to speak, owing to the great variety of interpretations that have been offered, a few of the more typical examples of which may be here given. Pike sees in it "the scope and intent and spirit of one's pledge." Brother Rev. F. de P. Castello says, "The cable's length has always been understood to be one of 720 feet, which is twice 360, the measure of the circle"; making one circle to stand for the spiritual in man, and the other for the material.

He believes it to mean that "I will

go as far in assisting my brethren as my moral principles and my material condition will permit."

In *Mackey's Encyclopedia* we read: "The old writers define the length of a cable tow, which they sometimes called a 'cable's length,' to be three miles for an Entered Apprentice. But the expression is really symbolic, and as defined by the Baltimore convention in 1842 (a notable Masonic gathering), means the scope of a man's reasonable ability."

— *From Symbolic Masonry by H.L. Haywood, 1923.*

Behind the Cloak

Traditionally English Masonic scholars have accepted, or promoted, the theory that modern Freemasonry evolved from guilds or associations of operative Masons consequent upon the acceptance into such organizations in the 17th- and 18th-centuries of non-operatives or speculative Masons.

John J. Robinson in his *Born in Blood*, sets out to demonstrate how any terms used in the craft and the clothing worn by its members, otherwise difficult to comprehend, are explicable if one considers them in relation to the language, dress and customs of the Knights Templar.

Robinson views the charges as a set of instructions for a secret society created to assist and protect fraternal Brothers on the run and in hiding from the church. The fugitive Templars would have needed a code such as the old charges of Masonry, but the working stoneMasons clearly did not. The need for signs of recognition is even more obvious.

Further, if a Mason read the initiation ceremony of a candidate for membership in the order of the Temple, preserved in the records of the Templar's trial, he would easily convince himself he was reading the ceremony of a degree he had not yet obtained. Joseph Fort Newton notes that while, at a distance in time, the middle ages wear an aspect of smooth uniformity of Faith and Opinion, in reality what looks like uniformity was only conformity and underneath its surface were many secret societies keeping their beliefs alive.

While various solutions might be found, many Templars may have done what their preceptor in Lorraine reputedly advised them to do, shave their beards, don secular garb, and assimilate themselves into the local populace.

— *From a message by Canadian Sovereign Grand Commander John V. Laver at Moore Sovereign Consistory, Hamilton, Ontario, 1992.*

Are We Getting Anywhere?

This question was asked two years ago by a man of high standing and acknowledged leadership. We quote:

"I wonder what sort of an impact the various degrees are making. Does it mean anything to have these large classes and a treasury surplus or is it a squirrel-cage of activity, very busy getting nowhere? In other words are the results commensurate with our efforts?"

There has been a lot of "squirrel-cage activity" due to the mass-production of 32° Masons in recent years, which meant financial salvation for many Valleys of the Rite, but we cannot measure the spiritual impact of our rituals upon our initiates. We have too much faith in human nature and in the finer impulses of men to believe that many, even in a large class, could witness our Scottish Rite degrees and remain unmoved. We have visited almost 60 Valleys, large and small, and have been impressed by the earnestness of the workers, and the close, interested attention paid to the work. Just how many of those who witness our degrees are influenced toward better and more useful lives, we do not know. We sow the seed, but God alone knows what the harvest will be in the minds and hearts of men.

— *From an editorial by McIllyar H. Lichliter, editor of the Supreme Council Newsletter, May 1950.*



Masonry's Timeless Allure

The genius of Masonry is that it understands the value of common experiences and symbols to the learning process and uses them to illustrate the principles of its philosophy. For example, all men have experienced the night and the day, the darkness and the light, and have associated them with ignorance and wisdom, with fear and confidence.

All men have observed materials in their rude and natural state and have seen them fashioned into useful implements. All men have had working tools in their own hands and have fitted them to their own use. All men have observed and experienced youth, manhood and age, and have been confronted with the fact of death. All men, in their own way, have set out on a quest to find some part of themselves, some essential spirit, that will never, never, never die.

Masons can be confident that Masonry will continue to speak in terms we understand, will make sense and ring true as long as it uses symbols which have lived in men's imaginations and have been a part of the common experience of all men since

the beginning of time. This is important to us.

If anyone asks you, "What is the attraction of Masonry anyway?" you can tell them this:

Masonry teaches men to treat each other, and indeed, to treat all men, with respect and dignity. Masonry asks men to place their trust in God, but leaves each man to find God in his own way.

Masonry is a philosophy that encourages men to find the best in themselves, and is a philosophy that a man can always be proud of. Masonry encourages men to be good citizens and to be active in serving their communities. Masonry has at its core a few simple ceremonies that exemplify its philosophy and ideals. Masonry illustrates its great lessons with symbols common to the experience of all men. You can tell them Masonry holds that we are individually responsible for our own actions. You can say, "These things are important to me." To a non-Mason you can add, "I bet they are to you, too."

— From an article by Wayne T. Adams in the fall 1996 issue of *The Maine Mason*.

Freemasons who shook up the country

A convention was held in Maryland in 1787 to try and solve maritime problems. From that convention, congress was convinced to let another convention be held, but only to discuss improvements to the Articles of Confederation. Anything else was taboo.

That's where we had fortunately a few men who determined to shake up the country. Among these 55 men were 14 Freemasons, 25 percent of the delegates. They decided they were going to develop a document that could stand the test of time; a document that would help the country grow.

Now, not all of these delegates made that determination immediately. The cries of anguish could probably be heard outside the building. "We cannot do that!" It exceeds our authority!"

Two New Yorkers left when it became apparent their authority was

going to be exceeded.

The bickering, the arguments, the compromises went on and on. The smallest points were argued for hours, even days, because they were first of all politicians. They weighed everything proposed to determine if it was "good for *my* state." They weren't about to go back home and be politically crucified.

James Madison has been given much credit as being the father of the Constitution, deservedly so. But we had a Freemason who should be called the "backbone of the Constitution." Edmund Randolph, Grand Master of Masons in Virginia and governor of the Commonwealth, presented and fought for the "Virginia Plan," the plan that became the basis for the Constitution.

— From an article by Allen E. Roberts in the Winter 1987 issue of the *Royal Arch Mason*.

Quick Quotes

Live so that your friends can defend you, but never have to.

Arnold Glasow

None of us has gotten where we are solely by pulling ourselves up from our own bootstraps. We got here because somebody bent down and helped us.

Thurgood Marshall

The minute you settle for less than you deserve, you get even less than you settled for.

Marlene Dowd

Constant kindness can accomplish much. As the sun makes ice melt, kindness causes misunderstanding, mistrust, and hostility to evaporate.

Albert Schweitzer

Let us not look back in anger or forward in fear, but around in awareness.

James Thurber

A happy person is not a person in a certain set of circumstances, but rather a person with a certain set of attitudes.

Hugh Downs

Chop your own wood, and it will warm you twice.

Henry Ford

While grief is fresh, every attempt to divert it only irritates.

Dr. Samuel Johnson

The greatest mistake you can make in life is to be continually fearing that you will make one.

Ellen Hubbard

We are all manufacturers. Making good, making trouble, or making excuses.

H.V. Adolt

Consider the postage stamp: its usefulness consists in the ability to stick to one thing till it gets there.

Josh Billings

Coping with crisis and career

Each year millions of Americans must carry on a job while their personal lives are in turmoil. The cause may be an illness, death in the family, divorce, fire, or natural disaster. So how do you maintain the balance between work and home during very difficult events?



Experts say:

- Give information on a need-to-know-basis. Tell your boss or those colleagues you interact with daily.
- Be ready to answer questions.
- Accept help if it is offered.
- Use work as a refuge.
- Get emotional support outside the workplace.
- When it's over, show your gratitude. Thank people for their help.

Clothes dryer tactics

Want to save on your electric bill? According to the Cheapskate Monthly, your clothes have most of their wrinkles and lint removed in the first few minutes in a clothes dryer.

If you take them out of the dryer while very damp and hang on hangers, they will look just fine. And you'll save most of the energy that would be used in drying them entirely. Other dryer tactics include:

- Use the cool-down cycle to allow clothes to finish drying without additional heat.
- Clean the lint filter after each load to improve air circulation.

Tuning out can ease aggression

Aggressive behavior can be decreased or actually "unlearned," a Stanford University study finds. If kids limit their use of TV, videos, and electronic games with violent content, their behavior improves.

After a six-month experiment, researchers report that children who reduced their TV time to seven hours a week and stuck to less-violent videos and games were half as likely as their peers to engage in poor playground behavior such as taunting and teasing.



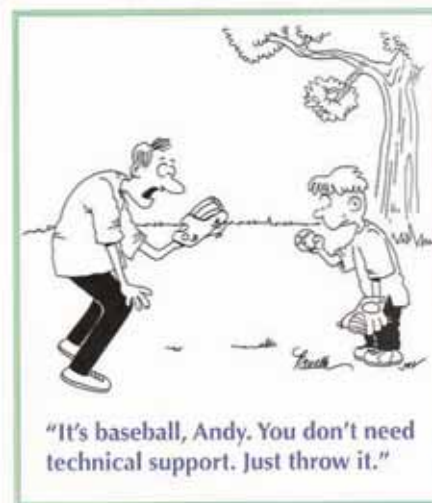
Cleaning reduces stress

Feeling a little stressed out? Psychologists at Washington & Jefferson College in Washington, PA, have some good advice for you: Clean your house.

It seems that vacuuming the living room, grouting your bathroom tile, or performing any task requiring repetitive motion can be a powerful soother. The rhythmic motions put you in a state of passive attention, say the doctors. The rhythm keeps you in the moment and focused on the task, not on your worries. Repetitive motions are also the basis of popular meditation techniques.

Savings bonds may yield no interest

About 55 million Americans own savings bonds, often purchased through payroll savings plans or received as gifts for newborn children. The value of savings bonds held by investors and earning zero interest is an estimated \$6 billion.



Last year, many 30-year and 40-year bonds ceased to draw interest. Those who own H or HH bonds aren't notified that they have reached maturity. It's up to bond holders to know.

If the expiration date is hard to discover, write to the Bureau of the Public Debt, PO Box 1328, Parkersburg, WV 26106. Or on the Web at www.publicdebt.treas.gov.

Argue openly, not in secret

Many parents make an effort to hide marital disagreements from their children. But academics at Cardiff University in Wales say their studies show that hiding the conflict could be harmful. Arguing in secret instead of openly caused children more stress because they picked up on the tensions anyway. Further, kids did not get a demonstration of how to solve problems through arguing.

Kids want fewer activities, more you

A nationwide study of kids in grades 3 through 12 found that what they wanted most was time with parents that was less rushed and stressed, says Ellen Galinsky, author of *Ask the Children* (Quill). What's more, they would like to spend some relaxing time hanging out with you. In her study, even teens, who often rebuff parents' attempts at closeness, wanted parents to keep trying.

Success at college

The results of Harvard Professor Richard J. Light's 10-year study of college success are somewhat surprising. In his book, *Making the Most of College: Students Speak Their Minds* (Harvard University Press), he concludes:

- Students want advice.
- Finding a mentor is important.
- Take the right courses. The happiest students take a mix of courses that include interesting small seminars.
- Time is the key. Studying in a long uninterrupted block is more effective than short bursts.
- Include extracurricular activities. Those involved in them are the happiest students on campus and tend to be the most successful in class.

Our Readers Respond

(continued from page 30)

Kinder and gentler

When we asked in the February issue for your opinion on the future direction for Freemasonry, Brother Charles K. Root, 32°, of Newport News, VA, responded with an unfortunate experience while attempting to "work his way" into a lodge. His letter provoked an unusually heavy reaction. Here is a sampling of the responses.

I was greatly disturbed by the letter from Charles Root not because he admitted to forgetting how to work his way in, but by the way he was treated by the examining committee. Due to that, he is now depriving himself of the biggest pleasure of Masonic membership, the association with other Brethren.

In nearly 50 years as a Mason I have been examined in lodges from California and Oregon to Florida and Maine, along with Canada, England, and Scotland. I have never been turned away yet, despite having to convince some Brethren that Massachusetts lodges really do not have numbers.

Visitors and examiners should remember that rituals and procedures differ between jurisdictions and should make allowances.

Donald S. Robinson, 32°
Charlton, MA

Just this year I received my 50-year pin. I moved my family to Tampa some 20 years ago. Nearly two or three years after I was "raised," I "worked my way" into a local lodge to see one of my co-workers be raised. I felt like Brother Root must have felt.

There should be a class to advise how to go to a different lodge. In the 20 years here, I have not yet gotten the urge to enter one of the many local lodges, even though I know many of my Southern Brothers.

John Wells, 32°
Tampa, FL

I am still four years short of my 50-year mark in the Blue Lodge.

I was in the Air Force when I had finally reached the qualifying age of 21 and was sent overseas to Japan before what was to be my mother lodge in New York could give me the degrees. A brief letter from the Lodge secretary

quickly and easily opened the doors to a lodge on an Air Force Base in Japan where they very kindly and efficiently took me through the degrees, and I was welcomed with open arms at the Square Club on my home base. When it came time for me to return home and be discharged, I found myself welcomed at lodges in three different states before I got back to New York.

A little less than 30 years ago I married and found myself living in a suburb of Philadelphia. I visited one of the lodges, was briefly examined, and welcomed.

I have since relocated to New Jersey. I visit several lodges near me here and am welcome always.

I'm sorry, Brother Root, I don't understand your difficulties.

Michael J. Millet, 32°
Englewood, NJ

I have made an effort to try to attend a lodge in any new town that I visit especially during my winter stay in Arizona. Never have I had to "work my way" into a lodge.

I have had to show my dues card and take the customary examination and/or test oath. This is to prevent anyone who may be a cowan or eavesdropper from gaining admission. Anyone can come in possession of a dues card unlawfully.

Is it possible that Bro. Root may have had difficulty remembering certain signs, tokens and words? If that is the case, may I suggest that he speak to one of the lodge officers and explain his situation. With an up-to-date dues card, I do believe he would find that the brothers will be more than willing to help him gain admission.

Then I hope he will return to Masonry and see what he has been missing.

Albert J. Lewis Sr., 32°
Wheaton, IL

I enjoyed and agreed with comments by Dave Umpton of Rochester, NY, and Charles Root of Newport News, VA. We need to practice the first of our tenets, brotherly love. Too often a new brother (or even a long-time Mason) is given the cold shoulder. It happens to me, but I learned long ago that when joining a group it is up to me to set the example with a smile and extended hand to all the Brethren. If I greet others, and introduce myself with a handshake and smile, the response is normally positive and usually with a smile back. I

could go on, but the practice of brotherly love is often missing in our lodges or other Masonic meetings.

We need more brotherly love when a visiting Brother (or seldom seen Brother) knocks on the door. Some states have a Rusty Mason night through which seldom-seen brethren are reoriented. But again, one must knock first. I hope Charles will change his mind.

Art Haglund, 33°
Spokane, WA

I too was raised in the 1960s while stationed in a foreign country. While traveling around the world for the next 20 years, I had drifted from the craft.

After my retirement from the U.S. Army, my family and I settled in central Pennsylvania. One Sunday morning after church, a brother asked me if I would like to visit his lodge. After an absence of 34 years from the lodge, I too was very anxious about "working my way into the lodge."

After a considerable amount of time going over the important ceremonies I had participated in so many years ago, I was ready. After only a few visits, may I say now how grateful I am for those words, "Would you like to visit my lodge?"

As a life member in my Blue Lodge and Scottish Rite, I would like to say it is necessary that the proper questions be asked and answers be given to insure that "all present are Master Masons."

James E. Frye, 32°
Harrisburg, PA

I am truly sorry that Brother Root experienced such poor manners from some lodges he visited. I've been in many lodges across this country and in Izmir, Turkey. Never have I had any problem getting into their meetings. Yes, I was asked questions. Never did I ever have to "work my way" into a lodge. I don't think it's proper to make the investigation difficult.

I believe that when visiting other lodges, the investigation should be a simple check of the dues card; make sure the visitor knows the step, sign and word of each degree, and the Tyler's oath. The visitor also has the right to see the dues cards of those investigating him. It would be a great gesture for the investigating team to offer their dues card up front to break the ice.

Patric W. Gould, 32°
Xenia, OH

Our Readers Respond

A giving Mason overlooked

Your article on S.M.D. ("Offering A Community Service," May 01) was well done and I received many favorable comments. However, in the course of our interview, I neglected to mention a Mason who was extremely influential in the program. I failed to emphasize the importance of Andrew C. Maninos who held S.M.D. together after the death of Richard Hastings. Without Andrew, there would be no S.M.D.

It was through his efforts and the generosity of the Malden Masonic Association that we have the continuing expanding space with free heat, light and telephone.

In fact, both Andy and his wife Ellie have been more than patient in courteously handling phone calls during the week for S.M.D.

Andy has been instrumental either directly or indirectly in obtaining more than a quarter of our total donations and he has set up an endowment fund for the future of S.M.D.

I would sincerely like to thank Andy and apologize for my error.
Harold E. Mew, 32°
Reading, MA

One-day Masons still devoted

I had the good fortune of becoming a 32° Master Mason at the one-day class held on Nov. 18, 2000, in Indianapolis.

To date, the new Master Masons attend meetings on a regular basis. Of the five one-day wonders, four were elected to chairs. We take time to learn our degree and chair work with our mentors. We are also dedicated to bringing younger, active men into the light of Masonry. The lodge appears to have taken on a renewed feeling and our future is looking brighter.

If Masonry is to survive, meet on the level. Stretch forth a hand and accept changes. Hopefully, you might be surprised and the Light will become brighter for all of us.

Andy Miller, 32°
Anderson, IL

Bush presidents not Masons

In your short item about President Bush not being sworn in on Washington's Masonic Bible ("Footnotes," May 01), you did not mention if either one of the Presidents Bush were Masons. I am sure if they were, you would have mentioned it. Why would they both want to be sworn in on Washington's Masonic Bible?

George Metzger, 32°
Warminster, PA

Editor's note: Neither Bush is a Mason. It was not the fact that the Bible was used by a Masonic lodge but that it was the one used by George Washington that was the attraction. The significance of the elder Bush using the Bible in 1989 was due to the 200th anniversary of Washington's first inauguration in 1789.

(continued on page 29)

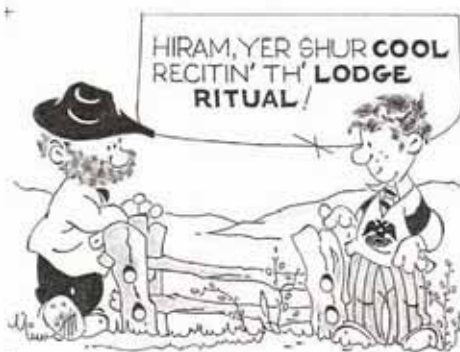
On the Lighter Side

Murphy's laws of summer driving

- No matter where you park your car, the sun will be shining on the driver's seat when you return.
- There is always room to merge behind a diesel bus.
- Your car horn will get stuck when you drive behind a group of Hell's Angels.
- If all the cars are coming your way, you're on a one-way street (driving the wrong way).
- If you try to change lanes to get off the ramp, the car in the lane to your right will speed up.
- Trucks that overturn on the highway are always filled with something sticky.
- When you move to the next lane because it's going faster, it becomes the slowest lane.
- The guy with a bumper sticker that says "If you can read this, you're too close" always tail-gates.
- The first bug to land on your windshield will spatter right in front of your eyes.
- When you leave the proper distance between you and the car ahead, someone will try to move into it.
- Your car will not malfunction in the presence of a mechanic.

HIRAM™

By WALLY MILLER



Footnotes*

* *Millennium video honored.*

The special millennium video, produced for last year's April 29 jurisdiction-wide event, has been honored with the Telly Award. The recognition is a tribute not only to the Scottish Rite Supreme Council but also the film's producer, Communications for Learning.

The Telly Awards were founded in 1980 to showcase and give recognition to outstanding non-network and cable TV commercials. The competition was expanded several years ago to include film and video productions as well as non-network TV programming.

Among recent winners have been Touchstone Pictures, Miramax Films, Macy's, Discovery Channel, Learning Channel, San Diego Zoo, Proctor & Gamble, Eastman Kodak, Microsoft, IBM, US Air Force, US Navy, Texaco, Census Bureau, Spalding Sports, and Ronald McDonald House.

Earning Telly recognition is a significant creative achievement. The Supreme Council will receive a certificate and statuette. We are pleased to share this honor with Jonathan Barkan and his firm, Communications for Learning. It was through his efforts that the video was such a success.

* *DeMolay contribution.*

Many Masonic-related organizations have made contributions to our Scottish Rite Masonic charities over the years, but a recent donation from a Pennsylvania DeMolay Chapter deserves a special note. The chapter at Elizabethtown has donated \$3,300 to the 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children. The money was raised at a DeMolay-sponsored spaghetti dinner.

The dinner was the seventh annual charity dinner held by the DeMolay chapter. The first five years the funds went to the Shriners Hospitals for Children. In 2000 and 2001 the funds are earmarked for the Scottish Rite Learning Centers. During the seven years, the Elizabethtown DeMolay Chapter has contributed over \$10,000 to these Masonic-related charities. Plans are already under way for the eighth annual dinner next March.

* *Four Brothers.* In what must be a rare occurrence, four brothers were members of the spring class at the Scottish Rite Valley of Indianapolis. Matt, Ben, Jere and Jon Elrod are all members of Century Lodge No. 764, Indianapolis. They are the sons of Beverly and Ill. Robert G. Elrod, 33°, an Active Member of the Supreme Council and the current Master of Century Lodge. Ill. Brother Elrod, a past presiding officer of the Lodge of Perfection, obligated his sons at the altar on the 14°.

Both grandfathers of the Elrod sons were Masons as well as two of their great grandfathers and at least one of their great, great grandfathers.

Matt, 29, is a retail department manager. Ben, 25, is a project manager for a computer consulting firm. Jere, 23, is a premium accounts specialist. Jon, 23, is a second-year law student at Indiana University School of Law.

* *Citation at last.* Brother George McAvoy, 33°, a member of the Valley of Lancaster-Littleton, NH, has finally been recognized for an accomplishment that happened 57 years ago. He and his military unit, the 9th Armored Division, have been awarded a Presidential Unit Citation for extraordinary heroism and gallantry in combat for their efforts during the early stage of the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944.

Brother McAvoy, now in his early 80s, was a 24-year-old sergeant stationed near the German border when Hitler's troops encountered McAvoy's division. Apparently the details were not reported at the time because the units were on a military secret mission and there were no war correspondents present. Recent research shows that the division played a major role in thwarting Hitler's attempts. Heavily outnumbered, the division was able to stop every German attack for six days.

For years, Brother McAvoy has tried to get the Pentagon to recognize the valor. The US Army finally approved the award in June after the two US Senators from New Hampshire intervened on his behalf.

* *Final float has passed.* For the past ten years, a special committee headed by California Past Grand Master Stanley L. Channon has been responsible for a Masonic float in the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade. The float has been viewed not only by the thousands of spectators along the parade route but also by those watching the parade on the major television networks. The float has appeared under the designation, "the Family of Freemasonry."

Unfortunately there will be no float in 2002. The cost to produce the float has far exceeded the financial contributions, and the committee determined that the program must come to an end. If other sources become available, then the idea of a Masonic float may resume in the future.

* *What's the secret?* Some years ago four members of Mifflinburg Lodge No. 370 (Pennsylvania) would meet at the Scarlet "D" Hotel in Mifflinburg to discuss and plan Masonic activities. They usually met for breakfast and at times other members who had something to contribute would join them.

That was the beginning of what became known as the Retired Masons' Breakfast, which has met weekly for nearly 20 years. Today both Masons and non-Masons from a wide area attend, and ladies are invited on the first Tuesday of each month. Attendance averages 30-40 and has been known to exceed 100.

Originally part of the fascination was the meeting place, an historic old hotel. It is now closed, and breakfast is at the Carriage Corner Restaurant, but attendance continues to rise.

What's the secret of its success? According to the members, it is totally informal. There are no dues, no officers, no bureaucracy. And as one member stated, "It represents Masonry as intended — sharing brotherly love and affection without protocol."



RICHARD H. CURTIS, 33°
Editor

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Expanding Masonic Homes

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