

# THE MAINE MASON

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# THE MAINE MASON

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**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.

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**Deadline** for the next issue of *The Maine Mason* will be 25 July, 2019. All materials should be sent directly to the editor.

## line-o-type

by George P. Pulkkinen

With the coming of Spring, I suspect all brethren find themselves pretty much in the same place I am, and that's facing a long list of seasonal duties demanding attention.

For me, the fact that it's Spring makes the chores almost welcome...at least some of them. (The boatyard comes immediately to mind.) Even the peeling paint on the garage and the backyard crabgrass seem like opportunities rather than tasks, thanks to the warm sunshine and bird songs that cheer up one's outlook and bring smiles to most faces.

Many of us also have projects to tend to at our lodges. Keeping our buildings in good shape is an important part of projecting Masonic values in our communities.

One project I've noticed in my travels is the need to repair lodge road signs damaged by harsh weather and snowplows. Take a look at the sign pictured here. I know this one is scheduled for an overhaul. Let's all check the roads leading in to our communities. If you notice a sign advertising your lodge that resembles this one, it would be a worthwhile Spring project to fix or replace it. Image is important both to us and to the people who form a first opinion of Masonry by what they see along our streets.



Cover photo by PGM Tom Pulkkinen

# From the Grand East

**Mark E. Rustin**

## **Grand Master of Masons in Maine**

The weather we have experienced this year has led to many discussions about the viability of climate change (global warming). In my opinion, these discussions all too often do not distinguish between the day to day experience of weather and the longer trends in the climate. As long as these two different factors are seen as one, a comprehensive view of what's happening to the climate of our planet will remain elusive.

Many of us in our Lodges look at the sidelines at our Stated Meetings and lament about the lack of representation by our members at these meetings. All too often our reaction is to express the need for new members. If we don't have "enough" members at a meeting then we must find some new ones. It seems to me we need to examine all the possibilities which have resulted in low attendance to fully understand where our Lodge finds itself today. What factors contribute to poor attendance? I suggest to you that there are several categories of Lodge life that should be examined. They may yield insight as to why men do not attend Lodge on a regular basis.

**The Value of the Experience:** Men who join the Craft are generally seekers. They learn from us that our goal is to provide men the opportunity to become better men. This appealed to me and drew me to petition a Lodge. In their hearts most men I know want to improve themselves. Self-improvement has value for them. The person they shave with each morning gains value in their eyes when they see improvement. What they can offer to family, friends and community is enhanced as they try to achieve their life goals of developing a peaceful and harmonious world to live within. The lessons we share from our ritual flesh out and give direction to the life journey they have chosen. How do we follow up this profound teaching?

Too many of our meetings become rote exercises with little value added to the members' journey to full humanness. Paying the monthly bills, bemoaning the condition of the hall, or listening to seemingly endless minutes from the previous meeting are hollow substitutes for sharing information and brotherhood. These offer daily opportunities to travel the journey to becoming a better man. There are nearly endless resources for "Masonic

Education" which, over time, will provide incentive for members to attend meetings rather than avoid the "ground hog day" nature of too many of our Lodge meetings. Stated Meetings should provide value to the experience of being a Freemason.

**The Joy of Brotherhood:** In this world of technological innovation and instant communication it is easy to overlook the desire for relationship inherent in who we are as human beings. "No man is an island..." is not just a literary jewel, it's an insight into the desire everyone has to be part of something greater than ourselves. To be known, accepted, and valued is a true joy in our lives. Our Lodges are uniquely designed to recognize this human trait and to enhance the joy it brings to our members. Breaking bread before a Lodge meeting, good conversation among the Brothers at table, working on a project together after a meeting, or developing personal friendships among our Brothers outside of the Lodge are "tools" we should utilize to help our Brothers recognize the strategic part they play in our Lodges. Men who experience that spiritual joy are far more likely to regularly attend Stated Meetings.

**The Satisfaction of Helping Others:** I dare say most of our Brothers joined the Craft with an altruistic desire to improve the lives of others. The outreach of these men through their Lodges demonstrates the vast majority of our Brothers are Masons not just to boost their ego. Our Lodges benefit when this desire to improve the state of others is encouraged as part of the work of the Lodge. Brothers who see the intent and purpose of the Lodge in line with their goals of community betterment will likely respond by being more attentive to the meetings of the Lodge. A Brother who views his Lodge as sharing his goal of improving the world around us will be there to help and assist the Lodge.

Your role as Lodge leaders and members is to gauge the "climate" of your Lodge. The anecdotal noting of the "weather" of a particular meeting does not provide the information you need to guide your Lodge to strength and success. If you do your jobs well, your Lodge will attract new members who are there for a reason and will stay to fulfill their vision of Freemasonry.

Fraternally,

*Mark*





# Thoughts from our Grand Secretary...

By Brother Dan Bartlett

## Community

The Oxford Dictionary defines “community” as a group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common. Also, the condition of sharing or having certain attitudes or interests in common.

As many of you know I spent a couple of decades in the U.S. Coast Guard. Like all of my fellow military vets who spent more than a few years in the service, you were likely transferred and had to move somewhere new every few years or so. I was assigned to what would be my last duty station in Southwest Harbor, on Mount Desert Island in 1996. After retiring from the service in 2001, I stayed there, found a job and continued raising my children.

When I moved from Southwest Harbor in early 2015, I had lived there for nearly 19 years. Not unlike many of you who have lived in the same town for many years, if you walk into the grocery market, the hardware store, the Post Office, or the gas station you will probably see someone you know well or, at least know them well enough to say hello and ask how they are doing. Someone else you know will walk in and then it’s a gab-fest that lasts for 20 minutes. If you drive anywhere in town, you’re waving at many of the vehicles going in the opposite direction because you know them. That’s “community” my Brothers, and it’s great to belong to a community.

Last fall, Susan and I moved to Bucksport. It is where we want to be and expect this is where we will make our home for many years to come. A few weeks ago, I drove downtown to run a few errands and realized that once again I live where I drive down Main street and don’t wave once to an oncoming vehicle...yet. I miss that because I am familiar with what that sense of community, of belonging, feels like. I’m confident that over time I will be as much a part of this Bucksport community as I was when I lived in Southwest Harbor.

I recently attended the Maine Mason Day luncheon in Sarasota, Florida. I didn’t know very many of the more than 100 attendees and they traveled from many different parts of Florida to be there. As I sat there and looked

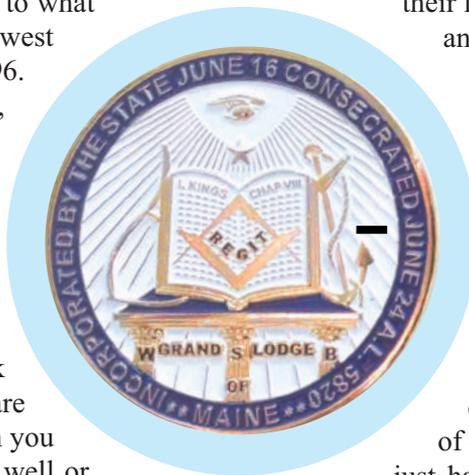
around the room, at virtually every table I saw smiling faces and people actively engaged and visiting with one another. A community: plain, simple and comfortable.

We all have the opportunity to experience that sense of community, of belonging, right in our lodges. Going to a lodge meeting or helping out at a lodge function is about as easy as it gets to “belong” and to enjoy that sense of community.

I chose this topic for a very specific reason. This publication is one of the only methods of communication that reaches nearly every single Mason in this state. Only about one-third of the membership receives email and those Brethren are likely already involved in their lodge; it’s not practical to call all of you and a letter mailed may or may not be opened and would cost thousands of dollars in postage. Nearly all Masons look for the Maine Mason to show up in the mail box and will at least open it.

To all the Masons who get this magazine: When did you last go to lodge? There is an opportunity to **ACTIVELY** experience this great community we all belong to by virtue of our membership in this Fraternity. You just have to show up! I know some of you can’t make it to lodge but that doesn’t prevent anyone from reaching out to their lodge and checking in. If you don’t know how to reach your lodge secretary or Master, you can call us at the Grand Lodge office at (207) 843-1086 and we will be happy to provide contact information for your lodge.

There are many reasons why a Brother may not go to lodge and be part of this community. Some will say it doesn’t matter whether they go or not. I will tell you: **IT MATTERS!** The answer to the problem of a lack of Brethren sitting in lodge is not necessarily needing more new members. If one-half of the current members of the lodge showed up, the lodge would be filled. Some will say they never hear from their lodge inviting them to come so the lodge doesn’t care. I’m inviting you to go to lodge. There is no silver bullet to a thriving community or a thriving lodge. It takes all of us doing our small part to make the community as a whole successful. Join your Brothers in lodge and wave at them when you meet them on the road. Be an active member of this great community.



## Grand Lodge Session Moves to Bangor...and to Saturday

There will be several differences this year at our 200<sup>th</sup> Annual Communication. But at least one important item will remain unchanged. That unchanged item is the requested per capita, pegged at \$14.10 plus \$2.00 for *The Maine Mason* and \$1.00 for The George Washington National Masonic Memorial. The per capita remains unchanged since 2011.

One of the changes we will experience is that we'll gather on a Saturday rather than Tuesday/Wednesday. Grand Lodge will convene Saturday, 4 May at the Anah Shrine Center, 1404 Broadway, Bangor. The Grand Lodge banquet will be Friday evening, 3 May at The Black Bear Inn, 4 Godfrey Drive, Orono.

Elections will be a simple process this year with only one contested election, where four brethren will be vying for two seats on the Charitable Foundation Board of Trustees. The four who seek these seats are Brother Kevin Campbell, Brother Ken Crump III, Brother Claire V. Tusch and Brother David A. Walker.

All other positions have but one candidate running unopposed. They include: for Grand Master, Brother Mark Rustin; for Deputy Grand Master, Brother Richard Nadeau; for Senior Grand Warden, Brother Douglas Taft, Sr.; for Junior Grand Warden, Brother Michael Kimball; for Grand Treasurer, Brother Scott Whytock; for Grand Secretary, Brother Daniel Bartlett; and for one seat on the Finance Committee, Brother James May.

There are no new proposed amendments to the Constitution this year but there are six proposed amendments approved at their initial reading last year, which will be presented for final consideration

They are as follows:

**SEC. 74.5** now reads: Each lodge shall remit its share of the cost of the Grand Lodge Blanket Liability Insurance, which covers members while engaging in Masonic activities.

As proposed, SEC. 74.5 would read: Grand Lodge shall arrange for blanket liability coverage for all Masonic Lodges and buildings owned by Masonic-based building associations and related organizations. Each lodge and building association shall remit the cost of insurance on its members and properties.

**A second proposal** dealing with lodge insurance coverage would replace Standing Resolution 19, and would read:

SEC. 74.5a: In addition to the coverage afforded by the Grand Lodge blanket liability insurance for Lodges and Masonic building associations, each lodge or building association shall obtain documentation of suitable liability coverage, including liquor liability coverage, if

applicable, from parties leasing or renting Masonic premises, with the Lodge, building association and Grand Lodge named as additional insureds.

The proposed change in SEC. 74.5 and the new SEC. 74.5a will result in bringing all insurance related items together in our Constitution and will codify the Insurance Directive of 2016 with which Maine Lodges and building associations are now in conformance. It also clarifies the need for third party insurance for parties that lease or rent Masonic-based facilities.

**The third proposal** would amend SEC. 2.1 *Officers and Members of Grand Lodge*. This section includes all elected and appointed officers. It also includes a list of "Other Members" which now includes Very Worshipful – District Education Representatives; Worshipful – Masters of the several chartered constituent lodges; Brother – Wardens of the several chartered constituent lodges. To this list would be added by this amendment: Brother – Members of the Committee of Finance.

**The fourth proposal** to be voted on would amend SEC. 36.6 *Committee on Amendments to the Constitution* which would clarify responsibilities of the Committee by defining its duties and would read as follows:

It shall be the Committee's duty to Examine all proposed amendments to the Constitution and Standing Regulations in an impartial manner, without regard to personal opinion as to their bearing or merit. (This does not preclude a member from speaking, apart from the committee and report, on any amendment in his own right as a voting member.)

Examine all proposed amendments to ensure that they do not conflict with any other portion of the Masonic Code.

Ensure that any proposed amendment is clear and concise, without any ambiguous wording that would knowingly render the amendment itself, or any existing provisions of our Masonic Code, open to differing opinions.

Determine if the Constitutional amendment being offered addresses the correct section and/or subsection

Stand ready to assist any brother in drafting new legislation."

**The fifth proposal** would strike SEC. 35.5 from our Constitution. SEC. 35.5 provides that Finance Committee members would be afforded voting status at Grand Lodge, but would become redundant if the proposed amendment to SEC. 2.1 is passed as the Finance Committee members would appropriately be included there as voting members.

**The sixth and final** proposed amendment is to SEC. 7.1 which currently sets the hour for annual Grand Lodge elections at 3:00 p.m. This proposal would change the voting hour for future Grand Lodge elections to 1 p.m.

**THE OFFICERS & MEMBERS OF  
TRIANGLE LODGE No. 1, A.F. & A.M.  
INVITE YOU TO CELEBRATE THE  
250<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
OF THEIR  
FIRST MEETING**

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**WEDNESDAY MAY 8, 2019  
AT THE  
PORTLAND MASONIC TEMPLE  
415 CONGRESS STREET - PORTLAND**

**SOCIAL HOUR &  
BUILDING TOURS**

5:30PM

**DINNER**

6:30PM

**TILED MEETING**

7:30PM

**PLEASE RSVP  
FOR DINNER**

TICKETS: \$10.00

**SEND CASH  
OR CHECK TO:**

TRIANGLE LODGE NO. 1  
415 CONGRESS ST.  
PORTLAND, ME 04101



## Dirigo Lodge #104 Honors -- and feeds -- a Brother



The brethren of Dirigo Lodge #104 in Weeks Mills have instituted their own special brand of brotherhood. It was the idea of Wor. Brother Sheldon Goodine to treat Wor. Brother Carlton Casey to lunch once a month in order to get him out of his house and to spend quality time with the Brethren. This practice began in September and all enjoy the time together. It is difficult to get Brother Carlton out at night and the lunch with his brethren boosts everyone's spirits and gives newer brothers a chance to learn the history of Dirigo Lodge and bond with a truly remarkable Mason.

Wor. Brother Casey joined Dirigo Lodge in April of 1951 and was raised in June of that year.

This 68-year Mason served his lodge as Worshipful Master in 1957.

Brother Casey is pictured above, left, and seated at the left rear of the above photo. Clockwise from him are Wor. Sheldon Goodine, Grand Senior Deacon; Bro. Cliff Gagnon; Brother Lenny Goodine; Wor. Mike Kimball; and Robert Pratt.

### ***To the Editor:***

I write to share with the Brethren knowledge of the passing of Bro. Terrence Magee of Jefferson Lodge No. 100 who left us December 8, 2017.

He wrote a wonderful letter to *The Maine Mason* which you published under "A Brother in Need, and how Masons Respond." His willingness to share what he and his wife had been going through because of health issues is not an easy thing to do. His willingness to share so openly and to thereby remind us of our obligation to a Brother was special. It really is about "Brotherhood," and looking after one another. Period.

Bro. Richard L. Rhoda  
Monument Lodge #96, Houlton



# In Kennebunkport . . . All the

By Brother George Pulkkinen, PGM

*I wrote the following article nearly thirty years ago for publication in the Fall 1989 issue of The Maine Mason. It seems the story is of sufficient interest and importance to re-run it in this first issue of the magazine since the death of President George Herbert Walker Bush and former First Lady Barbara Bush.*

*Sadly, we've also lost four of the Brethren who were among the President's men; Johnnie Martel, Danny Philbrick, and the Revs. Laman Bruner and Robert Howes.*

*Whether you read this when it first appeared or have become a Mason within the past 30 years, we hope you enjoy this recollection of the extraordinary relationship between the Bushes and the brethren who contributed so much to their happiness while in their Kennebunkport home.*

\* \* \* \* \*

Freemasons are taught to be good citizens, loyal to their country and supportive of the laws where they reside. In Kennebunkport, Freemasons learn their lessons very well indeed.

Not only are the Freemasons in President George W. Bush's home town upstanding members of the community, they also are dedicated men committed to assuring that the President's R&R time here is pleasant, fulfilling and recharging.

The President's men – Masonic brethren all – tend to a broad spectrum of presidential needs in Kennebunkport that ranges from electrical to ecclesiastical, from shelter to seafood, from politics to plumbing. They do it because local Freemasons include the President's carpenter and clergymen, his electrician and his plumber, his campaign manager, his fishing buddy and his seafood supplier.

It's been that way a long time. In fact local Freemasons

have been tending to the Bushes' needs since long before George Bush was inaugurated President, before Barbara Bush became our gracious First Lady, and before Millie was named the nation's "el Primo" pooch.

Has anything changed since Kennebunkport's most famous property owner became the most powerful man on earth?

There's great unanimity among all the President's men on that. Each agrees that while security has necessarily tightened, nothing's really changed at all with the Bushes. In the words of electrician Johnnie Martel, "They're still the same warm caring, genuine, wonderful people they've always been."

It all began when the late Longley Philbrick, another of Kennebunkport's all-time favorite sons and a member of Arundel Lodge, went to work for then-CIA Director Bush. The Bushes had just purchased a summer place across Ocean Avenue from the family compound on Walker's Point, and the former owner recommended Longley as the best man to do some work.

George and Barbara heeded that advice. And over the years a relationship that began as "contractor-client" evolved into one of great mutual love and respect.

## The Carpenters

Longley Philbrick suffered a fatal heart attack in 1986. His son, Dan, also a member of Arundel Lodge, took over the business.

Dan had worked a couple of years for his dad before he graduated from Kennebunk High School in 1959. Dan tried a couple of other jobs in the early 60's before realizing that there was nobody better to work for – and with – than Longley Philbrick. In short order that realization resulted in Dan doing work for another favorite son, the man

who, in 1989, would become President of the United States.

As do all the President's men, Dan Philbrick has many fond recollections of the President. Dan remembers when his father had his heart attack. "George Bush, then Vice President, made it a point to visit his friend Longley in a hospital in Portland," Dan says. "Just think of it."



The President's carpenters: from left, Longley and Dan Philbrick (with their wives, both named Mary) and President Bush. *White House photo by Dave Valdez.*

# President's Men are Freemasons

He's a great man, a good man, and a good friend, Dan says of President Bush. "You just couldn't ask for a better person than George . . . than either George or Barbara really."

In February of 1978 the Walker's Point enclave was pounded by the wildest winter storm in recorded history. The house that President and Mrs. Bush now come home to was devastated. When the winds finally blew themselves out and the tides at last receded, the main house looked like a place that had suffered a direct hit from some irresistible force bombing run.

Longley and Dan's crew rebuilt the place, adding a kitchen as part of the project. "We did then what we've always done," Dan recalls. "We did the best work we could for the best price. I guess the Bushes liked what we did." That's them, Dan adds quickly. "They always do. They just seem to appreciate everything so much."

Dan leans back . . . stretches . . . a smile creeping across his deeply tanned face. "You know that famous picture of George and Barbara in bed with their grandchildren? he asks.

Hardly waiting for an assenting nod, he answers his own question. "I built that headboard," Dan announces with undisguised glee. "Every time I pick up a magazine and see that bed I say, 'There's my headboard!' It makes me feel good . . . proud."

Dan Philbrick's smile spreads into a warm, broad grin as he suggests with mock pride, "I guess maybe I've made the most famous headboard in the whole world!"

Dan was the first to say that with the exception of security, nothing's really different with the Bushes in Kennebunkport these days. He recalls the first phone call from President Bush after the inauguration. The President called and said they wanted to put on an addition and invited Dan to come talk about it.

"I was pretty nervous going down, I'll tell you," Dan says, admitting he didn't know quite how he'd handle it. "But the minute I got in the house, the minute I walked up to him I knew it was just the same." It's so much the same, Dan says, that he and President Bush are still on a "George and Dan first name basis."

Dan says he thought about calling the President "Mr. President," "but we got talking and it just came out as George," There's no question in Dan's mind that the President wants it that way.

"I'll tell you this too," Dan adds in unsolicited testimony to his feelings for the President. "I'm really proud to serve him . . . to do the work for him. I don't know quite how to explain it. But it's an awful good feeling. They're just such good people – George and Barbara. So friendly . . . so sincere . . . so appreciative."

Friendly. Sincere. Appreciative. The words are offered repeatedly in conversations with all the President's men.

## The Electrician

Electrician Johnnie Martel is a gregarious, outgoing member of Arundel Lodge. He's also a decorated Viet Nam war veteran who can pump out a seemingly never-ending stream



The President and his electrician, Johnnie Martel. *White House photo*

of warm and caring, upbeat, up-close stories that say a lot about the kind of people George and Barbara Bush really are.

Johnnie tells about a trip he almost didn't take to San Antonio, Texas with the then-Vice President who was scheduled to be featured speaker at an American Legion convention there. Johnnie was Commander of Legion Post 159 in Kennebunkport at the time he got the invitation call from his friend George Bush.

"Hi Johnnie, this is George," the Vice President said. "How'd you like to take a trip?" Johnnie remembers responding apprehensively with something like "Sure, where?" recalling that his only trip before had been to Viet Nam.

"I asked him all kinds of questions," Johnnie recalls, shaking his head in disbelief at his own temerity.

"Finally the Vice President laughed and said, 'Johnnie: the plane's perfectly safe!'"

Geez, Johnnie was thinking as he hung up the phone. "The plane was Air Force 2 and I almost passed up the chance. I coulda kicked my butt."

On the flight to San Antonio Vice President Bush asked Johnnie if he wanted to call his wife, Judy. Retelling the story makes Johnnie laugh.

When he said yes, George Bush dialed Johnnie's number.

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Nine-year-old son J.T. answered, and the Vice President said, “Hi! This is George. May I speak to your mother?”

J.T. responded that no, he was sorry, but no one could. “My mother’s very tired. She’s sleeping. She was up all night with my dad. He’s not here, either,” J.T. went on. “He’s with the Vice President.”

The Vice President tried again. “Yeah, I know, J.T. This is George, the Vice President.”

That revelation made no difference. J.T. was still protecting his mom’s sleep. “I’m sorry,” he repeated, “she’s very tired.”

Johnnie Martel, Freemason, remembers how the Vice President laughed—still laughs – about the incident: remembers what a warm and caring man George Bush is.

Johnnie also remembers how quickly George Bush responded to his invitation to speak at a Kennebunkport Memorial Day program. Judy Martel sent out the invitation and a message came right back.

“I’d love to say a few words,” George Bush wrote back to his old friend, “but I don’t want to interrupt your regular program.”

“Can you imagine that?” Johnnie asks incredulously. “George Bush thinking he’d interrupt anything.”

Speaking from his many experiences and observations, Johnnie Martel offers his opinion on the President. “Everything George Bush does turns out beautiful. He’s a great man.

“I’ll tell you this,” Johnnie adds convincingly, a look of sincere love and admiration for his friend enveloping his face. “I’d stand in front of a bullet for that man.”

#### **The Plumber**

Another Arundel Lodge Brother, Bruce Garrett, is the President’s plumber. Like Philbrick and Martel, Bruce Garrett has his own measure of respect and admiration for George and Barbara Bush.

According to Bruce: “You couldn’t work for better people.” He shares a story about Mrs. Bush’s kindness, about her apparent lack of indecisiveness, about her seeming ability to always know what she wants.

Garrett recalls a time several years ago when quite a bit of work had to be done to the house. “She actually took us by the hand,” Bruce remembers, “Longley and Danny and Johnnie and me. We walked through the house, room by room, Barbara telling us the color paint she wanted on this wall, or the kind of carpet on that floor, or the fixtures for that room as we walked.”

Then Mrs. Bush returned to Washington and didn’t get back for three months. The project was finished when she returned, Bruce remembers. And Longley and his band of skilled tradesmen met with her at an appointed hour to inspect the work.

“I think everyone had his stomach in his mouth before we began the inspection walkthrough,” Bruce says with a grin. “I know I did.” But as the President’s men took the room-to-



The President’s plumber: Bruce Garrett.

room tour with Mrs. Bush, the nervousness dissipated. “She was just so pleased with everything,” Bruce says. “She never wanted a thing changed.”

That’s just the way Barbara Bush is, Bruce Garrett says with the special tone of appreciation that only a man who deals extensively with the public can understand. “She’s kind, she’s smart, she knows how she wants things done, she’s gracious, and like the president, she’s a genuine, sincere, friendly person.”

#### **The Seafood Connection**

The sea has been an important part of Kennebunkport’s social, commercial and recreational activity since the town’s beginnings. Back when the first white faces arrived at what is now Cape Porpoise, the sea was essential to survival. At least once, probably more often than that, marauding Indians attacked the settlers, forcing them to flee to the sea for their lives. One time they escaped to Goat island, not far from President and Mrs. Bush’s home. Another time settlers reached Goat Island but didn’t survive. The infamous Goat Island Massacre offers mute testimony to their failure.

Although more than two centuries have passed since the most recent Indian attack, the ocean’s social, commercial and recreational import on Kennebunkport has diminished not a bit. Port commercial fishing is as wedded to the sea as the Port Lobster Company is to fishing.

For seafood lovers that’s been the same since the Fifties. George and Barbara Bush, along with many others – native and newcomer alike — get much of their seafood from Port lobster, owned and operated by Kenneth “Sonny” Hutchins. Sonny Hutchins, of course, is another of the President’s men who is an active member of Arundel Lodge.

#### **The Clergy**

President and Mrs. Bush have two churches in Kennebunkport. And two clergymen.

*Continued on Following Page*



The President's seafood supplier, Sonny Hutchins and his wife Jan, with President Bush. *White House photo by Dave Valdez.*

During the summer the Bushes attend St. Anne's Episcopal Church, just a few hundred yards of jagged, rocky coast away from their home.

The Rev. Dr. Laman H. Bruner has been rector of St. Anne's and a friend to the Bush family for many years. Unlike Philbrick, Martel, Garrett and Hutchins, the Rev. Dr. Bruner is not a member of Arundel Lodge. Like all the other President's men, however, Dr. Bruner is a Freemason. He is a member of Master's Lodge in Albany, New York, and has served as Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of the Empire State.

When the President and Mrs. Bush are in town after St. Anne's closes in the fall, they attend First Congregational Church where the Philbrick family has belonged for many years. The minister at First Congregational is the Rev. Robert M. Howes, a member of Arundel Lodge.

#### **The Political Connection**

While the President represents the administrative branch of our federal government, the process which picks Presidents is, of course, political.

In York County, the manager of President Bush's successful campaign last November was Kennebunk realtor and developer, John D. Downing.

Like the Rev. Dr. Bruner, John Downing did not become a Freemason in Kennebunkport. But again, as is the case with Dr. Bruner, John Downing has been an active Freemason for more than 30 years. He is a member of York lodge #22 in Kennebunk – a lodge that celebrated its 175th anniversary last year – and served as High Priest of Murray Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Kennebunk back in 1964-65. Long active in local politics, real estate and Freemasonry, John Downing has been a George Bush supporter since back when he was running against Ronald Reagan for the nomination. "George took the State of Maine at the convention," Downing says, "and I supported him all the way."

After the President's successful election last November

Downing worked to set up housing for the President's entourage. "We've got a wonderful net of people working here," he says. "Debbie Reid is one of the strong players. And Karen Wagner."

Downing was a delegate to the GOP National Convention from the Kennebunkport area, a fact that didn't go unnoticed by the national press, he found out. John ended up as the President's man on an hour-long, live-talk show on the nationwide C-Span network responding to questions from coast-to-coast callers.

According to Downing that was fun . . . was exciting . . . was challenging. "I enjoyed it. It's really a thrill, an honor to serve the President of the United States," Downing says. "Even in my small capacity as York County Campaign Manager."

\* \* \* \* \*

The President's men. A group of dedicated men, dedicated Freemasons who work for the good of their community, for the good of our country, for the good of our President.

Freemasons have been doing that for hundreds of years, since long before our beloved United States became a nation, since long before our first President, George Washington, presided over his Masonic Lodge in Virginia.

Freemasons are charged to do the right things . . . and to do them the right way. Johnnie Martel sees a great parallel between the teachings of Freemasonry and working with Longley Philbrick and for President Bush. "Everything Longley Philbrick did was done perfectly, on the square and by the level," Johnnie Martel said recently. "George Bush works that way, too. And both of them are always gentlemen. I believe," Johnnie added with a conviction forged under battlefield conditions of southeast Asia, "that working with Longley and George has got to be like working in heaven."



The President's campaign manager: John Downing.

## Village Lodge ‘Handy Brigade’ Strikes Again

In past editions of the Maine Mason I have introduced and described the activities of the Village Lodge Handy Brigade; a group of Masons from Village Lodge in Bowdoinham who have extended themselves in the community by aiding seniors and physically challenged residents with ordinary chores and tasks in and around their homes to help them remain in their homes.

During a two-week period in November, the Village Lodge Handy Brigade was called upon for the typical tasks such as winterize a water feed into a trailer, provide and install smoke detectors, put up storm windows and replace a dryer belt. However, an event in Richmond one evening put the Handy Brigade to its most challenging task yet. A resident of Richmond suffered fire damage to the family home one evening. Having no association to Masonry other than attending the same Church as one of our Past Masters, VW Peter Warner approached the family and offered up the services of the Village Lodge Handy Brigade.

During the fire, a hole was cut into the roof of the house by the Fire Department to ventilate the smoke. With rain and snow on the horizon, Brother Warner offered up Brigade services to at least cover the hole in



Members of Village Lodge preparing to repair fire-damaged roof.

the roof to prevent further damage from the elements. RW Warner, along with WB Marc Cram, RW Don Pratt and Brother Cory Vintiner; all carpenters, with the help of WB Leighton Carver, the hole was cleaned up, framing support added, sheathed and shingled with shingles donated by Brother Jesse Jarvi. In a somewhat ironic twist, it was another brother, Aaron Warner of the Richmond Fire Department, who had been tasked with cutting the hole at the fire scene.

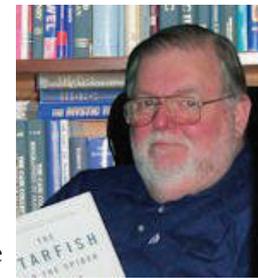
Bro. Steven Edmondson, Historian  
Village Lodge #26



2019 Pleiades Lodge #173, Milbridge, officers pictured here, from left: Chaplain Brent West, Tyler Jerry West, Senior Deacon Will Halpin, Treasurer Joe Locurto, Worshipful Master Howard Samiya, Junior Deacon Bill Bartlett, Senior Warden Munch Sargent, Junior Warden Dennis Sargent Jr., Secretary Billy Nichols. Not shown are Marshal Leland Beal and Senior Steward Billy Houck.

It's that 'Bikes for Books' time of year for many lodges - but what are YOU doing about your own reading habits? We should be *leading by example*, Brethren, and be reading ourselves as well as encouraging the children to do it.

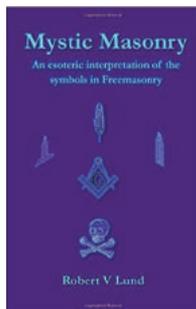
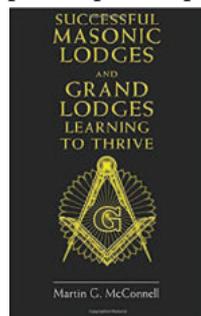
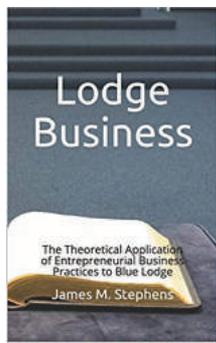
# The Old Webmaster's BOOKSHELF



Is your lodge perfect? Uncross your fingers and answer that again! Surely we're all able to see some things that could be improved - and recognizing the steps that could move us from good to great are sometimes difficult. "*Lodge Business: The Theoretical Application of Entrepreneurial Business Practices to Blue Lodge*" by Bro. James M. Stevens might be the book you should be reading. Offering very practical solutions that have worked in the real world, you can pick and choose depending on your need - and use them to start on a positive path. Regardless of how well your lodge is doing, there are (I hope!) always ways to improve. Here's a great blueprint as you think about what's working and what's not.

Another book on roughly the same topic is "*Successful Masonic Lodges and Grand Lodges - Learning to Thrive*". Bro. Martin G. McConnell takes a more philosophical approach to how we keep moving forward. Some of his thoughts and ideas are ones you've perhaps heard many times before but these are REAL and should concern us if we want our beloved organization to survive for another three centuries. A few sacred cows get kicked - deservedly - and hopefully when you're done reading, you'll see that there is indeed work to be done in your own back yard.

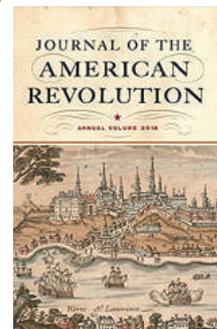
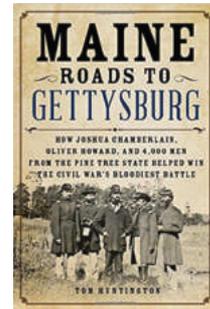
Whenever the word 'esoteric' comes up, there are a fair number of members who'll make disparaging remarks - or worse. In reality, they don't seem to consider that esoteric means 'hidden' and there's SO very much in our ritual that is - well, hidden! "*Mystic Masonry*" by Bro. Robert V. Lund is an easy to understand (and appreciate) book that will help you see in far more depth the many facets of symbolism we find all around us in lodge. As the author notes, these aren't just there 'for the heck of it!' (My phraseology....) Check this book out: I think you'll like it.



For all of those who love books about the Civil War, here's one you may not have seen: "*Maine Roads To Gettysburg - How Joshua Chamberlain, Oliver Howard, and 4,000 Men from the Pine Tree State Helped Win the Civil War's Bloodiest Battle*" by Tom Huntington. The title alone should spur your interest and from my perspective, it's worth a read. I don't pretend to be an authority in this area but reading the book is certainly an inspiring trip back in time. Needless to say, you'll find a number of names in there which you can also find on the Grand Lodge membership rolls!

For the past 5 years, your library has been purchasing the series "*Journal of the American Revolution*" and it's worth mentioning here since it's one of those great 'snippet'-type books that you can pick up and put down whenever you've got a few spare minutes. VERY readable, it's a bit heavy (physically) to keep in what might be a favored reading location (think: porcelain) but having it on a table beside your favorite chair will certainly prove to enrich your understanding of a pivotal event in our country's history. Lots of the stories indirectly touch on Freemasonry or Freemasons and it is truly entertaining.

And finally: "*Solomon's Memory Palace: A Freemason's Guide to the Ancient Art of Memoria Verborum*" by Bro. Bob W. Lingerfelt is THE book if you want to learn huge amounts of ritual. Memory palaces have been a tried and true methodology for learning over the centuries and this book helps put this into context for Masons. Some of you may find this amazingly helpful and I'd love to hear your feedback!



Bro. Ed King is the Grand Librarian and Museum Curator. You're encouraged to contact him with ideas, suggestions and recommendations for anything relating to YOUR Library and Museum. He really loves to hear about books you've enjoyed!

# Maine DeMolay is On The Move!

Five young men became DeMolays March 9th at a ceremonial in Lewiston's beautiful Kora Shrine ceremonial hall. They were accompanied by 41 Master Masons who joined in the DeMolay degree journey. It was the first time in Maine that Master Masons had the opportunity to go through the degrees and become Honorary DeMolays. They are all now part of the Centennial Chapter, initiated in Dad James Greenwood's Class.

Newly appointed Maine DeMolay Executive Officer, Dr. Rok A. Morin is creating new excitement surrounding Maine DeMolay, an independent organization affiliated with the Masonic family that focuses on helping youth grow into men of character.

As part of the Masonic family, DeMolays organize and run their meetings utilizing Roberts Rules of Order. They also do a lot of ceremonial work and philanthropy through their own efforts or in support of the various Masonic groups. Finally, but no less important, DeMolays have fun. They bring an attitude of fun to everything they do, planning events that they enjoy outside of the business of the order.

Dad Rok has big plans and says he feels blessed to be working with so many great young men and advisors. State Master Councilor Nathan Sessions, has been working hard with his State Suite to come up with innovative ideas to bring in new members, improve ritual, and strengthen the brotherhood of Maine DeMolay. Dad Rok says he inherited a great support team from his predecessor, Brother Tony Bessey, and has been able to add pieces that will make the Maine team stronger.

Maine DeMolay is part of DeMolay International



Wor. Brother Bill Gowen, a 65-year Mason, and successful candidate for the DeMolay degrees, is joined here by the five young men who also took the degrees.

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New DeMolay Executive officer Dr. Rok Morin, left, pictured here with his dad, Bob, and brother Shane, a Past Master Councilor of Knights of the Sun DeMolay Chapter in Auburn. A side note: Brother Bob has been a friend of *Ye Olde Ed* for more than 60 years, and was a hard-nosed linebacker on the 1956 State Champion Edward Little High School football team.

which has enjoyed two years of positive growth. There are now active chapters in Kennebunkport, Windham, Auburn and Waterville. There is also an inactive chapter in Bangor. Dad Rok reports that the immediate priority is to get these five chapters to a healthy level of 10-15 boys each who are holding regular meetings with active term plans. This requires an active Advisory Board for each chapter. It is important to note that DeMolay is run by the DeMolay boys. Advisors are there to advise and offer support as needed.

This is a particularly big year for DeMolay as it celebrates its Centennial Anniversary. In addition to regular programming, DeMolay is planning and partici-

*Continued on Next Page*

THE MAINE MASON



## Presentation!

Wor. Brother Mike LaPorte served as Master of Nollesemic Lodge #205 in Millinocket from 2016 to 2018. Brethren from the lodge recently visited him at Colonial Healthcare in Lincoln to present him his Past Master's apron. Pictured here, left to right: Wor. Mark Pelkey, Bro. William Hamlin, Wor. LaPorte, Bro. Bob Raymond and Wor. Jim Lundstrom, Master.

pating in many special events to celebrate 100 years. This will include a trip to Kansas City, the home and birthplace of DeMolay.

Additional goals include opening new chapters, improving Masonic Relations and engaging the DeMolay Alumni. To that end Tom Pulkkinen, PGM, created an updated data base of Senior DeMolays. A letter has been sent out to invite them to return and get involved with DeMolay.

Dad Rok chose to honor Dad Greenwood for his many years of service to the young men of DeMolay. In a private ceremony, SMC Nathan Sessions and several witnesses were pleased to confer upon Dad Greenwood the title of the first Honorary DeMolay in Maine.

Dad Rok is a Senior DeMolay from Knights of the Sun Chapter in Auburn and a member in good standing of Ashlar Lodge #105 in Auburn. He recently joined Kora Shrine and is looking forward to participating in its Summer Ceremonial this June.

Dad Rok states, "I am honored and humbled to take on the role of Executive Officer. While our numbers are small our quality is great. I credit DeMolay and all the advisors that I worked with as a young man for helping me grow from a shy, insecure young man to a confident adult. Thank you to everyone who has helped and supported me along the way. I hope I honor you by serving the young men of DeMolay in a way that makes you proud. God Bless."



The entire class with the DeMolays who did exceptional work presenting the degrees.



## Maine Masonic Charitable FOUNDATION

### ***A Message from Executive Director Amanda Larson***

To the Brethren of the Grand Lodge of Maine,

As the Maine Masonic Charitable Foundation gets ready to end its fiscal year, I'm delighted to share news of our work and successes over the last twelve months. It's been an exciting time, one that strengthened our relationships with so many, including state government as well as local communities and businesses. One of our most important partnerships is with the Maine chapter of NAMI, the National Association for Mental Illness. NAMI's work with adolescent and teen mental health and suicide prevention programs is nationally recognized, and our grant to them provides a way for underfunded schools to take advantage of training programs for teachers and staff. The Maine Department of Education recognizes the excellence of this training and is pleased by our partnership with them.

There is so much good news to share that I could fill the entire magazine! Foundation support of Masonic youth programs, the Bangor and Portland Dyslexia Centers, Bikes for Books, volunteerism, veterans, the MS Society, Maine Public Broadcasting, and much more – all of this continues to bring help and information to so many in this beautiful state.

The year also brought us new friends and supporters, which resulted in a strong increase in donations. We are close to the end of our fiscal year, and the numbers are not final, but there has been a record surge in donations from donors both old and new. Support and respect for the Foundation's mission has grown throughout the state, as more and more Mainers are becoming aware of the positive impact of Freemasonry in their communities. This record financial support gives the Foundation the means to be of even more service to Masonic families, Lodges, and the communities in which they live. You will be hearing more details at the Annual Communication in May.

And now comes one of the hardest things I have ever had to do, which is to bid you all farewell. My year and a half as Executive Director has been extraordinary. I am not exaggerating when I say that this has been, by far, my most rewarding professional experience. My life is taking me in new directions, and I will miss you all. I can't even begin to tell you how full this heart of mine is right now.

Thank you, Freemasons of Maine, for your friendship. I hope that our paths may cross again, and until then, many blessings to you and yours.

## Honoring Special Ladies in Knox County



There were smiles all around the The Offshore Restaurant table.

Rockland's Aurora Lodge #50 began December on the first day of the month by delivering Christmas poinsettias to 15 Masonic widows in Knox County. WM Jon Thompson, RW Jeff Curtis and Bro. Eric Blumenthal each delivered the fresh plants along with an invitation to a luncheon for the widows, hosted by the Lodge, to be held on December 15th.

The invitations were designed by Bro. John Bagley's wife Erin, and printed by Good Impressions of Rockland. The folks at the print shop, themselves Masons, refused payment when they learned of the cause.

December 15th couldn't have been a more beautiful day for the group to gather. With temperatures in the mid 40's nobody was uncomfortable as they arrived at The Offshore restaurant in Rockport. Six Masonic widows along with five Brothers and their families enjoyed two hours of fellowship, conversation, lunch and dessert. There was much laughter and reports are that nobody will ever again think of Lemon Lust pie without laughing.

Wor. Brother Thompson presented each of the widows with a widow's pin and explained the significance of the pin.

The group departed with hugs and laughs as well as many fond memories. Preparations have already begun to make next year's event even better by adding single men for the widows...it's the least we could do, we were told.



Fraternal Lodge #55 brothers Wor. Paul Main, left, and Wor. Dick Faulkner, presented a cake to Mrs. Martha Roberts on her 105th birthday. Her husband, Wor. Henry Roberts, was lodge master in 1959.

# Black History Month and Maine Masonry: a Celebration

By RW Brothers Richard Rhoda and Ricky Hall

Unknown to most people, Maine Masonry had a pre-natal connection to the American Abolishment of Slavery Movement even before the formation of the Grand Lodge of Maine in 1820. This also predated the birth of the Antislavery Society, circa May 1833, in Portland and it foreshadowed the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960's by more than 140 years.

Samuel Fessenden, the Fifth Grand Master, 1828 and 1829, was a Mason who adhered to the lessons he found in the Craft, several of which had been instilled in him as a youth. Inscribed on his grave stone is the Latin phrase "Non Fortunce sed Hominibus Amicus," ("A Friend not to Fortune but to men.")

Being motivated to write this paper because of "African-American History Month," also known as "Black History Month," and our shared Masonry in Maine with Prince Hall North Star Lodge No. 22 in Bangor, it seemed that it would be most appropriate and beneficial to seek the insight of R.W. Bro Ricky Hall of said Lodge.

## Brother Rhoda spoke first.

I will seek to encapsulate a remembrance of Samuel Fessenden, the son, the lawyer, the politician, and Freemason while Bro. Hall will consider his importance from the point of view of a Prince Hall Mason.

Samuel was born July 16, 1784 in Fryeburg. He died March 19, 1869 and was buried by Grand Lodge in Evergreen Cemetery in Portland. He received his funda-



Fifth Grand Master Fessenden

mental principles of virtue and religion at home and his early common education at Fryeburg Academy. Upon graduating, he taught for a time before entering Dartmouth College, Class of 1806. He then "read the law" for three years with Judge Judah Dana in Fryeburg before being admitted to the Bar. He entered the practice of law in New

Gloucester which was then the center of a considerable trade. He remained there until 1822 when he moved to Portland where he came to have a specialty in real estate law.

Bro. Samuel was ever the man to be before the public eye in service to his community. In his political persuasion he was an ardent Federalist which eventually led him into conflict with Governor, First Grand Master, William King. He represented New Gloucester in the Massachusetts House of Representatives in 1814, 1815, and 1816 and the Massachusetts Senate in 1818 and 1819. That last year he was elected Major General of the 12<sup>th</sup> Division of the Massachusetts Militia. He held that position for 14 years including the Maine Militia.

His Masonic experience and service was as broad and extensive as his political undertakings. He first received Masonic light in Pythagorean Lodge #11, Fryeburg, on September 11, 1805, while still in college. In October 1809, upon moving to New Gloucester, he affiliated with Cumberland Lodge #12 and served as Junior and Senior Warden and 5 years as Master! He demitted March 24, 1823 upon moving to Portland. On January 12, 1825 he was elected an Honorary Member of Portland Lodge No. 1. Once in Portland in 1822, he was immediately appointed Grand Junior Deacon and in 1823 elected Junior Grand Warden, for a year. He then served two years each as Senior Grand Warden, Deputy Grand Master and Grand Master.

About May of 1833, Bro. Fessenden became a founding member of Portland's Anti-Slavery Society and served as its Vice-President to 1839. In late 1839 Bro. Samuel was part of a group that broke away from the Portland society and formed the Liberty Party. It followed a national movement to pursue an abolitionist agenda through the political process. After 1848 it morphed into the Free Soil Party which opposed the extension of slavery into the western territories. This latter party was absorbed into the Republican Party in 1854.

I have shared the above to acquaint you with our 5<sup>th</sup> Grand Master, not just as to him personally but as to him as a Mason who fully accepted his obligations, lived by them, and pursued them.

**R.W. Bro. Hall then told the story of Macon Bolling Allen and Grand Master Fessenden, of M.W. Bro. Prince Hall and of the Grand Lodge named in his honor.**

Just over a year ago in a conversation with Bro. Dick Rhoda, we discussed the works of MW Brother Fessenden. He asked if I would be interested in adding to the discussion from a Prince Hall perspective. He shared

*Continued on Next Page*

some information with me on Bro. Fessenden and after I read it, I realized that the general's actions and personal philosophy left an indelible societal impact on so many levels; particularly through the hiring of a law clerk which led to the clerk's successful rise to pass the bar exam in the State of Maine.

Macon Bolling Allen (1816 – 1894), judge, lawyer was indeed a man ahead of his time; born a free-man in Indiana as Allen Macon Bolling on Aug. 4, 1816. Allen moved to Portland in the early 1840s where he worked as a law clerk and studied law with Brother Fessenden. After passing the bar exam, he was granted his license to practice law in Maine on July 3, 1844, becoming America's first licensed attorney of African descent.

Gen. Fessenden then introduced him into the court-house, while the District Court was in session, and moved the court that he be admitted to practice as an attorney and counselor at law. Under the law then existing in Maine, any citizen was eligible to admission who produced a certificate of good moral character. Allen was rejected on the basis that he was not a citizen of Maine. As a result, he never entered upon the practice in Maine but went to Boston, making repeated applications for admission to the Suffolk Bar, but was uniformly rejected.

While living in Boston, he walked fifty miles to take the bar exam test in Worcester, because he could not afford transportation. He passed the bar.

Racial prejudice in Boston again kept Allen from

making a living as a lawyer so he sought to become a judge to supplement his income. In 1848 he passed another rigorous exam to become Justice of the Peace for Middlesex County, Massachusetts.

Allen became the first American of African descent to hold a judicial position in the United States, despite not being considered a U.S. citizen under the Constitution at the time. He accomplished two historic firsts: becoming 1<sup>st</sup> jurist of African descent for two states, Maine and Massachusetts. Allen relocated to Charleston, South Carolina following the Civil War. Once settled, Allen opened a law office with two other African-American attorneys—William J. Whipper and Robert Brown. The passing of the fifteenth amendment inspired Allen to become involved in politics and he became active in the Republican Party. By



**Macon Bolling Allen**

*Continued on Page 23*



Brethren from Northern Star Prince Hall Lodge and their brethren from lodges chartered under the Grand Lodge of Maine gathered in Celebration hosted by St. Andrews Lodge of Bangor in February.



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 32

www.MaineMasonicCollege.com

Spring 2019



## MAINE MASONIC COLLEGE COURSES

### 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



In its continuing effort to offer "more light in Masonry" the Regents of the Maine Masonic College announce the following course offerings. As with all College offerings, they are designed to provide brethren the opportunity to expand their vision of Freemasonry and its principles. Whether you are on the path to a Masonic College Diploma or simply want to be a more enlightened Mason, these programs are for you. As the colorful season of Autumn comes upon us, these offerings of the Maine Masonic College will add light.

**All Classes are subject to change. Please check website for any changes!**

**PLEASE NOTE:** Unless otherwise noted, there will be a light luncheon served after each class. The charge: \$5.00. If you plan to attend the meal you must pre-register for the class by calling Theresa at the Grand Lodge office, 207-843-1086.

#### April 13

#### Tenets & Cardinal Virtues

Freemasonry is not a revealed religion. It is, however, a great human search after what is truly significant. Instructors Doug Taft and Karl Furtado will lead us in such a search for the interrelated significance of the Cardinal Virtues and the Tenets of our profession not only as Freemasons but as human beings. Brothers Doug and Karl's course is intended for participation and is supported by excellent hand-out material. You will leave with a new understanding of the importance of our tenets and cardinal virtues.

**Instructors: RW Doug Taft and Bro. Karl Furtado**

**Location: Paris Lodge, So. Paris 9AM-12PM**

#### April 27

#### Arts and Sciences - The Study of Logic

Once a year the Maine Masonic College holds a celebration of the arts and sciences which are the magnificent achievements and courageous outreach of the human mind and spirit. See facing page.

#### May 11

#### The Wondrous Fellow Craft Degree- a Journey for Our Times

This course explores the Fellow Craft Degree as the central introduc-

*Continued on Page 22*

THE MAINE MASON







## Masonic College Course Offerings *Continued*

tion to the quest which Freemasonry offers. It suggests that among all the good attributes of the Masonic environment, it is this opportunity of quest which makes the Fraternity of special importance to men and society today. This course is designed to bring new focus to that all important middle degree in Freemasonry and to afford an opportunity for new masons as well as their mentors to expand their horizons as they labor to be builders of knowledge and worthy, life giving vision and ideals.

**Instructors: RW Donald McDougal and RW George Macdougall**

**Location: Island Falls Lodge, 9AM-12PM**

**May 18**

### **Symbolism**

This course will examine the symbolism behind several central aspects of our identity as Freemasons. Our conversation will delve further into the history, origins, traditions and practical applications of common Masonic symbols. Although this course is titled Symbolism II, participation in previous courses on symbolism is not required and we encourage anyone who is interested to join us.

**Instructors: MW Mark Rustin and VW Christopher Howard.**

**Location: Village Lodge, Bowdoinham 9 AM-noon**

**June 1**

### **Understanding World Religions — What any well informed Mason should know**

A highly important and timely subject and open to all. A recent poll of Americans revealed an alarming lack of basic knowledge about the world's religions. Surprisingly, a Gallup poll revealed that only half of American adults could name even one of the four Gospels of the New Testament. This course has been designed to teach participants the basics of world religions including their origins, historical figures, rituals, scriptures, holidays and key teachings – all that Masons should know and understand in order to consider themselves religiously literate.

**Instructor: RW Charlie Plummer**

**Location: Orient Lodge, Thomaston 9AM-12PM**

**June 8**

### **The Entered Apprentice Degree: an opening door to the Brotherhood of Masons and their purposes and beliefs:**

Through the use of lecture, illustration and seminar dialogue, this course seeks to expand the participant's realization of the extraordinary experience which takes place when candidates become Entered Apprentices. Together those involved in this course will seek to explore the expanding space of human experience in which the new Masons find themselves.

**Instructors: RW Donald McDougal and RW George Macdougall**

**Location: Dresden Lodge, Dresden 9AM-12PM**

**July 13 Tenants & Cardinal Virtues-**

This opportunity is designed to be an interactive study of the fundamental beliefs and responsibilities of Freemasonry as presented in the tenets and the cardinal virtues which are so beautifully embedded in our ritual but which are too often hurried by.

Special emphasis is placed upon the moral and the deeply spiritual nature of these essentials and the crucial need for the presence and practice in our present world situation.

**Instructors: RW Doug Taft and W. Karl Furtado**

**Location: Mt. Kineo Lodge, Guilford, 9-Noon**

**July 20 Mathematics- Exploring the Basics of Geometric Constructions:**

In this Masonic College course, you will learn the basics of using a compass and a straight edge. The skills that one will learn to bisect segments and angles, create specific angles of degree 30, 45, and 60, construct parallel and perpendicular lines, and construct basic regular polygons.

**Instructor: Bro. Luke Shorty**

**Location: Mystic Lodge, Hampden 9AM-12PM**

**August 3 Examining the Modern Social Landscape: Implications for Freemasonry**



## ***Black History Celebration*** *Continued from Page 19*

1873, Allen was appointed a judge on the Inferior Court of Charleston. The following year, he was elected as a probate judge for Charleston County. Following the Reconstruction Era, he moved to Washington, D.C., where he worked as an attorney for the Land and Improvement Association. He continued to practice law until his death at age 78, in 1894.

That early turn of events started by M.W. Fessenden morphed into one of the earlier sparks of the engine and impetus driving the civil-rights movement that is still in progression and still very relevant today.

I must say though that I was disappointed that I found no references to Macon Allen ever becoming a member of the Craft. Upon learning of his move to Boston, I became excited in hopes that he might have been raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason through one of the area's Prince Hall Masonic lodges, but I had no such luck with my information search. And on that note, I would like to share with you some details of Prince Hall Masonry and the man. Prince Hall earned early renown before becoming a Master Mason although records of him do not seem to exist prior to the Revolutionary War era.

Hall made his living as a huckster (peddler), caterer and leather dresser, and was listed as a voter and a taxpayer. He owned a small house and leather workshop in Boston. Prince Hall operated that leather shop under the name of the Golden Fleece.

The following dialogue will be a condensed serving of the Prince Hall Masonic story, per Raymond T. Coleman, RW Grand Historian – MWPHGL, Juris. of MA. I am advised by Bro. Rhoda that Bro. Coleman is a member and a Fellow of the Maine Lodge of Research.

The death of Crispus Attucks (historically recorded as the first American, of color no less, killed in the Boston Massacre) spurred Prince Hall into the leadership of the Black Community. A Black man had died for a freedom he didn't even possess. Prince Hall was destined to fight to see to it that Blacks could exercise this freedom. It is important to note that at this time, 1770, Prince Hall was not a mason, in fact there were no Black masons in any lodge in America.

It was during this time that Prince Hall found out about Masons. All the influential men were Masons - and the citizenry listened to Masons. Prince Hall felt that if he became a Mason, people might start listening to him. He made several attempts to join the lodges in Boston, but was rejected in every case. Then, early in March 1775, John Batt, the Worshipful Master of Lodge #441 of the Irish Registry, attached to the

38th British Foot Infantry, heard of his plight, and accepted his petition for membership. Prince Hall and fourteen other men of color were made Masons on Castle William Island on March 6, 1775. This marked the first time Black men were made Masons in America.

On March 17, 1776, the British Foot Infantry evacuated Boston and took its army lodge with it. Worshipful Master Batt gave Prince Hall, and the fourteen other brethren, a permit to meet as a lodge and to bury its dead in manner and form. On July 3, 1776 African Lodge #1 was organized with Prince Hall as its master. Note that the lodge was designated No. 1.

Prince Hall died Dec. 4, 1807. At that time there were African lodges in Boston, Providence and Philadelphia. June 24, 1808 the members met in a general assembly of the craft in Boston and organized African Grand Lodge. In 1847, out of respect for their founding father Prince Hall, the craft members of AGL in Massachusetts changed their name from African Grand Lodge to the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge.

In the United States of America, in Canada and in the Bahamas there are forty Grand Lodges of Prince Hall Freemasonry. There is also in Liberia a Grand Lodge of Prince Hall origin. These Prince Hall Grand Lodges exercise authority over more than five thousand lodges. They claim descent, directly, from the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts.

RW Brother Hall concluded the evening's remarks by saying "I hope that this evening's dialogue has proven to be enlightening and stimulating. May the light of the Grand Architect of the Universe shine on the lives of you and your loved ones, bountifully, forever. Thank you for your time and patience my brothers." His remarks were followed by a standing ovation by the assembled brethren.

# Are You a Hero...or a Villain?

By Bro. David Walton, PDDGM/23

Today we hear a lot about heroes and villains. The theaters are packed with movies about super heroes and their enemies the super villains. They have inhuman powers, constantly battle each other and are very entertaining stories. We all admire the heroes and what they stand for. This could be to right a wrong, help those less fortunate, protect the weak or stand for truth and justice. The villains will try to foil these plans for various reasons which make sense only to them. Webster's dictionary defines a villain as "a character in a story who seeks to promote woe" or "a scoundrel and criminal". While we could debate the differences and extol the virtues of these characters I want to simplify these words down to what really matters. This next part is only my opinion and I hope will stir discussions among the brethren after they have read this article.

I have decided to over simplify these two words down to what I think is their base meaning. A hero is one who helps others and a villain does not. If you think about it isn't that what it boils down to? Take a minute and think of your favorite hero. It could be a classic hero like Buck

Rogers, Flash Gordon, Superman or The Lone Ranger. Maybe it is a more modern hero like one of the Xmen or Deadpool. (if you do not know some of these you will have to look them up) Or even a real hero like a fireman, policeman or any EMS job.

What do they all have in common? They help others. Villains do not. It doesn't really matter why they do it or if they get paid to or anything like that, just that they help others. As Masons are we not also heroes? We talk about charity, do projects like bikes for books, take care of one another when in need and in general help others. A villain does not. This does not mean spending a large sum of money, going to Borneo to save the rainforest and or anything so grandiose. It just means we are willing to take a minute to do something for someone other than ourselves.

There are times when we all get tied up in the rush of life but does it really take that long to become a hero? Try to take a minute everyday to be a hero. It could be reaching that food item on the top shelf in the back at the grocery store ( I get asked a lot), talking to someone who

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## Own Your Own 200th Anniversary Challenge Coin... ...or Gift One to a Favorite Brother



**These handsome commemorative coins feature the Grand Lodge Seal on the face; on the reverse, our Square and Compasses with the letter "G". The perimeter message reads: "Maine Freemasonry Enriching Lives 1820-2020"**

*Actual Coin measures 2.5"*



**To receive your Challenge Coin, please send your request to the Grand Lodge of Maine, PO Box 430, Holden, ME 04429.**

Please send \_\_\_\_\_ Maine Masonic Challenge Coins to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

*Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$14.25/per coin, includes tax and postage)*

## Monument Lodge and Caring

A group of cuddly animals got together for one last party picture before going to Masonic shut-ins and widows connected to Monument Lodge No. 96 in Houlton. “It’s What a Mason Does for a Mason.”

Bryan Shaw, Junior Deacon of the lodge presented a cuddly to Hilda Hughes, widow of long time member Harold Hughes, before Christmas. It was one of 15 given out.

Shaw observed “While many Masonic widows’ daily needs are met, they all seem to enjoy a visit, a hug, and to know they are being thought of.”

He said, “What woman, no matter her age, doesn’t like a cuddly animal and one which she may be able to pass on to a grandchild because her husband had been a Mason?”

The Freemasons are a men’s fraternal organization which dates from the 14<sup>th</sup> century whose foundation is built on caring for a Brother in need, his widow, and orphans. Shaw concluded, “We still seek to adhere to this principle.”

## Hero or Villain

looks like they need an attentive ear or just saying “ let me take care of that for you” whatever that means. To do nothing would make you a villain.

Masonry has made me realize that I can never be a villain. It is just not in my character. I hope we are all heroes inside but sometimes we need to remind ourselves what that means. You don’t have to have superpowers or lots of money or even have a job dedicated to helping others. You only have to have a good heart and remind yourself to use it.

I believe Edmund Burke said it best. **“The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men should do nothing.”**

So my Brothers, which are you...a hero or a villain?



# The Leland Manuscript...Fake News

By Brother Don McDougal

An article in the February 2019 issue of the **Northern Light**, titled “New Acquisition: 1750 Masonic Ritual ‘Exposure’” by Jeffery Croteau, caught my attention. It was about a newly donated 1750 Pamphlet which is a 1750 reprint of a 1730 ritual exposure. Published as a “ritual exposure”, it is thought not to be an exposure but rather a memory aid for Masons learning their ritual. By publishing an “Exposure”, the authors felt they would not be charged to be in violation of any parts of their Apprentice obligation. This led me to begin thinking about the Leland Manuscript, Pythagoras, “Fake News”, politics, and their roles in the historical development of “Our” Freemasonry.

The Leland manuscript is reported to have first been published in Frankfort, Germany in 1748 but apparently no documentation exists to support that. It was included in an article in the “**Gentleman’s Magazine**” in September of 1753. It goes by several names including the “Locke Manuscript. Held to be an authentic document by Masonic scholars for about 100 years until the mid 1800’s, it began to be considered an elaborate forgery. The manuscript was written in an outdated historic style of English and contains twelve questions and twelve answers about Freemasonry.

A 2010 essay, published on **sirbacon.org**, by Mather Walker titled “**Francis Bacon, and the 1753 Leland Manuscript**” says that the Leland Manuscript was apparently only copied by John Leyland and that the original author, said by some to be King Henry VI, was in fact Francis Bacon. Leland copied it by order of Henry VIII who appointed Layland to copy important documents for preservation as permanent records.

The introduction, attributed to Leland, said that the manuscript contains:

*“Certayn questions and Answers to the same, concerinig the Mystery of Maconrye; writtene by the hande of kyng Henreye, The sixthe of the name, and faithfullye copied by me Johan Leylande, Antiquareius, by the comands of his Highnesse”* (his Highnesse being Henry VIII).

The website **themasonictrowel.com** has an extensive article the “**Leland Manuscript**” by Albert G. Mackey (1807-1881). Critical of the authenticity of the Manuscript, Mackey felt it was originally a French document copied later into the archaic English. He labeled it a “*Pius fraud introduced to strengthen the claim of the Order of great antiquity and to connect it to the ancient schools of the ancients.*” According to Mackey’s account we received the name “Peter Gower” from the “*French Pythagore (pronounced Petagore) for Pythagoras*”. He finished his article with: “*But the strangest thing in this whole affair is that so many men of learning should have permitted themselves to become the dupes of so bungling an impostor.*”

Following are the first three questions from the Manuscript listed on the website **universalfreemasonry.org** in an article “**Historical Origins of Freemasonry Pythagoras**”.

*“Q. Where dyd ytt [Masonry] begynne?*

*A. Ytt dyd begynne with the fyrst menne, yn the Este, which were before the fyrste Manne of the Weste, and comyngc westlye, ytt hathe broughte herwyth alle confortes to the wylde and comfortlesse.*

*Q. Who dyd brynge ytt Westye?*

*A. The Venetians [Phoenicians] who beyngc grate Merchandes comed ffyrst ffrome the Este yn Venctia [Phoenicia] for the commoditye of Merchaundyngc beithe [both] Este and Weste bey the redde and Myddlelonde [Mediterranean] Sees.*

*Q. Howe comed ytt yn Englond?*

*A. Peter Gower [Pythagoras] a Grecian journeyedde tor kunnyngc yn Egypt and in Syria and in everyche Londe whereat the Venetians [Phoenicians] hadde plauntedde Maconrye and wynnyngc Entraunce yn all*

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*Lodges of Maconnes, he lerned muche, and retournedde and woned [dwelt] yn Cirecia Magna wachsynge [growing] and becommynge a myghtye wyseacre [philosopher] and gratelyche renoued and here he framed a grate Lodge at Groton [Crotona] and maked many Maconnes, some whereoffe dyd journeye yn Fraunce, and maked manye Maconnes wherefromme, yn processe of Tyme, the Arte passed yn Engelonde.”*

. In his 2010 article, Mather Walker makes a strong effort to credit the author as Francis Bacon 1561 -1621. Of Bacon; the philosopher, man of science, and knighted statesman; Walker said “There exists irrefutable evidence that Bacon was a ‘Master Mason’”. He uses question 7 & 8 and answers as partial evidence of this opinion.

Paraphrasing:

*Question 7 – “how does it happen that Masons are better teachers than other men?” Answer 7 – “says Masons were better teachers than other men **because the first of them received from God the art of finding new arts, and of teaching them** whereas the discoveries of other men have been few, and acquired only by chance.”*

*Question 8 – “What do Masons Conceal and Hide” . Answer – “They conceal the art of finding new artes (knowledge).”*

As supporting documentation for using number 8 he cites “*I hail., I conceal., What do you conceal?, All the secrets of Masons...*”

. In 2015 THE SKIRRET published a 1906 article printed in the Northern Freemason by Robert Freke Gould titled “**The Locke Manuscript**”. This can be found on [www.skirret.com](http://www.skirret.com). Gould is summarizing some of what had been printed about the Leland Manuscript by prominent Masonic writers before that time. He cites an 1843 attempt to find a copy of the Manuscript in the Bodleian Library which was supposed to hold a complete collection of Leland’s documents. At that time no such document could be found after an exhaustive search.

Gould cites two questions and answers which were said to be in the document.

*Question 9 - Are maconnes gudder menne than odhers?*

*Answer – Some maconnes are not so vertuuous as some odher menne: but, yn the moste parte, they be more gude then they would be yf they war not maconnes.*

*Question 10 – Doth maconnes love eidher odher myghtyly as beeth sayde?*

*Answer – Yea very lychy, and yt may not odherwise be; for gude menne, and true, kennyngy eihder oder to be soche, doeth always love the more as thay be more gude.*

From the citations Gould lists, he seems to hold that with the Leland Manuscript “we have in it the remains of a Lodge Catechism conjoined with an hermetic one” As used in the citation “hermetic” references dealing with the occult sciences. He also cautions us not to be one: “whose Masonic obligations sit so lightly on them as to permit of their becoming...”

Notwithstanding the controversy, charges of forgery and fraud, questions of authenticity, authorship, origin, and ulterior motives that surround the Leland Manuscript, it is part of our Masonic History and was written by someone. For whatever reasons, that someone felt that those 12 questions and answers got to the core of what a man should know, be, and become to call himself a MACONNE.



# Our Brother George...

## ...or the need for civility in modern life

*by Brother Wes Lile, Master  
Olive Branch #124, Charleston*

As the newly elected Master of Olive Branch Lodge #124 in Charleston, Maine, for the year 2019, I find myself unusually motivated yet paused by a bit of anxiety and a genuine concern regarding my upcoming contribution from the Oriental chair. I do know I want our stated meetings to be more than a loose exercise in parliamentary procedure and mundane discourse.

This seems to be a common theme of discussion – how to increase both meaningful knowledge and member retention. In essence. Give the brethren something to look forward to at lodge. After all, we are gourmards are we not? We love learning and improving ourselves thus satiating our innate curiosity. New things are soon digested and we naturally crave more. For the foodie, he or she is off to taste new cuisine. For the Mason, he is off to see what is under the next rock of wisdom and like a hog finding a truffle, the find is duly rewarded.

The hog gets a dog biscuit and his owner gets the coveted truffle. We gain insight and the Grand Architect smiles knowing his creation is just and upright; a perpetual improvement of the Divine creation which is no doubt part of the Master plan.

What to do? Where to start? At the beginning is the obvious answer. After graduating college some 33 years ago I went on active duty as a newly minted Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. I had the same feelings and apprehensions then as now, but then I was 22. I am now far and away different from the man I was then. My first assignment was as platoon leader of 3d Platoon, Charlie battery, 3/67<sup>th</sup> Air Defense Artillery Battalion attached to the 3d Infantry Division – Rock of the Marne.

Sounds impressive doesn't it? It did to me too. I found myself the proverbial dog that chases every car. Well, I caught one, now what the heck do I do with it? The only armament I had to fend off my own ignorance was to do the most basic things – lead by example, never ask a subordinate to do anything you yourself would not do, and be amenable to instruction and advice regardless of who gives it. A Sergeant First Class cadre member shared this invaluable insight with us cadets knowing how green and

unsure we would be upon arriving at our first duty station. It helped me get off to a good start.

I have never been Master before so all I can do is apply what I know, rely on those who have gone before me for guidance, and meld this experience with the goal of improving the experience for all. That's a tall order, the last part. Fortunately, the Craft has given us tall men as a pattern to go by.

In Olive Branch Lodge, as in most lodges throughout our land, hangs a portrait of brother George Washington, Commanding general of the Continental Army, first President of a fledgling nation, a founding father, and Past Master of Alexandria Lodge #22 in Virginia.

There is my inspiration. An exemplary person for the novice who is starting at the beginning. General Washington doing his best to lead, man-age, and operate in impossible situations and conditions began polishing the Ashlar of his command by securing proper instruction for his officers and men. His efforts are still with us this very day. Being possessed of great foresight he penned some simple rules on how to better work and agree. In the previous edition of *The Maine Mason*, his Rules of Civility were mentioned and the front cover of the booklet bearing the same title, distributed by the George Washington National Monument, pictured.

I managed to get my hands on a dozen or so copies of this prized possession when I was Senior Warden and handed them out as a treat to the members. And a treat it is; a joy to read, a pleasure to practice.

To add a little theatre to upcoming lodge discussions, I ordered an exact replica of the General's hat, the same one he cradles in his portrait, to wear as my Master's cover while discussing the Solomonesque wisdom Brother Washington has passed on to us. If you are familiar with the work, you no doubt see the charity

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## Pythagorean Lodge Honors ‘Giving’ Resident

Pythagorean Lodge #11 of Fryeburg this year presented its Community Appreciation Award to a lady who has spent much of her life making a difference in other people’s lives. It was an honor to award Mrs. Diane Warren Jones a framed color certificate, a bouquet of flowers and a wonderful dinner with her family in our dining room. The honoree has served on nearly every town committee including as President of the Fryeburg Historical Society, her church, as a Selectman, and as curator of the Fryeburg Fair Farm Museum among many others. Diane’s long-traveled road started as a Rainbow Girl in North Conway Assembly #24 where she served as Worthy Advisor. She was awarded the Grand Cross of Honor for New Hampshire in 1968. She is the daughter of the late Brother Carl Warren, a 50-year member of Pythagorean Lodge. Pictured here, seated, are the honoree and her husband of 50 years, Ed. Back row, left to right: Wor. Matt Perry, son Erlon Jones, and PM and Chairman Dave Dunham presenting the award.



### Brother George

of his vision. Particularly you will appreciate the patent theme of his advice – first, be Gentlemen. That is our beginning point. If we fashion ourselves gentlemen, we knock a whole bunch of roughness off that stone not made with hands, and we can venture forth in a multitude of directions further improving our lot, our lives and our relationships. It is impossible to improve ourselves generally, and as Masons specifically, without first becoming a gentleman. Think on it.

I did just that. My reward – more doubt. Will my brothers think me presumptuous? Would they be insulted by the instruction? It’s indeed instruction. The Rules of Civility are the blueprint on how to be a gentleman. Brother Washington knew it takes more than clothes to make the man, for what is the value of an empty suit?

As George Washington himself surely gained perspective by his involvement in the Craft, we need do the same. Our collective exposure to the teachings of King Solomon casts the same light on us as it did young Master Washington when he found himself at

the beginning. One of those beams of light may be found in Proverbs (Solomon, too, was charitable with his good advice) which instructs us that if you reprove a fool he will hate you for it, but if you reprove a wise man he will thank you – or words to that effect. I am certain that my Brothers are no fools, and they are all gentlemen, but, like fine silver, a little polish soon becomes necessary and we’re all, to the man, better for it.

In penning this article I had to keep fighting the urge to dive into what ails our modern world. We are surrounded by a growing number of people who equate gentlemanly behavior, also known as chivalry, as misogynistic and presumptive – downright antiquated if you will. I beg to differ and close by being steadfast on what matters most.

If you haven’t a copy of the Rules of Civility, I urge you to secure one. We must be gentlemen; there is no alternative. Our wives, fiances and girlfriends deserve it, after all they are our ladies. What neighbor, friend, or relative would begrudge us for it? What child wouldn’t want to claim their father a gentleman? Reason enough indeed. Washington’s example may save us yet.



## Honoring our Masonic Veterans



Brother Ernest Ryder, a member of Hiram Lodge #180, South Portland, received his 60-year star from the Grand Master at Maine Day in Florida.



Past Senior Grand Warden Jack Zaiser, a member of Somerset Lodge #34, in Skowhegan, received his 55-year star from the Grand Master at Maine Day in Florida.



Brother Bill Payson, a member of Hiram Lodge #180, received his 55-year star from the Grand Master at Maine Day in Florida.

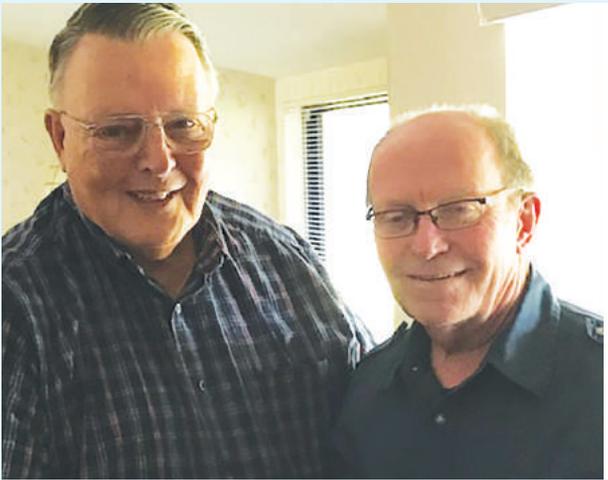


Wor. Brother John Conner, a Past Master of Buxton Lodge #115, received his 50-year Veterans Medal from the Grand Master at Maine Day in Florida.



The team of Brothers Pete Forrest and Jack Lagerquist, both Past Senior Grand Wardens, were busy again this winter tracking down brethren in Florida and presenting them with their Veterans Medals. Pictured at left is Brother Allen Trask, a member of Maine Lodge #20, East Wilton, receiving his medal from Brother Forrest.





Brother James Brown, a member of Acacia Lodge #21, Durham, received his 50-year Veterans Medal from Brother Lagerquist in Sefford, FL. Brother Brown is a 30-year Air Force veteran.



Brother Raymond Marks, a member of Unity Lodge #58 in Thorndike, received his 50-year Veterans Medal in Dunedin, FL from Brother Pete Forrest



Brother Richard Cassey, a member of Lygonia Lodge #40, Ellsworth, received his 50-year Veterans Medal from Brother Lagerquist in Port Charlotte, FL.



Brother Dawson Rochford, a member of Solar Star Lodge #21, Bath, received his 50-year Veterans Medal from Brother Forrester in North Port, FL. Brother Rochford is 91.



Brother M. Jerry Merrithew, a member of Trinity Lodge #130, Presque Isle, received his 50-year Veterans Medal from Brother Lagerquist in Port Orange, FL.



## Village Lodge's Mystery Poet Comes out from Behind the Rock, or, as is Finally Exposed, from Under the Hat

For the past year I have had the pleasure of reading Masonic poems from the mystery writer with the self-proclaimed title of the Village Idiot. At each Stated Meeting I read three or four poems with the consent of the Worshipful Master and the Lodge under Good of the Order. The poems were well received with anticipation of the writer revealing himself each month. It was quite humorous as the members of Village Lodge speculated on who this could be with fingers pointing in all directions.

As the year came to a close, I verbalized my desire for the Village Idiot to reveal himself before the year end as I read each poem in Lodge. In doing so I had to rely upon my best acting skills for I had known, all along, the identity of the Village Idiot. Upon reaching out to me a year ago, he swore me to secrecy until such time he felt comfortable in revealing his identity.

At the December Stated meeting, I had but two poems left. After reading one of them, I asked Wor. Marc Cram to do the honors of reading the final poems as thanks for allowing the poems to be read. Relying upon his own acting skills, Brother Cram acted somewhat surprised by the offer as he accepted the poem, cleared his throat and boldly read aloud the poem you see before you. As he read the last line, he calmly sat in his seat in the East with a stunned Lodge looking on. For the Village Idiot was none other than our own Wor. Brother Cram.

When asked what motivated his writings, he explained that he began taking on chairs within the Lodge shortly after being raised. He said it made learning the tasks and duties of each chair easier by writing the poem about each one. As he progressed through the chairs, he would write another poem about the new position. Eventually his writings included practically every aspect of Freemasonry

. By the time this article is published, Brother Cram will have moved onto his next position within Village Lodge but with memories of entertaining and teaching the Brothers of Village Lodge just a little more about Freemasonry.

Bro. Steven Edmondson

Historian, Village Lodge #26, Bowdoinham

## More Light in Masonry

*Learning the ritual of all three degrees  
The obligations taken on our knees*

*From floor work to proper dress  
We have worked hard to do our best*

*Taking the journey up those winding stairs  
Not easy for the one who dares*

*To try something new and find our way  
I'm certain that is why we are here today*

*Each of us has a good secret that must come  
out*

*With that I have not the slightest doubt*

*A means to express how we feel  
With Freedom, Fervency and Zeal*

*As the Author of poetry, and quick with a  
rhyme*

*I have been anxiously waiting for the proper  
time*

*My pen name is the Village Idiot you see  
Now it is time to reveal myself to thee*

*Here I sit in the Master's chair  
Nearly a year and no worse for wear*



**"Who has more fun than us?  
....We do!"**

**SATURDAY  
MAY 18, 2019**

Rain Date May 19th

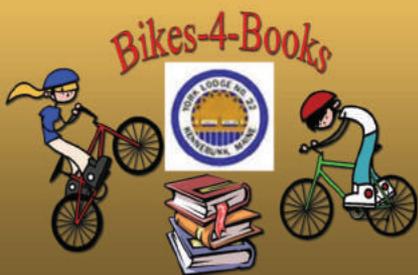
# Masonic Youth Charities Ride

## In Memory Of Steve Michaels

**Registration 8AM-9:30AM  
(OPTIONAL BUFFET BREAKFAST)**

**ALL BIKERS WELCOME  
Donation - Riders \$25 - Passengers \$10**

**Departing Bentley's at 10am  
Refreshment Stop—Return to Bentley's  
(Includes Ride T-Shirt)**



PROJECT GRADUATION

For Additional Information Or On-line Registration  
Call (207) 370-1557 or @ [www.yorklodge22.org](http://www.yorklodge22.org)

## ***Corinthian Lodge Continues Its Family Tradition***



Brother (and Airman) Brock Littlefield of Hartland became the sixth member of his family to become a fourth-generation Mason. Thanks to a dispensation from Grand Master Mark Rustin, the Air Force airman received his three degrees over a 10-day period becoming an Entered Apprentice on 5 January, a Fellow Craft on 9 January, and a Master Mason on 12 January. Reports are that he recited his lessons, letter perfect, in open lodge.

In the top photo, Brother Littlefield is flanked by his grandfather, Brother Elmer Littlefield and his father, Brother Chris Littlefield, all holding a white apron symbolically honoring great-grandfather Alton Littlefield.

In the bottom photo, Brother Brock is surrounded by 10 relatives, all Masons, who attended his Master Mason Degree.



## **SCOTTISH RITE “Summer Outing Weekend”**

**All Master Masons and their Ladies** are cordially invited to attend our annual “**Scottish Rite Summer Outing**” to be held Friday, Saturday and Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at the **Bluenose Hotel in Bar Harbor, Maine**



**Accommodations per night per couple:**

**Mizzentop Rooms \$149 or Stenna Rooms \$129 (plus taxes)**

**Please make your room reservations with the Bluenose Hotel, 90 Eden Street, Bar Harbor, ME...Make sure you tell them it is for the Scottish Rite Weekend**

**Tel: 800-445-4077**

**Please go on their Web Site to check out this beautiful resort!**

**[www.barharborhotel.com](http://www.barharborhotel.com)**

Meal reservations below must be made through the Scottish Rite Office **by June 21<sup>st</sup>**.

Checks payable to **Valley of Portland**, and mailed with Registration Form below to:

**Valley of Portland, P. O. Box 303, Bowdoinham, ME 04008**

Any questions call Brad Blake at 207-666-8397 or e-mail him at [secretary@valleyofportland.org](mailto:secretary@valleyofportland.org)

**Friday Night – Pizza Party & Drinks in the Vista Room – 5:00 P.M. till?**

**Saturday – Breakfast and Lunch on your own.**

**Saturday Night - Dinner in the Looking Glass Restaurant & cash bar.**

**Hospitality “Vista Room” opens up after dinner.**

**Sunday Morning – Breakfast Buffet in the Looking Glass Restaurant**

**Couples Package #1 – For those spending 2 nights at the Resort \$89 per couple!**

**Friday Night-Pizza, Saturday Night-Dinner & Sunday Morning-Breakfast**

**Couples Package #2 – For those only spending Saturday Night \$79 per couple!**

**Saturday Night Dinner & Sunday Morning- Breakfast**

.....  
**Registration Form**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Lady:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Package #** \_\_\_\_\_ **Amount enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Dinner Choices Below:**

**Boiled Lobster:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Grilled Filet Mignon:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Chicken Piccata:** \_\_\_\_\_



# The MAINE MASON

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Holden, ME 04429

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The 200th Annual Communication of the  
**Most Worshipful Grand Lodge**  
of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Maine  
*will meet at the Anah Shrine Center, 1404 Broadway, Bangor 04401*

**Saturday, May 4, 2019**

*Information about the session can be found on Page 5 of this issue.*

Credentials Committee members will be at their stations at 7 a.m. Saturday, May 4. Every brother will need show a valid dues card to gain admission to the session.

