



Veterans Day November 11, 2024



Election Day Tuesday, November 5, 2024

MASONIC BODIES of the ONONDAGA CAYUGA - TOMPKINS CORTLAND - MADISON OSWEGO DISTRICTS

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the word

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November 2024



Eight boxes of books were delivered to the Syracuse VA Hospital from Post 43 Masonic War Veterans. Ms. Becky, Director of Volunteer Services, gladly accepted the donation.



It was my great honor to meet and keep company with the GM of Bolivariana—that is, Venezuela—MW Hector Vanegas Y. Cortazar. The introduction was made at the Mecca #1 Potentate's Ball for Anthony Ruffini in Staten Island. The GM was just made a Shriner. BeAShriner.com to become one. Brian Courtney

Memorial Hosts Open Session

Memorial Lodge No. 648 invites Master Masons and their significant other to our Thursday evening January 23, 2025 meeting at the Memorial Masonic Center, 648 Centerville Place, North Syracuse, NY. The evening festivities commence with a dinner at 6:30 p.m. We will

move into the Lodge meeting room for the presentation.

A research scientist from the Masonic Medical Research Institute will speak on the subject of "Lupus Research at the Masonic Medical Research Institute." Our presenter will answer

your questions regarding the MMRI and Lupus Research.

This is a save-the-date, put-it-on-your-calendar notice. It is a no-cost event, however, prior reservations are required to attend. Memorial Lodge No. 648 will provide further information concerning reservations.

EMESBE

Hello, Brothers and Sisters. I hope all is well with all of you. As I said last month, I hope all of you have things planned Masonically, especially within your Blue Lodge. If not for your Blue Lodge you would not be able to participate in a concordant body.

I am going to repeat myself here because it is working, as some of you are letting us know. If any Secretary has a member change his address, pass away or demit, please notify us as

soon as you know. This will get a chore out of the way for you and help us save postage fees. We are charged for every paper that gets returned with a bad address. If we do get a paper returned, we will notify the Secretary of that Lodge. Then you can find out if there is an issue with the Brother in question. We want to save you money so you do not lose out on postage and dues. It is all about us working together. I have always stressed teamwork.

Remember, Worshipful Master, that your article is to be submitted by the 12th of every month. If you cannot, please designate someone else to do it. Last month we had only six Lodges from Onondaga County put in an article.

Secretaries, send me a hard copy of your Lodge members, please, to 8975 E. Mud Lake Rd., Baldwinsville NY 13027. We are double checking the rosters we have with your MORI list. This is our way of making sure that everyone's roster is correct.

If any Lodge or Body has any fundraising ideas we would be glad to hear them. Or if you can donate to us it would be appreciated, as

EMESBE ... see page 2



Mentor

Hello, Brethren. For several months the Mentor has written about the benefits of developing community projects in our Lodges, an idea that a group of interested Brothers has discussed in several Zoom meetings. This article develops a mini-blueprint that shows what such an effort might entail.

We can divide such a project into three phases: conceptualization, preparation and execution. In the conceptualization phase we start by summoning all the District Lodges, under their DDGM. The Masters, Wardens and Deacons (MWD) is the ideal local organization to decide whether to start such a project, select a leader, and then determine the Who, What, When, Where and How.

What project will we do? It should be something valuable for the community, that we can do and that has not been done before. Schools do student fairs, presenting college careers. But not all students want or can attend college. Few student fairs discuss trades. Therefore, they do not have much information about this topic. We also need to find qualified speakers, willing and able to talk about preparing for the different trades and obtaining supporting information about them.

In the preparation phase we need to find a suitable Lodge: one centrally placed, with easy access, parking and a pleasant venue to conduct the event. We need to find external partners, e.g., VFW, Rotary, etc., to join us. Make clear to them that we are all partners and have something to gain. Sometimes organizations worry about working with others for fear of losing membership, as though it were a competition. Create a steering committee, where all the groups are represented, contribute and share the work.

Invite OES to collaborate; bring your wives and daughters. We are an organization of men. When developing an event that includes women and children, mixed crowds make all feel at ease. Provide coffee and donuts and do not proselytize the guests. If they like us, some will ask to join.

However, and much more important, guests will get to know us, which is our objective.

Arrange for publicity. Newspapers, radio and TV stations promote local events for free. Each participating organization should contribute four or five attendees. Entering an empty room is not conducive to success. The first time around, there may not be many guests. Do persevere. Spread the event news: secure a review in some local paper, or write your own for *the word* and leave copies of our newspaper with the local libraries and with other community organizations.

In the execution phase organize your room. Have sufficient chairs and tables for guests, one for the brochures of all participating organizations, and for coffee, tea, etc. Have some men and women at the door to welcome guests. Have an MC introduce the event; have information and brochures available. Start the event on time and do not make it too lengthy. Announce follow-up events. Arrange a box, pads and pencils for attendees' comments; read their concerns to improve future events. Thank the public for attending, before they go home, and invite them again.

Another effective event topic is a student writing competition. Create a brochure with theme, prizes, etc. Contact all area high schools and announce the event date. Conduct it at the Lodge room. Have a room and an activity for the accompanying parents, to wait until their kids finish writing their pieces. Recruit a serious reading committee to assess the compositions and at another date give cash prizes and a diploma at the Lodge. Make it a festive event, possibly with food and refreshments. Such an event provides two opportunities to have kids' parents, relatives and neighbors visiting the Lodge. Our guests will see who we are and what we do. Deeds are always better than words.

We invite your participation. To join our Zoom meetings, discussing said projects, contact me: matresearch@cortland.edu.

Jorge L. Romeu

ONONDAGA DISTRICT

www.onondagadistricts.org
or Grand Lodge web site under regional and District Web Sites at:
www.nymasons.org

DDGM



RW Toby Shelley,
toby_shelley@yahoo.com
315/427-6961

Greetings, Brethren. I am told we all have the same number of hours in a day—it is just a matter of how we divide the hours (but it sure seems there were a lot more hours in a day when I was in military boot camp). Apparently, I must like maximizing my hours in my day because I have no trouble keeping busy. However, I have always found time for Freemasonry. I have made Masonry a priority for my free time and when I ask myself why, the first thing that comes to mind is the Brotherhood. I enjoy spending my free time with my Brothers. There are other aspects of Masonry that I enjoy (history, ritual, etc.) but by far it is the Brotherhood. Having fun with our Brothers, in my opinion, is our best recruiting and retention tool. Any words or actions that detract from that Brotherhood obviously hurt our Brothers and ultimately hurt Freemasonry. As we watch our membership numbers decline, ask yourself why you are a Mason and use that answer as a recruiting/retention tool.

Looking forward to November's Masonic calendar we find Official Visits on November 4 for Skaneateles and Morning Star at Marcellus; Novem-

DDGM
see 2nd column

STAFF OFFICER



RW Adam Novak
Novakadam14@yahoo.com
315/200-0886

Greetings, Brethren. I take great pleasure in visiting various Lodges alongside the District Team during our Official Visits. The warmth and camaraderie experienced during these visits are genuinely delightful.

The completion of the Lodge of Excellence surveys is ongoing and we are on schedule to finalize the process as a District by early November. The Masonic Development Course is set to commence in November, so I encourage you to monitor your emails for the announcement of the specific time and date.

For those seeking a more individualized and self-paced approach to further enlightenment, I recommend exploring the online Leadership Academy Masonic Culture Classes and the Livingston Masonic Lecture series. Both are available on the nymasons.org website.

Adam Novak

DDGM
from 1st column . . .

ber 14 with Memorial; and November 21 with Konosioni. November 19 finds us in Marcellus for the Grand Lecturer's Convention.

Never forget Veterans Day, November 11 at the eleventh hour. Until we meet on the level, my Brothers.

Toby Shelley

EMESBE
from page 1 . . .

postage has gone up twice this year.

"Thank you" are two of the nicest words you can say to someone. That is why I say it to everyone on our EMESBE Committee. It is a pleasure working with these individuals. I say it frequently because it truly is a pleasure.

God bless all of you. Please keep our Military, Law Enforcement Officers and First Responders in your thoughts and prayers. Remember that Brotherly Love will prevail—at least it should.

Brian Courtney

ASSISTANT GRAND LECTURERS

VW Rick Miori
VW John Bromka

Brethren, thank you for the support for our 2024 AGL team. Please let us know of upcoming Degrees and rehearsals. It will be our pleasure and honor to serve you. With four AGLs onboard for Onondaga District, surely we can help.

Official Visit season has started. Three of the AGLs, Carlton Jackson, Todd Platten and I, with Staff Officer Adam Novak, were able to visit Fayetteville-Central City No. 305 and Nortrip No. 998 on October 1 for the first Official Visit of the season. District Deputy Grand Master Toby Shelley gave a very fine synopsis of the Grand Master's St. John's Day Address. As you might imagine, RW Shelley has a rare and unique perspective, to say the least. I urge every local Mason to attend the Official Visit of your home Lodge. If that is not possible, do make a point of attending the OV of another

VW Carlton Jackson
VW Todd Platten

Lodge in the District (check the word calendar). You will be richly rewarded.

On the subject of visiting other Lodges: try it! The Brotherhood and camaraderie thus engendered is like something out of Psalm 133. Look for Table Lodges, Degrees (help in building the Temple is always welcome) and the opportunities built into the Traveling Gavel and Traveling Trowel.

Please alert the AGL team to your practice sessions and Degree work. We are here to help. You may text me at 315/567-5697. Please identify by name and Lodge and I will notify the AGL team.

We will see you at the Grand Lecturer's Convention on Tuesday, November 19 at Morning Star No. 524 in Marcellus. We are located across Main Street from the new Stewart's Shop under construction.

John Bromka

Tom Ostrander,
Sponsor
Grand Steward
Cayuga-Tompkins District
2012-2014, 2024-2026

Past DDGM
Oswego Dist.
John F. Tanner

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Event schedule, Nov '24

The reader should consult each organization to check the status of these events.

- Oct 28 CM/CT GLect Convention
- Nov 1 OswOES District Meeting
- CT Dist. Dinner
- Nov 2 K-9 Pancakes
- Tritown—1°
- MornStarOES—Install
- Nov 4 Skaneateles/MornStar—OV
- Nov 5 FayCC—Ballot
- Hiram—OV
- Nov 6 Pulaski—Travel Lodge
- OnonOES—Homecoming/Reception
- Nov 7 ClearPath for Veterans @ LkCity
- Auburn—1°
- CrossroadsU
- CentSq
- Centerville—Elect
- Nov 8 LkCityVic—Install
- Nov 9 Veterans Day Parade
- Nov 11 Veterans Day
- Nov 12 Scipio—OV
- Nov 14 Memorial/Tully/FtBrew—OV
- Nortrip
- KT25
- Nov 15-17 Potentate's Ball
- Nov 16 OnStar—Install
- Nov 17 BonaFide—Install
- Nov 18 Osw GLect Convention
- Nov 19 WarrenST—OV
- Onon GLect Convention
- FayCC—Thanksgiving
- Nov 21 Auburn OV
- Konosioni—OV
- CrossroadsU—BBAF
- CentSq—OV
- Centerville—Public Install
- Nov 26 KHiram—OV
- Nov 28 Thanksgiving
- Dec 3 FayCC—3°
- Dec 8 LkCityVic—Christmas
- Dec 12 Memorial—3°
- Dec 14 Auburn—Christmas

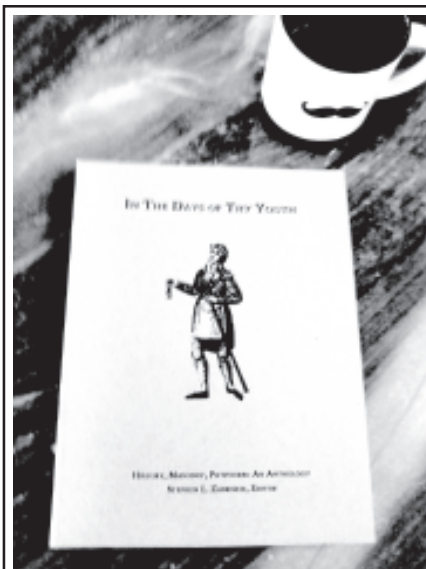
Past
Grand Master
Carl J. Fitje
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Past Senior
Grand Warden
John R. Fuller
Sponsor

Memorial Lodge No. 648
W.: Alfred W. Ferguson
Centerville Chapter No. 185, OES
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In Memory of
Sandy Creek Lodge No. 564,
Oswego District



In The Days of Thy Youth
A collection of local histories, papers and presentations, Masonic and otherwise, of the origins of Lodges of Cayuga-Tompkins District and of early inhabitants. Published by Scipio 110 for its 200th anniversary in 1997, this updated, larger version celebrates the 225th birthday of the charter. Contains submissions quaint and polished from Masons and historians, including research by Temple R. Hollcroft, Stuart Sturges and George Peter. A nice addition to any Masonic library and a great gift for your favorite Craftsman.

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Degree night at Crossroads United.

Crossroads United Lodge 93 F.&A.M.
780 Woods Rd.
Solvay, N.Y. 13209
1st & 3rd Thurs., 7:30 p.m.
315/487-0596

WM David DeOlden II,
wife Karen
315/400-7909
deoldend@yahoo.com



Greeting, Brothers. I hope all is well with you as we are coming into the fall weather.

The barbecue grill raffle is ongoing until April 2025 when the winning ticket will be drawn. The winner will be contacted via phone or email; you do not have to be present to win.

Last month we Initiated a new Entered Apprentice (see picture). A big thank-you goes to all those Brothers and AGLs who helped us with this Degree. And the dinner was great.

Our Official Visit went very well. The catered dinner was awesome and great fellowship was enjoyed by all who attended.

November 7 is a regular meeting night with no dinner. November 21 will be a Brother Bring a Friend night with a pot luck dinner (bring a dish to pass). Our Christmas party is still being worked on and we will have more details coming.

We are still trying to visit other Lodges and if any Brother needs help and/or assistance getting to Lodge, let me know. Have a wonderful November. I will see you at Lodge.

David DeOlden

Fayetteville-Central City 305 (ON)
116 East Genesee St.
Fayetteville, N.Y. 13066
1st & 3rd Tues., 7:30 p.m.
315/637-6431

WM Joseph Flanagan

As the leaves begin to

tumble down to a glorious few, please join your brethren for a time of fun and fellowship. November 5 will be a tiled meeting to vote on petitions read at our October 15 meeting. A sausage and peppers dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$10. Make reservations with Craig by November 3.

On November 19 we will have our traditional Thanksgiving Turkey Dinner, served at 6:30 p.m. This is a social evening so come and enjoy. This cost is also \$10 and reserve with Craig by Sunday, November 17.

Please support your line of officers who are working hard to make our Fraternity continue to go and grow in the coming days. A Third Degree is scheduled for December 3.

Remember the Brotherhood Fund. I will see you in Lodge.

Joe Flanagan

Memorial 648 (ON)
648 Centerville Place
N. Syracuse, N.Y. 13212
2nd & 4th Thurs., 7:30 p.m.
315/458-5560

WM Karl D. Parker,
315/427-1411
Secy RW Gary Hartman,
315/706-3533

The air is getting crisper and the holidays will soon be here. It is a great time of the year for family gatherings, great food and Masonic fellowship. On that subject, the Masonic Center will be a hotbed of activity in the month of November. It will be the place to be on November 2 for installation for Triangle, November 6 for Onondaga District OES reception of Grand Officers, November 9 the annual Daughters of the Nile public turkey dinner. November 14 will be the Official Visit of District Deputy Grand Master Toby Shelley to Memorial Lodge and November

16 will be the installation of officers of Onondaga Star No. 144. Wow, what a month!

In news of our Lodge, Brother Rick Barrett is doing well after heart surgery and Brother Mike Brooker has had successful eye surgery. Please contact RW Gary Hartman or me with any news concerning any Brother or family member in sickness or distress. We like good news even better.

Concerning an earlier mentioned event, the Official Visit of our DDGM: This will be a joint meeting with Tully Lodge. It will be preceded by a baked chicken dinner at 6:30. Reservations will be a must and can be made with the Secretary or me. The deadline for making reservations is November 11. This will be our only meeting in November, due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

In December we will do

the Third Degree on the 12th. I will be calling many of you for help to do the Degree in the best of traditions. And I will be promoting at every meeting our efforts to provide a more joyful season for our community by participating in the food and toy drives headed by W Brother Peter Rompf.

Mark your calendar for January 23. That meeting, organized by RW Jim Swan, will be one of the highlights of the year. It will be a meeting open to all as a public service. The guest speaker for the evening will be Dr. Samantha Le Sommer. She will be speaking on the research being done at the Masonic Medical Research Institute on the disease of Lupus. The evening will start with a dinner. Memorial Lodge will treat all who attend as our guest. Reservations will be mandatory.

Karl Parker



Participants at the joint Official Visit for Fayetteville-Central City 305 and Nortrip 998 on October 1.

Editor's Prerogative

An Account

Early in October my wife and I set out for a leisurely drive to Florida intending to celebrate our anniversary on the road. The anniversary is kind of a big one so we decided to forego our usual one-overnight trip. We booked a couple of oceanfront houses, one in the Norfolk, VA area and one on Fripp Island, SC.

The VA one was an expensive dump; Fripp Island was really nice. This locale is a bit north of the more familiar Hilton Head and whereas the Norfolk cottage was a few dunes away from the beach, the elegant Fripp house was on the edge of a marsh. When the tide was out it was all tall grasses with a couple of distant pools. You could sit on the porch in the morning and listen to the tide gently coming in until the vista was all water, the grass submerged.

There are skinny little deer all over the island and the 25 mph speed limit—not to mention the prevalent golf cart traffic—makes you pay attention to their roadside grazing. When the water is out the occasional animal wanders behind our house, munching the vegetation, now a doe, now a buck. With my handy phone I have a couple of shots and short video. Not enough for a documentary.

As we traveled we were aware, of course—for how could one not be?—of the progress of Milton. We left our island about mid-morning on Monday, October 7 with gorgeous weather that continued through Georgia. As soon as we hit the Florida line we encountered overcast skies and periodic gullywhumpers. We met an extraordinary amount of traffic heading north on I-95 and an equally extraordinary number of big-boomed utility trucks, from many different states, headed south. The Governor was calling in volunteer resources and the state was seemingly well prepared. It should go without saying that the level of anxiety in the passenger seat escalated as we progressed farther south and concerns about a full tank of gas and ice and “groceries,” that is, things that could be consumed in the absence of electricity, were more and more frequently expressed.

A little before we reached our Stuart exit on the southeast coast we agreed to get off 95 and hit a Wawa store/gas station. Two hundred thousand or so others had the same idea and I waited for a long time to get to a pump, which promptly refused my credit card. So we continued to our actual destination and had no difficulty finding provisions.

On Tuesday, in the daylight, we discovered a hole in the outer pane of our super-duper, hurricane-proof, insurance company-endorsed impact glass window. It had the appearance, to me, of a bullet hole but we decided it was kicked by a mower or weedeater. Late in the day I made a Home Depot run for a sheet of plywood and tacked it over the affected area. And we settled in to wait.

All day on Wednesday the TV broadcast panic and earnest announcers outdid each other with their reporting of impending disaster. It was a little alarming to watch the tornados forming and sweeping across the state. There were something like 170 sightings throughout the state and throughout the day and watch and warning notices for our area hit our phones until about 9 p.m. I managed to get through two afternoon Zoom calls with only a couple of dropped connections. But there was a touchdown in our community during a late daylight hour and one neighbor caught a video of it in the vicinity of the newly completed new clubhouse. It hit one street with bad consequences: some forty homes suffered destruction or damage. Fortunately, there were only a couple of minor injuries.

On Thursday we had power while many sections of the community were without, and still are. Utility crews, electric crews, cleanup crews went immediately into action here and across the area, working to restore water and electricity, re-righting utility poles, clearing roadways and stacking debris. The hopeful estimate by Florida Power and Light is to have 95% of Martin County restored by tomorrow. Today, Monday, many areas are inaccessible and roads are closed. But the people are surviving and however distraught, are feeling blessed. At Mariner Sands we had a spontaneous community town hall on Friday to assess the situation and discern needs. My wife and I set out a monstrous coffee urn on Saturday, Sunday and today from 7 a.m. to 10. Something so simple has brought a lot of appreciative folks to our doorstep and engendered a lot of warm associations.

Yesterday afternoon I went off campus to a private residence where a local church had organized a work party. We cut and moved a lot of palm trees and smaller downed brush from a guy's yard, whose house, by the way, seemed untouched. His neighbor's small home was not so fortunate. This was a satisfying enterprise, because this is what we do. The bottom line is, however distraught, we are blessed.

Stephen L. Zabriskie



The Brothers at Nortrip Lodge 998 and wives enjoyed an evening out for wings at a local pub.

Nortrip 998 (ON)
116 East Genesee St.
Fayetteville, N.Y. 13066
2nd & 4th Thurs., 7:30 p.m.
315/637-6431

WM Mark LaFountain

Greeting, Brothers. October has been a very busy month for our Lodge. We started the month off on October 1 with our Official Visit. The evening began with a lasagna dinner prepared by Past Master Todd Burns and his wife Heather. After dinner District Deputy Grand Master Toby Shelley and his District Team presented the Grand Master's Initiatives for the upcoming Masonic year.

On October 10 our Brothers and wives enjoyed some wings and conversation at a local pub. All in attendance had a very enjoyable evening. On Saturday, October 12, in keeping with a long-standing tradition, our

Brothers participated in the Adopt A Highway Program by cleaning up debris along the highway by Green Lake State Park. Prior to the cleanup the Brothers enjoyed coffee and donuts.

And by the way, we welcomed W Richard Penhall, DSA. He recently affiliated with our Lodge.

In November we will again provide two families with complete Thanksgiving dinners. With that being said, remember that our only meeting in November will be on Thursday, November 14. That evening Past Master Todd Burns will be sitting in the East, as I will be visiting with family from Arizona.

As always, if you have not seen a Brother in Lodge, please give him a call to see how he is doing. And if you know of any Brother who needs a ride to Lodge, please let the Secretary or me know.

Mark LaFountain



On Saturday, October 12 the Brothers from Nortrip Lodge 998 Minoa cleaned up Route 290 by Green Lakes State Park.



Morning Star 524 (ON)
46 E. Main St.
Marcellus, N.Y. 13108
1st & 3rd Mon., 7:30 p.m.
315/673-2561

WM Lynn Howard
315/420-5042,
howardlynn13@yahoo.com

Greetings, Brethren. It has been a very busy summer for the Lodge. We held four successful blood drives. Mel Simmons completed the office renovation and we await the village inspection and Certificate of Occupancy. With Tom Lathrup's assistance I installed new lighting in the parking lot. And we are looking into bringing internet into the Lodge.

There was great success with the Third Degree at Song Mountain. We welcome Harold Babbitt III to our Lodge.

We just completed our second road clean-up for the year. The DOT was very happy and our road sign is in the works.

Many awards were given out at our annual picnic. Members of the Lodge visited Skaneateles Lodge for their Table Lodge. Brothers also went to Crossroads Lodge to assist in their First Degree. The Brothers with the Eastern Star ladies participated in the Old Home days, where a great time was had by all.

Dan Campis says there

will be a District-wide Table Lodge in November. Also, our first meeting in November will be our Official Visit, in joint session with Skaneateles Lodge. We will honor our fellow Brothers who are veterans with a dinner in November.

Sadly, we take note of our lost Brothers and Sisters of our Lodge. Diane Toth and James Mooney will be dearly missed, as will Brother Lounsbury, for whom we did a graveside Masonic service at the request of the family.

L.J. Howard

Konosioni 950 (ON)
116 E. Genesee St.
Fayetteville, N.Y. 13066
1st & 3rd. Thurs., 7:30 p.m.
315/637-6431

WM Andrew Blair

Greetings, Brothers. I was glad to see everyone at our Table Lodge this year. We are heading back into our working season so please do not be shy about getting your candidates' petitions in. As in years past, it appears we will have a decent sized class so it is imperative that you get your petitions in so they can be read and investigations assigned.

I look forward to getting into the Degrees and beginning practices for parts. If you would like to join in for a part within the Degree work, do not hesitate to volunteer.

I ask that all of us remember our Brothers affected by the hurricanes in the south. Let us keep them in our prayers.

I thank all of our Brothers for helping Tully Lodge with their Apple Fest. It is good to see the strengthening of bonds between our Lodges and I hope to see us doing good things together in the future.

Also, please make time in your calendar for the Grand Lecturer's Convention on November 19 as it is not on one of our regular meeting nights. Finally, let us all be prepared to give our District Deputy Grand Master our hearty welcome for his visit on November 21.

Andrew Blair

Tully 896 (ON)
13 State St., POB 896
Tully, N.Y. 13159
2nd & 4th Thurs., 7:30 p.m.
315/696-8252

WM John Rapp,
315/569-5203,
jrapp126@twcny.rr.com

Greetings, Brethren, good evening! I hope that all is well with the brethren of Tully Lodge and elsewhere.

It has been another beautiful day and we spent it at the Apple Festival. We had a banner day. A huge thank-you goes to brethren from across the District. They were extremely helpful in handling the huge crowds that we experienced. I am

happy to say that we sold over 450 sausage sandwiches, not including breakfast sandwiches. In fact, we sold out. I am more than happy to announce that Freemasonry is alive and well and will continue to be. Also, I would like to thank the Tully Interact Club for their help.

In the broken record department, our Masonic sign has been repaired. We await enough Brothers to commit to raising it, and then we will install it.

We will also be planning a First Degree at Tully Lodge in the near future. We will welcome our newest member. Remember that we are opening Lodge with a light meal. Our latest tiled meeting was on October 24.

Let us keep all ailing Brothers in our thoughts and prayers and keep the Mason in Masonry. May God bless our Troops, First Responders, Firemen and Police. And may God continue to bless the United States of America.

It is business as usual at Tully Lodge No. 896. I encourage all Brothers from Tully Lodge and elsewhere to attend our meetings every second and fourth Thursday at 1930 hours. Do not hesitate to contact me if you need anything or to just say, Hi. Contact me through email: jrapp126@twcny.rr.com, or by phone: 315/569-5203.

John Rapp

Jordan 386 (ON)
14 North Main St.
Jordan, N.Y. 13080
1st & 3rd Mon., 7:30 p.m.
315/689-3455

WM Bradley Fetes
585/530-0969
fetesbg@gmail.com

As September unfolded it brought both the work and joy of the fall season. Our first meeting this month served as a proper metaphor for both fellowship and work. We celebrated Brother Jay Myers Sr.'s impressive thirty years in the Craft, which reminded us of our shared journey and the work that lies ahead.

Our efforts began in earnest during the weekend of September 20-22, when the Brothers of Jordan Lodge came together for the Jordan Fall Festival. It was a lively event and we like to say it was hard to find a corner of the festival grounds that weekend where a Mason was not present.

Just a few days later we continued our activities with the annual Harvest Dinner. Brothers decorated the Lodge for the season, prepared a hearty meal, and served nearly 200 guests. While this might seem like hard work, the time spent together fostered a strong sense of brotherhood.

We also had the pleasure of connecting with our neighbors. The Brothers of Skaneateles Lodge graciously hosted us for a Table Lodge and provided a wonderful catered meal.

As September came to a close, we were fortunate during our first communication of October to hear from RW Bruce Chilton about the Morgan Affair and the rise of the Anti-Masonic Party in New York State. We concluded the month on a positive note, celebrating Brother Dean Comstock as he informed us that not only his spirit but his strength is high as he continues his fight against lung cancer.

While October tends to be quieter for Jordan Lodge, we looked forward to welcoming friends and family at the Bailiwick Haunted Hayride on October 18, 19, 25 and 26. We are eager to introduce new candidates to the Craft and continue sharing the joys and benefits of our brotherhood.

Our thoughts are with all of our Brothers in Florida. May we continue to nurture these bonds, drawing strength from one another as we embrace the changing seasons together.

Bradley Fetes

This long piece appeared in the September 1924 Builder magazine. It was an indictment of Lodge management practices in that day. Are its critiques or criticisms far off today? (The reference to a "pulmotor" in the section under Attendance may need explanation. It is "a mechanical device that pumps oxygen or air into and out of the lungs...")—Editor.

“Let Your Loins Be Girded About, and Your Insights Burning”

By Bro. PAUL R. CLARK, New York

...What does a modern business man, trained in the schools of action, and insistent on results, think about Masonry? What could he have Masonry do? How would he release and apply the forces latent in a lodge? One will find an answer to these queries in language direct and unambiguous and now and then a bit startling, in Brother Clark's paragraphs. Read and consider, and reply, too, if you wish....

THE distinguishing characteristic found in most leaders and prophets is vision. Keen students of Freemasonry recognize its great possibilities. Masonic thinkers also admit quite freely its shortcomings. They also speak quite frankly concerning the lack of imagination on the part of too many of the Masters of the Craft who have not learned to discriminate between the shell and the kernel.

People usually get what they want - at least the desire always precedes the attainment. We must first have the vision of Freemasonry, as it might be if the rank and file took Masonry seriously and were willing to consecrate a part of their lives to it. If the desire were strong enough, the brothers on the right and left could and would produce results which would surprise even a wooden Indian.

To most people a vocation is necessary but more and more big men are turning to an avocation for an

outlet for their inborn desire to do something worth while for their fellowmen before they pass beyond. Why not try Masonry? Service in the Blue Lodge is moulding character. If you can think of anything greater than this - you will have to do some fast head-work.

When we begin to attract men "for the line" because of their Masonic perfection instead of because of their ability to excel in Masonic symbolism he shall startle the world! How can we hope to reach port when our Craft is in the hands of pilots who devote so much of their time to theoretical symbolism instead of practical Freemasonry?

What is needed is a deep-seated conviction on the part of a few leaders in each lodge that a change is necessary; then a willingness to apply what seems to be a reasonable remedy, and the backbone and nerve to stick to it through thick and thin even though the results do not at first seem to be worth the effort. It is a long uphill pull, especially when there is precedent, prejudice and tradition to overcome.

No man can estimate with any degree of accuracy what this old world has lost by the innate tendency in human nature to reject everything that is new. After eliminating habit and prejudice, the greatest enemy of originality is fear of ridicule and contempt which the world has for those who propose

something that is out of the ordinary. Past Masters frequently incarnate this resistance to so-called innovations and novelties in Masonic activities. We shall make more progress in bringing Freemasonry close to the hearts of its membership when Masters of the lodge divest themselves of this tendency to "throw a monkey-wrench into the machinery" when the proposed activity is being discussed in our lodges. New blood, the younger element in our Craft, do not continue to be interested in anything just because their fathers were. If properly directed, their longing for something more vital than they are getting can be utilized for the benefit of the Craft.

Masonic lodges, like plants, need trimming occasionally, and the trimming should not be left in the hands of inexperienced Masons. But, if the Worshipfuls and RW's will not do the trimming the younger members of the Craft will - they will "trim" themselves. That is what has been going on for some time. Unable to get what they want in the lodge and realizing how difficult it is to change the Craft they exercise their prerogative and stay away from the meetings.

MASONIC INACTION AND RUTS

When you attempt to sell a person anything and your sales talk fails to arouse suf-

ficient desire on the part of the prospective customer to ask questions, you've failed nine times out of ten.

Masons must be "sold" on Freemasonry. If the desire can be created it must be by different methods than we are now using. If we are so thin-skinned that we can't stand a little constructive criticism we are in a bad way. Honest criticism will never irritate a big man or a live lodge and if heeded it usually leads to progress.

Masonic inaction like still water becomes stagnant with age. It is better to be accused of Masonic indiscretion once in a while than be eternally guilty of Masonic stagnation.

"The first great care of Masons when convened" is to get out of Masonic ruts of doing nothing; and the second great care is to stay out. Masonic character, like muscles, are either flabby or sturdy, depending upon whether they are exercised.

Our leaders should strive for Masonic perfection. Do not be over concerned about the possibility of failure. We shall have at least come nearer to the goal by trying and our Craft will be better for the effort. Someone has said: "If you think you are right, go ahead. If you happen to be wrong you may back down; but if you have been right and haven't started, you are in a rut and the only difference between a rut and a grave is the length and breadth of it."

MASONIC BOLL WEEVIL

Perhaps Freemasonry needs a little opposition to develop its latent powers! Too much prosperity makes men and organizations indolent and self-satisfied. The Mexican boll weevil was considered a calamity by the South a few years ago. Recently the City of Enterprise, in Coffee County, Alabama, erected a monument to this pest. Why? Because it proved to be a blessing! It taught the South that it couldn't afford to "put all its eggs in one basket" - in other words it visualized the necessity for diversified farming.

Societies, organizations, corporations and individuals are just as lazy as they dare to be. A little opposition might help rather than hinder the Craft.

Anyone can drift along with the tide of "What-Was-Done-Before." It takes a live fish to breast the current. The Master of a lodge who can buck the current of prejudice, habit and local traditions, especially when coming from the Past Masters who were willing to be "fair weather sailors", is worthy of your support - even if he does make a few mistakes.

To find one real satisfactory Masonic idea to arouse Freemasonry from its "twilight sleep" you may have to try ten - don't be afraid to fail. As Edmund Vance Cook says, "It isn't the fact that you were licked that counts;

it's how did you fight - and why?"

LANDMARKS AND TRADITIONS

Precedent and tradition are all right in their places, but too much respect for them means dry rot. It is surprising how many proposed activities which Masons think tread on the ancient landmarks, can be done with propriety in a lodge.

Some Masons think we have inherited all the traits of the present order and they blame traditions for their own lack of initiative. This is rank Masonic ignorance. The truth of the matter is that we have acquired most of our present shortcomings.

FACTS AND OPINIONS

The Masonic pessimist says, "It has always been like this." The optimist casually remarks, "We are getting along all right." The Masonic factomist says, "What are the facts?" and then is willing to try out a reasonable solution even if it is an innovation.

Facts and figures are stubborn things. There may be some very illuminating statistics available which might tell us very interesting things and from which we might draw some startling conclusions.

Fact remains always what it is today; opinions change with what you ate for dinner. The opinions of Masons who

Your Insights Burning ...
see page 6

OSWEGO DISTRICT

DDGM REPORT



RW John Pierce
585/610-8772
jpierce1307@gmail.com

Greetings, Brethren. As the season of gratitude and remembrance arrives, our Oswego Masonic District is bustling with activity and reflection. We are well underway with Official Visits and I want to thank each and every Brother who has come out to support our District Team. Grand Master Rubin has shaped the focus for the Masonic Year around "Brotherhood" and I have shaped our District focus on "Together." By prioritizing "Together" Brothers can enhance the spirit of "Brotherhood" and achieve a greater impact, both within the Lodges and in the wider community.

The next Official Visits will be to Hiram Lodge 136 on November 5 and Central Square Lodge 622 on November 21. The Oswego District Grand Lecturer's Convention will be held on November 18 at Central Square 622.

On November 11 we salute the brave men and women who have served our country with dedication and sacrifice. Let us come together to express our gratitude and support for their service.

In the spirit of Thanksgiving I encourage each of us to reach out to our fellow brethren, to extend a hand of friendship to those in need and to give thanks for the opportunities we have to make a positive difference. Whether through our actions, our words or our support, we have the power to bring warmth and joy to others.

As we gather with our families and friends, let us carry the values of Freemasonry in our hearts. May this Thanksgiving be a time of reflection, connection and gratitude for all the blessings we share.

John Pierce

STAFF OFFICER



Grand Steward
RW Kenneth D. Sterling
315/283-6562
kenneth.d.sterling@gmail.com

No News Received

PULASKI 415
28 Broad St.
Pulaski, N.Y. 13142
1st & 3rd Wed., 7:30 p.m.
315/298-6029

WM Fred Dashnaw



Tidings, my Brothers, Now that the leaves are beginning to fall and the beauty of the season is on full display, we marvel at what the Great Architect can create.

Our past two communications were well attended. With twenty-four at our Master Mason Degree the walls of the Temple were complete. This makes a real statement to our new Master Masons. At our Official Visit we had thirty Brothers attending. And our covered dish dinner is always enjoyed.

Our faithful workers are glad this Saturday will finish up our barbecue season. A big, special thank-you goes to each of you. Without your effort we would be unable to give scholarship monies to the three schools we support.

Our first meeting for November, on the 6th, is a Travel Lodge to Rising Light in Bellville. Their Lodge joined us at our MM Degree. We can meet and car pool from the Lodge at 6:00.

Our Eastern Star will be again having the Election Day turkey dinner with all the trimmings. This is take-out only again this year. To place your order please call Jan at 315/298-5616 or Charlotte at 315/298-5986. The cutoff is October 30.

Pulaski
see 3rd column

ASSISTANT GRAND LECTURERS

AGL Garry Visconti
AGL Bob Boutell

No News Received

Pulaski from 2nd column . . .

We will be tackling replacing the main support beam in the basement. This is a difficult job at best. It has needed doing for some time.

As we enjoy the comforts of our homes there are so many that are enduring suffering and great loss—of family members and homes and livelihoods. Please help in any way that presents itself. Please God, give those in need the strength to carry on.

And with Journey's verses, "Don't stop believin'" in your own abilities. Do not stop believing in the good we find in others. May the Lord watch over all our Brothers and Sisters and guide and strengthen you. See you on the level.

Fred Dashnaw

CENTRAL SQUARE 622
3215 East Ave.
Central Square, N.Y. 13036
1st & 3rd Thurs., 7:30 p.m.
315/668-3277

WM Bob Boutell

Salutations, Brothers. October is leaving and November is upon us. The leaves have changed and are now mostly on the grass. This year is going by so fast.

Our meeting nights this month are the 7th and 21st. Our first meeting will be the opening and closing and the dress will be a Masonic shirt. The second meeting will be our Official Visit and the dress will be suit and tie. Practice your ritual so we can make a good impression on our District team.

Also, this month is the Grand Lecturer's Convention. This will be on the 18th. Dinner will be at 6:30 p.m. and the program will start at 7:30 p.m. Please email or call our Secretary with your reservations.

As always, please reach out to a Brother you have not seen lately and share some fellowship. A kind word can mean a lot.

Bob Boutell

SCRIBA 414
1416 St. Rt. 49
Constantia, N.Y. 13044
2nd & 4th Mon., 7:30 p.m.

WM Charlie Tuff



Greetings, Brethren. You can start to feel fall in the air. Our Lodge is back up and running strong. We had our DDGM Official Visit on September 23. The meeting was very well attended by Brothers of the Lodge and visiting brethren, with a great meal and fellowship had by all. We then brought the Traveling Gavel up to the Pulaski Lodge on October 8 with great participation from our Lodge. It was another great night had by all.

We had our fall chicken barbecue on October 6, cooking 300 halves with sides and we sold out by 1:00. The community certainly likes the chicken and their support is greatly appreciated.

At our next meeting we will be starting to set up practices for our four Brother Fellow Crafts and should have them ready to be Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason soon. We have a couple of future Masons who have asked to come and have dinner with us before our meeting.

The officers and brethren of Scriba Lodge would like to wish the following Brothers a happy birthday. They are Daniel Buck, Jeffery Bush, Randall Cottet, Ronald Cottet, Frank DiPino, Andrew Fay, Edward Foster, Charles Gabriel, Alfred Gerish, Paul Hoyt, Ralph Kelley, Raymond Main, Monford Matteson, Paul Morse, Roger Paradiso, Lawrence Reagan, Randal Shaw, Roger Shaw and Theodore Vermette. Happy Birthday, Brothers—make it special!

I am very proud of our Lodge and the Brothers who have built it, both past and present, to make it what it is today. I can only say we are on the move.

Do not forget to get out and vote. If anyone needs a ride please let us know and we will help in finding one for you. Be safe out there, Brethren.

Charlie Tuff



Bruce Babilot
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Your Insights Burning from page 5...

do not attend the lodge regularly and take little or no interest in its labor are vital facts which we must face.

There is a deplorable admission and often only too true which is made by some parents and many Masters: "Raise a child or a Mason in the way they should go and when they grow up they will do as they please."

Business experience teaches us this important lesson: it is frequently easier to reach the top rounds of the ladder than it is to stay there. Students recognize the application of this truth to Freemasonry. Master Masons need our support most after they reach the top. The reason for this is "just as clear as mud" to many Masons - but here it is anyway: the "top of the ladder" to most Masons is acquiring a smattering of Masonic symbolism!

What we fail most to realize is that every brother who is raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason has just completed an air castle - it is up to the leader of the Craft to build a foundation under it. Their dreams or air castles may not be the right ones but if they are, the disappointment to some of them must be staggering. When there is a wide margin in the hearts of Masons between their anticipations and their realizations, they are Masonically sick and need a doctor. When a brother is sick physically it is the usual custom to visit him personally; when he is sick Masonically we give him absent treatment and then wonder why he doesn't recover.

Lodges even donate money when a brother is financially in trouble, dues are deferred and every assistance is given during the financial embarrassment. There are thousands of Masons dead broke and insolvent Masonically and we never lend a hand! We ought to borrow the Salvation Army Slogan: "A Mason may be down but he is never out." But instead of getting out in the highways and the byways to preach Masonic salvation and try to reach some of our brothers who are Masonically in the gutter, "we tile the lodge" and put through a fresh batch as fast as the Ritual will permit and then wonder what the trouble is.

Master Masons who are considered as such by their brethren are not working at their trade. The chief reason for this is that what goes on in the lodge doesn't hold their interest. Most of the ritualistic work is not unlike whispering a message in a boiler shop.

Master Masons too frequently measure their progress by the degrees which they receive rather than the degree with which they throw their influence into the problem of diffusing more real light in Masonry and teaching the application of Masonic teachings.

ATTENDANCE

Divide the total membership of our lodges by the number of brothers present: the result is a fairly accurate picture of whether we are alive or just think we are.

Gross profits in a Masonic lodge are its membership, but the thing that "makes the mare go" are the net profits, which are the number that attend and how they labor.

If there is a germ of Masonic ideals in the hearts of Masons who attend lodge infrequently, it is dormant and inactive. When we admit that they are beyond recall, we admit failure. These ideals can be resuscitated. The pulmotor that will start the pulsation must compete with the movies, the theatre, radio, lectures, automobiles and card playing, to say nothing of the golf links.

Nine-tenths of the ritualistic work of the average lodge fails to get under the skin of the brothers present: this is why they don't come oftener.

There is very little doubt that many lodges are having considerable trouble getting out much more than a "baker's dozen" percentage of the total membership except on the working of the Third Degree when "eats are served".

Other organizations, many of them purely social, are attracting a larger percentage of their members than Masons. "The same old grind - nothing new vitalizing or gripping," is the comment often given when the question is put to a Mason who "hasn't time" to attend his lodge.

We have all seen the brothers on the side lines slip out before the work is half completed. That this is the rule rather than the exception doesn't seem to awaken us to the necessity of looking for the cause.

SYMBOLISM AND RITUALISTIC MASONRY

A Mason who has a high regard for the possibilities of the Craft, a man of mature judgment, a public spirited citizen and who stands high in his profession, recently made the statement that he thought more of Masonry before he joined the Order than he did afterwards!

This is the typical "cross section" of the staggering percentage of Masons who are "lost" and who need Masonic salvation.

It is a well recognized fact that too many lodges devote too large a percentage of the available time within the lodge to Symbolism and Ritualistic Masonry. Men of vision, leaders in their chosen vocation and men who are considered public-spirited, do not spend their time on forms and symbols.

Neither does the rank and file, those who do not consider themselves leaders or

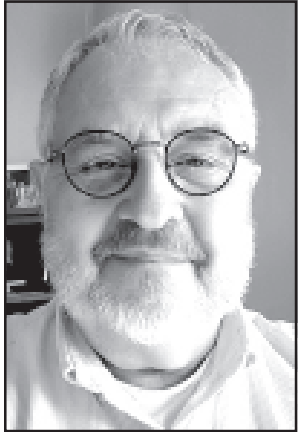
Your Insights Burning ... see page 7

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CORTLAND-MADISON DISTRICT

DDGM REPORT



RW Richard G. Reed
607/591-1301

rgreed13045@gmail.com

Greetings, Brethren! Happy fall—and has it not been a beautiful one! The weather has been cooperative overall and the leaves have been so colorful. I hope it encourages us to get out and travel to the Lodges in our District.

Official Visits are well underway and will be finishing up next month. The District Team Apron Presentation occurred on October 19 and the Grand Lecturer's Convention, together with the Cayuga-Tompkins District, happened on the 28th at Cortlandville Lodge. My Brothers, these are all opportunities for us to gather together, share food and fellowship at table and gain further light in Masonry and I hope to see you there.

Both our Staff Officer, RW Wade, and our AGL, VW Tom, are providing us with educational opportunities and each of them will have a time to share during the Official Visits. Our District Team is working to support our Lodges and enhance our Masonic experience. Please let us know what your needs are so we can assist in bringing the Brothers to more Light.

Brothers, keep traveling to the East. Keep striving to become better men and Masons. And look to our GAOTU for help, courage and Light.

Richard G. Reed

STAFF OFFICER'S REPORT

Grand Sword Bearer
RW Wade A. Caler
607/423-2669
hipper62@yahoo.com

Brethren, as the Staff Officer of the Cortland-Madison District, one of my duties is to introduce and implement the Lodge of Excellence Program. This program is based on the Scottish Rite Valley of Excellence program. The purpose of the program is to assist Masonic Lodges who want to improve, as all should, set clear standards and goals to reach for. This program motivates members by offering recognition, promotes teamwork within Lodges and Districts and supports existing Grand Lodge programs. The program focus is grounded in the eight core areas of what Masonry is and can lead to success. The eight core areas are compliance, ritual, social, education, communication, administration, charity and community service. The information is gained through a survey of thirty questions, with a point value given to each question.

I will give a brief overview of each core area. Compliance: excellent Lodges are not delinquent with Grand Lodge, follow Masonic Law and they comply with edicts and their obligations.

Ritual: reasonably smooth ritual work in both opening and closing, no reading from the book or notes. Able to perform the three Degrees without outside help; and new Brothers go through the Drama within six months of being Raised. Protocol and Etiquette: satisfactory or unsatisfactory.

Social: meal on meeting night; social time after meeting; non-meeting night social events. Are family, prospects and candidates invited?

Education: have all members taken the Masonic Development Course and the

More Staff Officer
see 3rd column

ASSISTANT GRAND LECTURERS

Tom Whitney
No News Received

Staff Officer
from 2nd column . . .
Road to the East? Education

Your Insights Burning from page 6 ...

students take an active interest in constant repetition of creeds, dogma, symbols and prayers.

The best Masonic idealism is expressed in its works, not in its beliefs and symbolisms. Preaching Masonic service! Don't get the "cart before the horse"! Give a newly-made brother something more gripping than symbolic light in Freemasonry and you will take the "P" out of Preaching.

Symbols are something that stand for something else. Forget the thing the symbol stands for and you have an empty shell - a mummery, a jargon of words, signs and baubles. Intelligent men don't remain interested in titles, platitudes and forms.

A brother is entitled to be called a "Master Mason" after he has raised to the degree of Master Mason. This doesn't make him a Master of Masonry any more than putting long pants on a boy of fifteen makes him a man. Symbolically he has reached the top round of the ladder: actually he hasn't begun to climb. The tragedy of Masonry is that few have the ambition to climb.

Masonic vaccination "doesn't take" on the average brother when it is confined to the exposure he received during the first three degrees. If it does take then the toxin of greater or more potent forces quickly neutralize the Masonic influence and the brother is not immune to the influences against which Freemasonry teaches.

Who wouldn't rather have laughter in the home than gold plate on the side board? "Gold plate" is a symbol of success as success is measured by some people. When we spend too much time on the symbols we lose the true meaning of the thing itself.

The solution is less emphasis on "mass or group symbolism" in the lodge and more individual work among those in the Craft who have a sincere desire for real light in Masonry.

There are as many different shades of Masonry in a lodge as there are members - every Mason has a different conception of what it means to him - but too many admit that it isn't a vital part of their lives.

To many Masons, Masonic illiteracy is a crime. To such as these, Masonic education is possible through study clubs. Live men seldom become enthusiastic about something they know little about. This is the reason we should discriminate between "lip service" and real service.

presented at every meeting; new Brothers mentored as well as new officers.

Communication: the Lodge maintains an active contact with membership. Uses multiple and varied forms of communication.

Administration: are officers and replacements trained? Are there separate administrative/business meetings?

Charity and Community Service: is the Lodge participating or supporting charity and local or regional community service activities? Is there traveling: participation in District administration, travel to other Lodges both in and outside the District for fellowship or to participate/assist in ritual or other activities?

In summary, the Lodge

of Excellence is a structured program to find out where you are and to help you set realistic goals to improve participation of active members, bring in new members, and develop a public presence. I look forward to working with each of the Lodges once the Official Visits are completed.

Wade A. Caler

in our every-day lives.

Unless we are willing to give something to the Craft we shall take very little out of it that will be worth while. Too many are playing the "put and take" game - with emphasis on the taking. The average lodge and an auto are alike in at least one respect - there is always work to be done around both.

If you want to have fresh milk on the table at 7 A.M. (Masonically speaking) someone has to get up at five o'clock in the morning and milk the cow. Are you willing to do your share of the lodge chores?

Tile the lodge but don't tile your mind and park your Masonic intelligence in the ante-room. When Operative Masonry held full sway in England, Masons were known by their works in the lodge, not what they believed in.

We need something more than just routine labor - Masonry is starving for brain work - and the pitiable fact is that we don't realize there are oodles of brains and intelligence in the Craft. The problem is to get at it and use it. The old two-cylinder Packard car was an efficient machine compared with its latest twin-six sister when the latter is hitting on only four cylinders.

We talk about our progress, the phenomenal increase in our membership, etc., but the ratio of what we accomplish now with our increased possibilities is low.

Our problems have increased faster than our membership: if you are willing to acknowledge this, then we must admit we are falling behind. The call for real service through the dedication of our time and intelligence to our Craft is as patent to our leaders as two and two equal four.

OUR CIVIC PROBLEMS

I would rather be able to report to the Grand Master that every member of my lodge voted (one way or the other) at last year's elections than that we increased our membership umpty umpty per cent during the same period. The Star Spangled Banner is a symbol and it is all right to cheer and doff our hats as it passes down the avenue with the brass band playing the national anthem. Next time you do this remember these words: "Little over 48 per cent of the total votes are ever cast at a national election and the stability of our Democracy depends upon whether we intelligently exercise our rights as citizens." Let us of the Masonic Craft set the ex-

ample and teach this gospel far and wide.

Graft is rampant in our Government, because you and I are indifferent. A Mason who votes regularly and attends lodge occasionally is a better Mason than one who attends lodge regularly and votes occasionally. Statistics prove few do either. If Freemasonry doesn't teach us our obligation to our citizenship it isn't worthy of its traditions.

If the Craft could be known only by the progress it has made in getting its members to discharge their duty as citizens at the polls at election, it will have accomplished something worth while.

Our public schools, a revision of our judiciary system, the proposed amendment to the Federal Constitution relating to child labor are but a few of the problems which confront us as citizens. Groping in the dark like poor blind candidates, most of us are making no effort through our lodges to dispel this darkness and help to mold public opinion.

"LET US KEEP OUR EYE ON THE BALL"

If you know anything about baseball or golf, you know what this means. It applies equally to Freemasonry.

Freemasonry must "fish or cut bait". We can't stand still. We must keep up with the procession or step out of the line.

Keep your eye on the ball! The heart of Masonry is "The Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man!" If the average Mason can grasp this in the first ten years of his Masonic life he has a brilliant mind. This is not a slam at his intelligence; it is criticism of the methods we use in our lodges.

We don't give him a chance to find out what it is all about. Until we devote more of our time and attention to watching the ball we shall miss it entirely.

If the Masonic Craft can interpret its Masonic teachings in terms of real live active Brotherhood of Man, there isn't a problem confronting us which it couldn't solve.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST

WARNING! One of the dangers of identifying yourself too boldly with a progressive Masonic movement is that your friends may accuse you twenty years from now of being a reactionary.

The greatest thing any

Your Insights Burning ...
see page 8

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CAYUGA-TOMPKINS DISTRICT



DDGM REPORT

RW Ed Maassen

Greetings, Brothers. Tommy "O" and I have been doing our due diligence for MW Steven A. Rubin, Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York. Trumansburg Lodge was a very enjoyable visit on October 7 and the Brotherhood was great. King Hiram Lodge had to be cancelled on September 24 due to me getting sick; they have been rescheduled to November 26.

Meanwhile around the District, Cayuga Lodge had a Table Lodge on October 16. Scipio Lodge had a 3rd Degree on the 26th. Tritown Lodge is having a 1st Degree on November 2 and Auburn Lodge will be doing a 1st Degree on November 7.

Tommy and I are hopeful that we have a good turnout for the Cayuga-Tompkins District Dinner on November 1. Our guest speaker for the evening will be MW Steven A. Rubin. Let us give him a warm welcome.

I hope all of you are well. I will see you in Lodge.

Ed Maassen

SYLVAN F&AM 41
Moravia, N.Y. 13118
1st & 3rd. Tues., 7:00 p.m.

WM Paul Schenck

With summer gone, where does the time go? We had a good summer picnic. The food was excellent.

We have a new crash door installed on the front of the Lodge. The back wall was repaired to keep water from invading the Lodge ceiling. Terry Baxter headed up that project and it is one more problem solved.

Brant Sherlock and I helped with the FFA tractor pull. When you are announcing two tracks you do not have time for anything else. As fall settles in, I will see all of you in Lodge.

Paul D. Schenck



STAFF OFFICER

RW Tom Ostrander
315/224-0940

Brothers, the District travels are going well for RW Maassen and me. We have visited Caroline 681, Tritown 472, Cayuga 221, Erie Canal 141 and tonight is Trumansburg 157. We missed King Hiram, as our DDGM was under the weather. That has been rescheduled. Sylvan 41 was on October 15 and Fidelity-Hobasco on October 22. Coming up in November are Scipio 110 on the 12th, Warren-Salem Town 147 on November 19, Auburn 124 on November 21 and the postponed King Hiram 784 visit on November 26. Let us hope the weather stays nice.

The Grand Master's message has been delivered by RW Maassen on the level at all the visits and has been well done. MW Rubin stresses the team concept across the state. The Cayuga-Tompkins team is your DDGM, Staff Officer and AGL who are available to you.

My message as your Staff Officer concerns training classes. The Road to the East course was successful in Jordan Lodge, thanks to the Onondaga District. The Master's Chair was held in Auburn, with ten Brothers completing the class. RW Miller, PDDGM, ran the program with a great slide presentation. Plans are in the works for the Masonic Development Course.

Also, part of my job is the "Lodge of Excellence" survey, to be completed by the Master of each Lodge and me. This survey has questions on ritual, education, social, Lodge communications, administration, community service and inter-Lodge visits. These surveys will be compiled by Grand Lodge to better understand the workings of all the Lodges in the state and give us insight to getting and keeping new Brothers.

As I mentioned in last month's article, RW Ed and I are enjoying our travels. We are looking forward to a great year with you, our Brothers.

Tom Ostrander



ASSISTANT GRAND LECTURER

VW Joe Sheppard
No News Received

WARREN SALEM TOWN 147
155 Cayuga St.
Union Springs, N.Y. 13160
1st & 3rd Tues., 7:00 p.m.

WM Warren Albrecht,
wife Mary Ann
walbrecht1342@outlook.com

Fortunately, I was able to attend the Master's Chair seminar at Auburn Lodge. I had not attended many of the educational opportunities in several years and quickly learned how many things had changed.

Due to surgery, I was unable to attend Lodge on October 1. We usually have difficulty in opening Lodge because of low attendance but W Gary Nickerson, Senior Warden, stepped up to conduct the Communication. Likewise, other Brothers assisted in filling the Stations and Places. It is wonderful when things work right. I appreciated the card with the signature of all the Brothers.

At the Cayuga-Tompkins District Memorial Service on Sunday, September 22 we celebrated the life of Brother Steven Hunter. And we witnessed his wife Diane, a daughter and son light his candle at the altar.

We continue to have problems with our sewer lines and have contacted a contractor to bid on the repairs. Our thanks go to Brother Sid Gilmore, Trustee, for overseeing this project.

In the Birthday Corner we recognize the following Brothers. Happy Birthday wishes go to W David Schott, November 2; W Walter Daggett Jr., November 7; Brother David Knolls, November 11; and W Jack Resnik, November 18.

Warren Albrecht

ERIE CANAL 141
2803 Rte. 31 East
Weedsport, N.Y. 13166
1st & 3rd Thurs., 7:00 p.m.

WM Seth Molloy
Secy Gary Mowers;
315/246-7029

Greetings from Erie Canal Lodge! Our October was a busy one. On October 3 we had our Official Visit. We were honored by not only our District Deputy Grand Master, Staff Officer and Assistant Grand Lecturer, but also more than a dozen guest Brothers. As it was my first Official Visit as Master,

Erie Canal
see 4th column

Erie Canal from 3rd column . . .

I truly appreciate the advice and support of everyone who helped make it a successful evening.

We had a spooky program on October 19, with guests Dom from Upstate Ghosts and psychic medium Renee Marie, who led a ghost-hunting program called Paranormal 101. It was incredibly interesting and we are so thankful for their time.

On a more somber note, on October 7 we held a Masonic service for our dearly departed Brother John Rosen, DSA. Thanks go to all the Brothers for coming and extending their condolences to his family.

This November our regular communications will be the first and third Thursday of the month, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Visiting brethren are always welcome. Erie Canal Lodge will also continue to host a pancake breakfast on the second Sunday of the month from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., with all the food you care to eat for only \$12. Everybody is welcome.

We are looking forward to attending the District Dinner on November 1 and there may be a Table Lodge in the works, so stay tuned. Please check out our Lodge Facebook page for more information on upcoming events (just search Erie Canal Lodge #141).

Seth Molloy

AUBURN 124
5593 St. Rte. 34B.
Auburn, N.Y. 13021
1st & 3rd Thurs., 7:30 p.m.

WM Scott Bennett
Secy Tom Ostrander,
tostrander7948@gmail.com.
315/224-0940

Brothers, under Sickness and Distress, Brother Charles Masters is home, doing better and is on oxygen. He is improving, according to his wife Nancy. Our prayers are with him. Prayers also go to VW Fred Kruger's mother-in-law who is fighting cancer but staying strong. Graveside Masonic Services were held recently for RW Jim Pipher, dad to W Bill Pipher, in Endicott, NY. RW Bowman, W Gould and I were available to give his service. It was well attended by other Masons and family. Brother Ted Wills is now home and doing better.

On October 7 we travelled to Erie Canal No. 141 for the DDGM and Staff Officer Official Visit. Auburn was well represented with nine Brothers, including RW Bowman, RW Tabone, RW Miller and RW Howard. This is great support for RW Maassen and me in our District endeavors.

October 10 was a 1st Degree practice with RW Tabone. October 17 was a regular meeting with a program on the Masonic Memorial Service. October 26 was a 3rd Degree in Scipio No. 110 at 9 a.m. and some Auburn guys helped out.

On November 7 we are

Auburn
see 5th column

Auburn from 4th column . . .

conferring a 1st Degree on two candidates. There is a 6:30 dinner and the Degree at 7:30. November 21 is our DDGM Official Visit. We will do a pasta dinner at 6:30 and the meeting is 7:30.

We are still working on camera surveillance for outside the building. W Mark Gould has secured some equipment we can use.

The Cayuga-Tompkins District Dinner is on November 1 in Auburn at 6 p.m.

MW Steven A. Rubin, Grand Master, is our Guest Speaker. Dinner at \$20 is roast pork, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans and dessert.

Our Lodge Christmas dinner is on December 14. Brother Stockmyer and RW Bowman will handle the cooking. They are still re-vamping the menu and the cost is to be determined.

I hope to see you in Lodge. Take care and God bless.

Tommy Ostrander

Your Insights Burning from page 7 ...

man can do in this world is to encourage another who has a real message that the world should hear. Don't be afraid of ridicule. Opposition to a new thought or a new idea has been and still is almost insane in its obstinacy.

The "standpatters" and the "reactionaries" in your lodge, in your club, in your business and in every walk of human activity are here to stay and like the "poor will always be with us". Don't underestimate the resistance you will encounter in trying to "divest Masonry of its legion of superfluities".

Here is a delightful pre-Initiation explanation of our expectations. From the September volume of the 1924 Builder magazine.—Editor.

An Address to Candidate About to Receive the Apprentice Degree

Feeling that no man should seek admittance into the membership of a Masonic lodge without first being made acquainted with its general spirit and purposes, the Study Club of the correspondents of the *Masonic News*, Detroit, Mich., prepared at one of their sessions the address printed below, and here published by permission. Any Masonic lodge may feel free to use it.

MY FRIENDS -

It is essential that you have a proper conception of Freemasonry. You may have assumed or been informed that it is a purely social or benevolent institution or a religious order all of which would be wrong and misleading. It cannot be made too plain that Masonry is not in any sense a religion, nor in any sense allied to, or opposed to any church, although it teaches the service of God and Brotherhood of man. If you have any bitterness, hatred or intolerance towards any faith you are making a grave mistake in seeking admission to Masonry, and you should stop now and postpone your initiation until your mind is free from all prejudice and passion.

What then is Freemasonry? Shortly defined it is essentially a Society of men co-operating as brothers in the work of building. Prior

The beauty and bigness of Masonic teachings will never perish as long as we keep our ears close to the ground and our hand on the pulse and are willing to maintain an open mind.

Masonry isn't thin-skinned; it can stand a little criticism and it might be necessary to clear the ground a little here and there in order to make way for a larger building so vital in the affairs of men that we can truthfully say, "A structure not made with hands eternal in the heavens."

to the year 1717 - when the first Grand Lodge was formed in England, the work of the Order was largely operative. Since that time the work has been called speculative meaning - philosophical - watchful - contemplative, but the work of modern speculative Masonry is more beneficial to humanity and requires more individual loyalty and sacrifice than the work of our ancient operative brethren, important as it was at that time.

From its citadel of Brotherhood modern Masonry looks out on a world, torn and bleeding from continuous conflict with the destructive forces of greed and lust and crime. Although the world is big enough and rich enough to house and feed and clothe all mankind, it sees nations preying on nations and man on man like the beasts of the jungle.

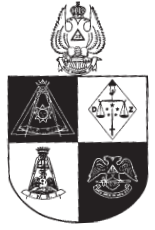
The work of Masonry is to better these unhappy conditions of life, by establishing in the midst of life an organization of faithful men pledged and trained to the principles of Brotherhood, justice and toleration, whose first duty is to broadcast the influence of the Order and press forward to the ultimate goal of universal Brotherhood, and to that end build

Address to Candidate
see page 11

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White Chapel - Valley
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Scottish Riter



Central City Bodies, A.A.S.R.
648 Centerville Pl., N. Syr., NY 13212
(315) 452-7976 • Fax (315) 452-9679

Council Princes

To me, one of the most impactful and iconic symbols in Freemasonry is the combination of Sword and Trowel. Nehemiah 4:15-17 states "...everyone with one of his hands wrought in work, and with the other hand held a weapon." The trowel most commonly symbolizes the "spreading of the cement of brotherly love," emphasizing the need for unity, understanding and mutual support. Society, across the world, has fallen under an intense atmosphere of division and hatred. We, as Freemasons, need to remain at the forefront of creating harmony amongst all mankind.

While the Trowel emphasizes our relationship with other men, the Sword is just as commonly referenced as being symbolic of the Word of God, or also commonly the Volume of Sacred Law. If we are to use it as our "rule and guide" in life then it would stand to reason that we need to sharpen the Sword. To sharpen the Sword suggests the need to study and apply the lessons taught within that Sacred Volume.

In Scottish Rite Masonry—NMJ, the 15th Degree—Knight of the East and 16th Degree—Prince of Jerusalem are referred to as historical Degrees. Historically, they reference the liberation from Babylon and the rebuilding of the Temple of Solomon. The core values presented in these Degrees are Integrity through loyalty to conviction and fidelity to duty, and devotion to truth through Reverence to God. On October 28 the Valley of Syracuse hosted presentations of both the 15th and 16th Degrees.

Michael A. Miller
Consistory

Sublime Princes, this edition of *the word* should arrive just before Halloween, so this is a last-minute appeal to decorate your trunk and come down to Memorial Masonic Temple for our first Trunk or Treat event. Our goal is for the Valley to participate more in local community events. This party will go on whether we have four or forty trunks but, obviously, the more the merrier. Try to arrive by 4:30 p.m. to allow time to decorate your trunk. We plan to run from 5:00 to 7-ish, depending on the volume of young trick-or-treaters. In the event of foul weather we will move inside. Donations of candy for the kids would also be appreciated.

I do not want to sound like a broken record but growing our membership is the key to success in pursuit of the Valley of Excellence Award. I am not one to pursue an award for its own sake.

The VoE is actually a roadmap to having a successful Valley, and in that respect it is important to continue working toward this goal. We did well last year in all other categories but our failure to meet the membership goal sacrificed too many points to qualify. Membership is everyone's responsibility. If you enjoy your membership in Scottish Rite, why not share that experience with a Brother from your Lodge or another Masonic friend? There are numerous opportunities to bring your Masonic friends to non-tiled Valley events.

Our schedule in November is intentionally light. Families spending time packing away summer and Halloween paraphernalia, putting up holiday decorations, making plans for Thanksgiving and the December holidays should take precedence over Masonic activities. We have scheduled only one event for November: our Veterans Recognition Event. Our guest speaker for the evening will be RW and MI Donald Kunego, Past Grand Master of Cryptic Masons in New York and Chairman of the Military Outreach Committee of the Grand Lodge. MI Kunego is an engaging speaker and he will have an inspiring message for us. I encourage everyone to attend. Our preliminary program will be a version of an Empty Chair Degree to honor and remember those Brothers who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

Mark your calendar for our December events. Our holiday party with our Ladies will be December 9 and our holiday luncheon will be at Twin Trees III on December 27.

I want everyone to be open to the idea of participating in our live Degrees. The 14th, 17th and at least a portion of the 32nd will be done live in spring 2025. I would very much like to see us do the full 32nd Degree live.

In a related venture, the Knights of St. Andrew are looking to bring back *December's Rose*, a Masonic play by Carl H. Claudy. Originally titled *A Rose Upon the Altar*, the play is set in 1939 in a Lodge suffering financial difficulties, not unlike many Lodges today. The Valley of Syracuse presented this play in years past. It is unique in that the cast is seated among the audience in a Lodge room. Participating in live Degrees and/or *December's Rose* is a great way to enjoy some camaraderie with your brethren.

Enjoy your Thanksgiving. I look forward to greeting everyone at Valley events.

William H. Toth II

Perfection

Greetings, Brothers! I am happy to report that the 4° and 11° in September went well, we

Initiated three new Brothers into the Scottish Rite with Past Grand Master Jeffery Williamson, our class sponsor, in attendance. In October we had our awards recognition night and conferred the 15° and 16°. Watching and participating in these Degrees is a great experience for all.

I can also report that our Walk for the Children's Dyslexia Center went well, raising more than \$8,000. As I may have mentioned, my wife has personal experience seeing the truly amazing results of the work done at this center.

Please remember our Veterans Recognition night on November 11. Social time starts at 6 p.m., dinner is at 6:30, with the program to follow.

I hope you take the opportunity this Thanksgiving to spend time with your family and relax. Yes, Thanksgiving is about turkey, stuffing, apple pie, etc. It is also about the Pilgrims and the very origins of this country and how the government works. The Mayflower Compact signed onboard before they came ashore, agreeing to work together as one body under rules of self-governance, is widely considered the first document binding together the people of this land who came after the indigenous people. Most important, however, is the opportunity in our society for people to travel from their everyday life to be together as family and be thankful for what they have and the loved ones around them.

Eric Driscoll

Hospitaler

Garry Visconti
oswegogdc@gmail.com
315/529-1936

In distress are Heather Scarson with cancer and Bill Toth, having some issues. Steve Maddox continues his recovery. We pray for healing on these Brothers and Sister. Please keep the Valley informed of anyone in distress.

We need to keep our Brothers and Sisters in the hurricane areas in our prayers. If you want to make donations you can contribute through the Hospitaler Fund, marking it for Hurricane Relief.

Garry Visconti

Notes from the Children's Dyslexia Center CNY

One month of tutoring has passed quickly at the Children's Dyslexia Center of Central New York. The eleven first-year students have learned the routine and have begun to feel more comfortable coming to the center and with their tutors. The eight second-year students continue to work hard learning the strategies that will help them be successful.

Observations of our tutors in training both Practitioners 1 and 2 have begun

COMING EVENTS CALENDAR

Website: www.syr-aasr.org

November 2024

Nov 04 Trustees (6:15 p.m.) & Executive Committee (7:00 p.m.) Zoom Meetings

Nov 11 Veterans Recognition Event; Social 6:00 p.m./Dinner 6:30 p.m./ Program 7:30 p.m.

Nov 28 Happy Thanksgiving

December 2024

Dec 02 Executive Committee 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

Dec 09 Holiday Celebration with the Ladies; Social 6:00 p.m./Dinner 6:30 p.m./ Program 7:30 p.m.

Dec 25 Merry Christmas

Dec 27 (Fri.) Holiday Luncheon at Twin Trees III Restaurant, 11:45 a.m.

Allegiance

The Bodies of the Scottish Rite, sitting in the Valley of Syracuse, State of New York, acknowledge and yield allegiance to the Supreme Council, 33°, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States of America, whose Grand East is in Lexington, Massachusetts and whose officers are: Ill. Walter F. Wheeler, 33°, Sovereign Grand Commander; Ill. Stephen E. Smith, 33°, Grand Lieutenant Commander; Ill. Laurel "Arby" Humphrey, 33°, Grand Minister of State; Ill. G. Michael Morris, 33°, Deputy for New York State.

ACTIVE MEMBERS FOR NEW YORK—Ill. Steven C. Stefanakos, 33°; Ill. David E. Barnes, 33°; Ill. Richard J. Powell, 33°; Ill. John R. Patterson, Jr., 33°

AT LARGE—Ill. Peter J. Samiec, 33°, Past Sovereign Grand Commander

ACTIVE EMERITUS MEMBERS FOR NEW YORK—Ill. Richard H. Welkley, 33°; Ill. Gary A. Henningsen, 33°; Ill. Fredrick D. Greene, 33°; Ill. Edward R. Trosin, 33°; Ill. Harold L. Aldrich, 33°, Past Grand Minister of State, Past Deputy for New York; Ill. P. Michael Nielsen, 33°; Ill. David P. Spencer, 33°, Past Deputy for New York

DEPUTY'S REPRESENTATIVE—Ill. Robert M. Tyrrell, 33°

and it is amazing to watch them put into practice what they have learned during their Saturday training sessions. The dedication of our Practitioners and all our tutors is incredible. Many of our trainees and newer tutors stay at the center to work on their lesson plans hours after the students have gone home.

Our two trainees working on their Mentor/Supervisor certification have completed their first observations of tutors. They are providing feedback as well as learning about the everyday workings of the center.

New applications continue to arrive at the center from families looking for help for their children struggling to learn to read. As each application is processed those children who are accepted are added to our never-ending waitlist.

As we prepare for the Thanksgiving break I reflect on how truly blessed we are to be able to provide tutoring services for children in our community. This would not be possible without the continued support and generosity of many. I am profoundly grateful.

Marianne Jones

Member's Annual Dues Notices

The 2025 Member's Dues notices were delayed coming from Supreme Council. You should have received your invoice by now. You will see a nominal dues increase as a result of the four-year annual dues increase plan approved in 2023.

Please pay your 2025 Member's Dues prior to January 30, 2025. And please contact the Valley office if you have any questions 315/452-7976.

Happy Thanksgiving

Family celebrations are important to all of us and Thanksgiving is a festive time to gather to give thanks and blessings for the bounty we all enjoy. As many college students are home for their first break from stud-

ies, parents and grandparents will come around the harvest table with them for the traditional Thanksgiving feast.

At this time the Valley Office Staff: Sharon Fox, Sharon Swan and Jim Swan, on behalf of all Central City Bodies officers and members, wish everyone a happy Thanksgiving. May peace and goodwill be the toast of this special day.

Please take care when traveling to be with family and have a safe holiday. Happy Thanksgiving to all.

Office FAX Number Changed

The office has installed a new telephone system and the number to contact the facsimile machine in the Valley Office has changed from 315/452-9679 to 315/214-8009. Please contact the office at 315/452-7976 if you have any questions or require assistance in using the fax machine.

Assistance Needed

DB Gerald Hoag, 32° MSA, is having health issues that require he step down as our four bodies Tyler. This is a key position, required to be present for each tyled meeting held in the Lodge Room (Cathedral). Please contact Bill Toth, Carl Fahrenkrug or Jim Swan if you are interested in assuming this position. The need is immediate.

What does the Tyler do for each meeting? He guards the outer door; sets out officers' apron and jewel at the proper officer's station; sets out the Bible, Square, Compasses and Delta; and assists in the robing room when requested.

Jim Swan

2025 Burns Supper

It is that time again as the Knights of St. Andrew present the 2025 Burns Supper on Saturday, January 18, 2025 at Coleman's Irish Pub,

100 South Lowell Ave., Syracuse. The

Burns Supper is a celebration of the life and poetry of Robert Burns, famous Freemason.

The suppers are normally held on or near the poet's January 25 birthday, which is known as Robert Burns Day or Burns Night. Burns Suppers are most common in Scotland and Northern Ireland but occur wherever there are Burns Clubs, Scottish Societies, Masonic Lodges, expatriate Scots or aficionados of Burns's poetry.

Social Time begins at 5:00 p.m. Dinner is buffet style and the cost is \$47 per person. Wives and guests are invited but seating is limited so make reservations now. Kilts and tartans are encouraged.

Join us for a fun-filled evening. Print and complete the registration form on our website in the News section. Make your check to "Central City Bodies AASR" and mail to Richard Powell, 4717 Broad Road, Syracuse, NY 13215. Write "KSA Burns Supper" in the memo area. Reservations are due by January 1, 2025.

Scholarship Information

The Supreme Council Abbott Scholarship and NY Scottish Rite Financial Education Assistance applications are scheduled to be available online prior to the end of November 2024.

Information received to date indicates that one application for both scholarships will be used again this year. The exact due date for next year's submittals is not yet confirmed.

Applicants should plan to complete paperwork and submit it to the Valley of Syracuse office no later than March 15, 2025. Be prepared. Watch for notice from the Valley in *the word*, subject: "2025-2026 Scholarships" or go online to answer your questions. Check www.nyscottishritemasons.org or www.syr-aasr.org.

YORK RITE BODIES

ROYAL ARCH MASON 12th Capitular District RAM

DDGHP RE
James Nelson

Greetings, Companions. I hope all are doing well and that no one or loved ones have been affected by the hurricanes that have been devastating our southern states.

We will have held our Grand Lecturer Convention by the time you are reading this. Information on the Convention had been sent to the High Priests and published in *NYRAM News*. The Convention featured information on the High Priest Breast Plate, with a focus on the ties the Breastplate has to other items in the Bible. It is hoped that the Convention was a real success and each of our Chapters had Companions present.

Our District is in need of conferring the Most Excellent Master and the Holy Royal Arch Degrees. It has been a struggle getting all the Chapters to respond to the requests from our AGL, VE Edward Sinay Jr. Please watch for communication on when and where these Degrees will be held so our candidates can continue their Royal Arch journey.

Enjoy the fall weather. The beautiful tapestry of fall colors enriches our sights.

Jim Nelson

CHARLES H. PLATT CHAPTER 247 RAM Skaneateles Masonic Temple Meets 4th Wed. at 7:30 p.m.

HP Andrew Blair
Secy Earl Tuttle
315/673-2213
etuttle1@twcny.rr.com

Greetings, Companions. I thank all of you for your help and continual dedication to learning your new parts. I want to particularly thank RE Michael Miller for making his visit in September and helping us with our sword and foot work. Please continue to study the upcoming Degrees. I know our hearts are into making these Degrees memorable for our incoming Companions.

At our next meeting I would like us to discuss and come together over assigning parts for Degrees and agreeing on what days and times we can meet for an informal practice of opening and closing. Thank you for your patience as we navigate scheduling and coordinating larger things.

I ask you keep our Companions recovering from the hurricanes in your thoughts

**More Charles Platt
see 2nd column**

Charles Platt from 1st column . . .

and prayers. This coming meeting I will be meeting early to set up the Chapter, and then heading to Doug's Fish Fry for dinner and fellowship. Let us open promptly and have a productive and concise meeting.

Andrew Blair

LAKE ONTARIO CHAPTER 165 RAM Oswego Masonic Lodge 765 E. Seneca St. Meets 2nd Thurs. at 7:30 p.m.

HP Patrick Fasulo

Greetings, Companions! Some of our Companions traveled to Ottawa for Hands Across the Border this past month, and what a time it was! The food was delicious, the ritual amazing, and the companionship, priceless. Next year they will be traveling to the good old USA for this fun-filled annual international event. If you have never attended, please consider coming next year.

We have been meeting every two months and as you can imagine, when you meet infrequently, it requires some at-home studying to keep the ritual fresh in your mind. Our Companions do good work and it is appreciated by all who attend. Thank you.

The Grand Lecturer's Convention for the 12th Capitular District was held on October 29 (the fifth Tuesday in October) at Lake Ontario Chapter 165's home base at Lake City Lodge 127 in Oswego. The succulent dinner was prepared by Lake City Victoria Chapter 205 and the program of the evening was simply amazing.

Our annual meeting will be held in December. We ask that all Companions try to make this communication. As always, dinner will be prepared by Lake City Victoria Chapter 205, OES. Let us make the annual communication a night to remember, with new blood, new line, same fervency and zeal.

Patrick Fasulo

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

CENTRAL CITY COMMANDERY 25 KT Liverpool Masonic Temple 608 Oswego St., Liverpool 13088 Meets 1st or 3rd Friday at 7:30 p.m.

Cmdr Robert L. Kimberly
comet@twcny.rr.com
315/935-4711
Recorder John Buckley,
jbuckley950@gmail.com

Greetings, Sir Knights. We have started out slowly this year; but even though

**More Central City
see 3rd column**

Central City from 2nd column . . .

we did not open our first couple of meeting we had the chance to practice our opening. In October we had ten Sir Knights and had our first meeting. After running through our opening (and I am seeing great improvement in that) our own Sr. Grand Warden Rick Miori gave his presentation on Knight Templars and the Catholic religion, as related to the art and buildings of the time. It was well worth it for all who came to the meeting.

Once again, I would like to remind all our Sir Knights that our meetings will be on the second and fourth Thursdays from now on. We are working on a Knight Templar Challenge Coin, the digitizing of the pattern is almost done.

Sir Knight Rick Miori has started filming the Sword Manual and we hope it will soon be available for a teaching aid to other Sir Knights. This is a great honor to us since the first Sword Manual was written in Central City Commandery.

This month we will only have one meeting, on November 14. Our second meeting would fall on Thanksgiving Day, so we ask you to enjoy your time with your family.

Robert Kimberly



Tigris Shrine Potentate III. Sir Brian Courtney 315/447-2104 40thSPVet@gmail.com

Recorder Tigris Shrine III. Sir Ralph I. Haney Jr. 315/308-0410 office@tigrisshriners.com

Tigris

November is upon us. Happy fall, Nobles.

I remind you that the Tigris Shrine Potentate's Ball returns to the Hotel Syra-



Mecca Potentate Anthony Ruffini and Lady Diana at the Ball.

cuse this year on November 15 to 17. There has not been a Tigris event there in years and we should embrace it for nostalgia alone.

Our first meeting of the year was on September 18 and we met on October 16. We should let Masons know to go to BeAShrinerNow.com and join. For a limited time they will be able to join for free and get the Fez.

Veterans Day is upon us and we will be celebrating on Saturday, November 9 with a parade at the NY State Fairgrounds. It is always a great time. Be there to help us honor our veterans. It usually starts around 10:00 a.m. More information will follow online.

We hope all of you have a nice Thanksgiving. And then the Baldwinsville Parade of Lights is Saturday, November 30. You do not want to miss this one, Nobles, and your families. It is a wonderful way to start the Christmas season.

The hospital trip cannot happen this year because their schedule does not allow it. I did travel to Boston for the "Cheers for Children" Shriners fundraiser. Thanks go to RW Bill Toth for getting Tami and me a seat at his table. Tigris donated \$1,000 to this event for our Shriner children. Maybe we can also get something nice at their auction this year to help our hospitals.

We are sponsoring a fundraiser for the Onondaga County Sheriff's Department K-9 Unit. It will be a pancake breakfast on Saturday, November 2. Put this on your calendar, please, and know that volunteers are needed. We intend to notify First

Responders, Fire Departments and Law Enforcement to attract as many people as possible. We are looking for Divan officers and Nobles to help.

We hosted a Trunk or Treat again and I thank all those volunteers. By the time you see this the 12 Days of Christmas is in full swing. Go to our webpage to purchase tickets. This is the fourth year of this fundraiser at Tigris, thanks to Joel Scarson. There are some great prizes.

We still look for volunteers for Bingo on Sundays. This activity helps keep the lights on and pay the bills. We are asking for some Nobles to step up. It is not up to the Divan alone but is a project for all of us. Without Bingo we would need other ways to pay our bills. Contact me to get on the schedule for once a month.

Terry Clarke had a fall at the Jordan Fall Fest. We are glad he is doing better. The Lafayette Apple Festival is also behind us and some Shriners were there to help

out. Noble Ted Kriese is on the mend. Heather Scarson is still enduring her treatments for cancer. There have been fundraisers with Heath Thomas and Jimmy Johnson leading the effort. Please keep them in your prayers.

I had the pleasure of representing Tigris at Anthony Ruffini's Potentate's Ball in Staten Island. Anthony and I are prior military and take tradition and service to others as an honor. Our friendship is a priority because friendship helps to start and grow our Fraternity.

It is important to let everyone know that Tigris Shrine is alive and thriving, even though our membership numbers dropped. We are actively looking for new Masons to become Shriners. Membership is a big thing but camaraderie is the key to everything in Masonry.

God bless all of you. Please keep our Military, Law Enforcement and First Responders in your thoughts and prayers.

Brian Courtney



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ORDER of the EASTERN STAR



Order of the Eastern Star Onondaga District

Patricia Tefoe, District Deputy Grand Matron
Alfred Tefoe, DGL

Welcome to fall in New York State, Sisters and Brothers! Grand Chapter is like planning for the holidays. There is all sorts of planning and excitement leading up to an amazing celebration. Once the excitement and celebrating subsides there is this sense of, OK, that was fun. Now what?

That is where we are as you read this. We have heard the messages from our new Grand Matron, Grand Patron and other members of the Grand Line. We celebrated as a Brother from our Onondaga District was elected and installed as Most Worthy Grand Patron—Most Worthy Mark Heitmann from the Bona Fide-Hiawatha Chapter. We should be feeling that excitement and enthusiasm, that sense of being part of something new and fun.

How can we keep the enthusiasm and excitement? Maybe you can make it to more meetings in your District or participate in more events hosted within the District. We all know how wonderful it feels to look out and see sideliners and visitors, during and after an event.

Back to celebrating: our Chapter leaders will be installed in November. Mark your calendar for Morning Star No. 289 on Saturday, November 2 at 1 p.m.; Onondaga Star No. 144 on Saturday, November 16 at 2 p.m.; Bona Fide-Hiawatha-Solvay No. 567 is on Sunday, November 17 at 2 p.m.; and Centerville No. 185 on Thursday, November 21 at 7 p.m.

The Combined Homecoming and Reception for the Onondaga District Grand Officers is Wednesday, November 6 at 7:30 p.m. This celebration takes place at Masonic Memorial Center in North Syracuse. There will be no Line Officers Group Meeting on November 27.

In December we will be hosting the 3rd Annual Onondaga District Gift Auction (6 p.m.). Bring your own place setting and a dish to pass. Do not forget a wrapped gift to auction. We have had some great laughs as people open their hard-won prizes. There have been some real bargains, too. Once again we will be gathering at the Masonic Memorial Center. This is open to everyone and is definitely a great way to spend a fun evening with friends.

We wish all of you Happy Thanksgiving. We look forward to sharing what is going to be happening in the Onondaga District as our Chapters share their plans for this upcoming year.

Patricia Tefoe
Alfred Tefoe

Lake City Victoria 205
Lake City Lodge No. 127
Oswego

RW Natalie J. Woodall, Secretary

My Sisters and Brothers: Our fraternal chain was once again broken with the death of Sr. Kathryn “Kay” Booth Shaver. Kay was initiated into Cedar Chapter No. 400, located in Van Etten, NY, in 1945 when she was eighteen years of age. She transferred her membership to Lake City Chapter No. 352 in 1961. At the time of her death on September 20, 2024 she had celebrated seventy-nine years of continuous membership in the Order of the Eastern Star. *Requiesce in pace, mea soror!*

Due to unforeseen circumstances, my Homecoming as Grand Representative of Kentucky was postponed until Friday, October 11. What a celebration it turned out to be! The sidelines were full, something which happens very infrequently these days. It was especially pleasing to see Brothers from Lake City Lodge in attendance: RW Christopher Reis, Brother Austin Parkhurst, W George Reed and Brother Eddie Goodness, whose lovely music added to the evening’s enjoyment.

The Homecoming Committee, composed of RW Carla J. Salisbury, RW Cynthia J. Sanders, RW Nancy J. Costello, W Mary M. Babbitt and W Lillian A. Schute, labored for weeks to compile a “We Want You to Meet Our Natalie” skit. In fact, they mentioned things which I had long forgotten. I tender sincere gratitude to them for their creativity.

Dignitaries in attendance for the evening included MW Earl B. LaFave, Past Grand Patron, 1999, and MW Kenneth W. Wheeler, Past Grand Patron, 2020. They, together with RW Monica Wallis, Associate Grand Marshal, offered congratulations on a job well done over the past two years.

Following the meeting a delicious collation was served in the dining room, courtesy of the Chapter. No one went away hungry. Particularly pleasing to this chocoholic was W Lillian’s trifle. Yum! Yum!

In addition to my Sisters and Brothers from throughout the District, I was honored to have several non-Eastern Star friends participate in my special night: Joanne Paino, Elaine DeLong, Mary Kay Stone, Darlene Woolson, Billy Woolson and my dear cousin Judith Stucky. They had attended my reception two years ago and it was especially gratifying that they were able to be present at the end of my term.

Now it is on to year-end activities. Our annual meeting/installation of officers will be held on Friday, No-

More Lake City Victoria see 3rd column

Centerville 185
Masonic Memorial Center

Hello, Sisters and Brothers. It looks like fall is here to stay with its cooler weather, beautiful leaves, and shorter days. Congratulations go to all the Onondaga District Grand Officers who were installed on October 19 at Grand Chapter.

November 7 is our Annual Meeting and election of officers. On November 21 come join us for our public installation of officers beginning at 7:00 p.m. We hope to see you in Chapter.

Cathy Barling

Lake City Victoria from 2nd column . . .

November 8. Plans are already under way for the annual Christmas Extravaganza, scheduled for Sunday, December 8. This will be a public affair, complete with a roast beef dinner and all the trimmings. Traditional favorites, the raffles, the Santa Sale and Christmas card exchange, will all return. The dress code is very casual. Friends and family members are welcome to attend. We are asking a donation of \$10 per person to help defray the



Right Worthy Carla J. Salisbury, District Deputy Grand Matron (left), and RW Monica Wallis, Associate Grand Marshal (right), were among the OES dignitaries attending the Homecoming of RW Natalie J. Woodall, Grand Representative of Kentucky, in Oswego on October 11. Photo by Elaine DeLong

cost of the food. I am in charge of reservations and RW Cynthia J. Sanders will handle the culinary end of the affair.

On behalf of W Mary

Babbitt, Worthy Matron, W John Voetelink, Worthy Patron, and all the officers and members of Lake City Victoria Chapter No. 205, I wish you a blessed Thanks-

giving. We have our problems but in spite of them we still reside in the greatest country on God’s Green Earth. Let us always remember that and be grateful!

Natalie J. Woodall

Address to Candidates from page 8 ...

and develop the character of its members, so that by precept and example they will radiate and reflect these benign and constructive virtues.

Surely here is work, and enough, for every right-thinking man who seeks enrollment in the cause of human service.

Turning now to your Petition for initiation.

Each of you declared in your Petition, not only that you were unbiased by the solicitation of friends and uninfluenced by mercenary motives, but were prompted to solicit the privilege by

A favorable opinion of the institution,

A desire for knowledge, and

A sincere wish to be serviceable to your fellowmen.

The sincerity of this declaration is your first qualification for admission.

We acquit you of any intentional falsehood or equivocation in making these statements, but in case you signed the Petition hurriedly, or with an imperfect understanding of its meaning and significance, it is expedient that it be explained to you and that you be given an opportunity of withdrawing before assuming the serious obligations of Masonry.

With such lofty aims and purposes, you will readily understand that Masonry must have only earnest work-

men in its ranks. The solicitation of friends and mercenary motives might undermine its undertaking, and hinder its advancement by the enlistment of the weak and selfish, who would be unfit as workers in a world campaign against force and greed.

It may be assumed that you have a favorable opinion of the institution, otherwise it would be foolish and useless to seek admission.

Your desire for knowledge means the knowledge obtained from Masonic reading and contemplation and for instruction in Masonic philosophy, history and teaching, as well as from the practice of its precepts.

The most important statement in your Petition, however, is your avowed wish to be serviceable to your fellowmen. By this declaration you have expressed a desire to personally cooperate with your brothers in the speculative work of the Order. To be of service you must work diligently. This does not mean lip service. Masonry demands sacrifice and genuine co-operation. It means you must control your pas-

sions and avoid all dissensions that may be subversive of harmony. That you refrain from lewd conversation and blasphemous language which are a reproach to the Craft. That you practice morality, for brotherly love can only be founded on respect and affection. That you conform to the Masonic virtues of truth, temperance, fortitude, prudence and justice, for they cement Brotherhood and support society. That you will always be willing to help a deserving brother in distress, and preserve the honor and reputation of Masonry unsullied. Unless you are equipped with the armor of character, you will be a listless and indifferent soldier in the ranks.

The first degree in Masonry may be said to be the dividing line between the thoughtlessness of youth and the obligations of manhood.

After hearing this explanation and admonition are

you individually willing to proceed with your initiation? (If the answer is affirmative.)

I am indeed glad to hear you say so.

It is only necessary to point out that these lessons will be impressed upon you in the first degree by a series of instructive symbols, and that you should give strict attention to all that will be said to you within.

Above all things, my friends, put away all fear and nervousness. There is no jesting or horseplay in the Lodge Room, and nothing to fear or anticipate in the degree work, no matter what any of your Masonic friends may have thoughtlessly hinted to the contrary.

You will now answer the constitutional questions that will be put to you, and submit to your preparation by the Stewards.

CLASSIFIEDS

Compliments
VW Norman Kruth
W Joshua Kruth
VW Aaron Kruth

Chuck Toombs
Past
Grand Lecturer

Jorge Romeu
Past Master
Liverpool Syracuse

About the Future of Freemasonry
https://
web.cortland.edu/romeu/MyBedwell
Essay2018.pdf

Jorge Romeu
- Past Master

PGMs
Calvin G. Bond
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NOVEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 Jordan 386 Liv-Syr 501 Marathon 438 Morning Star 524 Trumansburg 157	4 Cortlandville 470 Fay-Cent City 305 Hiram 136 Onon Star OES Warren Salem Town 147	5 Callimachus 369 Cayuga 221 Cazenovia 616 Kedar Khan Grotto Otselic Valley 659 Pulaski 415 Skaneateles 522	6 Auburn 124 Caroline 681 Centerville OES Central Square 622 Crossroads United 93 Erie Canal 141 Konosioni 950 Lake Ontario 32KT Tri Valley 148	7 Lake City Vic 205 OES Owaghena 303 RAM Triangle @ Mem	8	9
10 Hamilton 120 Homer 352 Morning Star OES Scriba 414	11 Cortland 50KT E Caldwell OES Fulton 167 RAM Fidelity-Hobasco 51 King Hiram 784 Lake City 127 Scipio 110 Washington RAM	12 Central City 13 CM Hannibal 550 Pulaski 279 RAM Tritown Lodge 472	13 Bona Fide HS OES Central City 25KT Ft. Brewerton 256 Lake Ontario 165 RAM Memorial 648 Nortrip 998 Tully 896	14	15	16
17 Jordan 386 Liv-Syr 501 Marathon 438 Morning Star 524 Trumansburg 157	18 Cortlandville 470 Fay-Cent City 305 Hiram 136 Onon Star OES Sylvan 41 Warren Salem Town 147	19 Callimachus 369 Cayuga 221 Cazenovia 616 Daughters of Nile Otselic Valley 659 Pulaski 415 Skaneateles 522 Tigris Temple	20 Auburn 124 Caroline 681 Centerville OES Central Square 622 Crossroads United 93 Erie Canal 141 Konosioni 950 Watertown 11KT	21 Lake City Vic 205 OES Triangle @ Mem	22	23
24 Homer 352 Morning Star OES Scriba 414	25 Central City Riverside 70 RAM E Caldwell OES Fidelity-Hobasco 51 King Hiram 784 Lake City 127 Pulaski OES Scipio 110 Washington RAM	26 Charles H. Platt 247 Fulton 50 CM Hannibal 550 Tritown Lodge 472	27 Bona Fide HS OES Central City 25KT Ft. Brewerton 256 Memorial 648 Nortrip 998 Tully 896	28	29	30

Figuring out symbols in Masonry, not on dollar bills. This from September 1924 in The Builder.—Editor.

EDITORIAL - On the Interpretation of Masonic Symbols

If Albert Pike was right in saying that “it seems to me that the symbolism of Masonry is the soul of it, and constitutes its highest title to our veneration,” the beginning student of this symbolism always encounters a great difficulty in arriving at Masonry’s soul. Upon his first step toward a study and understanding of symbols he is immediately confronted by a babel-like discord, so that the house of the interpreter, where he goes to hear what Masonic expounders and teachers have to say, seems filled with the confusion of tongues. In countless cases he loses courage, abandons any hope of learning what it is all about, and relapses into indifference, or else grows cynical, and takes the familiar position that Masonry’s symbols are a mystery, and that nobody knows anything about them. In such instances the individual himself misses the opportunity to become possessed of a great wealth

of wisdom, and the Craft loses the living support of one of its own members, at least so far as such things are concerned.

Is there a way out? There is, and it is exceedingly simple in principle, even if a thoroughgoing application of it may be a task as arduous as it is necessary. The way out may be stated in few and simple words: - Every symbol in Masonry should receive a Masonic interpretation.

By this may be meant any one of at least three things. First, it may mean that a symbol is to be explained in the light of the history of the Craft; if for centuries the Craft has made use of it for certain purposes then that is its Masonic meaning. Secondly, it may be that in the Ritual the Craft has already given the symbol an authoritative explanation; if so, that settles the matter. Thirdly, it may mean that a symbol is to be interpreted

in the light of the teachings of Masonry. If therefore any given symbol is used, or has been used, outside of Freemasonry, as has been the case with so many of them, and if it has thereby come to have a hundred meanings, the one Masonic meaning out of the hundred is that which conforms to the above tests. How is the symbol to be interpreted in relation to our history, ritual, and teachings, that is the question; how it has been explained in other circles is not our affair, except as general students.

A thoroughgoing scientifically accurate working out of Masonic symbolism by means of this canon of interpretation is the work of hundreds of men and many generations, and has never been completed, so that it is impossible to show in any one example just what the results would be, but it may be possible to cite one case for the purposes of illustration.

Consider in this light and as the case in point, the Apron. Aprons have been used symbolically from time immemorial, by Egyptian priests, Maya sages, shamans among savages, and by nobody knows how many besides; when thus used it has been made to symbolize all manner of things, priestly authority, magical powers, celibacy, what not, and it has been employed in every manner of shape, size, color, sometimes covered with emblems, sometimes not, and made of a great variety of materials.

Why is it that interpretations of the Masonic apron have been so confused and so confusing? Largely because men have brought to its interpretation ideas borrowed from all these sources just referred to, and have assumed that because an Apron meant a certain thing to a Brahman priest therefore it means the same in

Freemasonry; and because such interpreters have each arbitrarily chosen his own non-Masonic source of interpretation there has been little agreement among them.

But apply to this problem the canon described in the second paragraph of this editorial. Immediately it will be seen that we Masons are interested in the Apron as it is used in Freemasonry; and that our task as interpreters of it is to answer the questions, What does Masonic history show to have been the use and meaning of the Apron? What does the Ritual have to say about it? What teaching or principle of the Craft does it represent? If when these questions are answered it is found that in Masonry the Apron has a meaning different to that employed in other quarters, that is neither here nor there, for as MASONIC interpreters we are concerned only with its Masonic meanings.

From this it follows that the explanation of Masonic symbols (what has been said of the Apron may be said of all others) can be neither private nor arbitrary but must rest on facts - the facts of Masonic history, Ritual and teachings, a thing which bears out the great dictum of Gould, that the study of Masonic history and of Masonic symbolism must be proceeded with conjointly; which will enable us, if we apply the canon rigorously, to avoid meriting the rebuke of Rylands, when he said that “on very few questions has more rubbish been written than that of symbols and symbolism;” and it will also enable us to fulfill the requirements laid down by Pike, who is always so well worth quoting on this subject: “The first requisite of a symbol is that it shall really mean something; and the second is that this something shall be worth knowing and remembering.”

This topic was pondered in the September 1924 copy of The Builder. It is something many of us have proposed for years. Would it not be great if someone could look back from another hundred and say, “Whoa, look what those guys did in 2024!”—Editor.

The Lodge as a Community Center

Ye Scribe was walking down Main Street (now become a famous American institution, thanks to Sinclair Lewis) with a friend of the cloth. It was in a village of some five hundred souls, somewhere in the Middle West - just where it is not necessary to state, seeing that it might have happened in any one of thousands of villages in this broad land. “Do you people here have any place for a get-together? any community center?” asked Ye Scribe. Before Friend Pastor had opportunity to reply another clergyman was met, immediately upon which Friend Pastor sharply turned his head, to stare in

the opposite direction, the while his passing colleague did the same. “There is no need now that you reply,” said Ye Scribe, “it is plain that you have not. Let us hurry on to the funeral.” (Appropriately enough, such was the destination.)

Since which, Ye Scribe has many times pondered this matter. Why should the two pastors of a small town not speak to each other? Why should its two banks fight each other? Why should its school board be split into factions? Why should its two Sunday Schools be unable to hold a picnic together? Why should the proprietors of its two general stores glower at

each other across the street? Why should the life of such a quiet community be made uneasy by quarrels and feuds, so that neighbors will not greet each other of a morning across the lawn?

The answer to the “Why” is contained in the remedy for such a situation. What such a town needs is a Social Center, a place where the community can act as a unit, and as a community. Unfortunately most small towns have no such thing, and under existing circumstances cannot have it, for the churches, which usually possess the only public buildings suitable for such purposes, are too often divided

by differences of creed and dogma, so that what one undertakes the other will oppose.

Is not such a condition an opportunity for the Masonic Lodge? It is by its nature non-sectarian, non-political, and non-racial, upholding the ideals of brotherhood, and striving to spread among men the cement of friendly affection, and therefore is ideally fitted to serve as a rallying point for the community spirit. It could not bring any kind of local public activity into its own sessions, or under official auspices, but that would not hinder it from serving unof-

ficially, and by way of community service. Why should it not make its own auditorium available for general public purposes? plan lecture and entertainment courses through the winter? install in one of its rooms a little public library? equip a room which, under certain rules and conditions, might be generally used as a club by local men and boys? And why could not its membership, acting as citizens rather than officially as Masons, plan among themselves such other enterprises as would help unify the life and spirit of the village?

It is of record that a few

lodges have already carried through some such program; there is no reason why others could not follow suit, especially since the lodge itself would receive in return the great reward of stimulated interest in its own proper activities, increased attendance, and a deeper appreciation of the value of Masonry in human life. To say that such a service would not work would condemn Masonry itself as impracticable, for it would be useless to expect great things from the Craft in the world at large if its ideal of life cannot be carried out in a small community.