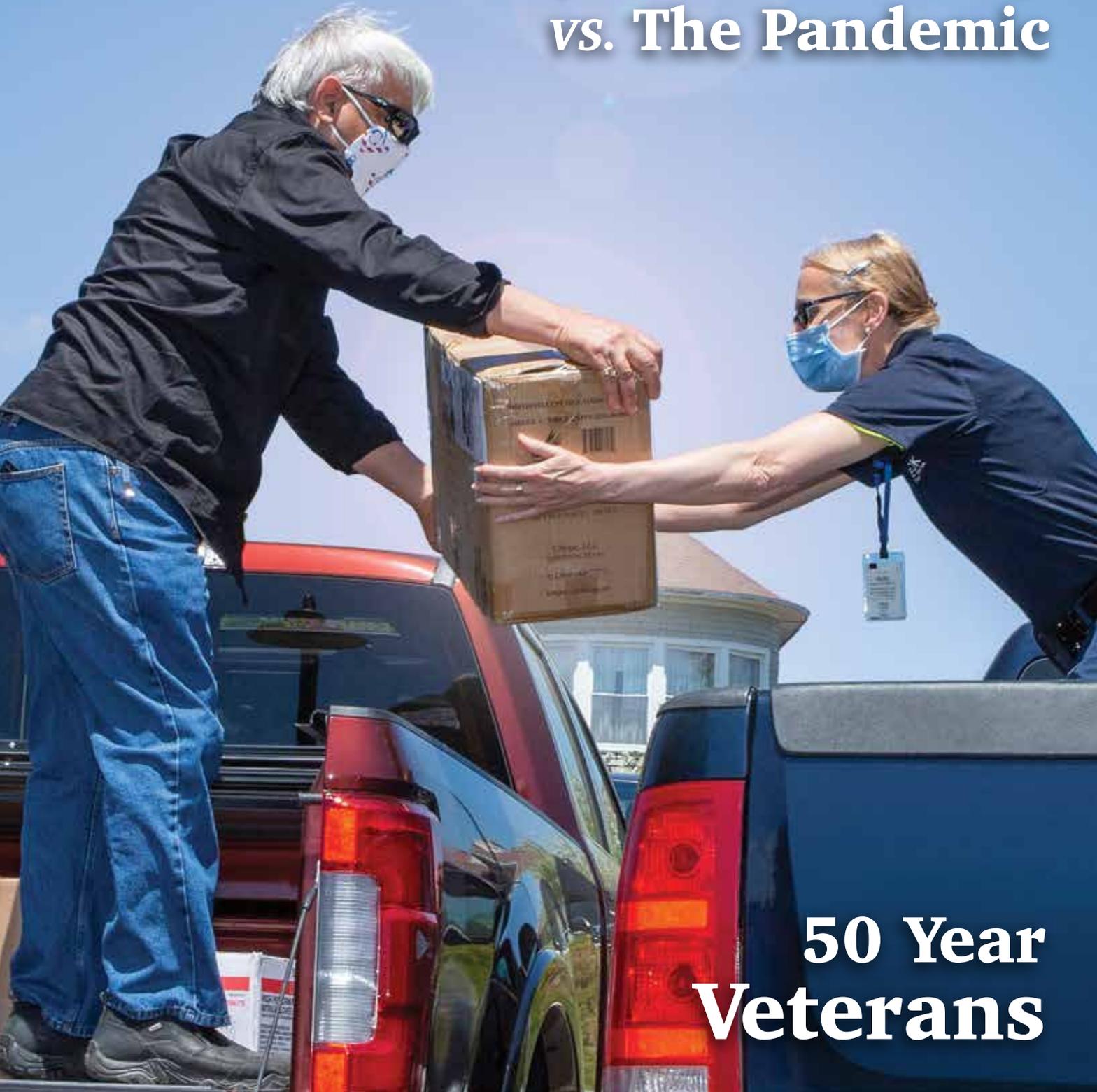


TROWEL

GRAND LODGE OF MASONS IN MASSACHUSETTS SUMMER 2020

Brotherly Love & Charity vs. The Pandemic



50 Year
Veterans



From the East of Grand Lodge
MOST WORSHIPFUL RICHARD MAGGIO

Brethren,

Normally, at this time, I would be expounding on all the wonderful events I have attended and the great work of the Fraternity. Unfortunately, almost four months have passed, and no Masonic meetings have been held. The March Quarterly was cancelled. The June Quarterly was conducted via Zoom and live streaming.

As I write this (in July), we are now starting Phase 3, Part 1, Covid-19 Guidelines from the Governor. We may now gather indoors with groups of 25 or fewer, and outdoors with 100 or fewer while following social distancing, wearing of masks, and other restrictions.

It's time to go back to work. A new Masonic year is upon us. I challenge you to make your lodge, your meetings, your social events a place where all your members want to go as opposed to feeling obligated to go. As society resumes to "normal," embrace our freedom and enjoy those things we previously took for granted.

We have been through some difficult times, but when given the opportunity to lead, you have seized it. Online meetings, indoor meetings with online streaming, outdoor meetings, and public events are becoming our "new normal" (until we reach Phase 4). Our thirst for the personal contact we have always enjoyed now drives us to find ways to safely meet. The unintended consequence of having to utilize online meetings has brought members back to lodge to enjoy the comradery they lost due to distance or the inability to attend in person. I do hope the hybrid style meetings continue so all may "attend" lodge into the future regardless of distance or inability to do so.

The world is in turmoil due to the pandemic. In addition, we have the added stress of violence and anarchy in all our major cities across the country. I am proud to be a Mason during these difficult times. Across our jurisdiction, you have continued to conduct yourselves in a most respected manner, upholding our tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. You have led by example. You have unselfishly helped, aided, and assisted not only our Brethren, but have extended yourselves outside the Fraternity to the public. You continue to be a guiding light in dark times. Thank you.

Planning the future, preserving our traditions while enjoying the "present," the gift of Freemasonry, is growing more difficult by the day. I am often tired and question, "Why do I do what I do?" However, each day I am reminded of why. I regularly receive a phone call, email, or letter from a Brother, a widow, or child of a Mason thanking the Fraternity through me for a deed or act of kindness by a Brother.

Our Fraternity, like no other fraternity stands out to the rest of the world because of the quality of our members. As Masons, we 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 league of distinguished gentlemen who give with no expectation of reward. Please continue the traditions of Freemasonry. Find a friend, family member, or co-worker to join us as we continue to be a guiding light to the profane world.

I continue to be humbled and honored to serve you as Grand Master. By the time this issue of TROWEL arrives, I sincerely hope we are in Phase 4 Guidelines, back together in our lodge rooms, and enjoying our great fraternal bonds. God bless you, our Fraternity, 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..."

- 10** COVID-19 Response
- 16** The Tradition Continues
- 18** *2020*
Veteran's Medal Recipients
- 21** *50 Year*
Past Masters
- 23** *Masonic*
Plate Stories
- 24** First Ladies
- 26** *King Solomon's Lodge Inspects*
The Bunker Hill Monument
- 27** *Reflections on Lodge Music and*
The Masonic Ode
- 28** *The Craft and*
Bushcraft
- 29** They Walk and Act as Such



REGULAR FEATURES

- Lodge & District News 3
- Chaplain's Column 4
- Grand Lodge Quarterly Communication 5
- The Prodigal Mason 15
- News from the Overlook 30



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Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts
Most Worshipful Richard Maggio



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TROWEL Magazine is an official publication of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, A.F. & A.M. © 2020: all rights reserved. Published quarterly for members of Massachusetts lodges. Subscriptions for brethren of other Jurisdictions and non-Masons are \$6.00 for one year, \$10.00 for two years, and \$12.00 for three years in the U.S. only; other countries add \$5.00 per year. Mailed at standard A special rates, prepaid at Manchester NH. Printed in U.S.A.

ISSN 2372-5710

Right Time, Right Place

I was there at the right time and place. Some friends and I met regularly to sit and talk about whatever. We met every Thursday at 8 pm. We always met at the same place, at the same time. Sometimes, we would have coffee over a serious conversation involving a girl, a bicycle, or a desire for something unaffordable that was the best something anyone could want. Often we would have a bit of storytelling from our weeks. The stories may involve personal embarrassment, resentment, or just the funniest thing that ever could have happened. Regardless, we were together, enjoying each other's company and maybe, just maybe, solving a problem or learning something. We were all friends that used that moment, usually only an hour, to be together and enjoy ourselves in whatever way the night directed.



I had told my friends that I may not make it this Thursday; I had visited my parents in the Midwest and was unsure of how long the flight would take. Fortunately, we landed early, and I rushed over. I walked in and no one was there. No one. Other folk were milling about the coffee shop, but my friends were not there. None of them. I was there at the right time and place yet was all alone.

With Lodges shuttered and our Brethren dispersed, that alone feeling revisited me. How sad it is to drive by where you have been so many times, but have none of your Brothers there. I felt like the small, fine world we had created had dissipated in my absence.

I checked my watch and saw I was in the right place at the right time. In the days before cell phones, my watch required my changing the time when done with a flight: I had not changed the time. I was in the right place, but an hour early. I ordered a coffee, sat, and laughed at myself for an hour until my friends arrived. And, I reset my watch.

As we see the restrictions loosening and we know we will clap the backs of our Brothers once again. We are resetting our watches, we are returning to the right place and, in the right time, will arrive in Lodge with our Brothers.

Fraternally, Lee H. Fenn

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: OCTOBER 14, 2020



<https://tinyurl.com/MasonPlate>



The Evergreen Tree

Brother Donald Carberry was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason at Mount Orthodox Lodge in Westfield, MA, where he is currently the Senior Warden. He became a Mason four years ago, in 2016. He is affiliated with most bodies in Masonry. By his signature obligation he has taken, and added a more meaningful touch to the Evergreen, and the Evergreen Service. To show his personal commitment to this service, he planted a special evergreen tree some years ago. He now uses the branches only for this purpose, when a brother is called to the Celestial Lodge. By doing this he feels that he is “giving part of himself to the brother,” allowing the brother to “die as he has lived, with the tradition of brotherhood.” Masonry is at work in all areas of our lives, whether we know it or not. This is one way Brother Carberry has brought new life to Masonic teachings and ritual.

-Wor. Michael P. Ripa

Adventure is Out There with Massachusetts Rainbow

I hope you are all well among this pandemic. We miss seeing you in our Assembly rooms, helping and supporting us from the sidelines. My name is Kaity Goodwin, and I am the 2020-2021 Grand Worthy Advisor of Massachusetts Rainbow. This year, our theme is *continued on page 29*



The Three Worshipfuls From Sinim Lodge

Three Masters of Sinim Lodge in earlier times when Wor. Roberto di Candido was Senior Deacon of Sinim Lodge, Wor. Robert Rýker was Master of Sinim Lodge, and Wor. Aston Moore was Senior Steward of Sinim Lodge. This was an annual Mozart Birthday Concert, when we teamed up for one of the Mozart Masonic Cantatas. The Tokyo Sinfonia can be seen playing in the background. The conductor had to turn around and sing for the trio.

-Wor. Robert Rýker

Chaplain's Corner

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

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair.”

-A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens

So begins Dickens' classic 19th century novel of the French Revolution and could not that opening sentence describe the times we are in, particularly with an emphasis on the worst of times – the age of foolishness, the epoch of incredulity, the season of darkness? After all, the continuing coronavirus pandemic and all the social distancing, economic shut-down, and over 100,000 American dead to go along with it. The unjust death of George Floyd and the reemergence of the Black Lives Matter movement into our national consciousness, along with an increasing emphasis on law enforcement practices and reform including the controversial and hard to define defund the police rhetoric, and of course the resulting demonstrations – mostly peaceful, but a few touched by violence.

A very divided country politically as we head towards a still uncertain election landscape in November, in terms of mail-in voting, absentee ballots, and the way the pandemic will affect polling stations. Our beloved Fraternity that thrives on interpersonal connections and relationships forced into the impersonal arenas of Zoom, meeting conference calls, and masked gatherings of no more than 10 in large rooms at least 6 feet apart from each other.

It was – is – the worst of times. But, yes, there is a but! Contained in Dickens' opening sentence are the opposing words to the worst of times – wisdom, belief, light, and hope. I truly hope we recognize that each one of those words plays a central role in our Masonic ritual and our Masonic journeys. The challenge is to let those words inform our lives beyond our Masonic affiliations

so that our Masonic values become lived values.

Wisdom – that we might learn from the George Floyd killing and its aftermath in deeper, more profound, and more understandable ways what our Black Masonic brothers face as they make their way through life alongside us.

Belief – that our initial Masonic confession that we place our trust in God truly means something to us and we move beyond cynicism or despair to the next two values and virtues.

Light – In our Masonic life of ritual, degree work, and iconography, light represents truth. These times challenge us to embrace the search for truth and cast aside rumor, innuendo, and political rhetoric from all sides and search for that which ennobles us and draws us together on common ground.

Hope – a somewhat contemporary Christmas song contains this line, “Hope is a star that shines in the night, leading us on till the morning is bright.” Indeed, we must be so forward looking, so hopeful that we don't let the past govern us or the present diminish us, but rather allow the unknown future to encourage us as if it were a beacon of bright light.

At the end of Charles Dickens' novel, one of the main characters named Sidney Carton, moved by the power of hope, sacrifices his life and dies in someone else's place to give that man and his fiancée a chance of a life together. His last words, as he awaits his execution, indeed the last words of the novel, fueled by hope and empowered by faith are, “It is a far, far better thing that I do, than I have ever done; it is a far, far better rest that I go to than I have ever known.”

In these “best of times and worst of times,” may we, empowered by our Masonic values, be committed to doing far, far better things than we have ever done, confident in a far, far better rest than we have ever known. ■



Rt. Wor. Haley is a Past Master of Essex Lodge in Salem, and Past DDGM of the 9th Masonic District.

THE JUNE 2020 QUARTERLY COMMUNICATION

OF THE GRAND LODGE OF MASSACHUSETTS



by *Wor. Lee H. Fenn*

On June 10, 2020, at 1:15 pm, no Masons were relieved to see that there was still a seat for them at Grand Lodge. No Masons were scrambling for white aprons. No Masons, other than the Grand Lodge officers and some Grand Lodge staff were in the building. Online, however, Masons remained in their homes to watch the Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts, Most Worshipful Richard Maggio open the first ever virtual Grand Lodge Quarterly Communication.

The Grand Lodge Officers, before the opening of the communication, gathered in the office of the Grand Master while maintaining six-foot distance. They then went to various places to avoid feedback, put on headphones, and history was made: the Grand Marshal warned the Brethren online to ensure that Grand Lodge was securely tyled to wear headphones and to go to a place where the communication would not be overheard, even by family. He intro-

duced the Grand Master in the first virtual Grand Lodge Quarterly Communication, and the Grand Master said:

“Thank you for joining me. Today we make history, although not the way I would have liked to have made it! Covid-19, day 91, held hostage. Today is the first online Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge in our 287 years of existence as the Oldest Grand Lodge in the New World. This Communication of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge may likely have the largest attendance of any Quarterly Communication. And today, I have been Grand Master for 5 months and 14 days. The significance is today will be the first time I will open Grand Lodge! Please join me now in the Pledge of Allegiance to our Nation’s flag.”

The disassembled Brethren joined their Grand Master to pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. The Grand Master used a gavel presented on December 27, 2019, by Bro. Chad Robinson, a member of

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

M. Excel. Dana A. Jackson, Grand High Priest, Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts
M. Illus. Andrew C. Maninos, Most Illustrious Grand Master, Grand Council of Royal and Select Master Masons of Massachusetts
Sir Knight George Herbleshiemer, Rt. Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar, and the Appendant Orders, of Massachusetts and Rhode Island

Rt. Wor. and Dad Philip Drouin, Executive Officer, Order of the DeMolay, Massachusetts
Most Worthy David D. Frizzell, Worthy Grand Patron, Grand Chapter of Massachusetts, Order of the Eastern Star
Sir Knight Mark Z. Stought, Grand Royal Patron, Grand Court of Massachusetts, Order of the Amaranth
Rt. Wor. Kenneth R. Blake, Chairman of the Board, Masonic Health Systems

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

Illus. David A Glatty, 33°, Sovereign Grand Commander
Illus. Donald M. Moran, 33°, Deputy for Massachusetts
Illus. Peter R. Smith, 33°, Active for Massachusetts
Illus. Robert C. Schremser, 33°, Active for Massachusetts
Illus. George F. Hamilton, 33°, Active for Massachusetts
Illus. C. William Lakso, 33°, Active Emeritus for Massachusetts
Illus. Ralph I. Sewall, 33°, Active Emeritus for Massachusetts
Illus. Robert E. Godbout, 33°, Active Emeritus for Massachusetts

District of Panama

Rt. Wor. Albert C. Hopper, District Grand Master
Rt. Wor. George O’Masta, Past District Grand Master
Rt. Wor. Gerard A. Dowden, Past District Grand Master
Rt. Wor. John A. Bamber, Past District Grand Master
Rt. Wor. Victor D. Cruz, Past District Grand Master
Rt. Wor. Jack R. Tatzauer, Past District Grand Master
Rt. Wor. Donald P. Garrido, Past District Grand Master
Rt. Wor. Charles R. Lavallee, Past District Grand Master
Rt. Wor. W. Eugene Bondurant, Past District Grand Master

M. Wor. Thomas Edward Pulkkinen, Past Grand Master, Grand Lodge of Maine
Rt. Wor. Anand J. Murti, Grand Secretary, Grand Lodge of Japan

Shrine International

Illus. Gary D. Bartlett, Potentate, Aleppo Shrine
Ill. Leo J. Proude, Potentate, Melha Shrine

Past Grand Masters of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts

M. Wor. Albert Timothy Ames
M. Wor. Arthur E. Johnson
M. Wor. Donald Gardner Hicks, Jr.
M. Wor. Jeffrey Black Hodgdon
M. Wor. Richard J. Stewart
M. Wor. Harvey John Waugh
M. Wor. Paul Fulton Gleason



The Grand Master, M. Wor. Richard Maggio, in his office during the first Virtual Communication of Grand Lodge.



The Deputy Grand Master, Rt. Wor. Peter M. Culbertson Zooming in the conference room.

the Grand Lodge of Delaware through the opening and proceedings of Grand Lodge. Rt. Wor. Rev. Henry I. Peirce offered a prayer and the Grand Master declared the Quarterly Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts opened in ample form.

“Welcome Brethren, there you have it,” said the Grand Master, “I have now officially opened Grand Lodge. Was it as good for you as it was for me? I think not. Online, we lost the pomp and circumstance as well as the comradery we enjoy before and after our Quarterlies. I sincerely hope we will enjoy our September Quarterly in person. If we don’t, and have to work online, then today will have been a practice run and hopefully we will work out all the bugs. Keep the faith, we will be back to normal soon. So, without further ado, it is my pleasure to introduce our special guests.”

The Grand Master expressed his pleasure at the online happenstance of including the Panama representatives and his thanks for the Information Committee, Rt. Wor. Elliot Chikofsky and Wor. Patrick DelVal, for making the online quarterly possible. Buttons were above the video feed on massmasons.org. The vote was taken, but compiling the vote was slowed by the virtual nature of the Quarterly. Once compiled, a few minutes after being taken, the votes were announced by the Grand Master. M. Wor. Bro. Ames reported on the Voting Power of Lodges and the Recognition of Proxies, the latter of which was approved by online voting.

M. Wor. Bro. Hicks reported on the findings of the Foreign Relations Committee. He stated that the following Grand Lodges, Grande Oriente da Bahia-GOBA, the Grande Oriente Paulista, and Grande Oriente do Rio de Janeiro, met the standards of acceptance and made a motion for acceptance. The report of the Committee was accepted, and the Grand Lodges were accepted.

Rt. Wor. Robert V. Jolly, Jr., reported that the Committee on Charters and By-Laws recommended the approval of their findings that four lodges had changed their bylaws in a proper manner. The report was accepted,

and the bylaws changed.

Rt. Wor. Peter M. Culbertson, Deputy Grand Master, had the sad duty to deliver the necrology for this Quarter. “Brethren, at this time,” he said, “I ask you to take a moment for silent reflection in memory of those who have succumbed to this Covid-19 virus and for their families who were unable to be with them during their final hours.” The moment of silence was solemn in every Brother’s heart. “During the past quarter, we lost 12 of our esteemed Brothers. These Brothers will rest easy in the Celestial Lodge above having had over 600 years of Masonic experience in their corporeal existence.” At home, by our computers, by our phones, and by our tablets, the Brethren bowed in prayer led by Rt. Wor. Rev. Dr. Keith C. Alderman.

The Grand Master brought to our attention that four men had behaved in such an egregious manner during this pandemic such as to not live up to the high standards required of Masons. After reading the men’s names, and calling for a vote, one expulsion and three suspensions were enacted. In addition, seven suspensions were enacted for willful defiance of Grand Lodge requirements and the Directives of the Grand Master. A vote was taken; the suspensions and the expulsion were enacted.

The Grand Master celebrated the anniversaries of Rabboni Lodge, chartered March 9th; Globe Unity Lodge, chartered March 9th; Mount Holyoke Lodge, chartered June 8th; and Upton Lodge, chartered June 8th, were granted charters 150 years ago, in 1795, by Grand Master, M. Wor. William Sewall Gardner. Republican Lodge, chartered January 9th; Middlesex Lodge, chartered June 8th; and Evening Star Lodge, chartered June 8th, were granted their Charters 225 years ago, in 1795, by Grand Master M. Wor. Paul Revere. The Tyrian-Ashlar-Acacia Lodge, chartered March 2nd; and The Massachusetts Lodge, chartered May 11th, were chartered 250 years ago, in 1770, by Grand Master M. Wor. Joseph Warren.

“The following lodges have earned the 2019 Grand

Master's Award," said the Grand Master, "I congratulate all of you on a job well done and encourage your continual path on building a vibrant lodge and engaging members."

Grand Master's Award recipients: The Massachusetts Lodge (1st District), The Harvard Lodge (2nd District), Converse Lodge (4th District), Wyoming Lodge (4th District), Norumbega-Fraternity Lodge (5th District), West Roxbury-Dorchester Lodge (6th District), Prospect Lodge (6th District), Weymouth United Lodge (8th District), Milton Lodge (8th District), Golden Rule Lodge (13th District), William Parkman Lodge (13th District), Caleb Butler Lodge (14th District), Corinthian Lodge (14th District), Tahattawan Lodge (14th District), Daniel Webster Lodge (18th District), Marine Lodge (20th District), and Brigham Lodge (28th District).

The Grand Master pointed out that of the 17 Grand Master awarded lodges, all but 5 have a line of Brothers as opposed to recycling Past Masters.

The Grand Master presented a 50 year Past Master Certificate to Rt. Wor. Paul William Rolston, stating, "I have known Brother Rolston for many years, a great example of a gift to me from Freemasonry! Without Masonry, I would never have known him." The Grand Master spoke of Bro. Rolston's distinguished Masonic life. He is a Senior Past Presiding Officer of all of the bodies of the Valley of Boston, served as a Grand Steward, District Deputy Grand Master, Grand Representative, Senior Grand Warden, Grand Secretary, and on the Grand Lodge Board of Directors. He received the Henry Price medal in 1992 and served in the United States Army from 1956-1958.

The Grand Master also recognized Rt. Wor. Ronald Jackson, a Mason for 52 years. Currently he is a Grand Lodge Representative and Secretary of Mount Holyoke Lodge. He is a Past District Deputy Grand Master and a Past Deputy Grand Master. "I honor him today for his faithful service, just completing 20 years serving on various boards at the Masonic Health Care System at Overlook in Charlton," said the Grand Master. "He has been there from its beginnings, through good times and bad, and now retiring at a time when the system is doing very well, with its various entities serving the community, averaging 90% capacity!"

The Grand Master bestowed Life Saving Recognition on Bro. John Moylen Keegan, a hero, from Wampatuck Lodge, 17th Masonic District. In December, he was outside with his brother-in-law, another Freemason, when they saw a small plane crash into a lake. The pilot was panicking because he could not swim. On the frozen lake, Bro. Keegan jumped into a canoe and used the paddles to break the ice creating a path to the sinking plane. Bro. Keegan was able to reach the pilot, rescue him, and bring him to safety. The plane sank to the bottom of the pond. All of this happened before Fire and Rescue responded.

A ceremony had been planned for May 30th at the Massachusetts Statehouse to honor Wor. William Seam Wong, known as "Simmy," with the Congressional Gold

Medal of Honor for his military service with the Flying Tigers in WWII. The Grand Master explained:

"Bro. Wong was born on May 9, 1920, in Boston's Chinatown District. In 1943, Simmy was inducted into the Army, serving as a supply officer for the 407th Air Service Squadron which supported the 14th Air Force's famed Flying Tigers. His tour of duty sent him all over the world, including Africa, India, and China. After the war, Simmy maintained close ties with his brothers-in-arms, referring to them fondly as 'the boys.'

"Simmy has been a member of the American Legion Chinatown Post 328 for more than 70 years, serving as Senior Vice Commander in 1948, and Post Commander in 1949. He was also an elder of the Wong Family Benevolent Association.

"Simmy has been a long-standing member of many Masonic bodies including Dalhousie Lodge, serving as its Master in 2003 and 2004, Rabboni Lodge, Major General Henry Knox Lodge, and The Consolidated Lodge. His memberships include the Aleppo Shrine, York Rite, and for many years, he was the Tyler for the Scottish Rite Valley of Boston.

"The outbreak of the Covid virus canceled many plans, including the induction ceremony. We are also sad to note that Simmy Wong passed away on May 12, 2020, just three days after his 100th Birthday.

"As Grand Master I was moved to be included with the Congressional Gold Medal of Honor Ceremonies in celebration of Simmy Wong's service. I am proud to honor him with the Henry Price Medal on behalf of our Grand Lodge."

The Grand Master prefaced his next remarks with what he called The Good, The Bad, and the Ugly.

He recounted the surge of COVID-19, also called the Novel Corona Virus, canceling the March Quarterly, the new mission to flatten the curve by "sheltering in place, staying at home, and quarantine. Our everyday speech now included terms such as social distancing, PPE, contact tracing, and unprecedented times, just to name a few. Our members suffered greatly from MTW (Masonic Travel Withdrawal)."

Then came the social unrest. "Boylston and Tremont Streets became the epicenter for riots and looting after the protest on May 31st. Luckily, the Grand Lodge suffered no damage. Our thanks go to our security team, under the leadership of Brother David Harty. He boarded up the doors and windows, increased onsite security staff, and as a result the Grand Lodge building was safe."

"Since I was installed, I have used the phrase Planning for the Future, Preserving our Past Traditions, while enjoying the present, the gift of Masonry," said the Grand Master. "I never dreamed we would experience a worldwide pandemic requiring us to do a tremendous amount of unique planning to how we will conduct the business of the Craft, bring in new members, and still preserve our traditions while practicing Masonry at a social distance, in the present!"

But Freemasonry stepped up, said the Grand Master. He heard of incredible acts of kindness and assistance to Brothers, their families, widows, and the public. He has, however, “been inundated with letters, phone calls, emails, and faxes regarding disharmony in Masonic Lodges across the jurisdiction.” To Masters and Past Masters, the Grand Master reminded them of their charge at their installation “to exert your authority to prevent ill-feeling or angry discussion arising to impair the harmony.” **All Masons should “act in accordance with the Grand Constitutions, Regulations, and Protocols as well as to adhere to the following statement: You will maintain civility, dignity, and decorum; promote harmony, respect for all your brothers while maintaining the traditions, values, and practices of our Fraternity demonstrated by all your actions, inside and outside the lodge.”**

“Wouldn’t life be great if everyone lived by these standards of morality and virtue?” mused the Grand Master.

The Grand Master turned his attention to the Ugly. He prefaced his comments to be general and not necessarily about any current expulsions or suspensions from today. While we assume all Brethren are honest, the investigations that are ongoing concern actions recently discovered involving lodges, building associations, and other Masonic groups.

“A few Brothers, some of whom are well known and well-respected members of our Masonic society, have not lived up to their obligations as well as broken the law in many ways. For example: As persons of authority they have engaged in bullying or harassing behavior, requesting others to attend to their personal needs, acting as personal aids, pressuring others to distort facts, break rules and laws, have been involved with the mismanagement and comingling of funds, between personal accounts and Masonic Entities, created multiple copies of accounts to cover their tracks, left checks uncashed and had not reported deposits received in order to place cash in their own pockets.”

“They have committed countless acts of fraud. Their activities have consumed - that is a nice way to say stolen - your money in amounts exceeding hundreds of thousands of dollars.”

The Grand Master assured the Brethren that the above are facts, not speculation. This happened because of no oversight, sometimes for several years, and other times for ten years. The Grand Master reminded the Brethren that all Trustees and Auditors, or any Brother in a position of responsibility over assets or funds of a lodge or building association, has important fiduciary responsibilities. Lodges and building funds must be audited yearly. “It is of paramount importance since there are fraternal and legal consequences for not fulfilling fiduciary responsibilities,” admonished the Grand Master. The Grand Master assured the Brethren he has ordered investigations and those responsible will be reprimanded, suspended, or expelled. Legal action may also be taken. The Masonic entities will attempt to recover their funds.

There will be a checklist for auditing lodge accounts,

assets and funds which will be generated by the Grand Lodge Training and Education Committee, the Building Association Committee, the Grand Master, and others. It will be on MassMasons.org. The job will not be onerous, requiring approximately an hour or two a month. In addition, the Grand Master will implement more training at Masters’ Path, District Deputy Grand Master Training, and Treasurer training, to which every auditor, treasurer, and trustee will be invited.

The Grand Master turned his attention to the Good. The Masonic Overlook Community has remained 100% Covid-19 free. An article on the happenings at Overlook is on page 30. There have been countless acts of care and brotherly love in the fraternity. The Grand Master recounted a few.

“My sincerest thanks to the Brethren from Wampatuck Lodge and Saint George Lodge who pooled their skills to construct a wheelchair ramp for a widow in need at the height of the Coronavirus outbreak. Great work, Masonry in action in the community!”

“Thanks to Rt. Wor. G. Edward Brown and Rt. Wor. Archibald Campbell for keeping the Lowell building open through this crisis for Red Cross blood drives. Additionally, a local social service agency is utilizing their kitchen to cook food and bring it to low income and desperate families. And thank you to the many other Masonic lodge buildings opened to assist the Red Cross.”

“Recently a brother was choking during a meal. Another brother who asked to be nameless saved his life. He applied what he learned from The Grand Lodge CPR-AED Program (cardiopulmonary resuscitation - automated external defibrillator). This program is administered through our Service Program by Rt. Wor. Robert F. Stanley under the Direction of Rt. Wor. Timothy McGavin, Service Director. By taking Rt. Wor. Robert Stanley’s CPR Program, our brother learned and executed the Heimlich maneuver, thereby saving another brother’s life! I wanted to recognize this brother, but he asked to remain anonymous. He saved a life, and by doing so, his life changed, and another brother’s life changed as well. This program not only encompasses CPR-AED training but also trains instructors. The life you save may be a brother or member of your own family. All lodges should have AED equipment, installed, and maintained regularly.”

“Lodges throughout the state have been doing a wonderful job reaching out to the members and providing help, aid, and assistance. Zoom meetings and other online platforms have provided a method for Brethren living outside of Massachusetts to reconnect with their Brothers in Massachusetts. Zoom has connected me, as well as others, to our Brethren in Panama; Tokyo, Japan; Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; as well as England, Scotland, and other countries.”

“One of our Brothers here in Massachusetts where his wife’s mother lives in Argentina needed a significant life-saving surgery. But due to lack of blood supplies her life was in jeopardy as the surgery was delayed. Our Service Department, under the leadership of Rt. Wor. Timothy



The Junior Grand Warden, Rt. Wor. Christopher M. St. Cyr Zooming on his phone.



The Senior Grand Warden, Rt. Wor. George F. Hamilton adjusting his laptop.

McGavin, Rt. Wor. Frank Gomes, along with the help of Rt. Wor. Edgar DeLeon, made some calls, contacted Grand Lodges in Guatemala and Argentina, and within 24 hours there were Brethren in Argentina lined up to donate blood. Masonry in action, always a guiding light!”

“Our Brotherhood fund has received many requests for help. One such request from a Brother was for special assistance. This was during a time of need for him and his young family. What made it special for me was he recently paid back the entire amount. Certainly not required, but when back on his feet, he did, thereby allowing more funds for another Brother. A shining example of a good man and good Mason.”

The Grand Master said there are numerous stories like this and he appreciates all donations to the Brotherhood Fund. 100% of the donations go directly to aid to a worthy Brother, widow, or family.

The Grand Master also detailed the transition of Explorateur to Guy’s Kitchen + Bar Boston, which will be a full-service lunch and dinner concept restaurant by Guy Fieri, the celebrity chef. The new tenant will also include a casual and takeout called The Chicken Guy by the same chef. “One entrance. Two restaurants! Looks like a winner,” said the Grand Master.

The Grand Master mentioned that he has been asked many times how he is doing. After the Feast of St. John and the Installation of the Grand Lodge Officers, the Grand Master held a Grand Lodge Organizational meeting for GL Officers in January, enjoyed the Grand Masters’ Reception, (thank you William Parkman Lodge), attended Masonic Education and Charity Trust Board, Masonic Health Services and Overlook Board, and Grand Lodge Board of Director Meetings, all of which meet monthly. Our Grand Lodge Officers have attended the Aleppo Shrine Ceremonial, several York Rite Body events, as well as the George Washington Birthday Celebration at Liberty Lodge, Waltham Triad’s 200th Anniversary Dinner at the Scottish Rite Museum, kicking off a yearlong celebration. The

Grand Master enjoyed a visit to the Massachusetts Lodge post-holiday event at Grand Lodge with the Grand Master of Rhode Island, M. Wor Ken Poyton. Our Senior Grand Warden RW George Hamilton has been attending the Boston Shriner’s Hospital for Children’s Board of Governors Meeting on his behalf. He also attended and spoke at a book signing and lecture by the author of *Founding Martyr: The Life and Death of Dr. Joseph Warren, the American Revolution’s Lost Hero*, at the Old North Church.

“I enjoyed the Deputy Grand Masters Reception. Thank you, Union Lodge, for travelling up from Nantucket. The GL Officers attended a six-state annual networking event in Portsmouth, NH, where many great ideas were shared and exchanged between jurisdictions. The Grand Lady and I attended a District 31 Gala in February, along with the Grand Lodge Officers, several DDGMs, and members from across the jurisdiction. We have officially coined the area of District 31 as Grand Lodge West!”

“I have signed many Rookie Certificates, a highlight of which was signing 11 certificates in 1 day to be awarded to Brethren from Ezekiel Bates Lodge. Great job Brethren! FYI, anyone working on their Rookie award is hereby granted an additional year to complete the requirements,” said the Grand Master.

“There was a sellout crowd for Beyond the 3rd Degree that was held on March 7th. It was a collaborative effort between the Education and Membership Committees. Over 200 men attended the event held in Charlton at The Overlook. It was an inspiring day with many great speakers. For those of you who missed it, there will be another opportunity to attend and there is an online presentation for your viewing pleasure.”

“FYI, The Overlook is still COVID-19 free. No cases! This is an extraordinary accomplishment as most of the COVID-19 cases are found in this type of facility,” joked the Grand Master.

“On May 23rd, our Education and Training Teams had a

continued on page 32



COVID-19



H.E.L.P. OPEN DURING PANDEMIC

The Hospital Equipment Loan Program, HELP, has remained open throughout the pandemic and has met the need for equipment by providing hospital beds and Hoyer lifts to two field hospitals set up at Tewksbury State Hospital and in Webster. In addition, with the assistance of the Framingham MASON Program (Medical Apparatus Serving Our Neighbors), they got in contact with a closed facility in Framingham that had dozens of beds and assorted medical equipment for Melrose-Wakefield Hospital to go and retrieve.

The president of the board of the HELP Program is brother Bro. Brian Cavanaugh of Lynnfield Zetland Lodge in Wakefield. Bro. Cavanaugh and a

core group of board members and volunteers have kept the program open for the loan of durable medical equipment to the public on an appointment-only basis and have adapted the process to the current situation. The need for equipment was very strong early in March and April as the hospitals and rehabs sent patients home early to create space for COVID patients. Those homebound patients needed more durable medical equipment and HELP responded and provided.

Woburn HELP was looking at methods to clean returned equipment, and after research and planning, Bro. Cavanaugh and Wor. John Perrino have devised a plan to create steam boxes to steam clean everything from wheelchairs to canes. A prototype steam box has been constructed by Wor. Bro. Perrino (a board member) who has a

FREEMASONRY DURING THE PANDEMIC: HOW ONE LODGE IS LEANING IN

One lodge is using the COVID-19 crisis as an opportunity to strengthen its relationship with members, raise money for a good cause, and support a local, Masonic-friendly business. Like hundreds of lodges across the state, Wyoming Lodge in Melrose halted its regularly scheduled activity when non-essential business and organizations were ordered to close in order to slow the spread of COVID-19. “Just because the electric lights were off in our building didn’t mean the lodge had gone dark, or that we were finished,” said Wor. Dave Fletcher, Master of Wyoming Lodge. “As Masons, it’s our duty to support each other and our community, and we knew that this pandemic was an opportunity to really step up as a lodge.”

One of the brothers came up with a simple idea. “It started because I wanted to let our older brothers know the lodge was thinking of them while also helping out Razyz’s, our caterer, who like many other small businesses was

impacted by the crisis,” said Bro. Mike Nachshen, Wyoming Lodge’s Inside Sentinel. “Some of the other officers and I explored several ideas, and ultimately came up with what we jokingly refer to as ‘Operation: Make Masons Gain Weight.’”

The idea was simple, but impactful. First, have Razyz’s deliver baked goods to as many Masons and Ladies of the Lodge (aka Widows) in the local area as possible. Then, offer Masons and Ladies an opportunity to purchase a meal from Razyz’s, with a portion of the proceeds of the meal supporting local COVID-19 charitable efforts. “The cookie delivery would let us connect with our local brethren and ladies and let them know that we were thinking of them, while also helping Razyz’s out,” said Bro. Fletcher. “While ideally, we’d have liked to deliver to all our members and ladies, because of the pandemic we could only reach the two-thirds on our roster who live near the lodge.”

To pay for the cookies, the officers passed the virtual hat, and tapped some rainy-day lodge funds. “I was pleased, but not surprised by everyone’s generosity,” Bro. Fletcher said. “Our brothers were doing their part to flatten the curve by staying home, but our officers aren’t the kind of men who like sitting on the sidelines. When presented with an

RESPONSE

window fabrication shop. That box is undergoing proof-of-concept testing now. In addition, over \$3,000 was raised through a Go Fund Me appeal to buy steam machines to power the steam box and for handheld steaming of hospital beds and larger equipment.

HELP is a Masonic 501c3 charity that has been in operation over 50 years after starting in the old Malden 7th District. There are now multiple locations: Woburn, Framingham, Centerville, Ipswich, and our ramp program in Willmington. The Woburn location recently expanded into additional space in their Cummings Park building. Donations from several local lodges secured enough funding to provide for a five-year lease of space, as well as logistical and technological improvements.

-Rt. Wor. Vincent J. Marino

UNITED BRETHREN HELPS COVID FAMILIES

I am one, but only one, of the Angel Fund volunteers from United Brethren and serve Jaworek School in our town. I oversee several benevolent acts to this school during the year. When the COVID virus emergency started, I got a request from the school nurse about many families not being able to get enough food. I was able to purchase 50 \$25- gift cards with our Angel Fund account from a local supermarket for families impacted by Covid-19. The cards were distributed anonymously with the help of the folks at our local Senior Center since the school was closed. Thank you for the appreciation. Other Brothers, including some from United Brethren



Lodge, do similar work for the other schools in the district.

-Bro. Bob Levine

opportunity to do something, they jumped at it.” Razyzy’s started baking up a storm and set about making deliveries.

“My mother was thrilled when a box full of cookies and brownies showed up at her door,” said the son of one of the lodge’s ladies, RW Dave Lucas, Past Deputy Grandmaster, and a member of Wyoming Lodge. “And I had the same reaction when my goody box arrived. It was a physical reminder that the lodge was thinking of us.” Included with the box of baked goods was a letter from the officers emphasizing that the lodge was here for them. At the bottom of the letter was an offer that was almost impossible to refuse. Brothers and Ladies were given an opportunity to purchase a hot meal, or meals, which Razyzy’s would deliver right to their door. The lodge would share the proceeds of the meal with Razyzy’s, with the lodge’s portion going directly to the Melrose Emergency Relief Fund to help local people impacted by COVID-19.

“This was a win-win-win,” said Bro. Nachshen. “People got to enjoy great meals, they helped out a local business, and we made people’s lives a little better during these trying times.” The meal fundraiser was so successful that the lodge is doing it again. “We’re giving people an opportunity to ‘have Sunday dinner together,’” said Bro. Fletcher. “It’s a simple way to stay connected with our members, while making a positive difference in our community on many levels.”

-By Bro. Mike Nachshen

Wor. Dave Fletcher getting his meals from our partners at Razyzy’s.



OVERLOOK: A BROTHER'S EYE VIEW

As Massachusetts Masons, most of us are aware of the Overlook, our life care community owned and operated by our Grand Lodge in Charlton. Let me fill you in on some of the advantages that we, as residents of the Overlook, experienced during the trying times of the COVID-19 pandemic. In early March, the US recognized the possible implications of the spread of the coronavirus. The Overlook took several timely steps to protect its residents while maintaining as productive a lifestyle as possible during this pandemic. On March 10th, its administration instituted an enhanced visitor's form to be completed by visitors, vendors, contractors, etc., before gaining admission into the campus. They also established the Overlook Coronavirus Steering Committee to evaluate programs and situations as they moved forward. This group interacts with the CDC, the MA Commissioner of Public Health, and the Office of the State Secretary of Health and Human Services. The next day procedures were put in place to suspend outside visitations into the facility, including community folks with memberships to the fitness center, and lock all outside access doors. Where it was not possible, staff members were present at these unsecured doors to check all entrants.

On the 13th, they discontinued buffet service in Tuckers, Acacia, and elsewhere on campus. The use of shared platters or trays, and shared hors d'oeuvres were discontinued. Happy Hour in Acacia was postponed until further notice. Delivery from outside restaurants and vendors was disallowed. Culinary Services continued meal delivery to residents as requested. However, they would not enter resident's rooms, but will leave items at the door and announce their arrival.

Grocery delivery continued with increased guidelines regarding access. The regular Independent Residents' Town Hall meeting mid-March was replaced with six identical sessions with information on how to cope with the virus. By having six sessions, they were able to keep attendance at less than the 25-person maximum per session, thus providing access to all residents. As things progressed, they stopped all meetings and activities with more than 25 peo-

ple in attendance and instituted a 6-foot spacing requirement between people. As the days progressed, more initiatives were taken to keep the community safe.

April 1st provided the new Resident Council with the first opportunity to interact with management on the scope and initiatives required to protect the community from the virus. The council decided to go to weekly meetings in order to improve this communication channel. To further reduce the possibility of exposing residents to the virus, beginning April 6th meals were delivered to resident's apartments rather than residents picking up their meals in Acacia. Housekeeping focused on cleaning common areas and discontinued their bi-weekly cleaning of apartments. Emergency calls continued as needed, and staff members started using masks. They reminded residents not to leave campus except for medical needs. Other items were delivered by CVS or picked up by the staff.

As the month of May joined us, we had the pleasure of

an on-site parade by the firefighters, police, and EMTs of Charlton complete with trucks, ambulance, and squad cars. They meandered throughout the campus with lights flashing. In order not to disturb some folks, they did not blast us with their sirens. On May 24th, we all received a packet containing some face masks and gloves. These were provided by our Grand Lodge, the Valley of Boston, AASR, and the Supreme Council, AASR-NMJ. Many



Rt. Wor. Eugene "Cappy" Capobianco is safe with Personal Protection Equipment ready to be shipped to Charlton.

thanks to Cappy Capobianco for his efforts.

We are now entering Phase Three of the reopening with such things as outdoor visitation by family and friends, limited to two visitors at a time, and receiving care packages and flowers. Grocery delivery from outside vendors has increased and improved. The fitness center reopened on June 15th to residents. Outdoor hiking trails with maps, etc., will open later in June. Acacia was reopened on an every-other-day basis. Deliveries are still possible to the apartments. Summer concerts will return on July 7th, and rides will be introduced to help get residents off campus for a little while. During all of this, the boiler replacement and new storage tank installations continued, on schedule. This will increase the effectiveness from the heating plant, make Overlook greener, and save money on the operational budget. Due to the coronavirus restrictions, *continued on page 31*

THE 2020 PANDEMIC AT THE OVERLOOK

The New Year had just begun and everyone at The Overlook was looking forward to an early spring and getting back to gardening. Winter had been cold, but the lack of snow made it bearable. The weather was starting to warm the countryside, and everyone was feeling renewed. That is, until the news stations began talking about a new virus originating from China and infecting people with nasty flu-like symptoms. At that point in time, there were no known remedies to stop this virus from spreading. The result was a lot of people were dying as the virus was spreading around the world.

Many thought this new virus was similar to known viruses and would be cured soon. But that was certainly not the case. The Overlook's CEO, Tameryn Campbell, became concerned about how it might affect The Overlook. She became involved immediately and rallied the team, convening a Covid-19 steering committee and an incident command team to develop an action plan to prevent the virus from invading The Overlook campus. April Sawyer, Overlook's Director of Support Services and Michelle Duval, Overlook's Health and Rehabilitation Center's Director of Staff Education worked tirelessly to educate staff and residents about proper infection control measures to defend against the virus.

The Overlook team took these steps even before the health experts and Gov. Charlie Baker imposed guidelines and mandates for the Commonwealth. The organization continued to follow all the recommendations and edicts issued by the Governor along with other additional safety precautions. Once in lock-down mode, Overlook's independent living residents were strongly discouraged from going off-site for any reason. The Overlook accommodated necessary essentials, such as prescriptions, that ever-elusive toilet paper, hand sanitizer, and created a micro-store with fresh produce and other grocery items. Access to the campus was limited to a single point of entry. An Overlook caddy shack was installed at the entrance to measure body temperature and complete required COVID-19 screenings of all individuals entering the property. Visitors were pro-

hibited on the Charlton campus, unless they were scheduled for a delivery, a compassionate care end of life visit, or a life-safety maintenance repair. All but 2 of the more than 80 outside egresses from the buildings were secured and locked down to visitors and staff. Residents could continue to use their keyless door pass to enter other doors.

At first, the focus was all about diligent handwashing and maintaining six feet of social distancing. As the threat grew, more restrictions were added. For example, common areas where residents tended to congregate, such as the independent living store, Cornerstone Bank branch, inner office mail room, performing art center, fitness center, billiards and game room, hair salon, Acacia's and Tucker's dining areas, and virtually all group activities and programs became off-limits. The goal was to minimize personal contact. Channel 901, Overlook's internal television channel, was modified to provide movies and engagement programs previously offered in the performing art center. Overlook

fitness staff, led by Jennifer Hennessy, recorded workout programs for residents to view on their apartment televisions. Channel 901 was also used to broadcast and update policies from Overlook's leadership team. Daily menus were converted for meal ordering, and residents received door-to-door deliveries. Since the dining venues were closed, residents ate meals in their apartments. Deliveries were



A masked member of staff at Charlton with that week's haul of necessary equipment to ensure the safety of residents and staff.

placed outside each resident's door with three knocks for notification. This method was used for non-contact deliveries.

Regarding the increasing challenges in obtaining and purchasing personal protective equipment (PPE) to protect team members and residents from the Covid-19 virus, the Masons and other magnanimous donors stepped up. When Most Worshipful Richard Maggio learned that The Overlook needed PPE, he immediately made a call for assistance. The organization was overwhelmed by the generous response, which enabled The Overlook to successfully navigate the most challenging period of the crisis. The Scottish Rite Valley of Boston made significant contributions to the PPE effort. Other contributors included Boston's Lafayette Lodge of Perfection and Giles F. Yates Council Princes of Jerusalem, each making a \$10,000 donation for COVID-19 relief. The Massachusetts Consistory *continued on next page*

launched Project Overlook, an ambitious effort to raise \$50,000 to purchase PPE for The Overlook. Many Masons and lodges across Massachusetts answered the call and raised over \$18,000 towards the \$50,000 goal.

One exemplary Mason, Consistory Commander-in-Chief Rt. Wor. Eugene A. (Cappy) Capobianco, and associates, wanted to do more. Cappy began gathering items for survival boxes, to be distributed among many of the members. His wife, through her embroidery business, provided cloth for disposable masks. He modeled compassion and care with his actions and began delivering these care packages to those in need. Each care package contained safety glasses, Kleenex, paper towels, toilet paper, hand sanitizer, disposable surgical masks, disinfectant wipes, CDC infection prevention information cards, disposable gloves, and beef jerky. Sixty of these boxes, with more in the works, had already been delivered when a call came from the Grand Master seeking PPE resources for The Overlook. Cappy immediately contacted all his vendors and a doctor friend, inquiring where and how to obtain the necessary items. He also used eBay!

Within five days, PPE began arriving from across the U.S. and from China. Cappy paid for all supplies on his own and contacted the four bodies within the Valley of Scottish Rite, to solicit donations. He established a GoFundMe page and donated \$15,000 from the MA Consistory to jump-start the cause. Rose Croix followed suit, with an additional \$15,000 donation. Additional donations subsequently rolled in from other generous donors. Cappy used the GoFundMe page and weekly emails to inform vendors that the website was legitimate and that all items purchased were being donated for a worthy cause. This proved to be a great strategical move, as most of his suppliers were eager to sell to him during the supply shortage. Still not satisfied with all of the above, Cappy crafted yet another creative idea - to provide sealed bags with masks, gloves, and CDC information cards for Masonic members and Overlook residents. He contacted the Valley

of Boston to redirect some of the Family Life budget for support. As a result, over 500 bags filled with delicious homemade chocolate chip cookies were delivered to The Overlook. In total, Cappy made eight weekly trips from Saugus to Charlton, personally delivering the much-needed PPE, including 3M N95 masks, surgical masks, face shields, disposable gowns, nitrile gloves, and containers of 80% alcohol hand sanitizer. Cappy's final delivery occurred on June 12th. He halted his efforts only when he could be assured that suppliers were now in a better position to provide PPE near normal prices.

To date, over 12,000 personal protection items have been delivered to The Overlook by the MA Consistory. The Consistory raised over \$100,000 and spent well over that amount. The actual value of all items delivered over the eight-week period was more than twice the amount of the money spent. These donations enabled The Overlook to save or redirect those funds they otherwise would have been compelled to spend on these items. This was a win-win situation for all. It is important to note that all funds raised were sent to the Treasurer of MA Consistory and deposited into the appropriate account, and all bills were paid from the same. A complete list of all donors and donations are available from the Consistory Treasurer. All but two York Rite donations, Boston Commandery's \$5,000 and United Commandery's \$2,500, were distributed from the Boston Commandery Charity account. Since PPE is disposable, requiring the continuous replacement of each item, assistance is still needed and greatly appreciated. To donate to this outstanding cause, please go to <https://www.gofundme.com/f/the-masonic-health-system-ppe-supplies>, or mail a check to: MA Consistory Overlook Project, c/o Roy Leone, 72 Emerald Court, Tewksbury, MA, 01876. The Overlook residents and staff are deeply indebted to Tameryn Campbell and the entire Overlook team, Most Worshipful Richard Maggio, and Cappy for their leadership, time, and dedication. They deserve a standing ovation!

-Bro. Bill Kenyon



OXFORD LODGE'S 1ST MEETING SINCE COVID-19

On Monday night, June 22nd, it was an extremely hot, muggy evening. Brethren gathered at Oxford Masonic Lodge AF&AM, which held their first business meeting outdoors in private (their building is on a dead end street) since the COVID 19 pandemic started and the Governor shut down large gatherings. The event was featured in the Webster Times on July 10, 2020.

-Wor. Bryan Wilson

The Prodigal Mason

by *Wor. Richard Thompson*



We all have those moments in our lives when events are so profound, they are etched into our memories. The details are so clear it is almost like looking at a picture. For me, one of those memories involves the assassination of President John Kennedy. When I learned President Kennedy had died, I was in Lowell, walking home from school with two friends. We were standing on the corner of B and Puffer Streets when a woman came out of her back door onto the porch of the home. She was crying and she wailed, “They killed the President!” Before that moment, we had not even heard about Dallas, Texas, and Dealey Plaza.

There is no profound moment that highlights our current state, but I am sure none of us will ever forget the year 2020. I have spent 49 years wandering in and out of lodge rooms. Who could have thought when I walked out of the Tewksbury Masonic hall on February 18th that it would be the last time I was in a lodge room for months to come? If I must describe myself, I can say I am definitely an optimist. No matter how bad things get, I try to find the silver lining behind every dark cloud. I also search every adversity to find the opportunity that is always lurking within it.

In case you don't know, I am a member of Merrimack Valley Daylight Lodge. As its name implies, we meet in daylight. Normally, we go dark in January and February, but for the last few years, we have been meeting all 12 months of the year. Our attendance each month is 20 or more, so when you consider our total membership is just 50, our monthly attendance is between 40 and 60 percent. Why go dark? Daylight Lodge is lucky. The members attend meetings because we actually enjoy being together. We usually open at 11 am, but those attending are generally in the hall by 10:15 am. The coffee pot is on, donut holes are available, and Masonic fellowship fills the banquet hall. Dinner is always served at noon, so a one-hour meeting turns into three to four hours of Masonic fun.

The pandemic forced Wor. Tom Berry, the Master of Daylight Lodge, to cancel the March meeting. Like all other

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

Masters, he also had to cancel April. For any group of Masons, shutting down a lodge is a tough thing to do. Shutting down is tough on all Masons who crave that Masonic experience. Then along came Zoom. Like other lodges, Daylight Lodge has been using Zoom to hold virtual member gatherings twice each month. It helps fill the void left by having to close lodges for the protection of their members. As I have gone through several Zoom meetings, I started thinking about how we can use this technology after things are back to normal. I can see lodges continuing to use Zoom, or programs like it, well into the future.

One night, I was on a Zoom call with an Eastern Star Chapter. A member of the chapter who has been in Texas for the last dozen years dropped in on the call. She was able to reconnect with the chapter in just about an hour. I was on a Scottish Rite call when we were joined by two members, one who now lives in Kentucky, and another who lives in Arizona. They got to join in on the discussions and reconnected with their brothers. We also have the Scottish Rite Thursday Night with the Rite program. The Northern Masonic Jurisdiction was filling computer screens with the DVD versions of the degrees every Thursday night. There were thousands of Scottish Rite members tuning in to see the degrees. That has become so popular that members who had demitted from membership were asking to be reinstated so they could see the degrees. Members who were in arrears with dues were paying up so they can be included.

There are ways we can use technology to help make our lodges, and help make Masonic groups in general, more accessible to more members. We can use programs like Zoom for committee meetings. Weather can, at times, get in the way, especially during the winter months. When it is snowing outside, members can still discuss committee business from the comfort of their own homes. Technology will become more and more important to us as the years go by. I have an eight-year-old granddaughter who calls her grandparents two or three times a week. She uses her iPad and Facetime, so we can see each other, as well as talk to each other. To her, you can always see the person you are talking to. The way we communicate with each other is changing, faster than any of us can imagine. This pandemic has shown us there is more than one way to communicate, and there is more than one way to get together. ■



The Tradition Continues



It has often been said that giving the gift of Freemasonry to a worthy relative, friend, or co-worker is one of the most valuable gestures we can do for that person. Introducing him to Freemasonry creates the possibility that he will one day realize all the benefits the Craft offers: the opportunity to be the best possible version of himself, the exposure to men of integrity and character he will soon call friends, and sharing his time and talent for the good of others. It is also a gift that gives back as we, in turn, also reap the benefits of his membership.

We are often reminded of the responsibility we have to replace ourselves in Freemasonry. The primary reason is obvious to most of us – as a membership organization, new Brethren are our lifeblood. Beyond this, however, there are several other positive outcomes that can occur when we sponsor someone we know into the Fraternity:

- Our relationship is elevated and strengthened because of the shared bond of Freemasonry.



The Grand Master flanked by his sons, David, Rich, Chris, and Andrew - all Masons.

- We have another friend to sit in Lodge with, or to travel with on our Masonic journey in the appendant bodies.
- The pride in seeing the man we sponsored complete his degrees and knowing the good it will do for him, his lodge, and our Fraternity.

As great as the personal benefits of having someone we know become a Mason, they also extend to our lodges. The camaraderie the Officers experience when they meet to rehearse the degrees, the energy and enthusiasm degree nights bring to our Lodge meetings, the better turnout



among sideline Brothers, and, ultimately, a new Master Mason with the opportunity to contribute back to his lodge.

Curious for an example of a Mason living up to the motto The Tradition Continues? Look no further than our Grand Master, M.W. Richard Maggio. Since being raised 20 years ago, Brother Maggio has seen all four of his sons, his father, and two of his brothers join him as members of William Parkman Lodge in Woburn. Continuing the tradition even further, three of his nephews and his son-in-law also joined the lodge. Because of his love for the Fraternity and his dedication to his lodge, our Grand Master has seen eleven of his family members become Masons! It is not hard to imagine the pride and joy he experienced witnessing so many men in his family take the same obligation he took.

“Having my family join me in the fraternity, sharing a meal and the camaraderie we share lodge meetings brings me great joy. Knowing there is going to be one night every month that I would sit down to dinner with multiple members of my family made it something I always looked forward to. That is why I made sure The Tradition Continues. I hope you will do the same.”

What prompted you to knock at the door of Freemasonry? The same reasons you became a Mason are probably shared by many of the men in our lives. The principles and teaching of Freemasonry have inspired men of all countries, religions, races, backgrounds, and opinions to be the best possible versions of themselves. Let us share the gift of Freemasonry with the good men we know and give them the same opportunity we had presented to us. ■





VETERAN'S MEDAL 2020 RECIPIENTS

The following Master Masons will be eligible to receive their Veteran's Medal this year. This medal is awarded to men who have been Masons for 50 years. Anyone raised at any time during 1970 will be recognized in 2020.

Whenever possible, the award is conferred in lodge by District Deputy Grand Masters. Sometimes, it is more convenient for the Mason to receive his medal at home; men living out of state receive it by mail.

This listing includes a number of photographs depicting presentations made so far

in 2020 and generously sent to TROWEL. Thank you to all the Masters, District Deputies, members of Grand Lodge and their photographers for taking the time to share these pictures.

Masons are listed in their current lodge, which may or may not be the lodge where they were raised in 1970. If you have any concern about being included in the listing, or any question about your membership status, please contact your lodge Secretary, who will consult your membership records for you.

ADAMS LODGE

Wor. Richard Alan Hayman
Wor. Malcolm Irving Murphy, Jr.

ALPHA LODGE

Bro. John Cecil Coates, Jr.
Bro. James Milton Mason

ANCIENT YORK LODGE

Bro. Robert John Colburn
Bro. Anastasios Lampropoulos
Bro. Glenn Alan Shanks

ANCON LODGE

Bro. Grover Lee Carawan
Bro. Kenneth Alfred Roscoe
Bro. Mark Theodore Tartar

AURORA LODGE

Bro. Edwin Theodore Holmes
Bro. Mack Ray Parker

BAALIS SANFORD LODGE

Bro. Nicholas John Drosopoulos
Wor. James Euripides Jamoulis
Wor. John Peter Kolentsas
Bro. J. Richard Pearson
Bro. John Howard Sperry III

BAY PATH LODGE

Wor. Richard Lawrence Churchill

BLUE HILL LODGE

Bro. Simon Berle Gottlieb
Bro. Joseph Coran Shoes

BOSTON UNIVERSITY LODGE

Bro. Alan Marvin Rick
Wor. Leonard Samuel Sherman

BOYLSTON LODGE

Bro. William Charles Schriver

BRISTOL LODGE

Bro. Douglas Scott White

BUDLEIGH LODGE

Wor. Lendell George Foan III
Wor. Merle Dana Phipps

CALEB BUTLER LODGE

Wor. Charles Howard Jones

CELESTIAL LODGE

Bro. Ronald Hibbard Bushee

Wor. Charles Whitcomb Domina
Bro. Mark Norman Levine

CHARITY LODGE

Bro. Earl David Anderson, Jr.

CHARLES A WELCH LODGE

Wor. Edward Clement Poole

CHARLES C DAME LODGE

Bro. Robert George Mason

COLUMBIAN LODGE

Bro. George Ivar Pearson

CONVERSE LODGE

Bro. Ralph Edward Chadis
Bro. Donald Austin Kinnear

CORINTHIAN LODGE

Bro. Peter Alan Robinson
Wor. David Alan Sproul



Bro. Harold Hugo (2nd from right) was presented his 50 year pin and Veteran's Medal at The Consolidated Lodge's Annual Florida Breakfast of February 9th at the Delray Beach Golf Club. with Rt. Wor. Gary Miller, Treasurer, Bro. Brad Marston, Senior Warden, and Brother Richard Champagne, Junior Deacon.

Wor. Richard Wilkie Jolls

DEWITT CLINTON LODGE

Bro. Peter Nicholas Way

EASTERN STAR LODGE

Bro. Terrence Elwood Crockett

ELM-BELCHER LODGE

Bro. Ronald Bruce Hill
Bro. Milton Leonard Kidder, Jr.
Wor. Robert Alan Theroux
Bro. David Charles Williamson

ESOTERIC-SHERWOOD LODGE

Bro. Richard Howard Engelson
Bro. Richard Alan Orenstein

ESSEX LODGE

Bro. Jesse William Jason, Jr.

EUCLID LODGE

Bro. Bruno Raymond Ferretti

EVENING STAR LODGE

Wor. Merrill Eugene Morehouse

EXCELSIOR LODGE

Wor. Robert Norman Cudmore

EZEKIEL BATES LODGE

Wor. Allan Metcalf Cox, Jr.
Bro. Robert Walter Naismith
Wor. Raymond Carl Oberg
Wor. Clifton Harvey Phillips

FELLOWSHIP LODGE

Bro. Clive Harold Ensher
Bro. Bruce Roy Hartshorn

FRANK W THOMPSON LODGE

Wor. Donald Edward Andrews
Bro. Donald Dean Payne

FRATERNAL LODGE

Bro. Richard Scott Petri

FRIENDSHIP LODGE

Bro. John Garfield Bishop
Wor. Roger Holt Mills
Bro. Lloyd Erik Webster

GARDEN CITY LODGE

Bro. Victor Lewis Berman
Bro. David Garry Hay

CINCINNATUS LODGE

Bro. Charles Frederick Ketchen
Bro. Lawrence Frederic Tobiason

COCHICHEWICK LODGE

Bro. Donald Brewster Beaton
Bro. Kirk Bussiere
Bro. Milton Erickson Long
Bro. John Edward Spinney

CORNER STONE LODGE

Bro. Samuel Arthur Melvin

DALHOUSIE LODGE

Wor. James Charles Benoit

DELTA LODGE

Bro. Nick Darides
Bro. Stephen Craig Day
Bro. Robert Louis Gomes

GATUN LODGE

Bro. Oliver W P Thomason

GEORGE H TABER LODGE

Bro. Charles Frederick Crooks, Jr.

GLOBE UNITY LODGE

Bro. James Alan Crosier

GOLDEN RULE LODGEBro. Bruce Robert Dickey
Bro. Robert Henry Noel**GOOD SAMARITAN LODGE**Bro. Paul Edward Case, Jr.
Bro. George Prescott Taylor**HARMONY LODGE**

Rt. Wor. Donald Bevil Scott

HAYDEN LODGEBro. Charles Leo Lovett, Sr.
Bro. Dana Winston Lovett**HOPE LODGE**

Bro. Randall Dennis Peters

JERUSALEM LODGE

Bro. Edward Francis Popielarczyk

JOEL H PROUTY LODGEBro. Donald Winston Churchill
Bro. Richard Frederick King
Bro. Robert Edward Murray**JOHN WARREN LODGE**

Bro. William Henry Simpson

JORDAN LODGEBro. William Henry Locke
Bro. Charles Marshall Schultz**JOSEPH WARREN-SOLEY LODGE**

Bro. Alan William Powers

JOSEPH WEBB LODGE

Wor. John Henry Wigmore Brewer

KING DAVID LODGEBro. L. Barry French
Wor. Stephen Loring Reid**KING SOLOMON'S LODGE**

Bro. Ronald Warren Slocum

KONOHASSETT LODGEWor. Brian Edgar Aiguier
Bro. James Carl Smalley**LAFAYETTE-DOVER LODGE**

Wor. David Gregory

LAWRENCE UNITED LODGE

Bro. Miguel Angel Rivera

LEVEL LODGEBro. Robert William Levitsky
Bro. Burton Ira Orland
Wor. Paul Steven Robbins**LIBERTY LODGE**Bro. Carl Dana Johnson
Bro. Maurice Peter Nack
Bro. Walter Lewis Sargent**LYNNFIELD-ZETLAND LODGE**Bro. Wendell Addison Boggs II
Wor. Larry Anthony Groves
Bro. Thomas Henry Murphy**MACEDONIAN LODGE**

Wor. Stephen Roger Cappers

MAJOR GENERAL HENRY**KNOX LODGE**Rt. Wor. John Arthur Moore
Bro. Thomas Lee Taylor**MANCHESTER LODGE**Bro. Laurie Stevens McCoy
Bro. Donald Munro Philbrick

Crossing Masonic Paths

Throughout the Fraternity there are numerous stories about the lives of Masons crossing paths in unexpected and serendipitous ways. A brother spends several years working with a colleague, not knowing he too belongs to the Craft. Two brothers reminisce about a penny candy store frequented as childhood friends and find out it was owned by another brother's father. A Past Master receives a jewel once worn by his father's childhood friend, both of whom attended the same lodge. I know these are true. They all involve me.

On January 8, 2020, newly installed Right Worshipful Robert Peter Shedd paid the first Fraternal visit of his term. Joining him at West Roxbury-Dorchester Lodge in Westwood, his blue lodge, was a suite of distinguished Masons from throughout the jurisdiction. This night is always special for a new District Deputy Grand Master, but what happened during the visit would make the evening so much more meaningful. Not long after being received by Wor. Moussa Bechwati, Rt. Wor. Shedd instructed his District Deputy Grand Marshall to escort Brother Antoun Joseph Balich and his son, Brother Joseph Balich, to the East. Fifty years earlier, the elder Brother Balich had stood in the East of his lodge as a newly raised Master Mason, a memorable night for anyone. This time he patiently and proudly waited to receive his 50-year Veteran's Medal. As the elder Brother Balich stood with Rt. Wor. Shedd before a well-attended lodge room, it was not the first time he had done so in the presence of a Brother named Shedd. On January 6, 1970, 50 years prior, it was Rt. Wor. Shedd's father, then Wor. Robert Butler



Rt. Wor. Robert Peter Shedd, Brother Antoun Joseph Balich and his son, Brother Joseph Balich

Shedd, who was in the East as Master, congratulating Brother Balich for attaining the sublime degree. Coincidence? Maybe not. Freemasonry is steeped in apparently coincidental occurrences.

Freemasonry means many things to us, but the fraternal bond between a father and son is a gift only they can appreciate. It was clear that Rt. Wor. Shedd felt he was in the spiritual presence of his dad. It was also apparent Brother Balich fully appreciated the significance of being the common bond between two events that meant so much to him and Rt. Wor. Shedd. It was also clear the magnitude of the ceremony was not lost on his wife, son, three daughters and their husbands, and the many brothers who filled the sidelines. Receiving your 50-year Veteran's Medal is a milestone not everyone will attain. If you are lucky enough to receive one, the ceremony forms a fond memory for years to come - being a connective thread between a father and son makes the night even more special.

-Rt. Wor. Richard H. Ryder

MARINE LODGEWor. Stephen Lee Baker
Wor. Charles Albert Peterman, Jr.**MARINERS LODGE**Bro. William Elliott Anderson
Bro. Alan Richard Davies**MAY FLOWER LODGE**

Bro. Ralph Nelson Stevens, Jr.

MERIDIAN LODGEBro. George Robert James
Bro. Robert Barry Rothman

Wor. James Wesley Thrasher

MERRIMACK LODGE

Bro. Jack Dale Cook

MONTGOMERY LODGEWor. Calvin Francis Bosma
Wor. Randall Lee Faneuf
Bro. John Marcal LeFrancois
Bro. William Joseph Powers**MORNING STAR LODGE**Bro. Herbert Michael Abladian
Rt. Wor. John Walter Hanson**MOSES MICHAEL HAYS LODGE**Bro. Harvey George Greenstein
Bro. Lawrence Edward Kaplan
Wor. Norman Jeffrey Kaswell
Bro. Steven Charles Siegel
Wor. Sheldon Edward Small**MOUNT CARMEL LODGE**Bro. Hubert Kreplick
Bro. Richard Ernest Lee
Bro. Henry Shuman Popell
Bro. James Joseph Sherman
Bro. Andrew Sigourney



The members of Palestine Lodge

Wor. David Frizzell, Worthy Grand Patron, Receives 50 Year Veteran's Medal

At the February Communication of William Sutton Lodge, Wor. David Frizzell, Past Master of Palestine Lodge (now merged with William Sutton Lodge), and Worthy Grand Patron of the Order of Eastern Star, was presented his 50 Year Veteran's Medal by Rt. Wor. Alan Welch. Wor. Bro. Frizzell was accompanied by his family for the presentation but was surprised when a large contingent of his Eastern Star Family was on hand to witness the event. Also in attendance was Junior Grand Warden Rt. Wor. Christopher St. Cyr, DDGM of the 24th District, Rt. Wor. James Gonyea, Wor. Robert

*Rt. Wor. Welch, Wor. Frizzell, his Family, and
Worthy Grand Matron Judy Podymaitis*



St. Cyr, Wor. Anselme Maximé, and Bros. Dean Cook and Dana Naglieri from Quinebaug Lodge.

A second presentation was made to the members of Palestine Lodge by Rt. Wor. Bro. Welch, who presented a Proclamation from Grand Lodge commemorating the 150th Anniversary of Palestine Lodge.

-Rt. Wor. Alan R. Welch

Bro. Frank Morison Fenner, Jr.

PACIFIC LODGE

Bro. Robert Mathews Aldrich
Bro. Alan Franklyn Rainford

PAUL REVERE LODGE

Bro. Gerald Douglas Burge

PENTUCKET LODGE

Wor. John Edmond Ullom

PHILANTHROPIC LODGE

Bro. Arthur Mason Horgan
Bro. Richard Marvin Stevens
Bro. Francis Edward Tower
Bro. Stephen Roy Winslow

PHOENIX LODGE

Bro. Richard Eugene Freitas
Bro. Charles Linwood Inglis
Bro. Leslie James Molyneau

PIONEER LODGE

Wor. Jay Richard O'Neil
Bro. Malcolm Westcot

PLYMOUTH LODGE

Bro. Griffith Robert Hastings

PURITAN LODGE

Bro. Mark Duran Hal

QUITTACUS LODGE

Bro. John Laurence Patte

REPUBLICAN LODGE

Bro. John Roccie Barlow
Bro. Julian John Leh
Bro. Aram Packlaian II

RISING STAR LODGE

Bro. Joseph Edward Repoff, Jr.
Bro. Herbert Bernard Shostek
Bro. David Riggle Timm

RURAL LODGE

Bro. Taisto Maki
Bro. John William McGowan

SAINT ALBAN'S LODGE

Wor. Richard Carter Hobbs, Jr.
Bro. James Wesley Newell

SAINT GEORGE LODGE

Bro. George Peter Costas
Wor. Robert Harley English

SAINT JOHN'S (B) LODGE

Bro. Lloyd Shirk Kidwell
Bro. John Lawrence MacKinnon
Bro. Jogesh Sachdeo
Wor. Gary Wayne Thompson

SAINT MATTHEW'S LODGE

Bro. Richard Burton Barnes
Wor. Raymond Owen Burgess
Bro. William Alexander Miller
Bro. Gerald Charles Znamierowski

SAINT PAUL LODGE

Bro. Richard Arthur Munn, Jr.
Bro. Robert Alfred Trotter

SATUIT LODGE

Bro. John Klein Ross

SIMON W ROBINSON LODGE

Bro. John Edward Carpenter
Wor. William John Cochran
Rt. Wor. Jonathan Parsons Doran
Bro. Alan James Hadley
Bro. Paul Hrach Terlemezian
Bro. Thomas Merilion Wenham
Bro. Robert Blair Willis

MOUNT HOLYOKE LODGE

Wor. Leonard Albert Neumann, Jr.

MOUNT HOPE LODGE

Bro. Robert-John Von See

MOUNT HOREB (W) LODGE

Bro. William George Mabardy
Bro. Francis George MacDonald, Jr.

MOUNT LEBANON LODGE

Bro. Glenn Scott Keith Williams

MOUNT ORTHODOX LODGE

Wor. Erwin Donald Hill

MOUNT TABOR LODGE

Bro. Joel Sheldon Kornitsky
Bro. Robert Jack Langer

MOUNT TOM LODGE

Bro. Ralph Whitney Hardaker
Bro. Donald George Jourdian

MOUNT VERNON-GALILEAN LODGE

Bro. Henry Peter Lesburt
Bro. Alfred Pasquale Puopolo

MYSTIC VALLEY LODGE

Bro. Richard Noel Peloquin
Bro. John Harmon Perkins
Wor. Thomas Ernest Ray

NEW MOON LODGE

Bro. John Anthony Frey
Bro. Arthur Chapel Wilbur

NOQUOCHOKE LODGE

Bro. Ronald Baldwin
Wor. Stanley Smeaton
Bro. Fred Tyler Webb, Jr.
Wor. William Carl Wilkinson

NORFOLK LODGE

Bro. Richard Prescott Harmon
Bro. William Robert Herd, Jr.

NORTH QUABBIN LODGE

Wor. Paul Kenneth Clark
Bro. David Louis Proulx

NORTH READING LODGE

Bro. Harry Lewis Larkin

Bro. Richard Francis Larkin

Bro. Richard Irving Pattison

Bro. Dana Amos Rowe, Jr.

Bro. Robert Frank Verdonck

NORTH STAR LODGE

Wor. Michael Paul Flynn

NORUMBEGA FRATERNITY LODGE

Bro. John Lytus
Wor. Frederick Richard Patey

OLD COLONY LODGE

Bro. Robert Harrison Hausken
Rt. Wor. Richard George Weston

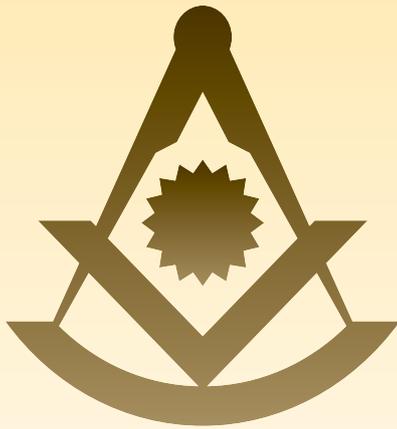
OLIVE BRANCH LODGE

Wor. Donald William Nelson
Bro. Martin Grant Putnam
Bro. Jack Bradford Stewart

ORIENTAL-MARTHA'S

VINEYARD LODGE

Bro. Antonio Garcia DaRosa III
Wor. Thomas Anthony Durawa



50 YEAR PAST MASTERS

The following Masons served their lodges as Master in 1970. They are listed in alphabetical order by name of the lodge served, which in many cases is not the lodge in which the honoree is now a member. These Past Masters are recognized in 2020 with certificates of service from the Grand Master.

Wor. Charles E. Rouleau, Sr.
Alfred Baylies Lodge, Taunton

Wor. Frank T. Scales, Sr.
Alpha Lodge, Framingham

Wor. Roy W. Jackson
Amicable Lodge, Cambridge

Wor. Ronald T. Brake
Atlantic Lodge, North Quincy

Rt. Wor. Paul W. Rolston
Belmont Lodge, Watertown

Wor. William M. Tennant
Bethesda Lodge, Brighton

Wor. Thomas E. Barlow
*Chagres Lodge, Balboa,
Republic of Panama*

Wor. Gerald A. Horne
Charles A. Welch Lodge, Maynard

Wor. Robert B. Stevenson
Corinthian Lodge, Concord

Wor. Wilfred J. Anair, Jr.
Day Spring Lodge, Monson

Wor. Robert L. Burnham
Dover Lodge, Dover

Wor. Rae A. Hall
The Lodge of Eleusis, Boston

Wor. Hugh C. Pecon
Evening Star Lodge, Lee

Wor. Ralph E. Tarricone
Friendship Lodge, Wilmington

Wor. Edward G. Cluett
Gate of the Temple Lodge, Quincy

Wor. Paul E. Contois
Hampden Lodge, Springfield

Wor. John H. Thayer
Harmony Lodge, Northfield

Wor. Jordan M. Jenks
Isaac Parker Lodge, Waltham

Wor. Harold H. Harp
*Isthmian Lodge, Balboa,
Republic of Panama*

Wor. Sheldon Pruss
Jordan Lodge, Peabody

Wor. Donald W. Pratt
Konohassett Lodge, Cohasset

Wor. M. Howard Jacobson
Level Lodge, Worcester

Wor. William B. Parker
Manet Lodge, Quincy

Wor. Alfred G. Irish
Marine Lodge, Falmouth

Rt. Wor. George J. Avis
The Massachusetts Lodge, Boston

Rt. Wor. Robert W. Comeau
Matthew John Whittall Lodge, Shrewsbury

Wor. Alfred L. Gaulin
Montgomery Lodge, Milford

Wor. Donald R. Werme
Morning Star, Worcester

Wor. Joseph Ganz
Moses Michael Hays Lodge, Boston

Wor. Gilbert L. Schofield
Mount Hollis, Holliston

Wor. Peter Megrđichian
Netop Lodge, Seekonk

Wor. Russell M. Tripp
Noquochoke Lodge, Westport

Wor. Charles E. Black
Old Colony Lodge, Hingham

Wor. Harold J. Odiorne, Jr.
Quaboag Lodge, Warren

Wor. Colin O. Ward
Robert Lash Lodge, Chelsea

Wor. Emmett E. Thomas
Roswell Lee Lodge, Springfield

Wor. Hector R. Asencio
Saint John's Lodge, Concepcion, Chile

Rt. Wor. Allen G. Zippin
Samuel D. Sherwood Lodge, Springfield

Wor. Hans R. Suhr
Sinin Lodge, Tokyo, Japan

Wor. James E. Bredenkamp
*Sojourners Lodge, Cristobal,
Republic of Panama*

Wor. Robert A. Anderson
Spencer Lodge, Spencer

Wor. Richard E. Currier
Starr King Lodge, Salem

Wor. Donald E. Peterson
Theodore Roosevelt Lodge, Quincy

Wor. William A. Nordstrom
Thomas Talbot Lodge, Billerica

M. Wor. Donald G. Hicks, Jr.
Wamesit Lodge, Tewksbury

Wor. Frederick A. Spencer
Wellesley Lodge, Wellesley Hills

Wor. William A. Farquhar
Winthrop Lodge, Winthrop

SINIM LODGE

MW Toshio Fujino

SOJOURNERS LODGE

Bro. Edmund Arthur Blennerhassett
Wor. Robert Joseph Gilmore
Bro. Paul Garbutt Kay

SOLOMON'S TEMPLE LODGE

Wor. John Henry Blackburn
Wor. Thomas James Gange

STAR IN THE EAST LODGE

Bro. James Farrell Walder

STAR OF BETHLEHEM LODGE

Bro. Robert John Downing
Bro. James Donald Mitchell, Jr.

TAHATTAWAN LODGE

Bro. Harold Floyd Arthur

THE CONSOLIDATED LODGE

Bro. Joel Andelman
Wor. Malcolm Lerman Burdine
Bro. Harold Hugo
Bro. Elias Stavropoulos

THE MEADOWS LODGE

Wor. Nicholas Ernest Creanza
Bro. David William Pearson

THE TYRIAN-ASHLER- ACACIA LODGE

Bro. John Wayne Hogan
Bro. Ransellar Dana Towle

THOMAS TALBOT LODGE

Bro. Herbert John Mueller

TRINITY LODGE

Bro. John William Carlson
Wor. Richard James Stuart

UNION LODGE (N)

Bro. Stephen Joseph DeCesare
Bro. William Warren Larabee
Bro. Richard Lewis Ray
Bro. George Arthur Vollans

UNITED BROTHERS LODGE

Bro. Richard Bayard Pratt

UNIVERSAL LODGE

Bro. Dryden Eugene Clark

WALTHAM TRIAD LODGE

Wor. Phillips Brooks Carpenter



Wor. Frederick A. Spencer receives his Senior Past Master Diploma from Rt. Wor. Kenneth L. Brown.

5th District Field Trip

Cabin fever, stir crazy, or whatever you want to call it struck the 5th District. Following the Grand Master's pandemic guidelines and state mandates has caused the brethren of the 5th Masonic District to become restless, yearning for the brotherly love that Masonic contact offers. Rt. Wor. Kenneth L. Brown, District Deputy Grand Master of the 5th Masonic District, and his district officers decided to do something about that. On a beautiful Sunday morning, July 12th, he and a group of brethren caravanned to Cape Cod to make presentations to two 5th District brethren.

Their first stop was the southern end of the town of Mashpee, some 15 miles south of the Bourne Bridge. A gentle sea breeze greeted them as they assembled in the front yard of Bro. Harvey G. Greenstein's home. Bro. Greenstein, of Moses Michael Hays Lodge in Needham, was receiving the Grand Lodge Veteran's Medal, having been raised a Master Mason some 50 years ago. Bro. Greenstein's wife, Rosanne, and other family members who were present were as pleased as he at this honor. Joining in the presentation was Rt. Wor. Stephen C. Cohn, Secretary of Moses Michael Hays Lodge. Also attending were Wor. Peter A. Mooradian, Past Master of Dalhousie Lodge, and Bro. Douglas J. Wagoner, Senior Warden-elect of Dalhousie Lodge.

Back on March 10th, when pandemic restrictions were put into place, one of the activities canceled was the Grand Master's annual Florida trip to meet with brethren and present awards. One of the presentations that did not get made was to a long-standing 5th District Brother. The



Bro. Harvey G. Greenstein receives his Grand Lodge Veteran's Medal from Rt. Wor. Kenneth L. Brown.

Grand Master asked RW Brown to find a way to make this presentation. So, RW Brown and his entourage headed down the Mid-Cape Highway to the seaside village of Harwich Port in Barnstable County.

Meeting in the front yard of Wor. Frederick A. Spencer's Harwich Port home, RW Brown fulfilled the Grand Master's request. Wor. Bro. Spencer was presented a Grand Lodge Senior Past Master Diploma. In 1970, Wor. Bro. Spencer presided as Master of Wellesley Lodge, which in 2017 was merged into Dalhousie Lodge. It should also be noted that Wor. Bro. Spencer is the Senior Past Potentate of Aleppo Temple, A.A.O.N.M.S., now Shriners International, having served as Potentate during 1974. At that time, Aleppo Temple held their activities at the Massachusetts Army National Guard Armory on Commonwealth Avenue in Boston. Wor. Bro. Spencer's wife, Pauly, and family members who were present were thrilled to acknowledge the recognition of this milestone.

Joining in the presentation were Wor. Stanley Y. J. Chu, presiding Master of Dalhousie Lodge, and Wor. Robert Y. Chan, Secretary of Dalhousie Lodge. After moving to the Cape some years back, Wor. Bro. Spencer affiliated with Pilgrim Lodge in the town of Harwich. So he was especially pleased that Wor. Robert S. Heppe, Jr., presiding Master of Pilgrim Lodge, and Rt. Wor. Herbert G. Bell, II, District Deputy Grand Master of the 21st Masonic District that includes Pilgrim Lodge were able to attend. RW Brown and the others so enjoyed this field trip they decided to look for other opportunities to take the 5th District on the road. Stay tuned.

-Wor. Robert A. Caron

Bro. Avedis Dikrin Dakessian
Bro. Donald Frederick Hansen
Wor. Richard Alan McKenzie
Bro. Philip Arthur Ramsay

WAMESIT LODGE

Wor. David Howard Hicks
Bro. Wayne Gordon Philip Moran

WASHINGTON LODGE

Bro. Robert Joseph Kimtis

WEST ROXBURY- DORCHESTER LODGE

Bro. Antoun Y Balich

WILDER LODGE

Bro. Ellis George Holden

WILLIAM NORTH LODGE

Bro. Alan Kaplan
Rt. Wor. Philip William Lambert

WILLIAM SEWALL GARDNER- KILWINNING LODGE

Bro. Robert William Jones
Bro. Louis Charles Mechalides, Jr.
Bro. George Panagopoulos

WILLIAM SUTTON LODGE

Bro. Evan Pantelopoulos
Bro. James Vincent Virnelli, Sr.

WILLIAMS LODGE

Wor. Francis Harold Ogert

WISDOM LODGE

Rt. Wor. Lawrence Donald Tonini

WYOMING LODGE

Rt. Wor. Donald Albert Bates
Bro. Kenneth Webster Boyd
Bro. John Amory Curtis



PLATE STORIES

I was initiated, passed, and raised by my father in a small but vibrant lodge in High Spring, Florida. He is a Past Master from Neoacacia Lodge #595 in Columbus, Ohio. Before I could become fully involved, I was transferred back home to Columbus where I too became a member of Neoacacia Lodge. I went through the line, becoming Master of the lodge in 2003, and bought my first Masonic license plate there. I knew it cost a little more, but the additional fee for a personalized plate was provided to the Grand Lodge, who used the funds to help scholarships. I was proud to be a Mason, so it seemed like the right thing to do.

On one of my several vacations to Florida, I was driving through Georgia. It was late, the kids and wife were asleep in the car, and the dreaded red lights appeared in the rear-view mirror. I pulled over, and a Georgia State Trooper approached the driver's window asking for my license and registration. I complied and apologized, as I know I was a little over the posted speed. The officer returned to his cruiser and I waited anxiously for my presumed speeding ticket.

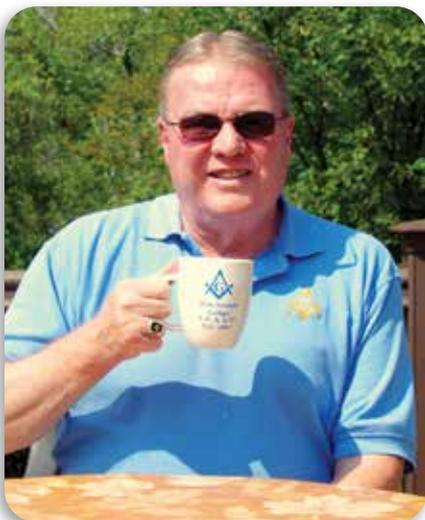
After what seemed like hours, which was probably actually five minutes, the trooper returned to my window and explained, "Sir, I clocked you at 18 miles over the posted speed. I really would appreciate it if you would slow it down a bit for safety. By the way, I really like your Masonic Plate, Brother. Have a safe trip." He handed back my license and registration, but to my surprise, no ticket. I never expected any privileges with membership. I mean Masonry is not American Express, but whether you know it or not, dealing on the level, it does give just rewards.

Fast forward several years. I was again transferred, this time to Massachusetts. I found a lodge near home, Hayden Lodge in North Brookfield, and became a member there as well. I inquired about Masonic plates. At that point, they were not available, but they were petitioning to make them, so of course I put in my application and *continued on page 29*



One day, on my way to Mount Ida College where I was a history professor, there was some roadwork just outside the gates that forced traffic to turn right. Following everyone else, I complied and then, near the fire station, I saw an opening in the oncoming line of traffic and executed a precise U-turn. Feeling rather proud of myself that I did not imperil my fellow drivers, I drove on, about 40 yards, when a Newtonville policeman approached me on foot and asked me to lower my window. My heart went into my foot. As I did, he said, "Mister, that took moxie. Incredible. Masonic plates, huh? Well Brother, what else can you expect from a Mason? Have a good day."

The story does not end there. When I approached the security barrier which had been erected over fears of unrest and reprisals towards some college officials, another policeman stepped out of his cruiser, looked at my Masonic plates and said, "With all the concerns that I have, you're certainly not one of them. Drive on, Professor." I am truly grateful that we are the most visible of secret societies because what we show the world is well received.



Shortly after I got my MM Plate, I was standing in a 7-11, getting my newspapers. A woman tapped me on the shoulder and said, "You're a Mason, right?" I said yes. She said, "I saw your license plate. My nephew Sal was a Mason and dropped dead suddenly 2 months ago at 36 years old. The Masons came to the wake and performed this incredibly beautiful service. You will never know what that meant to the family and me. Thank you!" Even though I had nothing to do with the service, I said you're welcome. Bottom line - No license plate = No story.

-Bro. Joe Beaton

-Wor. James R. Weiss

Do have an experience from seeing or having a Masonic plate? Send it to the Editor of TROWEL at editortrowel@gmail.com.

First



TROWEL: Did you know about Freemasonry before Richard became a Mason?

Jody Maggio: You ask when I became aware of Freemasonry, but honestly, I have never known a life without Freemasonry. My grandfather, father, and all my uncles on both my father's and mother's side were all Freemasons. Freemasonry, Eastern Star, DeMolay, and Rainbow was simply a way of life in my family.

Richard and I were having lunch at a local restaurant in Winchester when a friend joined us bursting at the seams to tell us he had just received his third degree and was now a proud Master Mason. I think that is when a light went off in my head and I thought Richard would be a perfect fit for Masonry and Masonry a perfect fit for him. Richard knew nothing of the Craft but was interested in hearing more. Within a few months he had petitioned our local lodge, William Parkman, and began his degree work in April of the same year. With enormous pride my mother gifted my (deceased) Dad's Masonic ring to Richard, joyous that he, my Dad, could go to Lodge again.

As Richard advanced through the chairs in William Parkman Lodge, the only notable change in our lives was that more and more of our family joined the Fraternity - first his brothers, followed by our four sons, his Dad, and so too our nephews. It certainly became a family affair. It was a wonderful opportunity for the men in our family to spend quality time together while practicing the tenets of Freemasonry.

T: Were there things that drove you crazy about Richard becoming a Mason?

JM: Honestly, nothing drives me crazy about Richard being a Mason. However, it does drive me crazy when I hear spouses complain about their husband's night out to lodge. There are lots of ways to look at his night out. "You went to lodge last night, so I'm going out with the girls tonight." I challenge those spouses to attend some of the public lodge functions, go to the family cookout, the holiday party, and once you have met these guys, these Masons, once you have met other Masonic families, you will find the same comfort I do - knowing the good quality men that keep our

husbands active in the Craft, out at a lodge meeting. But, for me, I believe it's healthy to have some separate interests. I take that opportunity to engage in my own interests. I can assure you nothing pleases the Grand Master more than being available to say, "I'm sorry honey, I can't join you for that 15-mile kayak trip you planned. I have a lodge meeting tonight."

T: What is the best part of being a Mason's Lady?

JM: Over the course of the past 20 years, Richard has had the honor of serving on committees, as Master of William Parkman Lodge, District Deputy, Jr. Grand Warden, on the Grand Lodge Board of Directors, and most recently, the last three years as Grand Marshall to M. Wor. Paul F. Gleason. Those journeys have been life changing for both of us. Richard's service to the Craft has afforded me opportunities to meet people from all walks of life, all corners of the globe, that I would not have met otherwise.

T: How did you meet the Grand Master?

JM: Hmm, well it all started with a chance meeting at our local bank - two single parents looking for some adult conversation. Perhaps a dinner that did not require either of us to cook, clean up, or more importantly, a dinner where no one had to be bribed to finish their broccoli.

The next thing we knew, we were married and full-time parents to five children. We put bedrooms in the basement, bedrooms in the attic, and an 11-foot table in the kitchen. Could we do this? Could we make it work? People thought we were crazy, and while I admit most newlyweds don't come home to five kids ranging in age from 9 to 14, we had a bond that made us feel invincible. Lunch was our daily opportunity to make our unified plan of how to parent, never losing sight that they outnumbered us 5 children to 2 adults. To this day, we feel blessed to have survived.

T: When did you realize Richard might be Grand Master some day?

JM: While I could sing you the virtues I see in my husband until the cows come home, the same could be said for so many men in the group of 'Permanent Members,' from which the Grand Master elect is selected. The position of Grand Master of Massachusetts is very different from other Grand Jurisdictions that have progressive lines and only serve one year. In Massachusetts, once a Permanent Member, you have the possibility of being chosen Grand Master which is very different from actually being chosen. If chosen, the service is for 3 years. "Do you know the members of the Purple Pool?" They are a League of Distinguished Gentlemen, each man a standout. Selection of the candidate cannot be an easy task. *continued on page 31*

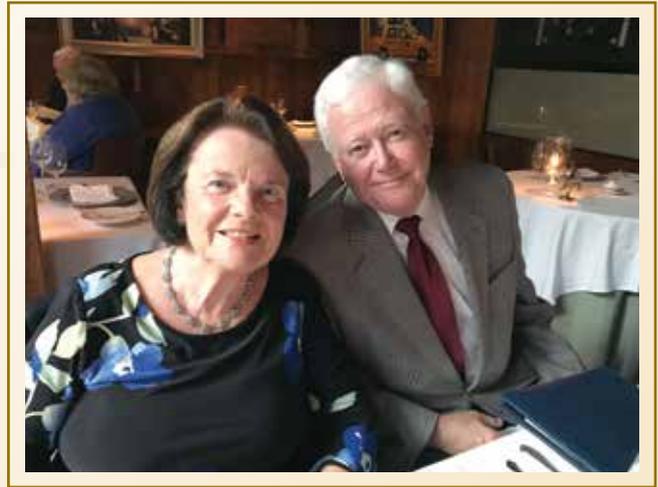
Ladies

It was an honor and a privilege to serve as First Lady of Massachusetts during my husband's term of office as Grand Master. It was a personally broadening and fulfilling experience and the thrill of a lifetime for both of us. I am often asked to pinpoint my favorite event or my fondest memory. My answer is it was not a single place or a single event, but the wonderful friendships I made along the way that made the journey memorable. Visiting other lodges and our travels out of state were exciting and enriching, but it is the connections and conversations that I treasure and miss the most. The joy of meeting other ladies and becoming friends, hearing their stories and ideas, getting their advice or suggestions for ladies' programs that were successful – that was priceless.

As new terms began and others drew to a close, we pledged to keep in touch and look forward to future reunions. We have learned how to continue our associations and how to reach out to each other through various social media. It is not the same without the hugs, but it is comforting to engage with each other online every so often, particularly during this pandemic.

December in Massachusetts can present challenging obstacles to hosting the Feast of Saint John, the weather being first and foremost. Snow was my one fear and recurring nightmare. In the end, I need not have worried, for we had beautiful snowless days each year and I came to realize that sharing, talking, and getting to know each other was fun in itself and a wonderful way to spend the day – snow or no snow. The opportunity to talk and become acquainted with each other is a sure recipe for a memorable ladies' event.

*Phyllis Gleason
First Lady 2017-2019*



One of the most significant events that I remember while being the First Lady of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts was on June 17, 2015. On that day, the State of Massachusetts celebrated the laying of the cornerstone of the State House with the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts re-enacting the dedication ceremony, as originally portrayed in 1795. Many months of planning between the Secretary of State's office and the Business Manager at Grand Lodge, Bob Jolly, created an historical event that has not been publicly seen since 1855.

Grand Lodge Officer's wives and I had been escorted to an observation area at the State House prior to the ceremony. From our vantage point, we saw the horse drawn carriage carrying the replica of the vault, which held historically significant contents to be placed in the cornerstone. A few days prior to the ceremony, the Grand Lodge Officers and their wives were invited to attend a private showing of the contents of the cornerstone vault at the Museum of Fine Arts, in Boston. The conservators and historians were there to explain the significance of the artifacts placed in the vault in 1795, those placed inside in 1855 at the second opening and rededication of the cornerstone, as well as the new articles to be inserted on June 17, 2015. We saw several coins, including an original Pine tree coin, newspapers in excellent condition, other items of the times and a silver plate, inscribed by Governor Samuel Adams, and Paul Revere, Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts, dedicating the cornerstone in 1795. On the reverse side of the plate were the names of the Governor and Grand Master in 1855. Of the few items added to the new vault was a new silver plate inscribed with the names of Governor Charles D. Baker, and Harvey J. Waugh, Grand Master of Masons. What a thrill to know that my husband's name is connected to such an historical event.

Standing high on the State House lawn, and looking across Boston Common, I could see 1,300 Massachusetts Masons, wearing their lodge aprons and regalia, marching from the Grand Lodge building on Tremont Street to Park Street, and up the hill to the State House. Leading the group was Grand Marshal Roger W. Waugh, *continued on page 31*



King Solomon's Lodge Inspects the Bunker Hill Monument

Wor. Lee H. Fenn



June 17th was a beautiful day, with clear blue skies, the parking was free, and it was a holiday, Bunker Hill Day. The roads were empty, and the parking was free. Oddly, unlike any other year, people were wearing masks. Strangely, no one stood closer than six feet from another person. Within the beauty of the day, it was a time of pandemic. Despite the complexity, King Solomon's Lodge, chartered on September 5th, 1783—just 2 days after the signing of the Treaty of Paris, which formally ended the Revolutionary War—represented by their Master, Wor. Zachary James Durrance Atwell, Senior Warden Bro. John Adam Kendzierski, Junior Warden Bro. Mark Frederick Aubuchon and other members, made its annual trek to inspect the Bunker Hill monument in Charlestown.

There would not be a Bunker Hill Day if it were not for King

Top: The Master of King Solomon's Lodge, Wor. Zachary Atwell inspects the stand for the replica monument. **Middle Left:** The plaque on the replica. **Middle Right:** Michael Creasey, General Superintendent, National Parks of Boston who opened the Monument for King Solomon's Lodge's inspection. **Lower left:** The flag that was flown when the original King Solomon's Lodge monument was installed. **Lower right:** A militia man in the First Church of Charlestown.



Solomon's Lodge erecting the original monument in the memory of M. Wor. Dr. Joseph Warren. Of the lodges M. Wor. John Warren, M. Wor. Dr. Warren's brother, chartered, King Solomon's Lodge is the only lodge remaining. The charter was sign by silversmith and midnight rider, M. Wor. Paul Revere. The monument is also the first American Veteran's Memorial.

In front of the First Church of Charlestown stood men with flintlocks in colonial garb. Inside, King Solomon's Officers, along with members of the J. W. Conway Bunker Hill Post No. 26, The American Legion, the Bunker Hill Monument Association, and the Boston National Historical Parks were assembled along with other interested parties. All were at least six feet from each other.

The colors were presented by the Charlestown Militia Company 1775, the National Anthem sung by Michael Webb brought everyone to their feet, and the invocation by Rev. Erik Maloy created a solemn mood.

Hon. Lydia Edwards told an
continued on page 31

John A. Benda, CDR, USN, 76th Commanding Officer of the USS Constitution.



Reflections on Lodge Music and the Masonic Ode

Bro. Richard W. Fardy



I was raised to the Sublime Degree over 50 years ago in Charles A. Welch Lodge, am proud to also be a member of Friendship Lodge, and to serve as the Bandmaster of the Aleppo Shriners Brass Band. For a number of years, I also served as a lodge organist.

As an organist, I often thought about the important role that music plays in our ritual work as well as the social aspects of our meetings. Marching and appropriate processional themes obviously augment perambulations about the lodge, while reflective hymn tunes often accompany a chaplain to the altar for opening and closing prayers or other special invocations. In addition, music is useful to fill the gaps of what otherwise might be considered dead time while the lodge awaits the reception of candidates or visiting dignitaries.

We believe that harmony is the strength and support of all institutions, more specially this of ours, and thus music might variously be either bright or reflective, but at all times should be consistent with the dignity and decorum of any well-governed Masonic lodge. All that notwithstanding, I would like to now offer some personal reflections on a very special piece of music known as "Pleyel's Hymn." This simple, but very beautiful melody was composed in 1791 by Bro. Ignaz Pleyel, a student of the great composer, Bro. Josef Haydn, as a part of his Fourth Quartet, Op. 7.

I first heard and played this hymn back in 1957, when I was fortunate enough to be given the chance to play with the Fitchburg Military Band in a Memorial Day parade. I was only 14 years old at the time, but my grandfather, Bro. Oliver H. Wiley, who was a proud member of Charles W. Moore Lodge and Thomas Royal Arch Chapter, was also the manager of that band. We played the piece at several cemetery ceremonies from manuscript charts that had been prepared by a former conductor of the band, and I was so taken with the simple and lyrical melody that I often thought about it long afterwards.

The tune consists of only 8 or 16 measures, depending on whether the notation is done in 4/4 or 2/4 time, and is supported mainly by simple chord progressions. So simple, yet so filled with both pathos and hope. I always knew my grandfather had a special affinity for the hymn, although until I completed my blue lodge journey years later, I was not really aware of just how deep and profound that affinity really was. Bro. David Vincent, a Masonic lecturer, mainly in North Carolina, wrote the now familiar lyrics in 1816 and they were subsequently published by H. Mann and Company of Dedham, Massachusetts, in a book entitled *The Masonic Minstrel*.

Having since played the music instrumentally, as well as having heard it paired with Vinton's expressive text, makes the song evermore meaningful to me and I now completely understand the special importance the hymn had to my grandfather as well. Solemn, and yet sweet sadness, combined with the hope of glorious immortality all come rushing forth every time this wonderful piece draws us together in the lodge, whether at the organ, in procession, or on the sidelines. This hymn truly brings to full completion the profound ideas of Freemasonry, beginning with the symbolism of the point within a circle and culminating with both the inevitability of death and our trust in almighty God and His faithfulness, which survives the grave and can never, ever die. ■



The Craft and Bushcraft

Rt. Wor. Robert J. Parron

In life we have many passions. Mine are Freemasonry and bushcraft. I've been practicing bushcraft since before I even knew what it was. As a young boy, I was always in the woods building survival shelters and learning primitive survival skills, such as carving, fire making, and animal tracking. During those younger years, I learned of Freemasonry from my grandfather, who was a member of the Craft.

As often happens in life, I got busy, pursuing my career, and building my business. I slowly got away from the activities of my youth. I always felt something was missing and tugging at my soul. About 17 years ago, I took up bushcraft again - hiking, exploring trails, building camp equipment, and lots of fishing in remote ponds and streams. Soon after, I did a job for my former Boy Scout leader. He happened to be a Past Master of what would become my lodge. I never dreamed several years after joining Freemasonry that I would be a two-time Past Master, followed by being a District Deputy.

As the years went by, I saw myself spending more time at the lodge, four to five nights a week. Evenings of paperwork and job proposals turned into lodge nights with my brothers. Weekends of bushcraft slowly faded and were replaced with paperwork for the business. Long story short, I was getting burned out. I sat down, after a long winter's day, with a cup of tea and began thinking about how I could find a balance in my life. What could I do to get back to the woods and escape the troubles of the world, if only for a little while? John Muir, a naturalist, explorer, and writer, wrote, "And into the woods I go, to lose my mind and find my soul." It dawned on me, that is the same feeling when I returned to lodge. How could I combine the two and make one complement the other or both?

That week, I made plans to head out on Saturday morning on my snowshoes to shed hunt. Shed hunting is done when deer shed their antlers. The antlers are used for buttons, toggles, and knife and tool handles. That was a tough New England winter week, early mornings and late nights were filled with sanding parking lots and sidewalks. Days were spent framing a new house. Thursday night came around, which was my mother lodge's meeting night. It was the only meeting I attended that week. I walked through the doors of lodge to see the smiling faces of my brothers. I felt the troubles of the week melting away. As collation came to

a close, my thoughts turned to my upcoming snowshoe adventure. Saturday morning came, and as I headed out and could no longer see the road or hear the roar of the cars, again, all my troubles melted away. Just like they do at lodge.

The day was spent hiking, looking for deer sign, and antlers. I had a nice lunch and a cup of black coffee in front of a small campfire, next to a stream. I had found my balance again. I faced the upcoming week with renewed energy. At lodge that week, I talked to my brothers about my weekend's adventures and found many other brothers were into bushcraft also. I have since been hiking, fishing, and camping with several brothers. I have run into brothers at bushcraft festivals. We have talked it up so much in my district that we had a Saturday barbecue and taught many

brothers how to throw tomahawks. We talked about hunting adventures and fishing trips. I now have a healthy balance and I am enjoying all aspects of life again. When we can all gather together again, I am working with several brothers planning a Masonic Bushcraft Festival, as a fundraiser for my lodge and the Brotherhood Fund. Brothers, find your passions, blend them together, find your balance in life, and never let your candle burn out. ■



Rt. Wor. Robert J. Parron in his element.

They Walk and Act as Such

By Rt.Wor. David P. Newcomb

*The years have passed by quickly,
Yet it seems so long ago,
That I started a journey Eastward
On the path all Masons know.*

*I had heard about Freemasonry,
But really, not too much.
The men displayed a decency.
They walked and acted as such.*

*It only took one question.
Quite simply, "What must I do,
To become a Master Mason?"
And that was it. Who knew?*

*The journey as a Mason,
On a path of enlightenment,
Welcomed me in a Brotherhood
And a family environment.*

*Their lessons in Freemasonry,
Share wisdom from the ages,
Known throughout the Brotherhood
As a Master Mason's wages.*

*In former days, men had their ways
To carry themselves with flair;
Admired, respected and revered,
Each earning a Mason's share.*

*Those men were something special.
They had a stylishness.
Fair dealing, honest, charitable,
And a certain timelessness.*

*Perhaps it's the requirements.
A Mason is qualified,
Worthy and well recommended,
Otherwise, he is denied.*

*The ultimate requirement,
One thing all Masons share,
Is belief in a Supreme Being,
Their answers found in prayer.*

*Quality characteristics,
Of prudence and fortitude,
Temperance and justice -
The virtues they exude.*

*Sometimes, they would give a hint,
With something they might wear.
The All-Seeing Eye, He understands why
They wore compasses and the square.*

*Observant eyes will recognize
The emblem on their car,
Or the symbol on their shirt or coat,
Revealing who they are.*

*I am proud to be identified
By my compasses and square.
They represent a status
And a certain savoir-faire.*

*Remember,
The words one speaks or the clothes one wears,
Do they matter? Not too much...
It's how men learn to live their life.
They walk and act as such.*

▶ Rainbow continued from page 3

Adventure is Out There with Massachusetts Rainbow. It is inspired by one of my favorite movies and my passion for traveling, whether to another Assembly in MA, or visiting a sister jurisdiction around the world. When I was younger, I quickly realized that the best friendships and memories come from the moments we share together when we travel and engage with others outside of our Assembly. Our hope is to inspire our members to also take a step out of their comfort zone and create their own adventures.

We have several travel-themed initiatives this year, including a Traveling Mascot photo contest where girls take pictures with our friend and mascot Wendell the Sea Captain Narwhal, a Traveling Passport program where you earn different "visas" for visiting new Assemblies and events, and for the adults, a Frequent Driver Miles Reward Program, where the adult who drives the most miles will earn a gas gift card. I know our membership is excited for these programs and cannot wait for them to get underway once our meetings resume.

Our service projects for the year are centered around hunger, and we plan to collaborate with different local charities such as the Greater Boston Food Bank, Meals on Wheels, and Project Bread. We will be hosting a canned food drive competition among our Rainbow Assemblies throughout the year, decorating meal bags to give to elderly residents, and participating in the Walk for Hunger.

During this unprecedented time, we were saddened to have our in-person meetings, as well as our Grand Assembly weekend cancelled. However, I have been so impressed by the creativity and passion that our membership has demonstrated to transform into our virtual world to host meetings and get-togethers on Zoom. Another perk of our virtual world is being able to visit other jurisdictions across the United States, and even around the world. Since our installation, a delegation from Massachusetts was able to attend Grand Assemblies in Bolivia, Texas, Mississippi, Iowa, Georgia, and more! None of these would have been possible without the strength and determination of our organization to stay connected, even virtually.

I am looking forward to being able to visit Assemblies in person once again and would like to extend our traveling theme to each one of you as well. Visit your local Rainbow Assembly and get to know the girls and advisors! We always love getting visits from members of our sponsoring orders. Your presence and our united Masonic family influence our lives.

Stay happy. Stay healthy. Stay adventurous.

In Rainbow Love,

-Kaitlyn Goodwin, Grand Worthy Advisor

▶ Plate Stories continued from page 23

waited, and waited, and waited. Finally, we received notice that Masonic plates were coming, and I was on the list. Imagine my surprise when I finally picked up my new Massachusetts Masonic license plate, MM595, the number of my home lodge in Columbus. I have since gone through the chairs and am a twice Past Master of Hayden Lodge, and am still as proud to be a Mason as I was when Dad raised me in 1997.

-Wor. Ralph E. Butts



Dear Overlook Family:

It is with a huge sigh of relief, gratitude and great pride that I share the following news: on May 18, 2020, we received our results from MA Dept. of Public Health for the Nursing Home Infection Control Audit. The Overlook scored 28 points out of 28 total - **A PERFECT SCORE!**

This is an enormous accomplishment and we are particularly appreciative of our Infection Control-Clinical Team: Michelle Duval, Wendy Hickey (OMHC), April Sawyer (OC), Carol Parece, Nancy Jakus (OVNA), and Kathy Lemire (Health Center Consultant), who helped drive our infection control training and protocols across the organization.

We also owe an enormous debt of gratitude to our Check-Point Screeners and Davenport Screeners, who made it next to impossible for the Dept. of Public Health Surveyor to breach our Overlook Fortress! In addition, last night (May 19, 2020), we received the results for the 330 individuals (residents and team members) who were tested for COVID-19 on Monday, May 18th, under the MA Governor's Accountability Mandate and National Guard. The Overlook exceeded the 90% participation requirement and achieved a 98% compliance rate. Even more impressive is the following: out of the 330 OMHC residents and team members tested, The Overlook had **ZERO** positive cases!

...

Kudos to the scores of team members who participated and in particular, Donna Bradley (People & Culture), Michelle Duval and Wendy Hickey (Staff Development/Infection Control-OMHC), Pat Foley (Administrator of Knollwood at Briarwood), Ryan Moore (Overlook Facilities), and Police Chief Graham Maxfield and the Charlton Police Department, who successfully drove the process with clear guidance, support, and action.

The logistics and orchestration were in complete lockstep, with military precision! At the end of the testing, the National Guard had nothing but praise and commendation for Overlook's kind, compassionate, and competent team members and the extremely efficient and well-organized operation. All of the miniscule and large-scale efforts, coupled with the collaboration, cooperation, and patience of our residents and family members have added up to The Overlook's cumulative and remarkable success story!

The Overlook could not have achieved this incredible outcome and defended our campus from this devastating virus without each of you! It takes a village, or in our case, a community.

We need to take this accomplishment in, bask and celebrate in our success, and yet not forget that more work lies ahead; it is critical that we not let down our guard!

Thank you!

With Pride and Appreciation,
Tameryn Campbell
MHS President and CEO

▶ **Bunker Hill Monument** *continued from page 27*

amazing story of the heroism of her uncle who saved his compatriots on Hamburger Hill in the Vietnam War. Later, John Benda, the 76th Commanding Officer of USS Constitution, reminded the assembled that, "Constitution's decks, just like Breeds and Bunker Hills, just like Gettysburg and Iwo Jima - are battlefields, are graveyards - where many men gave their lives in the service off their new country. The monument grounds are not just a place to take your dog in the morning and it should never be treated as such."

After the close of the ceremonies at the Church, the officers of King Solomon's Lodge went to the Bunker Hill Memorial. Because of the pandemic, it was closed to the public. However, because this is an annual requirement, two National Parks of Boston officers were there to allow the inspection. The monument to be inspected is the inner monument. This monument is a replica of the original monument erected by King Solomon's Lodge. The gate to this monument is opened annually for this inspection.

The wreath was replaced, and the Lodge Officers performed the inspection. All was satisfactory.

King Solomon's officers then went to see the Bunker Hill flag. This had been purchased at auction and loaned to a bank for display. It was the flag carried to the monument in 1843 when King Solomon's Lodge dedicated the monument. The flag, duplicates of which are flown on the streets of Charlestown everyday, is returning to the Bunker Hill Historical Society. ■

▶ **First Ladies: Mrs. Maggio** *continued from page 24*

T: *What did you think of him becoming Grand Master?*

JM: There have only been a few times in my life that have brought me the overwhelming joy and pride that I felt the night Richard told me he had been selected as the Grand Master elect. There was a lot of crying, hugging and a hint of, "Is this a dream?" On December 11, 2019, a small band of Masonic ladies gathered for a self-guided walking tour of Boston. We wandered past historic landmarks, Kings Chapel, Faneuil Hall, the Union Oyster House, and Boston Common, en route back to Grand Lodge, when word was sent, and the election was complete. Massachusetts had elected a new Jr. Grand Warden, a new Sr. Grand Warden, and a new Grand Master. Funny, I still needed to hear that it was Richard. Pinch me. Is this really true? I cried again. And then of course the day he was installed as Grand Master. How wonderful that our four sons bore witness to such an honor being given to their father. As a family, Richard has always been our guiding light and we are honored to think that the Craft feels that way too.

T: *What advice would you give to another woman regarding her husband becoming a Freemason?*

JM: I have found that when a spouse of even an acquaint-

▶ **Overlook: Brother's Eye** *continued from page 12*

sales and occupancy have decreased some, though not dramatically. They expect these numbers to improve as society opens up.

Looking back on all of this, we see how much effort the staff has put into protecting us and providing as much flexibility as possible in these difficult times. Fran and I are very happy that we chose The Overlook for our retirement and know that they have provided for us in these difficult times.

Rt. Wor. Herbert W. Mower is a Past Master of Somerville Lodge and a Past DDGM of the 6th Masonic District. He and his wife Fran are current residents at The Overlook in Charlton.

▶ **First Ladies: Mrs. Waugh** *continued from page 25*

Harvey's twin brother, followed by the Grand Master himself. Harvey and the Grand Marshal ascended the stairs to the State House, followed by the Grand Lodge Officers who would conduct the Cornerstone Ceremony. What an impressive contingent of men, rarely seen in public display. Gov. Baker, Lt. Gov. Polito, and Sec. of State Galvin greeted them. Coincidentally, it was a county holiday, Bunker Hill Day. Local school children had been invited to attend the ceremony and stretched out on the State House lawn to witness history in the making.

Margaret Waugh
First Lady 2014-16

tance has concerns regarding involvement in Freemasonry, it's often accompanied by old misconceptions, stemming from centuries-old old-wives' tales, mistruths, and all-around silliness. So, I ask, how can a group of men bound by Freemasonry, who hold true the belief in values such as integrity, friendship, respect, and charity to define their path in life be a bad thing? I'm proud to be part of the Masonic family who values each brother, who looks to care for one another in good times and bad. It was the Masons who reached out to the community and offered a place for the Red Cross to hold blood drives when the world closed to due to Covid-19. The H.E.L.P. program who fitted a gentleman to a wheelchair when everyone else turned him away. Countless meals brought to shut ins, a visit to a sick brother, the unified joy when a brother is recognized for his good work, or the tearful joy in my own mother's smile when Santa's Helpers gifted her with Masonic Widow's Holiday basket. So, if your husband is thinking of becoming a Mason, if he is thinking of joining the oldest male fraternity in the world, if your husband wants to be the best man he can be, stand behind him, support his decision, encourage him, and help him to be the best he can be. Who knows, one day he might be Grand Master.

Jody Maggio
First Lady 2020-

very successful online Masters' Path Training. It is now available online."

"I think you will see more trainings as well as committee meetings done online into the future. Thank you to all involved who have done the training as well as technically making it possible. Special thanks to Rt. Wor. Elliot Chikofsky and the Information Service Committee."

"Personally, since January 1st, in addition to the fraternal meetings and events, I have worked approximately 750 hours in the Grand Lodge Office as well as in my home office, spending approximately 100 hours commuting to and from Boston, over 4,000 Masonic miles. No complaints here Brethren, it is a labor of love!" said the Grand Master. In addition, the Grand Master attended over 85 online meetings.

Looking toward the future, the Grand Master reminded us that the #1 job of Masonry is caring for our Brethren, widows, families, and living a Masonic life. After tending to our Masonic family, the Grand Master charged the Brethren to "go out and save the world."

The Grand Master mentioned surveys for both new members and leaving members. These surveys will inform the strategies for retention and for future members. He expressed the sadness when members leave and his efforts to bring them back.

The Grand Master pointed the Brethren to the new Scottish Rite program represented at BeAFreemason.org. "I am hoping this will supplement our initiatives, thereby saving us some money. This is a nationwide social media program that will steer Massachusetts leads for membership to you and your lodges. Every lodge needs to work these leads to fruition," explained the Grand Master.

The Grand Master pointed out the updating of the "Pass it On" pamphlet into "The Tradition Continues..." featured on page 16-17, and copies will be in the Grand Lodge Supply Office. "When you receive yours, carry it and pass it on!" he said, "Remember, you are the key to membership! When someone says, 'How are you?' they have opened the door to a conversation where you can reply 'Great,' then relate a Masonic story to pique their interest and 'The Traditions Continues...'"

The Grand Master is continuing the reevaluation of the Committees started on December 27th. The first change will be the terms. Committees and Chairmen will now serve from April 1st to March 31st. For the Lodge and Building Association, the Grand Master set the goals of harmony, civility, dignity, decorum, respect for all Brothers, and maintenance of traditions, values, and practices of the Fraternity. He said there should be a "three to five-year plan with achievable goals. Is your lodge viable both fraternally and financially over the next five years and into the future? That's my criteria. If you don't have a plan, let me know and we will offer the help and tools your lodge needs to be

successful. Building Associations and Lodges must confirm to certain minimal guidelines, submit certain reports on time with GL (December 1st), with IRS (January 15th), be transparent and submit to yearly internal (and external if needed) audits. This is not happening and is creating issues throughout the Fraternity. I need your help!"

The Grand Master reminded the Brethren of the fluid nature of COVID-19 regulations from the Governor and its effect on lodge meetings. The Grand Master's edict from June 1st is in effect and can be found on MassMasons.org.

He reminded the Brethren about no texting during lodge communications as it undermines the Master's authority. "This will END NOW!" demanded the Grand Master.

The Grand Master reminded the Brethren to update MORI, especially email addresses. "Recently, I sent a certificate to a brother celebrating 55 years as a Mason which arrived at his home over four months after he passed away (due to lack of MORI updating)," recounted the Grand Master.

During these pandemic times, the Grand Master called on the Brethren to call and email every Brother this month, send a letter to everyone you do not reach, and notify every Brother that they can update their information on MassMasons.org or through their lodge Secretary. "Your number one mission now is to focus on our members' well-being. Second, is to update all member MORI information. I expect every member of Massachusetts Masonry to be contacted between June and July of this year. It is your goal to update every member's MORI information by the end of this July," said the Grand Master.

He called to the Masters and Ambassadors of every lodge to act on every lead from the Grand Lodge so that no man falls through the cracks and pursue demits, as well as non-payment of dues to bring them back. "One lodge reduced their NPDs 50% with just a few phone calls," explained the Grand Master.

"Plan public awareness and membership events, support Rainbow and DeMolay. The youth are our future. Be relentless about improvement, don't be satisfied with because we've-always-done-it-that-way, guard against complacency, be proud about your improvement to the quality of life for our Brethren, their families, and the world, and," the Grand Master continued, "never forget that you are not just men, you are Masons!"

"Thank you for your time and all you do for Masonry in Massachusetts. God bless you, our active military, our Veterans, our Fraternity, and God Bless America."

"Brethren, as I prepare to close this Communication, I have changed gavels to this handcrafted gavel fashioned by Wor. Joseph Sadlow. Brother Sadlow was Past Master of North Reading Lodge and a talented craftsman. He passed away, to the Celestial Lodge above, on May 4, 2020," said the Grand Master, Most Worshipful Richard Maggio, as he closed the first virtual meeting of the Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts in ample form. ■

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

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- > 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



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WHY CHOOSE US? Our Offerings

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- > 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
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Stonebrook

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

Whither are you traveling?



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