



# Maine Masonic Mentoring Newsletter

Vol. 2, No. 9 – November 2014

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**Maya Angelou**, Poet and Author

*“I’ve learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.”*

Freemasonry is all about relationships; of exercising brotherly love, charity, civility and so many other life appreciating values; of stretching forth your hand – **and your heart** – in friendship and relief (or caring). We learn in the Fellow Craft Degree that the third sense of human nature is feeling. To me, the sense of heartfelt feeling for others – particularly my Masonic Brethren – is more important than the physical feelings by which we receive those “friendly and brotherly” grips. Without sincere, heartfelt feelings, the physical feelings are but shallow gestures.

Mentoring is about relationship building; of sharing yourself and your Masonic knowledge; of making new Masons feel **genuinely** important to you and their Lodges. – The Editor



### The Mentoring Partnership

from: [www.thementoringpartnership.com](http://www.thementoringpartnership.com)

(Based upon the above referred to website, modified to reflect Maine Masonic Mentoring materials)

### Your First Meeting

Here are some tips for making the most of your first meeting as a mentoring pair, perhaps held before or on the night of the candidate’s Entered Apprentice Degree.

### Before the meeting, the mentor may:

- Review the mentee’s Masonic application and personal background to gain a better understanding of

the mentee’s (Apprentice’s) personal and Masonic interests.

- Review the *Maine Masonic Mentoring Handbook*, *The Guide for Lodge and Personal Mentors* and the Masonic Rookie materials ([www.MaineMason.org](http://www.MaineMason.org)).
- Have a conversation with the District and Lodge mentoring coordinators to discuss your mentoring relationship and explore any ideas they may have.
- Review roles and expectations from the mentoring commitment.

### ANNOUNCEMENT:

**VW Richard M. Nadeau has assumed Grand Lodge responsibility for the Maine Masonic Mentoring Program. His contact information is on page 10.**

### At the meeting

- Take time to get to know each other. Share professional and personal histories, find similarities and differences. Discuss why each (and others) decided to become Masons. Mentors may cover specific information on what they do at work and what their role or position is in the Lodge and Grand Lodge.
- Discuss logistics, such as:
  - ✓ Best time of day or week to get in touch. A recurring meeting time often works best
  - ✓ A convenient place to meet
  - ✓ How long to wait if someone doesn’t show up for a scheduled meeting
  - ✓ Best method for keeping in touch between meetings
  - ✓ What’s expected between calls or visits
- Set boundaries for the mentoring relationship. Discuss and seek clarity about:
  - ✓ Whether it is okay to discuss emotional issues and how
  - ✓ Whether it is okay for the mentor to offer feedback on Masonic and Lodge protocol regarding clothing, grooming, nonverbal communication
  - ✓ Whether it is appropriate to address language issues
  - ✓ Whether it is appropriate to discuss behaviors that each of you may find offensive
- Discuss confidentiality. Be very specific about things which you feel should stay confidential: be mindful that the concept of confidentiality may vary significantly between cultures.

- Discuss challenges or barriers to meeting such as travel, work and personal schedules, and child care.
- Decide what you want to achieve together and set priorities, given the timeframe and scope of your roles, on how the mentee might learn more about Freemasonry and become involved in his Lodge – right from the beginning of his Masonic experience. The new Mason should be exposed to the:
  - Maine Masonic Rookie Program
  - Pollard Plan and Ritual Instructor reading materials
  - Grand Lodge Lending Library (circulation list on Grand Lodge website)
  - Lodge visit and District educational programs
  - Maine Masonic College course offerings (www.mainemasoniccollege.com)

#### **At the end of the meeting**

You should go away with:

- The feeling that you know more about your mentee/mentor
- An agreement on your learning goals and priorities
- A few meetings booked in advance
- An action plan for your next two or three meetings
- A task, or tasks, for the mentee to work on between meetings

### **Building the Relationship**

#### **Role of the Mentor**

Mentors and mentees alike look forward to a productive and rewarding mentoring experience. Building an open and enjoyable relationship of mutual respect will be your key to achieving this goal. Your ability to create and maintain a relationship will be a significant part of your success.

Please remember that the role of a mentor is not to find a Lodge office for the mentee. This expectation can put a strain on your mentoring relationship. Instead, maintain a focus on helping the mentee gain a better understanding and knowledge in the key areas addressed by The Mentoring Partnership:

- Masonic protocol and Lodge culture and traditions
- History and operation of the fraternity and Lodge
- Masonic ritual and symbolism
- Networking to expand Masonic knowledge and relationships

#### **Successful mentoring is all about:**

- Conversation (that means two-way messaging)
- Sharing of knowledge, information and experiences
- Learning from each other
- Opening doors
- Providing inspiration
- Validating another's experience
- Helping "more senior" Masons transfer their

knowledge and experience so that newer Masons become acclimated to Masonic lessons and work

#### **Staying focused**

It is inevitable that you will get side-tracked, distracted or slowed down by various developments during your time together. Here are a few tips for what you can do at each meeting that may help you stay focused on your goal:

- Determine growth and comfort with the Masonic lesson plan and Masonic Rookie undertakings
- Follow up on earlier commitments – what has been achieved, what challenges came up, how can they be addressed?
- Check on new developments in the mentee's life – do they present a new opportunity or a new challenge that needs to be addressed?
- Attend to anything that needs immediate attention, including a lack of motivation or commitment.
- Briefly go over your goals and milestones – are you still on target?
- Work on a topic or issue that you have selected for the day.
- Identify next steps, with deadlines and outcomes. Always take some time for small talk and catching up with each other.

#### **Tips**

Consider the following points that may require special emphasis as you work to establish your mentoring relationship:

- Take time to get to know each other and to establish trust.
- Discuss how Freemasonry and its lessons have benefited you and might help the mentee focus on his life and those around him.
- Share your experience and background with each other, including obstacles that you have overcome.
- Establish personal boundaries and respect them.
- Agree to ask each other lots of questions.
- Listen, listen, listen.

#### ***As a mentee, you will benefit from mentoring most if you:***

- Have specific written goals.
- Play a lead role in setting the agenda for each meeting with your mentor.
- Come prepared
  - ✓ With questions you think may be important to ask, such as opportunities to attend:
    - ✓ Maine Masonic College courses
    - ✓ Mentoring and Dirigo Leadership seminars
  - ✓ To talk about your professional and personal background; career / Masonic goals and aspirations; challenges; and barriers to success.

- Do your homework: follow up on research, conduct networking calls; study required ritual and Pollard Plan booklets; visit other Lodges; revise your Masonic education plan or anything else you and your mentor have agreed on in your meetings.
- Openly discuss any challenges you are facing, be they ritual related or with the partnership.
- Understand that you are accountable to your mentor, while assertively making choices that are best for you.
- Be open to adopting new strategies and ideas in your Masonic experience.
- Do not expect all answers from your mentor, but accept his support in searching for answers.
- Acknowledge that your state of mind will influence your progress. A positive state of mind will make it easier for your mentor to support you; a more negative state of mind may do otherwise.
- Take responsibility for your emotions and attitudes.

**Remember that your mentor is there to guide you in your Lodge and Freemasonry, in learning about your Masonic experience, interests and involvement.**

***As a mentor, you will mentor more effectively if you:***

- Are aware that your communication style may be different from your mentee's.
- Give your mentee the benefit of the doubt when differences arise during your mentoring relationship. Assume positive intentions and discuss what you are experiencing.
- Make every effort to understand your mentee's challenges and issues. Always keep in mind that your mentee may have limited time and resources and may feel pressure and urgency to find a job or address family needs due to his personal and/or economic situations.
- Are honest about the limitations or difficulties which you see in your mentee.
- Ask for permission to go beyond sharing of knowledge. Start by asking "Do you want my support with this?", "Shall we work together on this?" or "Do you want some feedback on this?"
- Address areas of skill enhancement.
- Reinforce your mentee's strengths.
- Discuss when you or your mentee may need to consult a mentoring coach or other resources for assistance; seek help and advice when you need it.
- Keep "culture" shock in mind – adjusting to a new environment takes time and can be emotionally challenging.
- Remember that 20% of reactions are based on

what is currently happening and 80% are based upon the past, including the circumstances of your mentee's past fraternal, education and professional experiences.



### **Best Advice: How to find a mentor**

By: Ximena Vengoechea

*Many Maine Masonic Lodges have active mentoring activities and employ the Maine Masonic Rookie program to engage new Masons in their Lodges. If yours does not, it is important to find a mentor – or mentors – whether you are a new Mason, a junior officer advancing through the line, or the Master-elect making final plans to ascend to the East. This article, in particular the five steps, has been edited to make it more applicable to your Lodge experience. – The Editor*

It probably started in college. Early in your career, you heard from someone or read it somewhere:  
**if you're going to succeed in your profession, you're going to need to find a mentor.**

It's true that a mentor can go a long way in helping you define, pursue, and reach success, both professionally and personally. But if you've ever tried securing a mentor, you may have felt defeated. Finding a good mentor can feel a lot like dating: it can be really hard to find a good match.

The right Lodge. The right experience level, the right interests. The right city. The right personal chemistry! Where could that perfect mentor possibly be hiding?

Actually, they're probably right there in front of you.

The myth of the mentor is that there is a single, perfect, power mentor out there for you.

There is no such thing as the perfect mentor – don't get distracted trying to conjure one from thin air. Not every mentor is a CEO on the cover of Forbes (or the Grand Master on the cover of *The Maine Mason*), or the Master of your Lodge with little time to spare. But there are mentors all around you, if you know where to look for them.

#### **How to find a Masonic mentor: 5 steps**

##### **1. Reframe your conception of mentorship.**

A mentor is someone who is invested in your personal and Masonic development, who can support you and help you work through ideas, challenges and turning points as they come. He's well versed in your ambitions and aspirations – in what "success" looks like for you, so he can think of you when a potential opportunity comes your way – an educational course, a degree in another Lodge, etc.

You may or may not meet regularly with him. He may be older than you, or maybe not. He may or may

not belong to your Lodge. He may or may not even live in the same community as you.

The important part is that he shares insights and perspectives when you need it, and can connect you to the right resources when his knowledge on the subject is maxed out.

Be flexible in your vision of a mentor. This does not mean lowering the bar on who to learn or take advice from, but it does mean observing more deliberately and listening more thoughtfully to the stories and lessons shared from those around you. Limiting your idea of a mentor to the senior-most leader in your position is precisely that – limiting!

## **2. Look to your peers.**

Often we assume that if someone is at the same stage of his Masonic experience as us and facing the same hurdles, he couldn't possibly be the best person to turn to for advice. After all, we want the expert answer.

But it's important to take your peers' perspectives seriously. While on paper you may share the same experience, your approaches to solving certain challenges may be very different. Your peers can be your best sounding boards and greatest advocates. Their perspective is valuable – especially in answering questions more seasoned mentors cannot.

For Millennials, for instance, the best advice on some of your most pressing professional concerns and Masonic interests may come from your peers. Understanding things like how to walk the line between friend and colleague in the Facebook age, how to make a 'blind reach-out' and ask for help, how to write a casual but effective email intro, how to 'manage-up' and make the most of working with senior leaders, etc. – your peers are experienced in navigating many of the same issues, in ways those outside of your peer group are not.

Your peer mentorships can result in some of the most fruitful and long-lasting relationships you ever have, so take time to invest in supporting and learning from one another. Over time they will learn the intricacies of how you work and who you work well with; when it's time to grow your Lodge leadership team, they can refer the type of Masons well suited for your team, not someone else's.

## **3. Forget finding a power mentor: Build your own suite of advisors.**

You are an exceptional individual who deserves to be invested in by more than one person. Instead of searching for 'The One Mentor Who Will Change Your Life,' work on putting together a group of mentors you can turn to for specific challenges.

For instance, look to one Brother for ritual instruction (whether you are a degree candidate or a Lodge officer), another to better understand the symbolism woven into our degrees (knowing the right words is important, yet understanding the symbolic lessons within each degree adds perspective and great life lessons), and still another for very particular "me" feedback (this friend knows your progress and interests, and can provide more personalized advice as a result). If you are a senior Lodge officer, perhaps have a mentor whose thoughts on team building and team dynamics would be important to your Lodge; and another peer advisor for when you need perspective on negotiating and Lodge "politics," or in effectively and appropriately using social media.

Each will be a valuable member of your advisory suite: they can give targeted advice based on their expertise and background, and their repertoires of knowledge complement each other nicely. Know who to talk with on your challenges. Though the answers to your questions may come from several sources of knowledge, you can triangulate them to make a sound assessment based on your advisors' experiences.

This can be especially useful if you're new to our fraternal, volunteer organization. You can always consult your suite of advisors on particular inflection points and map those to your personal experience.

## **4. Pay it forward and mentor someone else.**

If you see someone who could use advice, offer it to him. Mentorship can be its own education, and it goes both ways from mentee to mentor. You will learn valuable lessons through the questions your mentee asks. They may seek advice about a challenge you're intimately familiar with, or not. This is particularly the case when the personal mentor is a newly recognized Masonic Rookie. Whatever it is they're struggling with, you'll be more attuned to it in the future. Having heard or experienced their story and become empathetic to their cause, you'll subconsciously look out for similar situations and solutions.

Be a resource and share your knowledge. Your mentee will be a resource to you when the time is right for their expertise to reveal itself. Everyone is knowledgeable about something, even (especially!) new grads fresh out of college – they have much of value to share with the Lodge.

## **5. Stop looking so hard.**

If no one comes to mind yet for your personal board of mentors, don't sweat it. Keep your eyes open and learn from those around you. Find role models and mentors in your everyday life, and take mental notes on their behavior, actions, successes and failures. It's

perfectly fine to learn from those around you without formalizing a “mentor-mentee” relationship – you don’t need to ask them to be your mentor.

***Everyone is my teacher. Some I seek. Some I subconsciously attract. Often I learn simply by observing others. Some may be completely unaware that I’m learning from them, yet I bow deeply in gratitude. – Eric Allen***

Permission to build your own suite of mentors – your way – starts now.



### **From the Masonic Protocol Manual**

#### **6.2 Lodge Room Decorum (part 2)**

##### **2. No one should pass between the Altar and the East while the Bible is opened.**

a. The Master relies on the Great Light (Holy Bible) to rule and govern his Lodge. His line of vision should never be broken.

b. The exception is during degree work. The officers may pass this way in a clockwise motion while conducting the candidate.



### **Spirit of Masonry**

The Masonic Service Association  
SHORT TALK BULLETIN, May 1923, Vol.1, No.5

Outside of the home and the House of God, there is nothing in this world more beautiful than the Spirit of Masonry. Gentle, gracious and wise; its mission is to form mankind into a great redemptive brotherhood, a league of noble and free men enlisted in the radiant enterprise of working out in time the love and will of the Eternal. Who is sufficient to describe a spirit so benign? With what words may one ever hope to capture and detain that which belongs of right to the genius of poetry and song, by whose magic those elusive and impalpable realities find embodiment and voice?

With picture, parable and stately drama, Masonry appeals to lovers of beauty, bringing poetry and symbol to the aid of philosophy, and are to the service of character. Broad and tolerant in its teachings, it appeals to men of intellect, equally by the depths of its faith and its pleas for liberty of thought – helping them to think things through to a more satisfying and hopeful vision of the meaning of life and the mystery of the world. But its profoundest appeal, more eloquent than all others, is to the deep heart of man, out of which are the issues of life and destiny.

When all is said, it is as a man thinketh in his heart, whether life be worthwhile or not, and whether he is a help or a curse to his race.

Here lies the tragedy of our race:  
Not that men are poor;  
All men know something of poverty.  
Not that men are wicked;  
Who can claim to be good?  
Not that all men are ignorant;  
Who can boast that he is wise?  
But that men are strangers!

Masonry is Friendship – friendship, first, with the great Companion, of whom our own hearts tell us, who is always nearer to us than we are to ourselves, and whose inspiration and help is the greatest fact of human experience. To be in harmony with His purposes, to be open to His suggestions, to be conscious of fellowship with Him – this is Masonry on its ‘God-ward’ side.

Then, turning ‘man-ward,’ friendship sums it all up. To be friends with all men, however they may differ from us in creed, color or condition; to fill every human relation with the spirit of friendship; is there anything more or better than this that the wisest and best men can hope to do? Such is the Spirit of Masonry; such is its ideal, and if to realize it all at once is denied us, surely it means much to see it, love it, and labor to make it come true.

Nor is the spirit of friendship a mere sentiment held by a sympathetic and therefore unstable fraternity, which would dissolve the concrete features of humanity into a vague blur of misty emotion. No, it has its roots in a profound philosophy which sees that the universe is friendly, and that men must learn to be friends if they would live as befits the world in which they live, as well as their own origin and destiny. For, since God is the life of all that was, is, and is to be; and since we are all born into the world by one high wisdom and one vast love, we are brothers to the last man of us, forever! For better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, and even after death we do part, all men are held together by ties of spiritual kinship, sons of one Eternal Friend. Upon this fact human fraternity rests, and it is the basis of the plea of Masonry, not only for freedom, but for friendship among men.

This friendship, so far from being a mush of concessions, is in fact the constructive genius of the universe. Love is ever the Builder, and those who have done most to establish the City of God on earth have been the men who loved their fellow men. Once you let this spirit prevail, the wrangling sects will be lost in the great league of those who love in the service of those who suffer. No man will then revile the faith in which his neighbor finds help for today and hope for

the morrow; pity will smite him mute, and love will teach him that God is found in many ways, by those who seek him with honest hearts. Once you let this spirit rule in the realm of trade, the law of the jungle will cease, and men will strive to build a social order in which all men may have the opportunity "To Live and to Live Well" as Aristotle defined the purpose of society. Here is the basis of that magical stability aimed at by the earliest artists when they sought to build for eternity, by imitating on earth the House of God.

Our human history, saturated with blood and blistered with tears, is the story of man making friends with man. Society has evolved from a feud into a friendship by the slow growth of love and the welding of man, first to his kin, and then to his kind. The first man who walked in the red dawn of time lived every man for himself, his heart a sanctuary of suspicions, every man feeling that every other man was his foe, and therefore his prey. So there was war, strife and bloodshed.

Slowly there came to the savage a gleam of the truth that it is better to help than to hurt, and he organized clans and tribes. But the tribes were divided by rivers and mountains, and the men on one side of the river felt that the men on the other side were their enemies. Again there was war, pillage and sorrow.

Great empires arose and met in the shock of conflict, leaving trails of skeletons across the earth. Then came the great roads, reaching out with their stony clutch and bringing the ends of the earth together. Men met, mingled, passed and repassed; and learned that human nature is much the same everywhere, with hopes and fears in common. Still there were many things to divide and estrange men from each other, and the earth was full of bitterness.

Not satisfied with natural barriers, men erected high walls of sect and caste, to exclude their fellows, and the men of one sect were sure that the men of all other sects were wrong – and doomed to be lost. Thus, when real mountains no longer separated man from man, mountains were made out of molehills – mountains of immemorial misunderstanding not yet moved into the sea!

Barriers of race, of creed, of caste, of training and interest separate men today, as if some malign genius were bent on keeping man from his fellows; begetting suspicion, un-charitableness and hate. Still there is war, waste and woe! Yet all the while, men have been unfriendly, and, therefore unjust and cruel, only because they are unacquainted.

Amidst feud, faction and folly; Masonry, the oldest



and most widely spread order, toils in behalf of friendship; uniting men on the only basis upon which they can ever meet with dignity. Each Lodge is an oasis of equality and goodwill in a desert of strife, working to weld mankind into a great league of sympathy and service, which, by the terms of our definition seeks to exhibit even now on a small scale. At

its Altar, men meet as man to man, without vanity and without pretense, without fear and without reproach; as tourists crossing the Alps tie themselves together so that if one slips, all may hold him up. No tongue can tell the meaning of such a ministry, no pen can trace the influence in melting the hardness of the world into pity and gladness.

**The Spirit of Masonry!** He who would describe that spirit must be a poet, a musician and a seer – a master of melodies, echoes and long far-sounding cadences. Now, as always, it toils to make man better, to refine his thought and purify his sympathy, to broaden his outlook, to lift his altitude, to establish in amplitude and resoluteness his life in all its relations. All its great history, its vast accumulations of tradition, its simple faith and its solemn rites, its freedom and its friendship are dedicated to the high moral ideal, seeking to tame the tiger in man, and bring his wild passions into obedience to the will of God. It has no other mission than to exalt and ennoble humanity, to bring light out of darkness, beauty out of angularity; to make every hard-won inheritance more secure, every sanctuary more sacred, every hope more radiant!

The Spirit of Masonry! Aye, when that spirit has its way upon earth, as at last it surely will, society will be a vast communion of kindness and justice, business a system of human service, law a rule of beneficence; home will be more holy, the laughter of childhood more joyous, and the temple of prayer mortised and tendoned in a simple faith. Evil, injustice, bigotry, greed, and every vile and slimy thing that defiles and defames humanity will skulk into the dark, unable to bear the light of a just, wiser, more merciful order. Industry will be upright, education prophetic, and religion not a shadow, but a real Presence, when man has become acquainted with man and has learned to worship God by serving his fellows.

When Masonry is victorious every tyranny will fall, every bastille crumble, and man will be not only unfettered in mind and hand, but free of heart to walk erect in the light and liberty of the truth.

Toward a great friendship, long foreseen by Masonic faith, the world is slowly moving, amid difficulties and delays, reactions and reconstructions.

Though long deferred, of the day, which will surely

arrive, when nations will be reverent in the use of freedom, just in the exercise of power, humane in the practice of wisdom; when no man will ride over the rights of his fellows; when no woman will be made forlorn, no little child wretched by bigotry or greed, Masonry has ever been a prophet. Nor will she ever be content until all the threads of human fellowship are woven into one mystic cord of friendship, encircling the earth and holding the race in unity of spirit and the bonds of peace; as in the will of God it is one in the origin and end.

Having outlived empires and philosophies, having seen generations appear and vanish, it will yet live to see the travail of its soul, and be satisfied –

When the War Drum throbs no longer,  
And the Battle Flags are furled;  
In the Parliament of man,  
The Federation of the World.

Manifestly, since love is the law of life, if men are to be won from hate to love, if those who doubt and deny are to be wooed to faith, if the race is ever to be led and lifted into a life of service, it must be by the fine art of Friendship. Inasmuch as this is the purpose of Masonry, its mission determines the method not less than the spirit of its labor. Earnestly it endeavors to bring men – first the individual man, and then, so far as is possible, those who are united with him – to love one another, while holding aloft, in picture and dream, that Temple of character which is the noblest labor of life to build in the midst of the years, and which will outlast time and death. Thus it seeks to reach the lonely inner life of man where the real battles are fought, and where the issues of destiny are decided, now with shouts of victory, now with sobs of defeat. What a ministry to a young man who enters its Temple in the morning of life, when the dew of heaven is upon his days and the birds are singing in his heart!

From the wise lore of the East, Max Muller translated a parable which tells how the Gods, having stolen from man his divinity, met in council to discuss where they should hide it. One suggested that it be carried to the other side of the earth and buried; but, it was pointed out that man is a great wanderer, and that he might find the lost treasure on the other side of the earth. Another proposed that it be dropped into the depths of the sea; but, the same fear was expressed – that man, in his insatiable curiosity, might dive deep enough to find it even there. Finally, after a space of silence, the oldest and wisest of the Gods said: "Hide it in man himself, as that is the last place he will ever think to look for it." And so it was agreed, all seeing at once the subtle and wise strategy. Man did wander

the earth, for ages, seeking in all places high and low, far and near, before he thought to look within himself for the divinity he sought.

At last, slowly, dimly, he began to realize that what he thought was far off, hidden in the "The Pathos of Distance," is nearer than the breath he breathes, even in his own heart.

Here lies the great secret of Masonry – that it makes a man aware of that divinity within him, wherefrom his whole life takes its beauty and meaning, and inspires him to follow and obey it. Once a man learns this deep secret, life is new, and the old world is a valley all dewy to the dawn with a lark song over it.

There never was a truer saying than, the religion of a man is the chief fact concerning him. By religion is meant not the creed to which a man will subscribe, or otherwise give his assent; not that necessarily, often not that at all – since we see men of all degrees of worth and worthlessness signing all kinds of creeds. No; the religion of a man is that which he practically believes, lays to heart, acts upon, and thereby knows concerning this mysterious universe and his duty and destiny in it. That is in all cases the primary thing in him, and creatively determines all the rest; that is his religion. It is, then, of vital importance what faith, what vision, what conception of life a man lays to heart, and acts upon.

At the bottom, a man is what his thinking is, thoughts being the artists who give color to our days. Optimists and pessimists live in the same world, walk under the same sky, and observe the same facts. Skeptics and believers look up at the same great stars – the stars that shone in Eden and will flash again in Paradise. Clearly the difference between them is a difference not of fact, but of faith – of insight, outlook and point of view – a difference of inner attitude and habit of thought with regard to the worth and use of life.

By the same token, any influence which reaches and alters that inner habit and bias of mind, and changes it from doubt to faith, from fear to courage, from despair to sunburst hope, has wrought the most benign ministry which a mortal may enjoy. Every man has a train of thought on which he rides when he is alone; and the worth of his life to himself and others, as well as its happiness, depend upon the direction in which that train is going, the baggage it carries, and the country through which it travels. If, then, Masonry can put that inner train of thought on the right track, freight it with precious treasure, and start it on the way to the City of God, what other or higher ministry can it render to a man? And that is what it does for any man who will listen to it, love it, and lay its truth to heart.

High, fine, ineffably rich and beautiful are the faith and vision which Masonry gives to those who foregather at its Altar, bringing to them in picture, parable and symbol the lofty and pure truth wrought out through ages of experience, tested by time, and found to be valid for the conduct of life. By such teaching, if they have the heart to heed it, men become wise, learning how to be both brave and gentle, faithful, and free; how to renounce superstition and retain faith; how to keep a fine poise of reason between falsehood of extremes; how to accept the joys of life with glee, and endure its ills with patient valor; how to look upon the folly of man and not forget his nobility – in short, how to live cleanly, kindly, open-eyed and unafraid in a sane world, sweet of heart and full of hope.

Who so lays this lucid and profound wisdom to heart, and lives by it, will have little regret, and nothing to fear, when the evening shadows fall. Happy is the young man who, in the morning of his years, makes it his guide, philosopher and friend.

Such is the ideal of Masonry, and fidelity to all that is holy demands that we give ourselves to it, trusting the power of truth, the reality of love, and the sovereign worth of character. For only as we incarnate that ideal in real life and activity, does it become real, tangible and effective. God works for man through man and seldom, if at all, in any other way. He asks for our voices to speak His Truth, for our hands to do His Work here below – sweet voices and clean hands to make liberty and love prevail over injustice and hate.

Not all of us can be learned or famous; but each of us can be loyal and true of heart, undefiled by evil, undaunted by error, faithful and helpful to our fellow souls. Life is a capacity for the highest – an eager incessant quest of truth; a noble utility, a lofty honor, a wise freedom, a genuine service – that through us the Spirit of Masonry may grow and be glorified.

#### **When is a man a Mason?**

- When he can look out over the rivers, the hills, and the far horizon with a profound sense of his own littleness in the vast scheme of things, and yet have faith, hope and courage – which is the root of every virtue.
- When he knows that down in his heart every man is as noble, as vile, as divine, as diabolic and as lonely as himself; and seeks to know, to forgive and to love his fellow man.
- When he knows how to sympathize with men in their sorrows, yea, even in their sins – knowing that each man fights a hard fight against many odds.
- When he has learned how to make friends and to keep them, and above all how to keep friends with himself.

- When he loves flowers, can hunt the birds without a gun, and feels the thrill of an old forgotten joy when he hears the laugh of a little child.
- When he can be happy and high-minded amid the meaner drudgeries of life.
- When star-crowned trees, and the glint of sunlight on the flowing waters, subdue him like the thought of one much loved and long dead.
- When no voice of distress reaches his ears in vain, and no hands seeks his aid without response.
- When he finds good in every faith that helps any man to lay hold of divine things and sees majestic meanings in life, whatever the name of that faith may be.
- When he can look into a wayside puddle and see something beyond mud, and into the face of the most forlorn fellow mortal and see something beyond sin.
- When he knows how to pray, how to love, and how to hope.
- When he has kept faith with himself, with his fellow man, with his God; in his hand a sword for evil, in his heart a bit of a song – glad to live, but not afraid to die!

Such a man has found the only real secret of Masonry, and the one that it is trying to give to all the world.



### **Dirigo Leadership Seminars**

The Dirigo Leadership Seminar program offered by the Grand Lodge of Maine will be offered in several locations over this Masonic year.



The registration form for the following already scheduled seminars is attached to this Mentoring Newsletter.

#### **Springvale on Tuesday evening, November 25<sup>th</sup>**

(The content of this evening session will be abbreviated and is being offered for the convenience of Brethren who work on Saturdays. 6:30 pm supper)

#### **Skowhegan on Saturday, December 13th**

#### **Kennebunkport on Saturday, January 18th**

These sessions will begin with registration, coffee and donuts from 8-9 am and end with a luncheon at 1 pm.

If your Lodge would be willing to host the seminar for Brethren in your District and surrounding Lodges – at no cost to your Lodge – please contact the seminar series chairman, RW Jeff Sukeforth, at (207) 691-2270 or jandc@myfairpoint.net. The Dirigo sessions may be held in the evening or on a Saturday.



## Why you should always say “Hello” in the elevator

VW Rick Nadeau, the new Grand Lodge Mentoring Coordinator, urges everyone to have a short, two minute “elevator speech” ready to deliver to anyone who asks: “So what is Freemasonry?” or, “What do Masons do?” or “Why did **you** join the Masons?” or “What do **you** like most about Freemasonry?”

*Wearing a Masonic lapel pin or ring, or a Square and Compasses on your shirt or cap, might prompt such questions. Having your personal Masonic story thought out and ready to share is important, even if you don't have any elevators in your town as is the case in many Maine communities.*

*As this story tells, you never know when and with whom you might have a brief encounter. Being outgoing and personable with intriguing answers to their questions might just prompt someone to ask ... “So, how can I become a Mason?”*



I recently traveled to Europe to visit a few of our offices abroad and launch a new, exciting youth employment initiative for 2015. It was a phenomenal trip with a stellar agenda. But one of my favorite and most impactful experiences from the trip was completely unplanned – a result of what has become my new motto: **Always say “hello” in the elevator.**

On my first morning in Dublin, slightly jet-lagged, I jumped into the elevator. As I fumbled with my agenda trying to figure out which floor I should be riding to, I realized there was a gentleman in the elevator with me. Without thinking, I piped up, “Good morning! What a lovely office you have here!” (Yes, I had enjoyed a couple of cups of coffee before this.)

“This actually isn't my office – I work in London,” he responded, clearly a bit taken aback by the random, undeserved compliment and conversation.

“Oh, I'll be in London later this week,” I said. And then DING, the elevator doors opened onto my floor and I quickly exited to rush to my first meeting. “Well, maybe I'll see you there!” I called back, trying to close the ‘conversation’ before running off.

Two days later in our London office, I'm sitting with a colleague having lunch in the cafe, and I look up to see the same gentleman from the elevator pointing at

me. “You're the elevator lady!” he laughed. To which I responded, “Yes, that would be me...”

To my surprise, he wound up joining us for lunch and was seriously interested in learning about the youth employment initiative we're working on; coincidentally, his team was participating in a service event that afternoon and then heading off to dinner at Jamie Oliver's Fifteen – a restaurant with a social mission to use the magic of cooking to unleash the potential of young people who have faced enormous challenges. The conversation turned into an invitation to join his team for dinner, where I uncovered that six of his employees were already engaged in social impact at the company and all were eager to participate in our new initiative. It also gave me a chance to build new relationships with 15 members of our offices from across Europe (and brush up on my Dutch)!

It was clear to me that this never would have happened had I not said anything in the elevator that morning in Dublin. There's simply only so much you can uncover and plan from half way across the globe, on email. It seems we have to make room for unexpected opportunities to come our way. **But more importantly, I think we have to create situations that allow those unexpected opportunities to find us.**

I've always found it's best to own and take pride in one's slightly embarrassing moments. But experiences like these make me wonder if we should reframe the now common position of “don't be afraid to fail” into **“find ways to embarrass yourself.”** In fact they seem to be the best ways to build authentic relationships and uncover new opportunities. For that reason, I think from now on I'll always find a way to say “hello” in the elevator.

*By Liz Linser, who is leveraging talent and technology to enhance LinkedIn's global impact.*



### Grow in Masonry through courses offered by the Maine Masonic College



Please email your intentions to attend any of the courses to the College registrar, Theresa Hatch at Grand Lodge, at [GrandLodge@MaineMason.org](mailto:GrandLodge@MaineMason.org) or 855-843-1086. The College does not require that one register for classes and events. However, to be assured a place at lunch or to be notified of changes in schedules participants do need to register.

### Upcoming Maine Masonic College Course

Updated listings of upcoming courses for the 2014 – 2015 Maine Masonic College year will be available in upcoming Mentoring Newsletters and on the MMC website: [www.mainemasoniccollege.com](http://www.mainemasoniccollege.com)

**Upcoming courses include:**

**November 22 – “Bonds of Fellowship and Spirit”  
Presenter, RW Mark E. Rustin**

This course is designed to discuss the relational aspects at the core of Freemasonry and how those bonds can be honored and celebrated.

Monument Lodge, Monument Square, Houlton.  
9:00 am to 2:00 pm. \$5.00 for lunch.  
Open to non-Masons



**December 6 – Undiscovered Worlds  
Presented at the Emera Astronomy Center**

167 Rangeley Road, at the intersection of Rangeley Road and Long Road, Orono

Begins at 3:00 pm

Open to all **by registration only** and limited to 30

This year we are holding our annual family Astronomy Program at the Maynard F. Jordan Planetarium and Observatory in the new \$5.2 million Astronomy Center that was dedicated on October 17, 2014. The program will be presented by university staff.

There will be a one hour program, with attendees first seeing a show called “Undiscovered Worlds” followed by a presentation on the latest interests in cosmology which will be a special presentation put on for us. This is a great opportunity!

**(From Interstate 95:** Take exit 193 and follow Stillwater Avenue toward Old Town to fourth traffic light. Turn right on College Avenue and then left onto Park St. (route 2) and another left on Rangeley Rd.)

The 2015 schedule also includes the following courses, some of which already have specific dates and locations. Please contact Theresa Hatch to be considered as a possible host Lodge.

- **Curiosity: The Key Working Tool for Speculative Masons:** January 10, 2015, Tuscan Lodge, Addison
- **Critical Thinking / Logical Systems:** February 28, 2015, Bethlehem Lodge, Augusta
- **Ethics:** March 14, 2015, Bethlehem Lodge, Augusta
- **Tenets and Cardinal Virtues:** March 28, 2015, Bethlehem Lodge, Augusta
- **Fifth Annual Celebration of the Arts and Sciences: The Seventh Step – Astrology;** April 11, 2015,

Bangor

- King’s Speech
- Masonic Psychology
- Understanding World’s Religions
- Myth & Ritual
- Vitruvius and Master Mason’s Secrets
- **Convocation: “Civility and Harmony, more Especially Ours,”** October 17, 2015, Bangor

**Begin your new Masonic Brother on a path to become a Maine Masonic Rookie!**

**A Proven approach to bonding new Masons to their Lodge and Fraternity!**



**2014-2015 District Mentoring Coordinators**

Dist.	District Coordinator	Telephone	Email Address
1	Wor. Bruce E. Folsom	207-694-0344	befolsom@hotmail.com
2	RW Norman L. Howe	207-454-3908	nlhowe@ccpwireless.com
3			
4	Wor. J. Blaise DeSibour	207-374-5012	desibour@gmail.com
5	Wor. Jeffrey H. Hamlin	207-557-9019	jef.hamlin@rsu34.org
6	Bro. Ryan J. Collins	207-458-1782	ryanjcollins1@gmail.com
7	Bro. Paul C. Barnes	207-975-0625	paulbarnes@fairpoint.net
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			
11	Bro. Edward M. Libby	207-724-7416	tlibby@preferredpump.com
12	RW James E. Malloy	207-441-0378	jvmaloy@fairpoint.net
13	Wor. Frank A. Bolduc	207-474-7812	frankbolduc@yahoo.com
14	RW Toby D. Williams	207-240-1085	tobywilliams500@gmail.com
15	Wor. Emerson L. Dyer II	207-246-7472	solsticeglass@earthlink.net
16	Wor. Wayne A. Cadman	207-647-5945	wcadman@roadrunner.com
17	Wor. Timothy V. Bushey	207-653-8753	tbushy1@yahoo.com
18	Wor. Timothy V. Bushey	207-653-8753	tbushy1@yahoo.com
19	VW Brian A. Ingalls	207-604-0641	BIngalls27@gmail.com
20	RW Richard J. Halacy	207-364-7556	rjh@megalink.net
21	Wor. Victor S. Glass	207-667-0760	vsglass1962@yahoo.com
22	RW Ronald W. Fowle II	207-356-9844	fowle@tdstelme.net
23	Wor. Steven E. Peterson	207-713-5318	ashlar105@down-east.com
24	Wor. Donald A. Copeland	207-532-0455	dcopeland@fairpoint.net

**The Maine Masonic Mentoring Program**

**MW David A. Walker, Grand Master**

**VW Richard M. Nadeau, Webster Lodge, Wales  
Grand Lodge Mentoring Coordinator**

docrich98@yahoo.com  
207-577-4781 (cell)

8 S Lisbon Rd, Lewiston, ME 04240-1409

**RW Thomas E. Pulkkinen,**

Deputy Grand Master  
Mentoring Newsletter Editor  
TEPulkkinen@aol.com

207-350-9525 (cell) - 207-633-7167 (home)  
PO Box 413, East Boothbay, ME 04544

# Dirigo Masonic Leadership Seminar

## Springvale (Thursday evening) – Skowhegan – Kennebunkport

What core physical, educational and personal fulfillment needs of your brethren does your lodge satisfy? What is the image of your lodge, as viewed by your brethren and the community? What do you want your lodge to emphasize in terms of: being a close, warm fraternal body; having fun; involving families; helping members; widows and the community; and, instilling in our daily lives the values and teachings of our ritual? Does your lodge have the resources it needs to fulfill the expectations of your brethren?

These are but a few of the questions to be raised in the Dirigo Leadership Seminars for officers of our Masonic lodges and appendant bodies, or any brother interested in pursuing new perspectives on how to renew our lodges and other Masonic organizations.

The seminars are held at multiple locations statewide each year. If your lodge would like to host a future offering of this seminar, please contact RW Jeff Sukeforth, the seminar chairman, at 207-691-2270 or [jandc79@myfairpoint.net](mailto:jandc79@myfairpoint.net)

### What course will your lodge set?



The Dirigo Masonic Leadership Seminar modules cover a variety of topics, including:

- Envisioning Our Future
- Setting the Craft at Work
- Grand Lodge Support of Lodges
- Lodge Governance
- Program Budgeting
- Sharing the Gift of Freemasonry
- Mentoring

The **Tuesday session in Springvale** will begin with registration, pizza and beverages at from 6:30 to 7:00 pm, a district officers meeting from 7:00 to 7:30, and the Dirigo seminar from 7:30 pm. Not all the above listed topics will be covered in this evening session.

The **Saturday sessions** begin with registration, coffee and donuts at 8:00 a.m., with the seminar starting at 9:00 a.m. and ending by 1pm. A light lunch will be provided. **There is no cost to attend the seminar that will definitely benefit your lodge and your role as a Masonic leader.**

To ensure that we have sufficient food and program materials, all lodge officers and other Masons interested in attending one of the seminars are asked to return the following form to the program leader or send the requested information to him by email as specified below.

<b>Dirigo Leadership Seminar Registration</b>			
Name:		Office Held:	
Lodge Name & No.:		Located At:	
Preferred Tel.:		Email:	
<b>Please check which seminar location you will be attending:</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Tuesday, November 25</b>	<b>Springvale Lodge</b>	<b>471 Main St., Springvale</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Saturday, December 13</b>	<b>Somerset Lodge</b>	<b>170 Water St., Skowhegan</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Saturday, January 17</b>	<b>Arundel Lodge</b>	<b>10 North St., Kennebunkport</b>
Please return this completed form to Jeff Sukeforth, 47 Rawson Ave., Camden, ME 04843, or email the information to <a href="mailto:jandc79@myfairpoint.net">jandc79@myfairpoint.net</a> at least one week before the date of the seminar to be attended. <b>WALK-INS ARE WELCOME</b> , but it is emphasized that pre-registrations help ensure that we have sufficient food and handouts.			