

# The Maine Mason

Winter 2012

**Wreaths  
Across  
America  
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# The MAINE MASON

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## line-o-type

by George P. Pulkkinen

2011 was quite a year. Good for some, not so good for many. It was a year of major decisions and hope for the future among Maine Masons and Maine Masonry that will all play out in due time.

But I'm not going to use this space to discuss any of that. Rather I'm using it to share a very exciting personal adventure with you, my brethren.

On October 19, a friend and I left our cozy harbor here in Pine Point, bound for Puerto Rico aboard his 41-foot Hinckley sloop, Black Irish.

It was an amazing journey. Along the way we lost our autopilot, and as we neared the Gulf Stream off Virginia, were caught between tropical storm Shawn and a second storm barrelling toward us from Cape Hatteras. Screaming 45-knot winds and crashing 35-foot seas were not at all uncommon. In spite of our best efforts, it's safe to say we got a decent taste of salt and Black Irish a thorough washing.

Later on, even though our mailsail was tripled reefed, we blew it out in heavy weather some 400 miles south of Bermuda and limped into the Puerto Rico port city of Fajardo in the dark of night with barely more than fumes left to feed the trusty Westerbeke 44 diesel chugging along below deck. Oh, and let me tell you about our Bermuda Triangle episode. About midnight one night, the moon rose...in the west, our compasses indicated. A check with the GPS showed that some magnetic force had swung our compasses about 90 degrees, and I, being an old sailor who always believed it wise to "trust your compass" had followed the erroneous needle a full 90 degrees off course. We were heading north-easterly rather than toward the southeast. Easy to see why ships and planes were lost in the Triangle when a compass was the primary navigational tool.

But there were many memorable experiences to enjoy without benefit of white knuckles. There were crystal clear nights, some skies filled with more stars than most could imagine, and others when the huge orange moon seemed close enough to touch; there were pods of playful dolphins cavorting around the boat close enough to lay a finger on; there were whales accompanying us so close we could smell the telltale blowhole vapors. There were many events seared into my memory. Perhaps most amazing was the woodpecker who attached itself to my hip some 500 miles from shore and rode there for a half hour before heading off to some far-away land. I think of that bird's journey as a sign of hope and of courage and of faith in the future.

I hope you do, too. Happy New Year!

# From the Grand East

**W. Louis Greenier II**  
**Grand Master of Masons in Maine**

WARM FRATERNAL GREETINGS  
and HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We hope your Christmas was a very blessed one with lots of good memories to hold dear. We've passed St. John's Day in Winter and are now moving toward Spring although there's sure to be a lot more winter weather before we can start looking for those crocuses in our yards. It is, though, a new year with new opportunities for us, our lodges, and for Maine Masonry.

I know that many of you experienced illness and sorrow during 2011 and to you, my thoughts and prayers are heartfelt. For us all, here's hoping that the new year will bring happiness and opportunity.

One such opportunity involves the planned move in 2012 of our Grand Lodge Administrative Offices along with the Library and Museum to new quarters in Holden along Route 1A between Bangor and Bar Harbor. The high visibility of this property will certainly help raise awareness of Freemasonry in the Pine Tree State.

During the selection process and discussion, there were many excellent suggestions as to how both lodges and individual

Masons could benefit from this change and there will be announcements as we move forward.

I welcome your suggestions as to maximizing this "once in a lifetime" opportunity. Change is difficult, particularly for an organization which places such a strong emphasis on tradition, but working together as Masons we have the chance to project the Fraternity in a new way and I solicit your support.

Although our membership increases in 2011 were not as strong as we might have wished, we have a large and eager group of members who will help us grow as we move forward.

Welcome to all of you who've recently become part of this great organization. We look forward to your involvement. I'll continue to encourage our lodges to train and support mentors who will help you as you begin this life-long journey. There are many exciting plans on the tracing board of Maine Masonry and together we can make them reality.

A new year brings the promise of new beginnings and new opportunities. I hope you and Freemasonry will share the best of these in 2012.

Warm fraternal regards.  
W. Louis Greenier II



# Is the Dog Tired and the Pony Lame?

## Let the Discussion Begin

by R.W. Richard Rhoda, SGW

*I preface these remarks with a disclaimer that they are solely my personal observations and comments and are not attributable to any position held by Grand Lodge.*

In the past few months I have attended district meetings around the state. Questions of their purpose, attendance or lack thereof, tired or not, have been raised.

A review of our Annual Communications for the past 65 years will provide a host of interesting answers to the questions "From Whence came we? Whither are we traveling?"

A "Dog and Pony Show" is a 19th century colloquial term now used to mean "a glitzy presentation which aims to persuade with little or no information or content."

M.W. Brian Paradis, while not referencing a Dog and Pony Show in his 2000 Annual Report, did seem to hit the nail on the head with his observation of district meetings:

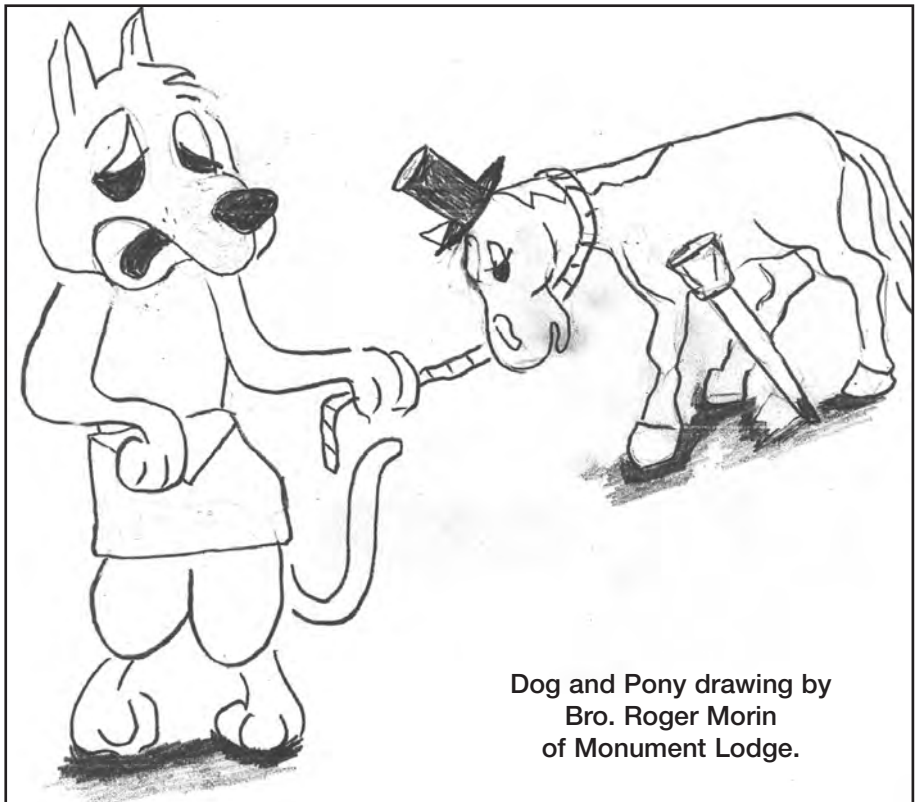
*"...I believe it is time for the Grand Lodge to examine the success of these meetings as these meetings are a tremendous time-consuming challenge for the Grand Master and the Grand Officers. Times are changing and perhaps it is time to change from the tradition of district meetings and examine new ways to do business, ..." He continued "...but when doing so we must not overlook the need to involve our family members and these meetings serve that purpose well."*

The purpose of District Meetings at their inception and the nature of them seem to be lost to the

collective memory of our present day membership.

It is the conventional wisdom today that they exist to allow the Grand Master to visit a district, learn what the lodges have been doing the past year, have a little entertainment, have short talks by 3-5 people, and a closing comment by him.

M.W. Brian Paradis also commented in 2000 that "There has come to be a strong belief that dis-



trict meetings should be semi-public with wives attending or to serve as a 'brotherhood' night when men from non-Masonic backgrounds are invited to learn about our fraternity." M.W. John Anagnostis had written that district meetings "...gave wives of Masons and non-Masons the opportunity to dispel some of the myths they might have heard about our Fraternity."

Many meetings this year have been concluded in about an hour's time. This includes the reception of the Grand Master and his suite which may be 400-500% larger than the number of Masons on the sidelines.

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In the 1990 Annual Communication the highlight which was reported relative to district meetings was that “(t)he Grand Suite averaged about 23 at every meeting....”

District meetings are not required but rather exist because they are called for by the Grand Master, or, in theory, because the district through its District Deputy has requested his attendance.

The first District Meetings were held in 1945 following WWII at the direction of M.W. Charles Crossland. Because of wartime issues, the Brethren had not been able to celebrate their 125th Anniversary at Grand Lodge in May. Following victory a month later, the Grand Master chose to take the 125th celebration on the road and also to recognize those who had served and died in WWII.

It was an outstanding success. Attendance was 3,247 members at the 24 District Meetings which were attended by 190 of the 206 lodges then existing. It was noted that “Several district deputies expressed their belief and hope that similar District Meetings be held every year.”

Such was not the case and none were formally held until M.W. Paul Powers established the annual

holding of district meetings in 1954. A tradition that still exists today.

Prior to that time the Grand Master would attend various and sundry lodges and Masonic functions as he was invited and was able. His sojourns would be part of his report under “Visitations”. Powers wrote that his predecessor, M.W. Benjamin Ela, had “established the highest number of such visitations in any one year in the history of our Grand Lodge”. He advised that his vocation would not allow him the time to attend anywhere near as many lodges.

In 1954 Powers proceeded to arrange for a district meeting in each of the twenty-four masonic districts. He wrote:

*“In accordance with prearranged plans, these meetings were devoted to the major portions of our masonic programs for the year; namely: masonic education, lodge histories, and the Grand Lodge Masonic Blood Bank; secondly: to the non-ritualistic work of Masonry; and lastly to an open forum for the purpose of asking any questions*

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## ***Masons OK Move to Bangor Area at Special Communication***

It was early morning Saturday, December 10, when brethren began assembling at the handsome Bangor Masonic Center. They had come for a 10 a.m. meeting to vote on the proposal to move the Grand Lodge administrative offices, library and museum from 415 Congress Street in Portland to an empty branch bank building on Route 1A in Holden.

The motion carried by a vote of 263 to 233, and the building has been purchased with more than \$300,000 taken thus far from the Charitable Foundation coffers.

Prior to the vote, brethren were told by Brother Ed King, who made the presentation for Grand Master, M.W. Brother W. Louis Greenier II, that rental space for Grand Lodge purposes would not exceed \$8.50 per square foot in the new building, and that the move to Holden would create, if not guarantee, no increase in the per capita.

As of now there have been no cost estimates presented for necessary repairs and alterations to make the building usable for Grand Lodge, and there are no appar-

ent plans or cost estimates for the actual move.

Although, as part of his installation, the Master of every lodge promises to attend all communications of the Grand Lodge upon being properly informed, 41 of Maine's 191 lodges were not represented to vote on this important issue.

Did your lodge have representation at this meeting? Lodges which were not represented by the master, a warden, or a proxy are as follows: Warren #2, Lincoln #3, Kennebec #5, Amity #6, Pythagorean #11, Oxford #18, Oriental Star #21, Freeport #23, Blazing Star #30, Hermon #32, Somerset #34, Freedom #42, Rural #53, Mount Moriah #56, King Hiram #57, Blue Mountain #67, Archon #75, Eureka #84, Island #89, Harwood #91, Paris #94, Nezinscot #101, Marsh River #102, Tuscan #106, Day Spring #107, Liberty #111, Pownal #119, Franklin #123, Quantabacook #129, Mount Ti'rem #132, Ocean #142, Moses Webster #145, Crooked River #152, Cambridge #157, Carrabassett #161, Pleiades #173, Granite #182, Jonesport #188, Meduncook #211, Kemankeag # 213, Orchard #215.

# Dog and Pony

## Continued from Preceding Page

*concerning Masonry, with the promise of as definite an answer as possible for all questions. This program proved very successful and interesting to all present."*

After conducting 24 district meetings in 1955, Powers wrote the following year:

*"I departed from my custom of the previous year... I developed an address on some Masonic subject in each District Meeting. The open forum of questions and answers on any problem in Masonry was conducted at each meeting, and these periods proved to be of great value and interest to all of us who attended."*

He noted, interestingly enough, that "The District Deputies in most of the Districts have also arranged other district meetings for the purpose of doing the ritualistic work, performing Masonic plays and listening to outstanding speakers."

M.W. Aubury Burbank served as Grand Master in 1956 and 1957. He held 21 district meetings his first year. With great introspection he reported:

*"The size of our Grand Jurisdiction, both geographically and numerically, makes it next to impossible for a Grand Master to visit every lodge. Further than this, I do not believe it to be the policy of this Grand Lodge that the Grand Master be expected to visit every lodge. Our system of representation through District Deputy Grand Masters was doubtless inaugurated for this purpose in the days when traveling conditions forbid state wide visitation. However, it is the desire of every Grand Master to meet as many of the brethren as possible, and to acquaint them with his programs and those of the Grand Lodge..."*

In his 1957 annual report, Burbank wrote of

"...giving the Grand Master an opportunity to bring a message to the lodge which he deemed to be for the betterment of the Craft." He wrote of his desire "to charge them with their individual responsibilities as Masons and as citizens...to remove the walls of prejudice and disunity and bring about for future generations a greater understanding of our relationship to one another..."

M.W. John Littlefield specifically reported on district meetings in his 1959 and 1960 Annual Reports. He wrote that "These meetings give Brethren an opportunity to ask the Grand Master for information and advice regarding Masonic matters,...". Also, "the Grand Master can tell the Brethren about Grand Lodge..."

Littlefield's 1960 Annual Report reflects what was and can be a reoccurring problem for or with District Deputies. He wrote "Through lack of cooperation of the District Deputies, meetings have not been held in Districts (3 lodge numbers omitted), although all Deputies were told it was their duty to arrange such meetings."

In 1961 M.W. Leon Sanborn reported meetings were held throughout the state. He noted that attendance was excellent or very discouraging as a "direct result of the amount of promotion and inspiration by the District Deputy." He also noted that "Four Area Meetings were tried...(and) seemed to produce excellent and desired results."

In 1969 M.W. Harold Chute wrote of "(t)he dedication of the Grand Wardens is particularly worth noting because their attendance is becoming traditional."

M.W. Donald Smith commented in 1977 that "(a)t nearly all of them (ten district meetings) the attendance was disappointingly low..."

In 1980 M.W. Harland Small held "area meetings in order to economize" with two, and a few times three, districts combining. The following year eleven area meetings were held with "attendance poor except for the host district."

The most radical change came in 1987 when M.W. Ernest Curtis "in an effort to up grade district

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# Dog and Pony

meetings” made five of them semi-public and ten regular with an over all average attendance of 65. The following year all 24 were semi-public with an average attendance of 45.

M.W. George Pulkkinen reported in 1991 that Districts had the opportunity to choose the type of District Meeting they desired, inviting non-members or family members to be present. In 1992 he reported choices of the same two or a traditional “Masons only” meeting. All were family type district meetings except for one brotherhood night.

In 1992 M.W. Pulkkinen observed that “public awareness (of masonry) isn’t just going to happen by itself.” He continued, “Well planned District Meetings can be a special step in the project of (building) public awareness.”

In 2004 M.W. Charles Ridlon introduced, or re-introduced, a new program of “District Conference Meetings.” He held 7 of them. They were geared to give the craft the opportunity to ask questions of Grand Lodge officers which could not be asked at

semi-public district meetings. This was one of the original intent of the District Meetings when only brethren were attending.

With M.W. Ridlon the idea of district meetings had gone full circle but the idea of “Conference Meetings” were not continued by those following him. District meetings continued to be semi-public with declining attendance and no messages of leadership nor opportunities to discuss issues not suitable for public consideration.

We now know from whence we have come. The question now is “Whither we are going and how shall we get there?”

Careful thought and discussion of what we expect of District Meetings, if indeed we still want or need them, should be considered in each lodge. Lodges should then consider the subject at their Master and Wardens meetings and make their opinions known to their District Deputy Grand Masters.

Hard questions that could be considered include, but are not limited to:

How far within a district should brethren be

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## **!!!!!!ATTENTION!!!!!!**

### **MAINE MASONS WHO LIVE OR WILL BE IN FLORIDA ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2012**

M. W. W. Louis Greenier and his lady Judi, invite the Masons of Maine and their spouses/friends to the 10th Annual Maine Masons in Florida Day at the SAHIB Shrine Center, #600 N. Beneva Rd, in Sarasota, FL.

This is intended to be a time of social enjoyment and a chance to meet and make new friends among Maine Masons and Maine Masonic Widows who reside or winter in Florida.

The time to assemble is recommended to be 11:00 to 11:30 which will allow us time to socialize prior to lunch being served at 12:00 P.M. for a cost of \$21.00 for the men. Ladies will be guests of the Grand Master.

Following lunch there will be entertainment. Also M. W. Brother Greenier will be making a presentation.

It would help us if the visitors would share their temporary Florida addresses.

Directions to Sahib Shrine Center are: Take exit 210 off I 75 and go west about 1-2 miles to N. Beneva Rd. Turn right and go north on Beneva about 2 blocks. The Shrine Center is on your right.

You may make reservations for this affair through R. W. Brother Pete Forrest in one of the following ways: Telephone: 772-344-6564; email: rgpeteforrest@aol.com; mail: 636 S W Lake Charles Circle, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986. Let’s make this time a great time with M. W. Brother Louis and Judi.

#### **Deadline for reservations is February 6, 2012**

The meal will consist of Roast Loin of Pork, Herb Roasted New Potatoes, Chef Choice of Vegetable, Rolls/Butter, Chef Choice of Dessert, Iced Tea/Coffee

**Note:** If you prefer a vegetable plate, please advise when making reservations.



# Even a Tornado Doesn't Stop Pioneer Lodge #72

*by R.W. Ken White*  
**Pioneer Lodge Historian**

It was June 8, 2011, a Stated Meeting Night for Pioneer Lodge # 72 in Ashland and also scheduled to be the Annual Past Masters Night before going dark for the summer. Little did the brethren of Pioneer Lodge know about the meaning of going dark that evening.

As is the custom at Pioneer Lodge on Past Masters Night – V.W. Brother Steve Sherman set about getting the grill fired up for his annual BBQ steak and baked potato supper. All went well...for a while. The BBQ steaks and baked potatoes were ready and the brethren seated for supper at 6:30, when a large black cloud was spotted gathering in the western sky. At about 6:45 with the sky darkening the wind swirling and rain beginning to pely down, it was evident that this was going to be a serious thunderstorm.

At 6:55 as dessert was being served, several brethren looked out the dining hall windows and noticed a very dark funnel cloud rising over the buildings just north of the lodge hall. It was then that the pea to marble sized hail and rain began to come down – sideways – and the wind was gusting hard enough that the air was full of green foliage, being stripped from the trees. About a minute into the storm all the lights went out as the town's entire electrical service went down.

Several brethren were able to get pictures of the funnel cloud on their cell phone cameras. Many in the dining hall were able to see the rapid upward rotation of the funnel cloud. The whole event lasted about three to four minutes.

It was an amazing sight. There was a tremendous amount of lightning and thunder with this storm and the lodge yard was littered with leaves and branches and hail could be seen on the lawn.

Several of the brethren are also members of the local fire departments and had fire department radios with them. Reports of trees down and several roads blocked by downed trees and electrical lines were soon being



broadcast over the radios. No one knew the full extent of the damage but it was clear that no one was going home soon. The roads to Portage to the north, Garfield to the west, and Mapleton to the east were blocked by numerous downed trees and power lines.

After the storm passed and supper completed, the brethren of Pioneer Lodge held their stated meeting and lodge was opened at 7:30, by WM Rich Wark. As the electricity was still out, the only light in the lodge room was that of the three lesser lights about the altar – a rather unique and inspiring sight.

Even DDGM RW Neal Haines, who was present for the meeting, remarked that Past Masters Night at Pioneer Lodge was always an interesting evening but this was the first time the lodge had treated him to the spectacle of a tornado and, he added, he hoped the last!

Although this tornado was rated as an F-0, it was still a rare and unexpected event for this part of the country – nothing like the extreme tornadoes experienced by other parts of the U.S. these past few months. Nonetheless it certainly was worthy of being part of the written history for Pioneer Lodge #72 A.F.&A.M. for future generations to look back on.



# Masons and DeMolay Youth active in Wreaths Across America

Since 1992, when Morrill Worcester of Harrington, ME first donated 5,000 Christmas weathes for placement on the graves of veterans interred at Arlington National Cemetery, the project has grown to where more than a quarter million wreaths were placed in 2011 at 500 cemeteries across the country.

In 2006, the non-profit Wreaths Across America was formed in an effort to continue and expand the tremendous outpouring of thankfulness from a grateful nation for the sacrifice of our fallen veterans and to promote awareness of our veterans all year round.

Placing wreaths is an important part of the mission to Remember the fallen, Honor those who serve and Teach our children the value of freedom.

Knights of the Sun DeMolay Chapter of Auburn picked up the torch for the 2011 Christmas season and was able to provide 544 wreaths for the decoration of graves at the Maine Veterans' Cemeteries in Augusta. For the young men it was "an honor and a privilege to participate in this nationwide event."

The DeMolays take this opportunity to publicly thank the following supporters for their generous donations to the Wreaths Across America Program including Masonic Lodges of Maine, Eastern Star Chapters of Maine, Southport Fire Department, Boothbay Hook & Ladder, Boothbay Region Lion's Club, Arundel Lodge #76 of Kennebunkport, Discount Auto of Auburn, Androscoggin Shrine Club, as well as many, many kind individuals.

Knights of the Sun will continue accepting donations for wreaths throughout the year for placement in December 2012.

For more information about DeMolay, please visit our website; [www.medemolay.org](http://www.medemolay.org)."



These members of Knights of the Sun DeMolay Chapter in Auburn traveled to Augusta on Dcember 10 to help place the wreaths. They are, front row, left to right: Isaiah Farrington, Emanuel Farrington, Kadin Michaud and Devin Michaud. Rear row, same order: Nathan Sessions, Steven Farrington, Alex Smith and Sam Goldsberry.



On June 11, 2011, Grand Master of Masons of the District of Columbia Jesse Villarreal, right, presented the Grand Lodge Medal of Fredom to Morrill Worcester in grateful appreciation of his dedication and service to our nation's fallen veterans, pictured here with his wife, Karen Worcester, Executive Director of Wreaths Across America.

# State-wide Open Houses a Successful First Step

By R.W. Thomas Pulkkinen

## “Welcome to Our Open House!”

Those words were repeated hundreds of times across Maine on October 15th, which was a milestone in membership development in Freemasonry. Seven states – all of New England plus New York – joined together to welcome non-Masons into our Masonic buildings to learn about Freemasonry, including how good men of faith can become Masons.

The Grand Lodge of Maine admittedly came late to the initiative, with the Membership Committee becoming involved in early July after most lodges went dark for the summer. Letters were mailed to all lodges in July urging their participation in the open house, and the Committee met with District Deputies in early August when packages of brochures, DVDs, press releases and other materials were distributed for all Maine lodges.

Expectations were restrained due to the late start, but everyone involved agreed that rolling out the three-year commitment to the program would still produce positive results and get the ball rolling, generating good ideas for even stronger results from the next open house on October 20, 2012. As Wor. Robert Boothby of **Oriental Star Lodge #21** in Livermore Falls reminds us: “Just do it again”...we need to “walk before running.”

Grand Lodge committed \$6,000 to television messaging. More than 80 television spots featuring Tony award winning actor Richard Easton of the PBS series on Benjamin Franklin appeared state-wide on three television stations. DVDs provided to lodges featured “Ben Franklin,” former Wisconsin Governor Lee Dreyfus speaking on “Freemasonry and the Fabric of America,” and actor Robin Williams saluting the American flag. The first DVD was produced by the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, which actively supported many of the open house initiatives of the Grand Lodge of Maine – for which we are most grateful – and the latter two DVDs were supplied at no cost by the Scottish Rite Supreme Council. These videos make for good lodge programs as well as interesting programming on local access television.

Our Grand Lodge also provided posters and press releases to all lodges, and arranged for a three minute news spot on the open house that was recorded by WCSH television at the opening of a meeting of Deering Lodge in Portland.

So what were the results of the open house? First, 137 out of 186 lodges or 74% advised the Membership Committee that they would participate in the open house. Several additional lodges indicated that they had scheduling conflicts on the state-wide date, but would hold an open house or fellowship night on an alternate date. This represented a strong commitment by the Craft to the first region-wide open house initiative for our blue lodges. But as RW Kenneth Richardson of **Rabboni Lodge #150** in Auburn pointed out, the open house benefited the entire fraternity. “All the Masonic family worked well together setting this up. We had a good showing of members from each body.”

Second, all lodges were asked to submit after-event feedback reports on their open house initiatives. The 65% of participating lodges that have returned reports indicate that they welcomed more than 825 visitors on October 15th, including nearly 130 prospective Masons, with at least 60 applications already in hand when the feedback reports were mailed ... or expected shortly. For comparison, according to the Grand Lodge ROLLS membership database, 377 Masons were raised state-wide in 2011. Numerous Eastern Star Chapters also reported receiving applications during the open house.

Some lodges had more success than others because of the scope of their planning, member involvement and open house activities. A review of the feed-

*“the goal this year was to get the public in the door, and next year it will be to get them upstairs into the lodge room.” --Wor. Charles Rugg*

back reports shows that many lodges did not have any visitors, including few Masons, which means members did not bring in their friends and acquaintances to learn about what Freemasonry has to offer. This is an area that will need more work for the next open house, as will having banners in front of all lodges announcing the open house. To emphasize this point, Wor. Don Carrigan of **Bristol Lodge #74** said: “The event prompted us to push members harder than usual to contact potential members and several of them did. We reached out to at least a dozen people and several have expressed interest.”

**Oriental Lodge #13** in Bridgton was really busy from 7 am to 7 pm, starting with an omelet breakfast and ending with a turkey dinner, building on the lodge’s monthly suppers. Wor. Chris Rugg said “the goal this year was to get the public in the door, and next year it will be to get them upstairs into the lodge room.” **Alna-Anchor Lodge #43** and **Beacon Chapter of Eastern**

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# Open Houses

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**Star**, as well as several other lodges and chapters, also held successful public dinners, many raising money for local food pantries or other charitable undertakings, or had events to remember our Masonic widows, award Masonic veteran's pins, install lodge officers, hold CHIP events... And many lodges undertook building cleanup projects before the open house and during the day of the open house as time allowed.

Wor. Samuel Smiley of **Central Lodge #45** in China said that "...making this a family event and having activities for the kids helped make the event successful." His lodge welcomed children who carved 35 pumpkins and decorated (and ate) lots of cookies. His lodge has already received one application for their efforts and expects two more.

**Union Lodge #31's** Wor. Dale Flint summed up his feedback report, "Grand Lodge has done a great job with providing posters and suggestions ... and then add the television component!!! Keep up the good work...next year will be better," which was a sentiment shared by many brethren.

And while **Drummond Lodge #118** in North Parsonfield only had one prospective member attend the open house, Wor. Roger Berube reports that the lodge has raised eight brethren this year and had three other Masons affiliate with the lodge, due primarily to some new candidates bringing in their friends. "If all our members brought in a friend we would be in good shape statewide."

All in all, it was a successful day that can be improved upon next time. Now if we could only train brethren to become "champion moose callers," we might have attracted all those brethren and prospective members who were out hunting during the open house.



Visitors were welcomed into lodges throughout the state and marveled at the beauty of so many lodge rooms like that of Ancient York Lodge #155 in Lisbon Falls.



Frank D. Sargent was presented his 50-year Veterans Medal in Ralph J. Pollard Lodge #217, Orrington on Nov. 2, 2010. Pictured here flanking Brother Sargent are Wor. Stanley A. Fish IV, Master of the lodge and R.W. Brother Donald B. Wiswell, PJGW, who made the presentation.

# CHARACTER, *Our Internal Measure*

*This presentation is the first of several philosophical but “practical application” pieces which we hope to publish in The Maine Mason. Masonry is, for those who practice it, a way of life that truly enriches a brother and those around him. As M.W. Brother Walter MacDougall once charged us: Be the pebble in the pool whose concentric rings spread out to improve the lot of all those whom they come in contact with. --Editor*

**by RW Thomas E. Pulkkinen**

Sitting beside a roaring fire with a good book or maybe a Masonic cipher, unfazed by the inclemency of the Maine winter weather outdoors, the deepening snow and bone chilling winds, our thoughts are on the meaning of the written word, not on Mother Nature’s fury that is beyond our control. When the flames recede, just throw another log on the fire and then return to the book and read on.

So it is with each of us. Inside our circle of influence we seek to improve ourselves, and to benefit and bring comfort to our immediate family and surroundings. Our ability to influence people, events and organizations decreases as they are situated further and further from our environs.

Few of us are positioned to change the world, yet as Masons each of us can, and should, earnestly endeavor to make a positive difference in the lives of others: our brethren and their families; those that we touch regularly or infrequently; as well as complete strangers. Through our Masonic charities and personal caring, we can contribute in many ways to those less fortunate and more needy than we.

## **Our Masonic Teachings**

Freemasons pursue personal improvement by accepting the teachings of our Craft and applying them to our daily lives. We learn as Entered Apprentices that – like through the use of the gavel – gaining an education, working hard and accepting the wisdom of God enables us to smooth our rough edges and become more perfect ashlar.

In the Fellow Craft Degree, we learn that our education, our growth, is not linear – it does not follow a straight line – and doesn’t always develop as we might have expected. As we ascend the circular staircase of life, we can’t see what may be only a few steps away, around the bend. As we advance, we may need to step aside or backwards to avoid an unexpected obstacle – to accept new or different theories and rethink our positions.

The Master Mason Degree teaches us the importance

of living by our principles, ever strengthening our character, in all our transactions with mankind, even though there may be adverse consequences.

Through the use of symbolism, Freemasonry lays before us fundamental principles for living a good and beneficial life. It is up to us to interpret these lessons and apply them to our daily lives in ways that improve us, both internally and externally.

## **Lessons and Protocol of Masonic Clothing**

Each lodge night we don a suit and tie, or if we are officers, perhaps tuxedos – no matter what we might wear daily in our vocations. That’s proper Masonic protocol; we respect the lodge setting and we dress accordingly. Proper attire helps to make us look good – and feel good, too. Remember the old adage, “Clothes make the man.”



Clothes don’t really change us, but they do make a positive statement to brethren and onlookers with respect to the dignity associated with attending Masonic meetings. There are other axioms that might also well apply as we go about our lives as Masons: “your actions speak louder than your words” and “to others you are what you appear to be.” We should all remember that our words and deeds, even bumper stickers – favorable or unfavorable – influence how our friends and the public, including prospective members, view Freemasonry.

The clothes we wear, our friendly and brotherly grips, and the helping hands that we extend to others are but external representations of who we are as men and Masons. Have you heard of the question posed by a man after being the recipient of a good deed done by his Masonic brother? “Did you do this because I’m a Mason?” he asked. “No,” was the reply. “I did it because I’m a Mason!” Our true measure is within us – our character, values, and principled thoughts and actions. Being religious brings inner peace and tranquility.

## **Outward versus Inward Illumination**

Few among us travel the wintry byways each December without gazing with delight at the beautiful Christmas displays. Sure, some go over the top. Yet the bright lights, the inflated snowmen and Santas, and other Christmas displays help get us into the spirit of the sea-



### ***Continued from Preceding Page***

son. As a youngster, I traveled with my parents throughout the Twin Cities of Lewiston and Auburn to view people's outside decorations, and the glowing trees in the windows. It was an annual tradition.

But no one should confuse this illumination of Christmas lights with the special meaning of the Christmas season for Christians. The true glow of the season is not the bright lights but our internal celebration of the Messiah's coming. Non-Christians can similarly relate to this contrasting of outward symbols and the inner importance of their holiest festivals in celebration of God, by whatever name.

### **Being on the Level**

First degree candidates learn that their reception into the lodge bore many symbolic lessons. Among the most significant are that Freemasonry regards no man for his worldly wealth or honors (in some jurisdictions outward appearance replaces honors), and that it is the internal and not the external qualifications of a man that should recommend him to be made a Mason. These lessons amplify the symbolic meaning of the level – equality.

In many Masonic jurisdictions, all brethren, not just the officers, wear white gloves. This custom prevents brethren from being identified by their professions, as might be evidenced by traces of grease on the hands of a mechanic; the smooth, as if sandpapered, hands of a stonemason; the strong hands of the farmer; or the tender, skillful hands of a surgeon. With gloves, the hands of all brethren appear similar – no man is judged by his outward appearance.

Teddy Roosevelt visited his lodge when he was president. At the conclusion of the meeting he rose to ask the lodge's Master for permission to speak. When he finished speaking, he thanked the Master, who was the gardener on his Long Island estate. Position in lodge mattered more than position in life. This exchange exemplifies how Masons relate with one another on the level.

But the ritualistic phrase "regards no man for his worldly wealth or outward appearance" has greater relevance than just wearing gloves; or of rising to ask permission of the Worshipful Master to speak, which all Masons should do in lodge. Rise, be recognized, and only then address the Master.

When addressing his brethren, a Past Grand Master and friend of mine frequently encouraged brethren to ask themselves whether an impending personal decision or action would move them closer to

becoming a perfect ashlar – whether the intended decision or action was consequent on employing our energies, education and the wisdom sought from God. If not, he suggested that the decision might well be rethought.

### **Freemasonry and Race Relations**

Undoubtedly the most spontaneous and heartfelt burst of applause heard in the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts in my memory occurred in 1994, when it was announced that on just that day the United Grand Lodge of England had recognized the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. This decision would lead to warm fraternal relations between the two Massachusetts Grand Lodges that had long sought formal recognition. A great deal of work and prayer brought about the vote by our English brethren, as well as the recognition of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge the following March in Massachusetts and subsequently by the Grand Lodge of Maine.

Not many years ago, a man of color, a Methodist minister, was elected to receive the Masonic degrees. After receiving the first degree, he received what he considered to be a threatening note. He was concerned and approached the local police. Interviewed on television, he expressed his belief that no Mason was involved in the episode.

His brethren were unsettled, nevertheless, with even the possibility that a Mason might have sent such a note, for it would be totally inconsistent with our Masonic principles of equality, temperance, prudence and justice, as well as brotherly love. If a Mason had sent the note, he obviously had failed to remember that Freemasonry regards no man for his outward appearance; that it is the internal character of a man that recommends him for membership, not his external appearance (in this instance, the color of his skin). For the second and third degrees, the lodge sidelines were packed in support of the new brother and our Masonic principles.

Many Masons, both African-Americans and Caucasians, have long assumed leading roles fighting racial discrimination, by advancing legislation and right-



**Jackie Robinson and Branch Rickey in 1950. Courtesy of the National Baseball Hall of Fame, Cooperstown, N.Y.**

***Continued on Next Page***

## CHARACTER *Continued from Preceding Page*

ing past wrongs. Many were members of Congress, others were men of the cloth or from many other walks of life.

### **Masonic Principles' Influence in the Sports World**

Through Freemasonry, I had the opportunity to befriend one of the four young men of color who asked to be served at the Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina, on February 1, 1960. I asked him and a room of Masons whether they had ever heard of Jackie Robinson. He excitedly said he had, as he held the ballplayer in high esteem.

So I then asked my Masonic friend and brother about Robinson's Masonic connection. He had not the slightest idea.

I then explained that, when playing minor league ball, Branch Rickey would rent a large hotel room and then invite the colored players on his team to join him, as they couldn't rent a room personally, solely because of their color.

Years later as general manager of the Brooklyn Dodgers, Rickey wanted to break the color barrier in major league baseball. He had to recruit the right person, a man of character, a man who could endure all that would regrettably accompany being the first to play in the major leagues – the catcalls, the racial epithets. The player would need to subdue his passions.

He selected Jackie Robinson and offered him a major league contract. But the owners of the National League teams said Rickey couldn't honor the contract. Rickey appealed to "Happy" Chandler, the National League Commissioner, who sided with the Dodgers' GM and the rest is history. Baseball was integrated forever. Some say that Chandler's decision is why he was not reelected commissioner – good works can yield unfavorable consequences. Jackie Robinson said that no man, except Abraham Lincoln, had done more for African-Americans than Rickey.

Branch Rickey was a Mason. Happy Chandler was a Mason and a Shriners' Hospital director. In deciding to permit Robinson to play, Chandler said that he didn't believe in barring a man from playing because of his color.

Another sports icon, Arnold "Red" Auerbach, famed coach of the Boston Celtics and also a Freemason, was the first to draft a man of color to play in the National Basketball Association.

These brethren were practicing the teachings of the first degree, that it is the internal not the external qualifications of a man that should recommend him to become a Mason, or in these instances, a baseball or basketball player.

### **Applying "Red's" Criteria**

Celtics fans will well remember Red Auerbach's expectations of a player: he must be a man of character and he must be able to effectively fill his defined role on the team.

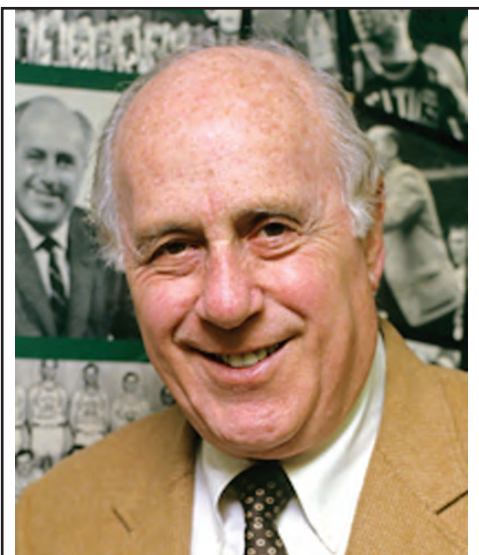
Red's criteria could well apply to every Mason and every lodge. Set our own course and welcome people into our lives and lodges based upon the teachings of the Entered Apprentice Degree: the goodness of one's character – not color, honors, worldly wealth or position in life.

There are roles for each of us in lodge: as officers, candidate sponsors and mentors, cooks, instructors or sideliners. A personable cousin of mine with a real gift of gab sponsored some 20 Masonic candidates during his lifetime; yes, we also need brethren to attract good men to the Craft – it's everyone's duty to sponsor new members, but it could become your specialty. Or maybe your role is in one of the Rites, the Shrine, or our youth or other Masonic organizations.

Perhaps applying "Red's criteria" to our personal lives will mean rethinking some long held perspectives as we ascend our circular staircase of personal learning and moral

living. Yet as Masons, we must forever remember the teachings of the third degree, the essentiality of living by our Masonic principles, despite the potential consequences, ever looking at ourselves and others from the perspective of those internal, not external, qualifications that render men good and faithful servants of God and man.

Each of us should throw another log on that moral and spiritual fire within us, so that the glowing coals that warm our brotherly love towards others may never expire – irrespective of a man's external characteristics.



**Former Boston Celtics coach, the late Arnold "Red" Auerbach, knew the importance of character and demanded it of his world champion players.**



# Freeport Lodge Leads **REALLY BIG** 9-11 Commemoration

by **RW Thomas E. Pulkkinen**

Deep heartfelt emotions, tearful eyes, patriotic waving of American flags, reflections about friends and loved ones lost or those who escaped the ravages of ruthless hands, remembrances of where we were when we first heard what was happening that dreadful morning ten years ago. These feelings whelmed in millions of countrymen last September 11th, in communities large and small, located all around the country and throughout the world, on the tenth anniversary of that fateful day.

And especially in Freeport, Maine, where the Flag Ladies have waved the Stars and Strips every Tuesday morning since September 11, 2001, no matter what the weather. And where the brethren of Freeport Lodge lead the effort to bring a piece of those downed twin towers to forever stand upright in this Maine community as a perpetual remembrance of those lost in New York City, Washington D.C. and Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

Hundreds of Masons paraded past the thousands of applauding spectators lining Main Street – sometimes several people deep – while other brethren rode motorcycles and an antique fire engine. After Grand Lodge dedicated the pillars of steel and the nearby monument in ancient form, with corn, wine and oil, and by applying our various working tools, Deputy Grand Master A. James Ross addressed the hundreds of Masons, dignitaries, town residents and visitors.

RW Brother Ross expressed what all present hoped for: that the memorial “will serve to remind all of us that during



**Freeport's Flag Ladies, a familiar and appreciated scene.**

moments of tragedy and sacrifice, there is individual and collective strength in the very hearts and character of this community.”

The complete text of Brother Ross' comments, and other photos, can be found on the following pages.



**Freeport Lodge brethren parade down Main Street on their way to the Memorial.**





Dunlap Highland Band provided the music.



R.W. Alvin MacDonald applies plumb to the replica tower.



Scores of Masons paraded along Main Street in Freeport on the march

## Keynote Sp

“We who are Freemasons play a significant part in the monument that consists of a lowed spot at Ground Zero and gifted to the grateful inhabitants of Freeport and her surrounding communities.

“The Freemasons of Freeport Masonic Lodge understand how important this monument is to the inhabitants of Freeport because we share the same values which this monument represents for all individuals and organizations that embrace it. This monument will serve as a sacred reminder of that fateful day 10 years ago that changed forever the lives of so many Americans. Moreover it will serve to remind all of us that during moments of tragedy and sacrifice, there is individual and collective strength in the very hearts and character of this community, that there is hope in the minds and actions of the people of this community, and that there is courage and resilience in the determination of the people that make Freeport and her surrounding communities what it is.

“That hope, courage and resilience is demonstrated in Freeport by the very men and women that serve as police officers and support staff of the Freeport



## Speaker R.W. Jim Ross' Complete 9-11 Commemoration Remarks

ons are honored to  
e dedication of this  
steel from that hal-

under the leadership of Chief Gerald Schofield, to the firefighters and EMT's and support staff of the Freeport Fire Department under the leadership of Chief Darrell Fournier, together these two departments make up the men and woman we proudly call our frontline first re-

sponders and protectors of Freeport. We are also reminded of that hope, courage and resilience in the men and woman of Freeport who serve our Nation in the Armed Services of our country. And finally, we are affectionately reminded of that hope, courage and resilience demonstrated by Elaine Greene, Carmen Footer and JoAnn Miller - who have waved American flags on Main Street every Tuesday morning for the past 10 years. The Freemasons of Freeport Lodge value the contributions that these departments and individuals make to this community every day.



“Freemasons are moral builders of character. We encourage our members to be good and just citizens of the communities in which they reside. The good that Free Masons are, and the values they demonstrate every day, can be witnessed by their contributions here today. The message we send today is the very same one that all of us, collectively, embrace during this day of remembrance. It is to have hope, courage, resilience and determination to remember the past, to cherish who and what we have today and to go forward into the future knowing that together, we as a community, may do so by a faithful reliance on God and by the strength and dependence which is instilled in the very neighbors and contributors of our communities which is necessary for our security and well-being.

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ve her. From the  
Police Department

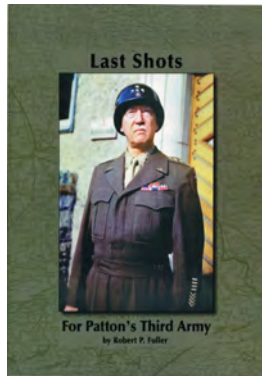
“May God continue to help us preserve the honor and memory of those who are no longer with us. And through His good graces by means of this very monument remind us of the duty we owe to each other. On behalf of the Freeport Masonic Lodge and all Freemasons of Maine, thank you for allowing us to be a part of the ceremonies commemorating the 10th Anniversary of 9/11 and in dedicating this monument which will endure for many generations to come.”



to the 9-11 Memorial, attracting large crowds of interested onlookers.

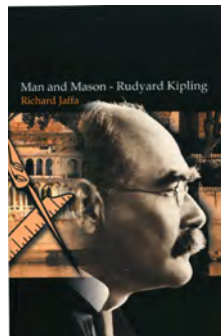
A great resolution for the new year would be for every Mason to read more. It would enrich our fraternity as well as your life. Just a few pages a day will get you started. If you've gotten a Kindle, Nook or some other electronic reader as a holiday present, congratulations! There's some great stuff out there for you to enjoy. Please do so....

It's also great to know we've got some Masons who are published authors right here in Maine. Over the past few weeks I've been enjoying *Last Shots for Patton's Third Army* by Bro. Robert P. Fuller of Cornerstone Lodge. A fascinating story buttressed by exquisite detail from extensive research the author has done in military archives everywhere, it includes 16 oversized maps not bound with the book to make this work a true gem for lovers of World War II history. In the publicity material for this book, it states "...will make a fine addition to the libraries of the history buff and military historian alike, and appeal to veterans, researchers and tacticians as well."



I'd just add "...and it's also a darn good read that you are sure to enjoy!" From the moment you begin, you'll find it hard to put down. You can buy it at Amazon, Barnes & Noble or order directly from NETR, PO Box 3032, Portland, ME 04104 for \$64.95 post-paid. You won't be disappointed and it will make a great gift.

Another book which I was thrilled to find just a couple of weeks ago is Richard Jaffa's *Man and Mason - Rudyard Kipling*. Thanks to the movies, Kipling is known to many Masons for his 'The Man Who Would Be King' with non-Mason Sean Connery in a starring role but until now, except for some scant references, little has been mentioned of Kipling's fraternal connections. Most of us have a passing familiarity with some work of Kipling's but here we learn about the Masonic ties which meant so very much in his life and seem to have evidenced themselves in so many different ways in his writings and behavior. For a time, a resident of neighboring Vermont, one of the few recognitions Kipling accepted was that of being one of the 40 living Fellows of the (Masonic) Philaethes Society for his enriching Masonic literature. An easy read and something you'll certainly enjoy!

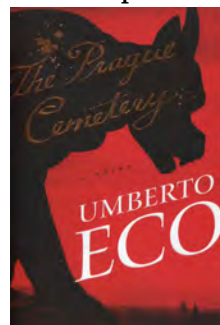


## THE OLD WEBMASTER'S BOOKSHELF

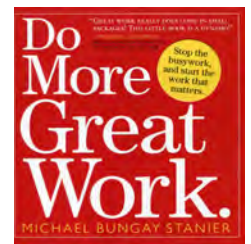


Building the Living Temple is one of those very thin books which, upon receipt, will make you wonder why you paid for it. After a few pages, though, you'll realize that you've stumbled on something entirely different which might be a life-changer in the way you look at Freemasonry. Like the 'Building' series by Bro. John S. Nagy which I'd reviewed here earlier, this book forces you to look at ritual in an entirely different way - and you may never be the same as a result. In fact, you may find yourself looking for more ways to use "psychosynthesis" in non-Masonic venues as well.

I'd be remiss if I didn't mention Umberto Eco's newly translated *The Prague Cemetery*. Like scotch, Eco is an acquired taste. You might grow to like it or you might find it unpalatable. Either way, you should know that this book is all about anti-Masonry and its handmaiden, anti-Semitism. Featuring plot hooks that echo of Dan Brown's novels, Eco uses the reality of a forgery written to condemn Jews that mixes in hatred of Masons as well (The Protocols of the Elders of Zion, often still quoted as fact in the Middle East today!) If you do read Eco, you'll want to get this book - AND I'd encourage you to visit my website at [masonicinfo.com](http://masonicinfo.com) where you'll find biographies of all of the players mentioned.



My 'you'll find something good here' book for this issue is *Do More Great Work*. If you often feel frustrated knowing that you can do more and, thus, be more, this is a great motivator. Simple to read, easy to implement including a section relevant to all Masons: How To Say 'No'! Motivational books are a dime a dozen; good ones are priceless. I'd put this in the latter category!



Although many think Bro. Ed King spends his life online, he's an avid reader and writer as well. He also occasionally publishes essays on the web as "The Old Webmaster". His personal website at [www.masonicinfo.com](http://www.masonicinfo.com) - Anti-Masonry: Points of View had over 3 million individual page views last year. He's (the husband of the) Webmaster for our Grand Lodge.



# Maine Mason Wins “Lobster Chef of the Year”

*Article and photos by  
Bro. Daniel Gaucher, Arundel Lodge #76*

In October, the Maine Lobster Council let out Arundel #76's best-kept-secret when it acknowledged Bro. Thomas Reagan III as the “Maine Lobster Chef of the Year” for 2011. Chef Tommy, as he's affectionately known, has been at the helm of Arundel's very successful Table Lodge for the past three years. This year was special, however, as his award-winning Slow Poached Maine Lobster Tail Nipponese was enjoyed by the brethren as one of the seven courses in this outstanding Table Lodge.

Tom Reagan earned his culinary degree at Southern Maine Community College. His interest in cooking had started early. “When you're a cub scout, they teach you how to cook an egg,” Tom explained. “My mother helped me. I was so excited.” He soon moved on to tuna sandwiches, and eventually graduated to making baked stuffed lobster for the family by age 14. Tom knew he had found his God-given talent. He was hooked.

The inspiration for Tom's latest award-winning lobster recipe came from a dish he conjured up to please a client while serving as chef for Hidden Pond Inn. The

client had requested a “new” lobster appetizer to sample. “Lobster salad was too easy and obvious,” Tom said, so he scanned his memory for anything that would help him come up with a new taste. “I remembered seeing a guest chef on the Martha Stewart show,” recalled Tom. “He made poached lobster, and I knew that was it.” To take it to the next level, Tom called on his years of experience working as a chef at many local restaurants and inns. “After a while, all that cooking leads to the ability to create combos that you can just taste in your mind.” What did he “taste” in his mind? “I had worked with Japanese rice cakes and orange miso before. In my mind that was the right combination with the poached lobster,” explained Tom. “I put the combo together...and it turned out great.” The lobster is slowly poached in a butter-cream sauce with subtle flavors of Japanese vinegar, then placed on a rice cake lightly sweetened



**Super Chef Tom Reagan.**

with honey. Dressing on the side is a colorful coleslaw of fresh cabbage, shitake mushrooms and carrots, with undertones of ginger, garlic, vinegar and orange-miso.

When news of the Maine Lobster Council contest came out, Tom's son-in-law called him and suggested he step up to the challenge. Tom knew his lobster dish was already a winner with clients, and that it was an “executable” recipe, meaning it had components you could buy at your local grocery store and anyone could make it at home. He prepared a presentation, and sought sponsorship from his brethren at Arundel #76. Familiar with



**Carefully charging the District Deputy's cannon.**

Tom's many successful meals at the lodge before, the resounding answer from his brothers was "Yes!" As Tom rose to the finals, he was proud to describe himself as "The Chef of Arundel Lodge #76," a truly unique title. To that he can now add "Maine Lobster Chef of the Year."

A month after his victory, Tom was busy feeling the "thrill of the kitchen" again, as he and his crew worked their magic at the 2011 Arundel #76 Table Lodge. "It was probably the best Table Lodge ever," is how Most Worshipful Brother Wayne Adams described it. "There was more energy in that room than ever before. Having the Maine Lobster Chef of the Year in our Lodge has definitely raised the bar." Worshipful Brother John Nompoggi agrees. "This is our 12th Table Lodge," John stated. "In the past we've had Masters from all over the country visit us. This year we had a brother travel 300 miles just to be at our Table Lodge. People come to enjoy the camaraderie and good times." Brother Nompoggi should know, since he and "Worshipful Chef" Steve LaPierre initiated Arundel's Table Lodge twelve years ago at. After nine years of the events, it was time to honor Brother LaPierre's long-running contribution. That same year, Chef Tom Reagan was raised. Tom took over chef duties for the 2009 event, and has been running the successful Table Lodges ever since.

Any brother who has had the pleasure of attending knows it is part feast, part function and part celebration. It has been stated, "The Table Lodge is the summary of Masonic doctrine. It prescribes reverence for Divinity and moral law. It strengthens the devotion that Masons hold for Lodge and Country. It increases the unity and fellowship of the Craft." (Guidelines for Table Lodge) There is no question with its fine food and many toasts to God, Country, the Armed Forces, and our many Masonic brothers "where-so-ever dispersed over the face of the globe," that Table Lodge is where one finds brotherly love and good fellowship and "where good fellowship is, members will fill up an empty room not only with themselves but also with their gifts."

Tom will be moving up to Senior Deacon this year. The only question that remains is whether he will still be in the kitchen with his



Preparing the libations.

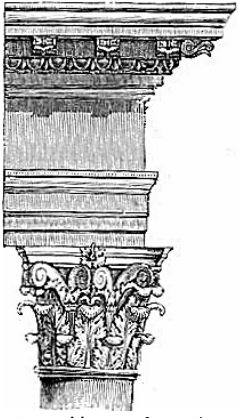
chef's apron when he becomes Worshipful Master? One can only hope.

If you want in on Chef Tommy's secret lobster recipe...it's no longer a secret! You can find it at the Maine Lobster Council's webpage, [www.lobsterfrommaine.com](http://www.lobsterfrommaine.com). Enjoy!



Chef Reagan applies the final touch.





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



## Maine Masonic College Stretches Its Legs

On Saturday, December 3, 2011, the Maine Masonic College hosted a panel discussion at the Bangor Masonic Center under the rubric of "Freemasonry in Our Time." To open the discussion, MW Wayne T. Adams presented a paper in which he gave a broad overview of the condition of the Fraternity as it is today. Following this, the panelists— Brothers Kelley Carter, Brian Messing, and Dannel Starbird—added their comments on the paper and raised additional considerations bearing on the topic. The audience—both Masons and non-Masons—then asked questions and gave their opinions regarding the subject. After this the master of Ceremonies, RW Eric Kuntz, wrapped up the session, leaving the participants to continue the discussion over a light lunch .

This stimulating panel discussion is a forerunner of the Maine Masonic College's Convocation 2012, to be held at the Hollywood Slots Hotel in Bangor on Saturday and Sunday, July 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. We shall address the same topic, "Freemasonry in Our Time," and have invited distinguished speakers from around the country to participate in the event.

In addition, we have made contact with the Philaethes Society, a premier Masonic research society, regarding their intended Masonic education forum to be held in New England next summer. We don't yet know the subject of their forum, but we are sure that it will be of interest to Masons all over the northeastern United States. We may even be able to contribute in some small way to their agenda.

All good news for Masons in Maine looking for more light.



The next class scheduled by the Maine Masonic College entitled **The Seven Liberal Arts and Sciences** will be held on Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, at the Newport Masonic Building. Professor Kirsten Jacobson of the University of Maine in Orono will conduct the class and it promises to be one of our best yet. The class will last from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., with a short break for a light lunch. You may have seen recent articles in the Portland Press Herald, one by the president of the University of Southern Maine and one by a leading Maine businessman, extolling the virtues of an education in the liberal arts and sciences. There is a lively discussion going on in Maine about the advantages of an education in the industrial arts versus an education in the liberal arts and sciences. We should be both informed and a part of that discussion.

by: Bro Stephen Nichols, Chairman, MMC Board of Regents

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## #9 The Minutes of ‘Old Builders Lodge #1000’



Portrait of Galileo Galilei by Giussto Sustermans

Some folks are known simply by their last name such as (Amadeus) Mozart, (Ludwig van) Beethoven or (Sir Isaak) Newton. If you say these names people know who you mean. Even fewer people are known by their first name alone. People know who Michelangelo (di Lodovico Buonarroto Simoni) or even Beyonce (Knowles, for our younger readers) are, just by their first names. Like the later group, our subject of these minutes is known by his first name alone; Galileo Galilei better known as just Galileo.

If you remember from the last installment of the ‘Minutes’ we were discussing the acceptance of Heliocentric Theory. This theory is the astronomical model in which the Earth and planets revolve around a stationary Sun at the center of a solar system. We learned that even though it wasn’t officially accepted until the 1700s people knew about it as early as 250 BC. It was the work of Galileo that moved this theory to mainstream thought and he faced great peril in voicing his beliefs. In fact, in 1633 Galileo was convicted of suspicion of heresy for "following the position of Copernicus, which is contrary to the true sense and authority of Holy Scripture," and was placed under house arrest for the rest of his life.

Galileo was born February 15, 1564 in Pisa, Duchy of Florence, Italy. He died January 8, 1642 at the age of 77. Galileo's achievements included: building the first high-powered astronomical telescope; inventing a horse-powered pump to raise water; he showed that the velocities of falling bodies are not proportional to their weights (remember the tower of Pisa); he described the true parabolic paths of cannonballs and other projectiles; came up with the ideas behind Newton's laws of motion; and confirmed the Copernican theory of the solar system.

Interestingly enough, the people questioning this theory were just working off from a misconception. They developed very good arguments for their side of the argument. One being that if this was true, then there would be a big difference in the position of the stars every six months. This is known as parallax and is actually how astronomers calculate the distance of new stars. Even though this shift does exist, it is so small they had no way to measure it at the time. The shift angle is less than  $1/60^{\text{th}}$  of a degree! The stars are actually much further away than they could have imagined. The other argument that had Copernicus puzzled was that if his theory was correct, then Venus, the closest planet to us, would have phases just like the moon. At that time all they had to look at the planets were their eyes; no telescopes yet! It was impossible to see anything such as a phase of a planet. Along comes Galileo. He improved the telescope so that he is generally considered the inventor of the modern telescope. He not only sees the phases of planets but also sees that planets have moons revolving around them, some have many moons. He is the first person to see that our moon has craters and is not smooth as thought at the time.

Even though it was Copernicus who put the idea out there, it was Galileo that was persecuted by the Church. Galileo was attacked when he took up the charge. One of the reasons was thought to be Galileo’s strong personality. Much more likely is the fact that Copernicus was going on an Occam’s Razor principle of ‘usually the simpler idea is the right one’. Remember, his theory explained why all of a sudden planets started to go backwards. But he didn’t really have proof. At that point it was ‘his word against ours’ with the Church. The difference between Galileo and Copernicus was that Galileo was using the telescope to prove Copernicus’ theory and he showed that the Church was wrong on this point.

In the next installment, we will deviate from the norm in that instead of a person, I will talk about Parallax and other facts that I came across in researching this series of articles. - By: Brother George M.A. Macdougall



**Our Schedule**—Keep up to date with our classes by checking our website  
[www.MaineMasonicCollege.com](http://www.MaineMasonicCollege.com)



# Lodge Historians recognized for 100% Completion

*by Richard Rhoda SGW*

The writers of Masonic lodge histories made history themselves this past year. For the first time in 151 years, all lodges are current in the reporting of their required histories.

Grand Lodge began to require lodge histories in 1860 when they had to be submitted every 10 years. In 1980 it was changed to every year and a fine of \$10.00 was to be imposed for each year a history was delinquent. Collections of fines were not actively pursued until seven years ago and then consternation arose among the Craft.

Five years ago there was significant dissatisfaction throughout the state relative to about 425 years of delinquent histories and the annual assessment of the \$10.00 fine for each year, every year, that a history was delinquent. As an example, a lodge that was 4 years behind in its histories would not owe a fine of \$40.00 but rather one of \$100.00!! There were lodges owing as many as 20 years.

Some lodges were refusing to pay their fine and some were telling, barely under their breath, where the Grand Lodge could go!! There was a strong feeling in some parts of the state of "them vs. us".

Success has been reached at this time because of the broad base support and desire of the lodges to complete their requirements. Such a success and the laying to rest of this divisive issue has been recognized for several reasons.

First, a Grand Master took on the problem. His successor stayed actively committed to the continuance of the program. Finally, our present Grand Master gave the inspiration to ensure that it got finished this year. They were the Generals.

The District Deputies have been vital to the success of the program, especially last year and this year. They have worked diligently with their lodges to keep the histories coming in. They have been the Captains.

Finally, brethren of the lodges, be they masters,

secretaries, historians or members just wanting to help their lodge get the job done.

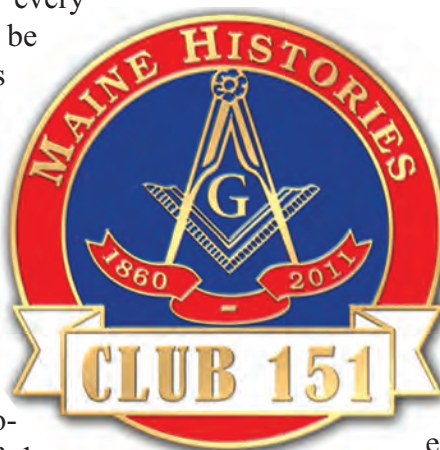
To celebrate this occurrence, a special pin has been designed which reads, around the Square and Compass, "Maine Histories, 1860-2011, Club 151."

This has been done to celebrate what 185 lodges have accomplished this year. Now, as far as histories go, we are all "us".

Such is the nature of man and his organizations that many may do work yet all will not receive recognition. The past five years some 1355 years of histories have been caught up or submitted annually as required. Some writers have submitted 10 to 15 years but not the current history. Their satisfaction came from knowing that they had helped their lodge do what needed to be done.

Recognition at this time is going to all the lodges through the recipients of these pins. They will show that the dragon has been slain and what we can accomplish across the state when we all work as a team towards a common goal.

May the wearers of these pins remind all of us of our obligations to responsibilities we assume, of our obligations to Grand Lodge, and of what we can do as a team.



Mt. Olivet Lodge's "Breakfast with Santa" event held Dec. 3, was attended by about 20 boys and girls. In the photo is Logan Vigue, Santa (Bro. Bryan Gess), and Brody Vigue. The boys are the sons of Missy and Bro. Duane Vigue. All were given a free photo with Santa.

# Masons and Fruit Baskets...must be Christmas

By Jeff Sukeforth

Early Saturday morning on December 17th at the Rockport Masonic Center the building was alive with the aroma of fresh coffee, eggs, sausage, bacon and pancakes for the members and their wives to enjoy. This gathering goes on every year around this time when Santa's helpers, better known as members of Amity Lodge #6 of Camden and St. Paul's Lodge #82 of Rockport meet for fellowship, breakfast and to make up fruit baskets.

The Masons of RMC provide a fruit basket to their Special Ladies and also to some members who just cannot get out and about. The baskets contain an assortment of fruit as well as a jar of homemade Quince jelly made by RW Herb Annis and a jar of homemade maple syrup boiled down in his own sap house by Brother Tom Cox. Needless to say these two items are always the hit of the baskets! The members and some wives deliver these after having breakfast and all have a fun time doing it.

According to RW Jeff Sukeforth the lodges try to have at least two dinners a year and the fruit baskets add a little Christmas cheer at the end of each year for the ladies. "It is always fun to deliver them and check in with the ladies and members to ensure they are doing well and if there is anything they need. Sometimes it is difficult to get back out the door to continue the deliveries, but it is always worth the time to bring a Special Lady a little bit of cheer".

It is not uncommon to have tears shed in thanks for being remembered and of course some of the members look forward to the



Members and wives who helped with the fruit baskets and deliveries are L-R: Clark Mason, Steve Pixley, Frank Colby, Keryn Annis, Connie Sukeforth, Teri Hise, Walter Greenlaw, & Doug Hise's mom, Cathy.

hugs and kisses they get from the Ladies. Inevitably the Brothers who make the deliveries will report at the next meeting on just how much the baskets meant and relay the thanks from those who received them. The members always send Christmas cards to the Special Ladies who live out of town and let them know they are being thought of during the holiday season as well.



**Donating Back to the Community.** On October 24, 2011 Saccarappa Lodge #86 attended a Cumberland County Commissioners meeting and presented the Cumberland County Sheriffs Department with a check for \$1000. Fellow Brother, Sheriff Kevin Joyce along with other top administrators, were present to receive the donation. The money will be used to purchase a new Taser. Front row, left to right: Commissioners Richard Feeney, Jim Cloutier, Susan Witonis. Back Row Chief Deputy Naldo Gagnon, Sheriff Joyce, Wor. Burt Babbidge, Wor. Bill Murphy, R.W. Ken Caldwell, Bro. Bob O' Brien.



# Kora Shriners work to build Masonic Unity

*“Behold how great it is that men should work and dwell together in unity”*

Realizing that Blue Lodge Masonry is the foundation on which all of our appendent organizations are built, members of the Kora Shrine Divan are working to reinforce the connection.

Beginning in 2010 under Potentate David Lidstone, and continuing in 2011 under Potentate John Knox, the Kora Divan Officers have been serving as guest officers at a number of lodges conducting Master Mason Degrees, Installation Services or Fellowship Nights.

Chief Rabban and Past DDGM of the 23rd District

Barry Gates has served as “director of the work” and assumes the Master’s Chair.

Most of the Divan are Past Masters of their respective lodges, one other is a Past DDGM, several are Past Commanders of their Commanderies, and all remain active in their lodge functions and participate in other Masonic activities in both our York Rite and Scottish Rite organizations.

During 2011, the group conducted four installations and five Master Mason degrees, raising seven new brothers.



On Thursday, Dec. 8 the Bethel Masonic Lodge #97 held its annual installation of officers. Adam Tanguay was installed as Master of Bethel Lodge for 2012. The members of the Divan from Kora Shrine of Lewiston performed the duties of installing the officers, as Adam Tanguay is a member of the Kora Shrine Funsters. The officers and the Installation Team pictured here, are as follows: Front Row, left to right: Barry Gates, Installing Master; Lloyd Sweetser, Senior Deacon;

Todd Davis, Junior Warden; Adam Tanguay, Worshipful Master; David Roberts, Senior Warden; Richard Halacey, Chaplain; John Gailey, Installing Officer. Back Row: Red Therrien, Installing Officer; Jeff Angevine, Junior Steward; Bill Myers, Senior Steward; Eugene Tanguay, Jr; Tyler; Scott Fraser, Secretary; Harry Leahy, Junior Deacon; Brent Angevine, Treasurer; John Knox, Installing Marshal; Everett Kaherl, Installing Officer; Charley Bonney, Installing Officer.





## ***St. George Lodge #16 Awards Service Medals***

On Monday, June 20, 2011, Wor. Master Gary Beam of St. George Lodge #16, AF & AM of Warren presented five longevity pins and stars during the lodge's June Stated Communication. The awards included a 25-Year pin to Wor. Michael Dunn, a 40-Year pin to Bro. Charles Monroe, a 55-Year Star to Bro. James Jenkins, a 60-Year Star to Wor. Bro. Frank Barrett, and a 65-Year Star to Wor. Bro. Russell "Casey" Smith. The top photos show Wor. Bro. Dunn receiving his 25-Year pin and Wor. Bro. Smith receiving his 65-Year Star (with Wor. Bro. Dunn in the background). The third shows Wor. Bro. Smith's 50-Year medal with three stars attached. Bros. Monroe, Jenkins and Barrett were absent at the time the photos were taken. Wor. Bro. Smith is shown leaning on his "Senior Member" cane. This cane is awarded to the member of St. George Lodge who has been a Master Mason the longest. This cane was bestowed on Wor. Bro. Smith in 2003. The cane will be returned to the Lodge when he enters that celestial lodge so it may be awarded to the next "Senior Member". Another St. George Lodge veteran Mason, Bro. Arthur Wood, Jr., became eligible to receive his 50-year medal on July 31, 2011.



## Union Lodge CHIPS Program



With the guidance of Chips leader Victor Oboyski, Union Lodge #31 registered 144 children during four days at the Union Fair. Children from age 4 months to 18 years, and from as far away as Seattle, Washington, were registered. In the top picture, Gregory Moody works with a child, while the bottom picture shows Barbara Flint and Daniel Beardsley recording vital information. Other workers at the event were Paulette Oboyski, Chris Brown and his bride Kitty, Jody Wentworth and his bride Sybil, and Dale Flint.



## Dog & Pony *From Page 7*

expected to drive to attend a meeting?

How many lodges are not represented by their Master or Wardens?

How many brethren attend aside from those of the host lodge?

What percentage of attendees make up the Grand Suite?

How many women attend? Their percentage of the attendance? Are they wives from within the district or are they wives attending with their Grand Lodge husbands? Are young Masonic wives really learning anything new about Masonry? Do wives really hold Masonic myths which have to be dispelled?

Should District Meetings be used as “brotherhood” or “public awareness” events?

How worthwhile are brief reports from each Master of how many meetings they had, how many new candidates, how many supers, etc.? Are not these supposed to be covered in the District Deputy’s report to the Grand Master?

What is the District Deputy’s responsibility for his district meeting?

Could meetings be held in a district every other year or could the Deputy Grand Master attend half of them each year on behalf of the Grand Master?

Do the lodges expect an inspirational Masonic talk from the Grand Master or do they even want one?

What do they expect or want? Do they want to be able to ask questions about the operations or issues concerning Grand Lodge which should be behind tyled doors?

Do you believe that the dog is tired and the pony is lame? If so, it is our responsibility to do something about it now, not leave it for others to do later. Let’s show pride in our Masonry and District Meetings by making them meaningful and worth our time and effort.

Time is of the essence! Let the discussion begin!!



## ***Mt. Olivet Lodge sponsors Bikes for Books Program***

Kora Shrine Clown "Farmer Sam" with some of the winners and participants of the Mt. Olivet Lodge/Gibbs Library 2011 "Bikes for Books" Summer Reading Program sponsored by Mt. Olivet Lodge and the Gibbs Library in Washington. More than 600 books were read during the 10-week program. The lodge held a fundraiser, and with a matching grant from Grand lodge, purchased six bikes and helmets. This is the second year Mt. Olivet Lodge has been involved in the Bikes for Books program. According to the local librarian, since the program began, a record number of children are reading over the summer months.



## ***New Mt. Olivet Lodge Facility Dedicated by Grand Lodge***

Mt. Olivet Lodge's two senior brothers were among the many attending the dedication on September 24 in the Town of Washington. Seated to the left, in front, and holding a cane, is Wor. Bro. Roland R. Luce (Past Master, Mt. Olivet Lodge) and to the right, seated in a wheel chair, is RW Brother Edward A. Ludwig (Past Master Mt. Olivet Lodge and PDDGM/7. Bro. Luce has 67 years and Bro. Ludwig has 64 years of Masonic Service, all in Mt. Olivet Lodge. Having them at our dedication meant a lot to Brethren of our lodge. In the months leading up to the dedication, Bro. Ludwig was in failing health. When told of the dedication, his family says he rallied so he could



attend. Family members transported him from an Orono nursing home where he was living to the lodge for the event. On November 13, Bro. Ludwig was accepted into the Celestial Lodge Above. To his last days he was dedicated to the craft that he loved.





Pictured here, left to right, are R.W. A. James Ross, Deputy Grand Master; M.W. Robert Landry, PGM; M.W. W. Louis Greenier II, Grand Master; Brother Samuel Goldsberry; M.W. Gerald Leighton, PGM; Brother Ben Weisner and Brother Steven Farrington.

## Our Senior and Junior Masons

Each candidate learns in the Fellow Craft Degree that the tools and implements of architecture imprint on the memory wise and serious truths, and that, thereby, the most excellent tenets of our institution are transmitted from generation to generation. This lesson was demonstrated in early December when several brethren who have served as Grand Master were joined by two young Masonic brothers and DeMolay leaders to confer the Master Mason Degree on Brother Samuel T. Goldsberry, the State Master Councilor of Maine DeMolay.

Participating in the raising of Bro. Goldsberry of Ancient York Lodge #155, were Bro. Ben Weisner, Past State Master Councilor, and Bro. Steven Farrington, State Senior Councilor, together with Grand Master W. Louis Greenier II and Deputy

Grand Master A. James Ross, who shared duties in the East, together with Past Grand Masters Robert R. Landry and Gerald S. Leighton.

Petitions for the degrees were accepted from Brothers Weisner and Farrington shortly after their eighteenth birthdays and both are active in our Masonic family. Brother Weisner is Senior Deacon of Cumberland Lodge #12 in New Gloucester, while Brother Farrington still has more work to do in Maine DeMolay before pursuing the chairs in Temple Lodge #25 in Readfield.

The degree conferral exemplified the opportunity for dedicated young Freemasons to learn from their Masonic seniors, which is being repeated across this Grand jurisdiction.

All Master Masons and their Ladies are cordially invited to attend our  
***4th ANNUAL SCOTTISH RITE LADIES "WEEKEND OUT"***

**Friday and Saturday, January 27th and 28th at Point Lookout Resort,  
in Northport, Maine**



**Accommodations:**

One Bedroom King Studio Cabin; \$99 per night.  
Two Bedroom Queen, Two Bath Cabin: \$139 per night.  
Three Bedroom, Two Bath Cabin; \$179 per night.

**Please make your Cabin reservations with Point Lookout Resort**

67 Atlantic Highway, (US Route 1), Northport, Maine  
Tel. 1-800-515-3611 Website: [www.visitpointlookout.com](http://www.visitpointlookout.com)

The activities reservations below must be made through the Scottish Rite Office by Jan. 13  
Checks payable to Valley of Portland and mailed with reservation form below to  
Scottish Rite, Masonic Temple, 415 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101  
Any questions call Brad Blake at 207-772-7711, or email him at [scottishrite@mainemason.org](mailto:scottishrite@mainemason.org)

**Friday Night Buffet at the Shrine Club Center in Belfast**

**Saturday Afternoon - Bowling Tournament & Card Playing at the Resort**

**Saturday Night Banquet/Dancing      Sunday Morning Breakfast at the Top of the Resort**

**Couples Package #1** - For those spending 2 nights at the Resort - **\$89**

Friday Dinner at Club; Saturday Bowling, Banquet & Dancing; Sunday Breakfast: all at Resort.

**Couples Package #2** - For those spending 2 nights at the Resort - **\$79**

Friday Dinner at Club; Saturday Banquet & Dancing; Sunday Breakfast; all at Resort.

**Couples Package #3** - For couples spending 1 night at the Resort - **\$69**

Saturday Bowling, Banquet & Dancing; Sunday Breakfast; all at Resort.

**Couples Package #4** - For Couples spending 1 night at the Resort - **\$59**

Saturday Banquet & Dancing; Sunday Breakfast; all at the Resort.

**Saturday night dress: Jacket & Tie; Ladies dress appropriately. All other events casual.**

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**REGISTRATION FORM**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Lady: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Package #: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_



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**Maine Masonic College**  
**SECOND ANNUAL CELEBRATION**  
**OF THE LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES.**

**PLEASE NOTE AND JOIN WITH US!**

**February 4th at the Lodge Hall in Newport: 9:00-2:00**

**Energetic and gifted Kirsten Jacobson, professor of Philosophy at the University of Maine, will lead an interactive celebration of the Liberal Arts and Sciences which are foundational to belief, vision and practice of Freemasonry. No other subject is more foundational and necessary to the function and well being of the Craft and to the growth and preservation of our Civilization.**

**No registration fee.      Guests and Ladies welcome.      Dinner \$5.00**

**Registration for dinner is required with Walter Macdougall,  
943-2331 or [wmacdougall@myfairpoint.net](mailto:wmacdougall@myfairpoint.net)**

**Policy on Notification**

**Please Note:** The Maine Masonic College does not require participants to register in order to attend its programs and classes. However, if you wish to partake in meals or if you wish to be notified of any postponement or changes in times and/or locations, it is necessary for you to register and thus give where and how you wish to be notified.