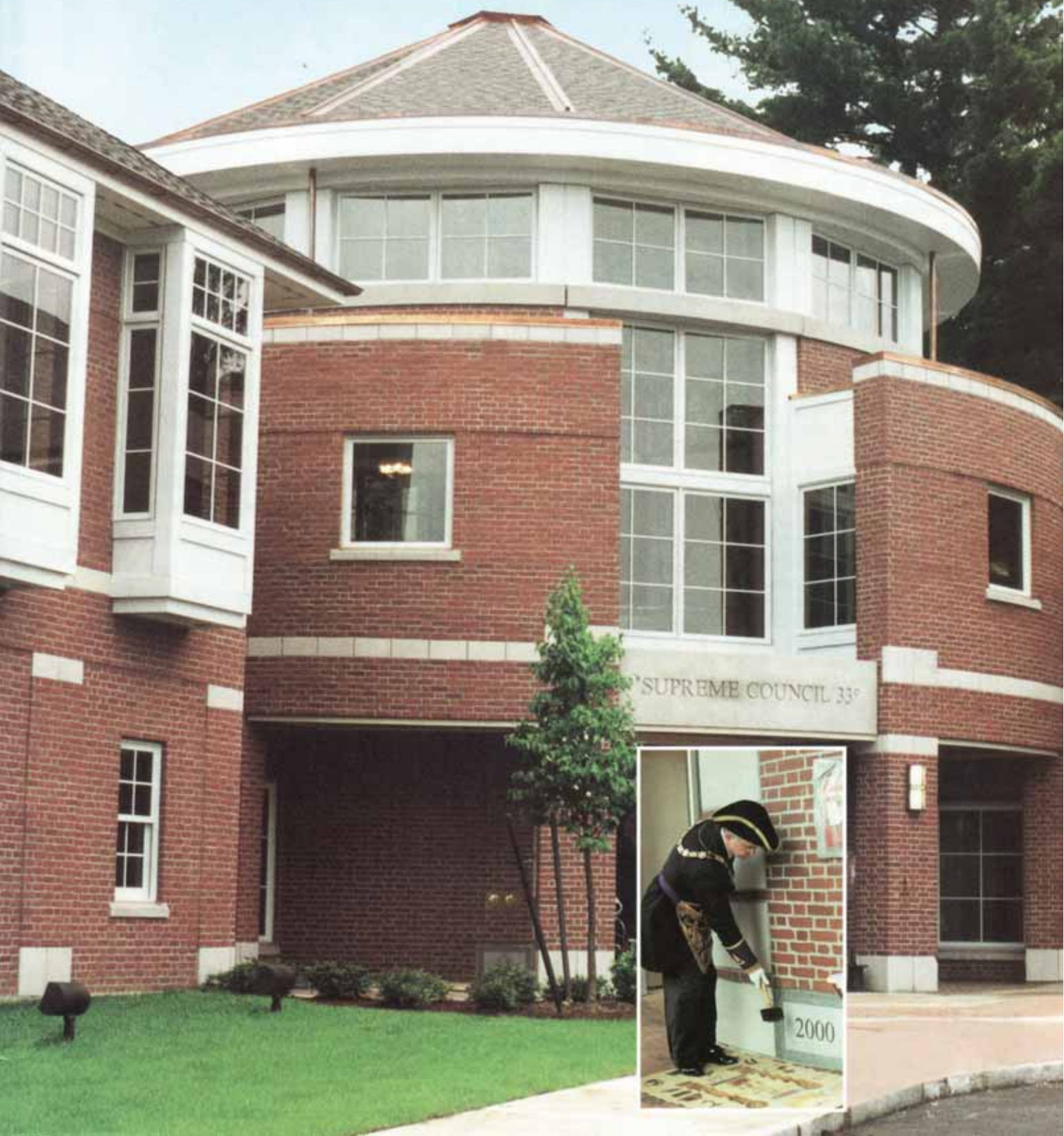


# THE NORTHERN LIGHT

Volume 31 No. 3  
AUGUST 2000

A WINDOW FOR FREEMASONRY





## 2000 — A Year to Remember



**Robert O. Ralston, 33°**  
Sovereign Grand  
Commander

"We must  
continue to  
set our  
sights high  
for the new  
millennium."

What a thrill it was to see so many families take advantage of a beautiful day to visit the grounds of the Supreme Council headquarters in Lexington on July 29.

The original idea for a Family Day stemmed from a meeting of the Millennium 2000 Committee. The members of the committee wanted to set aside a time when Masons from throughout the jurisdiction could bring their families to the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum of Our National Heritage and enjoy a special day filled with activities.

The committee asked Ill. C. William Lakso, 33°, Active Member for Massachusetts, to coordinate the day's events by using the expertise of the Scottish Rite Valley of Boston. That Valley had previously held picnics on the grounds and put its past experience to good use.

The detailed planning by an enthusiastic local committee reaped dividends. They seemed to cross every "t" and dot every "i" as the program of the day rolled along without a hitch.

Buses streamed into the grounds from various parts of the jurisdiction, and everyone seemed to enjoy the many activities that had been scheduled throughout the day.

The museum staff was put to the test, but they were well-prepared to handle the visitors who took advantage of the many exhibitions on display and the

special events throughout the facility.

As a past presiding officer in the Valley of Cincinnati, I was particularly pleased to hear the glowing comments about the performances of the Cincinnati Scottish Rite Choir.

Those in attendance also had an opportunity to tour the new addition to the Supreme Council headquarters. The major event in the morning was the cornerstone-laying ceremony performed by the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. He was assisted by a representative from each of the 15 Grand Lodges within the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction.

The Millennium 2000 Committee deserves accolades for developing and following through with a series of programs that have set the tone for a new era. The dates of April 29, with our jurisdiction-wide class and millennium film, and July 29, with the Family Day, will leave a lasting impression.

We must continue to set our sites high as we open a new millennium. Let us maintain a standard of excellence as a symbol of 32° Freemasonry. That should be the goal not only for our Supreme Council and Valley officers but also for every member of the Rite.

Sovereign Grand Commander





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SUPREME COUNCIL, 33°  
Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite  
Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, U.S.A.  
SOVEREIGN GRAND COMMANDER  
Robert O. Ralston, 33°

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# Family Day 2000

*Thousands enjoy ceremony and picnic  
at Lexington headquarters*

Families began to arrive early for a day of fun at the Supreme Council headquarters in Lexington, MA. Buses rolled in from various parts of the jurisdiction. And a crowd estimated at more than 3,000 spread out over the 22-acres with near-perfect weather.

In the morning the gathering witnessed a cornerstone-laying ceremony for the headquarters addition performed by the officers of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, under the direction of Grand Master Fred K. Bauer, 33°.

A representative from each of the 15 states in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction was invited to assist.

Ill. J. Philip Berquist, 33°, an Active Member for Massachusetts and a Past Grand Master, opened with an explanation of the ceremony and some historical background.

Introduced at the conclusion of the ceremony were Ill. Robert E. Hansen, 33°, Scottish Rite Deputy for



Corn, wine and oil were poured upon the carpet during the cornerstone-laying ceremony for the headquarters building. Candles were placed at the edge of the carpet.

New Hampshire and chairman of the building committee; Joseph A. Berlandi, 32°, executive director for the 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children and Supreme Council supervisor for the project, and representatives from the architectural firm and general contractor for the construction.

Sovereign Grand Commander Robert O. Ralston, 33°, recognized Lexington resident Sara Chase, historic preservation consultant, who had

researched the history of the original mansion built in 1905 for Richard G. Tower as well as the Frederick Law Olmsted evaluation of a landscape proposal on the original property.

Ill. C. William Lakso, 33°, Active Member for Massachusetts, arranged the details for the cornerstone-laying ceremony and coordinated the day's events with a committee from the Valley of Boston.



The event opened with a color guard from the U.S. Marine Corps.

Grand Commander Ralston thanked those who played a role in the planning and implementation of the new building.







III. Brother Berquist provided a history and explanation of the ceremony that has been performed by Freemasons for centuries.



Representatives from each of the 15 states assisted Massachusetts Grand Master Fred K. Bauer.



Volunteers from the Valley of Boston worked the grills under the supervision of professional caterer Stewart R. Holbrook, 32°.

(Left) There was plenty of space for families that brought blankets and lawn chairs. (Right) Shrine clowns entertained the crowd throughout the day.



## Cornerstone Participants

### Grand Masters

Maine  
New Hampshire  
Vermont  
Massachusetts  
Rhode Island  
Connecticut  
New Jersey  
Delaware  
Illinois

Wayne T. Adams  
Jeremy J. Sawyer  
Earl J. Washburn  
Fred K. Bauer  
Benjamin A. Phillips  
Leonard F. D'Amico  
Ferris O. Tryon  
William T. Wadkins Jr.  
J. Garrie Burr

### Representatives

New York  
Pennsylvania  
Ohio  
Michigan  
Indiana  
Wisconsin

Bruce W. Widger, *Past Grand Master*  
C. DeForrest Trexler, *Scottish Rite Deputy*  
Jack L. Allen, *Deputy Grand Master*  
Robert W. Stevens, *Past Grand Master*  
Bill C. Anthis, *Scottish Rite Deputy*  
Kingman D. Loomis, *Past Grand Master*



## Valley of Boston Hosts Picnic

It took a lot of hands to make the July 29 Family Day a success, and an experienced committee from the Scottish Rite Valley of Boston put it all together. Similar events on a smaller scale had been run by the Valley in recent years, but this jurisdictional event was the largest yet.

Giant tents had been set up in the parking lot to provide space for food service and picnic seating for more than 800. Many brought blankets and lawn chairs to spread out on the grounds.

A committee headed by W. Jack Bennett, 32°, prepared the picnic for more than 3,000 people and planned special events on the grounds.



A bagpipe band (above) and the Lexington Minute Men (below) paraded through the grounds.

During a break in the action, several members of the local militia learn to eat modern-day hamburgers.



The children enjoyed the amusement rides on the lawn.







A wide range of antique autos were on display.

A scavenger hunt required children to find people holding special balloons. The children would get the balloon holder to stamp a card, and

when the card was filled out, a prize was awarded. An area was set aside for several amusement rides for younger children.



Museum visitors tested their skill at writing with quill pens. The table in the foyer attracted both young and old.

During the afternoon there were occasional demonstrations by the Lexington Minute Men and a bagpipe band. A barbershop quartet roamed the grounds and the buildings serenading the guests.

The Aleppo Shrine Band performed in the morning and the Aleppo Clowns entertained throughout the day. The Aleppo Provost Guard assisted with traffic control.

The Scottish Rite Masonic Museum of Our National Heritage, also situated on the 22-acre site, is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. The visitors were treated to several special displays as well as the regular exhibitions.

Mounted on the walls of the museum foyer were portraits of some of the Past Sovereign Grand Commanders. On display in the library were historic Scottish Rite documents, including the 1767 Francken patent to the Lodge of Perfection in Albany.

Also in the foyer was a table for visitors to test their skill at using a quill pen and experimenting with colonial games.

In the auditorium were concerts by the Cincinnati Scottish Rite Choir and a performance by the "New" New Orleans Jazz Band. The millennium video, prepared for the April 29 jurisdiction-wide class, was shown hourly in the Farr Conference Room.



The Valley of Chicago was well-represented at the event. Shown here are the four presiding officers, the Executive Secretary, and an Active Member from Illinois. They are (front) Claude J. Bird III, 32°, Thrice Potent Master; Lawrence D. Inglis, 33°, Active Member. (rear) Richard R. Salsbury, 32°, Sovereign Prince; Charles W. Rabishaw, 32°, Commander-in-Chief; Gregory R. Klemm, 33°, Executive Secretary; John R. Lucas, 32°, Most Wise Master.



# New Initiatives at the Museum

By JANE SCHWERTFEGER

*How can the Museum better serve you?*

The Scottish Rite Masonic Museum of Our National Heritage is 25 years old this year, and this anniversary brings with it a new excitement and energy.

As we reflect on how we have grown, we look forward to see what more we can do to extend our service not only to the visitors who come to the museum, but also to the Scottish Rite throughout the Northern Jurisdiction.

It may be difficult, however, for some members to have an idea of how the museum can be meaningful to you on a personal level. With the advent of a new and dynamic director, John Ott, the museum staff is prepared to find out how we can better serve all the members in the Northern Jurisdiction.

While we know from written comments that our 69,000 annual visitors have had a positive museum experience here, we have not asked recently how we can reach out to the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction. The museum would like to know what we might be able to offer in terms of programs, information, services and more.

After 25 years of growth, the museum is now at a turning point. We have the opportunity to be more connected to those who support the museum. We would like to raise the level of awareness of the museum and its resources to the Valleys, but the way in which we undertake this task is open

to possibility. We need your help in determining what might be interesting and useful to you.

Recently, our director visited the Valleys of Milwaukee and Eau Claire in Wisconsin to discuss how the museum staff might better serve the brothers. He received many insightful comments on how the museum might work more closely with the Valleys.

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*"I was very excited by the fact that the brothers were so interested in bringing aspects of the museum to Wisconsin."*

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*Museum Director John Ott*

Some of the suggestions included connecting the museum and its programs and exhibitions to the Valleys using the Masonic Web site, offering technical services assistance to lodge libraries, and providing educational materials and videos about some of our most popular exhibits.

Upon his return from Wisconsin, Ott said, "I was very excited by the fact that the brothers were so interested in bringing aspects of the museum to Wisconsin. There was great interest in sharing our collective resources so that the museum and staff can be more connected to all the Valleys in the Northern Jurisdiction."

There are many other potential ways the museum can reach out to Valleys. For example, if many Masons

and their families find it difficult to travel to the museum in Massachusetts, we could devise ways for the exhibitions to come to you.

The museum's exhibitions focus on all aspects of American history and culture, from the history of Freemasonry in America, to objects left at the Vietnam War Memorial, to a look at the enduring legacy of George Washington.

Staff involved in the creation of these shows might be able to visit your Valley and present an illustrated lecture about the exhibition and the topic.

Another way for you to experience the exhibition in your town or city could be through a video highlighting important objects and compelling stories in the exhibition. The museum is currently in the process of developing a video that takes viewers through our popular "George Washington: American Symbol" show. It is hosted by a nationally known scholar who specializes in Washington's place as an icon in American art. If the fraternity in the Valleys enjoys this video, more could be made featuring future exhibitions.

In addition, a traveling exhibition was created by the museum on a collection of American quilts from the 19th century, "Covered By the Stars: Quilts from the James Collection," which toured Muncie, Indiana, Chicago, Illinois, and Muscatine, Iowa, in 1997 and 1998. The exhibit illustrated examples of two types of quilts: one with star patterns and one with red and green applique designs.

Elaine Ermolovich, curator of school programs at the museum, reflected on the exhibit's beauty and breadth. "The thing that amazed me so much about 'Covered By the Stars' was the appeal the exhibition had for women and men, families and stu-



JANE SCHWERTFEGER, is director of education and public programs at the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum of Our National Heritage, Lexington, MA.



dents; everyone could appreciate either the skill in craftsmanship, the beauty of the designs, or how the quilts reflected our past history."

While there are no current plans to create other traveling exhibitions, if museums or universities near the Valleys were interested in hosting an exhibition on a particular topic, it could be possible to develop one.

Museum staff could also be available to travel to different Valleys and offer lectures on a number of topics. Topics might include a behind-the-scenes look at the museum and its exhibitions, programs, and collections, or how to care for and preserve objects in Masonic collections, or how to preserve treasured family heirlooms, such as letters and photographs for future generations. Staff could also discuss the museum's collections of Masonic objects and the library's collection of Masonic books and documents.

Many visitors have already experienced the museum from afar through programs that reach a national audience. For many years, the Lowell Institute has funded a lecture series that complements a current exhibition. Last year, the lecture series that accompanied "George Washington: American Symbol," was given an extended audience through the Cambridge Forum, an organization which recorded specific lectures and aired them on National Public Radio.

One California listener wrote to the Forum asking for a transcript of the lecture, "Washington's Visionary Farewell." He wrote, "I'm a high school teacher and the lecture would fit nicely into the lesson plan I'm developing. The lecture was excellent; thank you for your service."

This fall, you can find the Cam-



A colonial reenactor describes the events of April 19, 1775, as part of the "Lexington Alarm'd" exhibit.

bridge Forum schedule on its Web site at [www.cambridgeforum.org](http://www.cambridgeforum.org).

Through collaborations such as these, the museum is able to reach people all over the United States.

The museum can also provide advice and suggestions about education program planning, collections care and development, or exhibitions via e-mail or by telephone. For example, if a Mason in Pennsylvania requested information on Masonic materials in the museum collection or in the library archives relating to his area of interest, staff at the museum can help him find the answer.

Staff in the museum's Van Gorden-Williams library can advise on how to preserve important Masonic documents from the past, or offer suggestions for understanding historic Masonic materials in a lodge. The education department staff can also suggest speakers for a program in your Valley, or develop a special tour for a

group who wishes to visit the museum.

Since many school systems across our Jurisdiction cover the Revolutionary War as part of their curriculum, the museum may be able to make appropriate material and lesson plans available to a wider audience.

Almost 5,000 students annually are learning about American history through school visits to the museum. To help these students become interested in our history, the education department is currently undertaking

research on the people who lived in Lexington and fought in the first battle of the Revolutionary War in 1775. We plan to use this research to augment our popular exhibition "Lexington Alarm'd," which looks at what life was like on the eve of the Revolutionary War.

In addition, we plan to use the information to enrich the teaching materials we offer to teachers. If teachers in your area might find it interesting and useful, the material could be disseminated to local schools in your Valleys. If Masons from local Valleys were interested, they could help distribute these lesson plans to their area schools.

The Masonic goals of reaching out and educating and inspiring the public about American history could be fulfilled in part by such an endeavor.

The museum staff welcomes your thoughts and ideas for programs, resources, or information we can offer you. We are looking for your help and assistance in finding ways we can better serve you. We are open to possibilities, and happy to explore ideas. While specific initiatives for outreach to both Masonic and non-Masonic audiences are still in the planning stages, we need to hear from you.

If you would like more information about the museum or want to offer suggestions about how the museum staff can reach out to you, please contact Jane Schwerdtfeger, Museum of Our National Heritage, PO Box 519, Lexington, MA 02420. Phone 781-861-6559, ext. 107. E-mail address [janes@monh.org](mailto:janes@monh.org).

## Museum has worldwide appeal

The museum attracts visitors from all over the world. In the course of a year, the museum hosted visitors from more than 20 countries, including the Philippines, Japan, England, Denmark, Canada, Germany, Norway, Italy, Israel, Brazil, Austria, Jamaica, China and Ireland. Of the 69,800 visitors last year, people came to the museum from Maine to California, and most states in between, including Alaska and Hawaii. One page from the visitor guest book reflects the appeal the museum has to diverse groups of people; in one week, visitors came here from Australia, Michigan, Arizona, Kentucky, Rhode Island, Washington state, Spain, Oklahoma, North Carolina and New Jersey.



# Maine Lodge Builds Bus Shelters

*Keeping kids safe and dry, Masons provide for their community*

Thanks to the efforts of local Masons, children waiting for the school bus in Kennebunk won't have to stand out in the Maine weather anymore.

As part of the lodge's commitment to its community, the members of York Lodge No. 22 have built five wooden bus shelters and placed them along the town's school bus routes. One additional shelter awaits completion, to make a total of six shelters built in the last year.

Randy Burleigh, Past Master of the Masonic lodge in West Kennebunk and the man who initiated the idea of building the shelters, said he drove by a shelter in another town one day and got the idea that his community could use some as well.

"We're always trying to help in the community, to do something different," he said.

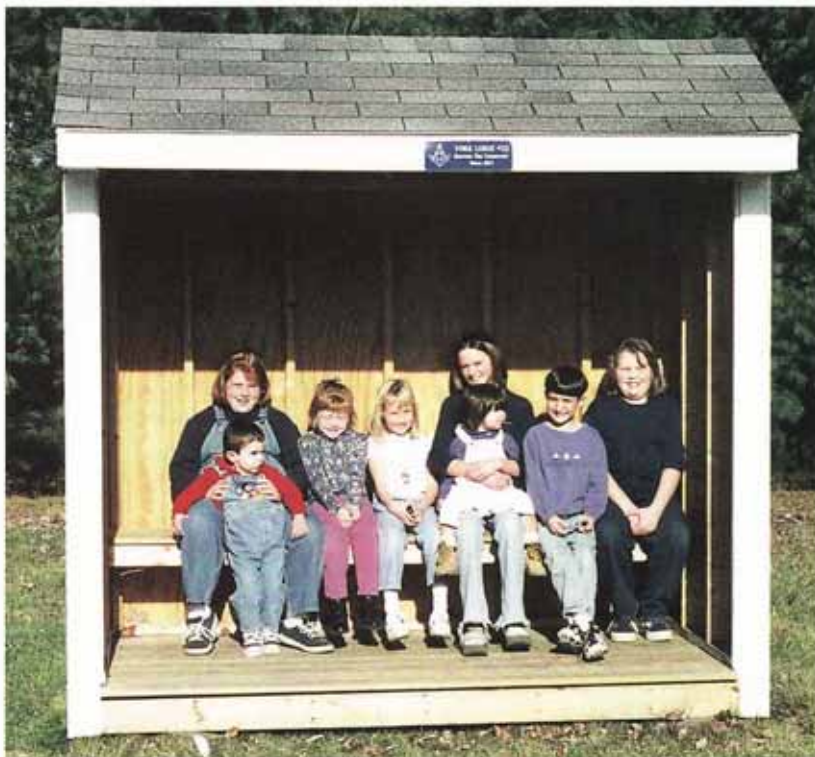
Maine Grand Master Wayne Adams said the lodge's efforts are a perfect example of local Masonic charity.

"I think it's a great idea; it's a great public service," he said.

***"We're always trying to help in the community, to do something different."***

***— Randy Burleigh***

There are six schools in the local district with a total enrollment of 2,500 students. The director of transportation for the school department, Dan LeMar, said he was happy the Masons were putting up shelters.



**Maine school children try out one of the shelters built by members of the York Masonic Lodge No. 22.**

"It's an excellent thing for (the school system)," he said.

Burleigh, a Mason for eight years, said building the shelters is putting the principles of Masonry into practice.

"As far as the tenets of Masonry, that's it right there," he said. "Brotherly love, relief, and truth."

The shelters were funded through a Masonic statewide grant program for charitable purposes and the fund-raising efforts of the lodge.

"We have had yard sales, bean suppers, raffles, and special dinners to raise money to support the project," said Greg Pargellis, one of the Masons

involved in the project.

The Maine Grand Lodge Community Betterment fund, a matching grant program that appropriates up to \$500 per project, made it possible for the Masons to stretch their building dollar.

The cost of each shelter is around \$500, and with the matching funds, the Lodge could make its money go twice as far.

"The matching fund allows us to buy (materials for) two at a time, for the price of one," said Burleigh.

According to Burleigh, residents of one housing development had seen the shelters in other areas and wanted one for their own neighborhood children.

"They gave us a call, and they



wanted it built right away, but we did not have funding for it," Burleigh said. "So they took up a collection and gave us \$540 for materials."

"We love being able to help out," said Pargellis. "It's great to see the looks on people's faces when it's in place and the bus stops for the first time."

Pargellis went before the town to get clearance for the structures. Since the shelters are temporary, there was no problem getting approval, because they were not subject to the usual building codes, he said.

"As long as the property owner or the development's association agrees

to the placement of the shelter, there shouldn't be a problem. And so far there hasn't been one," he said.

It takes about ten Masons and an afternoon to build a shelter, which measures about 8 feet long by 4 feet wide and is 7 to 8 feet tall. More than 30 local brothers contributed to the effort, as well as non-members, Burleigh said.

"We used it for a fellowship event, and a couple of non-Masons helped out," he said. "Then they became Masons because of it."


The shelters are placed at strategic points throughout the community.

"We have tried to place shelters

where there are many kids in one spot, so obviously, developments or long roads and intersections were the main targets," said Pargellis. "I even went to the school bus barn and asked the drivers where the most kids were."

The Masons plan to continue the project for as long as there is a need.

"There are a lot of kids in the Kennebunk school system, so we could possibly do this forever," said Pargellis. "If a Brother notices a group of kids waiting, he usually lets us know and another one is added to the list."

According to Burleigh, there are about a dozen more spots needing shelters on the waiting list. 

## DeMolay heads for another grand slam with World Series membership drive

DeMolay International experienced dramatic growth in membership through its recent March to 3000 program. The most ambitious, wide-ranging membership program to date resulted in a 45 percent increase in new DeMolay members over the same period in 1999. Overall, DeMolay International year-to-date membership is up 16 percent.

And DeMolay is not stopping there. The International DeMolay Congress and the DeMolay International Supreme Council is launching the next generation membership program: The World Series of Membership.

"We are seeing a record number of chapters participating in these types of programs," said Ben Johnson, executive director.

The World Series of Membership focuses on local chapters having their own induction ceremonies during October 2000. The goal is to induct 4,000 new DeMolay members in one month. The program will be led by International Master Councilor Bryan Langston and International Congress Secretary Edward Taylor Jr.

Chapters may register for the program through DeMolay International by mail, telephone, fax, or e-mail. However, the easiest way to register is through the DeMolay Web site: [www.demolay.org](http://www.demolay.org).

Similar to the March to 3000 program, a chapter selects a date in October to have its induction and decides on a membership pledge (with a minimum pledge of five) as their goal for October. Registration opened Aug. 1.



"This program is terrific because it teams chapters from all over as one, working towards a common goal," said Langston.

Chapters will have to hurry to reserve the date. Each day in October is open for registration until the total number of members pledged on that day reaches 100. Once the pledge total reaches 100, that day closes and chapters must register for another day.

All chapters that have registered on a common day will form a mem-

bership team. Chapters then communicate with other chapters on their team from across the country and around the world.

The teams of chapters work together to insure that their registration day reaches their goal.

Chapters then hold their induction ceremonies in October and submit the new member registration forms to DeMolay International by Nov. 15. At that time, DeMolay will determine the winners of the World Series.

Each chapter that reaches its goal will be an all-star chapter.

All chapters who are registered on a day in October that reaches its total goal will receive a division-winning pennant.

The winner of the World Series of Membership will be won on the day in October that inducts the most members into DeMolay. Each chapter registered and inducting members on that day will receive a commemorative DeMolay Championship Pennant.

The jurisdiction with the most members inducted as a part of the program wins a special prize being announced on Aug. 15 exclusively at [www.demolay.org](http://www.demolay.org).

"With the record number of home runs this year in baseball, we hope that our chapters swing for the fences as well," said Taylor.





## 32° MASONIC LEARNING CENTERS FOR CHILDREN

# Helping students conquer reading

No one knows the benefits of Orton-Gillingham tutoring for dyslexics more than 10-year-old Nick and his mom Sharon. Nick was one of the first students enrolled at the Valley of Columbus 32° Masonic Learning Center for Children in Dublin, Ohio, when it opened almost a year ago.

"We had been searching for two years to find the Orton-Gillingham method, because the (public) school didn't offer it," Sharon said. "I was hitting my head against the wall to find something."

She said the center staff's expertise in dealing with dyslexia was a tremendous relief, not only for Nick, but also for the rest of the family.

"It made an amazing difference in our lives to have them understand the problem," she said. "It was like, finally someone understands the life we've been leading. Someone understands that he just wasn't getting things."

The center adamantly supports the belief that dyslexic children are bright and can be successful if just given the tools to read, Sharon said.

"The center realizes these kids will have the ability to do anything they want and without reading, that can all be taken away," she said. "As a parent, it opens up all the dreams you have for your child. It is such a relief to know that all of that is there for your kid."

Sharon said Nick's self-esteem and confidence have increased as a direct result of the tutoring he has received at the center. She said he feels on a level playing field with his peers for the first time in his academic life.

"It made a big difference for him. He feels real positive about it, and feels competent in what he is doing," she said. "When your child wants to read versus fighting with him to read, it makes an amazing difference."



**Anthony, a Chicago student, has experienced dramatic improvement since attending a 32° Masonic Learning Center for Children.**

"Anyone who has donated the money and worked to open the centers has done some wonderful things for families and their communities," Sharon continued. "They have opened up doors, and lives, and possibilities."

The list of operating 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children continues to grow as four more centers across the jurisdiction celebrate grand openings.

### Columbus

More than 150 people attended the Columbus grand opening held May 7 at the Valley Office Complex. Sovereign Grand Commander Robert O. Ralston, 33°, led the dedication. Richard J. Luckay, 32°, served as Master of Ceremonies. Ill. Jim S. Deyo, Active Member for Ohio, welcomed and introduced honored guests.

Center Director Karen Bradford, one of four Ohio fellows of the Academy of Orton-Gillingham practition-

ers and educators, gave a presentation about the Learning Center and then Sharon and Nick offered their testimony of the benefits of the program.

The center in Dublin has 13 students and eight tutors, and in July participated in its first fundraising event, a walkathon called the Human Race.

### Bloomsburg

The formal dedication of The Valley of Bloomsburg Learning Center was held April 7. Commander Ralston attended, as well as Scottish Rite Deputy C. DeForrest Trexler, 33°, and Pennsylvania Grand Master Robert L. Dlugie Jr., 33°.

"We are presently operating at full training capacity with a substantial student waiting list," said Center Director Cathy Clements. "The support shown this center by all concerned has been and continues to be phenomenal."

The Bloomsburg operation has 11 students enrolled, with eight on a

### LEARNING CENTERS GROW

**26** Centers operational

**6** Centers ready to open later this year

**595** Students served in summer term

**23** Average number of students per center

**700** Potential number of students to be served next year



waiting list. The center opened in July 1999.

Clements said she has seen the effectiveness of the Orton-Gillingham method of tutoring demonstrated in the success of her students. She remembers especially two high school students, one who had been in special needs classes since the fifth grade, who blossomed from being in the program.

"These two have just grown by leaps and bounds," she said. "One of them said to me, 'Why didn't anyone teach me this sooner?' It brings tears to my eyes."

These success stories are just the beginning of the impact the 32° Masonic Learning Centers will have on the many people who need help, Clements said.

"There's now hope out there for a lot of people, and there is plenty of need," she said.

### Chicago

The Valley of Chicago dedicated its 32° Masonic Learning Center for Children on June 11, on the campus of the Illinois Masonic Children's Home. The ceremony was presided over by Ill. Lawrence D. Inglis, 33°, Grand

***"Anyone who has donated the money and worked to open the centers has done some wonderful things for families and their communities."***

*— Student's mother*

Lieutenant Commander of the Supreme Council. He was assisted by Ill. Norman R. Buecker, 33°, Deputy for Illinois, Ill. Phillip Kenney, 33°, Active Member for Illinois, Ill. James E. Durbin, 33°, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Lodge of Illinois, and Ill. Richard E. Yena, 33°, Chairman of the Board of Governors.

After the dedication, Learning Center Director David Winters introduced the tutors and tutor trainees, as well as Learning Center student Anthony (10-year-old, fourth grade student) and his mother, Jackie.

Anthony started at the center in October, and he and his family and tutors have seen a dramatic change in

his quality of life since then.

Winters said, "Anthony talked about how it changed his life, and his mother said he especially gained a lot of self-confidence."

He added that Anthony has become a much more outgoing person in the last few months, and that he enjoys being at the center.

"He absolutely detests it when the center is closed," Winters said. "He counts the days until it is the next day to come, because he has seen how it helps him so much."

The center has been open a year, and enrolls 20 students in the summer and up to 24 in the fall and employs 12 tutors and tutor trainees.

### Pittsburgh

The Valley of Pittsburgh Learning Center held its dedication ceremony in April. Each student received an award, and parents spoke on the progress their children have made.

During the week of July 10, seven new tutors were trained at the center. As a result, the center is able to welcome 16 new students and extend the program to five days a week during the academic year. Ten tutors are now serving 28 students.

## ***New clinical director named at Lexington center***

Joyce Gillis joins the staff at the new Lexington 32° Masonic Learning Center for Children as the clinical director of that new location. The Center, scheduled to open by the end of this year, will be the flagship for the entire program.

Gillis has a bachelor's degree in elementary education, and certification in the Orton-Gillingham method from Massachusetts General Hospital. She has been a private tutor of the program for seven years, has worked in private schools and has spent three years as a reading specialist in area public schools.

Executive director of clinical affairs Richard Van Doren, 33°, said Gillis brings a lot of skill and knowledge to the new center.

"She is a very experienced clinician," he said.

Gillis is making preparations to staff the center and screen applicants. Her priority is to get tutors trained and on board as soon as possible. The training involves a 45-hour seminar and 100 hours of tutoring under supervision.

"We are trying to get up and running," she said.

"We have had lots of calls for the trainee and the tutoring programs. We are just trying to get ready for the children."

Some of the local public schools might be interested in sending their teachers to the program, said executive director Joseph Berlandi. The public school teachers would teach at the center and also use the training in their own classrooms.

Berlandi said the Orton-Gillingham method has proven very effective in providing the tools for reading that dyslexic students need.

"It is evident that the tutoring is having a positive impact on the learning ability of students and especially important, on their self-confidence and self esteem," he said.

According to Van Doren the new center at full capacity is equipped to tutor up to 72 children. There will be six tutoring rooms with observation capabilities, and training rooms for the staff.

"We are very proud of the center," Van Doren said. "It is state-of-the-art."



# Legislation eases tax burden

## Illinois Lodges receive property tax relief

Freemasonry has been known for centuries as a generous charitable organization, giving millions of dollars to several causes yearly. Recently, the rising expenses of the organization have hampered the funding of these charitable works. In Illinois, however, the organization is getting a little help back from its state government.

A bill was passed recently that will reduce the property tax obligations for many Masonic organizations, thereby freeing up more funds for charitable purposes.

Signed in to law by Illinois Governor George Ryan in June, the bill will reduce the assessed value of a qualified property to 15 percent of its current assessment. The assessed value will be frozen at that level until the next evaluation.

This reduction in assessed value will result in savings to all Masonic bodies throughout the state.

"The savings to each lodge and all Masonic affiliates in the state could be tremendous and should result in increased charitable giving," said Attorney James Tungate, 33°, who serves as chairman of the Grand Lodge of Illinois' Legislation Committee.

The legislation states that all Masonic lodges and appendant bodies that own property will qualify for this tax relief as long as they adhere to three conditions in the bill. Those stipulations are: the lodge and appendant body must prohibit gambling and the use of

alcohol on the property; the lodge or appendant body is classified as a 501(c)(10) organization by the Internal Revenue Service; and its members provide, either directly or indirectly, financial support for charitable works, which may include medical care or drug rehabilitation.

**"The savings to each lodge and all Masonic affiliates in the state could be tremendous."**

— Attorney James  
Tungate, 33°

According to J. Garrie Burr, 33°, Grand Master of Illinois, the bill, the first proposal of its kind in Illinois, applies to all subordinate lodges of the Grand Lodge of Illinois and Prince Hall, as well as the related appendant organizations, including Scottish Rite, York Rite, and Shrine properties that comply with the provisions of the law.

The driving factor behind the legislation was the amount of money paid out by the organization in taxes, said Tungate.

Property tax, the single largest tax in Illinois and the major source of tax

revenue, produces more than 75 percent of the local tax receipts. As in many states, local governments impose the tax. The new statewide bill eases the heaviest tax burden for the Valleys.

"It makes a big difference for Valleys," Tungate said. "They have more money to engage in greater charitable works. They should be using the 85 percent discount toward charities and making their buildings more usable."

Tungate worked closely with Illinois State Rep. William Black in drafting the legislation. Black introduced the bill in the legislature because he said he knows of many lodges in very small communities that have difficulty paying their property taxes.

"These lodges have no means of cash flow, no means of generating revenue, so the bill made sense," Black said. "It is a fair and reasonable response and is modeled after a recent assessment freeze for properties owned by veterans organizations."

According to Black, the Illinois Department of Revenue did a fiscal impact study on the proposed tax relief and determined that little hardship would occur for the municipalities granting the relief.

The tax reduction yields a win-win situation for Scottish Rite Valleys, local lodges and their communities. Maintaining old, large buildings can place a financial burden on some lodges. With the tax relief, the lodges can invest more money on property upkeep. The organization will have more money for maintenance, programs, and for some, the building of the 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children.

"Our members are in the community and pay taxes themselves as individuals," said Tungate. "We are putting back much more into the community than the community is losing in tax revenue."



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





Masons instrumental in the passing of the Illinois tax reduction bill included (left to right): Sammy L. Crowder, RW Grand Trustee of Prince Hall; J. Garrie Burr, GM Illinois; Willie B. Evans Sr., GM Prince Hall; Robert Kalb, Grand Secretary, Illinois; J. L. Tungate, Chairman of Legislation, Illinois; Stanley B. Weaver, Senate Majority Leader (seated).

## Amendment to House Bill 3169

For the taxable year 2001 and thereafter, the assessed value of real property owned and used by a fraternal organization chartered by the State of Illinois prior to 1900, or its subordinate organization or entity, that prohibits gambling and the use of alcohol on the property, that is an exempt entity under Section 501(c)(10) of the Internal Revenue Code, and whose members provide, directly or indirectly, financial support for charitable works, which may include medical care, drug rehabilitation, or education, shall be established by the chief county assessment officer as follows:

If the property meets the qualifications set forth in the section January 1, 2001 and on January 1 of each subsequent assessment year, for assessment year 2001 and each subsequent year, the final assessed value of the property shall be 15 percent of the final assessed value of the property for the assessment year 2000 or:

If the property first meets the qualification set forth in the section on January 1 of any assessment year after assessment year 2001 and on January 1 of each subsequent year and each subsequent

assessment year, the final assessed value shall be 15 percent of the final assessed value of the property for the assessment year in which the property first meets the qualifications set forth in this section.

If in any year, additions or improvements are made to property subject to assessment under this section and the additions or improvement would increase the assessed value of the property, then 15 percent of the final assessed value of the additions or improvements shall be added to the final assessed value of the property for the year in which the addition or improvement are completed and for subsequent years that the property is eligible for assessment under this section.

For purposes of this section, "final assessed value" means the assessed value after final board of review action.

Fraternal organizations whose property is assessed under this section must annually submit an application to the chief county assessment officer on or before January 31 of the assessment year in counties with a population of 3,000,000 or more and December 31 of assessment year in all other counties.

According to Tungate, the property tax may not be an issue in all Northern Jurisdiction states, since not all have property taxes comparable to Illinois. Some lodges in Illinois pay as many as 12 levies or taxes to the local government. Other states, for example Indiana, have far fewer levies and lower taxes.

Property is assessed at 33 1/3 percent of its market value, except for farmland and other preferentially assessed property. For example, in Cook County, some Masonic lodges already have tax relief due to an exemption set decades ago.

The state of Illinois has also granted tax relief for senior citizen and disabled veterans programs and properties of religious, charitable and educational organizations.

Burr said the Masons in Illinois appreciate the relief offered by the new tax bill. He noted that the organization did not seek or expect a total exemption from its tax obligation.

"The structure of the Illinois Constitution would not allow a total exemption for an organization that did not have charity as its sole purpose for being," he said.

Burr further commented, "Masonic lodges take advantage of police and fire protection and the benefits of the streets and sewers provided by the municipal government and as good citizens gladly pay their share of the burden of providing these services."


*The tax relief yields a win-win situation for local lodges and their communities.*

The bill passed easily in the Illinois House of Representatives with 100 votes in favor and nine opposed. The Illinois Senate passed the bill with only one dissenting vote. The grass-roots efforts of Masons throughout the state who, as individuals, contacted their local legislators to make their views known, resulted in the overwhelming support given to this legislation, according to Tungate and others. ➤



► Governor Ryan, in his letter to the legislators informing them of his signing the bill, acknowledged the need of other charitable fraternal organizations for property tax relief and asked the General Assembly to seriously consider passing legislation to assist these organizations.

Grand Master Burr suggests that other states might consider proposing a similar bill. Those seeking to follow Illinois' lead would first have to determine if such a bill is constitutionally feasible. They then need to find at least one legislator willing to sponsor the bill. They

must also be realistic, he said. Whether legislators would consider such an exemption depends upon the state's constitution, the level of taxation already incurred, and most importantly, if such an exemption was justifiable and would benefit their constituents. 

## ***Educating Legislators was Key in Passing Bill***

The bill earned the support of nearly 100 percent of the Illinois House and Senate because the legislators were informed about Masonic organizations and their charitable efforts, according to Attorney James Tungate, 33°. "The biggest job was to educate people about the charities: the orphanages, homes for the aged, scholarships, drug abuse prevention programs, children's hospitals and learning centers," he said. "All of those activities make Masons an important part of any community."

According to Rep. William Black, who introduced the bill, the legislation was passed easily because Masons took time to talk to each legislator. "Many individual Masons did a wonderful job of explaining what we do. Because of their homework and one-on-one conversations with lawmakers, my job was relatively easy," he said.

Masonic lodges are not allowed to become involved in political activities, so each Mason acted on his own behalf, and not as members of any lodge. Rick Swaney, 32°, Valley of Chicago, coordinated the grass-roots telephone, e-mail and mail efforts of Masons in the state through the five Area District Deputy Grand Masters and the approximately 20 District Deputy Grand Masters in each of those areas. "I attended their meetings and asked them to encourage their brethren to make contact with their local legislators," he says. Swaney knows of at least 150 legislators who were called by other Masons, and he personally made more than 200 phone calls.

The Scottish Rite Masons, with the Grand Lodge of Illinois, York Rite, Shrine and Prince Hall Masons, worked together to implement the legislative contacts. Tungate noted that

Scottish Rite Deputy Norman Buecker, 33°, was very active and effective in this effort.

The alliance with the Grand Lodge of Prince Hall Masons in Illinois substantially helped to strengthen support for the bill. "It was a terrific experience in brotherhood," said Tungate. Stanley Weaver, a State Senator from Urbana and Emil Jones, a State Senator from Chicago, brought the bill to the Senate. In an act of true Masonic brotherhood, Prince Hall and Grand Lodge Masons from Chicago (many of whose properties are already exempt from local taxes) contributed greatly to getting the bill passed.

Especially noteworthy was the large delegation of Grand Lodge of Illinois and Prince Hall Masons who accompanied the Grand Master J. Garrie Burr of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and Willie B. Evans Sr., the Prince Hall Grand Master, at hearings held by the House and Senate Committees considering the bill.

Tungate explained that one of the notable benefits of the experience was that many of the legislators who work side by side all year had not realized that they were Masonic brothers. "We have been so quiet about our fraternity that we didn't know that others were also members. It was nice to find that out. Someone would come up and give you the Masonic handshake and you would never have known that he was a brother."

Because of his efforts for many years on behalf of the lodges of Illinois and his service to the fraternity in general and the Grand Lodge in particular, Tungate will be named "Mason of the Year" at the Grand Lodge of Illinois Annual Communication in October.



# Shrine votes to change rules for admission

Delegates at the Imperial Council Session for the Shrine of North America voted in July to remove the Rite prerequisite for new candidates. Members in the future will not be required to join the York or Scottish Rite to enter the Shrine.

The legislation breaks a 128-year-old tradition established by the founders of the Shrine.

A further proposal at this year's session would have allowed non-Masons to join the Shrine. Sensing insufficient support at this time, the proposal was withdrawn.

While expressing disappointment at the action, Sovereign Grand Commander Robert O. Ralston, 33°, indicated that in the long run it will un-

doubtedly provide an opportunity to further strengthen the Scottish Rite.

"We will now stand even taller to exhibit proudly the benefits of 32° Masonry," he said.

In a letter to the Active Members of the Supreme Council, the Grand Commander pointed out that "our degrees and charities emphasize 'improvement of the mind,' and that is where we will concentrate our efforts."

All four Scottish Rite charities adhere to this theme. The Learning Centers for dyslexic students concentrates on younger children. Abbott Scholarships benefit college students. The Museum of Our National Heritage reaches those of all ages. Fellowships

for schizophrenia research also fit the general theme.

That theme is also carried out through the presentation of the Scottish Rite degrees.

Commander Ralston suggested that Scottish Rite Valleys continue to cooperate with any joint programs and plans in place with Shrine Temples, and that such cooperation be continued in the future.

A spirit of cooperation was evident at the Scottish Rite Family Day in Lexington on July 29. The events of the day were coordinated by a committee from the Scottish Rite Valley of Boston, and a number of Shrine units from Aleppo Temple offered their services.

## Learning Center Donations Received

The 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children recently received more than \$80,000 in gifts from Masonic bodies in and outside of the country.

Each of the Scottish Rite Valleys in Connecticut have pledged \$25,000 to the charity, and a check for \$60,000 representing a portion of the amount has been received.

The Valley of Southern New Jersey pledged \$15,000 and the Valley of Trenton has presented \$5,000.

Morton Brown, 32°, Past Master of Euclid Lodge, and David Howard, 32°, Past Master of Massachusetts Lodge had the honor of presenting funds from across the ocean. The two brothers presented a \$500 check to the Sovereign Grand Commander. The check was a donation from Knoll Lodge No. 5057, Neath, W. Glamorgan, Wales.

The two traveled to the Wales lodge on July 4, with fellow Masons Benson Brown and Albert Brown. The four honored guests exemplified a portion of Massachusetts 2nd de-

gree ritual twice to a packed lodge room of more than 160 people. Grand Lodge officers and a Master Mason from France were in attendance. The Knoll Lodge honored the Masons with the \$500 to the charity

of their choice. They unanimously chose the 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children. The presentation was made after the cornerstone-laying ceremony on July 29 at the new Supreme Council headquarters.



Morton Brown (left) and David Howard (right) present a check to Grand Commander Ralston from a lodge in Wales.



## *New Internet Course Designed for Masonic Leadership*

The Supreme Council, with the help of Learn.com and Dean Vaughn, 32°, is offering a new Masonic leadership course designed to be the most effective, valuable course on leadership available online.

Internet browsers can find the Web site at [www.learn.com/masonic](http://www.learn.com/masonic). The course, as well as others offered on the site, is free and is self-paced. A participant can take more than one course at a time, and upon completion of a course, will receive certification.

The Learn.com online system includes individualized tracking of multiple courses per individuals simultaneously. This enables one person to move back and forth between many courses, completing each at his own pace and in any sequence. In addition

to the linear teaching sequence, the system provides for graphics, sound, drills, practice exercises and testing.

More than 2 million individuals have completed Dean Vaughn learning courses with an unprecedented average of more than 95 percent retention. The objective of the Masonic Academy's Leadership Course is 100 percent retention. Review and testing techniques make it possible for participants to immediately determine their retention of course content.

There are two primary features of the course that enhance its effectiveness.

First, instead of the traditional large manual often used in training, the course has been written in the most concise manner possible. This will decrease learning time while improving understanding.

While many leadership or management courses include a thick manual, this course, on the other hand, has no manual. It teaches you how to remember 100 percent of the course content by using the Dean Vaughn Learning System, the world's leading applied memory system for academic and business applications.

Second, it is taught exclusively with validated human memory techniques.

The course discusses 50 qualities, characteristics and related information one needs to know, as well as actions one needs to take, to develop excellence in leadership.

After taking the course, the participant will be able to recall all 50 major topics of the course sequentially or randomly. The course will teach valuable leadership skills and also help participants recognize and strengthen some skills they already possess. The result is optimal leadership effectiveness. The fear of stepping forward can be replaced by the quiet confidence of a true leader who knows how to respond to any challenge, whether anticipated or not.

The combination of these two features will enable participants to achieve a greater knowledge of leadership skills in less time and with better results.

The course is designed primarily for Masonic leaders and leaders of Masonic-related adult and youth groups. The skills that are employed are common to all leaders, but how the skills are applied is what makes all the difference.

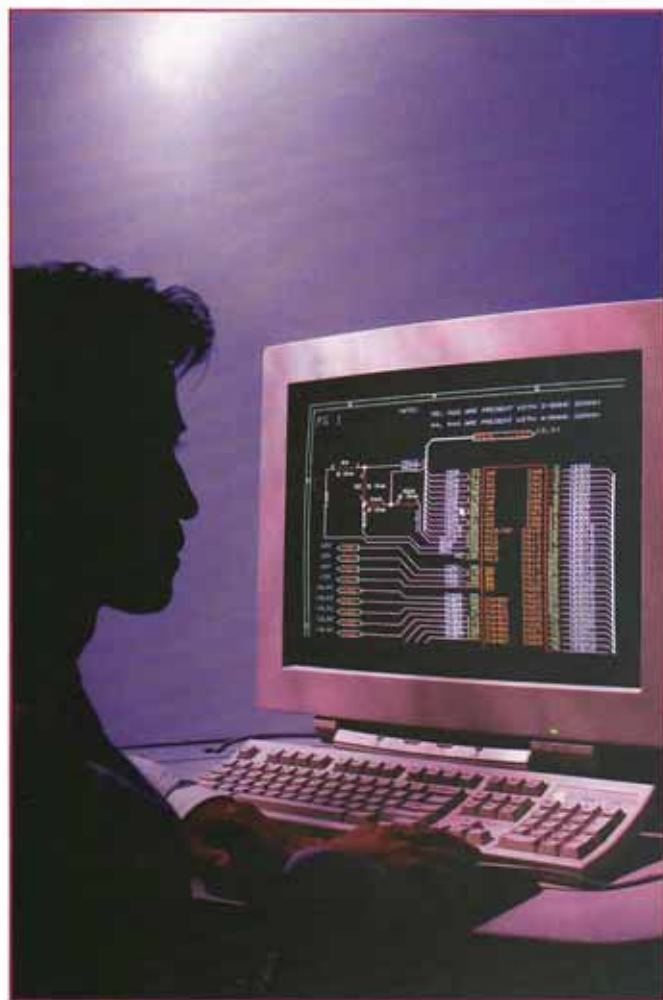
The academy is sponsored by the 32° Masons of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction and is available throughout the world.

Brother Vaughn, a member of the Scottish Rite Valley of Harrisburg, PA, and a leading authority of applied memory techniques, has developed the overall concept of the Masonic Academy with Brother Patrick Toomey, vice president and CTO of Learn.com, an award-winning Internet site.

Other programs offered include courses on remembering names, public speaking, conducting a meeting without notes, developing organizational skills and improving communication skills.

Along with leadership skills, Masons can improve memory skills, speaking skills and master foreign languages — all for free. There are more valuable courses coming soon. Visit [Learn.com/masonic](http://Learn.com/masonic) today.

The Supreme Council encourages the leaders of all Masonic and Masonic-related groups, as well as all Freemasons and their families, to take advantage of this course.







## Question and Answer Time



By Leigh E. Morris, 32°

It is time to empty out the old mailbag and respond to some of the most frequently asked questions.

**?** What's the best way for our Valley to get the most out of our Web page?

**A.** We could spend several columns on this subject (and we will). However, the best advice is to use your Web page as a supplement to your Valley's publication. Use it to promote upcoming reunions, stated meetings and social events. Allow members to register for events through the Web page. Consider features that will keep members coming back to your Web page, such as free classified ads, quizzes and surveys. Include a membership application form on your page. Provide highlights from the current issue of your Valley's publication. If your Valley sells jewelry, books and other items, include them on your page with an order form. If you accept credit cards, you can even sell items online.

**?** We've considered selling items online, but we can't afford a secure site. Any suggestions?

**A.** Many organizations elect not to sell online because they can't justify the cost of a secure site. You can include an order form that can be completed, printed out and mailed. This doesn't require a secure site. You also can allow people to submit orders with a credit card on a non-secure site. While many people will not submit an order if the site isn't secure, our experience is that a large number will. To be honest about it, submitting a credit card order on a non-secure Web site carries no more risk than using a credit card in a restaurant.

**?** I'm very concerned about someone breaking into our computer and gaining access to confidential information. How can I prevent this?

**A.** Although a cracker could gain access to your computer while you are online, it isn't very likely. As a rule, crackers target government agencies and larger businesses. If you gain access to the Internet through a cable system, you may be at a somewhat higher risk because you are on a network with other cable users in your community. You can protect yourself by disabling the file sharing feature in your computer when you are on the Net. Unless you run a network at home or the office, you may permanently disable file sharing. If you want extra protection (especially for a business, your lodge or Valley), install a firewall software that can keep others out of your computer. Guard Dog <mcafee.com> is a good choice for Windows, while NetBarrier <intego.com> works for Mac

users. Finally, you can now store sensitive files in a secure encrypted file on your own computer with Scramdisk <scramdisk.clara.net>.

**?** I have only one phone line and really can't afford a second one. Is there a way to receive phone calls when I'm on the Internet?

**A.** Technology has come to the rescue. You can now surf the Net while allowing voice mail to take callers' messages. One site, <buzme.com>, offers free voice mail. Other good sites to check are <internet-callmanager.com> and <pagoo.com>.

**?** I've read that marketers and others can keep track of my Web activities. Is there a way to keep my browsing private?

**A.** Try Window Washer <webroot.com/washer.htm> to sweep away your Web tracks. Since some search engines track your activities, you might want to use <topclick.com> for searches. This site promises to protect your confidentiality.

**?** Often when I am online I'll suddenly lose my connection. This is very frustrating. What causes it?

**A.** There are three good possibilities. The most likely culprit is call-waiting. If you have this feature on your phone line, you need to disable it before going online. Otherwise, any incoming call will disrupt your Internet connection. Check with your local phone company for instructions on disconnecting the call-waiting feature. A second possibility may be found in the Internet preferences on your computer. Depending on your software, your preferences may be set to disconnect your Internet connection when it does not detect activity after a period of time, such as 10 minutes. Third, the disconnects can be caused by a poor phone connection. This problem is most common in rural areas.

**?** Is there an easy and inexpensive way to send and receive e-mail without a computer?

**A.** While there are a number of options, we have finally found one that we like – a unit that is suitable for both novices and pros. It is called the MailStation. This unit is compact, portable and very easy to use. You can purchase it for \$99.99. There also is a monthly service charge of \$9.95. For more information, go to <mailstation.com>, call 888-404-8331 or check it out at Office Depot, Staples, Good Guys, Fry's or CompUSA.

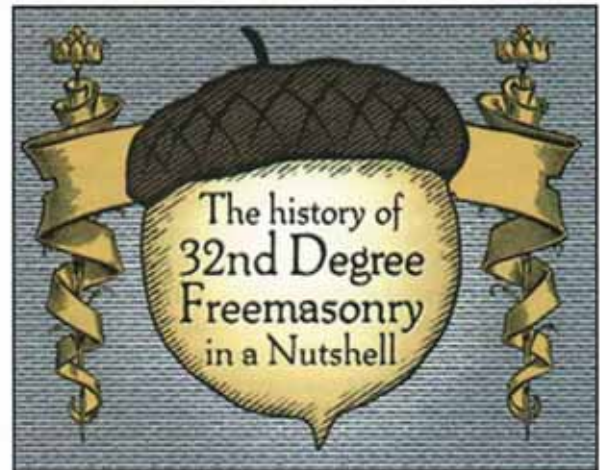
Questions or comments? Send us an e-mail at <leighm@pmihwy.com>.



# Masonic video spurs pride and praise

Many of the more than 20,000 Scottish Rite Masons who viewed a custom-produced Millennium 2000 video have written in to say that it was one of the best productions concerning the Scottish Rite that they have seen. The response has been overwhelmingly positive, as is illustrated in the following excerpts from letters to Sovereign Grand Commander Robert O. Ralston:

*"As an Ohio University Professor Emeritus, I will issue a grade of 'A' for the work that you and your committee did for this special event."*



*"What a wonderful method to help others better understand our craft, its benevolent roots in philanthropy and to encourage rededication of our membership to the fraternity."*

*"I have to say that a millennium reunion was a truly intriguing idea, which I found irresistible and attracted me to participate in my first major Scottish Rite event in over a dozen years. I am glad that I kept my membership current."*

*"Saturday's millennium presentation was without a doubt the finest Masonic production that I have ever witnessed! You and all those responsible for its creation are to be congratulated."*

*"The Millennium 2000 Video was simply superb. I want to tell you how proud I felt to be a 32° Freemason after viewing that program."*

*"The significance of the theme to present day men made my eyes misty. I believe this tape should be made public as soon as possible so the world at large can see our civic, social and community activities firsthand."*

*"The Pennsylvania experience shows that the Supreme Council was inspirational in promoting the special program for a jurisdiction-wide millennium reunion. The videotaped presentation was top quality, well received by everyone with whom I have spoken, and even brought tears to the eyes of many."*

## About the Video

As part of its millennium program, the Scottish Rite Millennium Committee planned the jurisdiction-wide class, which included the viewing of the video and a live broadcast from Commander Ralston.

On April 29, after the 32° was conferred on a class of more than 3,000 candidates, the video was viewed at 50 sites around the jurisdiction.

The 32-minute production, narrated by Ill. David Goodnow, 33°, included scenes from the 15 states across the jurisdiction, a brief history of Freemasonry delivered by comedian Norm Crosby, 33°, and excerpts from a concert held at the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum of Our National Heritage in Lexington, Mass. The film also featured a presentation about the 32° Masonic Learning Centers and an original score written for the Scottish Rite by composer Kevin Kaska.

The video is not available for individual sale. Each Valley has received a complimentary copy for showing at Masonic events.



# The Stamp Act

## A Philatelic Review



By Robert A. Domingue



**Robert Edwin Peary** is pictured on this very impressive Romanian stamp issued in December 1885. The stamp is part of a set that honors adventurers. Born May 6, 1856 at Cesson Springs, PA., Peary graduated from Bowdoin College, Maine in 1877. He was commissioned in the Navy as a civil engineer in 1881 and led several explorations to Greenland and points north from 1886 to 1909. He traveled the icecap 100 miles inland from Disko Bay in 1886 and discovered Independence Bay in 1891. He made three trips in 1893-97 to transport specimens from three meteorites back to the United States. The largest of the meteorites is said to weigh 90 tons.

He outlined the northern limits of the Greenland Archipelago in 1898. In 1908 he embarked on his famous trip on which he arrived at the North Pole on April 6, 1909 with several other companions. He was given the rank of Rear Admiral in 1911 and died in Washington in February 1920.

Peary received his degrees in Kane Lodge No. 454, New York City, in 1896. He presented the Lodge the Masonic Flag that was raised on May 20-25, 1895, at Independence Bay, Greenland. He also presented two specimens of the 90 ton meteorite to the Grand Lodge of New York.



**Peter Sellers**, the noted star of the Pink Panther film series, has been featured on several stamps throughout the world. He is featured here on one that was part of a set released by Great Britain in October 1985 to honor stars and directors.

Sellers was born Sept. 8, 1925, in Southsea, England. He studied at St. Aloysius College, Highgate, and



served with the Royal Air Force in World War I. He began his acting career with the Windmill Theatre, London, in 1948 and appeared in many performances on stage, radio, TV and films, predominantly in comedy roles. He received the Best Film Actor award of the Variety Club, Great Britain, in 1960. He died 20 years later in London, July 23, 1980.

He was a member of Chelsea Lodge No. 3098, London, a lodge with many members from the entertainment world. He was initiated in 1948, passed in 1949 and raised in 1951.



**King George IV** is depicted on this stamp issued in January 1984 by Grenada as part of a set that honors British Royalty.

Born George Augustus Frederick on Aug. 12, 1762, in St. James Palace, London, he was the eldest son of King George III. He married Caro-

line Amelie of Brunswick in 1795 and the following year separated from her on the grounds of her supposed infidelity - a charge that later was found to be untrue. In 1811 he became Prince Regent, Prince of Wales, and succeeded his father to the throne as King George IV in 1820. He died 10 years later at Windsor.

George IV was initiated on Feb. 6, 1787, at a special Lodge of the "Star and Garter," Pall Mall. The Grand Lodge presented him an apron faced with blue silk and resolved that in all assemblies of the Grand Lodge, he should take the place next to and at the right hand of the Grand Master. He served as Grand Master from 1790 to 1813. He was one of the founders of Prince of Wales Lodge No. 259, and presided as Master from 1787 to 1820. Following his visits to Lodge of Faith and Friendship No. 449 in 1808, that Lodge was granted a Royal Charter and has been known thereafter as "The Royal Lodge of Faith



**Charles Willson Peale** painted portraits of many prominent officers of the Revolution and was the leading promoter of the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. Therefore, it is appropriate for his portrait to be used as

the central design for the stamp issued by the United States in 1955 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Academy. Peale was a noted painter, soldier and inventor during the Revolutionary War era. Born April 16, 1741, in Chestertown, MD, he commanded a company at the Crossing of the Delaware on Dec. 26, 1776, as well during the battles of Germantown, Trenton, Princeton and Monmouth. One of his works, "Washington at Trenton," hangs at the head of the grand staircase in the Senate wing of the Capitol at Washington.

He studied painting in Boston and London, and his first portrait of George Washington depicted Washington as a Virginia Colonel in 1772.

He also invented a great variety of machines and published a number of scientific essays.

Peale was apparently a member of Fredericksburg Lodge of Virginia. In the 1775 records of that Lodge, Brother Peale is referred to several times in connection with his borrowing a portrait of Peyton Randolph, prominent Grand Master from that Lodge, so he could paint a copy of it.

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







By THOMAS W. JACKSON, 33°

*Uriel's Machine* by Christopher Knight & Robert Lomas. Published in 1999 by Century Books Limited, Random House UK Ltd., London, England. List price in U.S., \$27.95.

*Uriel's Machine* is Knight's and Lomas' third book, the first two being *The Hiram Key* and its sequel *The Second Messiah*. These two books raised considerable controversy and this one will be no different.

Very frankly, however, this book is in my opinion their best and most scientifically acceptable work. It is not written as a sequel to the first two although there is a tie-in with them. It will be challenged by many and on many fronts, but their conclusions are more easily challengeable than in their previous books. There is with much of this book, for those who disagree with the authors, a methodology to prove them wrong.

It is not as easy reading as were their first two books, and it will take concentration by the reader to follow the intent of the writers in drawing their conclusions.

As in their first two books there is much speculation, and some of the conclusions reached are really stretching the speculation to become conclusions. Nonetheless I found the book to be fascinating reading. As with my reviews of the first two books, I encourage the reader to realize that these are **theoretical** conclusions of the authors who have every right to write as they please and present theories as they please. It is the responsibility of the reader to accept them or not accept them.

The authors have again given Freemasonry credit for receiving a knowledge and responsibility far beyond what lies within the minds of present-day Freemasons. They state that the craft is the "unwitting repository" of much of the knowledge of the past. They also unhesitatingly accuse Masonic leadership of either deliberately or ignorantly destroying that knowledge, or diluting it to a state of uselessness.

The title *Uriel's Machine* is in reference to a device, knowledge of which is given to Enoch by the "angel" Uriel as recorded in the *Book of Enoch*, discovered by James Bruce, a Freemason in the mid 1700's and supported by the Dead Sea Scrolls. This "machine" that Uriel revealed to Enoch was "a simple but highly accurate means of measuring the declination of any heavenly

object." It was "nothing less than a celestial computer." With it Uriel was able to "plot orbits and predict eclipses including the orbits of comets."

According to the authors this same information was carried by the oral traditions of Freemasonry for centuries and was part of Masonic tradition even before the Book was discovered. Prior to that discovery it was unknown outside of Ethiopia for 1,500 years. In fact, according to them, this knowledge of Uriel's people survived in Freemasonry and was "embodied into the capital city of the most powerful nation on earth" (United States). They state that "Freemasons are the only major living oral tradition of the Western world" having been "based on once-secret information – that had been taken directly from Jewish traditions that predated the fall of Jerusalem in AD 70."

According to the authors, entire Masonic degrees of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite which are no longer used are devoted to Enoch and reveal his story of being told by Uriel that he must save the secrets of civilization from a global disaster.

According to Knight and Lomas, Enoch was taken to Europe by Uriel to be taught lessons in astronomy, which would give him the opportunity to observe and predict the striking of the earth by a comet. They then continue to explain the existence of many

Megalithic sites constructed for that purpose, the best known to us being Stonehenge.

It is their contention that the book of Enoch is a historical record of his experiences with

Uriel's guidance to produce a "machine – to rebuild civilization

following a global catastrophe." The global catastrophe was a flood resulting from the earth being hit by a comet. In fact they discuss the significance of the earth being struck by two comets, the first being one that caused the flood as recorded in the Bible with the account of Noah occurring in 7640 B.C., and the second in 3150 B.C. The intent of Uriel was to give through Enoch the opportunity for survivors to re-establish an agricultural civilization in the shortest possible time following a comet strike. This comet strike was the one of 3150 B.C.

Much interesting information is contained in this book (if it is factual), which provides knowledge even if the conclusions may not be correct. For example, the authors claim that Freemasonry's required memorizations of ritual in word-perfect standard can be traced directly to this practice by the Druids for the intent of secrecy.

They take the archaeologists to task for their entrenched view and unwillingness to change in the light

***It is their contention that the book of Enoch is a historical record of his experiences with Uriel's guidance to produce a "machine — to rebuild civilization following a global catastrophe."***



of additional knowledge, and perhaps they are correct in doing so. They also in their conclusions support scientifically some of the writings found in different religions including Christianity and Judaism, i.e., the story of the great flood destroying the earth.

One short chapter — Appendix 1 — is a message to English Freemasonry. In it the authors suggest strongly that Grand Lodge look seriously at their reappraisal of Freemasonry. They are very critical of our leaders' refusal to consider alternative theories relative to the origin of the craft. They feel strongly that, as with the criticism of the archaeologists, we as leaders refuse to consider new alternatives in light of new evidence, and again they are probably correct.

There are a number of errors in this book, most of which are irrelevant to the objective of the book but enough to cause one to question other stated facts. For example they name Willard Frank Libby (Nobel Laureate) as William Libby (minor, but not to Libby). As a biologist, I must question their implication that no species has been hunted to extinction. I point out the passenger pigeon, the Stellar's Sea Cow, and the Great Moa. Also, the saber tooth sloth they refer to was a saber tooth tiger. The most glaring error that I noted however, is the reference to former President George Bush, as a "senior Freemason," whatever that is, when he is not a Freemason at all.

I found this book to be a difficult one to review. To me it was compelling reading, and yet I know that there will be those, including scholars, who will oppose its contents and condemn the authors simply because what is written crosses the established and accepted norm. I feel that at least a major part of it deserves further research. By that means they can be proven right or wrong.

I touched only the surface of the book's contents with the review, and I recommend its reading, at least for the serious scholar who will read with an open mind and an intent to be caused to think. This book will do that.

### About Knight and Lomas

I take this opportunity to comment on the three books written by Knight and Lomas. I am also aware that there are those who will read what I write and vehemently oppose any positive comment that I might make concerning them.

These two researchers and authors have probably stirred up more controversy than perhaps any other author in history choosing Freemasonry as a subject.

Please note that what I write here is not an endorse-

ment of their theories or conclusions, and I point out that they offer *few* theories and *many* conclusions. Indeed, I frankly and readily admit that I don't know enough about most of their work to either support or reject them. Some of what they have written I can probably accept and some I definitely reject, but that is my privilege as a reader.

It is important to understand that they are not writing as a Masonic authority, although I believe them to be more qualified than some of the "authorities" I have known.

My great concern is the rapidity with which their writings, as well as those of other authors, are rejected by us simply because they do not fit the established niche, which we claim.

I do not, in any way, purport to be an authority on Freemasonry, its origins or its history. I was not there for its origin nor for most of its history and, therefore, can only accept what someone else writes, and I have observed all too often the works of too many writers and researchers being wrong.

I do feel, however, that to reject new theories with no consideration does a disservice to the craft. Some of the greatest thinkers of all time were our brothers and our greatest asset. There were times when they were wrong in their thinking, but they were willing to deal with entire new concepts and theories, i.e., the period of the enlightenment. To close the door to thought will encourage ignorance. One of Freemasonry's fundamental precepts is the acquisition of knowledge and the study of the seven liberal arts. We are thereby stimulated to think and to learn.

These three books might be the greatest fairy tale of all time, but they also might just contain some figment of truth. I especially feel that *Uriel's Machine* deserves credence for some possible accuracy, and this can, with unbiased research, be proven or disproven. In fact they state "However, we think that any answers we may have provided are less important than the many questions we have raised."

If they are right in any part, the truth cannot harm us. Indeed it might elevate us. If they are wrong, that cannot harm us either. This craft has suffered for centuries from persecution by those with closed minds. Let us not join ranks with such as they.

THOMAS W. JACKSON, 33°, recently retired as 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

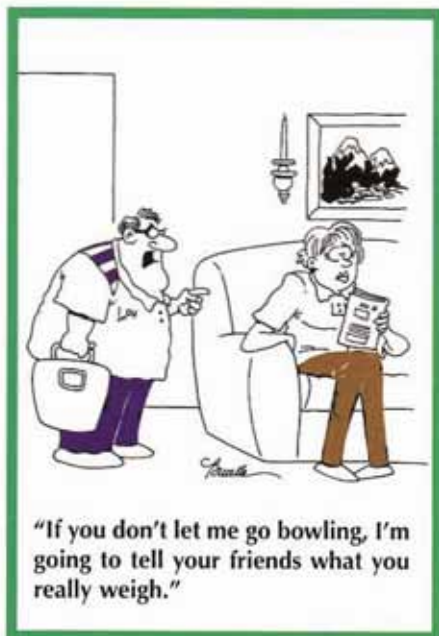
### ■ Building strong bones

Doctors say it takes more than calcium to build the best bones. The University of Surrey checked eating habits of women age 45 to 55 and then surveyed indicators of bone health, including density. They found that those with the best bone health ate lots of fruits and vegetables that were rich in zinc, potassium, magnesium, beta-carotene, and vitamin C. Good sources are squash, peas, beans, leafy greens, bananas, and citrus fruits.

### ■ New drugs for heart attack treatment

Doctors at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston say a new drug combination used for heart attack patients has results that are very exciting. The drugs are alteplase, a clot buster, and abciximab, a "super aspirin." Together, they fully restored blood flow to the heart within 60 minutes of a heart attack in 72 percent of cases.

Studies reported in *Circulation* indicate that the drug combination may allow some patients to avoid bypass surgery or angioplasty.



### ■ Wiggle while you wait

Sitting still on a long flight may cause blood to pool in the legs. A blood clot could form and travel to the lungs, creating a life-threatening situation.

Avoid sitting still for long periods, shift in your seat several times each hour. Take frequent walks up and down the aisle and periodically tighten and release abdomen and gluteal muscles.



### ■ Keep your cool

The hotter and muggier the weather is, the harder the body works to keep itself cool. The heart beats faster, and sweating depletes the body of water and minerals. Strenuous exercise makes matters worse. Muscles create 20 times more heat when they are hard at work than when they are at rest.

To determine the risk of heat-related disorders, the National Weather Service heat index combines heat and humidity figures. As the heat index rises, so does the risk of heat-related disorders, for example:

- 130 or higher: heatstroke highly likely with continued exposure.
- 105-130: sunstroke, heat cramps or heat exhaustion likely and heatstroke possible if you are working or exercising outdoors.
- 90-105: sunstroke, heat cramps, or heat exhaustion with exposure and physical activity.
- 80-90: fatigue with prolonged exposure and/or physical activity.

### ■ Bed rest not always the best medicine

As the result of new research, bed rest is being questioned as treatment for a myriad of health problems from the flu to heart attacks. Some 39 studies show that prolonged rest can sometimes interfere with recovery.

In evaluating 15 medical conditions or procedures, doctors found that more than three days of rest was not helpful. Study leaders at the University of Queensland, Australia, say patients who wish to move around should do so and should not be forced to rest unless there is good evidence that it will be beneficial.

### ■ Walkers got smarter

Even a small increase in aerobic fitness can improve mental function, according to a study reported by Johns Hopkins Medical Centers.

Adults over 50 were randomly assigned to a brisk walking program or a regimen of stretching and toning exercises. After six months, the walkers showed substantial improvements in so-called executive control functions, which include the ability to plan, make decisions, and concentrate. The stretching group showed no such improvements.

### ■ Lemon-aid

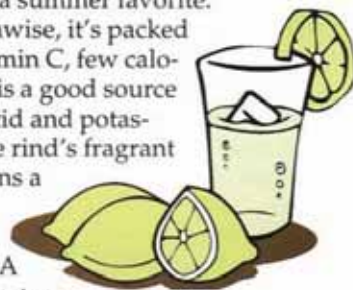
The amazing lemon would have its place in the world even if lemonade were not a summer favorite.

Healthwise, it's packed with vitamin C, few calories, and is a good source of folic acid and potassium. The rind's fragrant oil contains a trace of fat, but no more. A

squeeze or two of nutritious lemon juice will refresh the taste of canned, packaged or frozen vegetables.

It can also add zing to salads and seafood and be used as a substitute for vinegar in many recipes.

Choose lemons that feel heavy for their size and have a nice thick skin. If the skin feels thin, it's probably not a fresh lemon.







## The Rite Connection is on the right track

In collaboration with Internet service provider Firestorm2000, the Supreme Council instituted "The Rite Connection," a program that brings online access to Masons at a substantial savings. Members receive unlimited 56K access, technical support and an e-mail address for every member of the household for only \$17.95 a month.

The Rite Connection serves two purposes. It provides Masonic links that create greater awareness of, and access to, Masonic information. The site can be found at: [www.32ndDegreeMason.com](http://www.32ndDegreeMason.com).

The Rite Connection is also designed to function as an additional benevolent funding tool. A portion of every subscriber's monthly fees is returned to the 32° Masonic Charities.

The project has come a long way in just six months with its initial investment, but more effort is necessary for it to succeed in its two goals.

The Masonic links are well underway and already provide direct lines of communication between Masonic bodies, numerous paths to Masonic and Masonic-related sites, as well as information about Masons that will encourage new membership.

The second goal of increasing benevolent funding is made possible in three ways. The Internet service provider, The Rite Connection, produces royalties from subscriptions. Proceeds from online sales on the iBe-long portal and MasonMart also contribute to funding. There will also be an online "giving" site unveiled soon that will provide information on our charities and the opportunity to make donations directly online.

The potential for success with this program is great. An article published in the February issue of *The Northern Light* generated 200 phone calls and resulted in 125 enrollment package requests and about 25 direct sign-ups.

To date, almost 500 enrollment packages have been sent directly to potential users and there has been a

gain of 16 percent return on that initiative, or a total of 80 new members. It is reasonable to expect 10 percent of those who receive the offer will try the service, so the results are already above average.

However, in order to achieve the goals of the program, more members are needed to come online. The more members that join the ranks, the more funds are generated for the organization's charities.

Firestorm2000 has currently flooded Valley offices and Learning Centers with 5,000 compact discs that offer and demonstrate the program. Based on the current statistics of a 10 percent return, these CDs should produce 500 users. That number of users could bring in \$2,000 a month in royalties directly and provides 500 users

to the online shopping sites. The users will also be exposed to the Masonic information located on the site, including the upcoming charitable giving site. But first, the potential users must receive the CDs and Firestorm2000 is suggesting that Valleys will help in dispersing them.

Increasing the numbers only increases the funding possibilities, said Firestorm2000 President Barry Burns. For example, 5,000 users could bring as much as \$20,000 a month to our charities.

"Assisting to distribute the CDs is one of the ways the Valleys can help this program become very successful in a short amount of time," he said.

For more information, call 1-800-999-6162 or register online at [www.register.masonol.com](http://www.register.masonol.com).

## 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.

(CALENDAR) + (SOUND) - (SAND)  
 + (WINLESS) - (CARD) + (BABY)  
 - (YELLOW) + (TILT) - (NUTS)  
 - (STAIN)  
 =

Clue for this puzzle appears on page 22.

Answer from previous issue: MEMBERSHIP

Answer from February issue: REUNION



# VIEWS FROM THE PAST

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

## Fostering fellowship

To develop the highest level of friendship and brotherhood within our fraternity is what we should turn our hands to. This is what will increase the vitality of Freemasonry. This is what makes attendance at lodges a pleasure. Friendship and brotherly love are the atmosphere in which the lessons of Freemasonry come alive. They are the rich earth in which our understanding of Freemasonry will grow.

I believe that the Masonic lodge itself is one of the cornerstones of a good community. We are entitled to be proud of the influence for good that the lodge exerts. But today we live in

a rather soft society. We like to be entertained, we enjoy spectator activities, we expect material rewards for efforts spent. Freemasonry by contrast requires active participation by its members to enjoy its benefits, and it offers nothing but spiritual rewards for time and effort spent. And so, while the aspirations and desires of each generation may differ, basically, man today is attracted by the same values that attracted the men of yesterday and of days long past. This is the inherent strength of our fraternity.

—Manitoba Grand Master B.S. Parker, *Masonic Review-Digest*, Spring/Summer 1963

## Critics as mirrors

Mirrors of glass backed with black papers were made in Venice about the 16th century and were sold throughout Europe.

The history of the mirror is of interest as it shows the desire of the human race to know its physical self, to admire, and to correct its imperfections.

There is not a corresponding history of critics, but from what history tells us of them they were far less in favor than the mirror. Zedekiah would have been far better off had he hearkened unto the words of Jeremiah. Many a king would have remained in possession of his throne had he considered the words of his friends.

The writer learns to prize the critic. He owes him much. He is his only "looking glass." The honest critic is the greatest gift the writer and speaker have, and most realize it. So

be not angry with the man who points out your faults, and try to be the gainer. Consider every word he utters and oftentimes you will find yourself much benefited by those words. Look upon your critic as your mirror.

—Fred P. Cree, 32°, *New Age Magazine*, June 1921



*"I never realized our neighbor was a Mason."*

## Striving for perfection

In ritual and title, we make much of "perfection." It would be worse than idle for us to claim that we have attained perfection, individually or collectively, in or out of our Rite.

It does mean that we are seeking perfection and that our labors have perfection as their goal, unattainable as that goal is in human life. Just how may we concretely seek perfection?

One way is the making of contributions to the betterment of today's world; in money, yes — but more in personal striving and effort. Typical is our institutional contribution to mental welfare by seeking means to prevent, alleviate and cure mankind's most malignant and devastating disease, Dementia Praecox. That contribution's most useful phases are the wise application of our financial means and the teaching by example.

Participating in the conduct of our institutional affairs and in the exemplification of our philosophy of human life in ritualistic form, is something commendable and well worthwhile, in which many may share.

Cultivation and practice of the social amenities is also an opportunity not to be neglected. No body of our Rite is living up to its full opportunities unless it does something more than meet, eat, entertain and exemplify.

The officer who tries to crowd halls by competing with the theater, radio or vaudeville show, does more harm than good.

Unless we stimulate sound thinking, ethical culture, devout worship and high moral standard, we may as well abandon the field and surrender to the current craze of monetary gain without seriously considering and practicing what is necessary to the preservation of government by the people; indeed, to civilization itself.

—Grand Commander Melvin M. Johnson's 1946 Allocution



## Unsettled youth benefit from Freemasonry

It is surely logical to deduce that if the youth of today are unsettled, something should be offered to them — some stability. And what better means to achieve this purpose than genuine Freemasonry, an organization well known to be permanently established and one which also has withstood the buffets of time.

The problem of modern youth is a vast one, and many are the reasons that have been put forward by eminent sociologists to explain why they are unsettled. The main ones are the questions of environment, the lack of parental control and interest, and the use of drugs. Perhaps the knowledge explosion that has taken place over the last 50 years has something to do with it.

Once our unsettled youth enters a lodge and the door is closed behind him, he finds himself in another world; a world where peace envelops him on every side; a world where all men call him "brother" and are his friends; where people are pleased to see him and where he is happy to be.

How to explain this curious organization where such indulgence is shown and where everybody calls him "brother"? Gradually, he will understand there are rules and regulations. But he will not find them tedious and unjust nor want to combat them, for none of his brothers do. Slowly, as he becomes more deeply integrated, he will discover the real

and hidden meaning of brotherly love and humility.

The newly made brother will discover that genuine Freemasonry is not dogmatic and that all religions are welcomed and respected. Another aspect that will strike our new brother is the peace and order that reign within the brotherhood; the beauty and understanding that surround him and the opportunities that exist for his advancement in the hierarchy.

Order is a divine concept, and as such, we must respect it and try to emulate it. Thus he is taught that there is a limit to everything beyond which he must not go.

[After entering Masonry] the shy, belligerent and the unwanted have blossomed and changed. [He] now fits better into the pattern of things. [He has] a new sense of purpose and responsibility. In everything [he does] in Masonry, he will find a sense of satisfaction in a job worth doing well. The basic principles on which Freemasonry is founded are Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth, and each one of these, when applied, provides an antidote to the more corrupt and seamy side of life. If these were the only things the craft would teach, how our unsettled youth would benefit!

—His Royal Highness Prince  
Alexander of Yugoslavia,  
Royal Arch Mason, Summer 1975

## Masonic aim is straightforward

Both the ritual and the ceremonial statements in basic Masonic literature are crystal clear on the direction, objectives and methods of Masonry. There is no reason for confusion or ambiguity; the language is precise. The aimlessness, misdirection and ignorance of what we stand for are not the fault of either the ritual or the tradition of Masons to seek light and perfection.

If there is a lifelessness in the fraternity it may be due to the universal inability to implement moral principles, a problem as common to

other institutions as to Masonry. A common impediment to the implementation is the deluge of appeals to a frivolous, materialistic lifestyle that offers escape from responsibilities or ourselves and others. These responsibilities are the heart of Masonry.

The wisdom of great thinkers and its coincidence with Masonic teachings offers a vision for the fraternity as well as inspiration and hope for the future of mankind.

—Joseph B. Harris, *The Phylaxis*,  
Fall 1998

## Quick Quotes

Nothing ages so quickly as yesterday's vision of the future.

— Richard Corliss

Time is too slow for those who wait, too swift for those who fear, too long for those who grieve, too short for those who rejoice. But for those who love, time is not.

— Henry Van Dyke

Talent is always conscious of its own abundance and does not object to sharing.

— Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

Life is not a laughing matter, but can you imagine having to live without laughing?

— Leonid Sukhorukov

Five frogs are sitting on a log. Four decide to jump off. How many are left? Five, because there's a difference between deciding and doing.

— Mark Feldman and Michael Spratt

You can have it all. You just can't have it all at once.

— Oprah Winfrey

We are made to persist. That's how we find out who we are.

— Tobias Wolff

People who make a difference are not the ones with the credentials, but the ones with the concern.

— Max Lucado

Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless.

— Mother Teresa

Change is the law of life. Any attempt to contain it guarantees an explosion down the road. The more rigid the adherence to the status quo, the more violent the ultimate outcome will be.

— Henry Kissinger

It's never too late, in fiction or in life, to revise.

— Nancy Thayer



## Be cautious of online pharmacies

Hundreds of online pharmacies have sprung up on the Internet.



The Food & Drug Administration makes policing Internet drugstores one of its top priorities, but there are so many sites selling prescription drugs that

they have a hard time keeping up with them.

There are many reputable pharmacies among the estimated 1,000 Web sites selling prescription drugs. To check on a pharmacy's license, contact the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy ([www.nabp.net](http://www.nabp.net)). They will advise whether the pharmacy is in good standing.

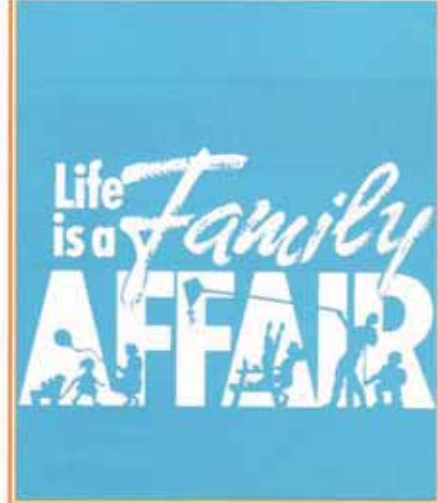
## Reuse yard refuse

You can make your own compost bin for disposing yard waste using a section of wire fencing, says Ralph Snodsmith, gardening editor for *Good Morning America Extra*.

Dump a layer of chopped grass and leaves to a depth of 6 to 12 inches. Pack down the waste and create a dished center in the pile. Cover this area with a few inches of garden soil. The soil provides bacteria for breaking down the organic matter. Keep the pile wet, since moisture is necessary in the composting process. Continue building the compost sandwich, layer by layer.



"As far as I'm concerned, it's a deal. I'll just call my wife first to see if it's O.K. to sell the house."



## Don't air all complaints

New studies show that airing all differences with your partner is not the pathway to happiness. It is likely to do more harm than good. (This is contrary to advice of marriage counselors of yesteryear.)

The UCLA study shows that couples who are less critical have the most successful marriages. To find information on this, go to this site on the Web: [acceptancesurvey.com](http://acceptancesurvey.com).

## Retirees re-enter job market

It's just a matter of time before companies begin to look more seriously at retirees. Consultants at Challenger, Gray & Christmas say many of the retired are computer literate, and senior centers could become telecommuting centers.

One example: Wells Fargo & Co. buses 100 retirees from Sun City, Ariz., to its operations center in Tempe, where they process statements several days a month.

## Moms spend less time with the children

The President's Council of Economic Advisors concludes that the rise in two-earner and single-parent families results in moms spending some 22 fewer hours with their children each week than they did in 1969. Fathers actually are spending about two hours more per week with their children than they did 30 years ago.

## Gas wars and cars

Do high gasoline prices make you wonder which car gets the best mileage? Here is the conclusion of *Time* magazine. Best: Honda Insight, a gas-electric hybrid at 61 mpg. Worst: The \$213,000 Ferrari 550 Maranello which gets only 8 mpg.

## Mr. Moms on the rise

The fastest growing type of family today is headed by a single father, according to surveys by the U.S. Census Bureau.

The number of single dads has exploded to more than 2 million, up from just 393,000 in 1970. Single-father families are growing at a rate of 10 percent per year.



The growth of single-mother families has leveled off, and the number of two-parent families has remained about the same. About one-quarter live with unmarried partners.

## Kids support working parents

Ellen Galinsky, author of *Ask the Children* (William Morrow) said in more than 1,000 interviews with children in grades three through 12, it is clear that kids appreciate the efforts of working parents.

Generally, kids felt if both parents worked to provide for them, they should share in the responsibility of running the home.

Every part of the study showed when kids feel that parents focus on them, they are more likely to feel that their parents manage work and family responsibilities very well.

## Crisis fund smarts

Kiplinger financial advisors say it's wise to keep three to six months' income in a rainy-day fund. But don't leave it all in a low-interest savings account. Since you probably won't need it all at once in an emergency, they recommend placing part of the fund in a six-month or one-year CD that pays more interest.



# Our Readers Respond

## Homer

Although Little League was founded in Williamsport, the Little League Park is located in South Williamsport, Pa., not Williamsport as you mentioned ("Footnotes," May 00). South Williamsport has its own police and fire department, city council, schools, and zip code.

Rex S. Helleberg, 32°  
South Williamsport, PA

## BLE still on track

Mark Tabbert mentions ("Museum Inventory Grows," Feb. 00) a ring that had both the symbols of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers union and the Scottish Rite Eagle. The BLE has a Web site, [www.ble.org](http://www.ble.org) and they give their history.

The BLE is the oldest, continuously functioning labor organization on the continent of North America. While I know of no definable "official" connection of the BLE and the Masonic bodies, there certainly has been a very long connection with BLE

members becoming members of Masonic bodies.

Rarely does one see a retirement write up in the Locomotive Engineers Journal that does not mention that a retiree belonged to the Masons.

Brother Tabbert says in his article that the BLE "was an important fraternity and early national trade union." This should have read that the BLE is (not was) an important *International* (not national) trade union with strong fraternalistic ties to the Masons.

It's my guess that there are thousands of rings out there with both the BLE and the Scottish Rite Eagle on them, side by side.

Truman Koehn  
Valley of Green Bay

## Barton correction

I noticed ("Stamp Act," Feb. 00) that Clara Barton was said to have received her indoctrination into the Order of the Eastern Star from Robert Morris, the founder of the Order. Brother Morris died on July 31, 1888 and Ms. Barton was said to have received the degrees in 1906. I wonder how this could be.

J.B. Hitt, II  
Louisville, KY

We welcome letters from our readers in response to articles appearing in *The Northern Light* and will reprint them as space permits. Letters must be signed, should be brief, and are subject to editing.

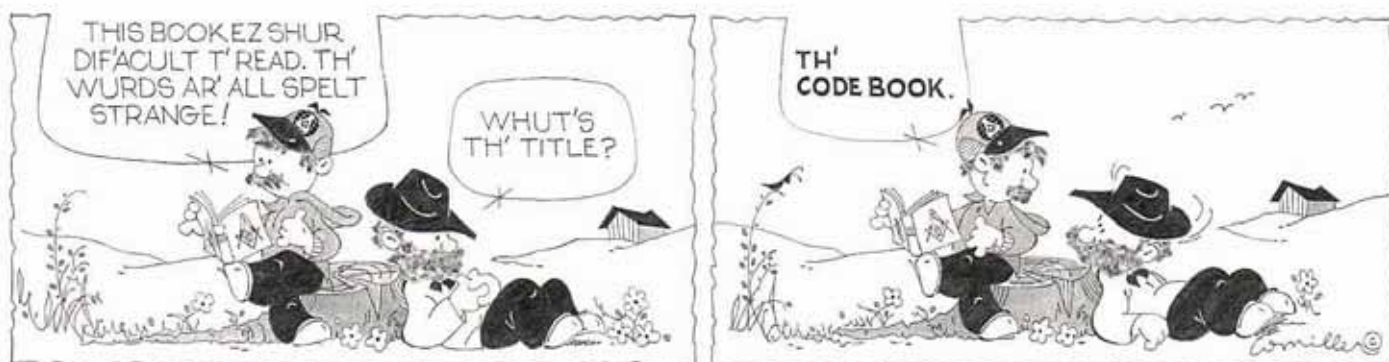
## On the Lighter Side

Why did the chicken cross the road? Some presumed replies:

- *Aristotle*: To actualize its potential.
- *Dr. Seuss*: Did the chicken cross the road? Did he cross it with a toad? Yes, the chicken crossed the road, but why it crossed, I've not been told!
- *John Locke*: Because he was exercising his natural right to liberty.
- *Carl Jung*: The confluence of events in the cultural gestalt necessitated that individual chickens cross roads at this historical juncture, therefore synchronicously bringing such occurrences into being.
- *Karl Marx*: It was an historical inevitability.
- *Albert Einstein*: Whether or not the chicken crossed the road depends upon your frame of reference.
- *Colonel Sanders*: I missed one?
- *Ernest Hemingway*: To die. In the rain.
- *Jerry Seinfeld*: Why does anyone cross a road? Why doesn't anyone ever think to ask, "What the heck was this chicken doing walking around all over the place anyway?"

**HIRAM™**

By WALLY MILLER







# Cruise the Caribbean

## With 32° Masons, families and friends

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- Round trip transfers between the airport and pier, including luggage handling
- Accommodations for 8 days / 7 nights aboard the fabulous "Fascination"
- Outside cabin with two lower twin beds. Private bathroom with shower, telephone, color TV, spacious closet. Individually controlled air-conditioning
- Briefings on each port of call
- Five meals a day including breakfast, lunch, deckside buffets, afternoon tea, dinner and a spectacular midnight buffet
- Captain's Welcome Cocktail Party with open bar and hot and cold hors d'oeuvres
- Two private cocktail parties with open bar and hot and cold hors d'oeuvres
- Entertainment each evening featuring Broadway Extravaganzas, comedians, movies, dancing, a casino and much more
- Duty free shopping onboard

**\$1499** per person



CARNIVALE "FASCINATION"



PASSAGE TO INDIA LOUNGE

#### Your Cruise Itinerary:

Day	Port	Arrive	Depart
Sat.	San Juan		10:00 pm
Sun.	St. Thomas	7:00 am	5:30 pm
Mon.	St. Maarten	7:00 am	5:30 pm
Tues.	Dominica	8:00 am	4:00 pm
Wed.	Martinique	8:00 am	5:30 pm
Thurs.	Barbados	8:00 am	10:00 pm
Fri.	"Fun Day" at sea		
Sat.	San Juan	7:00 am	

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# Footnotes\*



**\*Complete passports.** During the winter, Scottish Rite passports were mailed to each 32° Mason with instructions that he should have a Valley representative stamp the proper page in the passport whenever he witnesses a particular degree. The intent was to encourage all Scottish Rite Masons to view all 29 degrees in full form.

A few eager beavers in New Jersey set out to accomplish that goal without hesitation. They arranged a visit to the Valley of Guthrie, Oklahoma, in May where all the Scottish Rite degrees were presented during the course of a three-day reunion.

Among the group was Ill. Thurman C. Pace Jr., 33°, an Active Emeritus Member of the Northern Jurisdiction. He reported that the acting, staging, sound effects, lighting and costuming were outstanding. Guthrie's Director of the Work James T. Tresner, 33°, coordinated the degrees with a cast of 300.

Shown above are Ill. Robert G. Davis, 33°, General Secretary, Valley of Guthrie; Ill. Verdon R. Skipper, 33°, N.J. Deputy's Representative; Ill. Donald D. Miller, 33°, Deputy for New Jersey; Ill. Brother Pace; Arthur H. Schwacke, 32°; Ill. Donald L. Pellington, 33°, and Ill. A.R. Powell, 33°, the

SGIG's Personal Representative to the Valley of Guthrie.

The next goal should be witnessing the Northern Jurisdiction versions of those degrees. Valleys in this jurisdiction have been urged to present all Scottish Rite degrees at least once every six years.

Don't forget to take your passport on your next visit to a degree presentation.

**\*Guthrie.** Although the capitol of Oklahoma is now in Oklahoma City, it was originally in Guthrie. In 1919, the Valley of Guthrie purchased from the state of Oklahoma the original state capitol building and ten acres of land for one dollar. They then expanded the building to include an inn with sleeping accommodations for some 300 people. This was necessary because so many members had to travel a considerable distance, and the city of Guthrie did not have enough rooms for those attending the reunions.

**\*Millennium videos.** We have had a number of requests from members wanting to buy a copy of the millennium video that was first presented to the millennium class on April 29. The music and performance rights do not permit the sale

of the video. However, each Valley has received a VHS copy with the direction that it be shown to Masonic and non-Masonic groups.

It would make an ideal program for a lodge meeting. It could also be used for special occasions. If you did not see the initial presentation or wish to see it again, contact your Valley Secretary and arrange to borrow it.

**\*Moving Day.** Last summer the entire staff at the Supreme Council headquarters in Lexington packed up their belongings and temporarily relocated to the lower level at the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum of Our National Heritage. Now that construction is nearing completion on the addition to the new headquarters, we will be moving into the facility in mid-August. Although there may be some minor disruption, we're anticipating a relatively smooth transition after a short period of adjustment.

**\*Charities video.** A new video highlighting the four Scottish Rite charities has been produced by Communications For Learning, the same company that created the Millennium 2000 video shown at the jurisdiction-wide class on April 29. The relevant, up-to-date film captures the essence of the charities by featuring an Abbott Scholarship recipient, a Schizophrenia Fellowship recipient, several learning centers, and a fifth-grade group touring the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum of Our National Heritage. The 12-minute video is a great tool for increasing the awareness of what the Scottish Rite is achieving today with its charities.



RICHARD H. CURTIS, 33°  
Editor



## Enhancing the lives of others



### Builders Council

The Builders Council was established to honor members and their families who make a planned gift or bequest to one or more of the four Scottish Rite charities. One of the purposes of the Builders Council is to recognize the support members give to the work of the Scottish Rite charities and to show appreciation for their commitment.

There are many types of gifts that qualify for the Builders Council membership, such as a bequest of a specific property or a percentage of estate; bequest of residue of estate, bequest using various charitable trusts; or naming a charity as beneficiary of life insurance or pension.

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