

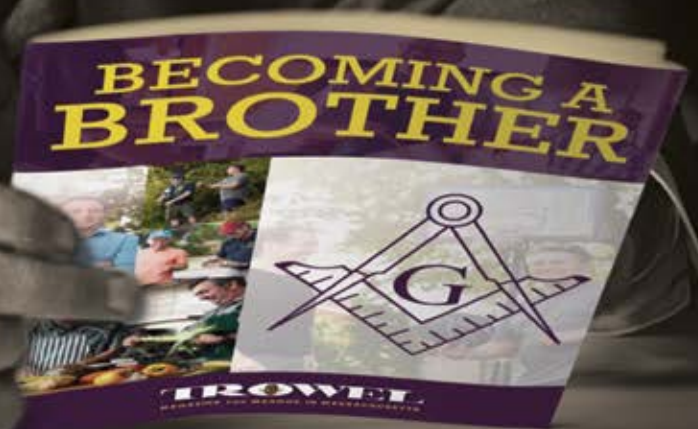
TROWEL

GRAND LODGE OF MASONS IN MASSACHUSETTS SPRING 2017

Even Presidents Became Brothers

Use Insert to Help a Man
Become a Brother

Melrose
Masonic Building
Rededication





From the East of Grand Lodge

PAUL F. GLEASON

New Developments

At Grand Lodge, we repeatedly recommend that the business association of local lodges try to incorporate some revenue-producing units into their apartments; dues are better spent on our charities than on our buildings. Taking our own advice, we have leased the ground floor of the Grand Lodge building to Big Night Entertainment Group who is, by now, well on their way to converting it to an elegant restaurant similar to their other establishments in Boston such as Empire, Gem, and Red Lantern.

With this development, fraternal access to the building will be moved back to the original location on Boylston Street. The entrance will be spruced up with glass doors making visible to passersby the grand staircase and Grand Lodge seal. Our Board of Directors and I are convinced that the final result will be an attractive addition to our proud building while, at the same time, producing a much needed supplement to our revenues.

Membership

As we move deeper into 2017, I am proud of our lodges that have made membership a priority since the beginning of the year.

We held three well-attended Town Hall meeting across the jurisdiction in the first quarter. The brethren shared a lot of great feedback with us about the challenges they face in their Lodges, and what they need in the form of support from Grand Lodge to be successful. My Officers and I took a lot out of that experience, and I appreciate the effort of everyone who was able to come out and participate. The newly reconstituted membership committee will be able to use what we learned from these events to lay the foundation for our future success.

As we continue forward, we all need to do our part to ensure our Lodges are working and raising quality candidates. As we approach the summer call from labor to refreshment, we must remember that men do still express interest in Freemasonry in the summer months. If your Lodge does not meet, you still need to find ways to engage potential candidates whenever they reach out to you. This is a critical component of treating our customers well and an excellent way to Replace Yourself.

Fraternally,

Paul F. Gleason

Grand Master

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Most Worshipful Melvin M. Johnson



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BECOMING A BROTHER



TROWEL
MAGAZINE FOR MASONS IN MASSACHUSETTS

Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts
MW Paul F. Gleason



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Say No to Thoreau

What is the future for your neighbor who just got home from college? Where will your friend, who loves to garden, spend his retiring years? Why does your high school friend complain about having a hard time making friends? Is Henry David Thoreau right when he says in *Walden*, "the mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation?"



What of our heroes? Were they quietly desperate? On January 2, 1901, Theodore Roosevelt was about to be inaugurated Vice President of the United States. He was 43. On that day, however, he was initiated into the Craft. By September 14, 1901, he was not only President of the United States, but also a Master Mason.

What would his presidency have been like without Masonry? Would he have offered the "Square Deal" domestic plan of 1910? What of Bro. George Washington, raised at the age of 21 years? How did Freemasonry affect his life/presidency?

Freemasonry is like a pebble in the pond of a man's life: the ripples can extend everywhere.

It is the call of our Grand Master, the call of the Craft, to move us forever forward, to help men that we know and care about into the Fraternity, to bring the joy of Freemasonry to those around us. We do this for selfish and altruistic reasons.

Selfishly, we want to watch the good men we know become better. It is a joy to watch as our Brothers handle situations better through the help of Masonry. Some Brothers grow into clowns helping kids, others become the beloved cook, others spearhead charities. Helping a neighbor, a coworker, or a friend, however, take their already good life to a higher level, is a joy not to be missed.

Altruistically, we want to better the world. The world starts with our community and extends as far as East is to West. We don't expect to help the next Roosevelt or Washington to our halls of heroes, but we might. When seeing our Brothers positively impact the town around us, maybe the State house, maybe beyond, fulfills our broad goal of helping the world become a better place.

But the largest impact of our smallest goal is to rewrite the lives of the mass of men from Thoreau's quiet desperation to boundless joy and betterment. We do this by helping a man become a Brother.

Fraternally, *Lee H. Fenn*

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE
JULY 21, 2017**

United Brethren, MAF Partners with Marlborough Schools

Gift cards for winter clothing, school supplies, groceries. Payments for new eye glasses and repairs for school notebook computers. Fees for field trips and after-school programs. More than 100 children in the City of Marlborough's three public elementary schools and middle school have benefited from nearly \$9000 in such donations since the fall of 2015. The source is the newly rejuvenated Masonic Angel Fund (MAF) (masonicangel-fund.org) of United Brethren Lodge.

In September 2015, the newly elected Master of United Brethren, Michael A. Miller, determined to increase the profile and activity rate of the Lodge's MAF program. He asked Lodge Bro. Frank Collins to take on the role of ongoing coordinator, and with a team of seven liaisons assigned to specific schools, Bro. Collins has



Left to right: Sara Edwards, Frank Travassos, Kristyn Chevalier and Michelle Stakutis, school adjustment counselors at Marlborough's Whitcomb Middle School, and United Brethren Angel Fund coordinator, Bro. Frank Collins.

accelerated the momentum.

Following the advice of MAF's co-founder, Rt. Wor. Bob Fellows, Bro. Collins launched a campaign targeting school adjustment counselors and nurses. They, rather than the school principals, know who could benefit most

from the program because they see the need first-hand and are typically putting out their own money to help the kids.

The United Brethren team arranged deliberately brief 10-minute meetings with counselors in *continued on page 15*

After 4 years, Bro. Patrick Kassim Murphy with the help of the Grand Master, was made a Mason on Sight.



Made a "Mason on Sight"

On Thursday May 4th, 2017 Masonic history in Massachusetts was made at Wisdom Lodge in West Stockbridge, as Patrick Kassim Murphy was made a "Mason on Sight" by the M. Wor. Paul Fulton Gleason, Grand Master of Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts.

Wisdom Lodge opened promptly at 4pm, after which they received Grand Master, Grand Marshal Rt. Wor. Richard Maggio with his suite comprised of Rt. Wor. Lawrence D. Tonini (Past Junior Grand Warden), Rt. Wor. Christopher A. Tonini (31st District Deputy Grand Master) and Wor. James N. Parrish (31st District Deputy Grand Marshal). A Special Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts was opened in Ample Form by the Grand Master at Wisdom Lodge.

At 5:05pm The Grand Lodge and Wisdom Lodge were called from Labor to Refreshment, at which time the Grand Master and brothers present strolled to Rouge, a restaurant in which they gathered for some food and Fellowship.

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“Make Us What We Can Be”

by Rt. Wor. and Rev. Matthew Wissell

The Sr. High Youth Fellowship at the church I attended used to take a trip every Memorial Day weekend. The group would work to raise money all year so we all go together. Some trips were bigger than others like Japan or a cross country train trip, but they were always fun. My freshman year we went to Craigville on the Cape. While there, what will be remembered as the “Greatest Water Gun Fight in the History of Church Youth Groups” occurred. I have no idea how long it lasted, but I know it was the greatest water fight ever.

My Sophomore year we went to Washington, D.C. where we turned the living quarters in the basement of the Church of the Pilgrims into a water war zone. It was fun, but it wasn’t the same. Seniors had graduated, Freshman had joined the group. It was different. It wasn’t bad, just different.

New York City was the venue for my Junior year’s trip. There was again another attempt to drench each other with squirt guns and super soakers. But it was not the same. Half the group had no recollection of the great fight and some didn’t even know the two classes who had rotated out. So again, it was fun on its own merits. It was just different. It was not like it used to be. It wasn’t the same. It was never meant to be the same.

Reflecting upon this series of events I discerned several thoughts. The attempt to recreate the water fight was futile. As are all attempts to recreate those great moments of our lives. It will never be the same. It can’t be the same. Yet we always anticipate that it will.

As the natural changes occurred over the years the longing for the past had a negative impact upon the group. The ones who never knew the former members people were talking about weren’t all that interested in the conversation. The constant thought that our best days were behind us didn’t help the esteem of the present group. Did we enjoy ourselves and have a good time? Of course! But there was a feeling that something was not all that it could or should be.

I wonder if the same may be true of our Fraternity. We are certainly not as great in numbers as we were fifty years ago. I ask myself, is that a bad thing? Is that a good thing? Or is it just a reality of the world we now live in? How we look at this situation speaks

to how we will address the future of our Craft.

There are those who look at our current place in society with “Bemoaning Sentimentality.” “I remember when...and now look at us.” “Remember so and so...he was a great leader...we don’t have men like him around anymore.” “It’s just not the same Fraternity anymore...It’s just sad.” Honestly, does that help anyone? Does that promote a positive experience for those participating in the Craft now? Does that make the current members feel good about themselves?

Telling fun old stories is one thing. Longing to recreate the lodge of former days is another. The lodge of fifty years ago was different because people were different. Society was different. Time commitments and priorities were different. How people entertained themselves and found community were different. Good or bad, we are not going back to those times and I am not sure that would even be desirable.

I believe the question we ought to be asking ourselves is not how can we recreate the Lodge of fifty years ago, but rather: How can we make the lodge of 2017 the best it can be for our members? How can we create a meaningful lodge experience in today’s world? What can we do to make the lodge attractive and exciting to the brethren? Instead of focusing on what was, let us focus on what is and what can be.

Each lodge must do that in its own unique manner. Each setting is different. I wish it could be a one size fits all proposition, but it is not. The members of each lodge should discern the needs of their respective communities. Hopefully then use the insights gained to develop a plan to address at least some of them. Follow it up by putting the plan into action. If we do that, and the needs of the brethren are being met, I am confident we will have no trouble meeting the Grand Master’s goal for new members.

Let us feel good about ourselves. Let us look to the future knowing that our best days are in front of us. Let us build the best Fraternity that we can be for today. ■

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 2017 QUARTERLY COMMUNICATION

OF THE GRAND LODGE OF MASSACHUSETTS



by *Wor. Lee H. Fenn*

On March 8, 2017, at 1:30, The Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts, Most Worshipful Paul Fulton Gleason, entered the lodge room for the Spring Quarterly Communication. Cheers rang out as the Brethren welcomed their new Grand Master for the first time.

The Grand Master stood in the East with a smile as he watched the hall and balcony full of Brethren from around Massachusetts. When the cheers died down and the Brethren were in their proper places, the Grand Master introduced the Color Guard: the Massachusetts Consistory Guard. They were Wors. Leo Kenen and Mark Barret with Rt. Wors. William Currier and Geoffrey Kromer, the Captain of the Guard.

Just before opening the Communication, the Grand Marshal exited to escort Patricia Latham and Lisa Hastings to the East. Wor. Wally C. Therrien was then escorted to the East. He received the honor, bestowed last quarterly, of Secretary of the Year for his exemplary work as the Secretary to George H. Tabor and Abraham H. Howland Lodges.

After the presentation, the Brethren assembled sang the hymn *Oh God Our Help in Ages Past*, prayed with Grand Chaplin Rt. Wor. and Rev. Brian Marsh, and the Grand Lodge Spring Quarterly communication was opened in ample form.

The Grand Master introduced to the Brethren assembled the distinguished guests:

M. Excel. Charles R. Austin, Grand High Priest, Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts

M. Ill. Demetrios J. Sarantopoulos, Most Illustrious Grand Master, Grand Council of Royal and Select Master Masons of Massachusetts

Sir Knight Kenneth G. Sallale, Rt. Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar, and the Appendent Orders, of Massachusetts and Rhode Island

From Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the USA

Ill. Donald M. Moran, 33°, Deputy for Massachusetts

Ill. Peter R. Smith, 33°, Active for Massachusetts

Ill. C. William Lakso, 33°, Active Emeritus for Massachusetts

Rt. Wor. and Dad Philip A. Drouin, Executive Officer of DeMolay for Massachusetts

M. Wor. William A. Greene, Worthy Grand Patron, Grand Chapter of Massachusetts, Order of the Eastern Star

Sir Knight Stephen R. Qualey, Grand Royal Patron, Grand Court of Massachusetts, Order of the Amaranth.

Left: The Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts, Most Worshipful Paul Fulton Gleason sits in the East for his first Quarterly Communication. **Right:** Lisa Hastings, Wor. Wally C. Therrien, M. Wor. Paul Gleason, and Patricia Latham named Wor. Bro. Therrien Secretary of the Year.





Left: The Grand Master named M. Excel. Charles R. Austin as Grand Representative to Tennessee and Rt. Wor. Rabbi Iving Lewis Luchans as Grand Representative to the State of Israel. Right: 17 Lodges assembled to the East of the Altar to receive the Grand Master's Award.

The past Grand Masters of Massachusetts Grand Lodge that were present were M. Wors. Albert Timothy Ames, Donald G. Hicks, Jr., Jeffrey Black Hodgdon, and Harvey John Waugh.

The proxies were recognized and voting powers of lodges were described by M. Wor. Bro. Ames.

Rt. Wor. Robert Jolly stepped into the role the current Grand Master held to announce that five changes in lodge bylaws were approved and two were rejected.

M. Wor. Bro. Hicks noted that the Report of Foreign Relations Committee recognized the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Hawaii.

The Grand Master directed his Grand Marshal to present to the East Rt. Wor. Rabbi Iving Lewis Luchans and Rt. Wor. Charles R. Austin. The Grand Master named Rt. Wor. Bro. Luchans as Grand Representative to the Grand Lodge of the State of Israel and Rt. Wor. Bro. Austin was named Grand Representative to the Grand Lodge of Tennessee.

Rt. Wor. Kevin J. Willis, Deputy Grand Master, delivered the news of the passing of six Brothers of Grand Lodge. We have lost nearly 300 years of Masonic experience. Rt. Wor. & Rev. Keith Alderman performed the necrology prayer.

The Grand Master announced the following ruling regarding the Consumption of Impairment-Producing Substances:

“The Scope of all Grand Master’s edicts which reference the advertisement, use or consumption of alcohol in Masonic Lodges is hereby expanded to include any drug or substance known to impair human behavior (specifically, but not limited to marijuana).”

The Grand Master announced that our high standards of conduct and behavior have, unfortunately, not been met by two men. Both were suspended for conduct unbecoming a Mason.

The Grand Master discussed his Vision for Growth. He said, “It is our goal to increase the membership of our Grand Lodge by asking each Brother to introduce quality men to the good works of our Fraternity.

“With that in mind, I charge each of us to present at least one capable man to the foundations of our institution and to initiate him into our Blue Lodges

“To each man assembled: as of TODAY your slate is clean and you are charged to Replace Yourself.

“If we work together, train our leaders, strengthen our lodges, better instruct our members, promote fraternalism, and maintain the Tenets of our Craft, it is possible to stop the decrease in our membership and to energize a new generation of Masons. It is not unreasonable because our hearts are in the process and we have committed ourselves to that end.”

The Grand Master noted that since the 2016 December Quarterly Communication, “we have initiated 187 new men to Freemasonry and have raised 87 of them to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason.” He went on to note the following lodges:

- Essex Lodge**, 9th District: 4 Master Masons Raised
- Simonds Lodge**, 14th District: 4 Master Masons Raised
- Tahattawan Lodge**, 14th District: 4 Master Masons Raised
- Marine Lodge**, 20th District: 4 Master Masons Raised
- United Brethren Lodge**, 15th District: 5 Master Masons Raised



The Colonial Craftsmen, represented by Rt. Wors. Jerry Bergeron, David Newcomb, and Walter Hunt, present the Grand Master with a donation.

The Grand Master requested the Grand Sword Bearer to present to the Grand Marshal, Rt. Wor. Richard Maggio with the first R. Wor. Robert Johnston Award. This award denotes Rt. Wor. Bro. Maggio's service orientation and his extensive willingness to help.

The Grand Master called to the East the recipients of the Grand Master's award. This award is given to lodges who worked very hard to achieve a broad set of goals for their lodge. The recipients this year were:

Columbian Lodge	Pequossette Lodge
Corinthian Lodge	Phoenix Lodge
Daniel Webster Lodge	Saint Matthew's Lodge
Garden City Lodge	Trinity Lodge
King David Lodge	West Roxbury-Dorchester Lodge
Mount Holyoke Lodge	Weymouth United Masonic Lodge
Norfolk Lodge	William Parkman Lodge
Norumbega Fraternity Lodge	William Sutton Lodge
Palestine Lodge	

The Grand Master called the Colonial Craftsmen for a presentation. After the Grand Master called for presentations, Mystic Valley Lodge rose to present a check for the Grand Master's appeal.

The Grand Master thanked Wor. George Wiseman for his excellent music and began his first address at a quarterly communication.

The Grand Master expressed his amazement that "it's already been 72 days since the annual Feast of Saint John and the installation of Grand Lodge officers."

He recalled that the organizational meeting, cut short by over eight inches of snow, stilled paved "the road for the work that needs to be done." On January 21st, the Grand Master was received at William Parkman Lodge at the Corinthian Hall at Grand Lodge. "In addition to our registered guests, we were joined by 80,000 women on Boston Common who obviously heard the Grand Master was going to be in town." The assembled laughed heartily at the Grand Master's joke referencing the Women's March that occurred on the Common the same day.

The Grand Master told of his time with Rt. Wor. and Lt. Gen. Lawrence Casey, Jr., who returned to Delta Lodge here in Massachusetts to receive his Veteran's Medal. "We had a great conversation about both his military service and his Masonic career, after which I was honored to present him with a special Certificate of Meritorious Service in recognition of how well he represented the Craft in his private life," the Grand Master said.

In February, the Masonic License Plates hit the road, the Grand Master, his line officers, and others from New England Grand Lodges, enjoyed a casual weekend in Portsmouth NH. The Patriot's parade, with Tom Brady and Coach Belichick, donated some confetti to the Grand Master's office on February 7th.

The Grand Master then traveled with the Grand Marshal, Grand Historian, several past Grand Lodge officers, and some members of Saint Paul's Royal Arch Chapter to the District Grand Lodge in Panama. There they enjoyed the "warm hospitality of District Grand Master, Rt. Wor. George O'Masta. . . We even got to spend an extra day in warm and sunny Panama City thanks to a snowstorm you all were enduring back here," remembered the Grand Master to the laughter of those assembled.

The Grand Master closed out February with 160 guests at the Aleppo Shrine Temple at the reception of his Deputy Grand Master, Rt. Wor. Kevin Willis.

The Grand Master said:

“As most of you know, membership is my biggest priority. It is the duty of every Master Mason to be a good steward of the Craft for future generations to come. That is why my message is simple: Brethren, we need to replace ourselves. Imagine how full our sidelines would be if we each took the time to share Freemasonry with just one other person close to us. In addition, we need to recommit ourselves to doing everything we can to ensure all men who knock on the doors of our lodge rooms get the chance to investigate us every bit as much as we investigate them. As Rt. Wor. Bro. Willis said at the Feast of Saint John, “we are in the friendship business, and we need to take care of our customers. The Grand Lodge receives between 4 and 6 membership requests every day. The requests represent a nice place for us to start sharing Freemasonry with our customers. We need to put our best foot forward on a daily basis, and engage all of our potential candidates with the same level of enthusiasm. Any man trying to be the best version of himself deserves the opportunity to pass through the West Gate; these men will only get that chance by us doing our jobs.”

The Grand Master has enlisted Rt. Wor. Bill Yanakakis, the membership committee chairman, to ensure each Lodge and each District has a membership chairman at the ready to respond to candidates. He was also pleased with the progress and the turnout at our first membership town hall in Wakefield.

"The reality though, brethren, is that we are all membership chairmen for our Lodges. One of my predecessors used to stand up here and remind you that you are always someone else's impression of Freemasonry. We must, therefore, always be ready, willing, and able to extend the hand of friendship to a potential Mason," the Grand Master reminded all Masons.

The Grand Master also attended to the question of current Masons. He recalled that "in 1981, my company moved me to Virginia for a two year special assignment. When I came back home, do you know how many times my

continued on page 8

ASK THE GRAND LECTURERS

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



Ah, Spring in New England. As I write this it is 26 degrees outside -15 degrees with the wind chill. Hopefully as you read this, the temperature less than ninety degrees.

Q: When closing the Three Great Lights, how should the Square, Compasses and ribbon marker be placed?

A: It comes under the heading of Master's prerogative. Some Lodges place the Square and Compasses in the center of the Volume of the Sacred Law and others place it facing a corner with the ribbon adjusted accordingly. Both are correct.

Q: Can any brother call the Grand Lecturers with a question?

A: Certainly. We are always willing to help. Grand Lecturer information is on the Educate Masons web site in the Officer's 2017 file. Also your District Deputy has the contact information for the Grand Lecturer conducting your exemplification. It is important to remember that questions concerning ritual should never be sent (and will never be answered) over E-mail or through any social media such as Facebook, Twitter, etc.

Q: What is the protocol concerning wearing white gloves on Visiting Suites?

A: Lodge Officers and visiting dignitaries on Visiting Suites wear white gloves. Once white gloves have been put on, they should not be removed until the meeting or ceremony is completed. The tradition of removing one glove to shake a bare handed Brother is not appropriate. After being received and seated in the Lodge it is permissible for the Suite Members to remove their gloves. If called on to speak or to take part in any work, presentation or ceremony, the gloves should be put back on.

Q: It has been previously recommended that the Master and Senior Warden leave their implements at their station when doing floor work. Does this also apply to the Senior Deacon in first part of the second section of the third degree?

A: Not only does it apply, it is our strongest possible recommendation that at that point the Senior Deacon leave his rod at his station. We feel that carrying his rod at that point in the degree adds nothing and has the real possibility of interfering with the Senior Deacon's very important responsibilities. ■

▶ March Quarterly continued from page 7

lodge contacted me to see how I was doing? To see if I wanted to attend lodge, help with a service project, serve on a committee, or help with an investigation? Not once, I was never contacted in nine years. . . I didn't return to my lodge until 1994. I came back; how many of our brethren that we invest the time to get to know and to raise never come back?"

The Grand Master then acknowledged the 182 candidates that have taken at least one degree and praised "Saint John's Lodge advanced eight candidates, while Merrimack Lodge, Philanthropic Lodge, Tahattawan Lodge, and United Brethren Lodge have each

advanced five [candidates]."

There have been 87 raisings since December 27th. The top lodges were Marine Lodge, Simonds Lodge, Essex Lodge, and Tahattawan Lodge which each raised four candidates. In addition, United Brethren raised five in the same period.

The Grand Master concluded, "I want to thank not just these lodges, but every lodge that has worked a candidate and that will work a candidate in the coming months. This work is integral to our goal, as stated in our preamble, to share Freemasonry's 'principles as widely as men will hear them.' Thank you, brethren."

After the standing ovation, the Grand Master closed his first quarterly communication in ample form. ■



The Grand Master enjoys a moment in the East with his Lodge, William Parkman, and their Grand Master's Award.

Help a man become a brother – give him this removable insert.



The Prodigal Mason

by Richard Thompson



Sometime back I wrote about the importance of the year 1717 to Masons around the world. On June 24, 1717, representatives of four Masonic lodges in London met at the Goose and Gridiron pub in St. Paul's churchyard. Before that meeting ended, those four lodges formed the Grand Lodge of England.

I also wrote it was my goal to be in England on June 24, 2017 for the tricentennial of this most important event. As luck will have it, I will be in England on that day. What will make the day even more special is I will be there with my cousin and lifelong friend Wor. Bro. David Hicks.

In the spirit of full disclosure, I should point out it is pretty safe bet I will be in England. I go there two or three times a year.

I "commute" to England because of my children -- my daughter Shelley and my son Bro. Jarrod.

The great rallying cry of the 19th Century in the United States was "Go West!" This is generally credited to an 1865 editorial in the New York Tribune written by Horace Greeley. Actually, the earliest use of the phrase was in an 1851 editorial in the Terre Haute Express written by John Babson Lane Soule.

My children totally ignored this great American saying and opted to "Go East!" Being in Massachusetts, the maximum distance you can travel due easterly is 190 miles. After that you end up in the Atlantic. Europe is the next dry land you find.

My daughter went to Wales to earn her Master's Degree and then to England for her Ph.D. And my son went to England to earn his Master's Degree. They both ended up in England and decided to stay there.

So, if we want to see our children, my wife and I have to go to England. (To be honest as much as we love to be

with our children, the main attraction in England is our granddaughter Penney. Please don't mention this to either Shelley or Jarrod.)

I should also point that my plans may seem a bit vague as you read this. For you it is early June and we are just a couple of weeks ahead of June 24. But because of the way things are done in the magazine business, I am writing this in March, more than three months ahead of June 24 and I just finished cleaning up after that March blizzard.

I know we will be in London sometime around June 24. While my wife Janet and I have been to England a couple of dozen times, this is the first visit for David and his wife Susan. We plan to take them to the city and see some of the sights of London -- the Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace, the Tower of London, Westminster Abbey, the Abbey Road Zebra Crossing.

Yes, I have walked across that crossing made famous by the Beatles as the cover photo for their album Abbey Road. And yes, I have had my picture taken while using that crossing.

I am a Beatles fan and more particularly a fan of Paul McCartney. As such, I had to make that journey across Abbey Road. However, unlike Mr. McCartney, I refused to take off my shoes.

We will be headquartered in Bournemouth, a resort city on the south-central coast. This is where my children live. My daughter actually lives in Winton, a suburb of Bournemouth. We will be staying with her and her family (see granddaughter above). My son lives in another suburb of Bournemouth, Boscombe.

Staying in Bournemouth puts us near one of those "Must See" sites in England -- Stonehenge. Stonehenge is just 39 miles from my daughter's house. In England, because most of the roads were laid out in Medieval times, a 39 mile trip can take an hour or much more.

But, while we are in London, I know we will take in St. Paul's Cathedral. It is the centerpiece of London. And while we are there we will stand in the churchyard and think back some 300 years to that day in 1717 when Masonry as we know it was born. ■



Richard Thompson is the Secretary of Merrimack Valley Daylight Lodge and one of those people who just can't help crossing the Atlantic.

Help a man become a brother – give him this removable insert.



The Melrose Masonic Building's Rededication Praises Masons and Civic Pride

by Bro. Mike Nachshen

MELROSE, Mass — Cake and candles usually figure prominently into most birthday celebrations. But this one needed something more.

It was the 150th anniversary celebration of the Melrose Masonic Apartments, a four story federal-style concrete building located a stone's throw from the heart of downtown in this North Shore city. And the five lodges, and four appendant bodies who call the building home wanted to mark the milestone in Masonic fashion. With corn, wine, and oil.

"Corn is an emblem of nourishment, wine emblematic of refreshment, and oil representative of joy and happiness," said Wor. Michael Wolfe, a Past Master of Fidelity Lodge in Melrose and North Reading Lodge.

Which is why on April 22, Most Worshipful Paul F. Gleason, Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts and a distinguished suite of Masons rededicated the building. As more than 150 Masons, Order of the Eastern Star members, and guests looked on, the suite placed a carpet on the Lodge's floor.

The card-table-sized carpet was intricately detailed with Masonic symbols and emblems, including two large pillars, a pot of incense, and a square and compasses resting on a holy book.

The suite then reverentially placed three candles at the edges of the carpet, scattered dried corn kernels on the carpet, followed by a few drops of oil and wine. As this took place, the Grand Master explained the ritual's symbolism and offered up a prayer, asking the Grand Architect for

wisdom in all we do.

"This is what we do as Masons," Wor. Bro. Wolfe explained later. He chaired the committee which planned the rededication event added "This is old-school Masonry, with Masons doing what Masons are well known to do; dedications of buildings and being part of the community."

Masons being part of the community was a theme that was echoed throughout the day by speakers and guests alike.

"The growth of Melrose runs parallel to the growth of the Lodge," said Melrose Alderman Mike Zwirko.

Melrose became an incorporated town in 1850 and by 1857 the first Lodge in Melrose, Wyoming Lodge, received its charter from the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts.

"The first meetings were held in Lyceum Hall, with the top officers sitting on nail kegs and the brethren on the floor," said Wor. Rich McElhinney, a Past Master of Wyoming Lodge.

The building burned down a few years later; in 1866, just months after the Civil War concluded. The members of Wyoming Lodge—

many of whom had served in the war—laid the cornerstone for a building dedicated to promoting brotherly love.

"The history of Melrose...and its evolution from a farming community to...a city of great prosperity is intertwined with Freemasonry," Bro. Ward Hamilton, a member of the Melrose Historical Commission, said.

As the Lodge grew, so did the community. The citizens of Melrose built libraries. Banks. Schools.

Perhaps that shouldn't be surprising.



A distinguished suite of Masons from Grand Lodge kneel during a prayer conducted as part of a "carpet ceremony," rededicating the Apartments with corn, wine and oil -- symbols of nourishment, refreshment and joy.

“Buildings are important, but a Lodge is not the brick and mortar. A Lodge is the people who occupy it,” said M. Wor. Bro. Gleason

The people who have occupied the building for the past 150 years made their mark on the community. And continue to do so today.

One of those people is Rt. Wor. David Lucas, who, much to his surprise, received the Joseph Warren Medal during the rededication ceremony. As his family looked on, the Grand Master presented Lucas with the medal and granted him special dispensation to wear three pocket jewels for the remainder of the day.

Rt. Wor. Bro. Lucas, a past Deputy Grandmaster and Past Master of Fidelity Lodge, hasn’t just served the Craft. In his capacity as an attorney, he has provided extensive assistance to the community; most recently he helped the city of Melrose update its charter.

“Community is made up of institutions such as the Masons, and these institutions make up the fabric of our Commonwealth,” State Rep. Paul Brodeur remarked. “What is going in our politics is hard and divisive, and as tempers and passions come and go, it’s important to put those aside and come together as a community. Part of Civil Discourse is to be better people and contribute to the fabric of the community.”

To commemorate those contributions, Brodeur arranged for the State Legislature to issue a special citation recognizing the services and leadership Masons have rendered to Melrose.

“This is a wonderful celebration of this edifice and

the leaders who have progressed through it,” said M. Wor. Harvey J. Waugh, Past Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts.

M. Wor. Bro. Waugh would know—as the Past Master of Wyoming Lodge—he is the second Grand Master to have his roots in the Melrose Masonic Apartments. The first, the M. Wor. Claude LeRoy Allen, was master of Wyoming Lodge in 1917.

And the building continues to produce leaders. Wyoming Lodge, Fidelity Lodge, The Independence Lodge, Mt. Vernon-Galilean Lodge and Converse Lodge all meet in the facility, and in the process, make good men better husbands,

sons, fathers and citizens.

Melrose Chapter 14 of the Order of Eastern Star brings fellowship and Masonic teachings to men and women. The Melrose Masonic Charitable Trust has faced—and overcome—challenges in the 150 year old building. Now it runs like a well-oiled machine. This translates into lessons in teamwork, leadership, and financial stewardship.

Three York Rite bodies: Waverly Royal Arch Chapter, Melrose Council of Royal and Select Master Masons

and Metro-North Commandery (originally Hugh de Payens Commandery) also use the Apartments.

“York Rite Masonry builds upon the foundational lessons laid in Blue Lodge Masonry—dispensing further light and knowledge to those eager to learn more about Masonry—furthering its mission of making good men better men, thus enabling them to better support the community and mankind,” said Rt. Wor. Frank Mitrano, High Priest of Waverly Royal Arch and a Past Master of Wyoming Lodge. ■



Following the rededication ceremony, the M. Wor. Paul F. Gleason (center) was joined in the East by Worshipfuls Greg Potamis (L), Sal Firicano (R) and John Ledbury (far right) Masters of Fidelity, Wyoming and Mount Vernon-Galilean Lodges.

Left: M. Wor. Paul F. Gleason (center) presented the Joseph Warren Medal to R. Wor. David Lucas, a past Deputy Grand Master and Past Master of Fidelity Lodge. Following the rededication ceremony, they were joined in the East by Wor. Joe Caci, also a PM of Fidelity Lodge. **Right:** Following the re-dedication ceremony, the M. Wor. Paul F. Gleason (C) was joined in the East by Melrose Alderman Mike Zwirko (L) and State Rep. Paul Brodeur (R). During the ceremony, Brodeur read a special citation he arranged for the State Legislature to issue, which recognized the services and leadership Masons have rendered to Melrose.



Grand Masters of Massachusetts

by Rt. Wor. Walter Hunt



Most Worshipful Melvin M. Johnson

*and the Declaration
of Principles*

1914-1916

*The twenty fifth installment in the
continuing series focused on our past
Massachusetts Grand Masters.*

Seventy-five years ago, in February 1942, Most Wor. Melvin Maynard Johnson, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts and Sovereign Grand Commander of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite (NMJ), stood before the Conference of Grand Masters in Washington, D. C. to present an address.

It was a particularly somber time: the United States had just entered the World War following Japan's attack at Pearl Harbor. Freemasonry, as an institution, had been under attack around the world, particularly in countries where totalitarian and dictatorial regimes wished to prohibit the free exchange of ideas; in a number of countries it had been banned or driven underground. Indeed, in the face of the terrible circumstances of the war, its utility was in question—the fraternal relationships which recognize no barriers of country, sect and opinion had (for the second time) failed to prevent a catastrophic global war.

M. W. Brother Johnson was a well-known figure in Masonic circles, particularly in the United States: he had been, as he noted, associated with our own Grand Lodge for 45 years, and was at the time nearly 30 years a Past Grand Master. His lengthy, distinguished and scholarly career is too extensive to even attempt in this article: suffice it to say that his voice carried significant weight.

The address he offered that day was based on the answer to a question: Do Naziism, Fascism and Communism present a danger that American Freemasonry should meet? If so, how?

His first response was direct and to the point.

“The philosophy of totalitarianism is a menace to democracy and religion as well as to Freemasonry. American Freemasonry must not disregard this danger . . . Freemasonry cannot be strengthened by changing its fundamental principles. Just as in the material world, man cannot change the laws which God decreed when He created the world but can only adapt human ways to conform to them, so in the activities of human life, such as religion, philosophy and even economics, there are fundamental principles equally God-given, equally unchangeable, the violation of which results equally in disaster.

“Freemasonry has but one dogma, monotheism; and it does not attempt a definition of the Supreme Being. It cannot do so because that which is finite cannot measure, define or even comprehend that which is infinite, although it may dimly envision some of its attributes. Based on the worship of God, we teach the love of our fellowmen, both being unchangeable essentials of civilization . . . They are basic principles of this fraternity of ours. Inasmuch as the further tenets which we teach in the development of our moral philosophy logically flow from these principles, we have nothing in the teachings of Freemasonry which calls for a change.

“Freemasonry cannot meet the danger presented in our subject by attacks upon others . . . if Freemasonry devotes its labor and strength to hurling anathemas against competitive philosophies—whether of government, religion, or other human activities—it will land, with other waste products, upon the public dump. It will survive and gain stature only if it can sell its philosophy to men . . . Freemasonry, to succeed, must be constructive, not destructive.”

There were, he stated, three areas in which the Craft could seek to change: in its ritual, in its structure and organization, and in the application of its principles in public.

With regard to ritual, he emphasized the importance of clarifying the symbolic nature of the ancient penalties, which were a part of

Massachusetts ritual obligations until the late 1970s, and continue to be present in many other jurisdictions. Why furnish reasons for those who oppose us with support for their arguments? As he noted, such arguments were used with great effectiveness during the anti-Masonic period a century before. Other than that, he argued, Freemasonry was “conservative about tampering” with traditions more than two centuries old, and he saw no reason to do so.

On the subject of structure and organization he was more effusive. The primary problem was one we still have today: disunity among American Grand Lodges.

“In the United States, there are forty-nine Grand Lodges, each supreme. There is no man or body of men entitled to speak for the Grand Lodges of the United States and, therefore, for the membership of these Grand Lodges . . . Little respect is given to an institution so disunited as Freemasonry in America. In August, 1918, the official representative of the Secretary of War said to Most Worshipful Townsend Scudder, then representing the Grand Lodge of New York: “It is your lack of co-ordination as a Fraternity which has hampered the Government in its effort to deal with you.” This lack of co-ordination was never more evident than at the present moment. After the last war, Freemasonry set up an Association to be an arm or agency to be used by the forty-nine Grand Lodges of the United States that they might function together, might unite their influence and their efforts whenever there was occasion for unity of action. This organization, the Masonic Service Association, neither is nor does it seek to be dominant in Masonic affairs. Its only members are Grand Lodges . . .

“Is this not the only hope of unity? Most Worshipful Joseph Earl Perry’s suggestion of a senate two years ago fell upon ears which would not hear. The only other possibility, a General Grand Lodge, is a spectre of such horrific mien that even to glance at it is generally regarded to be as fatal as to look at Medusa’s head . . .

“There is no greater lonesomeness in life than to be insulated in a great crowd - alone, indeed, although touching elbows with thousands happy in their contacts . . . To my mind, this exhibition of disunity is aiding in the sabotage of the strength, power and influence of Freemasonry in the world. Unity is of vastly more importance today in this public demonstration of Freemasonry’s brotherly benevolence than the preservation of minority dissent. Our countrymen today have put loyalty ahead of politics. Why may not Freemasonry also unite in displaying a common purpose?”

He already knew the answer to this question, and stated it at the outset: Grand Lodges were sovereign, desired to be sovereign, and would enter into no compact in which a superior authority might be imposed. Massachusetts had opposed such efforts for a century and a half.

More briefly he complained about Grand Lodges with progressive lines, arguing that it merely produced mediocre leadership, unwilling to “rock the boat” and in office for a short enough time as to have no effect on policy, even if changes were needed.

With regard to Freemasonry’s influence in the world: he praised the efforts of many jurisdictions in providing homes for aged Masons and widows as well as orphans’ homes and schools; many Grand Lodges also supported hospital systems. All this being said, he objected to the idea that Grand Lodges refused to cooperate with each other in their presentation to the profane public. This, he argued, was exactly the sort of situation that had permitted Hitler’s Germany to work against all of the enemies that surrounded it.

“If unity among other nations had begun when he first violated the Versailles Treaty, this terrible war would, beyond the shadow of a doubt, have been prevented. Disunity is the vitamin of defeat. . .

“It is not mingling in politics for Freemasonry to oppose intolerance and bigotry, whether in the field of knowledge, in the field of religion, or in affairs of state. It would be imbecile for Freemasonry not to recognize that “unfortunately there are in this world, and perhaps there always will be, rights that cannot be vindicated, wrongs that cannot be righted, abuses that cannot be extirpated, and tyrannies that cannot be overthrown without the use of the sword.” However, it is not for Freemasonry, as an institution, to use that sword. It is for its membership, who are Freemasons but who act in civil life in their individual capacity as honorable and loyal citizens, to do their duty as God, their Country and their fel-

lows shall call them to do. . . Neither does Freemasonry’s continued reiteration that it does not mingle in politics mean that Freemasonry abandons its advocacy of principle. Freemasonry openly stands for freedom and against tyranny, for the worship of God and against atheism, for the right of each human individual to seek the truth and against intellectual slavery.”

He advocated the general adoption of the Declaration of Principles, composed by the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts in 1939. To do so, he argued, would allow

“our beloved institution function in unity toward successful attainment of its mission. Thus only can it stick to that mission, which is to build character in men and inspire them, joining in the worship of a common God, to teach mankind that its only hope for the preservation and advance of civilization is to rebuild our crushed and bleeding world upon that which still remains untried as the basis of a state, - the power of love.”

He could not foresee how the terrible war would turn out, nor what the world would be like when it was ended.

continued on next page

The philosophy of totalitarianism is a menace to democracy and religion as well as to Freemasonry. American Freemasonry must not disregard this danger

FRATERNITY News & Events

Can Tabs Donated for Deceased Brother

When our Brother, Bro. Kenneth F. Parsons, was raised to the Celestial Lodge above on Nov. 22, 2011 after being a Mason for 38 years, I wanted to continue his work in his memory. Bro. Parsons always collected the can tabs for the Shriners organization. With the help of my Lodge, William Sutton Lodge in Saugus, we set out to collect 100lbs of tabs. After about 2 years, we had collected long enough and tallied the 7 barrels of can tabs, which weighed in at approximately 210lbs. total. R.I.P. Bro. Parsons.

- Bro. Kevin M Wildman



From Left: Wor. Lloyd Wentzell, with the Aleppo Shrine, Bro. Kevin M. Wildman, Wor. Jim Virnelli, Jr., Bro. Jim Virnelli, Sr., members of William Sutton Lodge in Saugus, with can tabs collected in memory of Bro. Kenneth F. Parsons.

► *M. Wor. Johnson* continued from page 13

His words in the darkness of that time ring true still today, though: that Freemasonry should not be too stubborn to make itself more presentable to the outside world; that Grand Lodges need to learn to cooperate, to fight against the twin pillars of cruelty and ignorance; and that what the Institution is, and what it does, need not change—that the mission and the objectives of Freemasonry remain—to build character in men and inspire them . . . to teach mankind that its only hope for the presentation and advance of civilization is to rebuild our crushed and bleeding world upon . . . the power of love.

The Declaration of Principles

Freemasonry is a charitable, benevolent, educational, and religious society. Its principles are proclaimed as widely as men will hear. Its only secrets are in its methods of recognition and of symbolic instruction.

It is charitable in that it is not organized for profit and none of its income inures to the benefit of any individual, but all is devoted to the promotion of the welfare and happiness of mankind.

It is benevolent in that it teaches and exemplifies altruism as a duty.

It is educational in that it teaches by prescribed ceremonials a system of

morality and brotherhood based upon the Sacred Law.

It is religious in that it teaches monotheism; the Volume of the Sacred Law is open upon its altars whenever a Lodge is in session; reverence for God is ever present in its ceremonial, and to its Brethren are constantly addressed lessons of morality; but it is not sectarian or theological.

It is a social organization only so far as it furnished additional inducement that men may forgather in numbers, thereby providing more material for its primary work of education, of worship, and of charity.

Through the improvement and strengthening of the character of the individual man, Freemasonry seeks to improve the community. Thus it impresses upon its members the principles of personal righteousness and personal responsibility, enlightens them as to those things which make for human welfare, and inspires them with that feeling of charity, or good will toward all mankind which will move them to translate principle and conviction into action.

To that end, it preaches and stands for the worship of God, truth and justice; fraternity and philanthropy; and enlightenment and orderly liberty, civil, religious, and intellectual. It charges each of its members to be true

and loyal to the government of the country to which he owes allegiance and to be obedient to the law of any state in which he may be.

It believes that the attainment of these objectives is best accomplished by laying a broad basis of principle upon which men of every race, country, sect and opinion may unite rather than by setting up a restricted platform upon which only those of certain races, creeds, and opinions can assemble.

Believing these things, this Grand Lodge affirms its continued adherence to that ancient and approved rule of Freemasonry which forbids the discussion in Masonic meetings of creeds, politics, or other topics likely to excite personal animosities.

It further affirms its conviction that it is not only contrary to the fundamental principles of Freemasonry, but dangerous to its unity, strength, usefulness, and welfare, for Masonic bodies to take action of to attempt to exercise pressure or influence for or against any legislation, or in any way to attempt to procure the election or appointment of governmental officials, or to influence them, whether or not members of the Fraternity, in the performance of their official duties. The true Freemason will act in civil life according to his individual judgment and the dictates of his conscience. ■

► **Mason on Sight** *continued from page 3*

After dinner, the Grand Master and the brothers of Wisdom Lodge reconvened back at the Wisdom Lodge Building, at which time they recouped their aprons and regalia to head 15 minutes north to Pittsfield and the home of Brother Shaun P. and Patrick Kassim Murphy.

At 7:30pm The Grand Lodge and Wisdom Lodge were called from Refreshment to Labor.

In their home, Patrick took upon himself the Obligation of Entered Apprentice presented by Bro. Shaun P. Murphy, his father. After agreeing to this obligation, the Grand Master declared him an Entered Apprentice.

Then he took upon himself the Obligation of Fellowcraft presented by Wor. Allen Laurent, Master of Wisdom Lodge. After agreeing to this obligation, the Grand Master declared him a Fellowcraft.

Then he took upon himself the Obligation of Master Mason presented by Rt. Wor. Bro. Christopher A. Tonini. After agreeing to this obligation, the Grand Master declared him to be a “Mason on Sight”, welcomed him to the fraternity as a Brother and congratulated him. Bro. Murphy became the 3rd generation in his family to become a Mason.

Bro. Patrick was then presented a white leather apron, handbook, cipher, and the Claudy Books, by the Worshipful Master, DDGM and Officers of Wisdom Lodge.

This was a long journey for Bro. Patrick Murphy along with his father Bro. Shaun Murphy and grandfather Bro. Richard Murphy. About four years ago Shaun and Worshipful Brother Martin Myrick approached Wisdom Lodge brothers Rt. Wor. Lawrence Tonini and Rt. Wor. Christopher Tonini, how the lodge could help Patrick to become a Mason. On that same night after a

rehearsal all the brothers from Wisdom Lodge in attendance went to a local restaurant for some food and fellowship, when Shaun received a call from his wife that Patrick (who has Spinal Muscular Atrophy type 2 and is confined to a wheelchair) had been rushed to a hospital. After four years of hospital visits, Patrick was able to make an application to Wisdom Lodge for the degrees.

Wisdom Lodge is proud to be able make Brother Patrick Murphy a Mason, along with the help of M. Wor. Bro. Gleason. This was a historic event forever to be remembered by the twenty-three brothers spread over six lodges throughout Berkshire County who attended.

Wisdom Lodge would like to thank whole heartily, M. Wor. Bro. Gleason and Rt. Wor. Bro. Maggio for travelling out to the far western reaches of the Commonwealth to confer the “Mason on Sight”. - *Rt. Wor. Christopher A. Tonini*

► **Angel Fund Partnership** *continued from page 3*

their assigned schools to establish a connection and explain the program. They left behind \$50 discount store gift cards to get the program rolling.

Even after initial contact and good faith was established, the school officials seemed reticent to ask for help. “We felt bad asking at first, and we didn’t want to keep asking for more, but there is so much need,” said Kristyn Chevalier, school adjustment counselor at Whitcomb.

Bro. Collins and his team kept politely pushing. “We sent the school officials messages at least every two weeks to remind them that we are here and asking them to please use us,” Collins recalled. “We needed to make it clear that we want to be asked, that we have the funds. We also tried to make it as easy as possible—there is no paperwork necessary and we try for a 24-hour turn around.”

A year and a half later, the program’s success has forged a partnership. “As our low-income population increases, a program such as this is so valuable and much appreciated,” said Superintendent Maureen Greulich. “Whether it is a call for help as cold weather approaches or a teacher noticing that a middle school student is in need of new clothes and sneakers, the Angel Fund [MAF] is there to help. This is an example of the wonderful partnership between the Masons and the Marlborough Public Schools.”

When the MAF pays for art, karate or other athletic programs that would otherwise be out of reach for students’ families, it opens doors for them and establishes a

connection to the community. Many of the neediest kids are new to the area and come from difficult environments. Tom Kaija, a middle school teacher who also coaches sports, recalled a time when the fund paid for two students to participate on his basketball team. One mother approached Kaija and started crying in gratitude, saying “God bless you.” Kaija said, “This is something they will remember about our community,” adding, “I’ve spent 12 years in education, and I don’t know of any other program like this.”

The program depends on the generosity of the Lodge, funds are replenished through personal donations and money raised by UB’s annual Main Street Car Show. Motivating such support depends on building awareness, trust and making the impact real for the Brothers.

“We take the time in Lodge to recap the past quarter’s benevolences so that everyone hears the stories, some of them heartbreaking, of the kids we are helping,” said Wor. Joseph F. Delano, United Brethren’s current Master. The Lodge has also welcomed teachers and counselors to Communication night dinners to speak about the MAF’s impact. One educator brought in photos and a poster made by special needs kids to thank the Lodge for making their field trip possible. “These visits bring the program to life for all of us,” Delano said. - *Bro. Richard Pastore*

Bro. Pastore is chair of United Brethren’s Masonic Education Committee, a member of its Car Show committee, MAF school liaison, and a building trustee.

A New Chapter: 88 Masonic Home Road, Charlton

In a perfect world, most people envision staying in their house forever however, when life has a twist, a new home at The Overlook is the best choice. George and Marlene Karustis, long time New Jersey residents, wanted to be proactive and have a plan in place for their next chapter. Their criteria included being closer than 3.5 hours from their son, daughter-in-law and two grandchildren in Sudbury and choosing a community which would accommodate their differing healthcare needs. Things fell into place when their son Charlie visited Overlook last fall and knew it met their criteria. Being part of the Masonic Healthcare System of Massachusetts, Overlook continuing care retirement community is known for its excellent care all under one roof—a sound decision which benefits both George and Marlene. And George knows firsthand the meaningful fellowship of Masons.

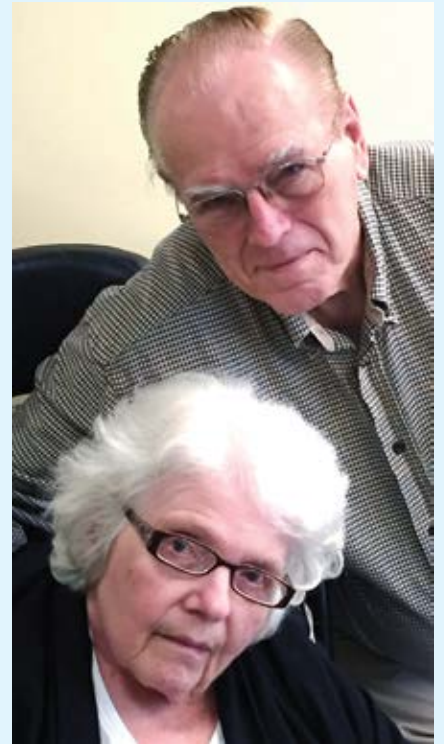
George joined DeMolay as a teenager. Through DeMolay, George learned leadership skills, gained confidence and made friendships. College, marriage and work took precedence in his life until George circled back to Masonry joining the Atlas Pythagoras Lodge No. 10 in Westfield, New Jersey 15 years ago. Referencing Masonry's stellar reputation, George says, "Masons are trustworthy, ethical and honorable without question. A handshake and given word is all that is needed." Now that George is living at The Overlook, he has attended meetings of the Rose of Sharon Lodge located right on campus and made application to join. "There are many benefits to being a Mason, the principal reason to join the fraternity is to meet interesting people from all walks of life while celebrating the comradeship and unwavering support of

brethren", George states.

After attending Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania where his family lived, George followed the footsteps of his professor to study at Yale University for his graduate degree in Organic Chemistry. After weighing a career either in academia or industry George chose the later. He joined the American Institute of Chemists and as required expertise varied, he became highly qualified in varying fields of chemistry. George spent the last 20 years writing technical reports for the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) through a subcontractor.

Marlene grew up in New Haven referring to herself as a "Connecticut Yankee". She received a liberal arts education at Albertus Magnus, a small college in New Haven where she focused on biology and languages. Following graduation, Marlene took a job at Yale University translating letters for professors and researching distinguished guests. It was here she met her future husband George at a party, the second one he attended that evening after the police had broken up the first! They are now married 52 years. After moving to New Jersey, Marlene continued her education at Seton Hall University taking courses in psychology while working part-time and raising their son. Marlene taught biology at Mount St. Mary Academy for 25 years, mentoring young women to excel in science. She influenced many lives as a teacher. To this day, she receives letters from her students including an assistant professor at Harvard University thanking her for changing the direction of their lives.

As a young lady, Marlene saw the movie 'Miracle on 34th Street' where at



George and Marlene Karustis

the end of the film, the little girl finds a "For Sale" sign on the front yard of her dream house. Marlene always wished for that "Christmas House" ending. Years later, when she and George were house hunting they drove up to see a "For Sale" sign on the front yard—she knew it was her dream house. After 48 years in her "Christmas House", it was hard to say goodbye.

But their next chapter begins at The Overlook. George has moved into an independent living apartment and Marlene has moved into a sunny room in the skilled nursing center. All under one roof, they can go back and forth to visit and enjoy meals together no matter what the weather. George says "It is a great advantage to be living with the comradeship of fellow Masons. Moving to Overlook made sense for us financially and in terms of long term care. I noticed my first day—it is difficult to put into words—the warm interaction between residents and employees. It does not feel like a place of business, it feels like home." Marlene echoes the same "I feel a wonderful rapport with the staff, who are warm and caring and who want to know about me."

Chapter one begins of the new story for Dr. and Mrs. Karustis. ■

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2. Pick the ones you like the most
3. Look at their character
 - a. Would you give them the keys to your home?
 - b. Have you seen them show kindness?
 - c. Do you think they believe in a Supreme Being?
4. Talk to them about Freemasonry
5. Hand them the **Becoming A Brother** insert in this issue
6. Bring them down for an interview and application
7. Shake hands, you have a new Brother!

**Our Grand Master has challenged us: replace ourselves by the end of his term.
With our effort, we will meet this goal.**