

TROWEL

GRAND LODGE OF MASONS IN MASSACHUSETTS SPRING 2020



From the East of Grand Lodge

MOST WORSHIPFUL RICHARD MAGGIO

Brethren,

Planning the future, preserving our traditions while enjoying the “present,” the gift of Freemasonry - it is a great time to be a Mason. I am honored to serve this great Fraternity of distinguished gentlemen who, during crisis, have banded together to serve our communities and take care of each other.

As I write this, we are at the peak of COVID-19 in Massachusetts. Quarantine, Shelter in Place, Flatten the Curve, Social Distancing, Contact Tracing, PPE, Ventilator, Intubated, and Asymptomatic are all part of our everyday conversations, not to mention, “Got toilet paper?”

The terminology that strikes me the most is Unprecedented Times. How soon we forget about H1N1 in 2009 with 60 million cases, 274,000 hospitalizations, and over 12,000 deaths, just in the United States. Or H3N2 in 1968 that claimed over 1 million souls worldwide and over 100,000 in the United States, which was exceeded by the death toll in the 1958 H2N2 virus. Then there was the 1918 H1N1 virus that infected 500 million worldwide, with 50 million deaths, including 675,000 in the United States. Some may feel these are Unprecedented Times, but we as Masons have faced each of these Unprecedented Times and prevailed.

Through Pandemics, the lapse of time, the ruthless hand of ignorance and the devastations of war, Freemasonry survives! We survive because we are a Fraternity like no other fraternity, club, or organization. We demonstrate our values and tenets with even greater zeal during difficult times by helping, aiding, and assisting not only our own Brethren, Widows, and families, but also those in our communities. In order to assist the Red Cross with their Blood Drives, we have opened our buildings while others have closed their buildings. We have supplied meals, delivered PPE, and gifts to lift the spirits of many a brother or friend in need. The H.E.L.P. (Hospital Equipment Loan Program) continues to serve on demand. You know these men, they are the Brethren of our Fraternity, living the Masonic life, always giving with nothing expected in return. You have, and continue to make, a difference in people's lives.

Our Fraternity stands out to the rest of the world because of the quality of our members. As Masons, we always maintain the standards of civility, dignity, and decorum. We promote harmony and respect while maintaining our traditions, values, and our practices. You truly are a Fraternity of great men. Pass it on to another good man.

I am humbled and honored to serve as Grand Master. I am proud to call you my Brother. By the time this issue of TROWEL arrives, I sincerely hope we are back together in our lodge rooms enjoying our great fraternal bonds.

God bless you, essential personnel, Veterans, active Military, Freemasonry, and God bless America!

Sincerely and fraternally

Most Worshipful Richard Maggio

Your Grand Master

P.S. “Brother, when you are in need, lean on me...”



- 5** *License to Brotherhood:*
Masonic Plate Stories
- 6** **Feast of Saint John**
- 7** *Remarks of the*
Deputy Grand Master
- 8** **Grand Lodge Receptions**
- 10** *Grand Masters of Massachusetts*
M. Wor. Arthur Harris Melanson
- 12** **Brothers of the Single Malt**
- 15** **Over the Hills and Far Away...**
- 16** **The Light of Freemasonry**
- 22** *Beyond the*
Third Degree
- 26** **Masonic Membership**
- 28** **Rt. Wor. Kamel Oussayef, 33°**
Honored by the Blue Friars



REGULAR FEATURES

- Lodge & District News 3**
- Chaplain's Column 4**
- The Prodigal Mason 14**
- Ask the Grand Lecturers 27**
- News from the Overlook 31**



<https://tinyurl.com/MasonPlate>



Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts
MW Richard Maggio



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Missing Time

I know the behavior required of us by the various levels of government during this viral time. I comply with those requirements, whether I understand them or not. I work from home, go out for milk, eggs, and bread every couple of days, and, every other week, I make the big excursion to Costco.



While being at home all the time, I've remembered that home is my favorite place. More importantly, it houses my favorite people, my family, who also are all here with me. But each day feels so much like the other days. The weekends seem like the weekdays. TGIF sounds even sillier. Sunday, we "go" to church on TV at home.

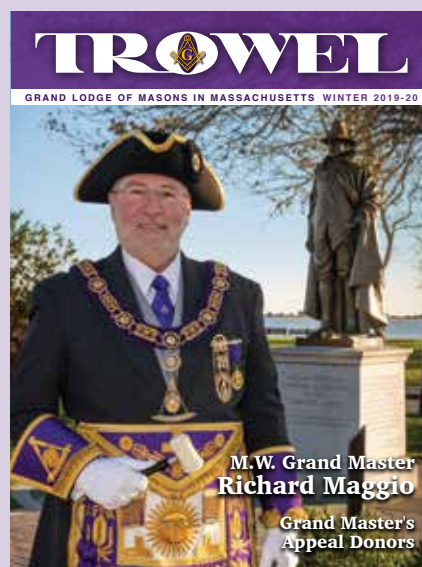
But the hardest night is Lodge night. Those moments with my Brothers, making Masons, discussing the upcoming events, are special in a way that the rest of my days aren't. With this gap, with this lack of Brother to Brother time, is a moment to realize the importance of the Craft. Yes, we do a lot of great things for the community, but perhaps the greatest thing done at Lodge is making a home for the Brothers there - a place for a relaxed night far from the world of work, chores at home, and the burdens of daily life. However, the biggest thing the Craft does is make us better men at home with our loved ones.

This virus will end. Our lives will return to normal. But during this period, the enhancement the Craft offers our regular days is lost. I hope to remember this time. I hope to remember the joy of family and the loss of time with my Brothers. And I hope that I cling to my Lodge nights and return to the betterment I need.

Fraternally, Lee H. Fenn

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: JULY 15, 2020

*The cover photo of the last issue was shot by
Bro. Paul R. Horwitz, of Plymouth Lodge.*





Left to right: Rt. Wor. Robert Parron; Rt. Wor. Chris Kanz, Master; Bro. Anthony Scarnici; Rt. Wor. Chris St. Cyr, Junior Grand Warden; Bro. Bob St. Cyr; M. Wor. Richard Maggio, and Bro. Ben Marinelli.

Quinebaug Lodge Zooms To the News

Quinebaug Lodge took advantage of Zoom Meeting to do our video and audio-conferencing services from the safety of their homes. Some members with computer savvy skills have accepted the invitation by our Master, Wor. Chris Kanz. The Grand Master, M. Wor. Richard Maggio, was also in attendance.

A story about the meeting appeared in The Southbridge News and the Charlton Villager due to the outreach by the Lodge.

-Bro. Vincenzo Jimmy Falzone

Brothers in Industry

While recently attending a telecommunications conference in Tampa, Rt. Wor. Alan Welch, DDGM of the 4th District, made it a point to catch up with two Brothers who work for BICSI, an international industry association that was holding the conference. Rt. Wor. Bro. Welch was able to spend some time with Wor. Todd Taylor, current President of BICSI, and Bro. Chris Muratore, Director of Information Technology at BICSI. Wor. Taylor is a member of Nashville Commandry #1 Knights Templar, Nashville Council #1 Cryptic Masons, and Cumberland Chapter #1 Royal Arch Masons. He is active in the Valley of Nashville, Orient of Tennessee 32° KCCH, on the 19th and 30th Degree Teams, and a Shriner

with the Al Menah Shrine in Nashville. Bro. Muratore has been a proud member of Hillsborough Lodge #25 in Tampa since 2014. He recently served as Worthy Patron for Tampa Chapter 11, Order of the Eastern Star.

Rt. Wor. Welch finished his trip in Ft. Myers with a visit to his parents. While there, he had the pleasure of meeting V. Wor. Bro. Barry Smith, Past Master of Maple Leaf Lodge #362 in Tara, Ontario, Canada. V. Wor. Bro. Smith was District Secretary for Bruce District and was appointed Assistant Grand Organist for the province of Ontario. V. Wor. Bro. Smith is a 32° Scottish Rite Mason, as well as a member of the Bruce County Shrine Club in the Mocha Temple in London Ontario.

-Rt. Wor. Alan R. Welch

Wor. Todd Taylor, Rt. Wor. Alan Welch

Rt. Wor. Alan Welch, Bro. Chis Muratore

V. Wor. Smith with his new M. Wor. Bro. Maggio lapel pin.



Freemasonry, Notwithstanding

by Rt. Wor. Rev. Henry I. Peirce

So, we've closed our lodges because of this pandemic, and we are left asking what sort of Fraternity we are. As we prepared for this moment across the country, when every institution would shut their doors as part of the public response to the coronavirus public health emergency, I have asked myself, "What is a Masonic Lodge, but a community that comes together?"

I remember a moment a few years ago during the incredibly snowy winter, that is illustrative to our answer. At the last minute, our Lodge meeting had been called off due to a coming storm and although I was ready to head down, I stayed home, only to discover later that a group of guys who lived or worked near our Masonic temple in Cambridge had ended up there. They either hadn't received the news or maybe ignored it and got together. That night, they ended up doing a lot of the planning for the future of the lodge that has served us well unto this day. When I asked one of them why they showed up, they said, "Hank, Amicable has met since 1805 through storms and wars and epidemics. We aren't about to stop now."

But these are different times. The COVID-19 virus has crippled our cities and communities beyond what a snowstorm can. The first Thursday of next month we won't be meeting and that will feel strange, because unlike church where we have the ability to share our services online, lodge isn't like that. Of course, religious services are not performances, but for many being able to see their clergy person share a message fulfills at least a part of what one hopes to get out of a religious service. Lodge, however, is much more interactive. You can't just have the Master give a lecture online and feel like you are good for the month. It just doesn't work like that.

The difference this month, and for the near future, is that there will be no lodge physically meeting in our temple, not even a few hardy souls coming out on a snowy night ready for fellowship. This new reality can make us feel even more isolated. We'll miss the work of all of the officers, the meal with old friends, the questions from the new members, and I bet some will even

miss the griping of the Past Masters! So, what to do? The first step is to reach out and connect, check on the elders and the newest guys who haven't yet made the deep friendships which link us together. Hold some online chats and remember that part of being a Freemason is about improving yourself, so memorize that lecture, read that book, or write that paper you always wanted to write. Connect with Masonry in a new way.

This a challenging moment for all of us, and we know that our bonds are stronger than a temporary virus, and that by staying home we will do our part as stewards of the health and wellness of our nation. We know that this should come before our need to see each other in person for now. We know that when we can't come together physically, the question is not, do we cease to be a Masonic lodge, but, what kind of Masonic lodge are we?

For the time being we will be lodges that don't meet in person, but still a fraternity that emphasizes brotherly love, relief, and truth. We will be promoting our value of unity that reminds us that we are all children of the same God who are in this together, and that no one country or people is responsible for this, lest we slip into demonizing of one another. Never forget that the lapse of time, the ruthless hand of ignorance, and the devastations of war, have all laid waste and destroyed so many valuable monuments of antiquity. Freemasonry, notwithstanding, still survives. We will eventually return to our regular meetings, and it will be a warm and hearty welcome I am sure.

Being a Freemason means caring for those who we will never meet, and at this time it means caring for the healthcare workers who will bear the brunt of this pandemic, those who are at risk caring for people at risk by keeping our distance and not spreading the virus. If we make responsible decisions in the short term to limit our lodge meetings, we will save lives in the long run. That is truly a value all Masons can agree on. ■

Rt. Wor. Rev. Henry I. Peirce is the minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading, and a Past Master of Amicable Lodge in Cambridge.





License to Brotherhood: Masonic Plate Stories

I was nearly asleep behind the wheel. I had just gotten off the plane from visiting my bride's family in Oklahoma - where there is an all-you-can-eat buffet on every block - and was going to pick up our Basenji, Bolt, in North Attleboro. Basenjies are fantastic dogs, but too smart; they can climb fences and trick humans. We feel safe having him with a Basenji breeder in North Attleboro.

I was tired and heading down 95 to the edge of the state. The windows were open, and the radio cranked up - I had to stay awake. Then the red started...rows and rows of red taillights and I was going 2 mph, sometimes speeding way up to 12.

My eyelids drooped, when I saw a welcome sight, a Masonic license plate. I started trying to get the driver's attention, but I didn't want to honk or flash my lights. I started making, the best I could, the Square and Compasses sign with my fingers. Finally, he noticed and slowed enough so we were side by side. We yelled our lodges to each other—his is Dalhousie Lodge in Newtonville.

We yelled back and forth until he tried to toss me a business card, but it landed on my windshield. Then he parked his car, in the middle of non-moving traffic, and stepped out to hand me his card. He owns Barber Walter's in Wellesley.

I visited his shop. It was incredible, a beautiful place that includes community and Masonic events. Even his logo is inspired by the Square and Compasses. The haircut was fantastic, though I don't have much on top anymore, and Bro. Walter is a new father.

Because of the Masonic License Plate, I met a Brother I never knew I had, got a great haircut, and have a new friend.

Do you have a Masonic Plate story?
Send it to TROWEL, editortrowel@gmail.com.

-Wor. Lee H. Fenn, 32°

A "Driving" Force for the Brotherhood Fund

My first question to each of you reading this article is, "Do you have a Masonic license plate on your car?" If your answer is no, why not? This Masonic awareness campaign was spearheaded by Most Worshipful Richard Maggio several years ago, and he still promotes it whenever given the chance. The concept is simple. You proudly display the license plate on your vehicle, supporting both our fraternity and our charities. To date, this program, through both registrations and renewals, has donated over \$50,000 towards the Brotherhood Fund and continues to generate close to \$4,000 a month for our Grand Lodge charities. We are close to reaching our goal of 3,000 plates in Massachusetts and are asking for your help. Contact the Registry of Motor Vehicles to order your plate today. This can be done in two ways. All of the information is available on massmasons.org, or you can visit the RMV web site at <https://secure.rmv.state.ma.us/specialplates/intro.aspx>. Grand Lodge is still offering to reimburse the \$40.00 application fee associated with applying for this plate, so please join the rest of the brethren in supporting our Grand Master, this program, and our charities by applying for your Masonic license plate today. **-Rt. Wor. William E. Yanakakis**



Feast of Saint John



Remarks of the Deputy Grand Master

Rt. Wor. Peter Culbertson • Feast of St. John • December 27, 2019



Most Worshipful Grand Master, Distinguished Guests, Brethren all,

The feast of Saint John is always a special occasion, but every three years it is a little more special than the others, as we get to celebrate both the success of the outgoing Grand Master, and the possibilities which the new Grand Master brings. With that said, on behalf of the Brethren, I'd like to say thank you to Most Worshipful Paul Fulton Gleason on three tremendous years as Grand Master, and to express to Most Worshipful Brother Maggio how excited we are to follow your lead in the coming years.

It is an incredible honor to be standing here today, speaking to you as the first Deputy Grand Master for Most Worshipful Richard Maggio. That has a nice ring to it, does it not Most Worshipful? I'd like to take this moment to thank you for this opportunity from the bottom of my heart, and to tell you how excited I am for both you personally, and for the entire Fraternity.

In the past Deputy Grand Masters have stood in this very spot and given some incredible messages to the Craft. In 1988, Most Worshipful Jeffery Black Hodgdon stood here and talked about the night his Father raised him to the sublime degree, the importance of family, and how Masons should act. In 2004, Most Worshipful Harvey John Waugh gave an impassioned talk about how Masons help each other. In 2012, RW James Tappan Morse talked about how if we fail to plan, we plan to fail. In 2017, RW Kevin J Willis said, "We are in the membership business and we are doing a terrible job taking care of our customers."

A couple weeks ago I found myself having a little chat with Most Worshipful Brother Ames before a meeting, and he said to me, "The basis of Masonry is local." Now I don't have any great or profound tag lines for you tonight. What I can talk to you about tonight is what I know. You see, I come from a little island nation best known as Nantucket. It is a small place left out at sea, and time has stood still there to some extent since the mid 1800s. When Brother Ames said that to me, my mind drifted back home to the 185 or so Brothers we all have living there, and it struck me how

different Masonry is on an island than it is here.

You see, we have one grocery store, two actually, but I don't think anyone actually goes to the little one. We have three gas stations, one movie theatre which is usually a couple months behind current releases, no bowling alleys, no arcades, no shopping malls. What we do have is each other. You see, on an island you can't escape your Brothers. When you go to the store, you're bound to see one or two Brothers. When you go to the coffee shop, well, we are there too. A hockey game? You guessed it, a Brother's son is playing. Our businesses are linked, our congregations are flooded with Brothers. Town meeting, Rotary Club, church, schools, life in general. Masonry wraps around it and through it, and so it has been for 249 years. It creates a bond. It creates a way of life. It creates something special, something we there call Union Lodge. We know each other's wives, each other's children, each-other's struggles and successes, and because we do, our obligations have a meaning and depth with which we hold tight.

2020 is the year of vision. It is the year to put on a new pair of glasses and view the world and our Fraternity from a different perspective. I have been blessed the past three years to be a participant on the Grand Lodge Membership and Development Committee. Because of this I have had the opportunity to travel to many Lodges and to meet many Brothers. I ask about membership, and how Brothers perceive it, the direction it's going, and if they feel they are receiving the help they need from us. I have met a lot of Brothers who say the glass is half full. I have also met a number of Brothers who say the glass is half empty. I myself am neither of those. You see, I am the Brother who is just happy to have a glass. You see, because I have a glass, I have the opportunity to decide what goes in it. What will I choose to fill my life with today? What do I want my Masonic experience to be filled with today?

I thought it'd be fun to take a look at that for a moment here tonight. (Places a glass on the podium, and pulls out little strips of things I'd like to fill it with.) Laughter, I want that. Membership, oh yes please. Family *continued on page 32*





The reception for Junior Grand Warden Rt. Wor. Christopher M. St. Cyr was scheduled for March 28th, prior to the virus outbreak. It is being rescheduled.

GRAND LODGE



Senior Grand Warden's Reception



Grand Master's Reception

RECEPTIONS



Deputy Grand Master's Reception

Grand Masters *of* Massachusetts

by Rt. Wor. Walter Hunt



Most Worshipful Arthur Harris Melanson 1978-1980

Journey of Faith

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

Six clergymen have served as Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts, including honorary Past Grand Master Frederick Hamilton. The first, Paul Dean, became a leading light in Masonry (and in Unitarian Universalism) in the early 19th century; he was highlighted in the Winter 2011 TROWEL. George Randall, another luminary from the middle of that century, was covered in the Spring 2012 issue. Thomas Roy was the subject of an article in the fall of 2018. The remaining men of the cloth – Hamilton and Dudley Ferrell – still await treatment.

The last man to serve both in the pulpit and in the East of Grand Lodge was Arthur Harris Melanson, who was Grand Master from 1978 to 1980, and is someone who is still remembered by those who knew and served with him. It is always mildly perilous for any historian to describe, even if in reverent terms, the life and career of someone who is still in vernacular memory. A quarter century is scarcely enough time for perspective, but some attempt will be made here.

Brother Melanson was born in Lynn in 1918, and after being educated in the public schools of his home city, attended Andover Newton Theological School and Boston University, earning a Master of Divinity degree. In 1945 he was ordained, and took up his profession in Everett, Milford, and Wellesley churches. It was during his time in service to the Pine Street Baptist Church in Milford that he first became interested in Masonry. In June 1953, he was raised in Montgomery Lodge. When he took up his ministry at the Wellesley Hills Congregational Church, he affiliated with Wellesley Lodge (now a part of Dalhousie Lodge of Newtonville). It is this lodge with which he is most closely associated, and he served as its Master in 1971.

In 1970, Grand Master Herbert H. Jaynes appointed him as Grand Chaplain, in which capacity he served Grand Lodge through 1977, except for 1972, when Grand Master Donald W. Vose appointed him as Deputy Grand Master. During Grand Master Jaynes' term, Grand Chaplains were called upon to make presentations of "moral lessons" at Quarterly communications, and one such is in the Proceedings for 1970. As is customary for Deputy Grand Masters, Brother Melanson gave a speech at the Feast of St. John in December 1971. He spoke of the tendency to become indifferent to that which was extraordinary, like the moon landings, so recently accomplished, about the need to reach outside one's circle to make connections, and finally the need for Masons to be important to society. He said, "You as a Mason should be a part of the answer, and not a part of the problem. The world must of necessity be a better place because you, as a Mason, passed this way."

In the summer of 1977, he was approached to be the next Grand Master. One of the key appointments for any Grand Master is the choice of Grand Marshal.

While Brother Melanson has passed on, his Grand Marshal is still with us – Brother Albert T. Ames, later Grand Master in his own right, and now a beloved elder statesman of our Grand Lodge. He gave the author an account of the first discussion regarding this appointment. Apparently, Brother Melanson chose to visit while Brother Ames was working at home, and the request to serve came as a surprise. He thought that his term as District Deputy was the capstone to his own Masonic career. It goes without saying that he accepted with pleasure.

While he was Grand Master, M. W. Brother Melanson traveled extensively, usually with Brother Ames doing the driving. “He would nap while we drove there,” he told me. “He was usually asleep as soon as I pulled out of the driveway, because he trusted me to get us where we needed to go. But he was always awake on the way home, because he wanted to make sure we got back safely.” It was clear that Brother Ames retains great affection for the Grand Master with whom he spent so much time.

Brother Melanson’s term was near the beginning of the difficult time in which we continue to function, one in which membership numbers are declining, business concerns are pressing, and society is sometimes changing faster than our Craft can keep up. He recognized these problems then, well ahead of many contemporaries, and addressed them in his remarks at his final Quarterly Communication in December 1980. Regarding the important process of introducing interested men to the Fraternity, he said:

“We need to ask those good men who are our friends and colleagues, ‘Have you ever thought about becoming a Mason?’ You may be surprised at the number of men who were waiting for someone to raise the question with them. We can no longer afford not to confront particular men with the aforementioned question. Our survival depends upon it. Time will pass us by.”

He felt that the Fraternity should take families into account, not separating men from their loved ones:

“I believe the Lodge will have to become more family centered. That wives will go to the Temple with their husbands and enjoy their own program while the husbands attend to their Lodge work. The evening would end

with some kind of combined involvement. On many occasions, affairs will be planned to include children of all ages. The DeMolay Chapter and Rainbow Assembly will make progress because parents will want it to be so.”

Finally, Masonry was, and had to be, more than merely a social organization. It had something to teach, and those who came to it had something to learn.

“I believe that more time must, not should, but must, be spent in making our candidates more Masonically literate, and our members more Masonically literate, and our members better prepared and interested in becoming officers. We must be increasingly concerned about raising Masons and not candidates.”

To that end, he later served as Director of Masonic Education, and there is evidence of his handiwork in the programs that we use today.

For M. W. Brother Melanson, before, during and after his term as Grand Master, life was his own journey of faith, the name he gave to a sermon he gave in January 1994, which was the last one he ever presented. He spoke of how he came to the religious life and what it meant to him, and how he shared his journey with his beloved wife Dorothy. To the congregation, he exhorted them to take the idea seriously, that his belief, and thus their belief, was a significant part of what life should mean:

“As we enter a new year, why do I share my journey of faith with you? Certainly not to burden

you with it. But first to assure you, if you have enlisted as a disciple, you are indeed on a journey of faith. If you have not enlisted as a disciple, you are just on a journey. I share this with you to encourage you to review your own journey of faith and to ask occasionally, ‘What now, Lord?’”

When Brother Melanson passed to the Celestial Lodge in 1994, the word of his death came first to Brother Ames’ wife Nancy. She called him in his car and instructed him, so he related, to pull over to the side of the road before she gave him the news. It was a memory that was still painful for Brother Ames when he told me of it a few months ago, more than a quarter century later.

The question, “What now, Lord?” seems to be a worthy summation of M. W. Brother Arthur Melanson’s time as a man of faith and as a Mason, to undertake that important journey and to ask what might come next. ■

**I share this with
you to encourage
you to review your
own journey of
faith and to ask
occasionally,
‘What now, Lord?’**





Brothers of the Single Malt Fraternal Society

The Brothers of the Single Malt is a fraternal society open to select Master Masons in good standing. The club was inspired by the Brothers of the White Ash cigar club and was created as a 'healthier' option for non-smokers. The club's vision is to educate and teach appreciation of the nuances and subtleties of single malt whisky and learn about the alchemy with which these different malts are created. The society's other purposes are to cultivate fellowship amongst brethren from all districts, to raise awareness about Freemasonry, and to contribute to appropriately deemed charitable organizations.

The Brothers of the Single Malt is not a drinking club. It was created to be a sophisticated association of like-minded gentlemen, with high ideals concerning behavior, decorum, and fellowship. In accordance with our desire to be a refined association, we have a strict dress code to be worn at all events and meetings. Dress must be a collared shirt, tie, and sport jacket or suit. Kilts and Highland dress are also welcomed. We meet quarterly and the locations of the meetings rotate around the jurisdiction depending on availability and event type.

As the B.S.M. is a fledgling organization, a decision was taken to initially limit the number of members to control the growth of the club. Membership to the club is by recommendation from a member in good standing. The club recently presented a check to the Brotherhood Fund at the December Quarterly at Grand Lodge. The officers are Rt. Wor. Gordon M. Craig, Club Chieftain; Wor. Thomas McClintock, V.P. Elder Treasurer; and Wor. Jeffrey Miller, V.P. Elder Secretary.

-Rt. Wor. Gordon M. Craig

Interloper to Excellence

Everyone had a special Whisky Nosing glass, engraved with the club logo, except me. I don't drink, but I sat with the very well-dressed Brothers of the Single Malt, some in Highland Dress, most in sports jackets, but all wearing their B.S.M. club ties. I was intrigued about what would happen next.

I was told this was not a drinking club, but it sure looked like one; there was one bottle with antlers and eight cloaked bottles on a tartan cover over a pool table. Most of the Brothers there were men I knew, but this was a different kind of gathering.

After the club Charter was read and everyone raised their glasses and toasted the club, we sat down to a wonderful dinner. Following this, we listened to Rt. Wor. Paul Malagrifa, the speaker for the evening, as he explained that there were actually two sets of four bottles. Each set is from a different distillery. The first bottle held the baseline, the basic whisky. Rt. Wor. Bro. Malagrifa explained that the basic whisky was distilled in a particular way, but the other three bottles had the same basic whisky that had

been placed in a different sort of finishing cask, perhaps sherry or port barrels. While the whisky may have been in another cask for 12 years, the final 12 to 16 months in the finishing cask severely alters the flavor, the smell, and the taste, from the tongue.

Rt. Wor. Bro. Malagrifa, without revealing the bottles, placed a pourer in the first bottle and, often with the help of Rt. Wor. Gordon W. Craig, poured for the Brethren assembled. Each man had an extremely, to my non-drinking eye, small amount of whisky in the bottom of each glass.

The Brothers of the Single Malt sniffed, listened, and eventually with reverence took a sip of their drinks. The discussion was intense: Brothers liked all different permutations of the baseline whiskey. Some tasted chocolate, others citrus, while others enjoyed the peat flavor of some of the bottles. All were very engrossed and engaged in the nuances of each small sip of whisky.

At the end of the evening, it was clear that this was not a drinking club. This is a whisky appreciation club. Among thirty or so Brothers of the Single Malt, fewer than two bottles in total were consumed in the course of a two-hour plus period.



(Clockwise from the upper left) The Brothers of the Single Malt as assembled just before the virus; their charter; a B.S.W. whisky nosing glass and tie; the experience of the evening—eight shrouded bottles.

The Brothers of the Single Malt was formed less than a year ago, inspired by the Brothers of the White Ash, but looking for a ‘healthier’ option. It was created by three Brothers, Rt. Wor. Gordon Craig, Wor. Jeffrey Miller, and Wor. Thomas McClintock, who had envisioned the club exactly as it is now - teaching appreciation of the subtleties and nuances of single malt whisky, cultivating fraternalism amongst Brethren, and contributing to appropriately deemed charitable organizations. The club meets quarterly in different locations around the jurisdiction and as it is a fledgling organization, membership is currently limited and is by personal recommendation of a member of the B.S.M.

Even without partaking in the sampling, this was a wonderful group of Brothers learning and making what for some is a simple pleasure into a moment of excellence, contemplation, and enjoying one of the True Secrets of Freemasonry-Fellowship.

As it states proudly in the Brothers of the Single Malt club logo - “Braithrean agus uisge-beatha”- Brothers and whisky gang the gither!

-Wor. Lee H. Fenn, 32°

Guiding The B.S.M.

I recently had the pleasure of leading the Brothers of the Single Malt through two flights of special, cask-finished whisky. Both showed impeccably and underscored how dramatic the effect of different woods and styles can be. The first flight was the Glen Moray Elgin Classic Cask Series and the second flight was the Lost Distillery Company’s Lossit Malt, with special finishes by the Loch and Key Society. The favorites of the flights were the port finishes, the Pedro Ximenez finish, and the rum finish. It was wonderful focusing on this topic and having side-by-side examples to demonstrate my point.

Here are a few websites that are valuable for learning about whisky, specifically: Whisky.com, WhiskyAdvocate.com, WhiskyForEveryone.com. For someone interested in codifying their whisky prowess, there is WhiskyMasters.org. And then there is a selfish plug for my own website, a mix of wine, spirits, cocktails, and food: MusingsOnTheVine.com.

Cheers!

-Rt. Wor. Paul Malagrifa



The Prodigal Mason

by Wor. Richard Thompson



There are times when events bring a sudden change to your plans. This happened to me as I was working on my column for the Spring 2020 edition of TROWEL. Before I continue, I should explain something. You are reading this, and it is June. I am writing this, and it is March. My deadline for the June column is late March, which gives our editor the time he needs to decide what goes into the next

issue and where it will be. As a former editor, I do not envy him this task.

If you remember, and I hope it is now a distant memory, in March we were all facing the coronavirus COVID-19. Things at that time were happening so fast I feel I have to comment on them. This is one of those times when it is difficult to be a decision maker. It's one thing to have to decide if the lodge is going to hold or postpone an Officers' rehearsal. It is another to have to decide if the lodge is going to meet this month. And it really is something else to have to decide if the lodges in Massachusetts are going to meet this month.

My lodge, Merrimack Valley Daylight Lodge, canceled its March meeting. As Secretary, I got the call from Wor. Thomas Berry, informing me of his decision. The logical me agreed with him. It is better to err on the side of caution, especially when you are in a daylight lodge. State officials were advising residents to stay close to home, especially those who are 70 years of age and older. That is pretty much the majority of my lodge's members. I also have to admit that a couple of days before Wor. Berry made his decision, I slipped into that age 70 or older category.

So, the logical me agreed with Wor. Berry. The emotional me, however, was greatly disappointed with his decision. If all I missed was opening the lodge, conducting business and closing the lodge, I would be disappointed, but not too disappointed. The part I miss the most is what happens before and after the meeting. In the lodge room we conduct ceremonies, and we talk about Freemasonry. Before and

after the meeting, in the banquet hall and outer apartments, we practice Freemasonry. To me, that is the best part of any Masonic gathering.

At Merrimack Valley Daylight Lodge, we have a doughnut lodge, doughnut holes and coffee awaiting the members. Doughnut Lodge opens 45 minutes before the lodge opening. The members start arriving an hour before the meeting, and we practice Masonry while Doughnut Lodge is open. Keep in mind that after the meeting we don't have a collation. We have a full-blown dinner. For our membership, our luncheon is the main meal for the day.

Unfortunately, the coronavirus pandemic has put a stop to our meetings, Doughnut Lodge, and our more than lunch luncheon. For many of our members, those at Merrimack Valley Daylight Lodge, those at other lodges in Massachusetts, and throughout the world, we are spending our time sitting in our homes watching television. One thing I learned from this coronavirus is I am in three different high-risk groups. As I said previously, I am 70 years of age. I am a cancer survivor, and my immune system is not up to snuff. Talk about hitting the COVID-19 jackpot.

But this crisis can afford us many opportunities to practice Freemasonry. We may be sheltering in, but our telephones still connect us to the outside world. Call a Brother! We all know a brother who may be at a high-risk for contracting the coronavirus. Give him a call. Does he need groceries? Is there anything we can do? When calling our brothers, consider making video calls. We can make video calls to any brother who has a desktop computer, a laptop computer, or a smartphone. Most of us use Facebook or at least have it installed on our phones. Facebook has an application called Messenger. Messenger allows us to make video calls to each other. There is Apple's Facetime and Skype as well. There is something comforting when you can see the brother on the other end of the phone. [Editor's note: Google Duo, Google Hangouts, and Zoom are three additional options for free video calls.]

As I think about COVID-19 and how it has disrupted our lives, I can also think of some positives to go with the pandemic. If we start checking on each other to see how we are doing or we call each other to just talk to an old friend, maybe we will continue doing this after we get the all clear. If we do, COVID-19 may have given us another way we can practice Freemasonry. ■

Richard Thompson is a Past Master and the Secretary of Merrimack Valley Daylight Lodge.

Over the Hills and Far Away...

by W. Bro. Dr. Richard Berman

Quatuor Coronati's Boston Conference this September gives Massachusetts Masons the opportunity to extend their Masonic education and learn about how Freemasonry developed in North America. One presentation should be of special interest - the story of Irish and Antient Freemasonry in America. When one pictures Irish America, the images that come to mind are those of a Boston policeman or Philadelphia firefighter, Irish bars decked in green and white, and St Patrick's Day, marked by parades and the Chicago River dyed green. The images are a testament to the more than 4 million Irish immigrants, mainly Catholic, who dominated nineteenth and twentieth century migration.

Relatively few people are aware that the pattern in the eighteenth century was fundamentally different. Around 350,000 Irish migrated to North America between 1720 and 1800. Well over three-quarters were Presbyterians from Ulster, known as Scots-Irish. Although 350,000 is modest when compared to those who arrived in the following two centuries, their impact was significant. This is not just because the Scots-Irish made up around 10-12% of America's colonists, but because they were concentrated in Pennsylvania and the Piedmont and on the western frontier, where they comprised more than half the population.

The Scots-Irish were descended from Lowland Scots who had been encouraged to colonize Ulster in the seventeenth century. As Presbyterians, they were subject to Ireland's Penal Laws, which restricted legal and political rights to members of the established Church of Ireland. But their departure from Ireland was not due solely or mainly to religious and political discrimination, nor was it down to the famines that racked Ireland, although these played a part. The main driver was financial hardship and poor economic opportunity, a result of rising land rents and Britain's anti-Irish trade legislation, together with the pull of better economic prospects in America.

By the 1720s, Ireland's exports had lost unrestricted access to world markets, and the excise duties and compulsory routing of goods through British ports made Irish agricultural and manufactured goods uncompetitive. The impact was particularly harsh on Ulster's Presbyterians, a mix of middling and lower-middling tenant farmers, trades-

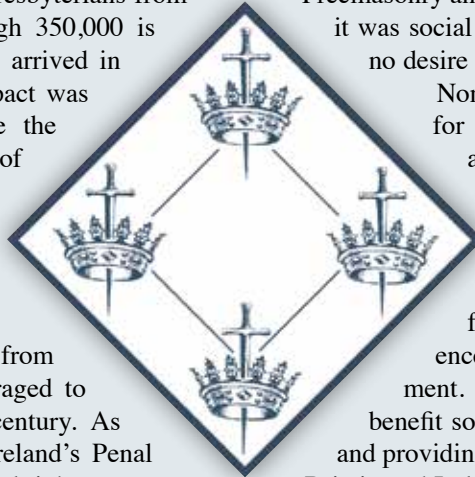
men and artisans, with a scattering of larger landowners. The economic consequences were so severe that around half of Ulster's Protestant population migrated in the six decades leading up to 1790.

England attracted many Irish émigrés, many of whom used London as a staging post before leaving for America. For those with poor education and narrow skills, life was tough and work poorly paid. But despite the hardship, a significant minority prospered. It was from this stratum of aspirational London Irish that Antients Freemasonry was born. There is a reason the London Irish formed or joined what became known as Antients' lodges - most were excluded from English Freemasonry. The schism was both religious and social. It was religious because the Grand Lodge of England was viewed as having secularized Freemasonry and moved away from past spirituality, and it was social because many English Freemasons had no desire to associate with the Irish incomers.

Nonetheless, Antients Freemasonry was not for the poor. Membership and dining fees and obligatory charitable contributions were set at levels too high for most working men. But for those who could afford to join, there were many reasons to remain - a space for fraternal association, a spiritual experience, and an opportunity for self-improvement. The lodge also operated as a mutual benefit society, opening networking opportunities and providing access to lodges elsewhere, not only in Britain and Ireland, but also America.

The five Irish-led lodges that founded the Antients Grand Lodge in 1751 were joined by another four within twelve months, and a further thirty within five years. Within two decades, there were more than 200 lodges spread across London, provincial England, and overseas, a figure that excludes lodges warranted by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, and the many Antients lodges that lacked a formal warrant. Although tens of thousands of Irish travelled to England in the 1700s, a larger number sailed west from Ireland across the Atlantic. Those with agricultural leases and businesses that had value sold up and used the proceeds to fund their fares and buy land. Those that could not travelled as indentured labourers, working to pay-off their debts.

continued on page 32



THE LIGHT OF

FELLOWSHIP

My Brother's Keeper

What does Brotherhood and Fellowship mean to you? Take a few moments to reflect upon this. Once passing through the sublime degree and becoming a Master Mason, the first thing I gravitated towards was the Brotherhood and Fellowship of our great Fraternity. I quickly realized that I was getting into something I never experienced before in my lifetime.

I immediately subscribed to the concept of Brotherhood and (indeed) became my Brother's keeper. As we reflect upon the meaning of this notion, ask yourself, are you your Brother's keeper? To me, that means always checking on your Brothers to see if they're okay, backing them up when you know they're right, and guiding them back to the light when they veer off course. We must always be on guard for any disharmony that may occur within our Fraternity. Remember our role and responsibility in being volunteers for our charitable organization, and the commitment and obligation we have to love our Brothers and treat them with the respect and dignity that they deserve. Although our opinions may sometimes differ, we must never forget the oath and obligation we all took.

This time of great confusion and uncertainty of the coronavirus presents us with an opportunity. Now is the time to make our Brotherhood stronger. Let's forgive our Brothers

who may have offended us and apologize to those that we may have offended. Let's take this time to reevaluate ourselves, our Brotherhood, our Fellowship, and our great Fraternity. Without Brotherhood and Fellowship, there is no reason for Freemasonry. It is time to build up our Brotherhood and Fellowship once again.

This includes calling Rusty Brothers to help our respective lodges get revitalized and move through the progressive lines instead of waiting for them to falter. For those that have the experience, you are an asset and of great need to your lodge. We need your help and loyalty to the Fraternity in mentoring our new Brothers. Your knowledge and experience are invaluable in guiding, coaching, and building others. This will assist us in building stronger Masonic bonds inside and outside of the lodge, while guiding each other towards the light.

-Wor. Wallie Hawkins

THE FRATERNITY

Not just a man, a Mason

After almost 38 years in the Fraternity, I can say that Masonry has crafted in many ways the man I am today. The understanding of its landmarks, tenets, ritual, and its philosophy give me the feed and foundation to move forward in life acting within the boundaries of what is right. Give to others. It is something that is part of me. That is the reason I am a Shriner. Beyond the ritual memorization that prepares us to get the essence of its own intent, it is the study, analysis, and assimilation with reason that mark the orthodoxy on which all Freemasons act. Order, discipline, circumspection, respect, and observance of the rules and principles have laid down a common ground. This common ground is not just to observe and act upon, but to relate to each other. These relationships with each other create a fellowship that is agreeable to the heart.

The consciousness of what we are and what we represent induces us to strike our behavior in such a way that will look for a balance in our lives. Ying and Yang, black and white, and right and wrong are forces that always are present in all matter of life: family, work, society, and religion. The world beyond Masonry does not allow ill, consequently what we intend to learn inside needs to be put in practice everywhere we go. Lessons are many and ready for us to learn. The other many ways that Freemasonry crafted the man I am today are undoubtedly the love and guidance of my wife and my inner family. Without them, I couldn't be who I am. My Brethren are my companions on this journey as well. Each has touched my doings in one way or the other. We are not alone. If we pretend otherwise, we are selfish and wrong.

-Rt. Wor. Edgar R. de León



FREEMASONRY

RITUAL

The Power of Ritual: How rituals can improve your life

“We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, therefore, is not an act but a habit.” - Aristotle

I would like to contemplate how putting Masonic ritual into daily action can help a good man become a better man.

When we became Entered Apprentices, we each affirmed our desire to improve ourselves through Masonry.

But, how is that done, how shall we improve through Masonry? We improve living our Masonic values, and we live them by changing our daily habits, exchanging current habits for more noble and glorious habits.

Author and founder of Knowledge for Men (knowledgeformen.com) Andrew Ferebee says:

“For better or for worse, the man you are is determined by the habits and rituals you follow on a daily basis. If you want to be a better man, you must start by developing better habits. If you want to be a man of

strength, integrity, and power – a ‘manly man’ as many people call it – you must first develop habits that support these traits. Because it’s the little things you do each day that determine the kind of man you are.”

Those who have explored the more esoteric parts of Masonry have no doubt run into the concept of alchemy, the forerunner of chemistry. In Medieval times, much of the focus of alchemy was given to changing anything into gold, transforming the worthless into worthy. Alchemy is therefore more broadly defined as a seemingly magical process of transformation.

In Freemasonry, we have many rituals, in particular, we

have our degree rituals. I think it is unfortunate that for many Masons, the rituals are theater that is to be watched and perhaps enjoyed, but they do not convert into meaningful life habits. Our degree ritual is a solemn act or rite for imparting and establishing the continuity of the Fraternity’s most important values and beliefs. It is present in our business meetings and especially in our degree conferrals. But, its main purpose, in my opinion, is to help men improve themselves, to transform, through developing stronger integrity, charitable feelings and actions, Brotherly love, and other positive characteristics.

It also strengthens the bonds between and among us, on profound and simple levels. I once attended a barbecue at my daughter’s elementary school friend’s house. I ran into a man on the deck in the backyard who turned out to be the friend’s grandfather. We chatted for a while, when he told me something he did that he resisted doing. I laughed and said, “Really? Did you do that of your own free will and accord?” He froze. I don’t know why I said it...it just came out. Force of habit? He said, “Who is your mother?” The game was afoot!

It turns out he was an officer in the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. We both had embraced Masonic values and ritual, both tried living by them every day, and both had learned the language of the Craft. A simple phrase immediately exposed an already present bond between men, between Brothers. We have become life-long friends since that day almost 20 years ago.

When I say ritual can improve your life, most Masons either smile at the beauty the word conjures up or cringe thinking of the pain and boredom induced by rituals. It is not the song that is bad, it is the performance. Do not judge a song by how well it is performed. Even simple delivery is important. Think how many times someone has totally messed up a very funny story or joke just because their retelling was severely flawed. Ritual of any kind must be performed so as to inspire, uplift, motivate, and improve lives. So, I maintain we must learn to discern the difference between a bad story and a good story told badly. To rise to the purpose of the ritual, we must deliver it well.

For something to become part of you, part of your everyday behavior, you must practice that something. All musicians and athletes know this; they passionately, zealously, and with strong intention adhere to detailed rituals to improve themselves. I find it odd, myself, that many of my friends do not approach their daily personal or work rituals the same way. I argue that thinking and behaving more like a musician or an athlete will greatly improve your life. I believe I am a kind man, yet I know *continued on next page*

for a fact that I could be much kinder. I will not become a kinder man if I do not have a rigorous plan for practicing kindness. I know I have to focus and act with intent or the day will be just like any other and I will not improve.

A little while back, I put together a document for myself that contained words and phrases gleaned from our Masonic lessons and the rituals of our three degrees. The purpose for doing this was simple. I believe that reading these 126 values on a frequent and regular basis will inspire me to achieve the ideals of our Fraternity, and that these words and phrases have the power to guide my mind and heart toward the ideal, much like chanting, meditating, or praying. I strongly sug-

gest you do something similar to become a better man.

At the Feast of St. John in December of 2018, this document was distributed in the form of a pocket-sized booklet to all of the attendees. You may download this booklet at massmasons.org. Look for the stamp on the homepage. You may also find more information at www.theladders.com/career-advice/the-power-of-rituals-how-to-build-meaningful-habits.

Brethren, "Seek and Ye shall find." Search for more by asking Brother Google to find articles on rituals to improve your life. "We are what we repeatedly do." - Aristotle

-Rt. Wor. Lawrence E. Bethune

Our Masonic Values: A short list of 126 values

by Rt. Wor. Lawrence E. Bethune

I believe that reading these 126 values on a frequent and regular basis will inspire us to achieve the ideals of our Fraternity.

This is based on the power of these words and phrases and their ability to guide our minds and hearts toward the ideal. Much like chanting, meditating, or praying.

These words and phrases are gleaned from our Masonic lessons and the Rituals of our Three degrees.

A practicing Mason is one who...

- 1st Acts out of his own free will and accord
- 2nd Believes in a Supreme Being
- 3rd Believes in the Immortality of the Soul
- 4th Believes in duty to God
- 5th Believes in duty to his House of Worship
- 6th Believes in duty to his Country
- 7th Believes in duty to his neighbor
- 8th Believes in duty to himself
- 9th Desires a Brotherhood of Man
- 10th Promotes Brotherly feeling among all men
- 11th Promotes the fellowship of Friends and Brothers
- 12th Takes a sincere interest in his Brothers
- 13th Faithfully serves his Brothers
- 14th Contributes to his Brother's relief
- 15th Strives to be moral
- 16th Strives to bring out his highest and noblest qualities

- 17th Strives for moral and spiritual improvement
- 18th Does good not for material gain or advancement
- 19th Does good not for selfish or mercenary motives
- 20th Cheerfully conforms to federal, state, and local laws
- 21st Advances aims that are noble and unselfish
- 22nd Agrees that attendance at meetings is a duty and privilege
- 23rd Agrees that contributing to activities is a duty and privilege
- 24th Agrees that contributing to charity is a duty and privilege
- 25th Is obliged to secrecy in purely Masonic matters
- 26th Is obliged to secrecy in our ritual
- 27th Is obliged to secrecy in our means of recognition
- 28th Is obliged to secrecy in the names of candidates
- 29th Wants to learn to subdue his passions
- 30th Wants to improve himself in Masonry
- 31st Agrees that it is good and pleasant to dwell together in unity
- 32nd Ever walks and acts as a just and upright Mason
- 33rd Agrees that internal, not external, qualities are important
- 34th Knows that all important undertakings require the blessing of Deity
- 35th Trusts his Brother
- 36th Reveres Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty
- 37th Has faith in God
- 38th Has hope in immortality
- 39th Believes in charity to all man-

- kind
- 40th Helps the distressed and afflicted
- 41st Knows he is surrounded by blessings and comforts
- 42nd Knows he is rude and imperfect by nature
- 43rd Hopes to attain the state of perfection
- 44th Desires a virtuous education
- 45th Is willing to work hard to achieve his goals
- 46th Believes it is important to rise by merit
- 47th Wants to live respected
- 48th Wants to die regretted
- 49th Believes in equality
- 50th Believes in the rectitude of life
- 51st Promotes Brotherly Love
- 52nd Promotes relief
- 53rd Seeks and values Truth
- 54th Believes the whole human species is one family
- 55th Believes we all are to aid, support, and protect each other
- 56th Has no regard for station: high or low, rich or poor
- 57th Desires to unite men of every country, sect, and opinion
- 58th Conciliates true friendship
- 59th Believes to relieve the distressed is our duty
- 60th Believes Masons linked by an indissoluble chain of affection
- 61st Desires to soothe the unhappy
- 62nd Desires to sympathize with the misfortune of others
- 63rd Desires to compassionate the miseries of others
- 64th Desires to restore peace to troubled minds of others

continued on page 28



PRACTICAL WORK

We Are Builders

“The one thing, the one important thing, that Freud discovered is that talking helps,” a friend of mine once said. There is nothing wrong with talking, nothing at all. There are talk shows, and news broadcasts where people talk about things. Whether we are car mechanics or businessmen, we talk about the cars or the numbers for the last quarter. Every marriage is built on love, but daily home life is punctuated by talking.

Even for problems, small and large, medical systems that rely on talking help many people. Psychologists, therapists, and support groups all use talking to help. In the time of the Coronavirus, when we are all home and going out only to buy necessary supplies, I had to walk my dog, Bolt the Basenji. The few people I saw were all very talkative. Talking helps.

But we are Masons. We are modeling our lives after builders, workers on large substantial projects, including cathedrals, viaducts, and other monuments to man’s ingenuity. The Statue of Liberty was designed by a Mason. The cornerstone of our capital in Washington, D.C., was laid by Bro. George Washington. We are builders. For us, talking is the start. Then we get to work.

This follows us through our Masonic life. Prior to becoming a Mason, there are interviews, discussions, and investigations. I was as annoying during that period as I could be. Every question, when answered, produced another question. I never, however, was concerned about knowing the secrets in advance. That was something I just didn’t care about, though for others it is important. The few

things we don’t discuss, the secrets, we have promised not to discuss. After all the talk, when a man commits to a Lodge and the Lodge commits to the man, the talking then becomes secondary.

We don’t talk about the degrees - we do them. The new Mason does the degrees. Even in a One Day Class, the degrees are enacted. There is a practical work which marks the degrees being conferred. That is for the initiate, but the Masons performing the degrees have been working on their own, memorizing and rehearsing to produce the best degree experience possible for the initiate.

That practical work peppers our experience. One recent example was the re-dedication of the Lowell Masonic Building. Yes, some work was farmed out to companies that had specific skills. However, the brethren re-worked their building into an absolutely beautiful state.

Brothers working together on any project, charity included, creates a moment of experiential growth. To paint a room, for example, a group of Brothers need to plan, purchase or bring equipment, make decisions, and actually show up for the work. Then there is the work. All Brothers work, most of the time, but each has his own task.

The process of practical work with Brothers is a moment to practice cooperation, devotion to a goal, and the joy of performing a job well. As Masons, any practical work helps the world by shoring up one small part of it. Also, by correcting the ravages of time, we are building ourselves. By practical work, Masons build their spiritual homes, their internal worlds.

Yes, Freud was right. Talking helps. But for Masons, when we work together, when we build, repair, or replace the faulty in our world, we also build ourselves.

-Wor. Lee H. Fenn, 32°

CHARITY

It’s Not About Me

I am writing this while sheltering in place with my family, per the directive from the governor of Massachusetts. We have been inside two weeks now, and the end is not clearly in sight. Everyday normal is no longer possible, and the toll is being felt by every member of society, especially those who are no longer permitted to work. I hope every day that we will hear of how the worst has been reached, so that recovery may begin. This makes it difficult to perform and accomplish acts of charity, one of the core tenets of being a Freemason.

I am aware of many wonderful charities in MA that exist due to the selflessness of Masons. I have been

lucky enough to participate in some of them. A few of them are the Masonic Youth Child Identification Program (MYCHIP), the Hospital Equipment Loan Program (H.E.L.P.) in Woburn, the BreadMen and VegMen from Mount Olivet, and seemingly countless others. Every issue of this magazine informs us of the giving displayed by Masons in Massachusetts. I know that the Low 12 Riders deliver Thanksgiving to a shelter in Lynn each November. To see the looks of awe and gratitude on the faces of the residents is not something one will ever forget.

I have personally benefited from the Scottish Rite’s charitable arm. After Hurricane Sandy, I was in my damaged home on Long Island, deciding what to clean next. My main house had taken over three feet of water, and I was with-

out heat, hot water, and electricity for seven weeks. I was using a generator that my brother Mike had sent down from Boston, along with gas cans and space heaters. I was cooking on a propane camp stove in my kitchen, and eating rations provided by the Red Cross. Showers were only to be had at the gym. Look around your living space and envision losing everything that resides at three feet or lower. By luck, or a small miracle, my lambskin apron survived.

Imagine my surprise when I heard a knock on the door. Upon opening it, I was greeted by two men I had never seen previously. I said, “Hey. What’s up?” Brother Steve Stefanakos replied, “Brother Brian McHale?” “That’s me,” I answered. “We are here from the Scottish Rite in

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Rockville Centre. We heard there was a Brother in need after this storm. We're here to see how we can help." I was understandably confused. I was a new Entered Apprentice. I did not tell anyone about my situation, save perhaps Brother Mark Elliott, who was my sponsor. I had told nobody else, as I felt the situation and circumstances were ones I would deal with on my own.

Bro. Steve continued, "Do you need blankets? Do you have enough food? Can we get you anything? Do you want anyone to come to help you clean up? How can the Scottish Rite and your Brothers help you?" I was confused. I did not understand why two strangers cared about someone they had never met. Bro. Steve understood and showed me an official letter from the Scottish Rite in Rockville Centre. I

folded it and put it in my pocket. This experience is why I joined the Scottish Rite. Bro. Steve and I are friends to this day. Bro. Elliott was present when I was raised. I still have the letter, all of these years later, in a hinged wooden box on my dresser.

Our current situation makes it difficult, if not impossible, for Masons to do what we do - help others. We must all tend to our own well-being, and that of our families, during these unprecedented times. The length of one's cable tow is being tested almost daily. I know this time of uncertainty will pass, and when it does, we will all be able to breathe a sigh of relief like no other and return to what Masons do best. I always remember that it's not about me.

-Bro. Brian McHale

THE FRATERNITY

A Brotherhood Forged by Service

Forging is a process to form and strengthen metals, dating back to 4,000 BC, older than Masonry itself. While metal is forged by heat and extreme stress, in Masonry we are forged by our teachings, beliefs, and service to our fellow man. Upon being raised, the first lesson we are taught is the Five Points of Fellowship, inculcating our duty to care for our fellow Brothers if it is within the length of our cable tow.

Masonry affords us opportunities to make a real difference in people's lives, and in doing so make real differences in our own. We don't just walk on the level with our Brothers; we walk uphill, downhill, wherever help is needed, knowing the Brother would do the same for us, without seeking reparation. This knowledge creates across the jurisdiction a network of hope, that we inspire, and maintain.

A true Mason looks forward not to rank and honors, but to future opportunities to serve his fellow man. We know, as we endeavor to transform from the rough ashlar to the perfect ashlar, that the character of a man or men will make a difference. We feel that being of service to our fellow man is not a burden but a privilege. Our wages are smiles, handshakes, and hugs. Ernest Hemingway said, "There is nothing noble in being superior to your fellow man; true nobility is being superior to your former self."

As Brothers, we put our trust in each other, not just in the Brothers we know but in the entire Fraternity. Among us is an untold capacity to create change with our internal resources of faith, hope, and charity. The uninitiated have little knowledge of this except for perhaps experiencing personal examples of being assisted by a member of the Craft. Many years ago, while driving down Route 2, I saw a nun pulled over on the side of the road with her car overheating. As it was summer, traffic was barely moving, and it took a good 5 minutes to reach her. While assisting her, watching the cars crawl by, I thought none of these people are Masons or she would have

continued on page 26

FELLOWSHIP

In the Dark Days of COVID-19, The Light of the Fraternity Shines Bright

On March 9th, 2020, the world changed. We all heard rumors about a Chinese virus that was affecting the people of the Wuhan region of China. It was like the influenza virus, but it had a higher death rate, and more importantly, there was no vaccine for this strain of the coronavirus as it was called. But that was in China, not all the way over here in America. As the news shifted from impeachment to a possible pandemic, we heard more and more of this on the nightly news. Our Grand Master spoke about it briefly in February, but this was surely in caution. After all, we are Americans living in the best economy in the past 50 years. The markets were high, everybody had a job, our 401Ks assured us of a well-earned retirement, but on March 9th we had the first hint of a problem as many of the schools had shut down for the safety of the children. On March 10th, the Grand Master, with the health of the brethren in mind, canceled the Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge.

COVID-19 was the new name given to the pandemic and it was going to change the world as we knew it. We had begun to travel on the path of the unknown and things had begun to change daily. The month of March brought massive job losses across the country, our markets crashed, our 401Ks lost much of their value, and social distancing became the norm. Our work force was classified as essential and non-essential and much of the population was asked to stay at home. Restaurants and taverns were shuttered, and our supermarkets were faced with binge shoppers who were trying to stockpile supplies for their families. Disposable gloves and face masks would become the recommended attire and would be in great demand.

We are still living with the daily changes and very scary, uncertain times, but Freemasonry still survives. The response from the brethren during

continued on page 27



SPIRITUALITY

In whom do you place your trust?

One of the non-negotiable landmarks of Freemasonry is that Masons must express a belief in God. It does not matter what an individual Mason's faith or religious tradition is, only that he acknowledges that he takes his spiritual self seriously. Freemasonry is one of the few non-sectarian organizations that encourages, and actually requires, its members to work towards developing and integrating as a complete whole their physical, moral, and spiritual self. Hence our self-identifying *raison d'être*, "We take good men and help make them better men."

The times in which we now find ourselves, wherein our physical and economic well-being are being threatened by the coronavirus pandemic, the resulting effects on the economy, a near-record volatility of the stock market, as well as the admonition to keep social distance, compel us to examine closely this integration Freemasonry offers us.

The basic question each of us was asked when we knocked on the door of Freemasonry, "In whom do you place your trust?" implies that our spirituality is at the root of our self-integration. Our answer was not, "We place our trust in our physical health." It was not, "We place our trust in our economic philosophy." It was not, "We place our trust in our political ideals and institutions." We all answered that we place our trust in God, as we understand God.

All the lessons of Freemasonry touch on the centrality of our spirituality. From the story of the building of King Solomon's temple rooted in obedience to God, to the legendary courage of Hiram Abif, a courage rooted in his spirituality, the necessity of a strong spirituality throughout our Masonic journeys is emphasized. And now is the time to remember and strengthen our spiritual selves so that our trust is properly placed during these turbulent times.

Each of the following Masons understood the power of spiritual strength and rightly placed trust as they made life changing decisions:

- George Washington left retirement after the Revolution to return to public service, becoming our nation's first President.
- Franklin Roosevelt, as the Depression ravaged our country in the wake of things like misplaced trust in financial institutions, took decisive and oftentimes controversial steps to bring our country back from the edge of complete economic collapse.
- General Douglas MacArthur, who faced certain defeat by Japanese forces, was ordered by the President to leave the island fortress of Corregidor and was much criticized for doing so, nevertheless obeyed that order and helped turn the tide of WWII in the

continued on page 29



SPIRITUALITY

What Does it Take to Serve as a Point of Light in Times of Crisis?

Within the span of a few short weeks, the world as we thought we knew it has changed - dramatically. At no point in human history has humanity been so digitally connected during a single worldwide event that has garnered such attention and thus mind power that could potentially be directed to achieving something truly phenomenal. If used wisely, this collective brain power will undoubtedly yield astoundingly positive results for humanity. Yet to do so, there must be a number of us, especially Freemasons, who possess a calm centre from which to engage actions that will allow us to not only survive our current collective experience, but to thrive afterward. To do so, we must begin where we are and with what we have. It is my belief such a path may be made evident by the acts of discovering and contemplating the deeper truths concealed within our mysteries, i.e., ritual.

As Freemasons, and due to the lessons of our ritual, we have a unique role to play should we heed this historically significant call to service. However, to do so and thus gain maximum benefits from our efforts, each of us must marshal our internal resolve to assist those both near and far in ways that may test the capacity of our cable-tow. Yet to serve effectively, we must first gird the loins of our individual and collective minds and hearts. Having long considered our rituals fertile soil for contemplation by both the newly raised and long-term brothers, it is an honour to share a process designed for Masons, by Masons, that will ultimately provide clarity and eventually serve as a constant companion during potentially stress-inducing moments. Yes, even during times of crisis.

Exactly how does one discover and cultivate this inherent light or power? Allow me to submit

continued on page 29



BEYOND THE THIRD DEGREE

by Rt. Wor. Alfredo Canhoto

On March 7th, a bright sunny day, approximately 200 Masons converged on the Overlook campus in Charlton, MA, to attend the Beyond the Third Degree program presented by The Grand Lodge of Massachusetts' Membership Development Committee. R.W. Joseph DeNicola introduced the Grand Master, M. Wor. Richard Maggio, who opened the meeting. Attendees interacted with speakers presenting strategies and experiences to increase membership engagement and participation beyond receiving the third degree.

The first speaker was Wor. Peter Lawson, the current Master of the newly formed Lodge of the Royal Secret, whose presentation was "Starting a new organization with great excellence and engagement." He addressed the importance of building teamwork and referred to a team as having Runners, Rowers, and Riders who work together with compassion. The Runners are the ones that establish the beginning of a task, having the end in mind. The Rowers are the ones that get it done and the Riders assist in the process. He also suggested that just reading the cipher would not do, but instead it should be performed in order to get a better understanding of what's written. Moreover, when building or reconstructing a Lodge, Brother Lawson urged those attending to reflect on how to build value (not to be mistaken with cost) into everything that is done. For example, making meals special and memorable will greatly enhance the monthly Masonic experience of its members.

Rt. Wor. George Bibilos, past Deputy Grand Master and current Secretary of Golden Rule Lodge, spoke about sustaining an organization over a long term and retaining engagement. He stated that Lodges change over time. This refers to trends in Lodge activities, both inside and outside the Lodge room. He suggested that Lodges build a brand toward building unity and esprit de corps. He recommended brothers endeavor to attain and really celebrate awards and achievements such as the Joseph Warren Distinguished Service Award, the Robert Johnson Service Award, the Master Mason Rookie, Master Builder awards, and others. He also suggested cohosting events with other Lodges to make a more well-rounded event and promote ties across Lodges that otherwise would have remained at only a casual distance. Rt. Wor. Bro. Bibilos reminded us to involve the ladies who support their men. Remember, there is a Grand Lady's Award as well. He showed us that over the course of time, various programs have come and gone, but allowing Lodge brethren to rally around what they were passionate about is what bonds and strengthens the Lodge.

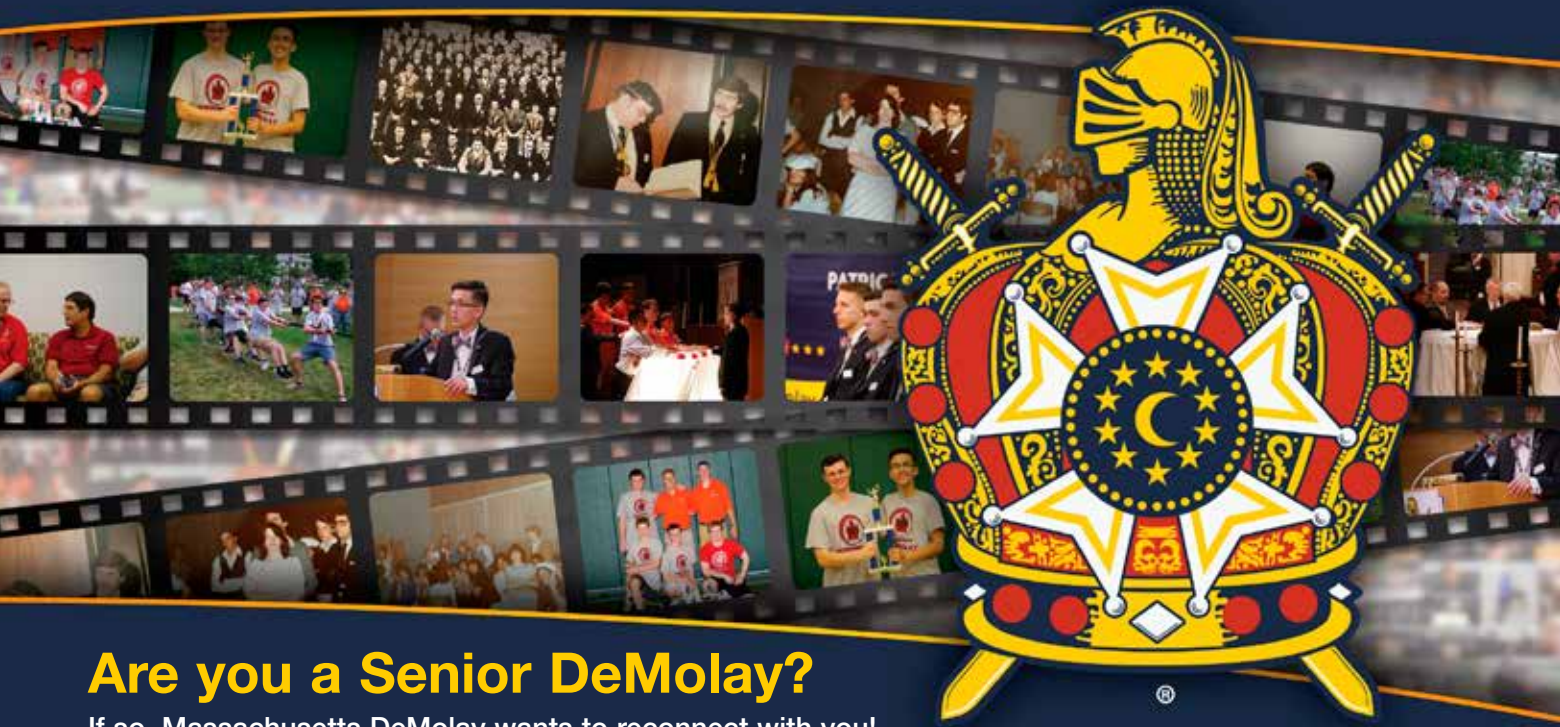
Rt. Wor. Donald Denning, past Senior Grand Warden and past High Priest of Saint Paul's Royal Arch Chapter addressed reviving an organization to newfound levels of excellence. He said that one of the most important things to do

is to engage everyone. He suggested that one way to do this is to leverage the Lodge officer line and committee chair-



TOP: Rt. Wor. Joseph DeNicola welcoming the brethren in attendance. CENTER: Grand Master, M. Wor. Richard Maggio makes his remarks. BOTTOM: The speakers answer questions from those attending. (L-R: Rt. Wor. Joseph DeNicola, Wor. Peter Lawson, Rt. Wor. George Bibilos, Rt. Wor. Donald Denning, Wor. Bryan Simmons, Wor. Samuel Newland, and Rt. Wor. Alfredo Canhoto, Event Chairman)

Calling all Senior DeMolays!



Are you a Senior DeMolay?

If so, Massachusetts DeMolay wants to reconnect with you!

We hope to reestablish the bonds of brotherhood we shared in our youth.

Ask your Lodge Secretary to update your MORI profile to count you as a Senior DeMolay or reach us by email at alumni@mademolay.org or by calling 617-426-6040.

men. Rt. Wor. Bro. Denning emphasized the importance of building a group identity in a variety of ways like wearing branded details, such as bow ties, to lodge. Rt. Wor. Bro. Denning believes that both in meals and outings, members can have fun and quality experiences. Food and group activities, like running or exercising, make for special times and memories that the brethren will be willing to pay for and seek more of it.

Wor. Samuel Newland, past Junior Grand Deacon and past Master of Middlesex Lodge presented "The Secrets of Inspirational Leadership in Masonic Organizations." He spoke about leadership philosophy and the importance of including everyone, making them feel valued, and defining the performance objective of the group. Wor. Bro. Newland discussed supporting the effort, empowering individuals within the team, and fostering personal responsibility. He encouraged us to celebrate the journey and maintain positive engaged energy. He illustrated these points with short video clips from popular culture.

Wor. Bryan Simmons, past Master of Ezekiel Bates Lodge and a driving force behind Masonic Con, presented a short talk on creating the Lodge you want. Wor. Bro. Simmons equated building the lodge we want to his attempt to bake his grandmother's most delicious apple pie. Although he put together all the ingredients he read on the back of the pie crust box, it just wasn't the same. He was

missing the secret ingredient of love. So it goes with our Lodges, to be the Lodges we want, they need to be greater than the sum of their individual parts. He presented a short video of numerous famous Masons, who through their individual experiences brought to light freedom, philosophy, and new lands as examples of what our lodges are also capable. He ended by encouraging all to engage in meaningful fraternal relationships, warmly greeting and engaging Lodge visitors. Little things can go a long way to making the Lodge you desire.

Following Wor. Bro. Simmons' presentation, Rt. Wor. Joseph DeNicola formed a panel of speakers - Bros. Paul Orr, Dean Gilligan, and Wor. Baruti KMT-Sisouvang - who re-emphasized some of the improvement strategies and recommendations. They gave short examples of their own on how to increase membership engagement and participation beyond the third degree. The panel and speakers reconvened to a roundtable discussion and answered questions from the audience with respect on how they rejuvenated their Lodges.

M. Wor. Bro. Maggio closed the program by thanking the speakers for their participation and charged the attendees to use the strategies they learned that day to impact their Lodges in meaningful ways. He reminded us to plan for the future, to preserve our past, and to enjoy the presents of Freemasonry.



FRATERNITY News & Events



From right, counterclockwise: Rt. Wor. John E. Kelley, Jr., Grand Marshal and his wife Linda; M. Wor. Richard Maggio, Grand Master and his wife Jody; Ms. Jeannette A. McCarthy, Mayor of the City of Waltham; Rt. Wor. Kenneth L. Brown, DDGM of the Fifth Masonic District and his wife Jody.

Waltham Triad Celebrates 200 Years of Freemasonry

Despite a New England winter snowfall outside, over 120 guests gathered at the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum and Library in Lexington to kick off a year of celebration for Waltham Triad Lodge – their 200th year. Joining in the January 18th celebration were the newly installed M. Wor. Richard Maggio, Grand Master, past Grand Masters Donald G. Hicks, Jr. and Harvey J. Waugh, and their ladies. The enjoyable social period and dinner were highlighted by Rt. Wor. Graeme Marsden, noted Masonic historian and colonial re-enactor, delivering a unique soliloquy titled “I Am Waltham Triad Lodge.” Following dinner, the Mayor of Waltham, Ms. Jeannette A. McCarthy, was introduced and she presented a proclamation from the City of Waltham congratulating Waltham Triad Lodge on its anniversary. Finally, the Grand Master addressed the assembled guests offering congratulations and best wishes and presented the Master of Waltham Triad with a plaque noting the anniversary.

Waltham Triad Lodge is a consolidation of three lodges chartered in Waltham - Monitor, Isaac Parker, and Waltham Lodges, and one chartered in Watertown - Victory Lodge. It owes its December 13, 1820 precedence to Monitor Lodge. The lodge will be scheduling a number of anniversary-themed activities during 2020 and will be requesting the Grand Lodge to perform a re-dedication ceremony.

-Wor. Robert A. Caron

Top: Wor. Courtney Kasson Turner and his wife Donna. Bottom: From left to right: Rt. Wor. Lawrence D. Tonini, Master of Cincinnatus Lodge; Wor. Courtney K. Turner; Rt. Wor. Christopher A. Tonini, DDGM 31st District.



Joseph Warren Medal Awarded to Wor. Bro. Turner

Wor. Courtney Kasson Turner was presented the Joseph Warren Distinguished Service Medal by Rt. Wor. Christopher A. Tonini, DDGM for the 31st Masonic District at the October communication of Cincinnatus Lodge A.F. & A.M. in Gt. Barrington, MA. The occasion had 95 brethren and ladies in attendance. Wor. Bro. Turner is a 27-year member of Cincinnatus Lodge, during which time he has served four terms as Master, occupied almost all of the line officer stations, and held numerous standing committee positions. He is quick to assist on work details and always rolls up his sleeves when necessary. He is one of the best ritualists in the 31st District and assists any lodge should the

occasion require.

Wor. Bro. Turner and his wife Donna reside in the town of New Marlborough, have two grown sons, and are attendants of the Southfield Chapel. He has served New Marlborough as a Selectman for nine years, served on various other town committees, and currently is the town Veterans' Agent and Commander of the American Legion Post. Wor. Bro. Turner is a bird colonel, and is now fighting another battle, blood cancer, which is attributed to exposure to Agent Orange during his two tours in Vietnam. Wor. Bro. Turner suffers from constant pain, but being the good soldier, he hides his affliction well. Wor. Bro. Turner is a great credit to Cincinnatus Lodge, the 31st District, and the Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts, and truly exemplifies Masonry and patriotism to its fullest.

-Rt. Wor. Lawrence D. Tonini



Left to right: Wor. Chris Kanz, Master; Bro. Jimmy Falzone; Rt. Wor. James Gonyea, DDGM 24th Masonic District.

Quinebaug Lodge Presents Service Awards

On Monday night, March 2nd, 2020, the Quinebaug Masonic Lodge was open to family and friends. Niki Hicks was presented the Grand Lady's Service Award, and Bro. Vincenzo Jimmy Falzone was presented the Rt. Wor. Robert Johnston Service Award by Rt. Wor. James J. Gonyea, the District Deputy for the 24th District. Niki received the Grand Lady's Service Award for her dedication and extending a helping hand to the Quinebaug Masonic Lodge and their

members. Niki has been very instrumental in helping with our monthly meeting dinners, monthly breakfast, and supporting and participating in lodge events.

Bro. Falzone volunteered and worked behind the scenes to inform the public of the past and present events and about Freemasonry at Quinebaug Lodge. He spread the good deeds and doings of Freemasonry from Quinebaug Masonic Lodge by writing stories to local newspapers. Bro. Falzone was given this service award for his dedication and commitment to the lodge and Freemasonry.

-Bro. Vincenzo Jimmy Falzone



Left to right: Wor. Chris Kanz, Master; Rt. Wor. James Gonyea, DDGM 24th Masonic District; Niki Hicks with her husband Wor. Bryon Hicks.



Fifth District Gets Out of Lodge

On December 7, 17 members of the Fifth Masonic District and their wives "Got Out of the Lodge" for some fellowship and entertainment. They went to the Greater Boston Regal Theater to see the production of their "Christmas Time Show," led by Rt. Wor. Kenneth L. Brown, Fifth District Deputy Grand Master, and his wife Jody Brown. It was great night out and all the members and wives had a delightful time.

-Rt. Wor. Kenneth L. Brown

Bro. Bob and Emily Tibbetts Present Proceeds to Aleppo Transportation Fund

This February, Bro. Bob Tibbetts and his wife Emily, on behalf of the members of Orient Lodge and United Commandery, presented the proceeds of this year's Orient Lodge Master's Appeal to Bro. Ted Polonsky of the Aleppo Shriners.

Norwood Masons contributed over \$4,000 to the Aleppo Transportation Fund in honor of the Tibbetts' more than 17,000 hours of volunteerism at Shriners Hospital. The Shriners Hospital for Children provides care for children in the specialty areas of orthopedics, burn care, spinal cord injury, and cleft lip and palate, regardless of a family's ability to pay.

-Wor. Christopher Rogers



already been helped by now.

I have always believed there is a difference between things to do and things to be done. In Masonry, we give freely of ourselves, asking nothing in return. Many a Mason thanked for some act of kindness responds, "Just doing my job," but it is more than that, we instinctually come to the aid of those around us in need. Who knows what is in each of us until called upon to perform some act of help, kindness, or assistance? Like digging a well, unsure if water exists there, greatness springs forward from many a Mason with no limit. It is in these instances we learn the true length of our cable tow.

We've seen that cable tow stretch many times, not only in response to a distressed Brother, but in times of national emergency. We have seen it stretch across enemy lines in

war, across all boundaries of race, color, or creed. Help in all sizes small and large, are equally important to the person in need. Relief, Brotherly Love, and Truth are not just practiced inside the lodge room but also when abroad in the world. Sympathize with the misfortunes of others, be compassionate to their miseries, and restore peace to the troubled mind, not just with our Brothers in Freemasonry but with our neighbors, the members of our communities, and those we don't even know.

Many people may have forgotten that September 12th, 2001, was the Fall Quarterly. I was Grand Pursuivant at the time. Arriving early, I was sitting in the Grand Master's office as Most Worshipful Fred Kirby Bauer was writing checks to the Red Cross totaling two hundred thousand dollars. I felt so much pride to be a member of such a great organization. The Grand Lodge of Massachusetts was one of

MASONIC MEMBERSHIP

By Rt. Wor. David P. Newcomb

We answered the door on which you knocked.

"Who comes here?" we inquired.

*And thus began your journey
To the place we've all admired.*

It's a path not all men travel.

Remember that to start,

*You searched your inner sanctum
In the recesses of your heart.*

"Of what are you in pursuit?" we asked.

Your guide, he answered well.

*"...to obtain the secrets of a Master Mason,"
In our Brotherhood. Pray tell.*

*What started as a mystery,
Would soon seem just and right.
Your path began in darkness.
The quest was further Light.*

*The journey through the three degrees
Was unlike any other,
Learning the secret signs and words,
To become a worthy Brother.*

*Mysteries found beyond our doors,
All stand for something good,
In our atmosphere of "family,"
Lives a worldwide brotherhood.*

*Surprisingly, the years pass by,
With a membership concern.
Perhaps it's time we share with the world
The lessons that we learn.*

*The questions we hear most of all:
First, "What's in it for me?"
Then, "Is it worth my time and effort,
To join Freemasonry?"*

*Our favorite response is simple,
Of all the Masonic perks,
Freemasonry makes me a better man.
Truly - Freemasonry works!*

*It seems to me that Masons agree
Why good men join our team.
They yearn to be better husbands or sons,
Freemasonry has the means.*

*Yet why the membership issue?
Have we done our very best?
Do our actions reflect Masonic creeds?
Can we pass a character test?*

*Let's demonstrate in our daily lives
The lessons in our degrees,
Starting with the vows we took
At the altar, on our knees.*

*The ways we live our daily lives,
Whether at work or play,
Are products of Masonic teachings,
We are Masonry on display.*

*Let's show our Brotherhood of Man
For all the world to view.
Focus on the vows we've made.
This task is ours to do.*

*Meet on the level. Part on the square.
We've learned so very much.
As just and upright Masons,
Let's walk and act as such.*

*Make Masonic membership
Priority number one,
And, govern yourselves accordingly,
Until our work is done.*

*Brethren, be the story.
We can't just "talk the talk."
I know we know, one way to grow,
Is for Masons to "walk the walk."*

the first fraternal organizations in the country to provide help after this horrific national calamity. It did not end there, either. We set up special blood drives, opened our hospitals to care for victims, as well as our homes if family members needed lodging.

As we face this latest national crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic, in communities all across our country Masons and Masonic Lodges are reaching out and caring for their members, widows, and neighbors. These efforts will have far reaching effects not only on the lives saved, but on their families, and the path their lives follow, paying forward for generations to come. Let us emerge from this period more energized and forged than ever, knowing that we can all serve and change the course of another's fortunes.

-Rt. Wor. Paul Bushey

▶ In The Dark Days *continued from page 20*

this pandemic has been inspiring. The lodges began to contact their membership to perform wellness checks, and many had begun to purchase groceries for their elderly members and widows. Some lodges have begun to prepare meals for their members in need and have arranged for them to be delivered while practicing the protocols for social distancing established by the CDC and the state. Lodges have been collecting donations from the brethren to purchase pizza and other foods which is sent to the first responders in their communities. Electronic communications have been going out weekly both from the lodges, as well as the Grand Master to keep the brethren informed and set the Fraternity at ease. We have all discovered the concepts of virtual meetings using Zoom, Web-Ex, and many other programs. Social toasts and prayers for the brethren have and continue to show up on social media. Many of us have enjoyed one of the virtual walks with our Grand Master. Brethren, we have begun to truly care for one another, something our Grand Lodge has been preaching for many years now.

We still face daunting and uncertain times as we recover from the pandemic and try to rebuild our country and our economy. As we face these challenges, take solace in knowing that we face them together, as a Fraternity and a brotherhood. This pandemic will pass, and we will then be able to begin pick up our working tools and head back to lodge. I encourage all the officers to stay in touch with each other, the candidates, and your membership. Freemasonry has endured many challenges over the years and has always been strengthened by the resolve of the brethren. This is one of the things that makes our Fraternity so very special. Listen to the guidelines established by the President, the CDC, and our state. Continue to practice the guidelines of social distancing. Look after your family and your neighbors while remaining in contact with the brethren, and most especially, continue the practice of truly caring for one another. Be safe. May God bless and watch over each of you and your loved ones. *-Rt. Wor. William E. Yanakakis*



ASK THE GRAND LECTURERS

*by The Grand Lecturers
of the Grand Lodge
of Masons in Massachusetts*

Q: *Are there specific Bible passages that the Holy Bible should be set to for each of the three Degrees?*

A: Most Worshipful Melvin M. Johnson, Grand Master from 1914-1916 made a recommendation, not an edict, on September 8, 1915, about Bible passages to be displayed. His recommendations of the passages to which the Holy Bible should be open, "I recommend that when the Lodge is opened upon the First Degree the Holy Bible should be displayed at Psalm 133, or as an alternative at Ruth 4:7. When opened upon the Second Degree at Judges 12:6, or as alternatives 1 Kings 6:8 or Chronicles 3:17. When opened upon the Third Degree at Ecclesiastes 12:1-7, or as an alternative 1 Kings 7:13 and 14." You will notice that the recommendations for the First and Third Degrees coincide with the lesson recited by the Chaplain or Worshipful Master. To be consistent with this, for the Second Degree another suggested alternative might be 1 Corinthians 13. Since these are recommendations, the actual passages selected are ultimately determined by the Lodge and the Worshipful Master.

Q: *Why are Exemplifications limited to only Master Masons?*

A: While the Exemplification might be on a preceding Degree, there may be instances where a question is asked on the Fellowcraft or Master Mason Degree, or where a Brother may slip into Fellowcraft or Master Mason ritual. At the Exemplification, we go over Private Grand Honors as well as changing between Degrees, therefore, for these reasons, all in attendance must be Master Masons. ■



RT. WOR. KAMEL OUSSAYEF, 33°, HONORED BY THE BLUE FRIARS



On Friday February 7, Rt. Wor. Kamel Oussayef, 33°, was admitted to the Blue Friars. The Society of Blue Friars was formed in 1932, explicitly “to recognize Masonic authors.” It is probably the smallest, and certainly one of the oddest, concordant bodies in Masonry. It has no fixed ritual or ceremonies, no dues or fees, and very few

records. The name was chosen, presumably, because Friar is related to the French word for brother, and is therefore appropriate for a Masonic group, but it would also call to mind the monks of the Middle Ages, the ones who wrote

most of the books in those days. The regulations (at least in their present form) state that “One new Friar shall be appointed each year,” but that “additional Friars may be appointed to fill vacancies caused by demise or resignation when the total membership is not over 20.”

Since 1944, the Society has met once a year (except for 1945), in a session that is open to all Masonic brethren. The Consistory takes place in Washington, D.C., in February, as part of the annual Masonic weekend that is sponsored by the Allied Masonic Degrees. At the annual meeting, the new Friar is proclaimed, and is expected to deliver a research paper. In earlier times, the papers were sometimes printed in the *Miscellanea* of the Allied Masonic Degrees. In recent years, they have appeared in *Philalethes* magazine. The collected Blue Friar lectures may be published at some time in the future.

-Bro. Wallace McLeod

▶ 126 Values cont. from page 18

65th Desires to be good and true
66th Desires to regulate his conduct
67th Believes hypocrisy and deceit are unknown among us
68th Believes sincerity and plain dealing distinguish us
69th Promotes the welfare of all his Brothers
70th Rejoices in the prosperity of all his Brothers
71st Serves with freedom, fervency, and zeal
72nd Walks uprightly before God and man
73rd Subdues his passions
74th Squares his actions
75th Keeps a tongue of good report
76th Maintains secrecy
77th Practices charity
78th Imitates the divine plan
79th Studies and reveres symmetry and order
80th Treats his Brother's secrets as his own
81st Is ever ready to help a falling Brother
82nd Remembers his Brothers in his prayers
83rd Is ever ready to apprise his Brother of danger

84th Never betrays trust
85th Has a pure heart
96th Is watchful and guarded in his thoughts
87th Is watchful and guarded in his words and actions
88th Believes silence is a virtue
89th Believes justice will sooner or later overtake him
90th Believes he will be rewarded according to his merits
91st Knows men's eyes may not see all his thoughts, words, and actions
92nd Knows the All-Seeing eye sees what men's eyes do not see
93rd Desires a well-spent life
94th Loves the arts and sciences
95th Desires virtue
96th Desires amiable conduct
97th Desires fidelity
98th Sets a good example
99th Carefully preserves our landmarks
100th Is courteous
101st Is affable
102nd Is kind
103rd Is caring
104th Desires to become a better man
105th Believes temperance is a virtue
106th Desires to restrain his affections and passions
107th Desires his body to be tame and

governable
108th Desires his mind to be free from allurements of vice
109th Avoids excess
110th Avoids contracting licentious or vicious habits
111th Believes fortitude is a virtue
112th Desires a noble and steady purpose of the mind
113th Strives to be neither rash nor cowardly
114th Believes prudence is a virtue
115th Lives his life according to reason
116th Judges wisely
117th Determines prudently
118th Governs his conduct within Lodge and without
119th Believes justice is a virtue
120th Believes justice is a standard or boundary of right
121st Believes justice is the cement and support of civil society
122nd Believes justice constitutes the real good man
123rd Gives every man his just due, without distinction
124th Believes circumspection is a virtue
125th Believes industry is a virtue
126th Believes practicing charity is a virtue ■

that as with any task where proficiency has been developed, it will take time, coupled with deliberate practice.

*“Talent develops in quiet places,
character in the full current of human life.”*
—Brother Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Given the time each of us is now afforded, the following is offered as it is my considered belief that our rituals, with the tributaries of ancient ideas they represent, when deeply contemplated, allow for seeds to be planted within the mind that will eventually bear fruit in our daily lives via our thoughts, words, and deeds. These seeds may be likened to a Zen koan that cause one to experience a fundamental mental shift that then fuels a new way of thinking and being within the world and one's relationships therewith. To understand this process, it helps to first consider the ways one may experience Masonic ritual. From our study, there seem no fewer than five: as a Candidate, as a Brother delivering the ritual, as a side-line Brother witnessing the ritual, as one contemplating the ritual away from a tyled lodge in the privacy of one's internal lodge or mind, and by living it in one's daily travels. It is with these last two as our focus, that we share the following.

At your earliest convenience, visit the website of The Masonic Legacy Society at www.masoniclegacysociety.com, and download the document titled “Practicing the Art of Our Mysteries” to begin the process of contemplating aspects of our Masonic ritual to begin steeling your mind for subsequent action. With this downloaded document as your guide, you will learn about the “Three Lodges,” and a technique for approaching our ritual that will, with regular practice over time, yield tangible results.

A Contemplative Exercise

The following exercise from the aforementioned document is but a starting point that will, with both an open mind and heart, prove a useful doorway in creating a sense of calm within as you encounter the many stressors of life.

To begin, choose an aspect of ritual for contemplation. Once selected:

1. Still yourself by sitting or lying down, relaxing, breathing peacefully, and being quiet.
2. Invoke the aid of Deity in whatever way is meaningful to you.
3. Wait in silence for a while, simply focusing on your selected aspect of ritual, giving your heart and mind an opportunity to intuitively respond.
4. When you are ready, apply the following questions within the context of each of the three lodges:
 - What meaningful applications does this ritual, sign, symbol, etc. have?
 - How did it apply, or what meaning did it have when I first became a Freemason?

- How does it apply, or what meaning does it have as I look to my next stage of life?
- What inner guidance am I receiving now, or what is being asked of me in my continued learning as a Freemason?
- How can I bring key elements of my Masonic education into the greater community?

These questions are a starting point for contemplative inquiry and may be expanded into further questions as illustrated in the examples in the next section. Developing and considering such questions is a vital skill in this work. (Source: The Masonic Legacy Society, <https://masoniclegacysociety.com>)

A Path Forward

As we prepare for what may come, let each of us diligently work on our minds by contemplating our ritual as suggested above so as to consciously serve as points of light as we seek to successfully navigate this crisis. Make no mistake brethren, we are needed ‘points of light’ during a seemingly dark period that may become darker. However, with clarity of mind and clear, directed action, we will wend our way through it successfully. And do so we must. Our lives literally depend on our consciously doing so.

—Wor. Baruti KMT-Sisouvong, Ph.D. Candidate, 32°

Wor. Baruti KMT-Sisouvong (pronounced buh-ROO-tee KE-met-SEE-soo-VAWNG), along with his wife, Mina, serves as Director of the Transcendental Meditation Program in Cambridge and the larger metropolitan area of Boston, MA. They have two children, Chloe Rose and Emerson James Warren, ages six and “almost three” respectively.

Pacific Theater.

- John Glenn led a life of comprehensive service as a military officer, astronaut, and politician.
- My father, Earle Haley, lived through the depression, served in WWII, and had to give up his small business through no fault of his own while trying to raise a growing family, and yet never stopped serving his family, his church, his community, or his Lodge.

Each of the above men was not perfect, and some, maybe most, had really glaring faults. But the insistence of our Fraternity that its members lead integrated lives, informed by their spirituality, enabled them all to make a difference, from the famous like Bro. Washington, to the not-so-famous like my father. We are all next in line after them. The world is watching and waiting to see if we live up to the Masonic ideal of living integrated lives informed by our spiritual natures.

So, here's the question again, “In whom do you place your trust?” I trust you know the answer.

—Rt. Wor. Rev. Richard Haley, Senior Grand Chaplain



Life is (Still) Good at The Overlook!

These are difficult times for everyone. They are, perhaps, most challenging in those organizations that provide care and services to our cherished and venerated seniors. The Overlook in Charlton and its managed community, Briarwood Communities in Worcester, are no different. All visitation has been restricted, our residents are ‘sheltering in place,’ and many of the enriching engagement programs so prevalent at The Overlook have been placed on hold until further notice. In addition, in an effort to protect those we serve and minimize risk to our community, Overlook’s heroic team members must rigorously adhere to new protocols and procedures to an exponential level.

This new normal confronting our nation and the world is, not surprisingly, making The Overlook family even stronger and further tightening the bond that holds The Overlook together. The Overlook team is more united than ever, washing our hands (sometimes nearly raw), donning and doffing personal protective equipment (often in short supply), and upholding our mission and number one guiding principle to do what’s best for those we serve.

Without question, there are profound shifts in daily living. Yet, together, our residents and team members are an incredibly resilient bunch. They are the inspiration that keeps Charlton working and operating at its best, through thick and thin.

In spite of the alarming numbers impacting the COVID-19 pandemic, as of April 18, 2020, The Overlook continues to have zero presumptive or confirmed cases of COVID-19 in its resident population. The diligence of our team members and residents in practicing excellent infection control, along with countless other safety and prevention measures has, unequivocally, helped stave off the virus. We owe an enormous debt of gratitude to our residents, families, and friends who are making tremendous sacrifices to help flat-

ten the curve.

We recognize that everyone is understandably anxious, fearful, experiencing heightened emotions, and feeling somewhat powerless during these uncertain and surreal times. The many unknowns and unanswered questions, along with the surge of COVID-19 cases and media stories, are frightening. When the going gets tough, the tough get going. Stepping up and doing whatever it takes is encompassed in The Overlook Way.

What exactly are we doing to protect our community and those we serve? Safety measures and services we have implemented for our community include:

- Established an arduous COVID-19 screening process checkpoint for anyone attempting to enter the campus
- Restricted access to buildings from 82 possible entries and egresses down to 3
- Eliminated all non-Overlook/outside community admissions, other than those existing residents returning to the community after a hospital stay
- Established an Incident Command Team, with specific task forces and committees meeting daily to identify solutions, and address and resolve COVID-related issues
- Issued protective wear and face masks across the entire enterprise and dedicated significant resources to supply chain procurement of personal protective equipment
- Opened an on-site market that is even more extensive than the pre-COVID general store by partnering with Overlook’s broad line of vendors. We are able to provide an array of produce, perishables, non-perishables, pet supplies, snacks, and toiletries, including sufficient quantities of toilet paper, so residents do not need to leave campus
- Expanded meals and delivery to include three meals per day, prepared on-site by our talented culinary team and delivered to each resident’s apartment home, cottage, or private suite
- Restricted visitation to only end of life compassionate care visits and emergency repairs
- Conducted continuous and on-going training, education, and virtual programming to team members and residents, including infection control, stress reduction, techniques for staying stimulated, active, connected, and engaged, etc.
- Partnered with our Employee Assistance Program to provide additional support and counseling to Overlook’s team members
- Partnered with an area hotel to provide complimentary local lodging, in an effort to minimize travel for team members working long hours, as well as reduce the potential of cross contamination between home and family
- Provided complimentary meals for Overlook’s team members on campus, as well as gift cards for OVNA Home Care and Hospice field staff, throughout April and May
- Relaxed the dress code and encouraged casual Fridays

We continue to aggressively pursue supply chains, multiple vendors, and personal connections for Personal



Protective Equipment (PPE). We are grateful for the outpouring of help from those donating PPE to the Overlook, including the Town of Charlton, Charlton Sewing, Karl Storz, Spero Goods, Harrington Hospital, the Kraft family, numerous team members, families, friends of the Overlook, and the MHS Board of Directors. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused critical shortages of PPE, essential for keeping our team members and community safe. As we continue to focus on and respond to COVID-19 and our top priority of safeguarding our residents and team members, we ask for your support and any connections to supply chains and procurement of PPE. If you possess any PPE (including eye protection, gloves, isolation gowns, booties, face masks, surgical masks, face shields, N95 respirators), or have contacts with suppliers who have an inventory of PPE, please immediately contact info@massfreemasonry.org, 617.426.6040, or 800.882.1020 (within MA).

We are prepared. The Overlook has created a temporary negative pressure isolation wing in its post-acute setting, to effectively quarantine returning residents in sealed and protected private suites in a distinctly separate area from other post-acute neighborhoods. Should any of our Overlook residents become infected with COVID-19 and require hospitalization, they will be sent to an area hospital or one of the dedicated MA step-down treatment centers or field hospitals, where they will receive highly specialized treatment.

We appreciate the accolades, encouragement, and notes of gratitude from residents, families, and friends. Please keep these coming. They mean so much to our team members, who have selflessly stepped up, courageously putting themselves and their families at risk, and working tirelessly to meet the challenges of COVID-19. Their dedication is keeping our community safe and giving peace of mind to our residents, families, and loved ones.

Here is a small sampling of the thoughtful messages and words we have received:

"I just wanted to let you know that the food provided by the Overlook culinary team has been just fantastic. The meals are well balanced, delicious, innovative, hot, and fresh. In many ways, I think the food since our quarantine has been as good as what we were getting previously at Acacia. Whatever formula is in place, please hold on to it!"

"Please convey our thanks to the team as they are all doing a great job during these difficult COVID-19 days. The highlight of our day is the arrival of our dinner and it never disappoints."

"I just wanted to say 'thank you so much' for everything you're doing to keep our loved ones safe! We truly appreciate each and every one of the Overlook staff who go to work every day and go above and beyond to care for our precious parents and grandparents. These are extraordinary times, and we family members draw great comfort from knowing we have such dedicated, compassionate leaders and staff at Overlook. My mom has been at Overlook nearly 12 years (the first 10 in Independent Living and the last 2 on SNF)



and I'm so very grateful she is there."

"We appreciate the frequent written updates from the President and CEO. The Skype calls offered by the Overlook have been a great way to stay connected to our loved ones. Also, the unit managers, nurses, and CNAs in the SNF have been wonderful. Special props to the Overlook Team."

"Thank you and God Bless. We appreciate you all."

We welcome words of inspiration, expressions of recognition, praise, and encouragement for our team members and residents during these trying times. Please email comments and letters to Danyel Darger at ddarger@overlook-mass.org, and cc me (Tameryn Campbell) at tcampbell@mhs-mass.org. You may also mail notes and letters to:

The Overlook "Wall of Fame"

Attn: Danyel Darger

**Overlook Director of Sales and Marketing
88 Masonic Home Road, Charlton, MA 01507**

We thank you in advance and will share these inspirational messages across our community. We will continue to do everything in our power to keep our residents and team members healthy during this pandemic. We are eternally grateful for your continued support. Our hearts go out to all of those whose lives have been impacted by COVID-19. Please stay safe and be well. For more information on The Overlook, please visit our website at www.overlook-mass.org.

***Yours in Service,
Tameryn Campbell, MHS President and CEO***



► **Deputy Grand Master** *continued from page 7*

activities, I want those. Couple's activities, if mama isn't happy, ain't nobody happy. Educational programs, I love to learn. Charitable programs always make me feel good. Travel, visitations, I need this, nothing is better than meeting new Brothers. Demits, no I don't want demits, well maybe a couple, but only for Brothers who move out of state. Suspensions, we don't want those either. Widows and orphans' programs. Service projects, especially for our Brothers' welfare. Friendships, I want as much friendship in my glass as possible.

Rusty Brother Programs, no demits, that's my dream. I pray we build an environment where everyone who joins wants to stay and has a place. The list of things we can fill our glass with is only limited by our own imagination. I challenge each of you to go home today and to consider what it is you will fill your own glass with.

A number of years ago I had a dear friend in life. His name was Dick Martin, and if you heard me talk at Beyond the Third Degree a couple of years ago, you heard me tell part of his story. Dick was a mentor of mine in the early years of my sobriety, and he made it his mission to teach me to become a better person than I was before we met. So, one day I am complaining to Dick about how I had been wronged, or wasn't appreciated or some nonsense like that, and he says to me, "Pete STOP." He hands me a post-it and tells me to go home and put it on my mirror at eye level. On it is written "you are looking at your biggest problem."

Well I dwelled upon that post-it for a couple weeks. It was the first thing I saw every morning when I brushed my teeth. It made me look at myself and my actions from a different perspective.

Isn't that the truth with us too? Are we shy about asking

people to join? Do we really reach out to every member of our Lodges and ask how they're doing? Do we call the Brother who missed a meeting or two? Do we call our sick Brothers? Are we content with what's in our glass?

A couple weeks later Dick hands me a second post-it and tells me to put it on the opposite side of the mirror from the first. This one reads "You are looking at the solution." Isn't that why we are here tonight? To celebrate a new Grand Master, to celebrate the greatest Fraternity the world has ever known, and to be a small part of its continued growth.

You see my Brothers, we are both our biggest problem, and our greatest solution. It is all a question of what we choose to fill our glass with, and every day we get to make that decision. I challenge you to fill yours with the solution. Make a choice to reach out to a rusty Brother, call a member you haven't seen in a while, visit our sick, suggest a program you'd like to see, volunteer to help with a program, ask a new member to join you, eat dinner with someone new.

Our Fraternity grows and thrives based solely on our actions. Remember the lessons from my predecessors. Family matters, act like a Mason, help each other, plan, and always remember membership is what we are, and who we are. Keep it local. Be involved in your community, make your own Lodge great. Fill your glass with Brotherly love, relief, and truth.

My Brothers, let your whole life be such that when you walk down that dark river of death, and its chill water dampens your feet, you may be able to say, looking back over your past life, I have fought the good fight, the Square and Compasses of Freemasonry have gained new luster by my life. I bid you God speed my Brothers. God bless Freemasonry, and may God bless America. ■

► **Over the Hills** *continued from page 15*

Their destinations included Charleston, Baltimore, New York, Boston, and especially Philadelphia, the first port of call for the vast majority, and both a destination and a distribution point for onward settlement elsewhere. Some Irish immigrants were already Freemasons when they arrived in America. Others were initiated into Freemasonry afterwards. As they moved west and southwest along the wagon trails, they carried their Freemasonry with them or embraced it after their arrival. The chartering of Antients and Irish lodges in America's middle colonies is documented from the late 1750s. The Provincial Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, formerly Philadelphia Lodge No. 4, was especially active, warranting lodges across Pennsylvania, as well as Virginia, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and North and South Carolina.

Irish and Antients Freemasonry was also transported to America by the British military, many of whose regiments were deployed to Ireland and granted travelling warrants by the Grand Lodge of Ireland before crossing the Atlantic. Other regiments received warrants directly from the Antients

Grand Lodge in London, which was keen to encourage America's "right worshipful and very worthy gentlemen" to join its version of the Craft. The establishment of such lodges mark the path of Scots-Irish migration as the American frontier moved west. Lodges were established on the Fall Line trails that routed immigrants south from Delaware, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. Others were chartered further west, as the frontier pushed towards the mountains and beyond, into West Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

By the time American Independence had been won, Antients Freemasonry had become the fraternal association of choice for many at the forefront of American patriotism, with Freemasonry elevated to the political center, marked by its Enlightenment virtues and moral principles. It flourished, embracing accessibility and inclusiveness, laying claim to a ritual and history dating back to time immemorial. Freemasonry was identified with the common good, providing charity and mutual assistance to a broad spectrum of beneficiaries. The Craft was integral to the development of American society, and to its success. We look forward to seeing you at the QC Conference in September. ■



Overlook VNA, Hospice Care, & Private Care



WHY CHOOSE Us? **The Overlook Visiting Nurse Association**

- > Serving All of Massachusetts
- > Comprehensive range of services to help you recuperate in the comfort of your own home
- > Outstanding patient satisfaction



Hospice Care

- > Pain & symptom management
- > Access to help 24 hours a day
- > Nursing, Social Work, Chaplaincy, Volunteer, HHA, & PT/OT Services Available

Private Care

- > Clinical & Personal Support
- > Community Involvement & Socialization

Post Acute Rehabilitation Services



WHY CHOOSE Us? **Our Offerings**

- > The Overlook Health and Rehabilitation Center offers all private rooms with all of the best amenities

Rehabilitation

- > Licensed therapist available seven days a week
- > Highest satisfaction
- > State-of-the-art equipment
- > Return home quickly with seamless home care integration

Comfort & Personalized Care

- > Exceptional interdisciplinary team led by licensed nurses
- > Located in a beautiful setting just minutes from Downtown

Stonebrook, Fieldstone, & Vista Day Program



Stonebrook

- > Enhanced Living at its best
- > Comfortable private rooms with 24/7 care
- > Daily nursing & onsite rehabilitation therapy
- > Engagement programs with frequent off-site trips

Fieldstone at The Overlook

- > An intimate memory care facility with specialized care
- > Small group, one-on-one & community engagement

The Overlook Vista Adult Day Program

- > Adult day program for those living with dementia
- > Opportunity for purposeful engagement in a variety of fun and stimulating activities with specially trained staff

Skilled Nursing Services



Skilled Nursing Care

- > Licensed nurses & 24/7 care
- > Compassionate & caring staff
- > All private beds with private bathrooms
- > Certified by Medicare, Medicaid & The Joint Commission

Specialty Care & Chronic Ailments Treated

- > Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
- > Diabetes
- > Congestive Heart Failure
- > Parkinson's Disease
- > Wound Care
- > And Many More

Whether it's on the highway or stuck in your driveway



You can still show your pride



Masonic license plate available at
your local Registry of Motor Vehicles.

<https://tinyurl.com/MasonPlate>