

TROWEL

GRAND LODGE OF MASONS IN MASSACHUSETTS • SPRING 2012

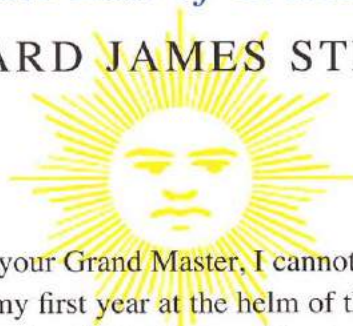


2011 Rookie Masons

New Grand Lodge Officers

Feast of St. John

From the East of Grand Lodge
RICHARD JAMES STEWART



Brethren,

As I begin my second year as your Grand Master, I cannot help but reflect upon some of the challenges I faced during my first year at the helm of the third oldest Grand Lodge in the world and the first Grand Lodge in the Western Hemisphere.

Our Grand Lodge will soon celebrate 279 years of dedication and commitment to the ideals of Freemasonry in Massachusetts: a proud milestone, and for me, a reason to feel that it is an honor and privilege to belong. Every one of our 35,000 Massachusetts Masons is a member of Grand Lodge. We all share the same rights and privileges of Masonry enumerated in our charters from Grand Lodge.

Today Grand Lodge and each of your lodges are faced with identical challenges: how to grow our membership—the lifeblood of our fraternity, how to maintain our buildings, how to develop programs that engage and retain our members, and how to deal with inevitable financial issues.

I spoke about investing in the future of our great fraternity during the December Quarterly Communication. I announced that we were in the process of setting up a listening tour in nine areas around the state. The objective was to sit with members and listen to issues and topics of concern to you.

I must say that these meetings have been very informative and productive; many misconceptions about Grand Lodge were discussed and cleared up. The feedback has been extremely positive. One of the more common statements heard was, “This is the first time in all my years as a Mason that the Grand Lodge has come down to our level to listen to the membership.” I have assured meeting attendees that there will be another listening tour next year.

Once again, my brethren, I know I ask much of you. I need your continued support on this journey “Back to the Future.” I ask on behalf of this fraternity we hold so dear and love so deeply.

Cordially and fraternally,

Richard James Stewart
Grand Master

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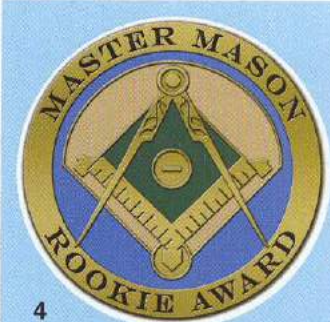
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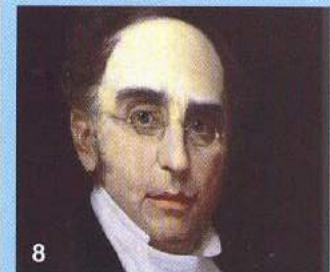
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The 2011 Rookie Award Dinner

by Bro. John Doherty



Photos by R.W. Phil Nowlan

In 2009, the Membership Development Committee launched a new program aimed at promoting engagement by getting new Masons involved with their lodges. Twenty-six men completed the requirements of the program and received their Master Mason Rookie Award. TROWEL Magazine featured six of these Rookies on the cover of the Winter, 2009 issue.

There were so many 2011 Rookies, we couldn't get them all into a single photograph for this issue's cover!

In what has become a highlight of the Rookie Program, 100 Masons (including 78 Rookies) attended this year's awards dinner hosted by Grand Master Richard J. Stewart. In addition to enjoying an excellent meal at the Grand Lodge building in Boston, Rookies are able to spend time in an informal setting with the Grand Master, who shared his thoughts on the condition of the fraternity and his aspirations for its future. The lively exchange of questions and answers that followed his remarks kept the Grand Master on his feet for more than one and a half hours.

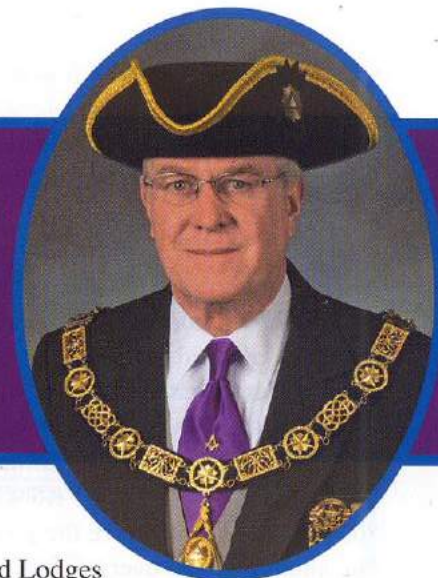
The Master Mason Rookie Award is undoubtedly one of the most popular and successful initiatives undertaken in recent years. Current Membership Development Chairman, Rt. Wor. Kenneth W. Sprague Jr. reports over 220 Rookies since 2009. These men in turn have sponsored over 200 new Masons.

The program requires each participant to complete eleven activities; five activities are required while six others can be selected from a list of ten optional activities. The list has been subtly modified since 2009, but still includes such things as attending regular lodge communications, working at a lodge social activity, attending LOI meetings, sponsoring one candidate, assisting in setting up a lodge room, or attending a Masonic memorial service. Successful candidates receive a Grand Lodge certificate from the Grand Master and are presented a Rookie lapel pin during the visit to their lodge by the District Deputy Grand Master.

The Rookie Program has spawned another membership development program named the Masonic Builder's Award, which is available to all Masons and is structured in much the same way as the Rookie Program (*see page 23*). ■

The Grand Master's Address

at the December 2011 Quarterly Communication
of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts



As I welcome you to this December Quarterly Communication of our Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, I find it hard to believe that a full year has passed since you elected me to serve as your eighty-seventh Grand Master.

Much of a Grand Master's first year is given over to establishing new relations or renewing old relationships with other Grand Lodges. This work continued during the past quarter. While attending the session of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, I was pleased to present our prestigious Henry Price Medal to Rt. Wor. Grand Master Thomas K. Sturgeon in recognition of his courage in bringing sweeping changes to his jurisdiction. Being in the magnificent Philadelphia Masonic Temple is inspirational in itself, but I was deeply impressed to witness the long procession of presentations made to the Grand Lodge by various lodges and groups; by the end of the day, gifts of \$41,000 had been gratefully received by the Grand Master.

I was pleased to accept invitations to sessions in a number of sister jurisdictions and during the quarter attended the Grand Lodge of North Carolina, the Grand Lodge of Delaware, the Grand Lodge of Maryland, the Grand Lodge of Newfoundland and Labrador, and the Grand Lodge of Washington in the District of Columbia.

For the first time, all six New England jurisdictions took part in our October Square and Compasses Day. Early

reports from the six Grand Lodges indicate that they welcomed many potential candidates during the October 15 open-house event.

Serving Our Own Lodges

I am pleased also by the large number of invitations from our Massachusetts lodges. Grand Lodge officers performed installations of officers in Pacific Lodge in Amherst, Mount Moriah Lodge in Westfield, Old Colony Lodge in Hingham, The Meadows Lodge in East Longmeadow, Wilbraham Masonic Lodge, and The Lodge of Saint Andrew and Winslow Lewis Lodge, both in Boston.

A large suite of officers accompanied me to Needham, where we had the honor of rededicating the cornerstone of Town Hall during the town's Three Hundredth Anniversary. Grand Lodge officers were asked to conduct three other rededications of Masonic buildings: in Hingham, Medway, and Saugus.

Support for DeMolay

The Grand Master attended the installation of officers in both Cape Cod Chapter in Centerville and in Worcester Chapter. Most Wor. Past Grand Master Roger Pageau, who is an honorary member of the International Supreme Council, attended the installation of officers of the newly formed Ben Franklin Chapter in Grafton; Bro. Pageau also



Prior to opening, the ladies of the Grand Secretary's Office, who serve as judges, assisted with the 2011 Secretary of the Year Awards. This year's awards were presented to RW Kenneth W. Sprague Jr., Converse Lodge, and RW Joseph R. Bridge, Esoteric-Sherwood Lodge.

(L to R) Grand Secretary Jeff Gardiner, Bro. Sprague, Pat Latham, the Grand Master, Lisa Hastings, Bro. Bridge.

attended the Wakefield Chapter in Wakefield, where the chapter received its Letters Temporary. We now have sixteen DeMolay chapters in Massachusetts and strong interest exists for chapters in western Massachusetts.

Other Activities

After reminding lodges and reinforcing M.W. Bro. Lovering's edict regarding suspension for non-payment of dues, we have reduced suspensions by some 43% during the 2011 Masonic year.

The Master Mason Rookie Award Program has become one of the most successful initiatives of the Membership Development Committee. Rookies have sponsored over 200 Master Masons since the program was introduced and this number grows every month.

The recently formed MHS Representative Program is off to a great start. The thirty-two representatives appointed by Chairman Rt. Wor. Paul Cataldo have begun their visits to lodges in their districts. These visits, designed to inform members of the many health care services available through the Masonic Health System, have generated a dramatic increase in calls to MHS for answers to their health care needs.

Changes to the Grand Constitutions

Proposals were formally presented that would change two sections of the Grand Constitutions:

Section 330 – Grand Lodge Dues, which contains the formula for calculation of annual dues owed to Grand Lodge, would be changed. This change if approved, would result in a dues amount of \$60 for the fiscal year 2013, which begins in September 2012.

Section 400 – Initiation Fees, which establishes a minimum amount that must be charged by lodges for initiating, crafting, and raising a Mason. This change, if approved, would establish a fee of not less than \$300.

Formal notice of these proposals will be sent within 30 days to masters and secretaries of all lodges and to permanent members of Grand Lodge by the grand secretary.

Coming in 2012

Starting in January, all applicants for the degrees will be required to consent to a background check. Details and supporting forms are coming from the Grand Secretary's Office.



Above left: Grand Master Stewart presents newly elected Senior Grand Warden RW Richard A Gesualdo. *Center:* Grand Master Stewart congratulates new Junior Grand Warden RW James C. Holmes. *Right:* Mount Holyoke Lodge presents a \$2,000 contribution to the Masonic Medical Research Labs. (L to R) Dir. Ronald P. Kamp, Wor. Tyler W. Seavey, G.M. Stewart.

Below left: Thomas Talbot Lodge presented with the Achievement certificate from the Service Committee for the lodge's efforts to assist a disabled member. (L to R) RW Ernie Pearlstein, Pat Latham, Wor. Ken Murnane, Grand Master Stewart. *Right:* The Grand Master congratulates new Grand Representatives. (L to R) Wor. Robert Eaton, Malta; Bro. Pacifico Tuason, the Philippines; Wor. John Knox, South Dakota; Wor. George Harris, New Brunswick.



Regional treasurer training will be offered to lodge and building association treasurers. This new training is intended to benefit treasurers by providing information that prevents difficulties meeting regulations of various municipal, state, and Federal agencies including the IRS.

The M.W. David Whitcomb Lovering Ritual Competition was announced by M.W. Bro. Pageau just after Bro. Lovering's passing. A ritual competition committee has been busy developing guidelines and the new program will be unveiled shortly after the first of the new year.

Planning is underway to train thirty-two representatives

to promote the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory: The new, premier Grand Lodge charity. MMRL is a highly respected leader in the fields of cardiac and stem cell research. We can and should feel very proud of being associated with a charity devoted to finding a better quality of life for all mankind.

Work will begin soon to establish a tax deductible charitable organization for the benefit of our Grand Lodge. More details will be forthcoming in the months ahead on this long overdue planned-giving program, which will be named the Brotherhood Foundation. ■

An Indissoluble Chain

by Rt. Wor. and Rev. Richard Haley

When we cross the threshold of Freemasonry and begin our Masonic journeys as Entered Apprentices we are taught in the lecture on Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth that Masons "profess to be linked together by an indissoluble chain of sincere affection." Well . . . that's quite the idealistic statement isn't it? In spite of that statement about sincere affection, the hard truth is that we do not and cannot like everyone, not even all our fellow Masons. I confess to barely tolerating some of the brothers I have met over the years, let alone having affection for them! But is this lesson concerning affection really about liking everyone?



As I have experienced Masonry for the last 35 years I have come to appreciate what the part about an "indissoluble chain" means. Early in the 20th century, prior to the First World War, my grandfather became a Mason. In 1947 after returning from World War II, his son, my father, became a Mason along with my uncle (my mother's brother). In 1970 I joined DeMolay with a number of my friends while my father looked on, and I later became master councilor in 1972. I became a Mason in 1976. Shortly after that my brother became a Mason. At least eight of us who were in high school at the same time or part of my church's youth program together are all members of the same lodge as were numerous men who had connections to the same church I grew up in, including respected lay leaders and pastors. Sadly, most of these "elder statesmen" are now deceased. In all the churches I have pastored I have been privileged to share my Masonic identity with many parishioners and even joined in the raising of several.

Masonry has been a part of my roots both familial and ecclesiastically for over 100 years. Experientially, I think I know what this indissoluble chain means as I see myself as a direct part of the chain reaching back to somewhere around 1900. But what about the phrase "sincere affection" when reality tells me I can't possibly like everyone personally not to mention the conflicts I have seen within the fraternity?

It seems to me the word to be highlighted is *sincerity*. It is my sincere hope that I will always take seriously that "indissoluble chain" which connects me to my brother Masons, past and present and hopefully into the future. And that sincere hope is this: a sincere and heartfelt desire to live at peace with my brother Masons, even in the face of disagreement, ever remembering the more noble and glorious purposes to which the working tools of our speculative profession allude. I know that if I can learn to live at peace within the confines of my lodge as I contemplate the lessons of the twenty-four inch gauge, common gavel, plumb, square, level, and trowel, then I can learn to live at peace elsewhere in the world. And if the majority of us are truly sincere about this too, then the indissoluble chain of Freemasonry that is made up of you and me may become a new working tool itself that can and will change the world. ■

Rt. Wor. & Rev. Richard Haley is a member of Essex Lodge in Salem where he has twice served as master. He has been a grand chaplain since 2001 and also serves as grand representative to Virginia. He currently serves as senior pastor of First-Calvary Baptist Church in North Andover and he resides in Lowell.

Grand Masters of Massachusetts

by Rt. Wor. Walter Hunt

1852-1854

Rt. Rev. and Most Wor.

GEORGE
RANDALL

Apostle in the
Wilderness

1865: Boston, Massachusetts. The Right Reverend George Maxwell Randall has just been anointed as Episcopal Bishop of the territories of Colorado, Wyoming, and New Mexico. "The cross and mitre are heavy indeed this day," he writes—a modest expression of his deeply conflicted state of mind. After a lifetime spent in Rhode Island and Massachusetts, he is about to embark—at age 55, on the greatest adventure of his life—torn away from all that he knows: his family, his home, his parish, and his brethren in Freemasonry, who elected him to the highest office within their compass—Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts—just a dozen years earlier. He is about to become an apostle in the wilderness.

It is difficult to imagine the world that George Randall entered when he journeyed across the plains to Colorado in 1866. The city of Denver, presently home to more than half a million people, scarcely existed. And since the railroad stopped over there, it was for all intents and purposes the center of civilization. The newly minted bishop's See was enormous: more than 460,000 square miles; and in order to visit the many towns and settlements, he was forced to journey hundreds of miles, mostly inaccessible by train. His travels were mostly by wagon, where he was exposed to privation and danger. He never traveled armed, trusting in God to protect him. A younger man would have found the work arduous, but there were few younger men available; when he first set off across the country, bound for his new home and responsibility, he could only find one clergyman—Reverend William A. Fuller—to accompany him.

Far from the comforts of civilized Boston, Brother Randall nonetheless prospered. From his arrival in Colorado in the summer of 1866 until his death in 1873, he traveled across the territory, preaching and ministering. In his *Memoir* about Rt. Rev. Bro. Randall, George A. Jarvis, who was one of the church's and Brother Randall's greatest benefactors, writes:

When on his visitations, if too far from shelter, his wagon furnished him a better bed than could be found in some places; and sometimes, after a weary day of trial and fatigue, his couch would be of pine boughs.

Wherever he went, a place of some kind could always be found in which he could gather the people together to hear his glad tidings. Many a time the dining room of a hotel served as a chapel; or a grocery store was used, with counter, boxes, and barrels used for pulpit and pews; and several times the voice of prayer and praise ascended from barroom and liquor saloon. But whenever told, "the good old story," delivered with the magnetic power of the earnest bishop, was always attractive.

We cannot hear the voice of Brother Randall a century and a half after his ministry and his service to the Craft, but sources suggest that he was a powerful and dynamic speaker, both on ecclesiastical and Masonic subjects.

George Maxwell Randall was born in Warren, Rhode Island in November, 1810, son and grandson of Freemasons on both sides of his family. His father was a judge in the Supreme Court of Rhode Island, and he was brought up in relatively comfortable circumstances. He matriculated at Brown University and then at the Episcopal seminary in New York. After his ordination he was assigned to the Church of the Ascension in Fall River, an industrial city on the south coast of Massachusetts, where he served with distinction for six years. In May of 1844 he was made rector of the Church of the Messiah in Boston; he held this office until his removal to Colorado more than two decades later.

He first saw Masonic Light in Washington Lodge #3 in Warren, Rhode Island, in 1845; in this town he shortly

thereafter received the Capitular Degrees. When he came to Boston he affiliated with Columbian Lodge, a Paul Revere lodge; he was chaplain there and also of the Grand Lodge. He was soon admitted to Grand Lodge office—first as district deputy grand master, appointed by Most Wor. Bro. Simon W. Robinson, then as deputy grand master during the three one-year terms of Most Wor. Edward Raymond, and finally as Most Worshipful Grand Master from 1852 to 1854. He was the second clergyman to hold that office after Rev. Bro. Paul Dean.

During his term as Grand Master he granted charters to six lodges and restored the charters to four more that had gone dark during the anti-Masonic period a few decades earlier. In his first year he had the honor of introducing the Hungarian patriot, Bro. Lajos Kossuth, to the Grand Lodge. His administration was the beginning of a period of enormous growth in the fraternity in Massachusetts, which continued through the terms of his immediate successors Heard, Lewis, Coolidge, Parkman, Dame, and Gardner. Freemasonry was still growing at the time of his demise, a fact that made him singularly proud. He spoke of this in a famous address given at the Feast of St. John in December 1871, during one of his infrequent visits to the East. He was at that time the senior Past Grand Master:

"I was not a little surprised to hear my name called on the evening of the annual election, first on the list of permanent members of the Grand Lodge, as the oldest Past Grand Master living. I could hardly persuade myself, that one who felt himself to be yet young should sustain this relative position in this venerable body. But so it is. These annual gatherings, while they exhibit the rapid growth of the Brotherhood, remind us of the fathers who have gone before..."

He then spoke of the period of trial through which the fraternity had passed:

"We have been reminded that this festival commemorates the fortieth year since the famous Declaration was signed and published by the Freemasons of Boston, and its vicinity, in vindication of the institution against the assaults which the frenzied spirit of anti-Masonry made upon it in 1831. I was a boy in those dark days, but I remember them well. My father was a Mason, firm and unflinching. I was early interested in an institution, of which I knew nothing except what I saw reflected in the life and

character of those whom I revered. But I was old enough to know something of this senseless crusade... So dismal was the day, that many true Masons verily thought that the end had come.

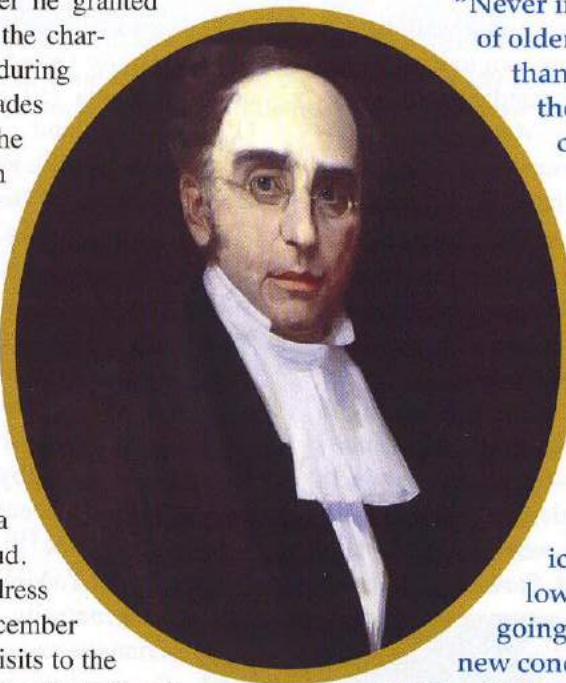
"Out of this fiery furnace Freemasonry came forth purified of much of its dross, demonstrating to the world that its work was not yet finished; it yet had a mission among men, and so long as there was a work for it to do, no power of its enemies could destroy its existence or hinder its ultimate progress..."

"Never in its history has this Brotherhood of olden time had before it a nobler work than it has to-day. The tendencies of the age, the signs of the times, the condition of society, all indicate its work..."

"The star of Freemasonry rose in the East; its course has always been towards the West. It is so to-day. Civilization is making its way across this great continent. Its swiftly flowing tides are bearing forward multitudes, who are to people plains which have been known only as the great American desert. Freemasonry has followed the adventuring emigrant, going from his eastern home. In this new condition of things, this ancient institution finds a fresh field for the exercise of its moral teachings and its active charities..."

"Large numbers of enterprising young men are drawn thither from their distant homes, in search of employment.... [Such a man] can claim neither the protection nor the counsel nor the aid of any man among the multitudes whom he meets in the crowded thoroughfares of his new home, and is constantly exposed to cruel imposition. Now, in the absence of those who are to him of blood-akin, it is surely a very great thing to have a Brotherhood which will receive him into its pale, warn him of danger, befriend him in trouble, keep him from the society of the evil, supply his wants when he is destitute, visit him when he is sick, and should he die, will bury his body and send his dying message to bereaved friends far away. This is the mission of this fraternity, along the frontier of our country. But it does something more than this. Its lodge room becomes an asylum, a retreat in the hours of leisure and darkness, where the stranger may find trustworthy companions, and listen to moral teachings, and so cultivate a taste for what is elevating, while he is, in a measure at least, saved from the snares of the destroyer, who walks in darkness, and through the fascination of companionship

(continued on page 31)



The 2011 Stated Communication of The Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts

by Bro. John Doherty

We are all acquainted with the regular and annual communications required by our own lodge bylaws. Grand Lodge is also required to call regular communications (on the second Wednesday of March, June, September, and December) and an annual communication (which is held at the same time as the December regular meeting). In addition, Grand Lodge is required to hold a stated communication; its Constitutions specify that this meeting is to be held on December 27 each year. If this date falls on a Saturday or Sunday (as it did in 2009), the communication is to be held on the following Monday.

The business of the stated communication is twofold: install Grand Lodge officers and celebrate the Anniversary of Saint John the Evangelist, one of the two eminent Christian patrons to whom all of our lodges are dedicated.

After presentation of the colors by members of the U.S. Coast Guard, Grand Master Richard J. Stewart opened this

year's stated communication in ample form and introduced fifteen visiting Grand Lodges in the order of their precedence: Virginia (1778), New York (1781), New Jersey (1786), Maryland (1787), New Hampshire (1789), Connecticut (1789), Rhode Island (1791), Vermont (1784), Delaware (1806), District of Columbia (1811), Oregon (1851), Minnesota (1853), Nova Scotia (1866), New Brunswick (1867), and Panama.

Past Grand Master Albert T. Ames presented Grand Master Stewart with a Past Grand Master jewel in recognition of the completion of the Grand Master's first year. The jewel had been previously worn by Grand Masters Melvin M. Johnson (1914-1916), Stanley F. Maxwell (1975-1977), and Fred Kirby Bauer (1999-2001).

A surprise presentation of the Connecticut Service Medal was made to Grand Master Stewart by Grand Master James T. McWain, who thanked Bro. Stewart for his generosity in sharing ideas and experience with Connecticut and particularly for coordinating last October's Square and Compasses Day with the other New England states.

Installation

The installation portion of the stated communication began, of course, with the installation of the Grand Master for his second year. After being presented the symbols of his office including the distinctive tricorne, sitting members of Grand Lodge processed three times around Ionic Hall. Passing the East on each circuit, they saluted the Grand Master with one of the due-guards and signs of our three degrees. This tradition is accompanied by much pomp including music, candle bearers, bearers of the Book of Constitutions, square, level, plumb, and the golden urn holding the lock of hair of Brother and President James Garfield. (See TROWEL, Winter 2011, Two Golden Urns, page 8).

Clockwise from upper left: Most Wor. Albert Ames presented Grand Master Stewart with his Past Grand Master jewel; Connecticut Grand Master James McWain (left) and Grand Junior Deacon Michael Dodge (right) presented the Connecticut Service Award to Grand Master Stewart; members of the Coast Guard who presented the colors were introduced by Grand Master Stewart.





L to R: RW George Bibilos carries the Garfield Urn. Bearer of the Red Candle, RW James Logan; Bearer of the White Candle, Bro. Jeffrey Jarvis. Bearer of the Blue Candle, Wor. Clinton Dempsey. RW Alexander Pope carries the Book of Constitutions.

Grand Master Stewart installed his elected officers, his deputy, his district grand master, and his district deputy grand masters as our Grand Constitutions request. Newly elected this year are Senior Grand Warden Rt. Wor. Richard A. Gesualdo and Junior Grand Warden Rt. Wor. James C. Holmes. Rt. Wor. Robert V. Jolly is the newly appointed Deputy Grand Master. Masonic resumes of each new officer appear on the following pages. The remaining appointed officers were installed by Deputy Grand Master Robert Jolly as permitted by the Constitutions.

Feast of St. John

At 6 p.m. that evening, Masons from around Massachusetts joined the Grand Master and his guests in a celebration of the Anniversary of Saint John the Evangelist. In a remarkable show of efficiency, the catering staff served a five-course meal to 659 people in three dining rooms. Following the meal, attendees heard entertaining and informative remarks from a number of the Grand Master's guests.

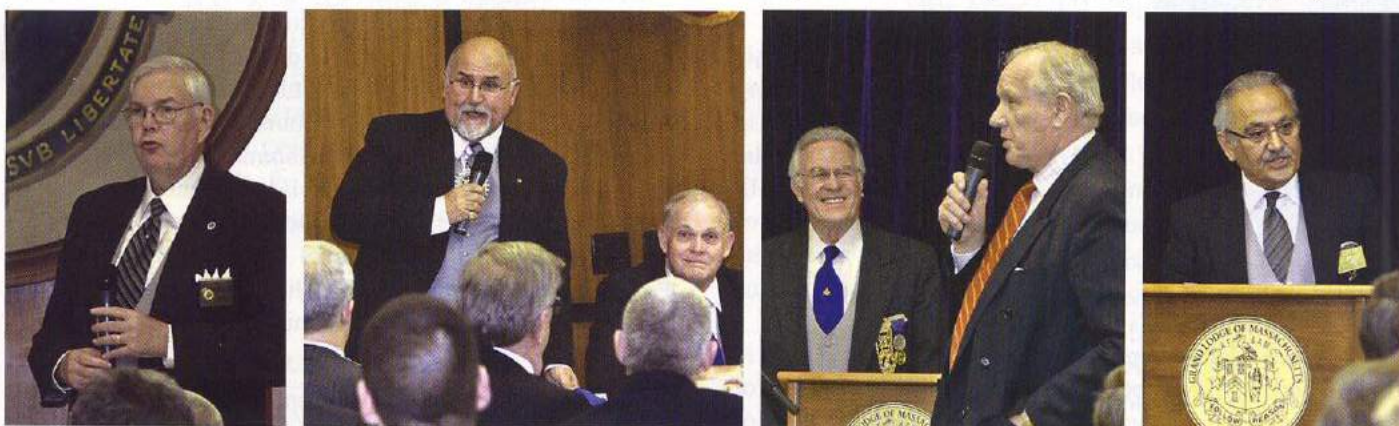
Rt. Wor. Deputy Grand Master James E. Sullivan shared warm fraternal greetings from the Grand Lodge of New York. Most Wor. Grand Master Barry S. Imber reflected on the close ties between Nova Scotia and Boston, and pre-

sented Grand Master Stewart a framed photograph of Halifax Harbor commemorating the relief sent from Boston in response to the great disaster in 1917. Rt. Wor. Grand Sword Bearer Kenneth Pfeiffer introduced Scottish Bro. John Haining, senior deacon of his Glasgow lodge, who entertained the gathering with his recollections as a retired policeman. The Past Grand Master of Nova Scotia, Most Wor. Owen Walton, regaled the audience with jokes with a Masonic twist. Most Wor. Past Grand Master Mansour Hatefi, grand secretary of the Grand Lodge of Washington D.C. and managing editor of the Voice of Freemasonry, spoke about the ways in which Masonry and the United States of America have been linked together in expansion.

The most anticipated speech of the evening was the maiden talk of the newly installed Rt. Wor. Deputy Grand Master Robert V. Jolly, Jr. Each appointed deputy is asked to address the Feast of Saint John as one of his first duties for the fraternity. Bro. Jolly's remarks are reproduced on the following pages.

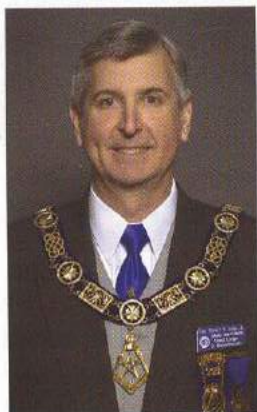
The long, but very enjoyable day of ceremonies, feasting, and speeches came to a close in early evening. And the beginning of the second year of Most Worshipful Richard J. Stewart's term as Grand Master was well started. ■

Speaking at the Feast of St. John (L to R): RW DGM James E. Sullivan shared warm greetings from New York; Grand Master Barry Imber of Nova Scotia recalled the affectionate ties between Nova Scotia and Boston; the stories of Bro. John Haining of Glasgow brought many laughs from attendees; MW Grand Secretary Mansour Hatefi, Grand Lodge of Washington, D.C.



Rt. Wor. Deputy Grand Master Robert V. Jolly, Jr.

Brother Jolly was raised in 1999 in Mount Lebanon Lodge and served as master in 2006 and 2007. He is also a member



of The Master's Lodge. He began his service to Grand Lodge in 2008 as junior grand deacon and was appointed district deputy grand master for the First Masonic District in 2009. He is the grand representative to the Grand Lodge of Senegal and has served on the charter and bylaws committee since 2011. He has been a director of Overlook Communities in Charlton, a division of Overlook Masonic Health Center, since 2010

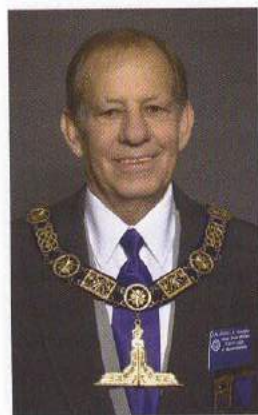
and became chairman in 2012. He also became a director of the Grand Lodge Board of Directors in 2012.

Rt. Wor. Bro. Jolly has been active in several Masonic organizations including the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, in the Valley of Boston, where he is a member of all four bodies. He belongs to the York Rite's Saint Andrew's Royal Arch Chapter, Boston Council of Royal and Select Master Masons, and St. Bernard Commandery. He is a member of the Massachusetts College, Societas Rosicruciana in Civitatibus Foederatis (S.R.I.C.F); Aleppo Shrine; and the Past District Deputy Grand Masters Association.

Deputy Grand Master Brother Jolly serves as general manager for the Marblehead Municipal Light Department, is a member of Saint Mary's Parish in Lynn and resides in Swampscott with his wife Lynda and daughters Amanda and Danielle.

Rt. Wor. Senior Grand Warden Richard A. Gesualdo

Rt. Wor. Richard Anthony Gesualdo was installed during the stated communication of the Grand Lodge on December 27, 2011. The senior grand warden is the second highest ranking, elected Mason in the state. Bro. Gesualdo will serve for one year.



In 1975 he began his Masonic career by joining North Reading Lodge. He served as the master in 1987, and is a member of the lodge's blood committee and CHIP committee. He is also a member of The Masters Lodge, where he joined the line in 2007 and is currently the junior warden.

The newly elected senior grand warden is a 32° Mason in the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite in the Valley of Boston, where he is a member of Boston Lafayette Lodge of

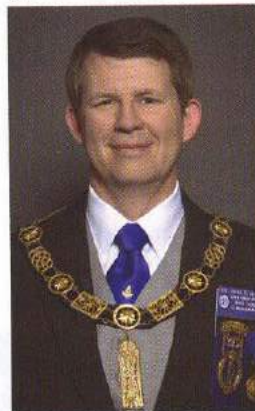
Perfection; Giles F. Yates Council, Princes of Jerusalem; Mt. Olivet Chapter of Rose Croix; and Massachusetts Consistory.

Bro. Gesualdo began serving the Grand Lodge in 1998 when he was appointed senior grand deacon. The following year he was named a grand lecturer, a position he held until he was installed senior grand warden. In 2001 he was appointed grand representative to the Grand Lodge of Michigan and continues in that capacity.

Rt. Wor. Bro. Gesualdo is now retired and lives in North Reading with his wife Pamela and their son Bryan. He is a member of Union Congregational Church.

Rt. Wor. Junior Grand Warden James C. Holmes

Rt. Wor. James Carleton Holmes was installed as the junior grand warden, which is the third-highest, elected Mason in the state. Bro. Holmes will also serve for a one-year term.



Bro. Holmes began his Masonic career in 1977 at Saint George Lodge in Brockton. He served as master in 1984, 1991, and 1992. He has been the lodge secretary since 1995. Bro. Holmes is also a member of Paul Revere Lodge and Fellowship Lodge and was presented the Joseph Warren Distinguished Service Medal in 2008.

Rt. Wor. Bro. Holmes first served Grand Lodge in 2001, when he was appointed as the district deputy grand master of the Brockton 29th Masonic District. He served on the scholarship committee from 2004 to 2010, and on the district deputy resource team since 2005.

He is active in several regional and statewide organizations and committees including the Worshipful Masters Association of Southeastern Massachusetts, serving as secretary/treasurer since 2004; the Masonic Secretaries Association of Massachusetts, currently first vice-president; and the Past District Deputy Grand Masters Association, currently as second vice-president.

Bro. Holmes is a 32° Mason in the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite in the Valley of Boston, where he is a member of all four bodies and has been a degree worker since 2008. He belongs to the York Rite's Satucket Pilgrim Royal Arch Chapter, Brockton-Abington Council Royal and Select Master Masons, and Bay State Commandery. He is also an Aleppo Shriner and a past advisory council member of Ousamequin Chapter, Order of DeMolay.

Bro. Holmes is an accounts manager with Brockton Professional Baseball, LLC, and lives in Rockland. He and his wife Susan have four adult children and four grandchildren.

Portraits and group photos by Atlantic Photography.



INTRODUCING THE DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS FOR 2012

Front row: R.W. Ludwig Alban, District 1; R.W. Philip A. Nowlan, District 2; R.W. Amos F. Cutter, Jr., District 4; R.W. Robert V. Jolly, Jr., Deputy Grand Master; M. W. Richard J. Stewart, Grand Master; R.W. John B. Bamber, District Grand Master, Panama; R.W. James O. Dill, District 5; R.W. Bruce T. Marshall, District 6; R.W. Thomas A. Stark, Grand Marshal.

Second row: R.W. Stanley C. Gaw, District 7; R.W. Richard F. Jope, District 8; R.W. Michael A. Sandberg, District 9; R.W. William E. Yanakakis, District 10; R.W. Thomas M. O'Shaughnessy, District 11; R.W. Stephen A. Corthell District 12; R.W. Scott T. Jareo, District 13; R.W. Geoffrey Kromer, District 14; R.W. Robert G. Jessee, District 15 North; R.W. Douglas B.

Freeman, District 15 South; R.W. Leland F. Ross, District 16.

Third row: R.W. Peter D. Dorr, District 17; R.W. Joseph C. DeNicola, District 18; R.W. Edmund L. Gordon, District 19; R.W. David W. Catten, Jr., District 20; R.W. Kenneth M. Andrews, District 22; R.W. Robert A. Johnson, Jr., District 23; R.W. Daniel C. Barston, District 24; R.W. Walter J. Golden, Jr., District 25; R.W. William H. Paul, District 26.

Back row: R.W. Robert J. O'Neill, District 27; R.W. Robert W. Allard, District 28; R.W. Scott A. Rogers, District 29; R.W. Kevin P. Hamel, District 30; R.W. Kevin C. McGinnis, District 31.

Missing from photo: R.W. Eugene A. Capobianco, District 3; R.W. Henry P. Burke, District 21.

OTHER ELECTED AND APPOINTED GRAND LODGE OFFICERS

District Grand Master—R.W. John B. Bamber (Panama and Chile)

Grand Treasurer—R.W. Lawrence J. Smith Jr.

Grand Secretary—R.W. Jeffrey L. Gardiner

Assistant Grand Treasurer—R.W. Craig S. MacPherson Jr.

Grand Marshal—R.W. Thomas A. Stark

Grand Chaplains

R.W. & Rev. John R. S. Higgins R.W. & Rev. Matthew J. Wissell
Wor. & Rev. Richard E. Haley Wor. & Rev. Brian S. Dixon
Wor. & Rabbi Irving L. Luchans
R.W. & Rt. Rev. Brian R. Marsh
Wor. & Rev. Keith C. Alderman
Wor. & Rev. John W. Taylor

Grand Lecturers

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R.W. Peter R. Smith R.W. John K. Andrews
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R.W. W. Warren Richardson

Grand Lecturers Emeritus

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Senior Grand Deacon—R.W. Lawrence E. Bethune

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Wor. Adam E. Mitchell

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Grand Tyler—R.W. John W. Knox

Grand Soloist—Wor. Armen R. Dilan

Thankful for the Gift of Freemasonry

*Deputy Grand Master Robert V. Jolly Jr.'s speech
at the Feast of Saint John.*

It is certainly an honor and a privilege to be addressing you this evening and I want to thank you, Grand Master, for the honor you have bestowed upon me and for your trust and confidence in appointing me to the office of Deputy Grand Master. I pledge to continue to work for the benefit of the Craft and promise to promote the tenets of our profession as Masons.

I have to say brethren that this is one of my favorite times of year. The holiday season is a joyous time when families get together and celebrate the gift of life and the gifts of God. It's a time which represents new beginnings, a new year with new opportunities, a time when we reflect on our past accomplishments and focus once again on our future goals. On a personal note, my birthday is in December and given the events of this day, I can honestly say, 'tis the season to be Jolly!

However this is also the season to be thankful: Thankful for God, our families, our friends, and for the opportunities this great fraternity has provided for us. There may be no better time than during this season of gift-giving to reflect on the glorious principles of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth and to be thankful for the gift of Freemasonry.

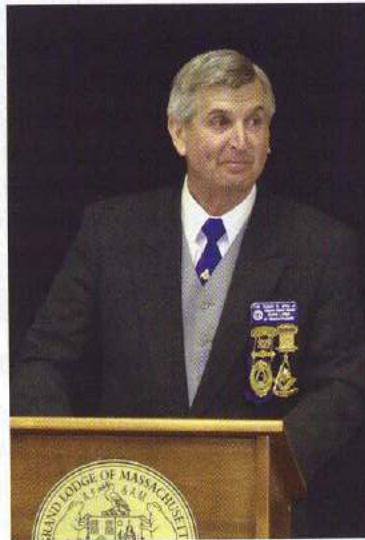
Why Men Join

Men knock on the door of Freemasonry for a variety of reasons. Whether it is an interest in history, philosophy, charity, or fraternity, Freemasonry has so many aspects and attractions that each individual has sought to join the Craft for reasons personal to himself. Just as there are millions of Masons worldwide, if you could poll each brother, they would give you equally personal reasons for why they sought membership in this fraternity.

Nevertheless, while it may be meaningful to ask ourselves why we became Master Masons, it is equally, if not more, meaningful to ask ourselves why we remain Master Masons. We often ask the question, what induced you to become such? The question we should be asking is what compels you to remain such? What is it that keeps you coming back? Answering that question will help to articulate the true gift of Freemasonry.

Why Men Remain

It is often said that the purpose of Freemasonry is to take a good man and help him to become a better man. We do this



by offering a man who becomes a Mason many opportunities to improve himself. The value of these opportunities can generally be classified as both tangible and intangible.

Freemasonry provides men with many practical opportunities for growth and development. There aren't many other places in the world where you can get the training which Freemasonry offers. Opportunities are afforded to develop one's memory, to learn how to organize projects, to work with others, and to develop speaking and leadership abilities. This is a fraternity where men are offered the opportunity to develop talents, skills, and insights not

always taught in a traditional educational setting.

Other less tangible benefits of membership come from the rewards and sense of satisfaction gained from serving others in our local communities, from continuing to learn more about ourselves and our place in society, as well as from contributing to the life of the lodge through its customs and ceremonies.

However, I believe the greatest value that is realized by being a Freemason is the unlimited opportunity to meet and interact with men of good quality—the opportunity to make deep and lasting friendships.

Bro. George Washington once said, "Associate with men of good quality if you esteem your own reputation; for it is better to be alone than in bad company."

With all the mediocrity found in the world today I find it is especially refreshing to come to lodge and associate with men of good quality: men who are interested in providing a better way of life for themselves and for those around them, men who aren't satisfied with the status quo, men who give freely of themselves and ask nothing in return.

While I believe that the privilege of becoming a Mason is in fact priceless, and one of the best and most rewarding decisions that I have ever made, the true value of Freemasonry can only be determined by the individual brother through his own personal experiences.

My Own Experience

I would like to share with you all a light-hearted story involving a brother who unfortunately is no longer with us, but who made a positive and lasting impression on me. Many of you may have known Paul Walker through his Blue lodge activities or possibly through his York Rite

activities. Worshipful Brother Walker was a past master of Mount Lebanon Lodge as well as a past commander of Boston Commandery. Although at the time of this story Paul was in his late seventies, he was always active, upbeat, and one of the nicest men you would ever want to meet. I often said if you looked up the word gentleman in the dictionary you would find a picture of Paul Walker.

On one particular evening we were preparing to confer the Third Degree on two candidates. I was senior deacon of my lodge and Brother Walker was chaplain. It was building up to be a pretty big night because not only was it going to be the first time that many of us would be working the Third Degree together, but also Most Wor. Grand Master Donald Gardner Hicks, Jr. would be in attendance, so I was rather nervous.

I had brought my garment bag to the building and planned to change up in our lodge room. When I opened it up, much to my surprise, I realized my tuxedo pants were not in the bag. I thought to myself, what the heck am I going to do now? I am in downtown Boston, the lodge is opening in less than an hour, and I don't have my tuxedo pants!

So Paul being the gracious man that he was, upon seeing my plight, said that I could wear his pants. Since Brother Walker was chaplain of the lodge he would normally be in tuxedo as well, but he said he had a pair of black suit pants that he could wear and no one would notice.

Now Paul was a tall man, towering over me by probably 6 inches. He said his pants might be a little long but the waist should fit. So we rounded up as many safety pins as we could find and hemmed his pants on the fly.

The degree went off without a hitch and no one was the wiser. Although Paul's kind act may seem trivial in the overall scheme of life, it made a strong and lasting impression on me and has always reminded me of the story from the Book of Ruth when Boaz plucked off his shoe and gave it to his neighbor. As Masons we have adopted this custom to demonstrate the sincerity of our intentions in the business in which we are engaged.

Paul was very sincere in the business of Freemasonry. Not only in what the theory says Freemasonry is, or what Freemasons should do, but what real flesh and blood Masons do and have done in real life.

Paul did not live long enough to see me installed as master of the lodge as he passed to the celestial lodge above a few months prior to my installation. Later on when I was presented with a past master's jewel, it was the jewel worn by Brother Walker, and I believe in some peculiar way that it was once again Brother Walker making sure that I was properly attired.

Value

The value of the opportunity to meet and experience the character of a man such as Brother Paul Walker cannot be underestimated, and to me is indeed priceless.

People will come and go in your life. Jobs will change, life will change. However the lodge offers a sense of stability and solidarity. It's a place of safety where we can leave behind the uninitiated. The feeling of being one of a group, combined with the harmony typically found within the lodge provides a satisfaction and pleasure impossible to describe as it is clearly to be felt.

In a Masonic lodge men of good quality meet as equals without regard to class distinction, economic status, educational background, profession, trade, race, or creed. The opportunity to meet many men from various walks of life and always with the same feeling of equality is particularly rewarding. The high and low, rich and poor, the executive and the tradesman, the banker and the teller, the police chief and the patrolman, all meet on the level. It is especially gratifying to know that when you meet a brother from another lodge, a close sense of friendship is immediately established because of a common experience and philosophy of life.

Although Freemasonry has long outlived its original purpose—being a guild of operative stonemasons during the Middle Ages—the everlasting values upon which our Craft was founded are as relevant today as they were in the days of the building of King Solomon's Temple. The demand for builders of physical edifices has subsided, but Freemasons have transitioned their efforts to constructing a spiritual building in the hearts and minds of men.

Because of this strong foundation, our fraternity has provided men the opportunity to develop uncompromising moral values and principles. By using these beliefs as our guide we will continue to improve ourselves and have a positive impact on society.

Looking Ahead

As we look forward to yet another promising year let us be thankful for all that Freemasonry has given us, our experiences, our brotherhood, our shared experiences with our families, and the scores of opportunities to be with one another as we participate in the various organizations within our Masonic family.

The tenets of our profession as Masons are Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth; but foremost among them is Brotherly Love, for sincere fraternal affection is the cement that binds us together. So when asked what compels me to remain a Mason my answer is quite simple: it is you, my

(continued on page 32)

"The everlasting values upon which our Craft was founded are as relevant today as they were in the days of the building of King Solomon's Temple."

THE GRAND MASTER'S APPEAL

The Grand Master's Appeal is the foundation of the charitable and educational programs of Massachusetts Freemasonry. Every year, your Grand Master sends a letter to every Massachusetts Mason encouraging him to consider a tax-deductible donation to support programs such as Grand Lodge Scholarships, DeMolay and Rainbow, Masonic Youth Child I.D. (MYCHIP), the Samuel Crocker Lawrence Library, and many other great and important charitable undertakings.

In 2011 we received gifts from more than 1,300 brothers like you. To all those who contributed to the Grand Master's Appeal: Thank you very much for your support! Because of you, we are able to do so many wonderful things for others every single day.

Following is a list of those donors whose cumulative giving totaled \$50 or more in 2011.

I am very appreciative of the support we have received, but it does not diminish the growing need for the help we can provide. Whether you gave a gift last year or not, I am asking you to consider making a donation to the 2012 Grand Master's Appeal. A convenient reply envelope has been inserted into TROWEL for your use.

Thank you for your time, your consideration, and all that you do for Massachusetts Freemasonry.

Sincerely and fraternally,



Richard J. Stewart,
Grand Master

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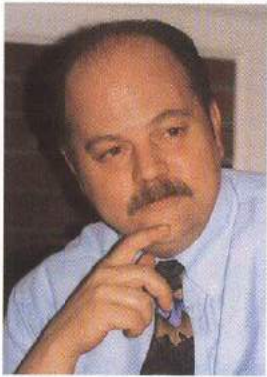
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The Prodigal Mason

by Richard Thompson



The degree was complete, the meeting was closed and we were sitting in the banquet hall. Wor. David Hicks looked at me and said, "It was the same, but different!"

The degree was exactly what he had expected. But the way it was presented was far different. We were in the Nashua Masonic Temple and had just witnessed

the work of Rising Sun Lodge No. 39.

I often tell new members that no matter where a Mason may be, he is usually not too far from a brother. And when he is not too far from a brother, he is not too far from a friend. I advise these new members that if they are in a strange town, the first thing to do is find the Masonic hall.

I took my own advice a few years ago. In the fall of 2006, I moved from Chelmsford, Massachusetts to Nashua, New Hampshire. It wasn't a great distance, but it was far enough to put me in a "strange" city.

After living in Nashua for some time, I decided it was time to seek out the local Masons. I went to the Internet and discovered Rising Sun Lodge No. 39 in Nashua.

That was a most fortunate discovery. After my first visit to the lodge, I decided I was going to affiliate. What prompted me to make that decision? Before I left the lodge room that night, every Mason there shook my hand and welcomed me to Rising Sun.

While attending the meetings and witnessing the degrees at Rising Sun, I discovered something. The lessons are the same—how they are presented is different. They are so different, that at times I feel like a new Mason, instead of a 40-year member.

I was discussing this with Wor. Bro. Hicks, which prompted him to accompany me to a degree meeting at Rising Sun. We also discussed how the Massachusetts 12th Masonic District borders the New Hampshire 2nd, but there is no interaction. The two are separated by a line

drawn in the year 1741 that finally determined the border between the two colonies.

We talked about how great it could be if more Massachusetts Masons could see the New Hampshire degrees and how great the reverse would be as well. In those moments an idea was born—an exchange between the two jurisdictions.

With the permission of Grand Master Richard Stewart of Massachusetts and Grand Master Paul Leary of New Hampshire, a committee was formed to plan an exchange.

Two committees, one from Massachusetts and the other from New Hampshire, have met and have nearly completed plans for the exchange. It is quite interesting that David is the chairman for the Massachusetts committee and I am chairman for New Hampshire. As of the time I wrote this column (in December) the work of the committee was nearly done. The committee was ready to submit the plans to the Grand Masters for their approvals. So, there are no details available. All I can say is we are planning to demonstrate the Massachusetts Third Degree in Nashua and the New Hampshire Third Degree in Tewksbury.

But while there are no details available, I can say the exchange has already started to do what Wor. Hicks and I hoped; inter-jurisdictional visiting has already begun. Members of Wamesit Lodge in Tewksbury were at a Third Degree in Nashua and one of the New Hampshire committee members attended a degree at Wamesit Lodge; the same member has also been to Ancient York Lodge in Lowell.

I tell people my favorite part of the ritual comes in the master's lecture in the Entered Apprentice Degree. It is at the point where the master tells the candidate that Masonry allows each of us the opportunity to create lasting, true friendships. I can attest to this. But it also allows us to meet people who positively influence our lives, though they may stay just acquaintances. You may see them only occasionally or you may meet them just once, but they still can touch your life. Everywhere I go I meet Masons who welcome me as a brother. It may be the only time I meet them, but they treat me like a friend.

I hope this exchange will do that for all who participate and all who attend. The strength of our fraternity is in the connections we share. And the more connections we share, the stronger Masonry becomes. ■

Richard Thompson is a past master and a member of Merrimack Valley Daylight Lodge in North Andover, and Rising Sun Lodge No. 39 in Nashua.

Award Recipients at MHS

Most Wor. Albert Ames, vice president of the MHS Foundation and Past Grand Master of the Massachusetts Grand Lodge, was recently honored at the Leading Age National Annual meeting in Washington, DC. Bro. Ames was chosen as one of 50 seniors nationwide who best represent the concept of successful aging. The award process called for a shining example of someone age 65 or older who is living life in our community with extraordinary zest.



This person is making a difference, either by sharing their creative talents, serving others and making their part of the world a better place to live. At 78 years old, Bro. Ames is making a difference at Masonic Health System as a member of the senior management team and as an ex-officio member of several of MHS's boards; he began his



service to MHS 50 years ago as a member of the Board of Relief for what was then the Masonic Home. He now continues to serve the mission of MHS in his capacity as vice president of the MHS Foundation.

Lili Dwight, chief information officer at MHS, was recognized at the Leading Age of Massachusetts Annual Meeting for her development of the Walk-a-Mile Program, an innovative effort that helps to build understanding between direct care and information technology (IT) employees, many of whom have no background or experience in a health care setting. IT members are sent in pairs to shadow clinical employees; observing, asking questions, and attempting to better understand the challenges of day-to-day care. The results of the visits are captured through a survey and follow up with the IT teams.

The National Association of Home Care & Hospice recently inducted 30 individuals into the Home Care & Hospice Hall of Fame. Elaine Stephens, executive vice president for home care and hospice for MHS, was one of these inductees.

The Hall of Fame was instituted earlier this year, and the inductees are the first in the organization's history to be

NEWS FROM

Health Center Goes Apple Picking

One morning this past September, Health Center resident Marie Kelley and Unit Manager Karen Bergstrom were talking over breakfast when Marie mentioned that she always loved to visit the apple orchard around this time of year.

Karen contacted Recreation Director Stephanie Nikopoulos immediately with the idea of an orchard trip. A date was set and both residents and employees discussed how to turn this idea into a truly memorable event. The final plan was a visit to an orchard for apple picking, and then a return trip home to make some delicious apple treats. Word spread and employees and family quickly volunteered to assist.

Nineteen residents, employees, volunteers and Doogie (their canine mas-

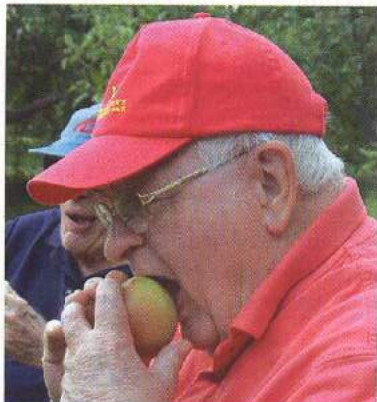


awarded the honor. NAHC Chairwoman Andrea Devoti announced the new members during NAHC's 30th Annual Meeting and Exposition in Las Vegas, NV.

"We are proud to announce the inaugural class of the Home Care & Hospice Hall of Fame," said NAHC President Val J. Halamandaris. "The honorees have distinguished themselves by fighting on behalf of the aged, ill, and disabled. They have strived to ensure that every person, no matter their age, income, or health, has the right to enjoy the freedoms reserved for all Americans in the Constitution and Bill of Rights. This includes the right to receive care in their homes and to die there with dignity." ■



OVERLOOK



cot) piled into the Overlook bus and left for a day of fun and friendship. It was a beautiful, crisp autumn morning and everyone enjoyed the picking and the eating as well as taking home bags of freshly picked fruit. Everyone reminisced about trips they had

taken throughout the years. Before heading back home, the entire group sat for a few minutes and enjoyed fresh apple cider while watching children play in the orchard playground. Apple dumplings were also purchased to serve to all residents with their evening activity. The conversation on the ride home was full of happy comments on how much they enjoyed the outing and how well they were all going to sleep that evening. Autumn and apples just seem to go together and can bring back some truly great memories.

That is not the end of our apple orchard story though. The next day a flyer was placed at every dining table seat with questions and thoughts of what to do with the bags of freshly picked apples. Recipe ideas were traded throughout the day and it was decided that four of the resident's favorites would be made.

Northampton Overlook Left in Dark by Halloween Storm

A nor'easter in October? Even in New England this was a little early for a major snow storm. But while the leaves were still clinging firmly to the trees, snowflakes fell fast and furious on communities throughout Massachusetts. The snow started in the afternoon on a Saturday and by the time nightfall arrived, the accumulation was significant at The Overlook at Northampton. Then, shortly after bedtime, the power went out.

The facility at that time of night was very quiet; surrounding streets were empty; lights were out and the only vehicles on the road were the snow plows. On campus, the



A group of 38 residents, employees, and volunteers organized in four separate baking stations. Apples were peeled and cut, nuts were chopped, and ingredients were measured in order to complete the favored recipes. During the preparations, elated conversations took place about the



past, how much peelers and corers have changed, and how excited everyone was to taste the completed product.

The third floor smelled like heaven. When the last item was pulled from the oven, everyone sat together and enjoyed the savory tastes of: apple cake with walnuts; easy apple pie; apple cookies with glaze;

and apple crisp. The entire experience was one that will not be soon forgotten and has the residents and employees thinking about their next adventure. ■

overnight shift change had already occurred and employees were making rounds and checking on residents using flashlights. All nursing employees had made it in to provide care to the residents. Outside, the maintenance team was plowing driveways and parking lots, trying to keep pace with the snow storm. The generator was humming away feeding power to essential outlets.

The power outage at The Overlook continued for days and coincided with numerous Halloween events. Local news stations announced that Halloween celebrations were to be postponed in Western Massachusetts until the following weekend. While other area residents might have kept their costumes and pumpkin carving under wraps, Overlook employees and residents dressed up and carved pumpkins by flashlight.

From that Saturday night when the storm struck and deep into the next week, employees came to work every

(continued on next page)

day. They came to provide physical care and clinical oversight, prepare homemade meals, clean rooms, maintain the generator and engage residents in meaningful activities. Most employees had no power in their own homes, and needed to arrange for child care because schools were closed. They still showed up and worked with spirit and dedication and were determined that residents would not even notice that a major power outage was occurring throughout the region. Essentially, they put their own lives second so that the needs of the residents could be met.

As employees did what they do best, residents supported them by making them laugh, and expressed appreciation of their efforts by joining in with the Halloween festivities so that everyone could have a little lightheartedness in the face of the darkness. ■



Bro. Sewell Frank, Storyteller

Sewell Frank, a Health Center resident in Charlton, loves to help people become interested in writing. Sewell is 90 years old and has been a Mason for over 60 years. He loves to write short stories with his favorite subjects being history and his love of Masonry. Sewell states, "My favorite pastimes are reading, telling stories, and writing."

He became involved in his first writer's group in 1960 in Boston, and enjoyed it so much that later in life he started his first writer's group at senior centers in his community.

Sewell joined the Overlook family in 2005 and one of the first things he implemented was a writing group for residents of Enhanced Living. People gathered to share memories and tell stories and Sewell would teach them how to put their stories down on paper. "I believe it is so important for people to write things down and share their life stories with future generations," said Sewell.

This past year, Sewell brought his talents to the Health Center. With assistance from the Activities Department and an Independent Living resident volunteer, he started another



Fall Festival at The Groves in Lincoln

The Groves second annual Fall Festival brought together residents, family, and community members for a day of fun., music, food, magic, and crafts. One particular group of residents prepared for the Fall Festival in a different manner. With the guidance of Dining Manager Amy Garcia, twelve residents planned a bake sale to support Share our Strength, a national non-profit that works to end childhood hunger in America. This organization believes that it is not enough to make sure America's children have enough to eat; but also that they get the nutrition they need to live healthy, active lives.



The Groves bake sale group began meeting in June to discuss how to get residents involved, how to advertise, and how to solicit donations from local markets. With a goal of raising five hundred dollars, they had a lot of work to do! Because of their energy and enthusiasm, the group was able to solicit baked donations from over forty residents. The group worked all of the previous day wrapping cookies, brownies, cupcakes, bars, cakes, and breads. Their beautiful display was the centerpiece of the Festival. Guests surrounded the tables, trying to make the difficult decision of which delicious baked good to buy to help support Share our Strength. The dedicated group of twelve Groves residents raised over six hundred dollars during the festival and they have already started talking about how to increase the scale of the fund-raiser next year. ■

er writing group with classes once a week. A local Girl Scout troop has also volunteered to help. The troop will visit residents once a month, interview them, receive writing tips from Sewell, and then compile all of the resident stories into a book. Sewell is passionate about his writing saying, "My wish is to teach everyone, no matter their age, that we all have a story to tell and the talent to put them into words."

Sewell has written and shared many stories and even completed a novel on the Civil War. He is currently working on a short story about the James C. Nicoll, Jr. Chapel on the Charlton campus. His story will be written as if the chapel itself is telling the story. ■

Why a Widows Program is Important

by Wor. John Soderblom

"It was a warm early June day: a sunny and comfortable day that couldn't have been better. We were gathered together at two round tables at a local country club that had given us a small private room. A handful of widows, several lodge members, and my wife were present. The conversation was animated and happy with smiles all around as these ladies shared stories with each other and us. I learned things about my lodge I had never known and gained insights only these ladies could give. When the meal was over, the widows thanked us for a wonderful afternoon."

This could be any brother from a lodge with an active widows program. These ladies, whose husbands have given so much to the fraternity, deserve to be remembered and cared for. That is one side of the coin. The other side is equally important. Our widows can give us information about our lodges that may not be known to most of us. Working with the Masonic widows is some of the happiest work you can do as an officer.

The how-to is simple. It takes a little work up front. However, an effective program can be easy to set up, fun to run, and rewarding for everyone

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2011-2012 MASTER BUILDER'S AWARD PROGRAM

by Rt. Wor. Kenneth W. Sprague, Jr.

The Membership Development Committee is pleased to present our new Master Builder's Award as part of this jurisdiction's ongoing commitment to membership engagement and getting our existing members involved in their respective blue lodges.

Eleven items need to be fulfilled for the Master Builder's Award, and it must be completed within twelve months from the start date, which must be after the September 14, 2011 Grand Lodge Quarterly Communication.

There are many brothers in our lodges who are looking for Masonic activities to engage them. There are also brothers who have not returned to lodge recently, and if a concerted effort is made by the lodge master to reconnect with these brothers, the Master Builder's Award may just be the vehicle to peak their interest and get them coming out once again.

A checklist for the Master Builder's Award is available on line. Once it has been completed and signed off by the master of the lodge and the lodge ambassador, it should be submitted by the lodge secretary to the Grand Master's Office for his review and approval. Once approved, the recipient can receive his Grand Lodge certificate signed by the Grand Master and affixed with the Grand Lodge seal. A formal presentation will be made at the next visit of the district deputy grand master.

See www.MasonicAmbassadors.net for details and the checklist. ■

REQUIRED:

1. Attend a Grand Lodge sponsored educational program.
2. Attend at least one visit of the lodge's DDGM to another lodge in the district, or attend a communication of another lodge in the district.
3. Attend at least seven regular lodge communications over the course of the year.
4. Work on at least one lodge social activity or a lodge charitable event.
5. Connect with an inactive brother and bring him back to lodge.
6. Sponsor at least one candidate into the lodge.

ELECTIVES: (Choose five of the following nine)

1. Take a sanctioned tour of the Grand Lodge building in Boston.
2. Assist at least once with the setting up of the lodge room for a meeting or rehearsal.
3. Assist at least once with the preparation of candidates before the degree, or assist in a cipher training for another candidate.
4. Attend the Feast of Saint John.
5. Attend a district exemplification.
6. Attend a DeMolay or Rainbow meeting, event, or Installation.
7. Attend a Masonic memorial service.
8. Assist in organizing and running of an open house or membership event.
9. Assist in organizing and running a MYCHIP event, or a blood drive.

Living Freemasonry *by Rt. Wor. Steve Cohn*

Meet an Active Massachusetts Mason

Masonry in Massachusetts extends to some of the extreme corners of our state: to Provincetown for example, where Wor. Ralph E. "Des" Desmond is a past master of King Hiram's Lodge.

Worshipful Brother Desmond, along with his brother Edward, joined Norumbega Fraternity Lodge (Newtonville) in 2003 by attending a one-day class. Both brothers joined because of the example set by their father, Brother Edward J. Desmond Sr.

Des subsequently affiliated with King Hiram's Lodge and became a line officer. He was installed master in 2008 and served in the Oriental Chair for two years. He continues to serve the lodge as its secretary.

Brother Desmond's father passed away just 48 days after his sons were raised. He never spoke much about Masonry when the boys were growing up, but they knew who the Masons were among his circle of friends and noticed how they all led by example. The elder Brother Desmond was pleased that his two sons were finally Masons, but did chide them for not joining twenty-five years prior! Knowing now what he missed, Wor. Ralph Desmond's greatest regret is not joining sooner.

Wor. Ralph Desmond enlisted a few mentors: Wor. Thurston Ackerman of Norumbega Lodge, whose past master's apron he now wears; and Rt. Wor. Walter H. Hunt and Rt. Wor. Southard Lippincott, who were both extremely helpful during his formative years in Masonry. Repaying the favor of mentorship became easy for him since his first love is teaching. His greatest joy was raising his two nephews, Brothers Edward J. Desmond III, and Christopher R. Desmond. He is also involved in the 21st District Lodge of Instruction as lead instructor and enjoys performing degree work in his other lodges: Adams Lodge, Mt. Horeb Lodge, and St. Martin Lodge in Chatham. Brother Desmond's efforts in his lodges has not gone unnoticed. In 2010, he was presented with the Joseph Warren Distinguished Service Medal for his never-ending support and service to them.

Since 1981, he has been the owner of a corporate information technology (IT) training firm. He is a past president

of ADAPT, the oldest IT training organization in the world—even predating the term IT! He has spoken at five national conventions on IT training. Brother Desmond says, "Being a Freemason gives me a sense of continued worth and fulfillment, that even if I am not as active as in the past, I can still be productive."

He feels that two of the biggest boosts of interest in the fraternity came from the movie *National Treasure*, and Dan Brown's books. He has been pleased that many lodges are taking a greater interest in their history and preservation. He says that the founding of the Massachusetts Lodge of

Research is an example of this commendable trend, and he has presented two historical research papers at this lodge already.

Some Masons say that Masonry is different on the Cape and Islands. The districts are smaller and most district and lodge officers hold multiple positions and know each other well. Both Cape districts have very close ties and support each other's visits and events. There has been an exodus of younger men from the Cape to the mainland: a Cape-wide problem caused by a lack of professional jobs and the high cost of living. But the 30 to 40 year age group is doing fairly well. Cape Cod DeMolay was started last year and is thriving. He calls this "hope for the future!"

The Ben Franklin advertising campaign is definitely working on Cape Cod. The Wellfleet Library Commission recently had 120 people listen to a lecture presented by Wor. Bro. Desmond; many attending as a direct result of the ads.

Wor. Bro. Desmond does not stop with just Blue lodge masonry. He is a member of Sylvester Baxter Royal Arch Chapter and served as its high priest in 2009 and secretary in 2010. He is the illustrious master-elect of Cape Cod Royal and Select Masters and the generalissimo-elect of Cape Cod Commandery #54.

Wor. Bro. Ralph E. Desmond is an active Mason who constantly gives of himself with the goal of improving his lodge and the fraternity as best he can, sometimes extending beyond the length of his cable-tow. The fact that his lodges so frequently call on this active Mason, is ample evidence of his devotion to the Craft. ■



Wor. Ralph E. Desmond

The Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite

The Soul of Freemasonry

Rt. Wor. Jerry A. Roach, Jr.



In the short period since I began working for the Supreme Council, 33°, I have had the gift of many opportunities to speak with brethren all over our wonderful nation regarding the Scottish Rite; what it is, and most importantly, why one should be involved. What follows is the result of those many presentations and conversations I have enjoyed with my brethren over the past few months.

What is the Scottish Rite ?

The first question most Masons ask regarding the Scottish Rite is, "What is it?" At the risk of burdening ourselves with excessive history, it is important to touch on some key aspects in order to better understand how the Scottish Rite differs from, yet enhances, Blue lodge Masonry. It is safe to say that the Scottish Rite began as a system of side degrees introduced by expatriate Scottish Masons in mid-eighteenth century France. French Freemasons loved these degrees, and their conferral flourished. The better part of these degrees comprised the 25 degrees of the Order of the Royal Secret, often mistakenly called the Rite of Perfection. As a point of clarity, the Order was the organization, and the Rite was the system. The Order of the Royal Secret began to rapidly spread across the globe to as far

away as the West Indies; Albany, New York; New Orleans, Louisiana; and, Vienna, Austria. By the end of the eighteenth century, more degrees were added to round out a 33° system, and in 1801 the Supreme Council, 33°, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite was formally established in Charleston, South

Carolina. The state of Massachusetts belongs to the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction (NMJ) of the Scottish Rite, which consists of the fifteen states north of the Mason-Dixon line and east of the Mississippi. Our Supreme Council, 33° (NMJ), was established in 1813 in New York, but moved to Massachusetts in 1927. It currently has its headquarters in Lexington.

The Scottish Rite was originally conferred in degrees employing a structure with which any Blue lodge Mason would be familiar: opening, reception, obligation, lecture and closing. As the nineteenth century unfolded however, the popularity of vaudeville and repertory theater took hold on the American consciousness, and the Scottish Rite evolved into the theatrical form it has today. The degrees are performed as morality plays that teach the lessons of Masonry in a more historical and artistic fashion. The Southern Jurisdiction degrees remain very allegorical to this day, whereas the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction degrees are more literal. Productions of the degrees are very elaborate, with costumes, lighting, and scenery. They require many members to participate as cast and crew. The time periods dramatized range from the Solomonic biblical period, to the building of the second temple, and the modern era.

There are 29 degrees. In the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, the first three degrees of Masonry are under the sole governance of Grand Lodges, none of the 29 degrees are considered superior to that of Master Mason. The conferral of the 29 degrees is divided amongst four bodies: The Lodge of Perfection, Council of Princes of Jerusalem, Chapter of Rose Croix, and Consistory of Sublime Princes of the Royal Secret. Not counted among those 29 degrees is the 33°, which is honorary, and cannot be requested.



Rt. Wor. Jerry A. Roach Jr. is a past master of Amicable Lodge, a past DDGM for the Third Masonic District, and serves on the Grand Lodge Retention & Engagement Committee. He joined the Scottish Rite in the Valley of Boston in 2005. He currently serves as an assistant master of ceremonies for Massachusetts Consistory, and both the

Membership and Retention & Engagement Committees for the Valley of Boston. He is also a dual member of the Valley of Guthrie, Oklahoma (Southern Jurisdiction). He is a writer and executive assistant with the Supreme Council, 33°, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, U.S.A.



Left: A Massachusetts Consistory program from 1909.

Above: Two antique Scottish Rite aprons; photos by John M. Miller and David Bohl.

Courtesy of Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library, Lexington

Other than service and merit awards, the 33° is considered the highest honor in Scottish Rite Freemasonry.

Why would a Mason be involved?

Now that we have identified what the Scottish Rite is, we come to the most important question, which is, "Why should one be involved?" To answer that question, let us start by asking, "Why does one join Freemasonry in the first place?" During that time when we were all learning the lecture of an Entered Apprentice, we were asked, "Where did you first become a Mason?" The answer to this question is one of the most beautiful in all of Freemasonry, and is, of course, "In my heart." We soon discover that within the heart of every Freemason is the desire to improve himself, and to adore his creator. Through the lessons of the next two degrees, we are taught that the first step in improving ourselves and showing our love for God is to love our fellow man. These two lessons are found in one's heart: affection for our fellow man, and adoration of deity. To show affection and to adore are both feelings, and emanate from the heart. Hence, I believe that most Masons would agree that the Blue lodge is the very heart

of Freemasonry. If the Blue lodge is indeed that heart, and I am allowed to mix my metaphors, then I would put it to you that the Scottish Rite is the soul.

Among the many meanings of the word soul, it is said to be our spiritual aspect, our source of inspiration and the embodiment of quality. The Scottish Rite takes the primary desire of the heart to improve itself and facilitates that desire by enriching it through the moral reflection of the soul. When we enrich something, we add a greater value to it. We adorn and decorate it. We refine the desirable elements of it. We inspire the spiritual quality within ourselves. And, that is exactly what the Scottish Rite does.

The Scottish Rite Today

The Scottish Rite was at one time the most exclusive organization in Freemasonry. Adjusting for inflation, membership cost approximately \$6,000 when our Supreme Council was founded in the middle of the nineteenth century. However, in the early twentieth century, our illustrious forebearers concluded that the moral principles of the Scottish Rite were too important to not be shared with all the brethren of Freemasonry. When it evolved into the dramatic form it has today it gained the ability to



Above: III. Ralph I. Sewall, 33°, Active Emeritus; III. Donald G. Hicks, Jr., 33°, P.G.M., Deputy for Massachusetts; and III. C. William Lakso, 33°, Active Emeritus, at last year's celebration of the 150th Anniversary of Massachusetts Consistory. Below: Scottish Rite Masons from all over Massachusetts at the celebration of the Order of the Thistle, a fund-raiser for the Children's Dyslexia Center.



teach these moral principles in a more experientially specific manner. When watching these degrees, we are able to see these principles in action as they might have taken place historically or in modern life. We get to actually live the lessons; to think about them. Man does not learn through merely feeling. He must think about those feelings. Therefore, we might say that the Scottish Rite is a living prism through which one may view the moral principles of the Blue lodge; or, in other words, it is the soul by which we thoughtfully reflect on the feelings of our hearts. Albert Pike, 33°, Past Sovereign Grand Commander of the Scottish Rite (SJ), and sage, wrote in his Scottish Rite masterpiece, *Morals and Dogma*:

All this is written indelibly on the tablets of the human heart. It is not to be erased, but, Masonry sees and reads it in a new light. It does not expect ills and trials and suffer-

ings to be removed from life; but, that the great truth will at some time be believed by all men, and that they are the means, selected by infinite wisdom, to purify the heart and to invigorate the soul whose inheritance is immortality, and the world its school.

With the assistance of the Scottish Rite, we are enabled to unite our hearts and our souls in service to God, and that is the very essence of Freemasonry. Now that you have discovered your heart in the Blue lodge—when you feel ready—come and discover your soul in the Scottish Rite. For I ask you, “What use is a heart without a soul?” ■

For more information about the Scottish Rite

log on to: www.scottishrittenmj.org

www.scottishriteboston.org

or www.scottishrite.org

The Young Tyler

Bro. David Riley

“Here we are, your first lodge of instruction,” the young tyler said to the entered apprentice. “It’s a nice building,” he explained as he exited his car and waved to some of the brethren assembled in the parking lot. Then he lowered his voice and said, with a smile, “But I prefer our building.”

The two men approached those gathered around the back door to the building and exchanged greetings. “This is our newest entered apprentice,” the young tyler told the men. The men congratulated the new Mason and then began walking into the building, pausing only to clothe themselves as Masons before heading into the lodge room.

Before long, the lodge of instruction meeting was opening and the young tyler and the entered apprentice were both swept into the flow of events. They didn’t have a chance to speak again until they were in the car on the way home.

“Well, how’d you find the experience?” the young tyler asked.

“That was great,” the entered apprentice said. “For one thing, it’s the first time I’ve seen what happens when a lodge opens.”

The young tyler laughed and nodded, “I hadn’t thought of that, but lodge of instruction is probably where most of us first saw a lodge open. It does make an impression, doesn’t it? Although it isn’t quite the same as a regular lodge opening, it’s close. How was the instruction?”



“It gave me plenty to think about. I need to go back and re-read part of that Claudy book,” the entered apprentice mused. “There is a lot packed into those degrees you know.”

The young tyler agreed; “I still notice something new every time we have a degree.” He gestured to the back seat of his car, “And I’ve got two different books back there about Masonic symbolism and ritual I’ve been meaning to read. Masonic education is kind of a journey without a destination.”

There was a pause in conversation for a time as the young tyler pulled up in front of the entered apprentice’s home.

“So, I hope you had a good time,” the young tyler said, shaking hands with his newest brother.

“I did,” the entered apprentice replied. “I am amazed at how much there is to learn . . . but, I suppose, the good news is that I’ve got my entire life to discover it all.”

“Sounds to me like you’ve already learned one of the most important lessons,” the young tyler replied. “They use to tell guys that they should make ‘daily progress in Masonry’. I like that idea. I don’t have to do it all now, but I have to keep learning and keep applying what I learn to my life.”

The entered apprentice nodded as he exited the car, “Thanks for the ride, brother; have a good night. And I’ll see you next week when I’ll have made seven more days of progress in Masonry.”

As he drove home, the young tyler considered the enthusiasm of his new brother. After he pulled into his own driveway he sat in the car for a short time, quietly thinking. When he got out of the car, he paused and turned back, reaching into the back seat and taking out one of the books on Masonic philosophy. He then headed into his home, ready to make some more progress. ■

NEWS Lodge & District

continued from page 3

Norfolk Lodge Honors World War II Veterans



L to R: RW Robert Johnston, Bro. Al Richards, Wor. James Dolan, Bro. Ed Heiman, MW Richard J. Stewart, Wor. Kenneth Morrison, Mr. Anthony Gravina and Wor. Donald LaLiberte. Wor. Melvin Davis is seated in the wheelchair.

On December 12, Norfolk Lodge hosted its annual holiday dinner for widows and veterans. Military veterans were honored with certificates of appreciation for their service during World War II, presented by the guest of honor, Most Wor. Grand Master Richard J. Stewart.

After a brief business meeting, the lodge was recessed to allow family and friends to gather within to witness the presentations and listen to remarks by seven of the World War II vets. They offered comments about their wartime contributions in Europe and in the Pacific, serving on ships, fighter planes, and elsewhere. The veterans also spoke about the pride of serving

their country and that they were honored to represent countless others who served along with them, many of whom gave their lives and did not return. One veteran who was honored that night, Wor. Melvin H. Davis, had just celebrated his 90th birthday. On December 23rd, Brother Davis departed for that spiritual building not made by hands. He will be missed dearly.

The event moved into the banquet hall for a delicious dinner with a small orchestra playing holiday tunes. Beautiful gifts were presented to each of the lodge widows in attendance who were all very happy and thankful.

— *Wor. Donald LaLiberte and R.W. David Newcomb*

Taber Lodge Remembers Lonely Nursing Home Residents



George H. Taber Lodge hosted its Buy a Gift Table at the Fairhaven Town Hall during the annual Victorian Fair. The lodge purchases boxes of chocolates and resells them, at no profit. The packages are labeled for a nursing home resident who has no family, and the buyer signs the label. Shown are: Wor. Gunnar Berg, RW Lynwood Harriman, Bro. Peter Josefek, and RW Eric Berg.

— *Wor. James Cochran*



A Panama District First Father and Son Initiated

Gabriel de Carreira and his son, Daniel de Jesus Carreira de Obaldia, age 19, were initiated into Masonry under the District Grand Lodge of Massachusetts at the Panama Canal.

Gabriel de Carreira, a practicing Maritime Attorney, joined Eloy Alfaro Lodge, which works in Spanish; and his son, Daniel, a second year medical student at the University of Latina, joined Sojourners Lodge, which works in English.

Above: Bro. Gabriel de Carreira, RW DGM John B. Bamber, and Bro. Daniel de Jesus Carreira Obaldia.

New Treaty with Panama Grand Lodge

On December 27, the Massachusetts Grand Lodge and the Grand Lodge of the Republic of Panama entered into a new ten-year treaty that provides for the continued presence of our four Massachusetts chartered lodges and addresses the shared responsibility for raising new Masons in Panama.

Below: Grand Master Richard J. Stewart, and Most Worshipful Raul Obaldia Garcia de Paredes, Grand Master of Masons in the Republic of Panama.





Rappelling Mason Raises Money for Special Olympics

Bro. David Fredholm, a member of Delta Lodge, was sponsored by Delta Lodge and Saint Paul's Algonquin Lodge in the "Over the Edge" fund-raiser for the Massachusetts Special Olympics. The challenge was to rappel the 22-story Hyatt Regency Hotel in Boston. Bro Fredholm raised over \$1,000 for Special Olympics.

Bro. Fredholm (*shown at left on the Hyatt Regency*) has been a member of the Craft for five years and has been a volunteer and coach for the Special Olympics for over ten years.

—Bro. Richard Fredholm

Three Generations in Master Mason Degree at Philanthropic Lodge

In December, at Philanthropic Lodge in Marblehead, Bro. Glover Broughton (*middle*) assisted in the raising of his son, Bro Douglas Broughton (*left*), and grandson, Bro. Matthew Broughton Brosnan (*right*).

—Rt. Wor. Michael A. Sandberg



Massachusetts Degree Team in Australia *continued from page 3*

finally they are fulfilling their Masonic obligations of charity and relief.

The history of the team is unique and to tell it we must start at 1888 in Hull England, where Walter Le Brun was born and became a Master Mariner. Walter eventually found himself in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia where, in May 1920, he was initiated into the Excelsior Lodge of Industry. He remained there until 1927 when he joined the Lord Nelson Lodge as founding worshipful master. Walter subsequently accepted the position of harbormaster in Shanghai China in 1933. Walter joined the Shanghai Lodge which was chartered under the Massachusetts Constitution.

In 1937, Japan invaded China, and Walter was captured by Japanese forces and eventually was interred in the infamous Changi Prison Camp in Singapore. Walter survived and was eventually released and became part of postwar occupation forces in Japan and the Philippines, where he continued his Masonic art. Eventually he returned to Shanghai only to flee again, this time from the Chinese Communists. Walter returned to Melbourne Australia in 1951 after formally resigning from Shanghai Lodge and rejoined his original lodge where he remained until his passing to the Grand Lodge Above in 1976.

During this time back in Melbourne, he became active in

the Lodge of Research and in 1959 he demonstrated the Massachusetts ritual. Attending were a number of past masters who were so impressed that they formed a formal group which later became the existing team. In 1969, they progressed from just education to charity and from then on raised funds for the Royal Freemasons Homes. Walter acted as master for the team until he became too infirm to continue.

The current master, Rt. Wor. Bob Lacy, has been with the team since 1969. The average tenure of the members is about 10 years and the team varies from 10 to 12 members. Today the team dresses in standard American aprons for the demonstration and uses replica furniture to enhance performance.

Members of the team are all members of other Masonic Orders apart from the Craft/Blue Lodge.

Current members are: RW Bro. Bob Lacy, W. Bro. Mike Dzuirack, W Bro. Norm Cutbush, W. Bro. Fred Wheatland, W. Bro. Colin Beisse, W. Bro. Paul Matthews, W. Bro. Terry Dwyer, W. Bro Gerry Newland, W. Bro. David Kay, RW Bro. Eric Nolan, and W. Bro. Reg Merrick.

—Wor Bro Gerry L Newland

Below left: the degree team in their regular (Australian) regalia; below: attired in regalia appropriate for demonstrating Massachusetts ritual.





Above left: Huelen Lodge, Santiago. Wor. Master Rodrigo Salina was installed for a second term. Above right: St John's Lodge in Concepcion, South Chile. Wor. Master Terence Martin was installed for his first term.

District Grand Master Bamber Installs New Masters in Chile

Rt. Wor. District Grand Master John B. Bamber was in Chile in October visiting our brothers there and also installing the masters for their new terms of office. This is the first visit that the District Grand Lodge has made to Chile since it was assigned to the Panama Canal District. It is also the first visit since Most Wor. Grand Master Donald Hicks visited during his term in 2003.

There are three lodges in Chile chartered by the Massachusetts Grand Lodge: Huelen Lodge in Santiago, St John's Lodge in Concepcion, and Bethesda Lodge, Valparaiso. Bethesda Lodge is the oldest operating lodge in Chile and is the oldest lodge of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts operating outside of Massachusetts, having been constituted in 1853.

—Bro. John Doherty

Below: Bethesda Lodge, Valparaiso; the Master installed was Wor. Andrew Cave.



Fellowship Lodge Celebrates Burns, Haggis

The first Rabbie (Robert) Burns Night at Fellowship Lodge featured Haggis flown in from Scotland! The idea for a night of Haggis and Burns was the inspiration of Wor. Leslie Hutchison, whose mother lodge is in Glasgow. After a mixture of Irish and Scottish tunes, and the recital of "Selkirk Grace" by Bro. Arthur McIntyre, the Haggis was led in by piper, Bro. Hutchison.

Robert Burns' "Address to a Haggis" was read by Bro. Russell Paul. Bits of English pop out, but it is clear that any food other than Haggis was less than appreciated when Burns wrote.

—Wor. Lee H. Fenn

TROWEL Deadlines for 2012

Lodge News: April 20 for summer issue

(Veteran Medal photos needed!)

Articles for summer issue due by March 23.

Fall issue: Articles due by June 22

Lodge news items by July 20.

Winter issue: Articles due by September 21

Lodge news items by October 19.

Second District Hosts Christmas Party for Children of Servicemen



Children of servicemen and women were treated to a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus, presents, and a good hot meal, hosted by the 2nd Masonic District under the leadership of Rt. Wor. Phil Nowlan.

Are you ready to wear the 'Wings of the Eagle'?



The Valley of Boston will be welcoming new Members and Brothers on the Saturdays of March 31 and April 14, 2012.

March 31 conferring the 4th, 6th, 15th and 16th Degrees;

April 14 the 17th, 18th, 22nd, 31st and 32nd Degrees

The Great Masters have always sought more light.

Join the Scottish Rite and discover why!

Contact Ill. Kenneth J. Scott 33° at (617) 426-8228 or VOB@ScottishRiteBoston.org

Brothers: it has been nearly 10 years since the last performance of the 17th Degree. Don't miss it!

Elm-Belcher Lodge Makes Christmas for Needy Kids

Elm-Belcher has been inviting underprivileged children to the lodge's annual Christmas Party ever since the Angel Fund was started in 2004. This year's party was attended by 56 kids, 28 of whom were sponsored by the Elm-Belcher Angel Fund. Trustees worked with Agawam School System counselors, who identified 25 children in need of a Christmas lift. For some, the only gift they received for Christmas came from the lodge party.



The Angel Fund is supported entirely by donations and fund-raisers at Elm-Belcher. Wor. Robert Tremblay, the master at Elm-Belcher, led the effort to invite the children, shop for the fantastic toys and gifts, wrap and decorate them, and set up for the party. Another past master of Elm-Belcher lodge, Wor. Dennis Cote, has been an outstanding supporter of the Christmas party and is said to have very close ties to Jolly Old Santa.

This is truly a fun event for the lodge members, who look forward to it every year.

— Wor. Bob Tremblay



Quinebaug Lodge's Christmas Breakfast Raises Funds for Center of Hope Programs

RW DDGM Robert C. Schremser was at Quinebaug Lodge's December breakfast buffet, but Santa Claus was the guest of honor. Ninety-eight hungry patrons, including forty children, enjoyed a visit with our brother from the North. All had a great time singing, dancing, and coloring with Santa. The lodge successfully raised additional funds to be donated to the Center of Hope Special Olympics/Sports Activities fund. Belgian waffles, custom omelettes, sausage gravy, and much more were enjoyed by all who attended. *Shown (in front):* Wor. Ray Vallee, Wor. Chris (Santa) St.Cyr, Bro. Eric Langevin and Bro. Mike Sgariglia; *(back row:)* Bros. Mike Baker, Ken Pierce, Larry Burbridge, Bob St.Cyr, Wor. Ray Ciani and Bro. Gary McKinstry.

— Bro. Bob St.Cyr

MW George Randall *continued from page 9*

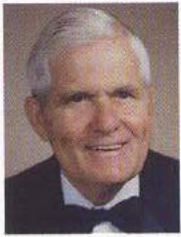
effects the ruin of the unwary. There are many lodges scattered through that country. Their influence will have much to do with the character of the civilization that is to shape the destiny of great states which are now in embryo; a character which is to be potential for good or for evil in the future of this mighty Republic."

Brother Randall's speech had such impact that it was remembered long after he was gone by those who had heard it. The remarks were given with such sincerity and with such zeal that they deeply impressed his audience, and it was made part of his memorial when he passed from this world to the next two years later.

In Masonry, Brother George Maxwell Randall was truly "a light to his brethren and an ornament to the Craft." But his greatest work would come after he laid down his high Masonic office, and undertook his pastoral mission in the American West, where he offered a similar, but distinct, kind of light to all that he met, using the power of his unequalled voice and the strength of his indomitable will. Despite his fear at the time of his elevation that he was "too old to be transplanted," he made a significant impact in the communities of an emerging part of America, exemplifying both religious and Masonic virtue. ■

ASK THE GRAND LECTURERS

by Rt. Wor. Robert Johnston
Chairman of Grand Lecturers



I have been pleased to receive correspondence and phone calls from our lodges in Japan and Panama seeking answers on ritual questions. The correspondents have been very complimentary about the "Ask the Grand Lecturer" column and grateful to have replies to their questions. As we often say in this Trowel column, we are glad to help; we are here to help.

Q Is it necessary that feet be in the proper position when giving the signs of degrees?

A No. It is requested in the Ritual, but doing so is difficult for some on the sidelines.

Q Can a business meeting be conducted on any degree?

A Yes. And, a district deputy grand master can be received on any degree also.

Q What is the maximum number of candidates a degree can be conferred upon at the same time without receiving a dispensation from Grand Lodge?

A Five candidates.

Q Is the Rite of Destitution performed on candidates individually or as a group?

A Individually.

Q Should the junior deacon present from memory the three questions to candidates for the Entered Apprentice Degree?

A Yes. The questions should be presented from memory to each candidate individually.

Deputy Grand Master's Speech *cont'd from page 15*

brother Master Masons. For the real gift of our beloved fraternity is not found in the principles and theories of Freemasonry, but rather in the essence and character of the Freemason. It is that spirit of brotherhood that lies within us that bring forth the highest aspirations of man, and when good men get together great things will happen.

Ralph Waldo Emerson put it this way, "What lies behind us and what lies before us are small matters to what lies within us."

Most Worshipful Grand Master, I want to thank you once again for the confidence you have placed in me, and I look forward to working with you to help make some great things happen.

Thank you brethren, and remember when you leave here tonight, don't check Freemasonry at the door. ■

Widows Program *continued from page 23*

involved. Here are some simple points that can lay the foundation for an effective program.

The first step, of course, is to create an updated list of widows that live locally. This is the hardest task. The lodge secretary may have some ideas. The rest is detective work. Ask some of your older brothers or check for obituaries on the Internet of recently passed brethren — widows are often listed. Once you have a list of names the rest is easy.

There are as many ways to handle a widows program as there are lodges. Dinners or brunches always work well. They can be simple and informal or more extensive. However the lodge should always carry the cost of the widows' meals. The lodge can send flowers or birthday greetings to each widow. They will be so happy to be remembered. If you are not sure what to do, go to the source and ask some of the widows, they will be happy to offer some suggestions.

In whatever program you choose, do get as many of the lodge members involved as you possibly can. Widows enjoy the company of lodge members. For many of them it offers a chance to talk with someone that they may not have met. Younger members especially can gain a great deal from the widows; they have so much to offer.

No matter how simple, every lodge should have a formal widows program. Don't let these wonderful ladies be forgotten. It's the right thing to do. When you honor your widows you honor the brothers who have been raised to the Celestial Lodge. This should be an integral part of your lodge service program. ■

Masonic Service Fair



Saturday, March 31, 2012

10am – 2pm

Marlboro Masonic Building

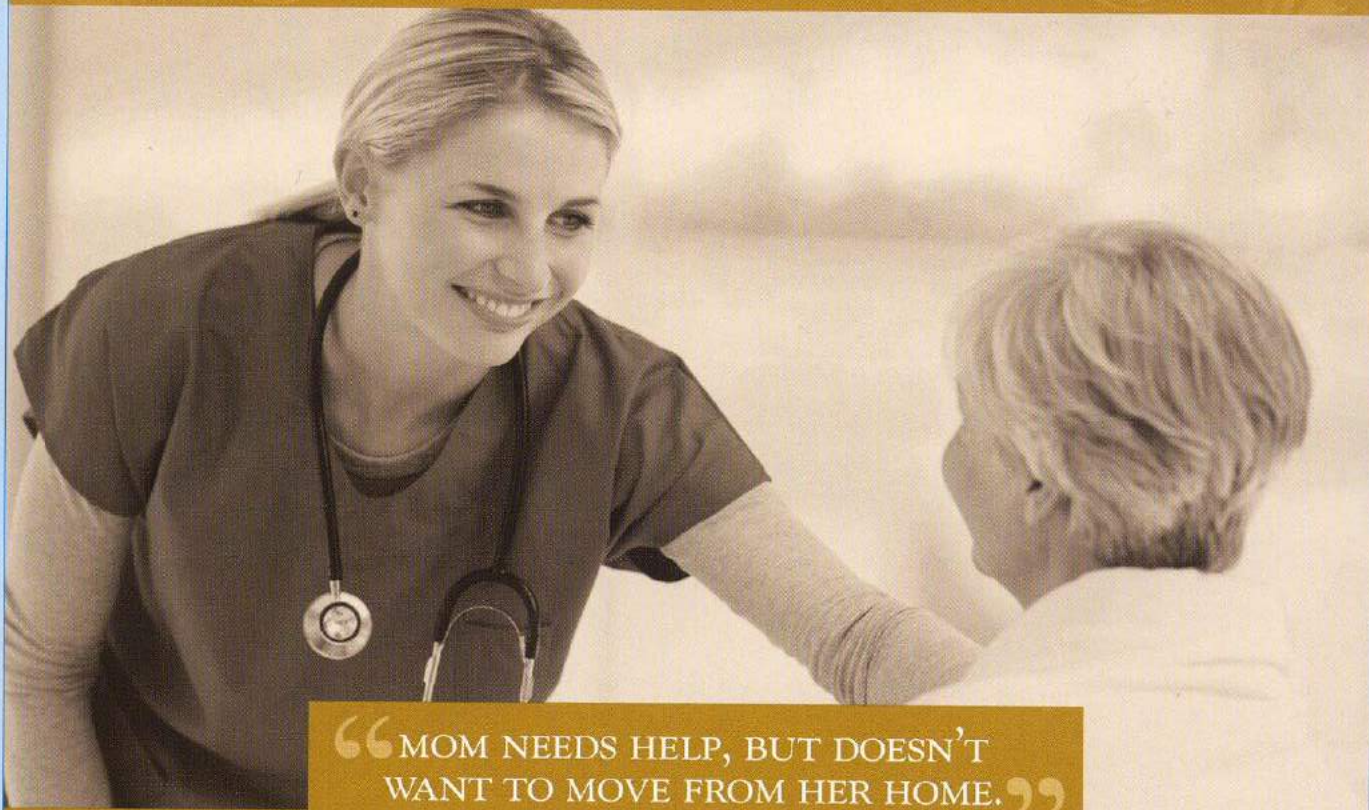
208 Main Street

Business casual. Free parking.

This event is for all masters, wardens, service chairmen and officers, or any Mason interested in discovering the rewarding benefits of serving others.

Find out about ongoing service projects in our jurisdiction and others.

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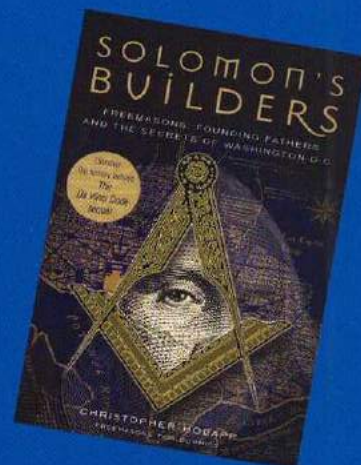
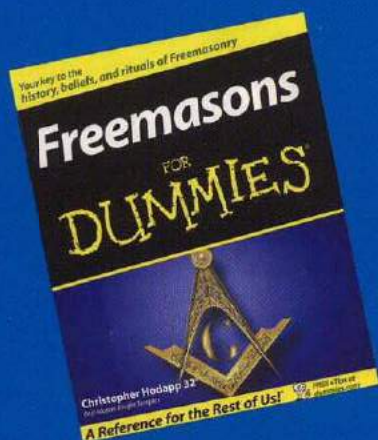
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OVERLOOK C.A.R.E. | OVERLOOK PRIVATE CARE
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