

TROWEL

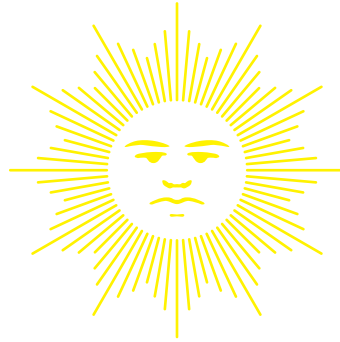
GRAND LODGE OF MASONS IN MASSACHUSETTS SPRING 2016

Many Brothers,
One Brotherhood

*Create the Future of Freemasonry,
Help a Man Become a Mason*

From the East of Grand Lodge

HARVEY JOHN WAUGH



Brethren:

It's important that we always represent Freemasonry in a positive light. Many leaders in our Craft have urged the brethren to remember they are someone's impression of Freemasonry.

I am encouraged by the impressions of Freemasonry I see being created by the members of our constituent lodges.

Whether it's a lodge in Attleboro organizing their very own Masonic-Con, or a group of lodges on the Cape & Islands planning their own regional Open House, brethren in Massachusetts take their solemn obligations to spread further light seriously. All of you should be commended for that.

As we enter the summer season, where things begin to wind down, and our thoughts turn towards our friends, families, rest and relaxation, we should further challenge ourselves to live up to our commitment to bring the best impression of Freemasonry we can to those around us.

The strength of Freemasonry is not solely built in numbers of men, but in the hearts and minds of those who are committed to lives of brotherly love, relief, and truth.

These core values transcend space and time and continue to illuminate the path before us, illustrating our future, guiding us as a compass on the map of life. As long as Masons remain committed to the ancient landmarks and the values of the Craft, Freemasonry will thrive.

We all agree that Freemasonry is the best social organization for men of good character because of its commitment to serving others, helping communities, and helping men become the best version of themselves.

It's up to us to spread the light of Freemasonry to those around us. It's up to us to accept that positively representing the Masonic lifestyle is a full time responsibility, independent of whether or not we are at labor or refreshment.

Fraternally,

Harvey J. Waugh
Grand Master

6 The Grand Master's Award Recipients

8 Where have all the Masons gone?

9 Be Cool, Be Brilliant

10 Grand Masters of Massachusetts
Most Worshipful Caleb Butler

12 The Vitality of Freemasonry

16 Freemasonry in the 21st Century

18 Why I became a Mason

27 A Message from the Most Worshipful Grand Master



8



10



16



18

R E G U L A R F E A T U R E S

Lodge & District News 3

Chaplain's Column 4

Grand Lodge Quarterly Communication 5

The Prodigal Mason 15

Living Freemasonry 20

Ask the Grand Lecturers 23

Lodge Finances 23

The Young Tyler 24

Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts
MW Harvey J. Waugh



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Who are the next Masons?

I met Bro. Washington. M. Wor. Bro. Revere helped me become a better father. Bro. Twain took my empty plate and told an incredibly bad joke (it was hilarious). Bro. Roosevelt cleaned the dishes with me and showed me how to stand tall despite the bark of critics.



When I joined the Fraternity, I didn't know that the best of Masonry would be in my lodge. I didn't know that they would be embodied by every brother working for their betterment. I thought I'd get to be with a bunch of great guys, talk about virtue, and have a great time. That was all true, but there is more. Every brother is a carrier of the greatness of brothers past. Our incredible history walks within the brothers in the communications of each lodge. Our history is present.

When I leave lodge, however, do I meet Bro. Crudeli? M. Wor. Bro. Truman? Bro. Skelton? How would I know these great brothers, or quiet brothers like most of us, if they were trimming their hedges on my block? Brothers may be walking through my life every day; but, I may not recognize them.

They work at my side. They are good men. They believe in God. They have what it takes to be a Mason, but Masonry hasn't taken them. They don't see themselves as potential Masons. And often, they don't see me as their path to Masonry. I am just another neighbor, worker, or casual acquaintance. To them, I am not a Mason.

But they can see me, themselves, and Bro. Wayne when we walk to the bus, talk, or work together. They can see all this when I wear my square and compasses. They can see all this when they see me dressed up and ask where I'm heading. "Tonight is lodge night and I can't wait," tells them about Masonry.

It is up to me to be the best Bro. Churchill they meet. I am the one that carries Bro. Mayo's light with me daily. It is up to me to live the ideals of Masonry, to walk the talk of becoming a better man, and to overcome any obstacle to be, for them, the best of Masonry. This is done two ways: by being a good and true Mason and by letting potential Masons know why I am the way I am.

I will falter. I will be grumpy in my Masonic cap. I will cut someone off with my Masonic plate on my car. Bro. Arnold is one Mason I do not want to be, but it happens. But, overall, I will represent Masonry the best I can, show the square and compasses, and tell the potential Masons what is here for them.

When they see the Masonic potential in themselves through our example, then we have our next generation of Masons.

The answer to the assurance for our future remains in our present. If we enjoy Masonry, but do not show ourselves as Masons to those around us, then we are cloistered in the beauty of the Craft without allowing others who may be in need of Masonry to glimpse that beauty.

A few years ago, the doors to Grand Lodge were replaced. The new doors are glass: the choice was made to be welcoming.

Fraternally, *Lee H. Fenn*

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE
JULY 1ST**



The Low Twelve Riders relax with the plaque in place, between the lanterns on the right.



The coveted patches of the Low Twelve Riders.

Low 12 Honored at Green Dragon

They are coming: the tiny streets rumble. In one of the oldest parts of Boston, the cornerstone of the Revolutionary War, on the Freedom Trail, the Green Dragon Tavern is the official meeting place of the Low Twelve Riders Masonic Bikers Association.

Two factors guide the Travelers of the Low Twelve Riders of Massachusetts: history and Masonic obligations. They had their first meeting at the Green Dragon, they signed the by-laws at the Green Dragon, and they hold their

meetings at the Green Dragon. According to masonicgenealogy.com, maintained by Rt. Wor. Walter Hunt, Grand Historian, the Green Dragon Tavern was “the trysting-place alike of the Masons and patriots of the day during revolutionary times.” In addition, there is a rumor that the Green Dragon Tavern is where many of the Masons and patriots plotted the bit of fun now known as the Boston Tea Party.

History brought the Low Twelve Riders to the Green Dragon Tavern, but Masonic obligations drive them into the future. They take these obligations very seriously. There is a period of riding and socializing prior to investing a prospective member with his vest. “A Mason with a motorcycle is not enough, we want the best Masons with motorcycles,” said Bro. Walter “Wallie” Hawkins, the President of the Massachusetts Chapter.

continued on page 29

Story of the Chainmail Armor Attendance Apron

On March 24, 2016 Quinebaug Lodge of the 24th District, hosted the Lodge of Instruction (L.O.I.) class. That night Quinebaug Lodge received the Chainmail Armor Attendance Apron for the most Brethren, 14 represented their lodge at the L.O.I. class. The Chainmail Armor Attendance Apron travels the 24th District L.O.I. class every month. The lodge with the most Brethren in attendance receives the Chainmail Armor Attendance Apron and brings it home to their lodge as bragging rights until the next L.O.I. class.

The traveling Chainmail Armor Attendance Apron began in 2010. It has become a tradition in the 24th

continued on page 28



News & Events continues on page 28

We Make Good Men Better?

by Rt. Wor. and Rev. Matthew Wissell

As Masons, when asked by those with no experience of the Craft what exactly it is that we do, we often respond with the phrase, “We make good men better.” It sounds noble and glorious. What happens next is we break out a list of charitable efforts that we may or may not be personally involved. We might mention the friendships we have developed since joining the Lodge. Maybe even mention the activities or events we have been blessed to participate in because of the Fraternity. Rarely, if ever, do we mention how we have been made a better man by our involvement in Freemasonry.

So it raises the question. Do we actually view the Lodge as a place where we become better men? Or are we simply another service club or organization? Do we come to Lodge to hang out with friends and have a good time or do we gather with the hopes of changing for the better? I think each of us has to answer that question for himself. It cuts directly to the heart of our purpose.

What do people say about you since you have joined the lodge? Do they comment about how busy you are and how many nights a week you are out? Do they ask what function you are going to on Saturday? Do they mention the hobbies and activities you did before joining the Masons? Do they ever say you are a better person? Do they ever note any positive changes in your attitudes or outlook on life after becoming a Freemason? Do they appreciate more the interactions you have with others since joining?

If we truly believe we exist to make good men better, then we need to make an effort to make that happen. It will not happen by chance or osmosis. We have to work at it. We have to give more than lip service to the great teachings of our degrees. We have to put them into action in our Lodges and in our lives. It is one thing to be able to repeat them from memory. It is another thing to inculcate them into our daily living.

The question then becomes how do you intentionally make good men better? What steps do you take? Are there certain protocols or practices that are effective? What would it look like if we decided

to focus on actually making good men better? What could we do?

I honestly do not believe it would be very complicated. I am not claiming it is easy, it is not. But it is a very simple concept to understand, just challenging to execute. It would require a process of holding one another accountable. A willingness of brothers to hold one another accountable and to be held accountable. Simple to understand, hard to accomplish.

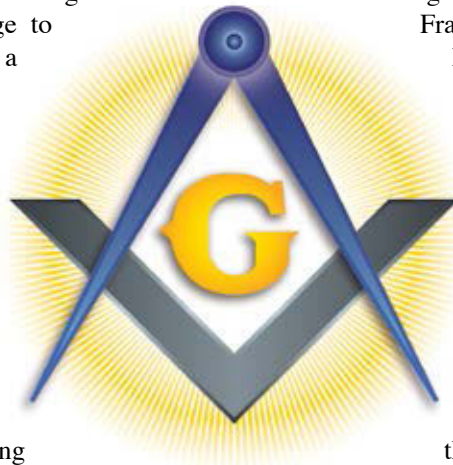
I am not suggesting it needs to happen as part of a monthly communication, but rather as a part of the life of the Lodge. What would happen if brothers paired off or formed in small groups for the purpose of holding each other accountable? What if looking through the lens of the teachings of the

Fraternity we asked one another for help in addressing an issue in our lives? We have taken vows bonding ourselves to one another. Why would we not want to support one another in a quest to be a better man?

My brothers, words matter. How we live our lives matter. Integrity matters. Integrity in the classic sense that our words and our actions are integrated. It should be the goal of every human being to live that way, but more especially ours as Masons. We do not claim to be average. We claim to hold ourselves to higher standards than the societal baseline of what is right and wrong. Ought we not attempt to live out our claim in the world.

Imagine what would happen if we did? It would change the conversation. “So, exactly what do you guys do in Lodge?” “We make good men better.” “Really?” “Well...I can tell you what it has done for me.” How much more esteem we would have in the eyes of the community. How much greater would our story be to the world.

Let us change the conversation. Let us endeavor to live up to our self-proclaimed purpose. Let us make a difference in our lives and well as those of others. ■



Rt. Wor. and Rev. Matthew J. Wissell is the current pastor of Eastham United Methodist Church and a Past Master of Bay Path and Mount Lebanon Lodges.

THE MARCH 2016 QUARTERLY COMMUNICATION

OF THE GRAND LODGE OF MASSACHUSETTS



by *Wor. Lee H. Fenn*

On March 9, 2016, the Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts, Most Worshipful Harvey John Waugh, preceded his honored guests, District Deputies, and other members of Grand Lodge to begin the March Quarterly Communications of Grand Lodge.

Prior to opening Grand Lodge, the colors were presented by the Colonial Craftsmen, Rt. Wors. Walter Hunt and David Newcome, and Wors. Douglas Ellis and Charles Katsanos.

The Grand Master opened the Grand Lodge Quarterly Communication in ample form and introduced the Grand Master of El Salvador, M. Wor. Alejandro Salvador Zabaneh Colocho, Gran Logia Cuscatlan. He was accompanied by M. Excel. Charles R. Austin, Grand High Priest, Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts; M. Ill. Robert C. Corr, Most Illustrious Grand Master, Grand Council of Royal and Select Master Masons of Massachusetts; Sir Knight Andrew C. Maninos, Rt. Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar, and the Appendent Orders, of Massachusetts and Rhode Island; Ill. Donald M. Moran, 33°, Deputy for Massachusetts, Ill. Peter R. Smith, 33°, Active for Massachusetts, Ill. Robert C. Schremser, 33°, Active for Massachusetts, and Ill. C. William Lasko, 33°, Active Emeritus for Massachusetts, all from Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the USA; M. Wor. Nicholas B. Locker, Past Grand Master and Grand Representative to

Grand Lodge from Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts; and Ill. Theodore Polonsky, Potentate of Aleppo Temple, Ancient Arabic Order, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine.

The Grand Master introduced the attending Past Grand Masters: M. Wors. Albert Timothy Ames, Arthur Eugene Johnson, Donald G. Hicks, Jr., Jeffrey Black Hodgdon, and Richard James Stewart.

M. Wor. Bro. Johnson as Grand Secretary thanked the Grand Master for his recognition of the proxies and read off the consolidation of lodges, which was passed. Senior Grand Warden, Rt. Wor. Thomas A. Rorrie was greatly humbled by the trust placed in him by Grand Lodge when he was elected to serve as a trustee for the Masonic Education & Charity Trust.

M. Wor. Bro. Johnson led the discussion of proposed amendments to the Grand Constitutions.

Deputy Grand Master, Rt. Wor. David R. Lucas read the necrology for the quarter, noting the loss of eight Masons, comprising 415 years of Masonic experience. The heads of all were bowed in prayer led by Rt. Wor. & Rev. Keith C. Alderman, Grand Chaplain.

With regret, the Grand Master noted two men had not lived up to the strict Masonic code of conduct which governs all Masons in Massachusetts. The Grand Master, with the consent of Grand Lodge, indefinitely suspended these two men.

Left: The Grand Master enters the spring communication of Grand Lodge. Right: The Grand Master with The Color Guard, Wors. Douglas Ellis and Charles Katsanos and Rt. Wors. David Newcomb and Walter Hunt.



The Grand Master designated Wor. James W. Killam III as his representative to the Grand Lodge of Brazil.

The Grand Master of El Salvador, M. Wor. Alejandro Salvador Zabaneh Colocho, on his first visit to cold Boston, presented the Grand Master with an inlaid plaque representing his country and hoped the good relations between the Grand Lodges would continue.

The Grand Master's Award was given to 24 lodges. This award recognizes a huge amount of effort on the part of the Master, Wardens, and members of each lodge. The honored were:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Ancient York Lodge | Boston University Lodge |
| Caleb Butler Lodge | Corinthian Lodge |
| Frank W. Thompson Lodge | Garden City Lodge |
| King David Lodge | Mariners Lodge |
| Meridian Lodge | Mount Holyoke Lodge |
| Mount Olivet Lodge | Mount Vernon-Galilean Lodge |
| Norfolk Lodge | Orient (D) Lodge |
| Palestine Lodge | Phoenix Lodge |
| Saint Martin's Lodge | Saint Matthew's Lodge |
| Satuit Lodge | The Independence Lodge |
| Weymouth United Lodge | William Parkman Lodge |
| William Sutton Lodge | Wyoming Lodge |

The Grand Master began his remarks in appreciation of the lack of eight feet of snow for the winter, to the laughter of those assembled. Since the last quarterly, December 9, 2015, there has been "travel to other Grand Lodges, monthly Board of Director meetings, a quarterly Masonic Education & Trust meeting, receptions for Grand Lodge Officers, lodge visits, installations of officers, visits to collateral bodies, several 50 yr. veteran Medal presentations, and, sadly, several Masonic Memorial Services."

The Grand Master discussed the committees and how they work. He noted that the chairmen and directors of the committees were appointed and they appointed their fellow members. The chairman calls the meetings and makes the "necessary decisions and recommendations which drive the



The Grand Master enjoys a present and a laugh with the Grand Master of El Salvador, M. Wor. Alejandro Salvador Zabaneh Colocho.

administration through the year. We owe a great deal of thanks," the Grand Master said, "for the untold number of hours they spend solving problems and working to advance the betterment of our Grand Lodge in its fundamental responsibilities." The Grand Master asked all brothers who serve on a Grand Lodge committee to stand; they received thankful applause from all assembled.

Rt. Wor. Will Currier, the Grand Master's Executive Assistant, left his position to return to his former profession with the banking industry. The Grand Master wished him well in this change and looked forward to being with him on many occasions. He noted that Rt. Wor. Bro. Currier has many friends at Grand Lodge and in the jurisdiction and was consistently amazed at Rt. Wor. Bro. Currier's knowledge about so many individual brothers.

With his departure, there has been a void in the Grand Master's office. Wor. John C. Harris III has been appointed to be an interim Executive Assistant. He began on January 5th and will serve until the position has a permanent occupant. The Grand Master, with the help of Business

THE GRAND MASTER'S

Ancient York Lodge



Boston University Lodge



Caleb Butler Lodge





The Grand Master with Wor. Jim Killam who stands as the new ambassador to Brazil with the other ambassadors.

Manager Rt. Wor. Robert V. Jolly, will create the job description and the position will be open for hiring, hopefully to be filled by autumn.

The Grand Master discussed the several committees designed to help lodges; the Building Association, Preservation, and Receivership committees have received requests from lodges for assistance. Some lodges have had the assistance of the committees imposed upon them when Grand Lodge perceived a need. The District Deputy Grand Masters have been an “invaluable source” of information in this regard. The Grand Master is expecting a greater need in the future for these committees’ assistance. “Each committee, since their inception, has performed outstandingly in their responsibilities and has greatly assisted the lodges in their charge,” the Grand Master said. Some mergers, moves to other buildings, or alternative solutions may face lodges that fall under these committees’ attention. Any such actions will be for the lodge and members benefit, said the Grand Master.

The Grand Master heralded the success of the license

plate program: 2024 plates were requested and the chairman, Rt. Wor. Richard Maggio is in the process of submitting them to the Registry of Motor Vehicles. The Grand Master noted that the number must be 3000 in five years’ time. “It behooves all of us,” said the Grand Master, “to continue promoting the program to lodge brothers and newly initiated brothers for the foreseeable future.”

It pleased the Grand Master to report that the Brotherhood Fund helped brothers in need to the tune of \$30,000 in the last year. Service Committee Chairman Rt. Wor. Frank Gomes along with Business Manager Rt. Wor. Bro. Jolly administered this success. The Supreme Council of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the Scottish Rite augmented the program again this year. “We cannot give enough thanks to the Sovereign Grand Commander, Illustrious John William McNaughton, 33°, who heads the program, and Illustrious Deputy, Donald M. Moran, 33°, who provides the hands on assistance and securing funds to help our Massachusetts brethren,” said the Grand Master to the rousing applause by all present. There may be great need for this fund in the coming year, so the Grand Master reminded all of the importance of continued generous support from lodges and brothers.

The Grand Master recalled the cornerstone ceremony of the previous year. The three silver plates, from 1795 at the original ceremony presided over by M. Wor. Paul Revere, from 1855, and from this past ceremony, have been replicated and will soon be available for purchase. The “Paul Revere” lodges, chartered by our Most Worshipful Brother, may be particularly interested in them, as a “fine addition to their lodge.”

The Grand Master thanked the brothers for their attendance, M. Wor. Grand Master, M. Wor. Alejandro Salvador Zabaneh Colocho for joining us, and wished everyone well “until we meet again.”

After a standing ovation, the Grand Master closed Grand Lodge in ample form. ■

AWARD RECIPIENTS

Corinthian Lodge



Frank W. Thompson Lodge



Garden City Lodge



continued on next page

WHERE HAVE ALL THE MASONS GONE?



by Rt. Wor. Jeffrey L. Gardiner, Past Senior Grand Warden

The short answer is - Somewhere else. The long answer is more involved and complicated, but still relates to the decline in membership of the organization we all love and enjoy so much.

As Robert Putnam, so scientifically analyzed in his book, "Bowling Alone, The Collapse and Revival of American Community", we have been facing several generations of "non-joiners" who have caused the significant decline in membership of most formal organizations during the last half of the twentieth century. He discusses the dramatic shift in personal interests and the decline of membership of traditional organizations such as churches, synagogues, little league, Rotary Clubs, bowling leagues, fraternal organizations and other groups and activities. At the end of his book he is optimistic about what is coming next in the new society that has been created by these generations, but he warns that we need to understand what has changed and what we need to do to meet this challenge.

Today, we are recruiting many new Masons. The work that has been done by lodges, some Past Grand Masters and the Grand Lodge over the past ten to fifteen years to open our doors and raise the awareness that Masonry is alive and well in Massachusetts has provided an increased interest in the organization. However, if we look at the numbers, we are losing members faster than we are bringing them in. Many are passing away, over which we have no control, but many are demitting or being suspended for non-payment of dues because they have lost interest in remaining a member.

Where are they going? Busy people stay busy doing something. They are spending their available time somewhere. Why not at the lodge? Why not involved in lodge activities? Why not on an active lodge committee? Why not cooking up a breakfast for the members? Why not starting a cribbage club at the lodge on Thursday mornings? If the lodge is not busy and active then the members are not busy and active. Our lodges need to keep their members involved or they will drift away.

Why would a young man today want to spend their time in a old, dingy lodge room listening to older men arguing over a bill that wasn't paid on time or complain about the broken window that didn't get repaired? There are too many activities in the world today that one can choose that are interesting, uplifting and exciting. Why come back to this lodge?

Many of our current members are also being pulled in many other directions by more and more time consuming activities and interests. It draws men away from the Fraternal relationships they once enjoyed.

The advent of social media means spending more time typing into phones and computers and less time being in a real conversation with their friends and Brothers. Many men today do not seem to understand how to have a meaningful dialogue with a live person and they spend their time typing in a personal monologue of their own thoughts. These monologues are "out there" and available for the entire world to judge and to sometimes condemn.

continued on page 29

THE GRAND MASTER'S AWARD RECIPIENTS

The Independence Lodge



King David Lodge



Mariner's Lodge



BE COOL BE BRILLIANT

By Rt. Wor. David R. Lucas

This speech was the first given by the newly installed Deputy Grand Master Rt. Wor. David R. Lucas at the feast of St. John. --the Editor.

Most Worshipful Grand Master, Most Worshipful Past Grand Masters, Guests, and my Brethren all, whom I feel very, very honored to be among this evening.

Those of you who have known me for at least some time, probably know me to be a somewhat less than a serious individual; certainly one who understands protocol and decorum, especially within these walls, but also one who finds a real value in making his fellow Masons a little happier, whenever possible—in fact, this is one of the lessons taught in Massachusetts Consistory’s so-called Woodchoppers Degree. Let me therefore begin by apologizing to you: I have never been the type of person who expects anyone to be moved by his words. I certainly do not expect that anyone here this evening will leave Grand Lodge so inspired, so changed, indeed so profoundly transcended by the Deputy Grand Master’s speech, that he will rush home after dinner to his dwelling place, pull together a perfect

makeshift altar, kneel before it and cry aloud, “Thank God—I have finally received the furthest light!”

I do not expect that to happen. But perhaps I can make you a little happier. Perhaps I can provide some personal perspective on how we can all improve ourselves in Masonry, even in the smallest sense. I would like to think that the Grand Master in his Wisdom saw something positive in me, when he decided to bestow such an honor upon me—even if I was his third choice.

So let’s improve ourselves in Masonry, shall we? It seems that each year around this time we are all called upon to reflect on the current trials and tribulations of Massachusetts Masonry. We look at what has happened within our Fraternity in the past 12 months. We compare our experiences to those of other lodges in foreign jurisdictions. We wonder where we are heading and we lament where possible, no, make that the probable difficulties that will befall our beloved Fraternity; and inevitably we begin to discuss and debate . . . the numbers.

As Freemasons we are obsessed with numbers: 3, 5, 7, 9; 31 Districts, 149 lodge buildings, 223 lodges, 28,000 members—and dropping, that

is true. The Grand Master, I believe, will make membership a focus of his final term. Let me then address our nature, rather than our number.

As we all know, when it comes to potential officers for our Lodges, both elected and appointed, our ponds are somewhat shrinking. That is no secret. How many of you men here tonight are Past-Masters, graciously serving again in the East or serving in line? [I’m speaking to all of you in the Paul Revere room also!] On behalf of Grand Lodge, let me first thank you very much for your devotion to your Lodge and your generosity. I want to address you all specifically, for a minute. I told this same story to the District Deputy Grand Masters a month ago.

The best professor I ever had in school was a philosophy professor at Syracuse named Laurence Thomas. I have a whole host of reasons why I enjoyed his classes, too many to describe tonight, but one memorable characteristic of his *continued on page 31*

Rt. Wor. David R. Lucas and M. Wor. Harvey J. Waugh enjoying a joke.



Meridian Lodge



Mount Holyoke Lodge



Mount Olivet Lodge



continued on next page

Grand Masters of Massachusetts

by Rt. Wor. Walter Hunt



Most Worshipful Caleb Butler 1841–1842

“The Hand of Providence”

Let it be our peculiar care, that in all our work, neither the square of morality, the level of equality nor the plumb of rectitude, may discover an irregularity or imperfection.

—Caleb Butler

The twentieth installment in the continuing series focused on our past Massachusetts Grand Masters.

Caleb Butler fondly told the story that when he was twenty-five years old in 1801, he left the employ of Isaiah Thomas in Worcester (where he, a Dartmouth salutatorian and classics scholar, had been hired to correct a Latin text) and traveled up the road through Groton on the way to his home in Pelham, New Hampshire. It was his intention to spend the night with a fellow Pelhamite, William Merchant Richardson; but as a result of a chance meeting with William Lawrence, a young man working on his father’s Groton farm, he became acquainted with the trustees of Groton (now Lawrence) Academy. They were so impressed with young Butler that in January 1802, they voted to give him a \$160 stipend and half of the tuition fees to “keep the school”, be headmaster, for the next six months. This “pecuniary compensation”, as he put it, was sufficient to entice him to settle in Groton. He remained associated with the school for half a century, ending only with his death in 1854. He had been led to the Academy, he always maintained, by the “hand of providence.”

With the exception of 1811, he ‘kept’ the school from 1802 until 1815, longer than all of his predecessors put together and longer than any other headmaster until late in the nineteenth century. Under his administration he had 615 students, including many famous citizens of Massachusetts including Abbott Lawrence, Amos Kendall, James Walker, Joel Parker, and William Lawrence Chaplin, and a host of others. In 1807 he was elected as Trustee, the only incumbent preceptor ever so elected, and in which position he served until 1836. For two years, 1808 and 1809, he hired a female preceptress, who conducted a school for young women; and in 1823 he helped one of his former students, Miss Susan Prescott, to found a female boarding seminary. For two generations he was the most influential educators in America, helping to transform secondary education and to elevate the status of secondary teachers from merely custodians to an honorable and respected position. He convinced the other trustees to fund a library, to buy maps and scientific instruments (such as a telescope), and to remove some foundational subjects from the freshman curriculum (English grammar, arithmetic and geography, for instance) and institute them as prerequisites for admission.

Butler’s own words reveal something of his educational philosophy:

“It is far from certain that the multiplicity of school books, modern experiments and contrivances to make study easy, are not a hindrance rather than a help to the full development and strengthening of the mental powers and faculties. The mind, as well as the body, requires exercise, energetic, protracted, even laborious exercise, in order to raise its powers to full perfection . . . A retentive memory is an essential faculty to the

THE GRAND MASTER'S AWARD RECIPIENTS

Mount Vernon Lodge



Norfolk Lodge



Orient Lodge (Norwood)



acquisition of knowledge; but it should be considered, that the exercises of a school are not solely for the purpose of storing up knowledge for future use; but to develop, cultivate, and strengthen the mental powers . . . If, in the education of youths, the memory only be nourished and strengthened, the store of knowledge laid up will fail in its application, for lack of judgement, discretion, discrimination."

As well as serving Groton Academy, Caleb Butler was active in public life. He studied civil engineering and became a proficient surveyor; he served at times as the Chairman of the Board of Highway Commissioners and Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners (in which position he served from 1828 until 1841, through several different administrations). He helped establish a town library for Groton, where he served at various times as Town Clerk, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen and Postmaster.

Brother Butler became a Master Mason in St. Paul Lodge of Groton, which holds a Paul Revere charter, in 1803. Whether his interest in the Craft came about as a result of the influence of his former patron, Most Wor. Bro. Thomas, is not known; but he immediately became active in the affairs of the Masonic fraternity, serving St. Paul Lodge as Secretary for two years, as Master for two more (and a third time from 1833 to 1835, when he was nearly sixty years of age). He was also active in St. John's Royal Arch Chapter, where he served as High Priest.

Grand Masters Russell and Oliver appointed him as District Deputy Grand Master in the Fifth District, in which capacity he served five years. He was Most Wor. Francis Oliver's Senior Grand Warden in 1818 and 1819, and Most Wor. John Abbot's Deputy Grand Master from 1824 to 1826; in the latter office he assisted in the laying of the corner stone of the Bunker Hill Monument in 1825, and like Abbot and many other prominent Masons of the time, was a signatory to the Declaration of 1831. In 1841 and 1842 he served as Most Worshipful Grand Master of Massachusetts, declining a third term for reason of health.

In every Masonic capacity from Master Mason to Grand Master, he was admired and respected, well-known for his judiciousness, his skill in the ritual, and his ardor and com-

mitment to the Fraternity. As a gifted public speaker both in civil and fraternal contexts, he demonstrated that he was not only informed about the philosophy and principles of the Craft, but deeply understood its tenets and truths.

We have one of his speeches in print, an oration delivered before Trinity and Aurora Lodges at the festival of St. John the Baptist in 1816; it is very insightful regarding Brother Butler's beliefs as a man, a citizen, and a Freemason – guided, as he always maintained, by "the hand of providence."

"The wisdom and beneficence of our Creator are displayed in all his works; but in nothing do they more evidently appear, or demand our gratitude in a higher degree, than in his having endowed the human breast with the social principle. Every passion, and every propensity, implanted in our nature, if properly regulated and directed, is admirably adapted to our situation; but to the social principle we are indebted for most of the comforts and enjoyments of life. . .

No institution of this kind is more famous for its antiquity, more extensively established, more correct in its principles, or benevolent in its intentions, than the Society of Free and Accepted Masons . . . As the respectable audience before whom I have the honour on this occasion to speak, have assembled, I trust, not merely to gratify the eye of an idle curiosity, but to gain knowledge by listening to instruction, I have endeavoured to accommodate the entertainment for this festival to the understanding and information of the spectators, as well as of the assembled fraternity. . .

Though we have no pretensions to virtues unknown to the rest of the world, we claim higher privileges, and better advantages for virtuous and moral improvement. . . Let us endeavour to straighten and smooth the difficult and rugged paths of our fellow-travellers in this wilderness of trial and affliction; and let it be our peculiar care, that in all our work, neither the square of morality, the level of equality nor the plumb of rectitude, may discover an irregularity or imperfection."

As he concluded his address with these words, so should we repeat them to acknowledge his insights: so mote it be. ■

Palestine Lodge



Phoenix Lodge



Satuit Lodge



continued on next page

The *Vitality* of Freemasonry

by *Wor. Matthew Nelson*

Wor. Matt Nelson of Utah, the author of *Lodge Leadership: a 5 Step Guide to Masonic Reform*, was the keynote speaker at the feast of St. John's on December 28, 2015. M. Wor. Bro. Waugh heard him at the World Conference of Regular Masonic Grand Lodges in November of 2015. The following is an approximation of his keynote address. - *the Editor*

Power Vacuum – young man's game

There is a syndrome in Masonry, best described as the Superman Syndrome. This is the notion that "If it is to be done, I must be the one to do it." This is taking everything on so we may ensure getting it done right. But that style of leadership limits others.

The superman mentality is a sickness that cripples those who come after us. Think about it this way, if we were instantly taken out of leadership, have we set up the group to succeed us or were we concerned about making ourselves successful?

There have been a wide variety of methods for finding those men to take our place. Some of them have to do with lowering the dues. This has the effect of making it too easy to be a Mason. If the good of the Fraternity is priceless, we still have to express the value for the prospective member. If they pay so little, then it must be of little value. Masonry is cheapened.

Indicative of most Lodges throughout the United States are low dues. The younger brothers were far more willing to pay more while the older brothers were not. The price must be at least commensurate with the value of Masonry.

Another way we've cheapened the experience is by making it far too easy for one to attain the Sublime Degree of

Master Mason. I believe this is a result of the "factory era" of the mid-20th century. This lack of education and ease of progression allowed Masons to often just walk away as it was something easily given to them and they didn't have to work hard for it. When one has to work hard and put an effort into progressing through the degrees they will keep coming back and stay active within the Lodge because it was a special achievement, not an instant gratification.

The Millennial Era

With the onset of the Millennial Era, Freemasonry is coming to a crossroads. We can reform and restore the prestigious nature of Freemasonry or we can continue to live in decline and inactivity. Many Masons seem okay with complacency and stagnation, and taking Freemasonry on a course toward destruction; the slogan "that's how things have 'always' been done" is touted by those unwilling to change course.

The generational gap created by the counterculture revolution of the 1960s combined with the "Factory mode" Lodges set into motion in the mid-20th century has created poor Lodge practices and policies which has resulted in declining membership and, as Bro. M.D. Jardine wrote in 1996, the emergence of "Robot Masonry" which sees ritual

THE GRAND MASTER'S AWARD RECIPIENTS

Saint Martin's Lodge



Saint Matthew's Lodge



Weymouth United Lodge



as the end rather than the means.

We "Millennials" have a great opportunity to take charge and lead the change.

Generation Gap—Bridging It

To look at the last century and the men it produced it is helpful to understand what went on in the 1900s. In the span of 66 years, we went from taking flight to landing on the moon. Everything in a 1991 RadioShack ad exists now in a single smartphone. When Warner Brothers formed, the Ottoman Empire was still alive. If you're over 45, the world population has doubled in your lifetime.

In America, there are six living generations, which are six fairly distinct groups of people. As a generalization each generation has different likes, dislikes, and attributes. They have had collective experiences as they aged and therefore have similar ideals.

The Six Generations:

The Greatest: born prior to 1925

The GI Generation was unified by shared experiences and common enemies. "Sacrifice for the common good" was a widely accepted norm. Loyalty, hard work, patriotism, respect for authority, self-reliance, and a strong sense of civic obligation are characteristics of this group. After all, this is the generation that gave rise to the comic strip "Superman." They lived the slogan "We will prevail." They fought and won WWII. They are conforming high achievers who are fearless, but not reckless. Patriotic and idealistic, this generation was morally conscious.

They grew up with attitudes of formality, suits and ties

are the standard. They saw that it is good and normal for everyone to agree and work in the same way. They cooperate toward goals which they wish to achieve. That achievement is a victory. They have high standards of leadership wherein public interest trumps personal gain.

The Silent: born between 1927 and 1945

This hard working generation was raised by turn-of-the-century farmers. They brought a strong work ethic into factories and the industrialized society. The Silent Generation grew up during lean times and considered work a privilege. They are willing to put in long, grueling hours to get ahead in their careers. This generation believes you earn your own way through hard work.

The Silent Generation is civic-minded and loyal to their country and employer. Unlike some of the younger generations, like the Millennials and Generation X, many of this generation worked for the same employer their entire life and are less likely to change jobs to advance their careers than younger generations.

Raised in a paternalistic environment, this generation was taught to respect authority. They are good team players and generally don't ruffle any feathers or initiate conflict in the workplace. Of all four generations in today's workplace, this generation is slow to change their work habits. As a whole, they are less technologically adept than the younger generations. As technology evolves and changes, they may struggle to learn new technology and work processes.

The silent generation values traditional morals, safety and security, as well as conformity, commitment, and con-



Wor. Matthew Nelson delivers thoughts on leadership.

William Parkman Lodge



William Sutton Lodge



Wyoming Lodge



sistency. They prefer brick-and-mortar educational institutions and traditional lecture formats to online, web-based education. In the legal workplace, they favor conventional business models and a top-down chain of command.

Baby Boomers: born between 1946 and 1964

Baby Boomers are extremely hardworking and motivated by position, perks, and prestige. They relish long work weeks and define themselves by their professional accomplishments. Since they sacrificed a great deal to get where they are in their career, this workaholic generation believes that Generation X and Millennials should pay their dues and conform to a culture of overwork. Baby Boomers may criticize younger generations for a lack of work ethic and commitment to the workplace.

Baby Boomers are confident, independent, and self-reliant. This generation grew up in an era of reform and believes that they can change the world. They questioned established authority systems and challenged the status quo. Baby Boomers are not afraid of confrontation and will not hesitate to challenge established practices.

With increased educational and financial opportunities compared to previous generations, they are achievement-oriented, dedicated, and career-focused. They welcome exciting, challenging projects and strive to make a difference.

Since Baby Boomers equate work and position with self-worth, they are quite competitive in the workplace. They are clever, resourceful, and they strive to win. They believe in hierarchal structure and rankism and may have a hard time adjusting to workplace flexibility trends. They believe in “face time” at the office and may fault younger generations for working remotely.

Generation X: born between 1965 and 1980

Generation X came of age in an era of two-income families, rising divorce rates, and a faltering economy. Women were joining the workforce in large numbers, spawning an age of “latch-key” children. As a result, Generation X is independent, resourceful, and self-sufficient. In the workplace, this generation values freedom and responsibility. Many in this generation display a casual disdain for authority and structured work hours. They dislike being micro-managed and embrace a hands-off management philosophy.

Generation X mentality reflects a shift from a manufacturing economy to a service economy. This is the first generation to grow up with computers and technology is woven into their lives. As work places integrated new technological tools, Generation X learned and adapted. This generation is comfortable using PDAs, cellphones, e-mail, laptops, Blackberrys, and other technology employed in the workplace.

Many of this generation lived through tough economic

times in the 1980s and saw their workaholic parents lose hard-earned positions. Thus, they are less committed to one employer and more willing to change jobs to get ahead than older generations. They adapt well to change and are tolerant of alternative lifestyles. Generation X is ambitious and eager to learn new skills but want to accomplish things on their own terms.

Unlike previous generations, this generation works to live rather than lives to work. They appreciate fun in the workplace and espouse a work hard/play hard mentality. Generation X managers often incorporate humor and games into work activities.

Millennials: born between 1981 and 2000

Told by their parents that they are special and they can do everything, Millennials are driven by the desire to make a difference. With their “can-do” attitude, and positive personal self-image Millennials are ready to take on the world. Their parents told them they can do it and they can.

The “fast-track” has lost much of its appeal for Millennials who are willing to trade high pay for fewer billable hours, flexible schedules and a better work/life balance. While older generations may view this attitude as narcissistic or lacking commitment, discipline, and drive, these professionals have a different vision of workplace expectations and prioritize family over work. Millennials are more traditional about family and values than a lot of previous generations. They seek for marriage, family, and free/personal time and set them as priorities.

Millennials grew up with diversity.

They don’t differentiate between skin colors or ethnic background. Alongside their belief in diversity is their desire for reconciliation. They just can’t understand why so many adults and groups can’t get along. Those who will connect best with Millennials in the years ahead will understand these heartfelt desires to be the great reconcilers.

Knowing how important education in a quickly changing world is and pushed by their parents, Millennials are learners. This generation is highly education-oriented. Currently one in four Millennials are in college.

Nurtured and pampered by parents who did not want to make the mistakes of the previous generation, Millennials are confident, ambitious, and achievement-oriented. They have high expectations of their employers, seek out new challenges and are not afraid to question authority. Millennials want meaningful work and a solid learning curve.

As children, Millennials participated in team sports, play groups, and other group activities. They value teamwork and seek the input and affirmation of others. Part of a no-child-left-behind generation, the Millennial generation

**Leadership
is a verb.
It is an
action.**

continued on page 30



The Prodigal Mason

by Richard Thompson



If you have ever walked out the door after a lodge meeting and the sun is still shining, you might be a daylight Mason! (Thanks to Jeff Foxworthy for inspiring this opening sentence.)

My introduction to daylight Masonry came in 2003, when I served as District Deputy Grand Secretary for Rt. Wor. John Appleby. That was the year of the district realignments. The 12th District lost Corinthian Lodge in Concord and picked up St. Matthew's Lodge in Andover and Merrimack Valley Daylight Lodge in North Andover.

I have to admit that after that first meeting I attended, it was a bit shocking to walk out of the meeting and see a bright Spring sun. The only other time I can remember attending a lodge meeting in daylight was at the dedication of Wamesit Lodge's new building in 1976. That was 27 years between daylight meetings.

I have to admit, however, after that fraternal visit and the two officials and the other fraternal that followed, I came away with the feeling that there is something different about daylight Masonry.

There are some obvious differences. The first is daylight lodges tend to be much smaller than their nighttime cousins. Merrimack Valley Daylight Lodge, for example, has just 45 members. That number is down just six from the total when I joined in 2005.

Another difference that's becomes more noticeable when you visit is the membership is a bit older than the nighttime lodges. For Daylight Lodge the average age for the members is 71.7. I also suspect Daylight Lodge's membership also is a bit more experienced in Masonry than other lodges. The average member has been a Mason for 34.7 years.

Of the 45 members of Daylight Lodge, only 11 list the lodge as their primary lodge. And of the 11, only seven were raised in Daylight Lodge. And only one officer in the lodge isn't a past master. Of course, the line is missing a few officers. The lack of a few officers does not cause a crisis since the last time the lodge did the degrees for an actual candidate was three years ago.

Merrimack Valley is not the only daylight lodge in Massachusetts. There are four others. Of the five daylight lodges, three are in the East, one is in central Massachusetts and one is in the West. I'm not familiar with the four other lodges, but I suspect their stories are quite similar.

Richard Thompson is a past master and the secretary for Merrimack Valley Daylight Lodge.

This is all just narrative and describes the lodge. Now I am going to try to describe to you what I sensed on those first few visits and what has been reinforced since I have become an active member.

A daylight lodge is the perfect alternative for a man who must work second or third shift. In fact, that was the case for the last candidate we raised. However, that brother had to change jobs and he now lives about half a country away from Daylight Lodge. And I can't think any of the other active members fall into this category.

For the rest of the active members, myself included, I think we are all retired or just about there. That would make perfect sense given an average age greater than 70. So we are able to attend daytime meetings, but why do we do it?

Merrimack Valley Daylight Lodge meets on the third Tuesday of the month (January and February excluded). While we open at 11 a.m., the members start arriving at the North Andover Masonic hall at 10 a.m. The coffee is on and there is a box of morning pastries on the banquet hall counter. (Actually, we use one of those single cup coffee makers, so coffee on means the water is hot enough to make coffee.)

After the meeting we retire to the banquet hall for lunch. This "lunch" is exactly the same as a dinner at a nighttime lodge. For many of our members, this is the big meal for the day. They don't have to cook when they get home.

Meetings last from 45 minutes to one hour. We can't infringe on that noon lunch deadline. For the most part meetings are limited to the basics. The lodge doesn't do much beyond meeting once a month.

So what is the attraction? In large part, it's simple -- socialization. We meet once a month to enjoy each other's company. For me, the friendships we make through the Fraternity are a main attraction.

A daylight lodge is the perfect lodge for retired members. It's perfect for those members who no longer trust themselves driving at night. It is a great way to be an active Mason when you can't attend night meetings.

If you are retired, I suggest you start attending a daylight lodge. The same advice goes for those Masons who work second or third shift. And for those of us who have room for one more meeting, daylight Masonry may just be the answer. I'm sure you will find something that will make daylight Masonry a part of your life. ■

MASSACHUSETTS DAYLIGHT LODGES

Cawnaconie Sunshine / 3rd Saturday / Bourne
Euclid / 3rd Thursday / Stoughton
Merrimack Valley Daylight / 3rd Tuesday / No. Andover
Mount Sugar Loaf / 3rd Saturday / So. Deerfield
Rose of Sharon / 3rd Saturday / Charlton



Freemasonry in the **21st Century**

By Bro. Christopher D. Rooney

The summer of 2016 marks an exciting time for the digital presence of the Craft in Massachusetts. The Grand Lodge is proud to introduce an updated version of our public website, located at www.massfreemasons.org. This is merely the first part of an exciting new web presence for our organization.

This project is the result of many months of preparation, research, and development that was coordinated by Wor. Robert Huke, myself, and our creative agency, Small Army, Inc.

One of the first questions we asked ourselves when we started this process was, “who is our target audience?” and the answer was simple. This website has two primary audiences: Master Masons looking to learn more about the

Freemasons of Massachusetts, and non-Masons who are looking to find more information on how to become a Freemason.

With this in mind, we set out to deliberately re-purpose and re-utilize content from our existing marketing domain FindMoreInMasonry.org on the website. This content helps us attract and retain the interest of potential candidates for our lodges, and has been effective since it was launched last Spring on the “Find More” domain.

We also made an effort to modernize, re-purpose, and re-invent content from the previous Grand Lodge homepage for the benefit of our Master Masons audience.

The result, we feel, is a website that accurately portrays the Craft, its tenets and its values to our Masonic and

non-Masonic audiences. Freemasonry seeks to proclaim its principles as widely as men will hear them; our website, in turn, emphasizes the tenets of our profession: brotherly love, relief, and truth.

With excellent insight and assistance from our creative agency, we've designed a web experience that is consistent with the expectations of internet users in 2016 in both form and function.

We now have the ability to repurpose content from this very magazine by enabling the TROWEL staff to post interactive articles labeled as "from TROWEL" on the website. All news articles give users the ability to share content on their social networks directly from the article pages themselves.

Our special thanks are due to Rt. Wor. Elliot Chikofsky and the Information Services & Technology Committee, who have taken over hosting of both our marketing website and this new homepage. We've set up the ability for each lodge's individual page to dynamically pull contact information from each lodge's list of Officers in our central membership database thanks to Rt. Wor. Bro. Chikofsky in particular. Our success moving forward would not be possible without their hard work, dedication, and cooperation.

This is just a small taste of the website we've put togeth-

er. I encourage you to hop onto your favorite web browser and check out www.massfreemasons.org – you'll be proud of what you see.

You may be wondering why the main domain is now www.massfreemasons.org (our other domains will still drive to this destination, not to worry!)—the answer is the best way to tell the story of our fraternity is to focus on the people, and not the institution. While Freemasonry in Massachusetts has been going strong since 1733, it is our Freemasons in our constituent lodges that have been the principle drivers of our success. Moving forward, we aim to focus on our brethren and the impact our fraternity has had on them as men, and enabled them to grow in many different ways.

We believe that Freemasonry is the best for men of good character because of its commitment to service to others, helping communities, and most of all, helping men become the best version of themselves. This is the greatest gift our collective association provides: the opportunity to find more within us.

In its own small way, we hope this new digital face to our fraternity will enable us to share the gift of Freemasonry as widely as men will receive it. ■



Why I became

1 Rough to Rough

Who is your next brother? How will you know that you can help another man find Freemasonry? Is there something you can do, or is it something you must be, to show a friend the better life of Brotherhood? The process toward a perfect ashlar is never ending, but that process can make each rough ashlar recognize another brother, in the rough.

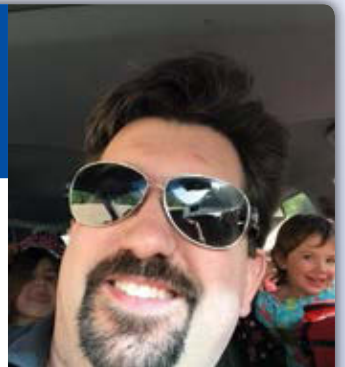


Bro. Caleb Gallagher
St. Martins Lodge

I grew up on Cape Cod, Massachusetts where I spent a lot of my childhood watching my grandfather get dressed up in a tuxedo and head to a meeting. I remember the lodge in which I am now a member of St. Martins Lodge A.F. & A.M. I used to go in there with my grandfather or mother for a dinner even

though I really had no clue, except that the blue room always made me wonder what went on in there. Since then I had become interested and started a few years ago getting in my grandfather's ear about it. After a period of time and some research the process began. I came home in between cycles of picking up soldiers to train them in the United States Army as I am a Drill Sergeant. The man next to me in this picture raised me to the sublime degree of Master Mason and is not only a honorable member but a great man: Wor. Benjamin Nickerson, my grandfather, and now my Brother.

Bro. Christopher Robert Hardy
Washington Lodge, Lexington



Since graduating college and being a part of the AXP fraternity in NJ, I felt that my next chapter in brotherhood would be the Freemasons. It was not until moving to Waltham, MA 6 years ago did I think seriously about joining.

It was a beautiful day in late April 2013 when I met an older gentleman. He was wearing a Masonic baseball cap and I struck up a conversation with him. We were literally a few hundred feet from the Washington Masonic Lodge in Lexington, MA when he politely asked me if I would like to join him for dinner. That was it I was hooked.

I met many brothers at that meeting and continued to keep in contact. For personal reasons I did not start my apprenticeship until October 2015. What a worthwhile wait. At 40 years old I have many years to participate in the many rights, privileges, and benefits of Freemasonry. It was a decision and chance meeting that I will never forget, and look forward to experiencing the rest of my life.



Bro. William Brady
Columbian Lodge, Boston

As a CEO, there are a significant number of demands on my time, from my company to my wife and family, to other companies and organizations. There are not enough hours in the day, as is likely the case for all professionals; so I am extremely selective in how I spend my time.

That being said, I thoroughly enjoy

being a Mason and make time to attend Lodge. I joined when I returned to Boston after having lived abroad in Eastern Europe for several years. I was looking for a way to make friends with other intelligent and interesting men. I considered other organizations like the Rotary Club, but after visiting Columbian Lodge, I found Masons to be warm, engaging, and conversant on intelligent and varied topics; exactly what I was looking for.

A Mason

2 Tools for Betterment

Bro. Michael Rezendes
Pioneer Lodge, Somerset

I have found that in my life I have always walked an ever widening path that granted me experiences that resulted in the person I am today. One of the side paths was when I was 58 and stopped by a local Masonic Lodge that I had passed thousands of times without ever giving it a second look. This day it called to me and I heard it.

This lodge needed me. The lodge is a living and breathing entity not just a building made of brick and mortar.

The fraternity within its walls sustains the energy and lives of those that carry the tools of Freemasonry. This living energy decided that the experiences that I had gathered over my life would help to continue the growth of its life.

My path in Freemasonry is but one—others who have come before me had their own purpose and how they would contribute to this living fraternity. Whether a person is coming into the Lodge when they're older, with much life experience, or when they are young, acting as the foundation that this Fraternal Brotherhood, all these lives are at the core of a living, breathing and growing Masonic Lodge on our paths in life.



I don't pay for meals I don't eat. I've never bought a car and walked off of the lot without it. I'm not in the habit of buying tools so that I can watch them rust.

The tools of Freemasonry are maintained and used every lodge night. These are the tools for living in a good and upright manner. Tools such as honesty, charity, and brotherhood are on display in our ritual and are evidenced by our actions in and around lodge. Like all tools, they need to be picked up and maintained.

We have bought these tools through being initiated and with cash every year in the form of dues. We should get what we pay for.

To pick up and maintain our tools, we must go to lodge.

There are ways to avoid picking up or maintaining the tools of Freemasonry: Netflix is always on, we are always sleepy, and there is that one brother that we don't want to see. The process of becoming that perfect ashlar is difficult, sometimes frightening, and easy to avoid. If we don't have tools in good order, we avoid it completely. We will stay forever rough.

We can make a rule: We will get what we pay for; we will pick up and maintain our Masonic tools; we will attend lodge and be with our brothers.

Bro. Thomas Robert Vargeletis Jr.
Wilder Lodge, Leominster

I am an Army Veteran and a Realtor. Since my service in the military I developed an affinity for the special bonds that grow among brothers and friends. I felt compelled to integrate myself within my community. I had been exposed to Masonry in all of the traditional senses via TV and Movies, learning all about the conspiracy theories and other stories from benign to outrageous. There is a Lodge in my home town that I drive by occasionally, and one day I thought I would reach out and see what the Masons are really about.

Without revealing too much, my future brothers explained the charitable nature of Masonry, and its purpose in helping each individual to become better than they were. The context of a family of brothers learning and growing, a concept not unfamiliar to me, was appealing at once. Throw in some esoteric knowledge, literature, and the use

of symbols to serve as daily reminders of our constant pursuit, and I could not say no.

There are certain moments and decisions we make in our lives that help shape and define our future. Buying our first car, our first house, joining the military and serving our country, big career moves, learning something new. I know for certain now what I only had an inkling of then; becoming a Mason is one of those special moments. In fact, we know that it is not a moment, it's a journey. That is why I became a Mason.



more stories on page 21

Living Freemasonry

by Rt. Wor. Steve Cohn

Meet an Active Massachusetts Mason

Active Masons seek out many different avenues and outlets of contributing and serving their fraternity. From Blue Lodge to Scottish and York Rites to the Shrine, you'll find Masons working very hard and devoting many hours of their time in support of their endeavors. Such is the case of Bro. Craig A. Kazin of Wilbraham Lodge.

Bro. Kazin was raised in February, 1996, in Newton Lodge in Wilbraham. Both his father and grandfather were Masons and his father, Barton, had the honor of raising him. What prompted the younger Bro. Kazin to join the fraternity was seeing both his elders wearing their Masonic rings and seeing all the Masonic diplomas hanging on the walls and thinking this was something special. But it wasn't until he struck up a conversation with one of his colleagues, Wor. Philmore Smith, and following that conversation, he says it just happened.

While learning his cipher, he was mentored Masonically by Rt. Wor. Ned Carpenter and Wor. Frank Marshall. He says he admired the fact that Ned was a very active, upright, and well-regarded member of the community. But it was Frank, being a very kind and caring soul, who really showed him what being a "Brother" was all about.

It was shortly after becoming a Mason he took his Masonic membership to another level and joined the Melha Shriners. The one unit which caught his eye was their clown unit and "Doc" was born. After serving as such for a number of years, and writing the monthly unit report for the Melha newspaper, "Camelha," since 2004, a position he held until 2011, the Unit elected him their "Chief Clown" in 2008. He is currently the Clown Unit's treasurer.

Part of being a Shriner is the support of the Shriners Hospitals for Children with two hospitals located in Massachusetts; the Boston Burns Unit and the Springfield Orthopedic Unit. Bro. Kazin has volunteered for many years at the Springfield hospital and was elected to the Springfield hospital Board of Governors in January, 2016. He also serves on the Human Resources, Finance and Development Committees of the Board and will be joining the Steering Committee for the EOS X-Ray equipment fundraising which the Springfield Hospital hopes to procure by the end of 2016.

Bro. Kazin says he would love to see membership in the Blue Lodges and the Shrine grow. But he says it is his strong feeling that he would "rather see 'a few good men' rather than a lot of mediocre ones." Even though it has run its course, and being somewhat of a history buff, Bro. Kazin says he really liked the Ben Franklin advertising campaign. He says he "thinks the modern male needs to balance a lot of responsibilities and obligations, and any way that Masonic time can overlap, or enhance family or work time would be an excellent approach to membership." He continues by saying that Open Houses are beneficial but advertising them is not enough. He challenges every member to bring one or two good men to the open houses to "start the conversation." He says advertising and social media are one thing. It's the personal touch that really makes a difference.

One thing he noticed about many Shrine leaders is that they're active in their respective communities, in social, civic, and religious organizations. Having a Shriners Hospital in your community helps with the visibility by giving instant recognition in your efforts. As such, he became and is still very active in his synagogue, serving as its president from 2002-2004 and chairing its Centennial Celebration in 2013.

Bro. Kazin says the challenge to Freemasonry is how to remain relevant in men's lives. He says he continues to "see MANY men of good report who COULD be Masons but are not." He doesn't know

if it's a stigma, or a few bad actors, or whether the outsiders perceive it to be a huge time commitment. He's a firm believer that "leadership" is somewhat innate. However, "leadership skills" can be taught. He would like to see training topics on "how to run a concise and focused meeting," "facilitation skills," "diplomacy, negotiation, etc." All of these skills come into play when you run an organization. He says it's the toolbox approach.

He says the skills he learned as an engineer in the electric power industry have availed him the training in many relevant skills, including the ones he mentioned above, and which skills he "leveraged mightily" when he ran the Clown Unit. He noted that all the things we are exposed to as a fraternal organization leader,

continued on page 29



Bro. Craig Kazin

3 Tools in Hand, the Hewing of Stone

With our tools in hand, seen and learned from years of consistent lodge experience, the work on our own rough edges begins.

In the world of constant communication, a minute waiting is a minute wasted, where a walk or a drive cannot be enjoyed without destroying pigs with angry birds; it is hard to use our tools.

The tools in hand are primitive, they have no electricity or power, the rough ashlar has many sharp edges and it is, after all, stone. But the task is before us, the task is what we chose, the rough will be perfected. To do this we must use our own effort with our own tools.

The smoothing of the ashlar is not done lodge alone; it is done everywhere.

What can we do to ease the pain of others at work? This may mean bringing something surprising, like bacon, to the next meeting. It may mean when getting supplies, be they nails or yellow pads of paper, and bring some for your fellows. It may mean holding a door open, speaking well of others, whether or not they are in earshot, or dropping that anger toward our own personal worksite enemy.

There are thousands of ways to use the tools of Masonry every day to create a habit of good living. This is putting into practice what we learn from attending lodge. When we collect our tools, maintain them, and put them to work on our rough edges, we will be beacons of light to our future Brethren.

Bro. John C. Laffy *Amity-Mosaic Lodge, Danvers*

I joined Freemasonry for a couple of reasons. The first is that being an alumni of a college Fraternity, Sigma Pi, I knew of the brotherhood aspect of any fraternal organization, I am still close with my brothers from Sigma Pi although we are literally scattered across the globe. The second reason is due to my friends and family that are Masons. My wife Sheila's uncle William "Cap" Kelly, while he was alive, was a Master in Philanthropic and was active in lodges in ME, MA & FLA and often spoke of his fellowship within Masonry. He also carried himself, both personally and professionally, in a manner that I always respected, as he would say he was on the level and offered square deals...never understood the double meaning, so to speak, until I joined and I was brought into the light!



Bro. Benjamin Flax *The Massachusetts Lodge*

Growing up as a child of a military chaplain, I understood that we are united as people regardless of faith. This became a trope of mine and inspired me to look for something more than my religious institution. I knew my father was a Mason and he spoke highly of the fraternity, so it came as no surprise on my 21st birthday that I asked how to join. Being part of the craft has allowed me to continue in understanding that we are all united regardless of faith.



Bro. Daryl Flynn *Wyoming Lodge*

Here is a picture of me standing in-line with my father in law Grand Marshal Roger Waugh and his Brother M. Wor. Harvey Waugh. Behind me is another brother that was raised at the same time as me by M. Wor. Bro. Waugh at Wyoming Lodge, Bro. Bill Curran. We are also surrounded by a few other brothers from Wyoming lodge, Bro. Rich McElhinney, Bro David Fletcher, Bro. Sal Fricano, and Bro Michael Nachshen.

Masonry is in my family and I am proud to be a part of the Brotherhood.

more stories on next page



Bro. Michael K. Simon
Charity Lodge, Cambridge

My reasons for desiring to become a Freemason are many. These reasons follow the influence of the many great persons who have preceded me; great men and Freemasons of the past including: my grandfather Harold W. Simon, President George Washington, the Neapolitan Prince Raimondo di Sangro, the French philosopher Voltaire, and Manly P. Hall just to name a few.

In the chapter entitled, "On Visitors" from the book *Walden*, Henry David Thoreau describes having 3 chairs in his small cabin, "One for solitude, two for friendship, and three for society." And I think these three forms of relationship should be present and in good condition for an individual also. I seek to know myself better, seek self-improvement, and aid others in friendship and by functioning as a member of society with more altruistic intentions.

The ancient Greek philosopher Plato is said to have grouped men into one of three general categories, those that seek riches and material things, who tend to make up the merchant classes, those that seek fame and power, who tend to be drawn to the military and rule, and those who seek knowledge and wisdom, who would be the philosopher kings and would be most fit to rule Plato's ideal society he

conceived of in his book, "The Republic." I have always considered myself of the latter category more interested in the intangible things in life and the value of tradition.

After I left the U.S. Navy a few years ago I felt a bit lost returning to the place where I grew up after 8 years abroad it was a real challenge reconfiguring my identity and building new friendships and rebuilding old ones. I felt like I could not identify with most people around me and was intellectually unstimulated, so I left Cape Cod, moved to Boston and joined the Brothers of Charity Lodge and Freemasonry in general.



Bro. Oliver Madden
*Joseph Webb Lodge,
Boston*

Bro. Oliver Madden and Wor. Mark Girardin at Joseph Webb Lodge's annual "William's Night" celebrated in memory of our past brother, William Henry Williams.

I hadn't given much thought to Freemasonry until I walked by 186 Tremont in Boston one day and noticed the art on

the side of the building. I was curious.

I realized that this building was the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts and recalled that my grandfather, who passed away about a decade ago, was a very active Mason in Western MA. I had always admired his character; he was a strong family leader, extremely active in his community, and never one to turn down a social engagement. At the time I was not close with my father, and I had begun looking to my grandfather's legacy as a source of inspiration as I began to contemplate the big picture of my own life. Curious to, at the very least, explore Freemasonry, which he so actively engaged in, I have since found mentors, peers, those I can "pay it forward" to, and above all: lifelong friends.

**4 Giving the Craft
the Credit**

Once on the path toward light and betterment, we know it was not our own effort alone that made us better. Yes, we wielded the tools, but where did we get them? Do not the tools deserve some of the credit for the compliments our betterment garners? That is why we "wear the square."

When we wear the square and compasses, be it on a ring, a pin, a hat, or a license plate, we are practicing part of the virtue that acquiring those tools in lodge taught us: give credit where credit is due.

In addition, when wearing the square, we remind ourselves of the best we can be. Besmirching my standing with my fellows may be tolerable and allow me to behave in an uncivil manner. But, if I wear the square, then I am besmirching the Fraternity. If the Fraternity is my way toward betterment, then tarnishing that goal makes my efforts toward it less laudable.

To wear the square gives credit where credit is due and reminds me of my better self.

more stories on page 25



ASK THE GRAND LECTURERS

by Rt. Wor. Robert F. Doherty, Chairman of the Grand Lecturers

I am pleased to report the Second Degree Exemplifications went well. I also have to inform that we need to start focusing on the 2017 Exemplifications which are scheduled to be on the third degree.

All Masters need to remember that in exemplifications, degree work cannot be delegated. Each Master must do his own work. It is very difficult to do this if you have not previously done the work and this is especially true for the third degree. It is recommended that, in order to be properly prepared, you make it a point to personally do the entire third degree in your own lodge. If you do not have candidates, then you can do it with exemplars.

Don't be afraid to make mistakes. You will not be breaking any new ground. Perfection is limited to the Supreme Architect of the Universe

I remember a real rock I pulled one night.

It was my second exemplification as a Grand Lecturer. During the exemplification I informed the Master that he had used an incorrect word. There were a few of problems with this

1) I was wrong and the Master was right.

2) While the Master was kind enough not to dispute this neophyte, it was immediately obvious he felt I was wrong and he was right.

3) The Chairman of the Grand Lecturers was present and he knew that I was wrong and the Master was right.

4) From the looks of those present, they knew I was wrong and the Master was right.

5) In case there was any doubt, I brought along a copy of the Standard Work which confirmed that I was wrong and the Master was right.

All our brothers were very gracious and understanding and forgave my mistake and I am sure that will be the case for you. ■



THE COST OF NEW MEMBERS

by Bro. Yotam Mendlinger

The cost of initiating new members changes by the lodge or affiliated bodies. However, two major things are constant; 1) Candidate kit, \$54.50, for Blue Lodge. 2) Cost of Meals. The total value that the Lodge or body invest in a new member is the calculation of the length of time it takes for the new brother to finish the degrees, sign the bylaws and start paying for their own meals and dues. All these aspects need to be included in what the lodge decides is the initiation cost for the new members. In general, this seems very strait forward and it is. It is simple math:

Dollar Cost = Candidate kit + # of Meals (along with standard annual dues)

This Dollar amount should be considered as the base amount of candidate fee, or at least close to it.

Following the raising of the new brother what does the lodge get back in value related to its invested resources? One of the most important aspects that I use is "retention ratio". By this I mean how many brothers stay with the lodge for 1 year, 3 years or more, divided by the number of candidates raised during that time. If, for example, ten are raised over one year, seven remain for one year, but only two remain for three years. Then the retention ratio at the three year level is low, 20%. The higher this ratio is the more secure the lodge is financially and more importantly

membership wise in the long term. Grand Lodge dues are a must for all members of the lodge and for many it's also building dues etc. If only 50% stay and continue to pay the lodge, then the lodge will be spending money without an income on Grand Lodge dues. Paying Grand Lodge dues for raised brothers for years is a source of financial leakage. While it helps the fraternity at large, the long term strength comes from financial health of the Blue Lodge.

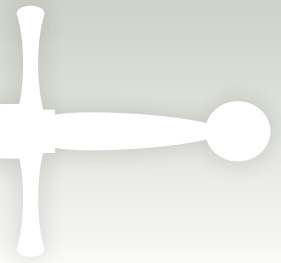
Questions that need to be discussed are numerous and on many levels. From financial to moral, and from individual lodge to the goal of the Fraternity. Some of these questions are money questions and others are more about why we are doing what we do. Money is not our main concern, nor should it be; however, without it we will not be able to support ourselves and grow.

This brings me to the final aspect that each member needs to take into account; time and its value. Every candidate class requires time for rehearsals, ritual work to study by yourself and with others. Time that could be spent with family, friends and even more importantly time taken away from regular meetings and comradery. These back-end costs are what the members need to think about and consider. How many candidates should you raise in a year? What value can you give to new brothers? What value do you get from raising candidates?

This brings me to my rule of thumb. The more value

continued on page 29

THE YOUNG TYLER



by *Wor. Lee H. Fenn*

Jim showed his ID to the security guard at the employee's entrance and went to the staff refrigerator. He put his brown bag, with "Jim's DO NOT TOUCH" written on it, on the second shelf, where he usually does. On the empty vegetable bin was huge bag, unmarked. He looked inside: it was a ham, a big ham.

He went up to his office and started his computer booting up—it always takes too long—and said to a colleague, "Hey, did you see what's in the fridge?"

"What're you talking about?" answered the Young Tyler.

"In the fridge, in the staff room, there's a ham."

"Oh, the ham, yeah that's mine."

"Are you kidding me, why'd you bring in a ham?"

"Tonight's potluck night at my lodge."

Jim looked confused, "Your lodge?"

"Yep, tonight is my lodge night, I'm a Mason, and we are having a potluck. I'm bringing the ham."

"So you're a Mason."

"Sure am, and I can't wait for tonight. Potluck night means all the guys cook different stuff, like any potluck. But, because it's guys cooking for guys, it is all pretty much guy food. You won't find any three bean salad there tonight, but there may be some super tasty tofu."

"Well, I hope you have fun."

"Oh, I will."

As the day came to a close, the Young Tyler went to chat with Jim.

"Holy moly, why are you in a tuxedo?" Jim asked.

"I'm an officer in my lodge, so I get to wear a tuxedo for all of our meetings."

"Looks sharp."

"Thanks. Listen, if you aren't doing anything tonight, why don't you come by and sample our potluck—it will be like no potluck you've ever attended. I'm bringing that ham, another guy is bringing some sort of bacon thing—he's a bacon nut—and another guy is grilling burgers. Someone always brings some salad and vegetables—though I go for the meat."

"But I'm not a Mason."

"Well, you won't be able to come to lodge, but the meal is first, so just come for the meal. Everyone brings way too much and I think we will have tamales tonight."

"How much will it cost me?"

"Don't worry, you'll be my guest."

"Well, the truth is, my wife and I have no plans, can she come?"

"Absolutely, it's a dinner and wives are welcome."

"I'll call her."

The Young Tyler went to the bathroom, tied his bowtie, and went to get the ham. ■

A BAND OF BROTHERS

By *Bro. Matthew Michael Stewart*

A band of brothers gathered 'round at night
(Beneath the glow of full moon light)
And pondered God and nature; wrong and right.
They questioned life and sought a righteous path
And formed the cardinal virtues of our Craft.

One is Temperance, so our passions stay in check,
With Fortitude, that we may keep our course,
And Prudence, so that we may wisely judge
To choose to act by sway of Reason's force.

And finally Justice should always be our aim
In how we think, and talk, and act, and walk
With all we meet along this mortal plane.

Bands of brothers still gather 'round at night
And try to live by way of three Great Lights,
And by the Grace of the Creator's Might.

So Mote it Be!

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Bro Derrick Wyatt
*Caribbean Naval Lodge,
 Guantanamo Bay, Cuba*

My name is Bro. Derrick Wyatt and I hail from Caribbean Naval Lodge, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. My journey to Masonry was a long one. When I was young my mother had a friend, Shawn Barr, who was a former US Marine and a proud Mason. I always looked up to him for the way that he interacted with others and especially my mother. He treated everyone as an

equal, even if he did not agree with their point of view or stance on a subject. Later when I was old enough to become a Mason, I joined the Marine Corps (I would venture to say that it was heavily influenced by the same Brother) and left Ohio. At that time my journey to be a Mason was delayed.

Over the next 8 years I deployed to Iraq twice and Afghanistan once as an infantryman. I was proud to serve my country but I still felt that something was missing, Masonry. In February of 2013 I received orders to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba so my family and I packed up and went. After being on the island for a few months I noticed that there sure seemed to be a lot of Masonic badges in cars on the base so one day I stopped next to one of those cars and sought information. This person happened to be the Secretary of the lodge! I cannot begin to tell you how happy I was to find him, of all places that I would find a Lodge and be able to finally become a Mason it was in Cuba.

I was initiated on September 11, 2013 and proceeded through my

degrees being raised a Master Mason February 27, 2014 just before I was to travel to Washington DC for a school. This enabled me to visit my first Lodges outside my own and what a cool feeling it was to sit in Fredericksburg #4 in VA, the same lodge Bro. George Washington was raised in! Fast forward some time, I was elected JW of my Lodge in Cuba in 2015 where I have had the pleasure to serve my Brothers for almost a year before I received orders to leave Guantanamo Bay.

It was sad to leave my mother Lodge but it was the beginning of a new Masonic journey. I now live in North Carolina and have been attending Lafayette #83 where I was received with much brotherly love and affection. I can't wait to see what is next in this journey. Attached you will find a picture of myself and the 2015-2016 Master of Caribbean Naval Lodge, Wor. Chris Samino (Chris on left) on my final night.

Never above, never below, always on the LEVEL.



Bro. Marcos Roberto Baptist German-Domingues
*King Hiram's Lodge,
 Provincetown*

I am originally from Brazil but now I am a US Citizen. The other person in the picture is my husband, Daniel Ora German-Domingues. He is a Mason also. We had the privilege of being raised together.

I wanted to be a Mason since my Grand Uncle Francisco Domingues told me he was a Mason and my great great grandfather as well. I was 10 when my Grand Uncle took me to a museum in Osasco, São Paulo. As we were looking at Masonic jewelry and artifacts, he told me my Masonic history. I later learned that my business partner was a Brother. He was one of the nicest, friendliest, and most trustworthy men I ever met.

I became a Mason to mold myself to be the best man I can be.

Bro. Humberto Bryant
*Philanthropic Lodge,
 Salem*



I heard about Masons a long time ago in Brazil, where I come from, but did not have the right contact with any brothers until now. In Brazil Masonry is a very secluded, secret society and not really appreciated by all. I wanted to be in a congregation with other brothers where we could share duties and feel more grounded as a resident of this beautiful country of ours. I always heard that only great men could be part of the Masons and that's why I wanted to be part. I think that adding to a superb group of people causes a better effect to society.

I was raised with two other Brothers and we feel super connected when we meet. It's a fraternal bond that will keep us together for life.

more stories on next page



Bro. Sven E. Skoog
Caleb Butler Lodge, Ayer

Two weeks following my seventeenth birthday, I attended my 99-year-old great-grandfather's funeral service in the southeastern (Duxbury, Cape Cod) region of Massachusetts. This already-somber event was heightened and transformed by the arrival of a stately black sedan bearing three suit-and-apron-clad gentlemen, who spoke to the assembled congregation and family concerning a "Great Architect" and a time when "working tools" were returned to their rightful shelves. I was deeply affected by this experience, and eager to learn more.

Two decades later, as a late-30-something IT professional, I found myself secure in station and subsistence, but lacking a greater mission (and fellow seekers) for the years that would follow. I renewed my interest in and pursuit of the Craft, swearing my Entered Apprentice's oath on my 40th birthday, as a new rite-of-passage and life milestone. My Blue Lodge (and subsequent Scottish Rite) studies continue to challenge and inspire me on academic, philosophical, and spiritual fronts. I count my newfound brothers among my foremost teachers.

My temple stands solid, but its stones are forever in need of smoothing.



Bro. Michael Pitcher
Charles C. Dame Lodge, Georgetown

I remember as a child standing in my Grandfather's Den looking at displays of trowels, gavels and pictures of large groups of men wearing stark white aprons, asking what they were all about. To which he explained while sitting in his favorite chair which was adorned with a square and compass that he, his Father and Grandfather were all Masons and that one day when I was a little older he would explain in more detail what that meant. I remember the manner in which my Grandfather treated his wife, his family and people he met. I found through my life that the men I most wished to emulate and aspire to be like were all Masons. Thirty years later, my Father-in-Law, Wor. David Condon along with his brother Robert Condon and the memory of his Father and Father-in-Law all of Charles C. Dame Lodge in Georgetown, MA, surprised and humbled me as he performed the ritual raising me to the sublime degree.

One of the very first events Dave and I attended together was the Cornerstone Ceremony at the Massachusetts State House. The endless ways in which my life has been touched by my new Brethren in only the first year lead me to beliefs of unimaginable works to be done in the future. The Grand Architect has truly blessed me with an incredible Family and now it is growing exponentially.

5 Be at the Ready: Your Next Brother is Within Earshot

"Nice tuxedo, what's the occasion?"

"So what do you get from Masonry?"

"What did you do this weekend?"

"Wow, thanks. What's gotten into you?"

When a man or a woman asks, tell them about Masonry. Many a woman will want to know how to improve her man and many a man will want what you have.

Yes, there may be some pride in your voice. But this is a good pride, a pride that speaks of recognizing a need for improvement and taking action in that direction. It is also a pride which inspires others to join in your quest.

You may be the only connection to Masonry this person may ever have: make it count. ■



THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE OF ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

March 25th, 2016

Dear Brethren:

By now, word has travelled far and wide about the actions of the Grand Lodges of Tennessee and Georgia. For those of you who have not heard the news, these jurisdictions have recently decided to exclude men from the rights and privileges of Freemasonry on the basis of sexual orientation.

For over 282 years, men free born, of lawful age, and well recommended have been welcomed and accepted as Freemasons in Massachusetts.

Anyone meeting the following primary requirements may petition a Massachusetts lodge for membership:

1. An adult male (18 or older) of good character.
2. Men who believe in a Supreme Being – no atheist or agnostic can become a Mason – beyond that, we are not concerned with theological distinctions or particular religious beliefs.
3. Men interested in becoming a Mason because they hold a favorable opinion of our institution; whose decision to apply is based on their own free will and accord.

These requirements have not changed. Freemasonry is a fellowship of friends and brothers who meet together for fraternal relations and association.

A fraternity is defined as a group of people associated or formally organized for a common purpose or the feeling of friendship that exists between people in a group.

Freemasonry has been and always will strive to be the premier fraternity that meets both accepted usages of the term.

Any action that runs contrary to the common purpose of Freemasonry and feeling of friendship that exists in our lodge rooms runs afoul of the basic tenets of Freemasonry: brotherly love, relief, and truth.

It is of no concern to us whether or not a man is gay, as long as he is free born, of lawful age, and well recommended.

As always brethren, take due notice thereof and govern yourselves accordingly.

Fraternally,

Harvey J. Waugh
Grand Master

FRATERNITY News & Events

Chainmail continued from page 3

District at all the Lodge of Instruction classes. The beautiful heavy chain link apron was made by then Senior Steward Wor. Michael Sgariglia of Quinebaug Lodge with the permission of Rt. Wor. Robert Schremser, who was DDGM in 2010.

Wor. Bro. Sgariglia was making chainmail armor as a hobby before he became a Mason and was inspired to make this. He got the idea when he was at another Lodge of Instruction and saw that lodge gave out a prize for attendance and thought of something personal for the 24th District. He made it with a pair of pliers in each hand, it took about 30 hours and 3500 rings. It consists of silver and blue stainless steel rings. The apron weighs approximately 5 lbs and can be worn. The Brethren at Quinebaug Lodge are proud to exhibit this apron until the next L.O.I. class. The proud maker of this apron, a Senior Steward back in 2010, is now our Master who proudly displays what all of the other lodges in the 24th district would like.

- Bro. Vincenzo Jimmy Falzone



1st row: from left to right: Bro. Bryon Hicks, Wor. Michael Sgariglia, Bro. Larry Williams, Bro. Jacob Mauk, Wor. Paul Gendreau, RW. Chris St. Cyr (DDGM) 2nd row: Bro. Robert St.Cyr, Wor. George Makara, Wor. Larry Burbridge, Bro. Nick Taylor, 3rd row: Bro. Stephen Rice, Bro. Steven Millet, Wor. T.J. LaPlante and Bro. Vincenzo Jimmy Falzone

Monkey-Fist Captured

On April 18th, Mariners Lodge of Cotuit captured the Monkey-Fist from St. Martins Lodge in Chatham.

The Monkey-Fist is a very important historical tool invented by ancient mariners to create a weight at the end of a mooring line, for the purpose of throwing the line to a dock or to another vessel. In other words, it is a tool for mooring or connecting two or more vessels together.

The Mariners' Lodge Monkey Fist is intended to "travel" between Lodges, and can be "captured" by any visiting lodge who, upon arrival, declare their intention to take it back to their home lodge. The visiting lodge that has travelled the farthest gets to take it home. This valued prize has travelled throughout the 20th, 21st, and 24th Districts in the last couple of years.

- Bro. Ted Theodores 32°

left to right: Wor. Rob Cecil, Mariners; Wor. Dana Savery, Mariners; Wor. William Benoit, St. Martins; Wor. Mark Lindsay, Mariners; Wor. James Birch, Mariners on April 18th when the Monke-Fist was captured by Mariners Lodge of Cotuit.



success, challenges, conflict, and triumph, help us to live our credo, that of improving ourselves. He said he values all of his experiences, even if he didn't do so while they were happening!

He says he is fortunate that his wife, Norah, supports him in his many Masonic and Shrine endeavors and enjoys accompanying him to many of them. One of his early clown mentors was the late Bro. Mike "Binder" Kagan, who recently passed away. Bro. Kagan was Melha's Chief Clown when Bro. Kazin joined that unit. Bro. Kazin says of Mike that he always took the time to offer his insights and take on the goings on. He had a very successful world view—always chipper, always pleasant, and always able to elicit a smile and laughter. Bro. Kagan sold insurance in real life but what he really taught was how to "insure" that you are always mindful of the image and attitude you project. Bro. Kazin says Bro. Kagan did this for so many, not for just him. He left an outstanding legacy of a well-lived life.

Bro. Craig Kazin is one active third-generation Mason. One who values his time with others and who works hard to improve the lives of those in need. He says he hopes that people would look at him as an example of how to conduct oneself. He regrets that unfortunately, too many poor examples of how to act and behave. He finishes with if you can live a good clean life, improving and helping those you come in contact with, you'll always be an inspiration to them. ■

Cost of New Members continued from page 23

and time we invest in new members the higher they will value what we do. Be it with great ritual, education or good fellowship and friendship. The more value we give, the more the new brothers will value our fraternity and seek self-improvement through Freemasonry. A retention ratio of 100% will never happen, nor has it ever happened in the past. However, looking in the mirror and figuring out how to improve our members, our lodge and the value that we give is an investment of time that will generate dividends for many years to come. ■



Wor. Phil Privitera, Mt. Auburn Hospital RN, Melissa Brangwynne and Director of Health Information Kathleen Forde, and Wor. Walter Wedlock presenting funds to the Mt. Auburn Hospital Marathon Team to benefit Mt. Auburn's Hoffman Breast Cancer Cure Center.

Where have Masons gone? continued from page 8

Masonry provides a way to have the close ties of a relationship without the judgment or condemnation.

Each of us has a responsibility to make sure our lodges are places that we and the other members want to be. If you consider the foundation of Masonry being a group of men who met in a tavern who wanted to band together as friends and Brothers to become a lodge. And, in 1733, sent Henry Price to England to get a Warrant for them to form a lodge under the Grand Lodge of England.

We need to ensure our lodges have the same feeling of connection and camaraderie among its members as these men had in 1733. If not, we will continue to see men find other interests and pursuits that compete for their time. We cannot allow our lodge membership to continue to decline and for men to lose the opportunity to understand the feeling of belonging and kinship that Masonry provides. ■

Low 12 honored at Green Dragon continued from page 3

Once all have been satisfied that the brother is duly and truly worthy of being a Traveler with the Low Twelve Riders, a process which takes a good deal of time, then, and only then, are they are given their patches. The patches are to be affixed to their vests and are worn on rides with their fellows.

On February 27, 2016, the Green Dragon Tavern owners allowed the Low Twelve Riders to put a plaque on a pillar between two lanterns commemorating their formation and their continued use of the Green Dragon Tavern as a meeting place. Ladies and interested brothers enjoyed the rumble of the motorcycles on the historic streets and the history being made inside. Behind the plaque, invisible to the public, is a copy of the speech given on the occasion signed by all in attendance.

The Low Twelve Riders have registered as a non-profit; to possibly become a member, contact Bro. Hawkins at lowtwelvewallie@aol.com.

- **Wor. Lee H. Fenn**

The Vitality of Freemasonry

continued from page 14

is loyal, committed, and wants to be included and involved.

Millennials crave feedback and guidance. They appreciate being kept in the loop and seek frequent praise and reassurance. They may benefit greatly from mentors who can help guide and develop their young careers.

This generation is in a hurry. They don't wait. They don't think they have time. They want to make a difference, but it has to be now. They are confident in their own abilities but with some humility. They will gladly listen to advice and counsel within reason. But you can't tell them to wait. They don't understand such logic. For them life is brief, and there is a whole world to change. The impatience of this generation is also shown in their communication. They can connect to any place at any time, and as such are impatient when they have to wait on communication.

Millennials want to enjoy their work. They want to enjoy their workplace. They want to make friends in their workplace. It should concern you if your Millennial employees aren't laughing, going out with workplace friends for lunch, and helping plan the next company event or committee. Encourage your long-term employees to make room for the Millennials.

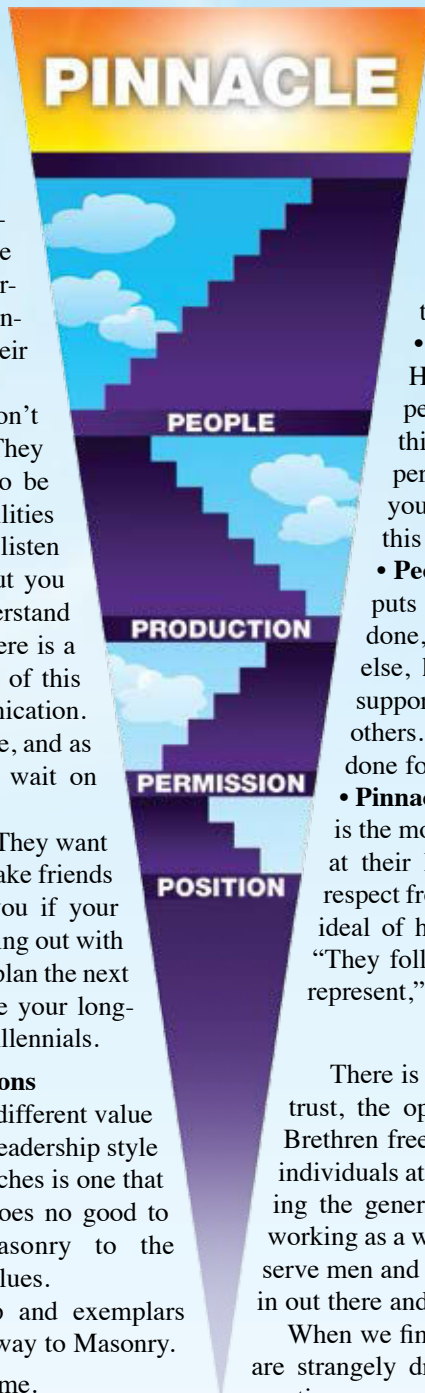
Masonry Meets the Generations

With these different groups and their different value structures, Masonry needs to modify its leadership style to be sure the hand Freemasonry outstretches is one that the prospective brother can grasp. It does no good to offer Greatest Generation style Masonry to the Millennials: they don't have the same values.

Here are some styles of leadership and exemplars which meet the six generations on their way to Masonry.

- **Charismatic:** Oprah, of television fame.
- **Innovative:** Richard Branson, CEO of Virgin, Inc.
- **Command/Control:** Tom Coughlin coach for the NY Giants.
- **Laissez faire:** Donna Karan, the DK in fashion's DKNY.
- **Pace setter:** Jeff Bezos, CEO of Amazon.
- **Servant:** Herb Kelleher, former CEO of Southwest Airlines.
- **Situational:** Pat Summitt, head coach emeritus of the University of Tennessee Lady Vols basketball team.
- **Transformational:** Steve Jobs, deceased head of Apple.

Leadership is a verb. It is an action. It is not a noun, a person, place or thing. These leadership styles apply to five levels of leadership, of the "doing" of leading. Each level carries a corresponding level of effort and gain.



• **Position:** This is easiest, least dedication, and least productive level. The title and job description carry this leader. "They follow because they have to," is the hallmark of this level of leadership.

• **Permission:** This level relies on relationships. This leader is a good listener, observer, and learner. He has an attitude of service. "They follow because they want to" is the touchstone of this level.

• **Production:** This level is results oriented. He stands as an example for others. The people attracted to this leader are similar to this leader, whether or not that is the type of person needed. "They follow because of what you have done for the organization" defines this leader.

• **People:** This leader gets the right people and puts them in the right positions. To get things done, this leader does it, does it with someone else, has someone else do it with the leader's support, lets others do it, and lets others do it with others. "They follow because of what you have done for them" guides this leader.

• **Pinnacle:** This leader is supremely dedicated and is the most productive. This leader meets all people at their level. He is able to connect and garner respect from all people and groups. This leader is the ideal of honor and is what others wish to emulate. "They follow because of who you are and what you represent," is the high level which this leader inspires.

Conclusion

There is strength in Freemasonry: strength borne of trust, the opposite of fear. Our leaders can set our Brethren free by relying on that trust. We attract those individuals attracted to the message we put out. By meeting the generations at their level of understanding, by working as a well led team, then Masonry will continue to serve men and humanity. Put the symbols that we believe in out there and live by them.

When we find people who believe what we believe, we are strangely drawn to them. Think of that surprise of meeting someone from your state while on vacation. Those who are similar and need Masonry will be attracted to us if we are living our ideals.

We are not a self-help organization: we are an other-help organization. We help our brothers to fulfillment. Do something for someone else and you will feel the other-help of our Fraternity. Live generously by doing something for someone else expecting NOTHING in return. Clear a table, shovel your neighbor's walk, anything. Break away from the equation of "do=get." When we live outside that equation, we will attract the next generation of great Masons.

My final question is: What are you doing for the person next to you? ■

was this: whenever he closed his class, or left the room, or passed by you on campus, he never said, “goodbye”, “good luck on the exam”, “congratulations on graduating” or any other traditional departing statement. He always said, “Be Brilliant.” I loved that—it was unique. Stronger than “good luck”, it was a personal challenge—a personal challenge to succeed at the highest level, with true confidence in our abilities, that we could, in fact, be Brilliant.

Worshipful Brethren: your willingness to serve your Lodges again, and your zeal are truly laudable. But I ask you, in fact, I challenge you: do not simply be a place-holder this year. Be Brilliant. Be Brilliant in everything that you do as an officer—your ritual, your comradery, and certainly your dedication. When you agreed to serve for this year, did you tell your nominating committee, “Well, it will be a sacrifice, but yes, I’ll serve again”? Or, did you say something like this: “Yes, I’ll serve, but I’m not going on any DD visits and I’m not going to Lodges of Instruction. Oh and I can’t take off of work for any Grand Lodge Quarterlies, either.” Remember—the newer members of your Lodge are looking at you at all times, as the example of what a Lodge officer should be. Don’t teach them to be a place-holder. Teach them to be Brilliant!

If you are the Junior Warden, do you rush to Lodge from work each month to pick up the take-out meal for the Lodge’s dinner meeting, arriving late, thus preventing the Master from opening his Lodge in due time? Or, have you made arrangements days ahead to be there on time, or assigned this task to a Steward; or have you already arranged a caterer or a volunteer chef for the evening? And if you are a Steward, do you skip out on rehearsals and Lodges of Instruction, and miss the opening of your Lodge each month? Or, do you arrive on time, practice your floor work, see the tables properly clothed, and otherwise call upon the Master and Wardens to assist their needs? Don’t be a place-holder, be Brilliant—in everything that you do.

I hope I’m not misconstrued here tonight. This isn’t meant to be a chastisement or a reprimand. I certainly do not want to add to the stress of serving as a Lodge officer and leader; not at all. It’s a challenge. And it’s a challenge with my confidence in your abilities. If I weren’t confident, I’d probably say, “Good luck.” Or maybe, “Congratulations.”

Now let’s take the focus off of the Past Masters for a moment, and talk about your Lodge as a whole. Is your Lodge having a place-holder year, so to speak, or are you making it a unique place where your members have not just



Rt. Wor. David R. Lucas speaking seriously about being cool.

an obligation, but a specific desire to attend? Over the last ten years or so I have seen a real push by Grand Lodge, and by the Blue Lodges, to try and cater toward “younger” members. And in our world, of course, “younger” usually means somewhere under the age of 70. [And by the way, on that note, congratulations to our Grand Wardens on both being included as younger members!] Seriously, we’ve made a push to try and cater to the 20-something and 30-something crowd; and I think that’s generally a decent idea. As one small example, the vast majority of our communications are electronic now. It may have taken us until 2008 or 2009 to enter the 21st century, but that’s okay. We are also reaching out to our members and our prospective members by social media. I will say that I know more about what your Lodges and Districts are doing by looking at Facebook, than from any other source. I think that’s great.

Speaking of Facebook, I don’t know how many of you ever saw the movie *Social Network*, about the creation of Facebook, but there’s a great fleeting moment in that movie where Mark Zuckerberg and Eduardo Saverin, Facebook’s founders, are meeting with Napster founder Sean Parker for the first time, as a potential investor and business strategist. Saverin asks Parker if he thinks it is too soon to start selling ads on Facebook. Parker’s quick response is interesting. He says, “hmmmm. The Facebook is cool, that’s what it’s got going for it. Ads aren’t cool.” It is a juvenile response to a question about business finance, certainly; but in fact, it’s a somewhat profound answer. Facebook’s early success, could be measured by how “cool” it was.

Customers joined it, not for its social networking utility, not for its marketing capabilities, but because, “it’s cool”.

So, if we want to cater to a younger generation, Brethren, and if we want to succeed with that cohort, then I ask you: Is your Lodge “cool”? What are you doing with your members, that’s cool? I got an email from my Lodge Master about a month ago, polling the officers on their thoughts about having an event at a club called Trapology Boston, which is, apparently, an adventure where your team gets locked in a room, literally, like a jail cell, and must solve puzzles as a team to understand how they got there and how to escape. Maybe you have heard of this, I had not; but my initial thought when I read his email was, “Wow, that’s a pretty cool idea!” Now, others may disagree, I’m sure. It is after all a matter of opinion. I have to assume that the epistemological measure of “coolness” is quite subjective and even between two individuals in one particular space and time, one Lodge event could rank anywhere from ridiculously boring, to an Arthur Fonzarelli level. But the point is this: this particular

continued on next page

Master put some thought into it. “What kinds of new, fun events would my Lodge officers enjoy trying?”

Brethren: at your monthly meeting, does your Lodge open, have a business meeting, go downstairs for a sub-par dinner, and then disperse for the evening; or do you open your meeting and then head out to Trapology Boston for a team-building adventure? What kinds of cool things are you doing for your new members? Now, I’ve given only one example of a cool idea, and a somewhat extreme one, I realize, but I will tell you this: I think that the task of making our Lodges more attractive to our members is much simpler than that.

Several months ago I polled some more experienced Masons in Massachusetts—some much older than I am, some close to my age, all of them very distinguished officers and past officers of Grand Lodge, and I asked them what made their Lodges cool when they joined; what kinds of “cool” things did their Lodges do back in the 1960’s, 70’s and 80’s, that caused them to want to stay, attend monthly meetings and become more involved. I will tell you that from every member who spoke with me, there was one common denominator in what was cool: they all said, that their wives, or significant others, were included on a regular basis. It’s a little surprising at first, but really not so surprising at all. As Masons, do we not strive to become better men? Do we not strive to become better husbands? Better fathers? Why are we not spending more time with each other, our wives, and our families? We say that we are trying to cater to 30-somethings, we post our activities on Facebook, and we communicate with our new Brethren electronically because that is how they are used to communicating. Well guess what? “They” also have wives, significant others, and some have young children. And if they are truly men who are worthy of our Fraternity and worthy of sitting next to you in your Lodges, I’m willing to bet that they are also very good husbands and fathers, and love spending time with their families. I know that I do. [And by

the way, if you see my wife this year, please be sure to let her know that I slipped in that good word about her!]

This, I believe, is just one way of keeping our Lodges strong, Brethren. It’s a very simple measure of success—how cool are our Lodges, and how cool can we make them? And Brethren: I want you to leave tonight knowing this: if you truly want to improve the attractiveness of your Lodge, you have some excellent resources at your fingertips here in Grand Lodge. We have many men available to help you improve your own Lodge. For me, specifically, my next year is dedicated toward making Massachusetts Masonry better, stronger, and yes—more fun.

But the purpose of Grand Lodge, Brethren, is not to direct you on how to do this. Our purpose is to serve as your resource. The effort and the desire must first come from you as the officers and leaders of your Lodges. This is not something that you can leave until next month’s meeting, or next year, or whenever. This is something for you to tackle this week, in 2016. Do it! And be excited to do it! Don’t feel as though this is a burden which must be overcome, or else your Lodge will implode. Look at this as a fun, worthy challenge.

Brethren, there is an unwritten rule that a good speech should include a poignant quote from an ancient philosopher, or leader or famous person. I do not necessarily agree with that unwritten rule, but let me appease those who do. A very long time ago, there lived an incredibly wise and old man. I do not believe he was a Mason, unfortunately, although ironically he did hold the rank of “Master”. One of the many wise things he said was, “Do, or do not. There is no try.”

Don’t try to improve your Lodges, Brethren, do it. I, personally, have full confidence in what you can do and the level at which you can do it. I want to thank each of you for the efforts you are going to make, and for the services you are going to perform for Masonry in 2016; and tonight, my Brothers, I challenge each of you, and I welcome you, to be Brilliant.

Thank you, Grand Master, for this opportunity. ■

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