



Maine Masonic Mentoring Newsletter

Vol. 1, No. 3 – November 2013

To Maine Masonic Mentors and Brethren all:

Traveling around our Grand Jurisdiction this fall to attend District meetings has been very uplifting. District and Lodge leaders have enthusiastically reported on the good works and the many membership and charitable activities going on in Lodges throughout Maine.

Masonic Rookies – Many Lodges reported adopting the Masonic Rookie Program and around 40 new Masons and their ladies will be guests of the Grand Master at a Rookie Banquet in December. Yet they are just the beginning of a much larger group of new Masons who have become active in their lodges over the past 18 months and who will be acknowledged as Masonic Rookies next year.

These new Brothers are truly excited about being Masons and learning more about our tenets and opportunities to help other Masons, their widows and our communities. These energized Brothers project a strong and vibrant future for our Craft.



Masonic Rookies Take Notice:

***The First Annual
Masonic Rookie Banquet
will be held on the afternoon of
Sunday, December 8th at the
Waldo County Shrine Club
17 Wight St., Belfast.
(Your lady is invited too!)***

Invitations to be mailed soon!

Masonic Mentoring – And many Lodges are now mentoring candidates, which is coupled closely to the Rookie Program and is a logical extension of those instructions heard early in every Brother's Masonic career, "follow your conductor and fear no danger."

Did you know that we have 27 Maine Lodges with members under age 21, that standard of lawful age that long governed admission into Maine Freemasonry? And that doesn't include the many lodges with additional young men in the degree process.

Combined with other lodges with members age 25 or less, nearly 70% of our Lodges have been blessed with some degree of a "youth movement."

These young Masons are actively pursuing more light in Masonry, as are many other new Masons who have recently joined the Craft later in life. And their excitement is contagious.

Brothers Michael Hludik and Scott Rocray recently were awarded their Rookie pins in York Lodge #22 in Kennebunk. On the same night, two applicants for the degrees were elected for membership. After the Lodge closed for the evening, the two new Masons excitedly asked whether they could befriend and mentor their future Brethren, after all they just completed the program and knew what to do. The answer was yes!

May the long and fervently held passion for our fraternity, felt by so many Masonic veterans, help light similar fires in the hearts of additional new Brethren. If mentoring hasn't yet made it to your Lodge, inquire of your Lodge and District leaders how you might help make it happen.

Newsletter Contents

This newsletter highlights:

- The exciting mentoring initiatives underway in the Eleventh Masonic District
- "10 Thoughts about Leadership" from *The Energy Bus* by Jon Gordon,
- Upcoming Maine Masonic College courses of particular interest to mentors and others, and
- Personal testimony on how mentoring by a caring teacher changed one man's life, a story recently published by the Masonic Service Association of North America.

The Mighty Eleventh Mentoring Coordinator's Report Explains Why Mentoring Can Make a Positive Difference in Every Lodge

Some months ago, the first Maine Masonic Rookie was pinned, recognizing his completion of the initiative (see page 13 of the winter 2013 issue of the *Maine Mason*). He came to Masonry later in life than many of our new Brethren, but clearly with enthusiasm and with a great mentor – or actually mentors – to point the way.

He quickly became the Mighty Eleventh District's first Mentoring Coordinator and is living testimony of

the value and importance of the Grand Master's mentoring initiative. Here is Bro. Haigh's initial report. We can all learn from his experiences and put them to work in our lodges.

Initial Report of the Mentoring Coordinator of the 11th Masonic District (Augusta Area)

"The Mentoring Program is really catching on in the Mighty 11th District. The new Mentors in the Lodges are using the guidelines established by the Grand Lodge and there have been a lot of improvements in the Mentoring Program.

"Brothers are now ensuring that, not only are the new Masons being taught their lessons for the degrees, but are taking them to other Lodges to see degrees and teaching them the symbolism and the moral applications of the allegory connected with each degree.

"Younger Masons are really enthusiastic and not just sitting on the sidelines. They are learning lectures, holding chairs and participating in various degree works.

"Having talked with several of the Lodge Mentors, they are keeping track of how the program is working in their Lodges, and are working with the Masters to ensure properly qualified Brothers are selected as Mentors for new candidates. They are meeting with new candidates and checking on the status of their Master Mason Rookie Awards.

"I talked with one newly passed Mason and when I asked how he was doing on his Rookie Award, he told me he had given up on it, because he didn't think he had a chance to receive the award. When I asked him why, he seemed to be under the impression that it was a competitive award between all the new Masons during a certain period. Where he got that idea, I have no knowledge, but I did explain that the only competition for the award was within himself and not with other Masons. He was really happy to hear that and is now back on track to earn his award. I have been going to other Lodges and explaining this to them, to ensure this does not happen again.

"Because of this program, I have found that not only are the experienced Brothers getting new Masons involved, but the new Masons are getting the experienced Brothers more involved. The program is a great two way street."

Bro. Robert Haigh
mainemasonbob@yahoo.com

Grow in Masonry through Courses Offered by the Maine Masonic College

Please send your intentions to attend any of the courses to the College registrar, Theresa Hatch at Grand Lodge, by email at GrandLodge@MaineMason.org or by phone at 855-843-1086.

November 9, 2013 – That Wondrous Fellow Craft Degree

Mt. Olivet Lodge
48 Liberty Rd, Washington
9:00 am to 2:00 pm -- Lunch \$5.00
Open to all; (New Course)



This course explores the Fellow Craft Degree as the central introduction to the quest which Freemasonry offers. It suggests that among all the good attributes of the Masonic environment, it is this opportunity of quest which makes the Fraternity of special importance to men and society today.

Assisted by visual images and interactive discussion, this exploration will begin with that ancient legend where two great pillars stand at the beginning of the journey that all must take if they are to find wisdom, strength and establishment. What will follow is a consideration of the ways in which the Fellow Craft Degree introduces the candidate to this most remarkable passage which leads to a world of expanding enlightenment, ability and contentment. Exploration will include the winding stairs, the liberal arts and sciences, the references to our human history and the role of geometry and architecture, the jewels of a Fellow Craft, the passage to the Middle Chamber and that gem of Masonic teaching, the "Letter G Lecture."

This course is designed to bring new focus to that all important second degree in Masonry and to afford an opportunity for new Masons as well as their mentors to expand their horizons as they labor to be builders of knowledge and life giving vision and ideals.

Instructors will be Brothers Donald McDougal and Walter Macdougall

November 16, 2013 – Symbolism

Maine Lodge
70 Bryant Road, East Wilton
9:00 am to 2:00 pm -- Lunch \$5.00
Diploma credit and open to all

This course will help establish a foundation of understanding for several Maine Masonic College courses dealing with Masonic and other forms of symbolism, allegory, myth and philosophical expressions of belief. It was developed from a psychological and practical perspective that examines the use of dynamic roles of symbols as instruments of understanding

and vehicles of exploration both in our personal lives and in our mutual and significant inter-relationships with others.

The lecture portion of this course explores the use of certain symbols of the Masonic degree experience. Participants will be divided into groups and given practical exercises in which to explore the significance and efficacy of symbols in the process of developing individual and group insights in their encounter with human situations and in their search for greater understanding. This is a practical applications course and is critical for mentors of any organization in which symbolism plays an important role.

The instructor, RW Eric W. Kuntz, MD, is a member of Lygonia Lodge, a past District Deputy and the current Master of the Maine Lodge of Research. He is the Medical Director of Research and Education for the Acadia Hospital in Bangor and Associate Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at Tufts Medical School in Boston, the University of Vermont Medical School, and the University of New England School of Osteopathic Medicine. He is the past chair of the Ethics Committee of the Maine Association of Psychiatric Physicians. In addition, he is an acclaimed instructor of courses dealing with the importance of symbols and the psychological significance of ritual in everyday life.

December 8 – Astronomy Event

University of Maine Planetarium
5781 Wingate Hall, Orono, 4:30 pm. Open to all by registration only and **limited to 30**.



This year we are holding our annual family Astronomy Program at the Planetarium on the Orono campus. The program will be presented by university staff and has been specially planned for those who want to enjoy and understand more about the night sky. It will be the season of stars watchers!

(From Interstate 95: Take exit 193 and follow Stillwater Avenue toward Old Town to fourth traffic light. Turn right on College Avenue and one mile later turn right into the parking lot by the Steam Plant (note the smoke stacks). On foot, walk across the street and up the sidewalk onto the campus. At the top of the walk, Wingate Hall will be the second building on left.)

Upcoming Maine Masonic College Courses

January 11 – Masonic Psychology

RW Eric W. Kuntz, MD, Instructor
Bangor Masonic Center, 294 Union Street
9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Lunch 5.00. Open.
Diploma credit. (new course)

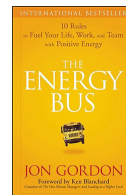
February 15 – Understanding World Religions –

What a Well-Informed Mason Should Know

RW Charles W. Plummer, Instructor
United Lodge, 65 Baribeau Drive, Brunswick
9:00 am - 2:00 pm. Lunch \$5.00. Open.

10 Thoughts about Leadership

The role of mentors is really one of leadership, of relationship building. Consider how these thoughts might affect your relationships – in Masonic mentoring and beyond. The following thoughts were taken from Jon Gordon's book *The Energy Bus*, available on his website www.jongordon.com. The list also appeared in the Scottish Rite Membership/Leadership Weekly Update that is available to interested Masons. This book might be a great addition to your personal or Lodge library.



1. People follow the leader first and the leader's vision second – It doesn't matter if the leader shares a powerful vision; if the leader is not someone who people will follow, the vision will never be realized. As a leader, who you are makes a difference. The most important message you can share is yourself.

2. Trust is the force that connects people to the leader and his/her vision – Without trust there is a huge gap between the leader and the vision. Without trust people will stay off the bus. However if people trust the leader they will hop on the bus with the leader and help move the bus forward towards the vision.

3. Leadership is not just about what you do but what you can inspire, encourage and empower others to do.

4. A leader brings out the best within others by sharing the best within themselves.

5. Just because you're driving the bus doesn't mean you have the right to run people over – Abraham Lincoln said "Most anyone can stand adversity, but to test a man's character give him power." The more power you are granted the more it is your responsibility to serve, develop and empower others. When you help them grow they'll help you grow.

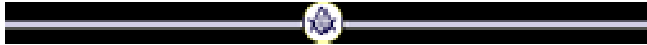
6. "Rules without Relationship Leads to Rebellion" – Andy Stanley said this and it's one of my favorite quotes. As a leader you can have all the rules you want but if you don't invest in your people and develop a relationship with them they will rebel. This applies amazingly to children as well. It's all about relationships.

7. Lead with optimism, enthusiasm and positive energy, guard against pessimism and weed out negativity.

8. Great Leaders know they don't have all the answers – Rather they build a team of people who either know the answers or will find them.

9. Leaders inspire and teach their people to focus on solutions, not complaints.

10. Great leaders know that success is a process not a destination – One of my heroes, John Wooden, the legendary UCLA basketball coach, never focused on winning. He knew that winning was the by-product of great leadership, teamwork, focus, commitment and execution of the fundamentals. As a leader, focus on your people and process, not the outcome.



The Role of the District Mentoring Coordinator (DMC)

Our Grand Master asked each of his 24 District Deputy Grand Masters to select a Brother to serve as the coordinator of mentoring activities in all the lodges in their respective districts. Having each DDGM appoint a respected, interested Brother to fill this role reflects the importance attached to actively mentoring our elected candidates and new Masons.

The DMC is pivotal to the success of the mentoring initiative within the Lodges comprising his District. His role is to support the District mentoring system, by:

- Assisting Lodges to implement mentoring,
- Providing advice and guidance to Lodge Mentors (coordinators) and Personal Mentors,
- Organizing training workshops and encouraging mentors to attend,
- Listening to Lodges’ experiences, and
- Measuring the effectiveness of the mentoring system in his District.

The key roles of the DMC, working with the District Deputy Grand Master and District Educational Representative, is to monitor all mentoring activities within his District, to ensure training workshops are organized, and to report to the Grand Lodge Mentoring Coordinator, who reports directly to the Deputy Grand Master and works with the Grand Lodge Membership Committee.

There is an old saying: There are people who make things happen; those who watch things happen; and those who wonder what happened. While DMCs are urged to keep tabs on what is happening in their respective Districts, they are encouraged to actively “make things happen” for the benefit of our Lodges and new Brethren.

More information on the Maine Masonic Mentoring initiative may be found on the Grand Lodge website www.MaineMason.org under the Resources tab.

If you would like more information on the Grand Lodge of Maine mentoring initiative, please contact your DMC or RW Tom Pulkkinen (contact information on page 6).

Your District Mentoring Coordinators

These Brethren are your source for mentoring resources. Contact them for supplies and assistance.

- 1 Wor. Bruce E. Folsom207-694-0344
befolsom@hotmail.com
- 2 RW Norman L. Howe207-454-3908
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- 3 RW Dwight C. Whitney Sr.207-434-5055
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- 4 RW Theodore S. Russell.....207-441-1398
angups@msn.com
- 5 Wor. Jeffrey H. Hamlin207-557-9019
jef.hamlin@rsu34.org
- 6 RW A. Charles Haskell.....207-991-4756
cacta@roadrunner.com
- 7 Bro. Aaron M. Chandler.....207-542-1746
amchandlerme@roadrunner.com
- 8 Wor. Herman L. Littlefield Jr.207-322-1548
robert.littlefield357@gmail.com
- 9 RW Brian S. Messing.....207-542-9585
gandalf@midcoast.com
- 10 RW David E. Hewitt.....207-563-1446
dmmarine@tidewater.net
- 11 Bro. Robert R. Haigh207-212-7181
mainemasonbob@yahoo.com
- 12 RW James E. Maloy.....207-441-0378
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- 14 Wor. Craig A. Rubner.....207-737-5753
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- 15 R.W. Clinton H. Coolidge Sr.207-645-4053
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(no email)
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- 23 Wor. Steven E. Peterson.....207-713-5318
ashlar105@down-east.com
- 24 Wor. Donald A. Copeland207-532-0455
dcopeland@fairpoint.net

Masonic Mentoring at its Best

By Kevin Pentalow

Children are looking for someone to inspire them, someone who demands more of them than they do of themselves. Someone to show them their true potential. For me, this person came in the form of a Junior High music teacher named Mr. Howard. A tall slender man with a boyish look, except for his Tom Selleck-style mustache, he was different because he was one of the few that cared for the poor students as well as the best.

The first time I went into his class, I sat in the back of the room as I always did, which tells every teacher all they need to know. I was wearing the uniform of the troubled teen: ripped jeans, long black oily hair, and Kurt Cobain t-shirt. It screamed of the bad boy persona that I was cultivating. I was a troubled teen, much more troubled than most.

With my parents divorced, I was living with a struggling single mother. Many responsibilities fell on me to contribute monetarily to the family for rent and other needs. My work schedule as a laborer on a farm, and being severely dyslexic, made me contemplate dropping out of school. I was on my last chance at school. I already had been kicked out of my last school for fighting. I was failing almost every class. As I look back, I can see that the fights and my misbehavior were direct reactions to my learning disability.

I was put into a music class, not so much because of my interest, but because it was one of the few classes I hadn't gotten kicked out of yet. Mr. Howard commented on my leg moving up and down in a nervous manner. "Awake from your day dream! You have a good rhythm going with that leg. Want to use that nervous energy to create something?" he asked abruptly. "I'd rather destroy," I said, having listened to much punk rock and watching too many 80s action movie villains. "Sometimes you must destroy to clear the way and create something new," Mr. Howard replied. "Sometimes the desire to create is in your blood; music is in your blood. There are no words to express the inexpressible; however in music we can come close. You are indeed in need of a positive outlet, much as I was at your age." He didn't just kick me out of class, he rationalized with me and it worked. His words made me think.

After a few classes on music history and a little experience with (Masonic Brother) Mozart's The Magic

Flute, I was placed in front of a drum set. Mr. Howard's only words were, "Now it is your time – destroy to your heart's content." I began to play, the class faded away. As my pounding percussions came to the forefront, I felt the pressure of the world slide off my back like rain off an umbrella. All of my problems were forgotten, blurred into the distance, hammered out by the pounding, shamanistic rhythm of my drums.

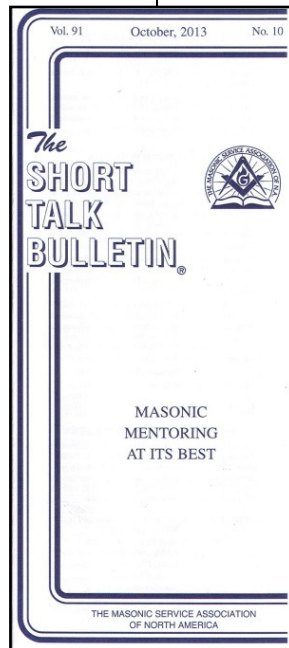
For the first time I knew what freedom was. Freedom from judgments of others, freedom from my troubles at home. Freedom was a real thing for the first time. I pounded away on that drum set and, in the wink of an eye the whole school day had passed. When the bell rang, it was as if I awoke from a dream. That was the day I found a passion that I would enjoy the rest of my life.

I began to play the drums during all of my study halls. At home I put together a makeshift drum set out of buckets and PVC pipes. Trash lids, saw blades, old pots and pans were used for cymbals. I played until my hands were chapped, and bleeding. I learned to play most of my favorite songs on the radio. I even started my own band with some friends, and began playing gigs at local bars. I earned enough to quit my farm job.

Mr. Howard showed me that if I applied myself, anything is possible. I started putting the same intensity into my studies and my grades shot up. I was shown how to read music and, while reading all the lyrics from my favorite bands, my reading ability exploded to new heights. Performing the drum solo in "Wipe Out" at the big, end-of-the-year performance gave me the confidence to get over my stage fright. During one of my performances, I saw my mother crying. It was the first time she knew she wouldn't have to worry about me – that I knew what I wanted to do with my life.

I graduated from high school and then from a four-year university. I continued to play music. I would go on to learn the guitar, bass, harp, banjo, mandolin and even the saw. I have played in numerous rock bands. Songs I have written have been recorded and played on radio stations. During tours through the East Coast, I always wondered if I would see Mr. Howard again. I had lost track of him, and had no way to thank him for all he had done for me to change my life course.

Recently, after receiving my 32nd Degree in the Scottish Rite in Syracuse, NY, I was sitting down to eat, when I heard my name, "Kevin." I looked up to see my former mentor, who, unknown to me, was a Masonic



brother and had been randomly seated at my table. I knew who it was in an instant; he still had that boyish face I remembered and the Tom Selleck mustache. As we conversed, he said to call him, Steve, but I kept slipping back to "Mr. Howard."

We talked and caught up on the last 20 years. I told him of the path I had been on and how he shaped it. I told him I always tried to give something back, whether I am volunteering in the local prisons or giving music lessons to those with developmental disabilities. I am only able to help these individuals because of the help he gave me all those years ago.

Not a day goes by that I don't think of how I might have ended up and the thought scares me. Every time I walk into a prison I can't help but think that it could have been me on the other side of the bars.

Mr. Howard listened to me uncharacteristically brag for quite some time of my musical and financial accomplishments and my volunteer work. He seemed moved to have been a part of my journey.

Then he looked at me sternly and asked me what office I held back up in North Star Lodge #107. He told me of the great respect he has for the Masonic degrees and the joy he gets from taking a part in them. He talked about how, by memorizing the different parts of the degrees, he was able to build what is called a memory palace. Using the description of Solomon's Temple given in Book of Kings, he would subscribe each passage of the ritual with a specific room. These mnemonic strategies also helped him remember coworkers' and students' names. In his music career, the strategies helped him memorize long difficult tempo-shifting songs. He also told me what a great feeling and a great honor it was to be elected the Worshipful Master of his Lodge. I was, once again, inspired by this man who had already given me such a rich source of inspiration.

Since talking with him that day, I have memorized parts of the Masonic ritual and gained new insight and appreciation for our degree work and our great brotherhood. I have to thank him for that.

You do not have to look any farther than your Lodge to find a blueprint for greater achievement. An inspirational person will be there. All you have to do is ask him the right questions, and learn as much as you can from the older generation of brothers. Soon it will be your turn to be called on to be that inspirational person for others, not only in the Lodge but everywhere you go.

Brother Kevin Pentalow of Brushton, NY, is a full-time law enforcement officer and also teaches music

and instructs snow boarders. He is a published author and poet whose writing achieved the NPR short fiction award in 2002. He is a well-respected icon painter, musician and songwriter, known for his diverse music projects.

He is a Magna Cum Laude graduate of The University of New York at Potsdam and holds degrees in graphic design and psychology.

Brother Pentalow regularly attends and has held several offices in North Star Lodge #107 in Brushton, where he was raised. He is a member of the Scottish Rite Valleys of Norwood and Syracuse, NY. He and his wife, Rebecca, have two children and enjoy outdoor activities.



Share Your Thoughts and Stories on Mentoring with Your Brethren

If you would like to share a story on how mentoring has benefited your life or the lives of others, or would like to share some other helpful information on mentoring, please send it to the Maine Masonic Mentoring Newsletter editor at TEPulkkinen@aol.com.



Please urge your new Brethren to become Master Mason Rookies! (applications on www.MaineMason.org)



The Maine Masonic Mentoring Program

MW A. James Ross, Grand Master

RW Thomas E. Pulkkinen,

Program Chairman, Newsletter Editor

TEPulkkinen@aol.com

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PO Box 413, East Boothbay, ME 04544



"Being persuaded that a just application of the principles on which the Masonic fraternity is founded, must be promotive of private virtue and public prosperity. I shall always be happy to advance the interests of the society and to be considered by them as a deserving Brother."

August 22, 1790 letter from George Washington to King David's Lodge #1, Newport, RI