

THE MAINE MASON

**MAINE MASONS CONTINUE TO
WEATHER THE COVID STORM
AND HOLD A TRUE COURSE**

**VOL. 47, NO. 3
AUTUMN 2021**

THE MAINE MASON

THE MAINE MASON is an official publication of the Grand Lodge of Maine, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. The material printed herein does not necessarily represent opinions of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

Members of lodges in other Grand Jurisdictions within the United States are invited to subscribe to THE MAINE MASON at \$3.00 per year. Cost for Masons outside the United States is \$5.00 annually. Please send check payable to THE MAINE MASON, with complete mailing address, to the Grand Secretary at PO Box 430, Holden, ME 04429.

ADDRESS CHANGES: Subscribers are advised to notify the Grand Secretary's office of any address change.

All submissions of photos and articles for inclusion in THE MAINE MASON should be mailed directly to the Editor at either the email or postal addresses below.

Editor

George P. Pulkkinen, PGM
15 Ocean View Road, Scarborough, ME 04074
207-883-5085 email: boatpiper@maine.rr.com

Elected Officers of the Grand Lodge of Maine

GRAND MASTER Richard M. Nadeau 8 S Lisbon Road Lewiston, ME 04240-1409	DEPUTY GRAND MASTER Daniel E. Bartlett 267 Belmont Avenue Belfast, ME 04915
SENIOR GRAND WARDEN Benjamin Weisner 83 High St., Apt. 4 Auburn, ME 04210	JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN Michael P. Tremblay 19 Mason Street, Apt. A Biddeford, ME 04005
GRAND TREASURER Scott Whytock 14 Hidden Creek Drive Scarborough, ME 04074	GRAND SECRETARY Scott C. Walton 411 Levenseller Road Holden, ME 04429

Grand Lodge Contact Information & Hours

207-843-1086 e-mail: grandlodge@mainemason.org
website: www.mainemason.org

Grand Secretary's Office Mon-Fri 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Grand Lodge Library/Museum Mon-Fri 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Deadline for the next issue of *The Maine Mason* will be 15 November, 2021. All materials should be sent directly to the editor.

line-o-type

by George P. Pulkkinen

Enjoy the Fellowship

Can't know if it's the heat, or the wet, or just pent up energy to get everything back on track, but something has created a terrific growing season among much of Maine Freemasonry.

Degrees are being worked, special events are being held, and outreach to help brethren and meet community needs seem to be everywhere.

One of the most appropriate meetings for a Maine Mason this summer was actually held out of state. R.W. Brother Charlie Briggs, raised in Hancock Lodge #4 in Castine, and who served as District Deputy Grand Master when M.W. Brother Roger Snelling was Grand Master of Maine back in 1978-79, was presented the Joseph Warren Medal for Distinguished Service by the Grand Master of Massachusetts, MW Brother Richard Maggio, at a special meeting of Azure Lodge in Walpole, MA. (*An interesting side note: Azure Lodge raised six candidates to the sublime degree that day.*)

Brother Briggs, who serves as a Grand Organist for the Grand Lodge of Maine and has played in many lodges here, was recognized for his considerable contribution to Massachusetts lodges by his willingness to provide music throughout that jurisdiction. Our Grand Master, MW Brother Rich Nadeau, also spoke at the Walpole meeting on June 19, and two Past Grand Masters and many other Grand Lodge officers from both jurisdictions attended to show their love and respect for Brother Briggs.

Now we're prepared to resume our regular schedules in lodges throughout Maine. Brethren have been rehearsing, preparing for the many degrees scheduled to be worked in the weeks and months ahead. If you're an officer, congratulations and thanks for your commitment to your lodge. If you're not an officer, plan to attend when your lodge meets. Show your brethren you appreciate what they're doing, and enjoy the good fellowship.

Cover Photo by Jo Wood

From the Grand East

Richard M. Nadeau **Grand Master of Masons in Maine**

Dear Brethren:

A young Mason recently spoke about his role in Lodge; how he was planning to serve others, working either alone or with his Lodge brethren. He appeared capable and had good ideas. I got many positive vibes from him, especially about his strong desire to lead these efforts. When asked what was holding him back from executing his ideas, he replied, "I'm a new Mason!" It floored me to think that this young Brother thought he couldn't pursue his ideas because he was new!

I acknowledged the creativity of this brother's ideas and offered this advice. When it comes to our work as Masons, there's no better strategy for forging the way for our fellow man than to do what we have been taught, and to exercise our right to lead others in the process. You don't have to wait until you're asked or until you become a seasoned Mason. Nor do you have to be a Lodge officer to pursue your ideas and accomplish your goals. Make our world a better place by taking the initiative to act on your dreams. Stay motivated and inspire others to follow through on their ideas and goals.

Many brethren illustrated individual and group ingenuity in response to the pandemic. They modified approaches for accomplishing routine tasks and created innovative new Masonic activities. The alternative was to cease activities, with our Lodges and brethren declining into complacency and fear. While government officials continue to lay out guidelines to preserve public health, we are responsible for safeguarding the health of our Craft and Lodges.

So, as leaders, what should we do? Lead by example, build momentum, create a "different" paradigm, and avoid actions that might compromise our trust in Lodge leaders and our communities' confidence in our Lodges. It's a difficult path to navigate. You may have heard of Lodges so in need of brethren to "fill the chairs" that they put brethren in leadership positions before they are ready, and then blamed them for all the woes of the Lodge. Prematurely electing a brother often results in frustration and failure, thereby causing him to lose his momentum and excitement.

We must help prepare our brethren to lead, thereby enabling their success and ultimately that of the Lodge. A vibrant Lodge will add value to the lives of our

brethren and their communities. We must also recognize the desires and willingness of these young (or new) Masons and nurture their ideas. Let them understand that it is their Lodge as much as anyone else's. If they have great ideas, help them turn their vision into reality. Mentor them. Watch them grow into the leaders of tomorrow! Recognize that if they, like you, are in service to others, they will be happy and fulfilled. If you lead by example, you will help them be fulfilled.

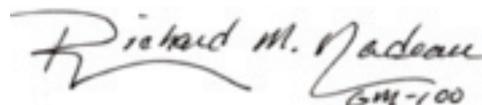
What kind of example are you setting for the brethren who you touch and serve? Are you using your position too assertively, thereby subduing the young Mason's excitement? Are you whispering to select brethren, hoping only a few people will hear, while leaving others out of the conversation? Only you can decide the leadership style you prefer, the kind of example you are willing project, and how influential and effective your leadership will ultimately be.

This is a challenging time for us. With the pandemic's disruption of our "normal" activities, we must more than ever look at where we are and determine where we want to be. How best can we get our brothers back to Lodge? Have we formulated a vision and priorities for the Lodge, and will our members ACT ON THEM? It's never been more important or relevant for all of us to act with foresight and imagination. And that's why we must embrace the notion that the example we put forth must be of principled leadership. We must be so authentic and compelling that our presence, our identity, make the statement we intend to make.

Your Masonic profession tasks you with setting a positive example for all whom you encounter. You are a leader in your Lodge, and your community. Whether you realize it or not, you are always a focal point in the eye of your brethren and communities. I often say that "you have the opportunity to be the 'best you' ever," and by so doing, you will significantly benefit those in your sphere of influence. I am confident that when we lead by example, we will create the type of leaders we want and need, brethren who will successfully lead the Craft forward in the years ahead.

Be safe, be kind, be loving, be leaders.

Rich



Observations from our Grand Secretary

Summer is truly my favorite time of year as a Mainer. With the longer days and better weather, I am always trying to do more than in the winter. With Covid restrictions being eased, everyone certainly seems to want to finally get out and explore, vacation and have some fun. As we slowly get back to a more normal existence with our lives and our Lodges, here are some things to keep you up to date with your Lodges whether you are dark until September or if you are still working.

Lodge and Building Association Insurance bills should be out by the time you are reading this. The policy period runs from June 1st to May 31st every year. Bills and policies will be sent to your lodge via Quickbooks Online. Please try to have your lodge pay this warrant as soon as you are able to as this is the single biggest bill that Grand Lodge pays every year. If your lodge is struggling financially, give me a call at the Grand Lodge office and we can work with you.

Dues stickers for the 2022 year have been ordered and should be sent out by mid August to all lodges, allowing plenty of time for you to get them ready to send out with dues notices.

Speaking of dues notices, I encourage all Lodge Secretaries to use the contact form when sending/generating your dues notices this year. It is as easy as checking a box in Groupable and printing one notice per page. This has been the best way to help keep our membership information up to date within our database and makes it easy for a member to verify his information and send it back with his dues payment. Feel free to contact me if you are unsure how to do this and I can walk you through it. More lodges every year

are also taking advantage of the online dues payments. Although there are fees associated with this, the cost is fairly minimal when compared to the time and expense of paper notices. I encourage all lodges to consider setting up this option for their members. It will also save you lots of work if you are the Lodge Secretary as the online payment automatically marks the members profile within Groupable.

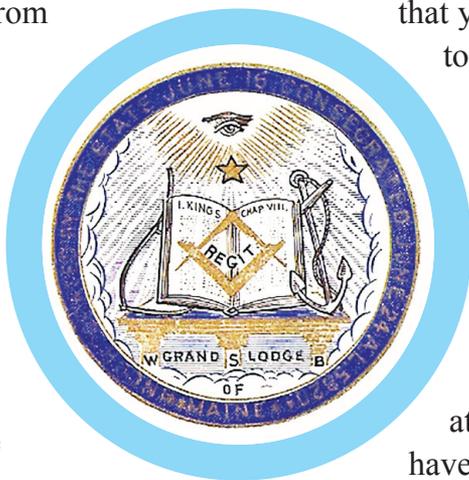
The Annual Proceedings and the updates to the constitution should be mailed out in the next 6-8 weeks. For the constitutional portion, we were able to edit the existing document so

that you will only receive a few pages to insert rather than a whole new copy. Please make sure to update your lodge and personal copies with these inserts and extra copies will be available at the Grand Lodge office.

With the passage of the updated SR 30 allowing alcohol at Lodges, please make sure you have submitted the proper documentation indicating whether your lodge voted to allow or not allow this. It is necessary to have the completed form on file at the Grand Lodge office for all Lodges. If you need another copy sent to you for your lodge, contact us and we can mail or email one to you.

Thank you to all Maine Masons for your hard work, persistence and perseverance during the last year and a half. You have kept the fraternity alive and well. Please contact my staff or me anytime if we may be of assistance. We remain in service to you.

Bro. Scott C. Walton
RW Grand Secretary



Charles Rotmil: *Let us Never Forget*

A truly special semi-public meeting of The Maine Lodge of Research was held at Etz Chaim Synagogue in Portland on Sunday, June 6, 2021.

The meeting was held to recognize Charles Rotmil as the lodge's 2020 Lessing Lecturer Honoree. He is the last Holocaust survivor in Maine who is still able to publicly share his experiences during W.W. II in Europe. He has over thirty years of sharing his story with the school children and citizens of Maine that we may "NEVER FORGET."

The meeting was held in the main sanctuary of the Synagogue. It is believed to have been the first Masonic meeting held in a Maine Synagogue other than perhaps those held for Masonic funeral services.

Charles Rotmil was introduced and presented a Lessing Lecturer Certificate by the Master in recognition and appreciation of his willingness to share his experiences that we may "Never Forget."

Charles was born in Strasbourg, Alsace-Lorraine, France 1932. He was but a young child when the Nazi curtain fell across Europe and the Jewish race living there. In 1938 his family was then living in Vienna when Hitler came to power.

Charles was never confined in a concentration camp himself but was often on the move and living an assumed life. His mother and sister died in a sabotaged train crash that he and his brother survived. The boys lived with his father in a small apartment in Brussels, Belgium until he was taken to Auschwitz in 1943 as part of "The Final Solution" and never returned. Charles was befriended by Father Bruno, a Belgium Catholic monk, who placed him in the home of a well-established Christian family. He lived with them as a Catholic until the war was ended. The brothers had been separated but were reunited in London and arrived in America on December 11, 1946.

On the ship, Charles had been given a new pair of leather shoes. On the roads of Europe, Charles had been often bare footed or had only sabots, shoes made entirely from one piece of wood. When he was given his new leather shoes Charles chose not to wear them until he stepped off the ship in New York City.... "into a new country, in new shoes, in search of a new life.

In America Charles worked as a street photographer, a painter and a film maker in New York City. In 1982 he received a Master of Fine Arts from Goddard College and moved to Maine. He along with other Holocaust survivors have shared their personal experiences with the people of Maine but especially with school children that they might learn of the depravity that man is capable of forcing onto others and most importantly, to impress upon us and the generations to come that the Holocaust must never be just a footnote or, worse, to simply be forgotten.

Charles was also presented a custom made wooden tray with The Star of David traversed by three strands of barbed wire with the words "Never Forget" which are thus explained:

1. The STAR OF DAVID is a six-pointed star made up of

two equilateral triangles superimposed over each other. It is also known as a hexagram. In Hebrew it is called the Magen David which means the "Shield of David." The Star of David does not have any religious significance in Judaism but is one of the symbols most commonly associated with the Jewish people. However, Hitler forced the Jewish people to wear it as a "badge of shame." Today it is the central symbol of the flag of the State of Israel and is known around the world.

2. The BARBED WIRE represents the three fences of barbed wire at Auschwitz. Two were electrified with voltage to kill any prisoner trying to escape. The third was a "dead-line" fence. Any prisoner stepping over it would be shot dead by the perimeter guards without any warning.

3. Charles's Holocaust message, as is the message of the Jewish people at this time, is of but two words, "Never Forget." These two words speak for themselves.

On the reverse of the custom milled tray made as a gift for Charles Rotmil, it reads:

2020
Gotthold Lessing Lecturer
CHARLES ROTMIL
"And a new pair of shoes..."
MAINE LODGE OF RESEARCH
FREEMASONS

When we put on a new pair of shoes may we remember Charles and his story and "Never Forget."

The lodge presented a gift of \$504.00 to the Maine Jewish Museum housed in the building to support the call that we must "Never Forget." Grand Master Richard Nadeau spoke and gave a similar gift from the Grand Lodge of Maine in the amount of \$1,008.00. Why such odd amounts was asked? We learned that it is a Jewish custom, if giving monetary gifts, to do such in amounts which are multiples of 18 according to an old Jewish custom. Meeting outside of our Blue Lodge walls gave us an opportunity to learn of a tradition observed by our Jewish Masonic Brethren. It was good.

The meeting was videoed. It may be viewed at:
<https://youtu.be/bH7r9ITYAXA>

After listening to the video of this presentation, one may realize that Charles bought us a message for the ages but he left us with an inspiration to meet his challenge. He played for us his favorite song on his harmonica, Beethoven's "Ode to Joy." We can, we must go on and, still "Never Forget."

Shalom, Peace, Salaam,

Richard L. Rhoda, Master
The Maine Lodge of Research
The LODGE on the East of Eden

Camp Postcard Provides Camping Opportunities



Campers and counsellors pose for a group shot.

Camp Postcard is a free week-long summer camp for 5th and 6th graders, helping them to build relationships, learn life skills and change their perceptions of law enforcement. Camp Post Card is held every year on the grounds of Agassiz village in Poland, Maine. It is staffed by volunteer law enforcement and criminal justice professionals, first responders, Volunteers of America and community volunteers. Five Masonic Lodges from district 16 worked in conjunction with each other to raise a total of \$6000 which sent 12 students from the Oxford Hill School District to camp. Lodges involved in this effort were Pythagorean #11 Fryeburg, Crooked River Lodge #152 Harrison, Oxford Lodge #18 Norway Mt. Tir'em Lodge #132 Waterford, and Paris Lodge #94 South Paris. The lodges were assisted in fund raising by Daddy O's Restaurant in Oxford, Me. and the Charitable Foundation of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

This year Camp Postcard started on June 19, with kids arriving, getting their cabin assignments and meeting their cabin mates. Once all kids arrived they put on their swim suits and shorts and were given swim tests. Testing finished, they were then able to start their schedule of activities which included a week of fun and games. On

Thursday the 24th they assembled at the outside arena for an awards ceremony to celebrate their successes during the week. The officers marched in full uniform for the awards event. On Friday June 25th they went home.

The kids and staff had a wonderful time. Some kids who attended the camp were sent as reward for significant improvements in their behavior or academic performance in school, some because families cannot afford to send them to a camp, some because they have experienced significant loss or trauma in their family, and others because they have ADD/ADHD issues and take medication that may prevent them from doing well in a traditional camp. Still others because of situations at home and interaction with police. This week afforded the campers an opportunity to see Police Officers in a different light. The kids bonded very well with the officers. The kids were picked by Principals, Guidance Counsellors, and School Resource Officers.

Wor. Brother Skip Mowatt is instrumental in the program. He volunteers as a counsellor every year and coordinates among the lodges.



Arundel Town officials with MW Rich Nadeau and VW Dan Fink

Grand Lodge Dedicates Cornerstone

When the Town of Arundel decided to build a new Municipal Building, Brother Dan Fink, a Past Master of York Lodge #22 in Kennebunk and a resident of neighboring Arundel, decided it would be altogether fitting and proper if the Grand Lodge of Maine would dedicate a cornerstone monument at the handsome new facility.

Grand Master Rich Nadeau agreed and he and his officers gathered on June 29, the hottest day of the summer, to perform the timeless ritual in impressive form. A time capsule was interred under the stone.

Before the ceremony, in the spacious auditorium, assembled Masons and townspeople heard veteran Arundel Selectwoman Velma Jones Hayes read a copy of her letter to be read by town officials 50-years hence when the capsule is opened. She noted the successes of the community in 2020 despite hardships resulting from the Covid-19. She also placed a mask, so ubiquitous last year, in the capsule. Town Historical Society member Donna der Kinderen also spoke briefly.

Members of York Lodge also attended the ceremony and hosted a light luncheon at the lodge hall at its conclusion.



Learning About Pythagorus

**Wor. Michael G. Hopkins,
PM Maine Lodge of Research**

It is not unusual that the best knowledge we have of people and events of ancient times comes from those writing much later. For example, our best knowledge of Alexander the Great, who died in 323 BC, comes from the *Parallel Lives* written by Plutarch around four hundred years after Alexander's death. Alexander the Great didn't write any books, but we know that contemporaries wrote about him. The problem is that none those books survived.

In the case of Pythagoras, we don't know of any contemporary books about him, but he did write several treatises; *On Nature*, *On Piety*, *On the Universe*, and other works. The problem is that none of those books survives to today. Accordingly, the best information we have of him comes from Diogenes Laertius, whose *Lives and Opinions of Eminent Philosophers* was written in the third century AD, at least 700 years after the death of Pythagoras. In this essay, we will refer to Laertius's book as *Lives*.

In *Lives*, we learn that Pythagoras was born in 582 BC on Samos, an Aegean island about twice the size of Maine's Mt. Desert. This places him about a hundred years before Socrates, one hundred fifty years before Plato, and two hundred years before Aristotle. While still young, so eager he was for knowledge, Pythagoras left his own land and had himself initiated into all the mysteries and rites of Greece and also of foreign countries. We learn that he journeyed to Egypt and, in Egyptian sanctuaries on Crete, was told of their secret lore concerning the gods. He also travelled among the Chaldeans and the Magi, which we would understand to mean modern Iraq and Iran. Students of Masonic ritual will note that this corresponds to what we are told of his travels and his initiations.

Returning to Samos, he found the political situation there unsuitable, so he sailed away to Croton, a city in southern Italy. It should be noted that southern Italy at that time was heavily populated by Greeks and inconsideration of that became known *Magna Graecia* (Greater

Greece). We do not know how many followers went with him, but there were soon said to be three hundred of this disciples in Croton. They laid down a constitution for the Italian Greeks, and he and his followers were held in high estimation.

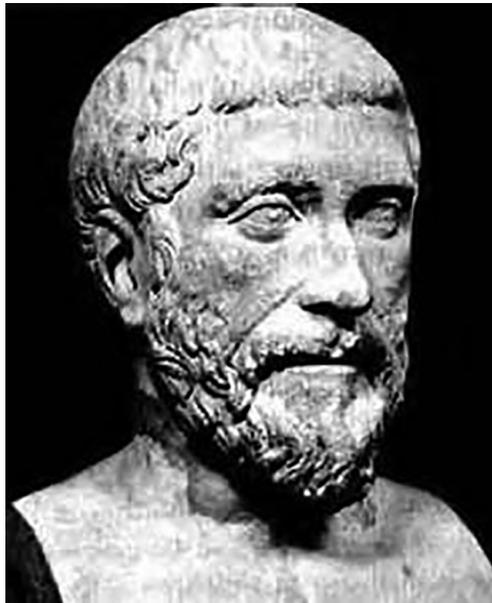
Laertius tells us that some writers characterized the teachings of Pythagoras from his own treatises as follows: he called drinking a snare and taught that no one should go beyond due proportion in drinking or eating. He forbade us to pray for ourselves, as we do not know what will help us. He divided man's life into four quarters: twenty years a boy, twenty a youth, twenty a young man, and twenty and old man. These quarters corresponded to the four seasons. His disciples put all their possessions into one common stock. For five years, new disciples kept silent and listened to his lectures without seeing him. They then passed an examination and were admitted to his presence. His followers were enjoined to treat each other as brothers, taking care to maintain friendships.

We learn from Laertius that a writer known as "Apollodorus the calculator" said that Pythagoras offered a sacrifice of oxen (a hecatomb was not specified) on finding that in a right triangle the square of the hypotenuse is equal to the sum of the squares of the two sides containing the right angle.

One of his most unusual teachings to our culture was that the immortal soul transmigrates from creature to creature on death of each. Scholars now know that Pythagoras was not the originator of this idea, but its teaching in Croton popularized the idea. It later became a central tenet of Greek philosophy with Plato.

Pythagoras was said to be a dignified man who avoided all extremes of anger or joy. He had a wife and a daughter and son. He entrusted his daughter with his memoirs, but commanded that no one outside of his followers be allowed to see them. He died around 500 BC.

This essay used the translation by R.D. Hicks of Diogenes Laertius, *Lives of Eminent Philosophers*, New York, G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1931, Vol. II, Book VIII, pp. 323-367.



JULY 2021



Maine Masonic Charitable FOUNDATION Newsletter

\$222,230

*Impact Maine Masonic Lodges have had on their communities
since April 1st 2021 **

*This amount represents individual Lodge giving
+ matching dollars provided by the Foundation*

Keep up the good work!

** Covers the period from the beginning of April 2021 to mid-July 2021*



Helping to Build Strong Communities in Maine

DID YOU KNOW since April 1st . . .

41 Lodges have done Bikes for Books grants

35 Lodges have done Community Betterment grants

12 Lodges have done Project Graduation grants

4 Lodges have done Seniors Related Projects grants

25 Lodges have done Youth Activities grants

Every community struggles with its own set of problems. The Foundation is here to assist you and your Lodge in achieving your goals to help make your communities stronger.

MASTER ARCHITECT SOCIETY

Time is flying by for all of us, but I am happy to let you all know that the King Solomon's Temple mural - to honor the members of the Master Architect Society - is now complete and available for all to see when they visit the Grand Lodge offices in Holden.

Thank you to artist and Mason, Travis Simpkins, and his wife and artist, Janet Simpkins!

Still to come are the mounting of the name plates to honor those who have informed the Foundation that it has been included in their estate planning documents.

Act now, to have the opportunity to choose a prominent location on the mural for your name plate. Don't know where to start – **just give us a call at (207) 843-1086 or send an email to director@mainemcf.org.**

Always a difficult discussion but a necessary one since none of us is getting any younger. Giving is a very personal decision, but for those of you who believe in the Foundation and all that it supports, please consider including the Foundation in your will or other estate planning documents or as a beneficiary of a portion of your life insurance policy. It is that easy.



Pictured above are the artists, Travis and Janet Simpkins, in action at the Grand Lodge office in Holden.

LODGES IN ACTION and a CALL to ACTION

The Unified Champions Club program the Foundation helped launch at the Alford Youth and Community Center (AYCC) in the Waterville area - in partnership with the 12th District - is ready to expand. We have YMCAs and/or Boys & Girls Clubs in the following areas that would like to offer this program at their facilities. What are we missing at this point...interested Masons like you!

On October 9th, AYCC will be hosting and the Foundation will be sponsoring the first UNIFIED CHAMPIONS CLUB FESTIVAL. We are looking for Lodges in the following areas to join in the fun:

Sanford Bangor Lewiston/Auburn Portland

The goal of the Festival is to give anyone interested in the Unified Champions Club program an opportunity to experience what it would feel like to be part of the INCLUSION REVOLUTION!

Interested, not sure, apprehensive? Reach out to Dave Bucknam or Gary Gagnon to learn more from two Masons in the 12th District that have helped make it a success.

The Foundation will be hosting a Golf Tournament at the Augusta Country Club in October 2021

SAVE the DATE

OCTOBER 16th, 2021

Time for Some FRIENDLY COMPETITION!

Have you ever heard an idea and known right away that it was a GREAT idea? Well the Masons in the 11th, 12th and 13th Districts have all recently experienced just that. From the bond formed with his partner in the Unified Champions Club program, Dave Bucknam has helped to launch the Canteen 19 project/nonprofit. With funding support though the MAC – Masons Assisting Communities initiative and the financial support of many Lodges within the three districts and their taking advantage of the Foundation’s matching grants funds – Canteen 19 has gone from an idea to a reality in just a few months.

To learn more about Canteen 19 visit the Foundation’s website at MaineMCF.org

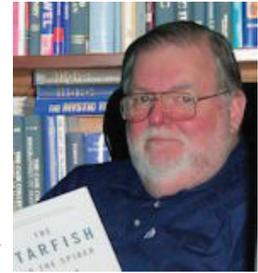
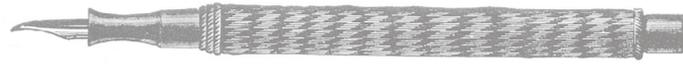
Have an idea of your own...the Foundation is here to help make it a reality!

For more information or if you have any questions contact SUSAN SCACCHI at (603) 677-2436 (mobile) or (207) 843-1086 (Grand Lodge office) or via email at Director@MaineMCF.org

TOGETHER we can make a difference now and for future generations!

As we march towards Fall, we may be coming closer and closer to what we used to consider 'normal' - BUT we need to remember that the normal we had before was not all that positive. Read, learn, and lead so that we come back growing and moving forward like never before.

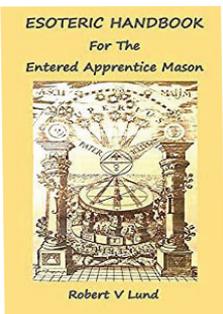
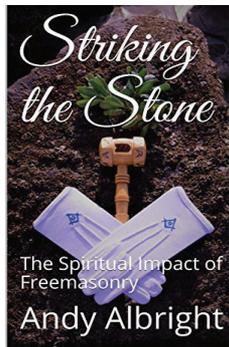
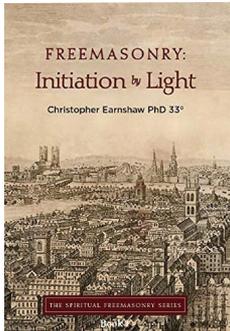
The Old Webmaster's BOOKSHELF



During 2020, there were seemingly fewer Masonic-related books published. We were likely all worried about ostensibly more important things. One notable exception was the continuation of the *Spiritual Freemasonry* series by Bro. Christopher Earnshaw. Over the past weeks, I've been enjoying "*Freemasonry: Initiation by Light*" and I certainly recommend it to you. My quibble is that his footnoting of sources is not up to normal academic standards, particularly when he references other of his own works as a source. That notwithstanding, you'll learn much from this and his other three works in the series but you will probably learn and enjoy them more when you're in the mood for some serious reading.

A short (only 85 pages) and easy but impactful read "*Striking the Stone: The Spiritual Impact of Freemasonry*" by Bro. Andy Albright. Don't let its length fool you into thinking it's not worth your time, though: it is! Stressing the moral lesson of our responsibilities to others, this Bro. follows through on what he writes by donating all of the proceeds from this book's sale to his lodge's charity fund. Hopefully it'll give you a LOT of food for thought.

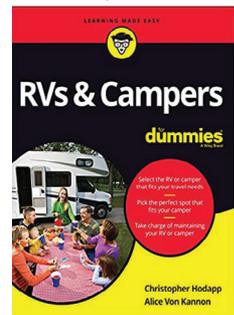
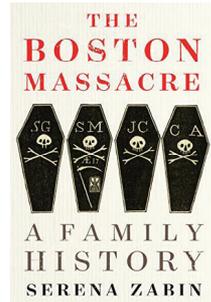
I usually try to include something for those Brothers of an esoteric bent - or think they might want to be. From Canada comes Bro. Robert Lund with "*Esoteric Handbook for the Entered Apprentice Mason*" a book that should point the way for anyone who's participated in or seen even a modicum of ritual - and has stopped to think that 'There's more here than just those words...'. This is an approachable book that doesn't require four college degrees to read. Even if you've never thought much about ritual, !



Revolutionary War history looms large in New England and with Freemasonry coming to Boston in 1733, our Masonic forefathers were oftentimes deeply involved. "*The Boston Massacre: A Family History*" has brought to the fore many connections that have been forgotten or overlooked in the past and although the book's title seems to point to a single event, the author, Serena R. Zabin, has woven in a considerable amount of information that makes this retelling of the tale of considerable interest to anyone who even remotely enjoys history. The astute Mason reading this will find a number of names which were also deeply involved in our Masonic past. One of the most common questions asked about Freemasonry involves who was a member and many conclusions are drawn from that, often cherry-picking facts. Here, you can see more than just what ordinarily meets the eye.

He laughed when I told him that I was going to review his newest book in the next edition of The Maine Mason Magazine - but HERE IT IS! You should already have read "*Freemasons for Dummies*" but if you haven't, RUN and get yourself a copy immediately as it's one of the best primers on our organization you'll find. This is WAY different - but from the same author, our Brother Chris Hodapp.

The pandemic has certainly changed many of our thoughts about how to live moving forward - and many, both during and now, have contemplated (with some acting upon) ideas about living the mobile life in whole or in part. Thus, "*RVs & Campers for Dummies*" by Chris and lovely wife Alice Von Kannon is a timely and pertinent book which is indeed a pleasure to read. Filled with facts, figures, links, great info for beginners and old hands plus the Hodapp humor, it's great for anyone, whether this is a passing thought or seriously considering your third upgrade. You won't regret this one!



Bro. Ed King would love your suggestions and recommendations for things to read and review! Would you like more than just books here? (Podcasts? Other?) Drop me a line at MasonicReading@gmail.com Suggestions ALWAYS welcome!

Cumberland Lodge Recognizes Simon Greenleaf, and Honorees

RW Brother Richard Duplisea, PDDGM/23 and a member of Cumberland Lodge #12 in New Gloucester, had a brainstorm; a brilliant way to get brethren together after the long Covid drought while recognizing and introducing brethren to Simon Greenleaf, one of Maine’s most significant Freemasons who was also an early member of his lodge and our second Grand Master.

Why not have a Table Lodge, always an enjoyable event, Brother Duplisea reckoned, and invite all living Maine Masons who have been presented the Simon Greenleaf Medal, awarded for Meritorious Service. Thirty invitations went out and 19 Simon Greenleaf Medal recipients from 17 different lodges showed up for the evening of delicious food and warm fellowship.

So who was Simon Greenleaf besides being a Cumberland Lodge member and our second Grand Master? Volumes have been written about this learned and honorable man and Mason.

Born in Newburyport, Mass, in 1783 he attended the Latin School there where he studied Greek and Roman Classics until he was 16 when he rejoined his family which had earlier moved to New Gloucester. A bright and ambitious youth, at 18 he commenced to read the law with Judge Ezekiel Whitman and at 23 was admitted to the Cumberland County bar. He opened a legal practice in Standish but six months later relocated to Gray where he practiced for 12 years before moving to Portland.

He was raised a Master Mason in Cumberland Lodge in 1804, later serving as Master. In 1817 and 1818 he served as District Deputy of the Massachusetts 9th District which included, in fact, the entire Province of Maine. He was a principle force in establishing the Grand Lodge of Maine in 1820 and has been referred to as “the father of the movement.”

In 1833, Greenleaf was named to the Royall Professorship at Harvard where he contributed extensively to the development of Harvard Law School and became one of the most celebrated orators of his era.

Brother Greenleaf died in Cambridge, MA in 1853. Every Maine Mason can be duly proud that this good and distinguished man was a member of our Craft.



Award Recipients.



M.W. Brother Simon Greenleaf



Maine Scottish Rite Grand Master's Class

October 23, 2021
Portland Masonic Hall



The Scottish Rite Valleys of Maine are pleased to announce the first statewide biennial Grand Master's Class to welcome Master Masons to Scottish Rite Freemasonry; to celebrate our Brotherhood; and to recognize the contributions and accomplishments of our Grand Master of Maine Freemasonry, Most Worshipful Richard M. Nadeau.

This is an exciting opportunity to become a 32nd Degree Scottish Rite Mason and a member of the Valley near you, while also recognizing the leader of our Craft. Perhaps you served as a member of his team, serving as a Grand Lodge officer or committee member, or you were a Lodge officer who benefitted from his leadership. NOW is the time to recognize this hard working Mason and become a member of the Scottish Rite, with its worthy vision: "We will strive to be a fraternity that fulfills our Masonic obligation to care for our members."

Five degrees will be conferred by casts drawn from the Valleys of Augusta, Bangor, Portland, Rockland and The Androscoggin (located in Auburn). Members of the Valley of Aroostook will be there too. These will be the first degrees conferred live in most Maine Valleys since March 2020 or before, although 57 Maine Masons joined the Scottish Rite during the past year by watching the degrees on their personal computers or at local watch parties. More than 2,000 joined the Scottish Rite across the 15-state Northern Masonic Jurisdiction during the COVID pandemic.

Candidate Registration Process

Master Masons are encouraged to conveniently register for this statewide Scottish Rite Reunion and pay degree fees on-line at <https://scottishritenmj.org/login>. Paper applications are available from Valley secretaries and via Valley Facebook pages. Contact information for each Valley is available at <https://scottishritenmj.org/valleys/maine>. **All on-line and paper candidate registrations and degree fees must be received by Friday, October 15th.**

All Scottish Rite Masons, particularly those who joined during the pandemic, are urged to participate in this special Scottish Rite Reunion. If you become a 32nd degree Mason during this class or joined during the COVID-period virtual reunions, this will be your opportunity to receive a special Grand Master's Class Consistory Jewel. All attendees should wear a coat and tie, and current members are reminded to bring your Scottish Rite passport!

Day of event registration sign-in will be from 8:30 to 9:45 am at the Portland Masonic Hall located at 415 Congress St. The Degrees will begin promptly at 10 am and are expected to conclude by 5 pm, followed by a social period and dinner.

This will be a day of exceptional brotherhood and personal enlightenment in the philosophy and values taught in Scottish Rite Masonry. Please visit <https://scottishritenmj.org/> to learn more about The Rite, or talk with a Scottish Rite Mason in your lodge or your local Valley.

The Degrees to be Presented

4th – Builder – A Master Mason seeks divine guidance. Philosophy: Brothers grow together in the Scottish Rite. Core Values: Reverence for God, Integrity, and Service – (Conferred by the Valley of) Augusta

13th – Master of the Ninth Arch – The degree dramatizes the dangers encountered as men search for the lost word. Philosophy: We are reminded that difficulties and dangers should not deter us from pursuing moral perfection. Core Values: Reverence for God – Rockland

16th – Prince of Jerusalem – The court of King Darius contemplates what motivates man. Philosophy: We learn that devotion to truth surpasses secular motivations. Core Values: Reverence for God – The Androscoggin

25th – Master of Achievement – Industriousness is shown through the life of Brother Benjamin Franklin. Philosophy: The wages of a Mason are earned and paid in their dealing with one another. Core Values: Devotion to Country and Service – Bangor

32nd – Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret – The degree dramatically teaches us to choose between personal advancement and service to humanity. Philosophy: The degree represents the victory of the spiritual over the human in man. Core Values: Devotion to Country and Service – The Androscoggin and Portland

If you Plan to attend as a candidate or a current Scottish Rite Mason, please make your lunch and dinner reservations by Friday, October 15th.

All candidates and Scottish Rite Masons are invited for lunch and the social and dinner following the degrees. Reservations are required and must be made through the secretary of your respective Valleys.

The Successful District Deputy Grand Master

By Bro. Daniel E. Bartlett
RW Deputy Grand Master

The importance of the office of the District Deputy simply cannot be overstated. One only needs to read the second sentence of the installation ritual for the District Deputy in the Maine Masonic Textbook originally authored by PGM Josiah H. Drummond in 1877, to be reminded of just how important the District Deputy truly is: “With the exception of the Grand Master and Grand Secretary, you are the most important officers in the Grand Lodge.” I will add my full-throated support to that premise. Having a corps of dedicated and empowered leaders spread across the state is how we move forward and continue to build a thriving fraternity.

Drummond goes on in the installation ritual with an admonishment: “If any one of you has accepted this office under the impression that it is a position of honor, with few or no duties, save the agreeable visitation of lodges, I beseech him to dismiss that idea at once from his mind, and realize that its duties can be successfully performed only by constant care, labor and study.” I can attest that as a District Deputy I was rarely at a loss for somewhere to be or something to do. I learned more about the Constitution and our Fraternity in general in two years than I ever had before.

It’s work. It takes a steadfast commitment to the lodges in the District. It’s frustrating at times. It’s challenging at times. But, at the end of the day it can be extremely rewarding and satisfying on a personal level as well as from a fraternal aspect.

To be successful as a DDGM and leader I believe you should:

1. Be an optimist. A consistent, positive attitude is imperative. And the positive attitude must be about your life, your work, your family, and friends. Not just the Fraternity. You must be positive and upbeat most every day.

2. Be a positive communicator. You need to enjoy being around people and engage with them, even when you do not know them. Also, being expected to possibly engage in the uncomfortable task of leading a lodge or a member through the resolution of a dispute. This means actively listening to what is being said by all of those involved. Be decisive when asked for your guidance. Good communication goes both ways and is a critical key to our continued success.

3. Have perspective. You cannot be so concerned with a title and status that you lose sight of the real job of leadership. The job of a leader is not about being in charge,

it is taking care of those in our charge. It is not a popularity contest. The Fraternity needs good leaders, not managers.

4. Have empathy. Be more concerned about the human being, not their performance in the lodge on the night you visit. We need all lodge members to know we want them to succeed as men and as Freemasons.

5. Be active and timely. Create and foster an active partnership with each lodge so they see you as one of their most valuable resources. You must be involved in the life of the lodges which requires a commitment of your time and energy. Good time management is a necessary skillset to avoid burning out. Being a great resource does not mean you have to be at every lodge every time the lights are on!

6. Be able to get past “no”. It’s so easy to just say “no”. We must be diligent in our efforts to help the lodge brethren accomplish their goals as they define them, not as we define them. That doesn’t mean you are doing it for them, but we need to be encouraging and inspire the brethren towards successful outcomes.

7. Keep your passions in due bounds. You must guard against being on the extremes socially and/or politically whether in person or on social media. The moment you go there, you have alienated half the people you are appointed to serve, and it is a steep climb to recover from that.

8. Lead by example. You must understand that as a DDGM, everyone looks to you as a leader and will base their actions or responses (positive or negative) in any situation based on how you conduct yourself over time.

As I have said before, it is not always easy to be a good, upright Mason in today’s world and it’s even more challenging to be a leader in our Fraternity. It requires diligence, mental effort, commitment of your time and energies and a constant awareness of who you are as a good man and Freemason.

The prerequisite to being appointed as a District Deputy is noted in Section 5 of the Constitution: “...shall have been regularly elected and duly installed Master of a duly constituted lodge and shall have faithfully discharged his duties in such office for one term”.

I am motivated to identify men who want to serve the brethren with me in the lodges of their district. Men who want to be part of something bigger than themselves. Men who are driven to make an impact in their lodges, their District and in the Fraternity. After you have carefully and thoroughly read through this, if you find you possess a willingness to make a difference and move our Fraternity in a positive, forward direction, let’s talk.

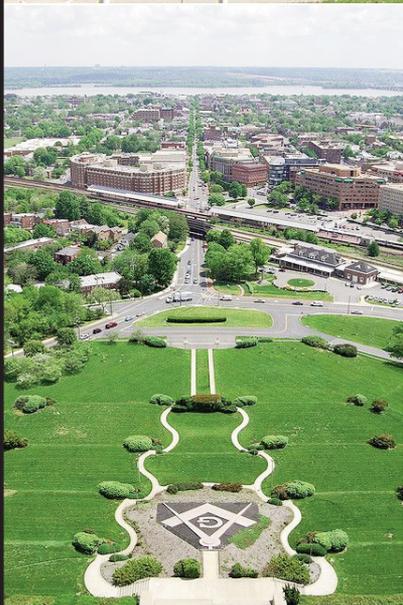
Washington DC 200th Anniversary Brotherhood Trip

September 23rd, 2021 - September 26th, 2021



Reservations must be made and paid for by August 22, 2021

MW Richard M. Nadeau and First Lady Rachel cordially invite you to join them for a historic weekend in our Nation's Capital



Come with us as we visit:

- The Tomb of President Washington and Martha for a wreath laying
- George Washington Masonic National Memorial
- Mount Vernon



- Alexandria-Washington Lodge #22 for Maine Master Mason Degree
- The House of the Temple: Home of the Scottish Rite Southern Masonic Jurisdiction

Information Continued on Next Two Pages...

Thursday, September 23, 2021

Join fellow Masons and depart from three pick up locations: **Bangor at 6:00 am, Lewiston at 8:15 am, or Cabela's in Scarborough at 9:30 am**, for Alexandria, Virginia. Arrive at Embassy Suites in the evening depending on traffic, and dine at one of the many wonderful restaurants nearby, or at the Atrium Lounge inside the hotel.

Friday, September 24, 2021

Enjoy a free breakfast at Embassy Suites and at 9:30 am hop on the bus to the House of the Temple in Washington DC where you will enjoy a tour from 10:00 am to noon. Lunch will be on your own. You can then take a self-guided tour through the Mall from 2 to 5 pm, ending with a bus back to the hotel for a reception at 6:00 pm and a dinner buffet at 7:00



Saturday, September 25, 2021

Breakfast at the hotel and depart for Mt. Vernon at 8:00 am to visit the tomb of President George Washington and Martha Washington where the Grand Master will lay a wreath at their final resting place.



Tour Mt. Vernon from 9:30 to noon and visit the gift shop. Hop back on the bus at 12:30 pm to the George Washington Masonic National Memorial for lunch from 1:00 to 2:00 pm with a ladies tour of the GWMNM starting at 2:00 pm.



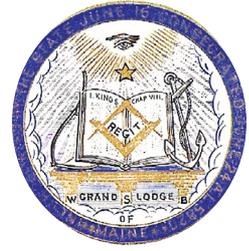
While the ladies are taking a tour, a Maine Master Mason Degree will take place at the Alexandria-Washington Lodge #22 with guest officers for Webster Lodge #164, beginning at 3:00 pm. Afterwards, the bus will take you back to the GWMNM for a wine and cheese reception, 6:00 pm and a formal banquet at 7:00 pm with private observation level tours.

Sunday, September 26, 2021

Breakfast included at hotel and depart for home at 8:00 am, with drop offs at original pickup locations: Cabela's, Lewiston and Bangor.

DON'T WAIT! TIME IS SHORT!

**Please call the Grand Lodge office
(207-843-1086) or go to
<https://tinyurl.com/DC200thanniversarytrip>
to register. Registration and payment must be
received by August 22, 2021.**



Make checks payable to Grand Lodge of Maine. Please do not mail your credit card information. Call the above number to pay by credit card or to be invoiced to pay online through Quickbooks. All registrations will be processed through Quickbooks.

Thanks to the generosity of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial and the Grand Lodge of Maine 200th Anniversary Fund, many of the activities and meals are free or at a reduced cost.

When registering online or calling the Grand lodge office, you will be asked to provide:

- Name, Email, Cell Phone #, Lodge
- Pickup/Dropoff Location for the bus (Bangor, Lewiston, Scarborough @ \$178.13 pp)
- Type of Hotel Room (King or Two Double beds, \$153.71 per room per night for 1-2, \$176.81 per room per night for 3, \$199.91 per room per night for 4/. Cost per person will be based on this)
- If you are attending the House of the Temple Tour (Free)
- If you are attending the Friday evening Banquet (\$25)
- If you are attending the Mt. Vernon Tour (Free)
- If you are attending the Master Mason degree (Free)
- If your lady will be touring the GWMNM during the MM degree (Free)
- If you are attending the reception and Saturday evening Banquet at the GWMNM (Free)
- How you will be paying

Once you are registered, the Grand Lodge office staff will provide you with a total for the trip and you can pay using your preferred method. Due to the shortened time frame for registration of the trip this year, all bookings are final and not subject to any refund if canceled, if we are unable to find a replacement for your reservatuion.

If you have any questions, please call or email the Grand lodge office at 207-843-1086 or grandlodge@mainemason.org



An **entablature** refers to the superstructure of moldings and bands which lie horizontally above columns, resting on their capitals.

The Maine Masonic College Newsletter

The

ENTABLATURE



Whole Number 39

www.MaineMasonicCollege.com

Autumn 2021

#34 The Minutes of “Old Builders Lodge #1000”

Brother George M.A. Macdougall

This is one article in a series on the people who created, discovered or redefined how modern architecture, engineering and science came about.

The next subject of ‘The Minutes’ once said that a betting person would believe in God because if you are wrong its no big deal but if you are right it is a really big deal!! That was known as Pascal’s wager. You can also thank him for the calculator and computer as he developed a mechanical adding machine and laid the groundwork for the modern computer. He also laid out the rules of probability which lead to the science of Statistics. Oh, and he did it all in the 1600’s!

The subject of this issue of ‘The Minutes’ is Blaise Pascal.

Blaise Pascal was a mathematician, physicist, inventor, philosopher, writer and Catholic theologian. He was born in France June 19, 1623 and passed in August 19, 1662. He was a child prodigy who was educated by his father, a tax collector in Rouen. While still a teenager, he started some pioneering work on calculating machines (called Pascal’s calculators and later Pascalines and some of them still exist!), establishing him as one of the first two inventors of the mechanical calculator. This proved that ‘Necessity is the Mother of Invention’ as Pascal was doing many calculations for his father’s tax collecting and his ‘calculator’ greatly saved him time!

Pascal did a lot of early work on Probability Theory. “Probability theory is the branch of mathematics concerned with probability.” Ok, this was about the last thing I understood as I did my research!! “Although there are several different probability interpretations, probability theory treats the concept in a rigorous mathematical manner by expressing it through a set of axioms.” Whoa! What is that all about? It has to be able to be said simpler, so I had to ‘phone a friend’ on this one and I reached out to my Brother, Malcolm who has a Statistics/Economics degree from Harvard, to help me out.

“First, most Probability theorists don’t believe in truly random events.

Continued on Following Page

The College Briefly...

Our name inspires us to a ‘higher educational calling.’ We are not a bricks and mortar school but a “Temple of Knowledge,” offering a growing variety of learning opportunities in various modalities

We believe that Freemasonry is relevant in society today, helping to create a continuum of knowledge for those who are interested in personal enrichment.

Masonic ritual exhorts us to broaden our knowledge of the seven liberal arts and sciences. Thus, our programs include topics of interest to anyone with an inquisitive mind: ethics, astronomy, logic, public speaking and more. We have molded the Maine Masonic College on the best features of not only traditional and modern Masonic-oriented education but also “senior college” and lifelong learning endeavors.

In addition, we are developing audio and video material along with reading lists and more. At the Maine Masonic College, we encourage your input, your recommendations and - most of all - your...

INVOLVEMENT!

LIKE us on
Facebook



Old Builders Lodge *Continued*

(Stephen Hawking was surprised by this with his study of the atom. He had expected to find chaos at that minute level of the cosmos, but instead found order – an unfulfilling discovery for Hawking, a life-long atheist, as to him it was evidence that God existed - he would pursue other theories later in life.)

So, let's think about this by considering the rolling of two 6-sided dice. We might say we are generating a random number, but are we? We know that the possible outcome is limited to numbers between 2 and 12 (the sample space). We also know that if we roll the dice a large number of times, say 1,000 rolls (the law of large numbers), we will see a probability of outcomes become clear (the probability space) – a percentage – a number between 0 and 1 representing the likelihood of each outcome.

Rolling a 7 (an event) will be the most frequent outcome (at ~16.7% of the outcomes or 1 in 6) ((UMaine footnote - out of 36 combinations of the dice, 6 of them add up to 7)) with 2 and 12 being the least frequent events ((UMaine footnote - out of 36 combinations of the dice, only 1 of them add up to a 2 or a 12)) and about equal to each other. Many games rely on the rolling of dice as a method to produce this non-deterministic number or outcome – an event that can't be precisely predicted. And though this may appear somewhat "random" it is not. We are simply too close to the event (the rolling of the dice one time). Probability only becomes clear as we step further and further back from the single roll. Our lives do not proceed in a strictly orderly fashion, but they are not

really random either. We simply have difficulty stepping back far enough to see the pattern."

Pascal's earliest mathematical work was on conic sections; he wrote a significant treatise on the subject of projective geometry at the age of 16. He also worked in the natural and applied sciences, where he made important contributions to the study of fluids, and clarified the concepts of pressure and vacuum by generalizing the work of Evangelista Torricelli. Following Galileo Galilei and Torricelli, in 1647, he rebutted Aristotle's followers who insisted that nature abhors a vacuum. Pascal's results caused many disputes before being accepted.

In late 1654, he began writing influential works on philosophy and theology. His two most famous works date from this period: the *Lettres provinciales* and the *Pensées*, the former set in the conflict between Jansenists and Jesuits. The latter contains Pascal's Wager, known in the original as the Discourse on the Machine. In Pascal's Wager, Pascal argues that a rational person should live as though God exists and seek to believe in God. If God does not

actually exist, such a person will have only a finite loss (some pleasures, luxury, etc.), whereas if God does exist, he stands to receive infinite gains (as represented by eternity in Heaven) and avoid infinite losses (eternity in Hell). It also looks like he contributed to risk management as well when you not only look at the chances something will happen but also the consequences.



Blaise Pascal

Gardiner Masons at work serving their Community

The charity committee of Hermon Lodge #32 and the Mighty 11th District present a \$1500 check to Beverly LaPlante, director of Chrysalis Place, the Gardiner-based food-bank, on April 13. The donation was made possible by a 2:1 matching grant from Grand Lodge Charitable Foundation. The money was used to purchase food and make deliveries to the senior clients of Chrysalis Place. Hermon Lodge also provides volunteer services twice a



month to the food bank by picking up supplies from its food distribution sources such as Good Sheherd and other suppliers in the central Maine area. Pictured, from left: Carlton "Skip" Harvey, JW and Charity Comm. Chair; Wor. Joe Hersom, lodge Chaplain and Bikes for Books chair; Wor. Mike Clinton, lodge Master; Beverly LaPlante; Jake Coan, SW (in the back); and Rusty Greenleaf, JD.

It wasn't a Scottish invasion, rather Arundel Lodge #76, in Kennebunkport, hosted the famed Kilwinning Club of Boston on June 12. Club members travelled north to work a Master Mason degree on Brother Jamison Oakes, son and grandson of Kilwinning Club members.

The Kilwinning Club is the oldest degree team in New England and possibly beyond. It was formed in 1923 when a group of Boston Freemasons who were born in Scotland got together to raise a fellow Scot to the sublime degree. Such a grand time was had by all that they decided to ask permission of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts to establish a degree team.

Needing a name for the team, they wrote to the Mother Lodge of



Scotland, located in the small town of Kilwinning in the County of Ayrshire, seeking, and gaining, permission to use the name. The Mother Lodge in Kilwinning is possibly the oldest lodge in the world, dating back to 1140 when the Kilwinning Abbey was constructed. The Club has worked in approximately 200 lodges throughout New England, New Jersey, Canada and Scotland.

Penobscot Masons Provide Emergency \$\$

Rising Star Lodge #4 in Penobscot donated \$500 towards the purchase of needed emergency gear for the Brooksville Volunteer Fire Department (BVFD). This donation



was made possible in part by the MAC Masons Assisting Communities program. The funds were used to purchase a mobile stretcher that can be used over rough terrain. Pictured here are Wor. Brother Benjamin Moss, right, Rising Star Lodge Secretary, handing over the check to an obviously pleased and grateful Matt Dow, Chief of the BVFD.

A long trip home

Russell Thompson, DDGM 9th Masonic District, travelled to Blue Hill with VW Jon Thompson Jr. of Aurora Lodge #50, Rockland, to present the Master of Ira Berry Lodge #128, Blaise deSibour, a cipher that belonged to RW Thompson's great-grand-father, Charles Pert. Bro. Pert received the cipher 118 years ago, in 1903, at Eggemoggin #128 when he was raised to the sublime degree. The cipher has been passed down through the generations and Bro. Thompson received it from his father, Wor. Fred Thompson of Aurora Lodge #50. *The connection:* Eggemoggin #128 consolidated with Bagaduce #210 in 1976. Bagaduce then consolidated with Ira Berry #187 in 1983. In a consolidation, the created lodge takes the lowest number of the consolidating lodges, hence three lodges \$128.

‘Shall Noe Mason bee has in common Rybold lecherie’*

The Old Charges warn us!

We often hear references to the “OLD CHARGES” and quite often in a rather authoritative context. I had a rather vague impression that somewhere there were one or two hundred items in some sort of list set down before the sixteenth century which outlined the principals and rules of Masonic Lodges. So, I started an online search to find out what they were. I was very surprised to find that there were eight (one source lists nine) generally recognized “Families” of “Old Charges”. These Families contain more than 100 different documents, accepted as authentic. Many other documents have been represented as authentic but are considered by most as forgeries.

These “Old Charges” were hand written before the opening of the first Grand Lodge with its constitution in 1717. The Old Charges were the governing documents of individual Operative Masonic Lodges (most often written on parchment rolls). Each Lodge had to have a set (sometimes copied from neighboring Lodges) of their own rules. They were the rules, operating procedures, conduct, piety, moral character, behavior, signs of recognition, responsibilities, Obligations, penalties, etc. which each member of the Lodge was expected to follow. Penalties, outlined in their obligations, were imposed for violations. The documents, which are recognized, are written in older styles of English. However other countries, Germany, Spain, France, etc., had their own versions of rules for their stonemason’s Operative Lodges and translations of “Our” “Old Charges” have also appeared in several other languages.

Using the Matthew Cooke Manuscript (ca 1450) as a reference, these documents have four sections or areas of concern. A copy may be found at: <https://freemasonry.bcy.ca/texts/cooke.html>

First- They addressed two interests of concern to them - their own hereafter and a major employer of Masons, the Church. They began with some recognition of Deity: maybe prayer or other supplication to God like the following.

Hughan Old Charges of British Freemasons 1872 – excerpt from York MSS 1704 (yumpu.com).

“The Might of the father in Heaven with wisdom of the blessed son through the grace of God and the goodness

Page 24

of his wholly ghost that be three persons in one Godhead be with us at our beginning and” ...

It’s interesting to transcribe a couple of lines of this hand written old English (with the help of my wife and a magnifying glass) but the novelty would soon wear off for lengthy multipage page documents.

The Second item was usually the “academic” knowledge (knowledge gained from others) a man had to acquire before he could become a Master of the craft. This included the seven liberal sciences with an emphasis on Geometry. Our usage and meaning of words has often changed from the medieval usage, and Geometry, for us, is that subject we took in school emphasizing lines, planes, angles, proofs, and measurements. When the Old Charges were written, Geometry (its roots Geos – Earth and Metry – measurements) referred to the study of all of the sciences of the earth including those measurements of angle and distance which we now call Geometry.

Die erste ist Grammatik, die lehrt den Menschen richtig sprechen und richtig schreiben

Gramatica ys the furste syens y-wysse,

Grammar is the first science I know,

The Third section dealt with the history of the craft usually beginning with Adam tracing through Solomon, proceeding with Euclid and Pythagoras, and finishing with Athelstan who ruled England from 927 to 939.

The Forth, and generally last section, was devoted to the Craft of Masonry itself. This included the behavior, morals, piety, integrity, reliability, industriousness, and skills of a craftsman himself. It outlined responsibilities toward other Masons, employers, workers, apprentices, family, the rest of humanity, and Governments of the land where he lived. It also informed him about attending church services. *“When the master and the fellows be forewarned and are come to such congregations (Church Services), if need be, the Sheriff of the Country, or the Mayor of the City, or Alderman of the Town, in help of him, against rebels skipping church and for the up-bearing the right of the realm.”* And about assisting other members of the Lodge. *“If he be wiser,*

Continued on Following Page

THE MAINE MASON

‘Shall Noe Mason...’ *Continued*

and subtler than his fellow working with him in his lodge, he shall in-form him and help him, that the more love may increase among them, and that the work of the lord be not lost.”

Freemasonry.bcy.ca/texts/cooke.html

And warnings like in the opening title against: **“Rybold lecherie”**. As used then, rybold was lewd, bawdy, common, or coarse, and lecherie was any carnal activity other than that for procreation purposes within marriage. It included and prohibited any such activity by the Clergy.

We wonder how (“*first is heal and Conceal or Conceal and keep secret*”) in the 1700 Sloan MS 3329 (theoldcharges.com) became (“*always hail, forever conceal, and never reveal*”) in our Maine ritual 120 years later. “Heal” was used then as we now use it in gardening – to cover or protect. Different signs, unfamiliar to us, were used in different Lodges. *“one signe is by giving their right hand a cast cross their brest from left to right with the tops of their ffingers about 3 or 4 inches below their Chin, another is by puling of their hat wth their*

right hand their two first fingers aboue and the thumb and all the rest below the hats brim puling it of and giving it a cast from Left to right then on their head another is of drinking giving the glass a acast cross under their chin from left to right:”

Many forgeries exist. The Leland Manuscript (sometimes called the Locke Manuscript) was originally accepted as authentic but later considered a forgery. First printed in Gentleman’s Magazine September, 1753 as, “*Certayne Questyons with Awnsersers to the same, Concernynge the Mystery of Maconrye, wrytenne by the Hande of Kynge Henrye the Sixthe of the Name, and faythfullye copyed by me John Leylande*” Masonictrowel.com published an article by Albert MacKey calling it “*one of those pious frauds*”.

These antique documents, both authentic and frauds, provide us with unique insights into the origins, history, cultures, language, and vagaries of our ancient Fraternity we maintain.

Brother Donald McDougal

**theoldcharges.com*



Brethren at work for Vet in need

On May 31, 2021 five Masonic Brothers helped out Veteran Roger Aube and wife Cecil with the installation of a wheel chair ramp. The veteran was very happy with the work. Brothers of four lodges pitched in to build the ramp. They were VW David CoWallis Jr, Tranquil Lodge, Auburn; VW Mike Roy, Webster Lodge, Webster; Wor. Stephen Doughty and Wor. C. Arthur Allen, Ancient Brothers Lodge, Auburn; and Wor. Marco Almodovar, of Rabboni Lodge, Auburn.



Masons at work providing for their community

Alna-Anchor Lodge #43, Damariscotta, applied for and received a Community Betterment Grant to help clean up and improve the Ice House Park in Damariscotta Mills, Nobleboro, the only public swimming area on the southern end of Damariscotta Lake. Four Masons and seven other members of the community worked on the project which consisted of removing a cement foundation, bringing in gravel to make a six-car parking lot, installing two portable toilets and providing a trash can and a handicap parking spot. It took a total of 63 man hours to finish the project. Since the work was completed a Brother keeps his eye on the park and checks the trash twice a week.



Home Again. Bro. Fred A. Bither's Grand Lodge Masonic Veteran's Medal, with four attached stars, was returned to Monument Lodge No. 96 in Houlton on May 21st. The presentation was made by his niece, Eloyd Hooper, who was raised by Fred and his wife after her 7th birthday. Receiving the medal on behalf of the lodge was Kai Libby, its Master. Also assisting was W. Bro. Robert H. Hooper, Past Master of Saco Lodge No. 9. The medal is awarded for recognition of 50 years of membership with each star representing 5 additional years. Bro. Bither was born February 23, 1918 and died November 4, 2018 having been a Mason 72 years of his 100 years.

The Working Tools and How I Use Them

by Brother Benjamin Lariviere

Buxton Lodge #115

I remember receiving the working tool lecture for the Master Mason degree and everything I had pondered about the preceding degrees clicked. This is how I build myself up to be a great man. A man who is focused on love, God, family and dedication to his country. Just a real good man. Let me explain how I use these tools every day.

As a supervisor I have to have a good place to draw my morals from: from the Grand Architect of the Universe and the tools and lessons I learned from the degree work of the blue lodge. I use the 24-inch gauge to plan my day. From waking up and making coffee to planning meetings with my team and co-supervisors. Without this tool I would not be able to work forty hours, go to school full time, learn my ritual, be a good brother and partner or have time to reflect on deity and the gifts He gives us.

By the Square I learned to act as a kind, morally sound man. I handle hard conversations by listening and thinking before speaking. I can speak to my staff and team as a motivator because I use the square to find the words that are needed. I also use the square to keep myself “Squared away”, keeping myself groomed, well dressed for the occasion and never veering off the moral path I’ve set out on.

The level is a tool I use to meet every person the same way. I might be a supervisor to some but I treat everyone the same. I’m not a boss, I’m a leader. The work my team does is a direct reflection on my ability to lead them and educate them. If I act as if I’m better just because of my position at work then I’m missing the point. We are all traveling a different journey that leads to the same place. We need to support our fellow man along the way by being tolerant, accepting and loving human beings.

I use the trowel in my life to spread the joy and love I have. I wake up every morning and am thankful for another day on this earth. The easiest way we can do this is with a smile. Be happy, a smile is contagious. In a world where people are

scared of spreading COVID, spread love instead. We can also give praise and compliments. Everyone likes to hear they are doing a good job.

I do all this so I can stand upright by using my plumb at the end of the day. Did I use all the tools? Where did I fall short? (Believe me we always do.) By daily using all these tools I can sit down to dinner and feel worthy of standing upright as a man. Finally, as I am lying awake in bed, I use that gavel and try to knock away anything that I did poorly that day. Did I ignore some one’s wishes? Did I have a rude tone with one of my team members? After I contemplate these thoughts, I try to improve the next day.

Brothers, use these tools! We never know if today is going to be our last. Make yours a life that was worth living. Remember that when you came into this world you cried and everyone was happy to meet you. Make it so that when you die people cry because of what you left behind.

to the editor

May 10, 2021

Dear M.W. Editor:

May I please, through you, extend a sincere “Thank You” to an unknown Masonic Brother?

I was running late today and it took 9:48 seconds to go through the express line to get a cup of coffee!! A little up tight? Yes.

When I went to pay for my coffee, the attendant said, “All paid for. The fellow in the truck ahead of you paid for you.” I asked who it was as I didn’t recognize the truck. He replied, “The fellow just said he’s a “Brother.”

So my Brother, You helped unwind my day.

Thanks, I’ll pass it on.

Anonymous

Influences Impacting Free and Accepted Masons

Vol.1, No. 1 June 25, 2021

Masons, as all of the world's social groups, are subject to continuous influences of change. In the current time, it seems that chaos is across the planet, and the United States is besieged with multiple disruptive and harmful-to-life events. Ranging across the multiple common denominators of people, politics, legal, philosophical, and emotions running in all directions, many do not comprehend the never-ending demands, events, and disconnected common good.

We hear, read, and observe the concerns regarding Free and Accepted Masonry represented by a diminishing membership, chairs filled with Past Masters, who find themselves in attendance, but empty sidelines.

As do occasional calls for a revival of Masons to attend and participate in their Masonic Lodges, lethargic acceptance exists. But, add, the latest worldwide pandemic, COVID 19, with its mandated and self-imposed safety procedures, and Lodge attendance was "on hold."

This issue is not new; it has been in existence for decades, and the critical result is inertia. We find excuses to justify the lack of participation: "people are so busy, the cost is too high, I was tired tonight." The list takes many analogous directions which appeal to the individual and soothes the mind.

John Bizzack is a prolific writer of Masonic history, issues, and solutions offered about the Craft. His historical and present issues are factually based. For example, in an article, "The Dumbing Down of Freemasonry" he writes:

"The irony of Freemasonry being dumbed down is bewildering, when considering part of its original intent was founded on the idea of seeking truth, knowledge, a deeper awareness of the world, and made up of many men who stressed emphasis on the arts and sciences. Nevertheless, serious students of the Craft often wring their hands as they consider and study the question of what is wrong with Freemasonry. The answer is simple: nothing is wrong with Freemasonry. Its principles remain the same; its exceptional tenets, virtues, purposes, aims, and relationships have not changed. The real question is what's wrong with its members. This question is one many ignore and is underscored with the spirit of believing that when a man takes the obligations, he is genuinely a Freemason, and that's all there is to it."

While that statement might rile some, we should get beyond the first impulsive response and consider the implications. There is a rational reality to what was stated. So let us explore in some depth. The truth may hurt, but so too does attending lodge and finding insufficient members present to conduct business.

Persistent Topic of Conversation.

While asking "why" has been the topic of conversa-

tion for decades, the answers frequently are not in-depth or dig deeply into history and change influences. As a result, we fail to examine what lies intrinsically within the Mason or really ask ourselves those "why" questions. The Mason who had completed his Master Mason degree in the Blue Lodge begins with the individual. Regardless of position, past or present rank, and accomplishment, he is the product of being raised a Mason. He stands on the same level, meets on the same square, and harbors inherent values, pride, characteristics, and virtues of Masonry.

We know that aspiring to higher office is laudable; to learn ritual and procedure, representing oneself to others in multiple ways is essential to that person's growth. There are life issues that prevent participation; those conditions are not for criticism. But living the Masonic life is critical to strengthening Masonry, including engaging in lifelong learning about the Craft. When a Mason becomes other than the foundational principles he swore to, he must examine what he seeks, and if an adjustment is needed, do so!

The Craft suffers if we do not, will not, or cannot drill down into the problem to determine sustainable solutions. That fault lies with the individual Mason, the core of Masonry. We must stand on the level, look at one another, and have those critical discussions.

Change is Society and its Influence on all Aspects of Life.

The current division in society is a combination of:

- One-sided planning by individuals and groups.
- Covert influence encounters no opposition and recruits on an empty promise.
- The availability of vast sums of money whose unlawful purpose is harmful when used clandestinely.
- Individual selfishness and disdain for anyone or group that holds antithetical beliefs.
- Misuse of power for a specific purpose.
- Disdain, incompetence, and other despicable statements and socially unacceptable behaviors demonstrate the inability to participate in society.

Masons were raised on different principles, couched in humanity, community, and virtues stated in degrees, but seldom discussed after that. We took the steps to each degree, participated in the ritual, repeated the words, and were informed of much more that must be reviewed and incorporated within the individual. When instilled, description and discussion of the three-degree process represent a lifelong Mason in all aspects of life.

This added process is the Lodge's responsibility and a critical step to grounding our values, virtues, origins, and knowledge to the man and the fraternity. To not do this is an omission that we must correct. Failure will witness further decline and not address that wearing the

Continued on Following Page



Nezinscot Lodge #101, Turner, hosted the Kraftsmen from Kora Temple for a Master Mason Degree on June 22, 2021. RW Barry Gates, PDDGM/23, was Worshipful Master for the evening and raised his two grandsons, Collin McGarr and Ethan Gates, pictured here between the Grand Master and their grandfather. M.W. Grand Master Rich Nadeau delivered the Candlelight Charge. Collin and Ethan are 5th generation Master Masons of Nezinscot Lodge.

Influences Impacting...Continued

Masonic ring is meaningless unless we engage in all forms of life-long education. The history, people, events, and highlights are numerous There is no shortage of material for our continued education.

Closing Comment

Purpose of this and any future “Masonic Papers” is to push, prod, and engage Masons of this honorable body to resurrect the foundational principles now too often missing.

Inspired by many men and Masons I’ve known is one reason for this paper on Freemasonry. Another is advancing age and the realization that many things, once important, have had their day and now are in remission.

I wish to find that final purpose while seeking a return to the values that have emerged over these many years; my family, friends, Brother Masons, the honor of being a member of a critical but misunderstood group of men and women who take responsibility for society’s failure to be responsible – law enforcement and policing. I realize I can change only that which I choose. The rest falls to those who strive in their own directions. I cannot influence any of that, nor do I want to.

So, I turn the page of the life I have experienced and

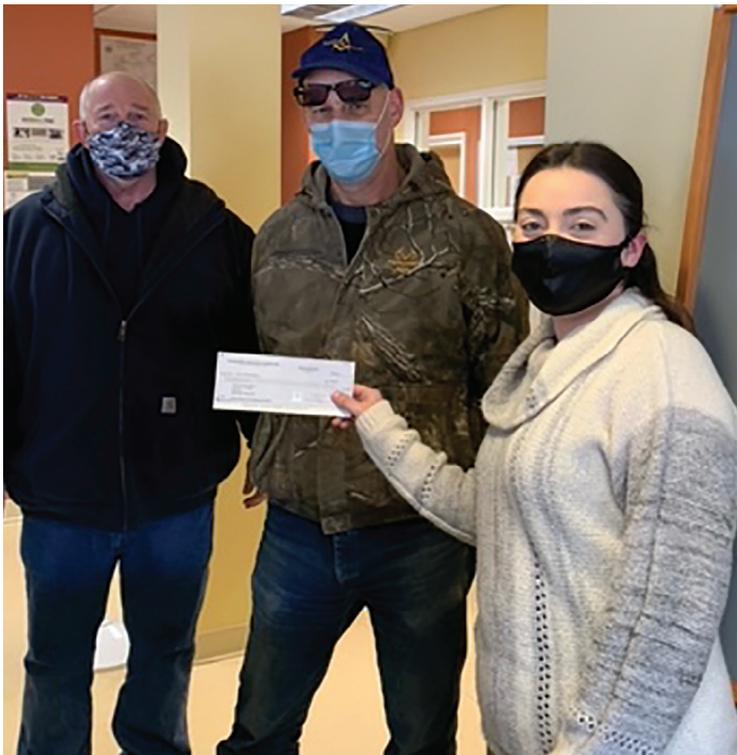
refocus on what my values say remains to be addressed. It is time to know the Supreme Architect, God of all things, and what lies ahead, realizing that Masonry has been the power of the Positive forward movement.

If you chose to read this, and perhaps any papers that follow, mull over the carried meaning. Of importance; how you, a Brother Mason, can – or not — make positive changes in your sphere of family, friends, social groups, and your community and the lives of others that are essential to the world at large.

Richard C. Lumb, Ph.D.

P.M. Orchard Lodge AF & AM #215
 P.M. Wilton Lodge AF & AM #156
 Treasurer, Mystic Tie Lodge AF & AM #154
 Past Secretary, 15th Masonic District, State of Maine.
 Twenty-four years in policing, including the Maine State Police; Chief Old Orchard Beach Police, Me.; Chief Morganton Department of Public Safety, NC.
 Thirty-two+ years teaching at four Universities – Departments of Criminal Justice.
 Engagement in numerous organizational research and program development and evaluation organizations.
 Author and engaged education and training endeavors.

Lot's Happening at North Berwick's Yorkshire Lodge



At left: Wor. Scott Vetter and Wor. Phil Turnbull presenting a \$500 check for the Town of North Berwick fuel assistance program.



Above: Left to right: Wor Phil Turnbull, Bro David R Boston, and RW Jonathan Rosen, DDGM/19. The occasion: presenting Bro Boston his 50-year Veterans Medal.



At left: Front row, left to right, Bikes 4 Books Chairman. Bro Butch Clark, Wor Bill Hankin, Wor Scott Vetter. Back row L/R Wor Rich Otten, Wor Phil Turnbull, Bro Kevin Ham. Yorkshire Lodge #179 donated 16 bicycles to boys and girls in grades K thru 5 in North Berwick and Berwick thanks to the assistance of The Grand Lodge of Maine Charitable Foundation.

From Darkness to Light

...Freemasonry as a Personal Spiritual Journey

By Bro. Charles W. Plummer, PSGW

Ever since I became a Freemason many years ago, and having been blessed with a curious mind, I have traveled down many roads that I believe only a few others have taken in search of more light in Masonry to extend and enhance my understanding of the symbols and lessons taught in Masonic ritual for the purpose of living a more meaningful and fulfilling life in daily interactions with all mankind.

The most recent road traveled was to learn more about the meaning and practice of spirituality. I was motivated after reading a book by Wayne W. Dyer titled "Real Magic." After completing my journey I came to the conclusion that Freemasonry has been a spiritual journey for me at an unconscious level but I now have a much better understanding of it at a conscious level. I would also add that I do believe that Freemasonry is, in many respects, a spiritual journey.

There are many definitions of spirituality but I believe the following four are profound because they do, in their own way, reflect the very meaningful and important lessons taught in the Masonic ritual as the candidate embarks on his rite-of-passage which includes the practice of brotherly love, relief and truth and the four cardinal virtues, temperance, fortitude, prudence, and justice.

A therapist named Jeremiah Abrams defines spirituality as a "Holy longing, a yearning to know the meaning of our lives, to have a connection with the transpersonal."

The former dean of Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, Alan Jones, regards it as "the art of making connections." A Catholic educator named Regina Coll defines it as "an awareness of the more than meets the eye in our daily lives" and that "it refers to our hopes and dreams, our patterns of thought, our emotions, feelings, and behaviors..."

Gerald May, a psychiatrist and director of spiritual

guidance defines spirituality as "our deepest values and desires which are the very core of our being."

There are many ways an individual can practice spirituality at a conscious level but the following are the more common ones that many use, including myself, because for me they correlate very nicely in carrying out my duties and obligations as a Freemason. They utilize multi-dimensional thinking, believe that loving guidance is available, focus on their authentic personal empowerment, feel a strong connection to all humanity, know that there is a dimension beyond cause and effect, are highly motivated by the practice of ethics, serenity, and the quality of living a good life, know that the violent response to evil leads to participating in acts of evil, and lastly feel a strong sense of responsibility and belonging

to the universe including a sense of awe of being here.

In drawing my article to a close, I must say that I fully realize that it is up to each Freemason to decide unequivocally whether or not he believes that Freemasonry is a spiritual journey and I respect their right to do so. I do know that there is one member of the



Masonic Fraternity who does believe that Freemasonry is a spiritual journey and he is M.W. Brother Richard A. Martin, a past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Oregon. In the May 2012 edition of the Oregon Masonic Newsletter he wrote an article that is titled "On the Spiritual Journey, we are all men of Faith." In his article he states, I believe it is a spiritual journey, one where we discover what God's plan is for each of us. And it doesn't matter what our conception of God is. We can use our personal beliefs applied in the manner of Masons. Our common bond is that each of us has a belief in the Great Architect of the Universe, and that we will meet once again, in that House not made with hands, eternal in the Heavens.

As such we are all men of Faith, taking this journey together, we are working on becoming better men." So mote it be!

Village Lodge Builds Time Capsule; Why Not in 2021

by **Brother Steve Edmondson**
Lodge Historian

2017 was an amazing year for Bowdoinham's Village Lodge. In September of that year, we celebrated our 200th Anniversary of receiving our Charter from the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. At that meeting we honored our forefathers by having a candlelight meeting in the manner in which they held their meetings. We didn't go all in as we relied upon our handy indoor plumbing and working furnace for comfort.

In 2018, Village Lodge held its first Table Lodge in over 30 years. It was during that meeting that RW Peter Warner of Village Lodge mentioned in passing that we should build a Time Capsule to honor our recent anniversary and to pass along to future Village Lodge Masons some tidbits of our own history.

The planning for the capsule took time to discuss the many details such as the actual vessel, where to put it and what to place in it. Finally, in 2019, RW Loy Mitchell handcrafted a beautiful wooden box with fantastic ornamental detail. Next was what to put in it and where do we store it for 100 years?

Throughout 2019, Brothers from Village Lodge donated items of personal value as well as items special to the Lodge or our anniversary. A personal gavel from WM Dave Richards, a 2017 proof mint set, shot glass from our Table Lodge, a copy of the Masonic Poems from famous author the Village Idiot, WM Marc Cram, the history report read aloud at our 200th anniversary meeting by yours truly, a Grand Lodge Challenge coin honoring Maine's 200th Anniversary and white gloves worn during our 200th Anniversary Stated meeting. The widow of recently departed Past Master Arthur Boulay donated much of his personal collection of Mason memorabilia to the Lodge with some items likely to find their way into the Capsule.

After considerable

thought, it was decided to attempt to place the capsule inside of our altar with a brass plaque on the side indicating the presence of the capsule with instructions to open it in September 2117 during the 300th Anniversary celebration.

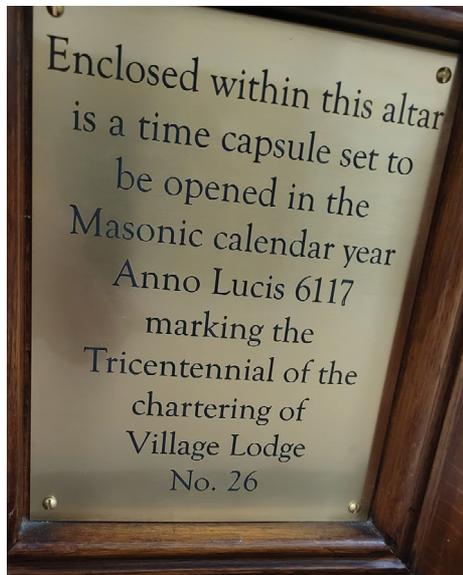
Planning for an event knowing we will not be around to see it through does not come without risks. Village Lodge has suffered through more than one fire in its history, destroying prior Lodge buildings and contents. If we manage to avoid catastrophic events in the next 100 years, we then must be concerned over the legacy. A



Brother Historian next to the time capsule.

brass plaque attached to the side can be overlooked over time or even lost. The true test and most secure method of assuring survivability and history lies in each of us. Passing along information, traditions and history comes from Masons of each Lodge sharing stories with new members. Along with Masonic traditions, we must not forget the history of each Lodge. When I read the history of Village Lodge at our 200th Anniversary, I was revealing stories previously unheard by many of our own members. It is up to all of us to keep the stories told, to keep history alive, and to keep Masonry relevant for time immemorial.

Finally, it was planned to install the Time Capsule into the altar during a Stated meeting in the Spring of 2020. WB Marc Cram was able to remove the top of the altar find-



Brass plaque attached to altar describing the time capsule.

Continued on Next Page



Evening Star Lodge #147, Buckfield, raised some money, and with the help of a Maine Masonic Charitable Foundation matching grant, was able to present a check for \$2,400 to the Hartford-Sumner Elementary School Summer Learning Camp to help with anything in the best interest of the kids. This was the first year for this program and the brethren hope that it may grow in the coming years to help more kids. Pictured here are Hartford-Sumner Elementary School (HSES) Summer Learning Camp Coordinator Audra Trenoweth, Evening Star Lodge Master John Graybill, and the First Grade class, in front of the school banner that all the students help design and construct.

Continued

ing sufficient space for the capsule. He also had made a brass plaque with appropriate phrase fitting the event and attached it to the side. We even planned a grand ceremony with hopes of inviting District and Grand Officers.

Then came the Coronavirus. Like all lodges across

the state, Village Lodge went dark much too soon. Following Grand Lodge instructions, when we did open it was with limited attendance and short business meetings. Finally, at our June 2021 Stated meeting, with the pandemic waning, Village Lodge was finally able to install the time capsule in its resting place for the next 96 years. With a grand turnout and after a great cookout, Past Masters of Village Lodge eased the

time capsule into the sacred altar with grace and fanfare.

We pray Village Lodge and more particularly, Freemasonry, remain viable a century from now. It lies within each of us the responsibility to breathe life into this craft every day, and not just when wearing an apron and sitting in Lodge. We are the pulse, the heartbeat, the life blood of this Fraternity. Brothers, let there be an unbroken chain to the future. Let us make sure our Brothers in the year 2117 enjoy the fruits of our efforts and see how we beat a pandemic and came out stronger on the other side.



Current Master and Past Masters of Village Lodge lowering time capsule into the altar.

Leaders and Titles

by **Scott Whytock**
R.W. Grand Treasurer

Reflect upon the time that you first came to the lodge door and knocked, and you'll recall attempting to navigate the confusing hierarchy of the Masonic landscape. You've got physical elements to guide you such as aprons, collars, jewels, colors, and positions about the lodge. Then you have the general operations of a lodge. The guy sitting in the fancy chair seems to be running the show, so you recognize him to be a leader of some sort. Then there's a guy who gets asked to frequently speak known as Brother Secretary. He seems to have a lot of information about everything, so he must be a leader too. Then there's a guy who helped me walk around the lodge when I couldn't see. Someone who is a temporary caretaker of another person seems to be a leader too. Right?

We hope so, but those who have been around long enough know that leaders do not and cannot exist at every level of a lodge or any other aspect of society. That's perfectly fine. Not all men join a lodge to expand their leadership opportunities and they shouldn't be forced to do so. Time, conversation, and observation will yield an understanding of the structure of a lodge and its various leaders. If you watch closely, you'll occasionally see a gap between those many titles and the understanding of the obligation of leadership that goes with them.

This disparity is not unique to Freemasonry. You can identify similar instances of this in your personal and professional lives where someone with a title that denotes a leadership role is missing their opportunity to effectively lead. Leadership is a responsibility once accepted that must be continually earned. Note the word "responsibility". While that responsibility may come with some specific bells and whistles, a true leader knows that he's to be humble and earn this title every day that he has it.

An effective lodge leader knows that success will not come if he acts alone. A lodge Master will need to inspire the members of his lodge, listen to them, and know that his title won't magically allow him to accomplish his goals. Your relationship with your lodge, a clear focus on your goals, your ability to communicate well, and the respect you have earned of your lodge will help you end the year better than you began it. Once

your time is done, a true leader knows that he should let others lead. You can still be there to mentor and give advice as needed as we should always assist our Brother in moving from the rough to perfect state. Once his time in his office has passed, an effective leader will endeavor to see his past office flourish under its new occupant rather than constantly criticizing from the sidelines.

It is critical to note that an absence of a title for an office also doesn't preclude you leading from the sidelines. If you have a good idea for an event or a way to bring life to your lodge, it is your opportunity to voice it and see what happens. Lodges are what we make them. Sometimes we look to a lodge Master for these ideas, but he may be too busy assisting candidates and scheduling degrees to see what you see from the sidelines. While we have offices because some must lead while others follow, we also have a setting where each voice is equal. Step up and lead your lodge effectively regardless of your station in the lodge to see that your lodge grows more vibrant as each day passes. Don't wait for someone else to bring positive energy and inspiration to your lodge. Current title, past title, or no title at all; you can and should lead.

Clap and Cheer

by **Brother Bill Stitzke**

Why did I become a Mason? Having two uncles that were Masons greatly affected my decision, Bob Erskine a fellow ship builder and friend who shared many a cup of coffee with me and answered all my questions about Masonry, while waiting for me to ask the right question, friends that did things in their community and were good men, good deeds that I saw were being done in my community, and mostly I wanted to become a better me.

I did not intend to take a chair, join other Masonic bodies, or look for recognition.

I just wanted to be of help to my community, learn more about how to become a better me, and possibly help another to become a better person.

After I applied to become a Mason. I had my first

Continued on Next Page



Wor. Brother Bill Wyman, Yorkshire Lodge's oldest living Past Master, received his 65-year star on July 8. Left to right: DK Horne, PJGW, Brother Bill, his son Joe and Wor. Phil Trumbull.



On March 10, R.W. Brother George Herrick, Jr. received his 50-year Veterans Medal in Tranquil Lodge, Auburn, surrounded by his brethren.



On March 5, R.W. Brother Kevin Manter, was presented his 50-year Veterans Medal in Freeport Lodge by M.W. Chuck Ridlon.



In June, R.W. Brother Jamey Gower, DDGM/2, presented a 50-year Veterans Medal to Brother Francis Pike in St. Croix Lodge.

Clap and Cheer Continued

experience with friendship and Brotherly Love. The third person on my committee of inquiry was a Shop Head. Being a deck plate worker and having several layers of supervision between him and me made me a little nervous. He asked if I could meet him at lunch one day and I agreed. His office was close to where I was working at that time and it was convenient for both of us. When I arrived, he met me outside of his office and warmly shook my hand. He made sure I was comfortable being there and I had a good time. This I will always remember because he was the first Mason that I did not know personally.

It was interesting and informative going through my degrees. Friends at work were more than happy to help me with my lessons, even though they did not belong to my Lodge. Members of my Lodge took me to see the

degrees being done in other Lodges. To say the least, I became a "Traveling Man" right from the get go. I am ever so grateful for the experience of seeing the degrees right after taking them and the Brothers that took me to see them. It was an important part of my Masonic education.

While visiting other Lodges, I saw Brothers clapping and cheering each other. It was a wonderful thing to experience. There were men from all walks of life and they all had one thing in common. They were there to help each other to the best of their ability. A cable tow's length is hard to define, but easy to see.

Not everyone wants to be Master of his Lodge. Some join for the fellowship, others want to help their community and there are many more reasons. Find your reason and get to work. Offering genuine support is a vital part of what we do. I will always be grateful for the Brothers who are Clapping and Cheering at Lodge.

Things Are Humming at Evening Star Lodge

In April, Evening Star Lodge, Buckfield, got together to send to the Andover Elementary School "by a video", a presentation to the kids telling them about the Bikes For Books program again this year. Present here are; W Bunky Hall, Brother Steve Tilton, W Dave



Castonguay, RW Mike Blank, W Gene Bell, Brother John Picard, Brother Joe Bracy, and the Kids' favorite, Sponge Bob (W John Graybill).

The kids signed on to the project with enthusiasm. Pictured here are the happy Bikes For Books winners at Andover Elementary School.

The lodge received a call from the family of one of our elder Brothers asking if the Lodge would consider building an access ramp to help Wor. Brother Morris Tucker come and go in and out of the house. Brethren were more than happy to take on this project.



RW Tim Turner, RW Mke Blank, W Dave Castonguay and W John Graybill went right to work under the supervision of Lita Tucker.



Brother Morris Tucker gave his approval on the final project

Saccarappa Lodge: celebrating Vets to Rookies

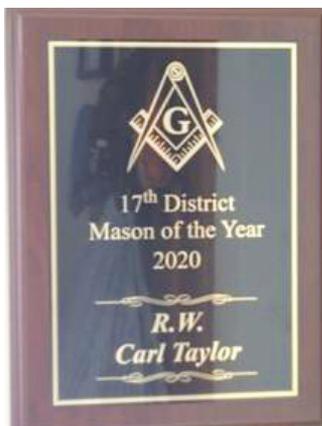
Right: Saccarappa Lodge has had a busy start to 2021. First off, the lodge presented Brother Elmer "Tug" Graffam, who turned 100 on Feb. 24, with his fifth star representing 75 years of membership in the Craft. His daughter Christine was on hand for the presentation by Wor. Paul Laslie, Past Master and RW Carl Taylor, Secretary of Saccarappa Lodge.



At the lodge's March 1 stated meeting, RW John Call, DDGM/17, presented a Rookie Award pin to Brother Cile McMannus.



RW Brother Call also presented RW Brother Carl Taylor with a plaque proclaiming him District 17 Mason of the Year for 2020. Pictured here: Wor. Paul Laslie and Brother Taylor.



Paris Lodge Awards \$6,000 in Scholarships



This year Paris Lodge #94 awarded educational grants of \$1500 each to four students for a total of \$6,000. The scholarships were presented in the name of Bro. Westin Flynt. Recipients were Tanner Morrison, Jazmyne Cohen, Daniel Paine and Gina Burke.

Right: Wor. Neil Sampson had the pleasure of awarding one of the scholarships to his granddaughter, Jazmyne Cohen.



What's Your Masonic Story?

"1st Sergeant and My Cable Tow"

Reflecting on my Masonic experiences over half a century ago, one that stands out dealt with my 1st Sergeant in the U.S. Army while in Germany. My cable tow was stretched but "Top" pulled it back into place with five simple words.

Being a Senior DeMolay and the son of a Mason I sought Masonic Light upon turning 21 and while still in college. I attended but few meetings before enlisting in the Army and being sent to Germany.

Upon arriving at what would be my home for the next 2½ years, I found my Company 1st Sergeant to be a Mason. I made myself known and he took me to a lodge meeting under the American-Canadian Provincial Grand Lodge. Our lodge was Truth and Friendship No. 727. The name says it all!! This proved to be my saving grace for it gave me a solid base to meet good men and to grow as a young man while away from home.

Top was an absolute no nonsense career soldier whose Silver Star at age 18 in Korea and 10 years my senior made him "The Man" you didn't question.

Because of my prior life travels it took some time before I gained the required security clearance to be able to enter the highly restrictive work area of our small base. I ended up being the company, and especially Top's gopher, for two plus years. Our company commander, a young R.O.T.C. Captain who was my age, was not a Mason but became one shortly after my arrival. A Private E-2 on the level with his Captain and helping him learn his lesson was not common place for sure but Masonry let it happen.

I worked through the chairs and my last night there, as the Senior Warden, I served as Master pro tem. I was honored. What a home away from home was my Masonic Lodge where I met on the level and associated with men I would not otherwise have known. This experience gave me a satisfaction and purpose I would never have found in the local German beer halls. "Dankeschon."

But as to my 1st Sergeant, periodically we would have an Army-wide alert of all troops in Europe. It was something of a big deal to show how efficient and prepared your base was if an emergency came about. We had experienced, in 1968, the Russian Tanks coming full

speed to the German border as part of the suppression of Czechoslovakia.

It was common for command leaders, even down to company Sergeants, to have 6 hours or so advance warning. I was privy to our alert coming at 2100 hours when the base alarm would be activated and everything shut down. I had a small room off post which was a mile or so across a field. What a place to escape to and avoid all the hassle that was to come!!

Top had closed the sign-out book until 9:00 p.m. so no going off post BUT, at 9:00 p.m. you could sign out and leave which I expeditiously did. I was about half a mile off post when the alarm rang. I continued to my room and stayed there for the night not doing anything but sitting in the dark thinking I beat the system!!



Upon returning to post the next day, Top called me into his office and let me know in no uncertain terms that he was not happy with me. He concluded, looking me straight in the eye and said, "I expected more of YOU." It hit me like a sledge hammer. I knew what he meant. My cable tow was tenuous!! Nothing more was said, it didn't have to be. I had failed a Brother away from the Lodge when really I was committed to him 24-7.

Top could have done about anything he wanted to me as his company gopher but he didn't. He knew he had already made his point in a more profound way. That lesson has always stayed with me and after returning home we remained friends at a distance with occasional telephone calls and especially Christmas cards / letters. About 30 years ago he and five other couples were passing through Maine in their vacation campers. He called and they stopped and had dinner with us. It was good.

I still call at Christmas time but Top is no longer communicative. I have developed a relationship with his second wife after his first died. She shares my messages with him as best as can be done.

What I find to be gratifying is that his wife, who I have never met, is appreciative that a Mason is calling to check on the well being of a Brother over 50 years later.

May it be that he is getting of me that which he expected back in 1968. Top has made a difference in both my personal and my Masonic life, "It's What a Mason Does for a Mason."

by Brother Richard Rhoda

The MAINE MASON

Grand Lodge of Maine
PO Box 430
Holden, ME 04429

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Portland, Maine
Permit No. 256

If undeliverable, please do not return.



Golf Classic 2021

Saturday, October 16, 2021
Augusta Country Club in Manchester, Maine

11:00 am Check-In

12:00 pm Shotgun Start

Proceeds to benefit

the Foundation's Brotherhood Fund and the Children's Center

Contact: director@masoniccharitablefoundation.org for more information