

# The Empire State Mason

FALL 2014



## St. John's Day 2014





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## Are You My Friend?

Our contemporary Craftsmen actively engage social media for communication. They use Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, LinkedIn, Instagram and others to stay in touch.

And you thought email was the way to communicate in the new Electronic Age? Oh, my! Email is so outdated. Indeed, some estimates suggest that email is going to be an artifact of the Electronic Age in just a few years. Today, email has become more of a business notification medium than a social medium. It is so slow.

We still use email, of course, but it is more suited to the way we used to use the Internet—logging off and on, checking our messages in bursts. Now, we are always connected, whether we are sitting at a desk or on a mobile phone. The always-on connection, in turn, has created a host of new ways to communicate that are much faster than email, and more fun.

Why wait for a response to an email when you get a quicker answer over instant messaging? Thanks to Facebook, some questions can be answered without asking them. You don't need to ask a friend whether she has left work, if she has updated her public status on the site telling the world so. Email, stuck in the era of attachments, seems boring compared to services like Google Wave, currently in test phase, which allows users to share photos by dragging and dropping them from a desktop into a Wave, and to enter comments in near-real time.

But the speed and ease of communication cut both ways. While making communication more frequent, they can also make it less personal and intimate. Communicating is becoming so easy that the recipient knows how little time and thought was required of the sender. Yes, your half-dozen closest friends can read your vacation updates. But so can your 500 other "friends." And if you know all these people are reading your updates, you might say a lot less than you would otherwise.

There are dangers of which you must be aware when you use social media. Anyone who doubts the power of social media to affect finances and your career need look no further than the example of Kansas City Chiefs football player Larry Johnson. The all-pro running back cost himself \$213,000, and ultimately a job, by posting anti-gay slurs on the micro-blogging service Twitter—in 140 characters or less, of course.

You should assume that potential employers will do a Google search of your name. Social media profiles typically appear near the top of the search page. If you have questionable pictures or posts on a public profile, take them down or make the profile private to avoid trouble. Even employees who think their job is safe can sabotage themselves by being too honest online about their personal life, or by posting feelings regarding a boss, client, co-worker or company for whom they work.



Cartoon used with permission

“We’ve seen a lot of cases of people publishing status updates that have gotten them in trouble,” says Justin Smith, founder and editor-in-chief of “InsideFacebook.” “People have said things that have caused problems with their boss because of what they said about their work or because they’ve shared some other kind of private information about work online.”

The best defense against such mistakes is to use plain old common sense. Remember, anything that appears on the Web is just a screenshot away from spreading quickly, despite the best efforts of social media users to keep it private. Once it is out there it will never go away. You have to assume that. You cannot un-ring a bell, and social media is the same.

The impact extends beyond you as an individual. Your online behavior reflects on your family, your children and their own future careers. Who wants to give a first-job to a young man or woman whose parents behave badly on Facebook or Twitter? But with all this being said, the Inner Door could be better guarded when the Investigating Committee takes a look at a petitioner’s Facebook and other social media postings.

So, are you still my Friend? Will you please “like” me? ▲

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# 2014 St. John's Day Address

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**Address of The Most Worshipful William J. Thomas  
Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York  
Masonic Care Community  
Utica, New York  
Saturday, June 21, 2014**

*This is the day that the Lord has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.<sup>1</sup>*

*Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, Most Worshipful Past Grand Masters, my colleagues of Grand Lodge, all my distinguished Brothers, Ladies, and friends of Freemasonry:*

I welcome you to the investiture of our appointed Grand Lodge Officers, here in the Daniel D. Tompkins Memorial Chapel. It is indeed a fitting place for a commencement of our terms of office for service to our beloved Grand Lodge. Grand Master Robert Judson Kenworthy dedicated this house of God on June 25, 1911. Our Grand Master remarked at that time, "... If anything were needed to testify to the generosity and might of our Fraternity, it will be found in this building which we today open for the worship of God, the joy of our children, and the peace and happiness of the home community ... ." Indeed, in our commencement today, we endeavor to carry that work forward, receiving the batons from our predecessors, with the goal of boldly going forward on those paths illuminated by Golden Rays of Truth.

### Thanks

We should first pause to give thanks to the precious jewels of our Grand Lodge. It is through the stewardship of the Trustees of our Masonic Hall and Home that we enjoy the bountiful graces of this magnificent facility. We entrust to them the watchful eye to keep our investment in this great asset for the benefit and joy of future generations of Masons. The Trustees of the Masonic Hall and Home are working diligently on many different projects, but three stand out in this, their 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Major renovations to all the campers' facilities at Camp Turk are being completed in time for this summer's programs. Preparations are being made for the replacement of the steeple and part of the roof at our beloved Tompkins Chapel here in Utica. Substantial changes are about to commence at our Masonic Hall in New York City which will improve the facilities for all ninety-seven Masonic and Non-Masonic groups that regularly use the facilities including new collation spaces and air conditioning for all the Lodge rooms.

We are also grateful for the contributions to humanity that are being pioneered by our Masonic Medical Research Laboratory here on the campus. They are looking to even greater scientific discoveries, and they do so in the name of the Grand Lodge of New York.

The Chancellor Robert R Livingston Masonic Library

and Museum, also here on the campus, is the crown of our Fraternity. We are blessed to have the support of benefactors such as our Trustees to promote the continuing work of our world-class institution.

### Theme

Each Grand Master develops his trestleboard on his theme. For Grand Master Edward Gilbert, it was his "Back to Basics." Most Worshipful Vincent Libone had his FIT theme: Faith, Integrity and Trust. Grand Master James Sullivan's trestleboard was based upon Brotherly Love, Charity and Integrity. The theme influencing our next two years of work together is the TEAM concept: T - E - A - M: Together Everybody Achieves More.

To become a part of a TEAM is a privilege. Few people ever have the wonderful opportunity to experience the support of teammates and friends. A team lifts and elevates the performance of an individual to heights never before achieved. Each individual recognizes his responsibility to the TEAM.

A TEAM is a collection of individuals who have chosen to pursue one or more common goals. One of these goals is the improvement of each individual, which can result in the improvement of the entire TEAM's performance.

There is no such thing as a free lunch. If an individual wishes to benefit from the TEAM he must give to the TEAM. Successful teams nurture the individual, and expect the individual to respond by also nurturing the team.

Together our TEAM will realize greater achievements, because Together Everybody Achieves More.

### District Deputy Grand Masters

A special reminder to our District Deputy Grand Masters: I reiterate the admonition of Most Worshipful Edward R. Trosin in his 2004 address, "The District Deputy will serve as the Senior Masonic Officer in his District. You are responsible for providing the leadership in your District. You are my personal representative, and responsible to me, not to any District organization. Others have been given the role of Advisor in your District, but you are the final authority. There can only be one boss, and you are it!"

### Grand Lodge Staff Officers

The Grand Lodge Staff Officers are charged with a very essential task of providing our education programs in the Districts. You are an integral part of the District's TEAM, and work alongside the District Deputy. Coordinate your travel and programs. Work together. Provide an atmosphere which enhances Brotherhood and Membership Retention.

### Assistant Grand Lecturers

Just as the District Deputy Grand Masters and Grand Lodge Staff Officers are on my TEAM, the Assistant Grand Lecturers are an integral part of the District's TEAM. Our Assistant Grand Lecturers are with us today to demonstrate

<sup>1</sup> Psalm 118:24

to your Districts that they are important to accomplish our work as Masons. Together with your Grand Lecturer, you will continue to shine those Golden Rays of Truth for which our Petitioners are searching.

### **Admonishment to our TEAM**

To each of our newly invested officers, I remind you to be ever cognizant that the eyes of our Fraternity are constantly focused upon you for both leadership and direction. Your own high standards and good example should reflect your high office. Never lose sight of the fundamental tenet of Brotherhood. The trowel is among your most valued tools.

### **Military Veterans - hand salute**

Placing our hand over our heart while rendering honors to the Flag of our country is a patriotic act, and is authorized by the United States Flag Code. You will note that earlier I invited our military veterans to join me in a hand salute, which is a patriotic act authorized by our Flag Code, as amended in 2011. I am a Navy Veteran, and I invite our military veterans to join with me whenever the opportunity presents itself. It is not a requirement, but an opportunity of which many of our veterans are not aware.

### **DDGM's Dispensations**

The Grand Master is empowered to grant dispensations for a number of rather routine situations. For most of them, the Grand Master seeks the counsel of the District Deputy Grand Master. Accordingly, I hereby delegate authority to the District Deputy Grand Masters until Grand Lodge 2015 to grant dispensations in the following limited situations, and he may not further delegate this authority:

- Confer a Degree in his District on six to ten candidates for any of the three Degrees (c361)
- Confer the Entered Apprentice Degree upon a candidate from a Lodge in his District by another Lodge in his District. (c361,ss205)

Until Grand Lodge in May 2015, Lodge Secretaries should request these dispensations directly from the District Deputy Grand Master. The District Deputy is not required to grant such dispensations, and should use his knowledge of the Lodge, the Officers and his District before granting the dispensation. Depending on the success of this program, it may be continued for the following year, along with additional dispensation authority. When there are concerns, the District Deputy Grand Master must consult with the Grand Master.

### **MORI**

Among the issues discussed during our Town Hall meetings over the past two years, one overwhelming concern was the need of our District Deputy Grand Masters for access to the online membership data for their Districts. You now have read-only access to MORI. Contact Grand Lodge registry when you have questions.

Also regarding MORI, the ten-year transition period from paper to MORI has ended. We still have about 25% of our Lodges not subscribing to MORI. The manual processing of paper documents continues to increase the costs of running Grand Lodge. The District Deputy Grand Masters are directed to survey their Lodges and assist them in finalizing the transition.

### **Concordant Bodies**

Our concordant bodies are an integral part of Masonry. They cannot exist without the Blue Lodge, nor can the Blue

Lodge exist without the support of both York and Scottish Rite. We see that our leadership in Grand Lodge includes brethren who have an association with at least some of these organizations. Indeed, note that our Grand Chaplain today wears the chapeau of a Sir Knight, and the presiding officers of our concordant bodies are in the front rows of the Chapel. These men are leaders not only in concordant bodies, but also leaders in our Grand Lodge. If there is an interest, I encourage our brethren to find even more Light and more diverse personal relationships through these organizations. Worshipful Masters may find new and enlightening ideas by inviting the concordant bodies for Lodge programs.

### **Youth**

Similarly I encourage Lodges to invite our youth organizations to present programs and Degree work in Lodge. You would be amazed at the quality of ritual work and the great love they have for our Masonic family!

I ask the District Deputies to consider appointing a District Youth Coordinator to promote youth activities. As Masons we are the models for those who follow in our footsteps. What a greater impact on humanity can we have than influencing and leading our youth? This is a good opportunity for us to anchor our work to inspire all our youth, both boys and girls, and reach out to work with them for their future.

My goal is to see at least one new DeMolay Chapter, one new Rainbow Assembly and one new Triangle formed in each of the next two years. We need adults and Lodges to pitch in and make that happen.

### **Camp Turk**

And speaking of support for our youth, my wife and I have decided to put our charitable support behind Camp Turk, which is about forty-five minutes north of us in the Adirondack Mountains. Our Trustees maintain the Camp on Round Lake, and which is named after Most Worshipful Nathan Turk. I have asked the District Deputies and Staff Officers to use the Grand Master's pins as a vehicle for donations directly to the Camp.

### **2014 and 2015 GM Cruise for Camp Turk**

Additionally the 2014 and 2015 cruises will benefit Camp Turk. The cruise lines have agreed to make donations to the Camp for every cabin booked. Our cruise on September 6 will be a short six-day Bermuda trip out of Port Liberty, New Jersey. The 2015 trip will be a longer cruise to Alaska. Again, beneficiary of both of these cruises is our youth and Camp Turk.

### **Masonic Medical Research Laboratory**

Scientists at our Masonic Medical Research Laboratory continue to be world leaders in heart research. They are uncovering new genes that cause heart diseases and are testing new therapies for common human ailments. These projects stand to benefit all of humanity and the continued support of the Masonic community remains essential to their success. You are encouraged to reach out to the Lab for Lodge and District programs.

### **Native American Masonic Degree Team**

Right Worshipful William Greene from the Niagara-Orleans District, under my auspices is forming a Native American Masonic Degree Team. I see this as an important program for both recognition of the heritage of our brethren, as well

*continue on page 6*

*continued from page 5*

as stimulating ritual relevance among our Craftsmen. Please circulate this new program in your Districts, and refer them to Right Worshipful Greene.

### **Social Media**

During our Town Hall meetings, you told me that communications is paramount, and that we need to adjust to the needs of our contemporary Craftsmen, especially with regard to social media. I listened, and I acted quickly.

Today, we have a new website. We have a Facebook page. We have a Facebook group. We are on Twitter. We have a new newsletter called "Hiram's Highlights". We have an email announcement group list called Atholl 1781. We have a renewed *Empire State Mason* magazine.

But social media is not without its concerns. Along with contemporary communications comes a recognition that social media can be abused and could be a detriment. We need to subdue our passions when we place our square and compasses in front of the public. I have established a best practices policy for social media, which you will find on our website. There is nothing therein which conflicts with your moral, social or civil duties and privileges. It does remind us that we are Masons in the public eye, and not just in the Lodge room.

Be careful of what you say on Facebook and other media. Once it is out there, it is there forever; it won't go away. The things you publish could impact on your children and family - in addition to your own professional career.

But also use social media to the benefit of our Craft. A review of a petitioner's Facebook and other public media could be helpful to the investigating committee.

### **Observant Masonry**

Many of our petitioners are interested in our Craft for different reasons than you might expect. Some express interest in esoteric knowledge, spiritual enlightenment and personal development. Some are simply interested in Lodge meetings as they may have been conducted in the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Is this for everyone? Of course not. But we cannot ignore these young men who are hungry for what we might offer them. The concept of Observant Masonry is spreading through many other Grand Jurisdictions, and we will encourage development on a Lodge-by-Lodge review. I have appointed Right Worshipful Piers Vaughan as Grand Lodge Staff Officer at Large and Liaison for Observant Masonry in New York. We already have pockets of interest in Dutchess, Erie, Albany, Rensselaer-Schenectady, Onondaga and Manhattan.

### **Ritual Renaissance Program**

Two years ago, we engaged the Custodians of the Work on a study of our rituals, both past and present, titled the Ritual Renaissance Program. To great acclaim, the program has reviewed the Entered Apprentice and the Fellowcraft Degrees, with recommendations to restore some of the work which had been previously withdrawn. The study has provided a body of knowledge to be used for both future study and optional inclusion in our rituals. I consider that program to be of great importance, and have directed that the program be the subject of its own special committee. The RRP Committee, chaired by Right Worshipful Stewart C. McCloud II, will continue the work to its logical conclusion with the Master Mason Degree.

### **Grand Unity Day**

On September 13 in Trenton, four Grand Lodges will come

together for a first-ever Ritual exchange and education event. The Grand Lodges of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware will exemplify the three Degrees as done in their respective jurisdictions in a tiled meeting. New York will exemplify the Entered Apprentice degree. I strongly encourage our Brothers to join me in the historic Trenton Masonic Temple. Information is on the website. I urge the District Deputies to send representatives to Grand Unity Day in Trenton on September 13.

### **Boring Lodges**

I encourage all Worshipful Masters to step back and look at the way they conduct Lodge work. Many of our Lodges are not retaining members because, well, they are just plain boring. Our Lodges must be stimulating to keep our Brothers knocking at our doors. And mediocrity in our work as Craftsmen is not conducive to membership retention. Good ritual and interesting programs are the heart and soul of a vibrant Lodge. Worshipful Master, you are the designer of your Lodge's success. Look well to the East!

### **Library**

Have you visited our Livingston Masonic Library lately? The Library is online with a treasure trove of artifacts and documents for your education and general pleasure. Our Trustees of the Masonic Hall and Home are the primary benefactor. Recent work includes digital archiving of Lodge minutes and records. Lodges should contact the Library to become involved in the program.

### **Anniversary Aprons**

Several years ago, Most Worshipful Edward G. Gilbert stepped boldly forward with his 50-year anniversary apron program, which has been enthusiastically received by our veteran Craftsmen. Grand Masters Libone and Sullivan continued the program. And now we are taking the program two steps further, adding 60- and 70-year aprons to our anniversary program in recognition of our long-time veterans. The aprons will be sent to the Lodge Secretary directly (not to the District Deputy) when a request is made for a 50-, 60- or 70-year certificate and pin.

We are very thankful for the sponsorship of the program. For the next two years, the Directors of the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory have sponsored the 50-year aprons; and the Trustees of the Masonic Hall and Home have sponsored the 60- and 70-year aprons. We are grateful for the service to the Craft of these veteran Masons, and these tokens will recognize in some small way our appreciation for all they have accomplished.

### **Surviving Spouses and Loved Ones**

The Surviving Spouses and Loved Ones program is another innovation of Most Worshipful Edward Gilbert which has drawn huge albeit quiet acclaim. He initiated the program in 2008, chaired by Right Worshipful William Jones, who continues the program today. We are grateful for the opportunity to continue this valuable effort, which is sponsored by the Trustees of the Masonic Hall and Home.

### **Prince Hall**

In 2001, we established fraternal relations with the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of New York, under the stewardship of Most Worshipful Carl J. Smith. Both Grand Lodges continue to bask in the warm Light that emanates therefrom.

In April I had the great pleasure of traveling to Olean in the Southern Tier with Most Worshipful Dorian R. Glover for an exchange visit between our Enchanted Mountains Lodge 252, and Prince Hall's Master Craftsman Lodge 110 and St. John's Lodge 16. It was a long drive, and one of the most pleasant of my Masonic career. Most Worshipful Glover and I enjoyed many hours together, sharing experiences and histories, problems and solutions. In short, we demonstrated what we already knew - that our Brothers want more and greater fraternal relations. We agreed that we would encourage our Lodges to continue exchange visits.

My Brothers, there is no reason why you should not be reaching out to your local Prince Hall Lodges. Invite them to your Lodge. Share your programs. Take advantage of that warm Light that comes from Brotherly Love.

### **Statewide Redistricting**

There was a time in our history when we had over 1,000 active Lodges in sixty-five Districts. Today we have about half that, and we still have sixty Districts. We once had about 346,000 Masons, and today we have about 12% of that - and we still have 60 Districts.

There are fewer men within our Districts from which to select our leaders. About twenty years ago, we expanded our District Deputies' terms from one year to two, since we had fewer and fewer available brethren to take on the ominous task. That situation continues unabated.

Accordingly, I have directed our Deputy Grand Master to engage a special committee to study the concept of a general reunification of our Districts into a more administratively streamlined structure, consistent with the general downsizing of our membership and Lodges.

### **Audit Committee**

As we have fewer members, we must do more with less. Adjusting to these new realities means that proper financial management is more important than ever. If mismanaged, the various tax and accounting considerations can become obstacles to our mission and goals. To that end, I have established a special Grand Lodge Audit Committee. The committee is chaired by retired New York MTA Inspector General Right Worshipful Bernard Rashes. The committee is authorized to review financial and procedural activities of the Grand Lodge, with an aim of transparency and mitigating risk. This is a new endeavor for Grand Lodge, and we will adjust as necessary to reduce waste and increase efficiency.

### **General Committee Changes**

Many of our committees are top-heavy with highly talented Craftsmen, who have labored long in the quarries. Our younger Craftsmen are benefitting from their work. It is time to give them the opportunities to hone their own skills, and we will be adjusting the composition of our committees. It is time for new energy and refreshed ideas. That means new faces on our committees.

None of our veteran committeemen should ever feel as if they are being pushed aside. To the contrary, they have led us to the great places we now find ourselves. Leadership succession is an essential element of any organization. Indeed, among the first instructions we give our new District Deputy Grand Masters is to "find your successor." I personally thank each of our committeemen for their contributions, and trust that they will pass the torch and mentor their successor, so that we may all benefit with even greater achievements.

### **Lewis Jewel**

The relationship between Masonic Brothers is very important. But the relationship between a Father and a son who are also Masonic Brothers is extraordinary. I can think of no bond stronger.

The Lewis is a tool operative Masons use to move very heavy stones, and is very strong. The Lewis of speculative Freemasons denotes the relationship of a father and son - which is also very strong. The Lewis jewel is authorized to be worn in a number of Grand Jurisdictions, notably Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Delaware, United Grand Lodge of England and others. I am authorizing the wearing of this jewel by New York Masons. If your stepfather or father-in-law is the Masonic influence in your life, you may also wear the jewel. Additional details and how to acquire the jewel are on our website.

### **Minimum Age for Petitioning**

In 1968 there were just nine jurisdictions in North America with age minimums lower than 21. Today there are thirty-eight. The Grand Lodge of New York is in the minority; we are following rather than leading. During my Town Hall meetings over the past two years, you spoke loudly that you wanted to revisit the topic and study it again. I have commissioned a Special Committee to examine the topic of lowering our minimum age to petition.

Notwithstanding any recommendations, it is wise to remind both the sponsoring Brother and the investigating committee that it is their task to diligently maintain the integrity of our membership by guarding the Inner Door. The Charge to the Worshipful Master on his Installation is very clear: "It is better that no workmen be added to the roll than one unworthy be permitted to cross the threshold of the Lodge." Look well to the East, my Brothers. Look well to the East.

### **Closing Remarks**

The printed Address that you will receive shortly contains some additional points for your consideration.

In closing, I give thanks to all our Past Grand Masters, especially Most Worshipful Trosin, who gave me my first opportunities to serve our Grand Lodge, and who continually encourages and counsels me.

I reflect that our Grand Lodge is emerging from a decade of divisiveness. For the past two years, Grand Master Sullivan and I have worked together tirelessly on various issues in front of us. Some of the concerns were very challenging. But in every respect, Most Worshipful Sullivan worked in earnest to prepare me for the work ahead of us. During his term, he counseled us all that we must avoid private piques and quarrels, and learn to like each other.

Indeed. Brethren, a lot of our problems would disappear if we talked more WITH each other, instead of talking ABOUT each other.

There comes a time in your life, when you walk away from all the drama and the people who create it. You surround yourself with people who make you laugh. Forget the bad, and focus on the good. Love the people who treat you right, pray for the ones who don't. Life is too short to be anything but happy. Falling down is a part of life, and getting back up is living.<sup>2</sup>

### **Poem: The Builder**

I conclude with a short verse the epitomizes my own

<sup>2</sup> José N. Harris

*continued from page 7*

philosophy of our work as Craftsmen:

*I saw them tearing a building down -  
A team of men in my hometown.  
With a heave and a ho, and a lusty yell,  
They swung a beam and a sidewall fell.*

*I said to the foreman, "Are these men skilled  
like the ones you'd use if you had to build?"  
And he laughed and said, "Oh no, indeed!  
The most common labor is all I need,  
For I can destroy in a day or two  
What takes a builder years to do."*

*So I thought to myself as I went on my way,  
Which one of these roles am I willing to play?  
Am I one who tears things down  
As I carelessly make my way around?  
Or am I one who builds with care,  
to make the world better... because I was there?*

### Epilogue

*Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell  
together in unity!*<sup>3</sup>

GOD bless each of you and your families. GOD bless the past, present and future men and woman who are serving our great nation. GOD bless our beautiful Fraternity and may God bless America.



Fraternally,

*William J. Thomas*

MWWilliam J. Thomas  
Grand Master ▲

<sup>3</sup> Psalm 133

## Hancock Lodge holds Masonic Safety ID



Volunteer Terry Rowe shows VW Herb Buckley the picture she just took of her grandson Grayson, who was held by Terry's son Michael Royer.

Saturday, July 12 saw the Hancock Masonic Lodge 552 photographing and fingerprinting the children of the Hancock area at the Town Square Pavilion. ▲

## Grand Line Apron presentations set for fall



(l-r) RW Christopher J. Hough, Junior Grand Deacon; RW Richard J. Kessler, Grand Lecturer; RW Jeffrey M. Williamson, Deputy Grand Master; RW James R. Kintzel, Deputy Grand Marshal; RW James R. MacConnell, Deputy Grand Standard Bearer

October 18 has been selected for a joint apron presentation for several members of the Grand Line. The Deputy Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Marshal, Jr. Grand Deacon, Deputy Grand Standard Bearer and the Grand Lecturer will be feted at Michael's Banquet Facility in

Hamburg, New York.

To download a copy of the registration form, which includes local area motels, go to the Grand Lodge website at [nymasons.org](http://nymasons.org) and look under the "News and Events" tab at the left of the display. For a hard copy please contact

RW James Kintzel at 716/652-0501 or email [jkintzel@roadrunner.com](mailto:jkintzel@roadrunner.com) for further assistance.

Please note: This date is a home game for the Buffalo Bills football team. Please get your motel room reservations in early. ▲





RW JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON,  
DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

## Teamwork: not just for birds and bees

With the summer months swiftly coming to a close, our thoughts now turn to resuming our labors in the quarries of Masonry. As your Deputy Grand Master, I have the opportunity to travel throughout this wonderful jurisdiction. I find it very gratifying to witness Grand Master Thomas' theme of TEAM (Together Everybody Achieves More) resonating so positively within the fraternity.

During St. John's Weekend festivities I had the pleasure of conversing with RW Pat Imbimbo who is the new DDGM of the Washington Masonic District. RW Pat and I became acquaintances a year or two earlier when we traveled to his northern District on a fellowship visitation trip. During our conversation I asked him how his bees were faring, especially dealing with the problems and challenges that beekeepers are currently experiencing with mites and pesticides.

Like any proud hobbyist, RW Pat pulled a few photographs out of his sport coat to show me his beehives. He explained that early in the season he puts sugar water and nectar out in jars for the foraging bees to bring back to the hive. This tricks the queen into thinking the time is right to lay more eggs, thus growing the hive.

He also explained that when the hive is in danger of overheating, the bees will obtain water and spread it on the backs of fanning bees who cool the hive by directing airflow into or out of the hive, depending on need.

In addition to those noted above, the hive will contain a variety of bees such as soldiers, drones, nurse, wax, queen's attendants, mortuary and foragers (among others). Each has a clear mission to grow the hive.

What a TEAM! Every bee knows its job. The drone mates with the queen (and unfortunately dies in the process-yikes!); the queen bee lays the eggs; the nurse bees take care of the eggs; the mortuary bees dispose of the dead and make sure the hive is clean; the soldiers protect the hive from predators and intruders; and the foragers collect food for the entire hive.

Another example of TEAM-work was presented to the District Deputies and Grand Lodge Staff Officers during the training session last spring when we asked the upcoming officers, "Why do geese fly in a V-formation?" The answer may surprise: by flying in this formation they increase their flight range by 71% and reduce the air resistance by 65%. The goose at the head of the V is not necessarily the leader of the flock and the geese take turns leading. As one bird tires, it drops to the back of the formation and another takes its place. Flying in V-form increases visibility, as each bird can see what's happening in front of it. And when flying, geese honk to provide recognition and encouragement to each other to maintain their speed. Honking also helps them maintain the V formation. Now, that's teamwork!

So how does this apply to us as members of our Fraternity? Freemasonry is 100% teamwork. You can't confer a Degree, run a Lodge, a District or a Grand jurisdiction by yourself. Teamwork is essential to the very survival of any organization and we surely can take lessons from Mother Nature. As Masonic leaders, now is the time to build our TEAM.

Make sure your Brothers clearly understand the mission, goals and objectives that you are placing on your Masonic trestleboard. Common attributes of great Masonic leaders include: communicating, assigning, delegating, empowering, rewarding, cross training, promoting and learning to be more tolerant and flexible as difficult challenges unfold.

My Brothers, Grand Master Thomas' theme of TEAM (Together Everybody Achieves More) couldn't come at a more appropriate time. The genius of Freemasonry lies in its potential. New aspirants are flocking to our Lodges seeking knowledge and membership in our gentle Craft. We are witnessing a new rebirth and a new sunrise of opportunity. It is only through preparation and teamwork that your Lodge may enjoy and partake of the benefits of this wonderful growth. Teamwork is not just for the birds and the bees. ▲



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Your Local  
Blood Donor  
Drive**



## The Investigating Committee

RW CHARLES P. UHLE,  
SENIOR GRAND WARDEN

The most important committee that a Master Mason will ever be asked to serve on is the Investigating Committee. A Master must use his most capable members, men of high caliber and ability, Brothers who love the Fraternity and the Lodge and will do their very best to keep its good name protected. Those selected for the investigating committee should possess good common sense, tact, diplomacy, shrewdness and diligence.

A visit to the petitioner's home is essential in order to observe his home life and to determine his family's attitude toward his joining the Craft. It is wise to interview an applicant in the presence of his wife.

There is no one set of questions that could be asked of every candidate, but the following should be considered:

1. Do you believe in God, and the immortality of the soul? (A must.)
2. Have you been a resident of New York State for the past twelve months?
3. Has anyone solicited you to become a Mason? (Be sure)
4. Why do you wish to become a Mason?
5. Are any of your immediate family Masons?
6. Can you afford to take this step without denying your family the necessities of life?
7. Are you working and/or have a regular income?
8. Do you respect the law and the Constitution of the United States?
9. Have you ever been arrested or accused of a crime?
10. Will attending Masonic meetings interfere with your family life or cause any problems? Ask this of his wife, also.
11. Do you know that you will be required to learn a small part of our Ritual after each Degree? Inform him he will have all the help he needs.
12. Will he be able to attend education classes evenings or weekends?
13. Inform him of the days and time the Lodge meets and ask if he will be able to attend on a regular basis.
14. Have you made any previous applications to become a Mason? Were you ever rejected by a Lodge? Why?
15. Inform him of some of the charities that your Lodge and the Fraternity support.

16. Bring with you the DVD, the Lodge System of Masonic Education, and show him and his wife the Introduction to Masonry section.

The Investigating Committee members must make a thorough search into the candidate's character, background, etc. To do less is to fail to fulfill their obligations to the Lodge and Masonry. A criminal history and a sex offender check should be performed. NY has a sex offender database, which is free. You might also be able to look at the person's Facebook page.

The Investigating Committee must ask itself, Did we really make an attempt to determine his character, temperament, esteem in the neighborhood or community, home life, personal habits, reasons for petitioning and understanding of Freemasonry? The Investigating Committee must report one of the following: favorable or unfavorable. The Committee must prepare a written report to be read in Lodge by one of its members.

Every petitioner must give three references; he must also furnish the address and phone number of each reference. The Master has the responsibility to see that each of the references is contacted and the appropriate questions are asked in regards to the petitioner: How long have you known him? What is your relationship to him? Describe his character. Do you consider him a moral and upright man? Is he a good family man, responsible and caring? It is a serious Masonic offence not to make a proper investigation into a candidate's character and background.

Brethren, I hope this impresses upon you the importance of what is required of you should you be assigned to be part of an Investigating Committee. Remember, be a gentleman at all times, be courteous and be sure to dress appropriately. Proper dress is a business suit and tie. Also make sure your shoes are shined. Be sure to be on time and have the person's phone number with you in case you get lost or are going to be late because of unforeseen events. The Committee members should arrive in one vehicle. Remember that you might be leaving the first impression of Masonry on this person. ▲



### Q & A BROCHURE

**Answers to Frequently Asked Questions About Freemasonry in New York**

is available through  
lodgeservicesNY@aol.com



## From the Junior Grand Warden



RW RICHARD S. MORLEY,  
JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN

### Lodges build Lodges

I want to start out by thanking you, my Brothers, for electing me Junior Grand Warden. I am looking forward to serving you over the next two years.

Lodges need to build Lodges. We have a problem throughout our state. We have very successful Lodges that have great turnout for meetings, they do great ritual and they bring in new members every year; and then we have the struggling Lodges. They have poor turnout to meetings, ritual work is not the best and the few members that are involved spend most of their time trying to get the fuel bill paid, repair the leak in the roof, or just try to muster up enough Brothers to open a meeting.

Don't get me wrong. There are also Lodges that are financially sound but still can't get enough Brothers to open, as well as some Lodges that are barely scraping by but have good attendance at meetings and do great ritual.

I want to focus on the struggling Lodges that can barely open. What we need to do is work together to help, aid and assist these Lodges that need help. We should make a point to visit these Lodges to help them with their opening, give them ideas and suggestions for ways that they can improve attendance, ways of raising funds for the Lodge and offer assistance with Degree work. If you are a member of that struggling Lodge you should also visit the progressive Lodge,

share your experiences and discuss your problems. They may have ideas that can help you. Together, both Lodges will benefit from the camaraderie.

When I was District Deputy Grand Master I had the opportunity to work with a Lodge that was struggling. They had very low attendance, inactivity and financial difficulties. I called on the Junior Grand Warden for assistance. With his help we were able to show them what resources were available and give them guidance on how to revitalize Lodge activity, improve attendance and offered ideas for fundraising and financial efficiency. Since that meeting a neighboring Lodge has stepped up to offer support and continues to provide help in making them a stronger Lodge.

Now that I am Junior Grand Warden I will take that experience to other Districts with similar issues and give them the same support I was given to help struggling Lodges become strong again. The presence of the Grand Lodge Officer, I feel, was essential in motivating the Brothers of the Lodge. It showed them that Grand Lodge does have a personal interest in their success.

“Remember your cabletow my Brothers: You cannot walk in front of a Brother and pull him, you are blocking his view. You cannot walk behind a Brother and push him, you cannot push a rope. You must walk beside your Brother and guide him on a straight and narrow path.” ▲



## From the Grand Treasurer



RW CHARLES CATAPANO,  
GRAND TREASURER  
516-314-8156  
CCAT1211@YAHOO.COM

I have started to review the finances of Grand Lodge. It is also necessary to review the budget for the present year and to ensure Grand Lodge stays within its boundaries. I will provide more information on this effort and maintain the transparency that has already been established.

In the time following my election as Grand Treasurer, I have visited many Lodges and shared great times with all the Brothers I have met. I will continue to visit Lodges all over the state and I look forward to meeting you.

I would encourage the Masters to establish an Audit Committee in their Lodge. It is vitally important for each Lodge to check on its finances on a regular basis. I know that some Lodges have an established committee in place, so congratulations for being ahead of the curve. An Audit Committee is a useful tool in a system of checks and balances. Having quarterly audits and an annual audit will identify areas that may need attention. If your Lodge needs a committee and would like some assistance, please contact me and I will

be glad to help.

Another area that needs addressing is the process of voting on a motion to expend funds at the Lodge level. Too many Brothers are not really quite sure of the exact process. It is the responsibility of each Brother of the Lodge to understand what the motion is and why it is necessary.

First, the Lodge should have a budget to work from for the current term. If, during the term an unexpected expense comes up or if the budgeted line item is over budget, a vote of the Brothers present is needed to approve the expense. With that in mind, the Brothers should be asking questions, and not just raising their hand, if they don't fully understand the motion. My Brothers, it is your Lodge and you need to know why the expenditure is needed. From the newly Raised Brother to the Master in the East, all Brothers of the Lodge have a say in approving or disapproving expending funds. Therefore, the next time there is a motion made, make sure you have a question regarding it.

If any Brother has a question for me he can email it to me. I will be glad to assist in increasing the financial knowledge of all the Brothers. ▲



RW PAUL M. ROSEN,  
GRAND SECRETARY  
Masonic Hall  
71 West 23rd Street  
New York, NY 10010  
Phone 914-393-8466



## Florida Sojourner Luncheons in 2015

In an effort to maintain an ongoing connection and relationship with those Masons and members of Eastern Star who have taken advantage of the State of Florida's climate and hospitality, the Masons and members of the Order of the Eastern Star from New York State will meet in the sunshine state of Florida for fellowship. The Grand Master, Most Worshipful William J. Thomas, fraternally invites you to meet with him and the Grand Line; the Grand Matron-Elect, Most Worthy Bonnie Blanchard, and the Grand Patron-Elect, Most Worthy Bruce Witmore, and the Grand Chapter Officers of the Order of Eastern Star at one of three Florida Sojourner Luncheons during the month of January 2015.

The first meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 14 in Sarasota (Southwest Coast of Florida) at the Sahib Shrine Center, A.A.O.N.M.S., 600 North Beneva Road. Take I-75 South to Exit 210, turn right onto Fruitville Road to Beneva Road; turn right onto Beneva Road to first traffic light. Sahib Shrine Center is on your right.

The second meeting will be held on Thursday, January 15 in Tampa (West Coast of Florida) at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center, 5500 Memorial Highway (near Egypt Shrine Masonic Center). Take I-275 to Exit 39 (Airport). Take Eisenhower Blvd. after passing Clearwater Exit 60. Get in left lane onto Independence Parkway. After merge with Memorial Highway turn left onto Memorial Highway. After about 1/10 of a mile the Scottish Rite Masonic Center (with large sign along highway) is on the left.

The third meeting will be held on Saturday, January 17 in Lake Worth (East Coast of Florida) at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center, 2000 North "D" Street. Take I-95 to 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, Exit 64. Go East on 10<sup>th</sup> to the third traffic light, and make a left onto North "D" Street. The Scottish Rite Masonic Center is on the right at the end of that street.

The Grand Lodge F. & A.M. of the State of New York and the Grand Chapter O.E.S. of the State of New York, in partnership with the Trustees of the Masonic Care Community and the Directors of the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory, are hosting a splendid luncheon on each of the above listed dates at noontime for you and your spouse. Each meeting will conclude at approximately 2:30 p.m. There will be immediate seating upon arrival, with no waiting.

In order to make adequate preparations for a pleasurable experience and to plan for your arrival, we ask that you complete and mail to the Office of the Grand Secretary the reservation form on the adjacent page, together with your personal check for \$5.00 per person made payable to: OES – MASONS Sojourner's Luncheon. Remember to send your completed reservation form and payment to: RW PAUL M. ROSEN, Grand Secretary, Grand Lodge F & AM of the State of New York, 71 West 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, New York, NY 10010-4149. If you should have any questions, please contact Mrs. Rose Flanagan at 212/337-6636.

The New York Masons and the New York Order of Eastern Star are a closely connected team working together in the name of Brotherly and Sisterly Love, Relief and Truth. We look forward to meeting and greeting each of you in sunny Florida.

MW William J. Thomas  
Grand Master

M.W. Bonnie Blanchard  
Grand Matron-Elect

M.W. Bruce Witmore  
Grand Patron-Elect ▲



**SPECIAL NOTE:** If your membership in Masonry totals [50], [55], [60], [65], [70], [75] years, either this year, or in the year 2015, and you wish to have the Grand Master present the Service Award Certificate at the luncheon, please circle your anniversary year above, and check one of the boxes below:

Yes - I joined in 19\_\_\_\_  No, I received one earlier this year.  No, I plan to receive it in my Lodge.

**Please Read This First**

## GRAND LODGE F. & A. M., STATE OF NEW YORK 2015 FLORIDA SOJOURNER MEETING -- RESERVATIONS FORM

Yes, I plan to attend the following luncheon meeting (Please check one):

Wednesday, January 14, in Sarasota  Thursday, January 15, in Tampa  Saturday, January 17, in Lake Worth

I am a member of \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_

My companion named below  is  is not a member of the ORDER of the EASTERN STAR.

is  is not a member of the MASONIC FRATERNITY.

**PLEASE PRINT AND COMPLETE THE REMAINDER OF THIS FORM:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Your Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Your Companion's Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Street)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City, State & Zip Code)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Telephone)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(e-mail address)

@ \_\_\_\_\_

Please PRINT additional names of each person who will accompany you and indicate affiliation:

NAME

LODGE/CHAPTER

Enclosed is my check, or money order, (do not send cash) payable to *OES-MASONS Sojourner Luncheon*:

\_\_\_\_\_ Luncheon Ticket(s) @ \$5.00 per person listed above

**Please do not send cash.**

Total amount of check or money order. . . \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Office of the Grand Secretary  
Grand Lodge of New York  
71 West 23<sup>rd</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10010



RW BRUCE TESTUT,  
CHAIRMAN

[TESTUTB@aol.com](mailto:TESTUTB@aol.com)

[masonic\\_brotherhood\\_fund@yahoo.com](mailto:masonic_brotherhood_fund@yahoo.com)

The Masonic Brotherhood Fund year ended May 31 and the results of the campaign were impressive for the year. It was a tough year, with the winter that never seemed to end and the higher costs for fuel, but we came out ahead and we are looking forward to this year for better times. The final figures for giving and percentages of donations by District are included in this *Empire State Mason* magazine.

We have enlisted the help of more Area Chairmen and there is an added category for Camp Turk. My grandson attended Camp Turk for a few years and made quite a number of friends. Camp was also the place where he decided to join DeMolay. The only reason I comment on that is, through DeMolay he

gained the confidence to address large groups of people and speak to an audience of executives of major oil companies and their engineers. It has helped build his character and advance his career.

When you look at the figures, I want you to see the percentage of contributors, with the percentage of members and the percentage of contributions. Realize that some of the money was due to bequests. We do appreciate those families that remember the Masonic Brotherhood Fund in their will.

In closing, I would like to thank the office team. And thanks go to all of you, as well. ▲

## Masonic Brotherhood Fund 2014

(6/01/2013-05/31/2014)

### TOP 10

#### Jurisdiction Report - Total Dollar Donations

##### Contributors

District	Members	Member	Part. %	Total \$
042 Second Nassau . . . . .	926	127	16.74	104,382.29
033 Fifth Manhattan . . . . .	783	85	11.88	94,508.00
052 Queens. . . . .	1149	295	29.33	35,727.53
035 Seventh Manhattan . . . . .	515	57	11.65	32,663.00
060 Suffolk . . . . .	1669	313	20.19	30,527.00
049 Orange-Rockland . . . . .	1374	263	19.94	30,012.87
046 Onondaga . . . . .	1314	332	26.10	22,494.88
037 Ninth Manhattan . . . . .	991	188	22.20	21,133.50
039 Monroe . . . . .	1480	268	19.05	20,783.11
001 Albany . . . . .	972	215	24.18	19,321.00

#### Jurisdiction Report - Total Participation

##### Contributors

District	Members	Member	Part. %	Total \$
019 Fulton-Montgomery. . . . .	571	326	57.97	11,359.00
057 Second St. Lawrence. . . . .	410	163	40.49	8,422.52
028 Livingston . . . . .	391	135	36.06	5,797.00
063 Wayne . . . . .	627	216	35.41	5,065.88
061 Sullivan . . . . .	236	65	31.36	5,502.48
058 Saratoga-Warren . . . . .	455	134	30.55	7,819.00
052 Queens . . . . .	149	295	29.33	35,727.53
013 Dutchess. . . . .	597	165	28.64	8,031.00
007 Chautauqua . . . . .	805	224	28.45	8,031.00
017 Essex . . . . .	232	64	28.02	2,427.00

# Masonic Brotherhood Fund

D#	District	Member	Percent	Dollars
1	Albany	972	24.18	\$19,321.00
2	Allegany	409	22.25	4,549.00
3	Bronx	352	12.22	3,430.00
4	Broome-Chenango	865	16.07	7,647.00
5	Cattaraugus	367	11.99	2,175.00
6	Cayuga-Tompkins	625	27.84	11,541.19
7	Chautauqua	805	28.45	8,031.00
8	Chemung-Schuylcr-Tioga	642	19.31	6,331.00
9	Clinton	208	12.50	3,454.51
10	Columbia	285	18.95	2,525.00
11	Cortland-Madison	433	18.01	8,327.00
12	Delaware	342	24.85	4,630.00
13	Dutchess	597	28.64	8,839.00
14	First Erie	1395	21.08	18,842.50
15	Second Erie	1264	22.71	12,361.00
17	Essex	232	28.02	2,427.00
18	Franklin-Hamilton	269	20.82	4,415.00
19	Fulton-Montgomery	571	57.97	11,359.00
20	Genesee-Wyoming	599	22.04	7,265.00
21	Greene-Ulster	633	15.64	4,466.00
22	Herkimer	391	15.86	8,386.00
23	Jefferson	314	12.74	1,756.00
24	Jefferson-Lewis	424	16.27	3,818.00
25	First Kings	457	12.25	3,793.31
26	Second Kings	405	17.53	6,706.52
27	Third Kings	544	26.29	2,981.00
28	Livingston	391	36.06	5,797.00
29	First Manhattan	874	7.09	5,580.01
30	Second Manhattan	424	8.96	2,622.00
32	Fourth Manhattan	1170	11.62	17,307.00
33	Fifth Manhattan	783	11.88	94,508.00
34	Sixth Manhattan	631	9.51	6,329.50
35	Seventh Manhattan	515	11.65	32,663.00
36	Eighth Manhattan	439	19.36	4,946.00
37	Ninth Manhattan	991	22.20	21,133.50
38	Tenth Manhattan	1016	10.53	11,464.90
39	Monroe	1480	19.05	20,783.11
41	First Nassau	881	16.80	9,639.10
42	Second Nassau	926	16.74	104,382.29
43	Niagara-Orleans	892	24.55	12,759.50
44	First Oneida	730	23.56	12,476.00
45	Second Oneida	837	16.73	5,613.99
46	Onondaga	1314	26.10	22,494.88
48	Ontario-Seneca-Yates	740	23.78	7,905.00
49	Orange-Rockland	1374	19.94	30,012.87
50	Oswego	582	27.32	5,522.27
51	Otsego-Schoharie	626	25.40	6,444.23
52	Queens	1149	29.33	35,727.53
54	Rensselaer-Schenectady	894	14.88	11,516.00
55	Richmond	921	15.74	7,234.00
56	First St. Lawrence	292	21.23	3,105.00
57	Second St. Lawrence	410	40.49	8,422.52
58	Saratoga-Warren	455	30.55	7,819.00
59	Steuben	513	19.10	5,921.04
60	Suffolk	1669	20.19	30,527.00
61	Sullivan	236	31.36	5,502.48
62	Washington	252	23.81	2,965.00
63	Wayne	627	35.41	5,065.88
64	1st Westchester-Putnam	650	25.69	12,698.00
65	2nd Westchester-Putnam	752	24.73	14,593.00
99	Syria-Lebanon	551	0.18	620.00
999	Special District	476	9.45	1,251,907.62
<b>Totals:</b>		<b>41863</b>	<b>20.54</b>	<b>2,023,385.25</b>

## 2013 - 2014 Campaign Figures

June 1, 2013 - May 31, 2014

Grand Master . . . . .	\$ 587,628.95
Masonic Student Assistance	
Training/D & A . . . . .	1,700.00
Masonic Medical Research Fund . . . . .	84,255.86
Masonic Care Community . . . . .	76,644.08
Military Outreach Program . . . . .	40,670.30
Masonic Youth Program . . . . .	16,023.14
Livingston Masonic Library. . . . .	9,806.78
Masonic Safety ID Program . . . . .	10,035.78
DeMolay . . . . .	83.06
Masonic Benevolence	
Endowment Fund . . . . .	62,920.76
Committee on	
Libraries & Museums Endowment Fund . . . . .	25.00

**SUB-TOTAL. . . . . \$889,793.71**

### JOURNAL ENTRIES

Grand Master. . . . .	1,077,956.54
Masonic Medical Research Fund . . . . .	53,635.00
Masonic Care Community . . . . .	<u>2,000.00</u>

**SUB-TOTAL. . . . . \$1,133,591.54**

**GRAND TOTAL. . . . . \$2,023,385.25**





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Our world of technological wonder may sometimes seem at odds with Masonic values, ancient and timeless. But how we practice and give voice to Masonic Truth depends on the times and tools at hand and the ears of the world around us. Understanding a timely need to modernize our communications in this ever-changing world, Grand Master William Thomas took no delay in setting things in motion.

Deputy Grand Master Jeff Williamson shares this goal as head of the Communications Committee. He speaks widely that we should consider all the generations of Brothers in our Fraternity. This includes the use of paper, emails, websites and social media. It is an unspoken charge of “no Mason left behind.” It also means being accessible in ways that are expected for upcoming generations of Masons, ways that did not exist a few short years ago.

MW Thomas set forth a list of best practices for Social Media. The electronic newsletter “Hiram’s Highlights” came into being and I was asked to develop a new Grand Lodge site. I was surprised and a bit intimidated. This wasn’t like other projects I’ve done over the last fifteen years. It was for something both grand and dear to me, and it has proven a wondrous opportunity to both serve the Craft and meet Masons across the state.

As a professional web developer, I do not believe in using technology for its own sake. Here is a chance to use digital tools for more noble and glorious purposes. What is the role of the Internet in communication between Grand Lodge, the Districts, Lodges and concordant bodies? How does it brand Freemasonry to the uninitiated? How can it be used for Masonic education? These are questions we aspire to answer.

Now that the new site is launched, calendars are being integrated and documents and forms shared on the cloud, we are in full swing to ensure our communications are relevant to 21<sup>st</sup> Century demands. But it doesn’t end with Grand Lodge. Many Districts and Lodges have their own website; others do not. Some use calendars that can be combined to avoid local event conflicts. Many do not but could find it very useful once put in place. Some websites have little useful information, missing things as simple as contact information or a physical address. Some of them are abandoned, outdated or unofficial, yet publicly representing the Craft for better or worse. To fix all this might be like herding cats.

### Next Steps

The standing challenge for each District to have its own website is now a working plan. The first step will be to inventory all official working District websites and link to them to and from the Grand Lodge website. The second step will be to provide the resources for all the remaining Districts to have such a site. These sites ideally will be run by Brothers

within their respective Districts and training will be provided as necessary. The format we will make available is user-friendly enough for anyone with basic computer and word-processing skills. But this will not be micromanaged by anyone. This will not be herding cats.

At the St. John’s Day weekend mass RW Grand Chaplain Wainwright McKenzie spoke of the industriousness of the beehive. This caught my attention for two reasons. The first is that my daughter and I started keeping bees this year. The second is that it came to me one day that if a webmaster was an officer of the Lodge, his symbol might be a hive under a quill. Yes, I am suggesting that for communication we can work as a hive. But what does that mean?

There is a saying in beekeeping that the beekeeper wants the bees to do what he wants but they want to do what they want. Perhaps this is the challenge of balance in an institution such as ours: a harmony of leadership and individual conscience and action. In a hive, each bee may dance to tell the others where and how far away a resource is, such as water or forage. But each has its duty, moving over the course of a lifespan through the “chairs” of nurse, guard and forager. Their Ritual is written in their DNA; their landmarks are the instincts of the survival of the hive.

But I do not think the Grand Master is a queen bee and we merely workers and drones. That doesn’t sound very Masonic. The role of leadership is perhaps more like the beekeeper. He provides the structure, support and ever-watchful protection and care of the hive’s health. Our goal is not to put the web presence of New York State Freemasonry under one controlling team or dictate how the job gets done in the local quarries. The plan is to make it as easy as possible for us to better communicate and have our efforts be in the same direction. We must be on the same page.

Over the coming months we will be proposing and publishing a set of recommended best practices and common-sense standards for official Lodge and District websites. An online repository is being developed for use by webmasters across the state. It will contain logos, QR codes and other graphics, as well as commonly used forms and content. There is much more to come, but this is a start.

It is no small task. It will take time. We intend not merely to lay stones over the next two years and start over yet again when the torch is passed, but, as RW Williamson puts it, “to build a great work of beauty.” Our Trestleboard is framed with efforts that we believe will not simply fix a problem or sustain us for today, but will create a framework that is bigger than any webmaster or website, a work we can all share that endures for years to come. And that, I would suggest, is very Masonic. ▲





## DDGM

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Row 3 (l-r) Washington, Pasquale Imbimbo, Jr.; Rensselaer-Schenectady, Timothy A. Smith  
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### METROPOLITAN REGION

Row 3 (l-r) Fourth Manhattan, Demetrios G. Melis; First Manhattan, David J. Menegon; First Nassau, James H. Rice; Eighth Manhattan, Stephen A. Siegel; Second Westchester-Putnam, Mark D. Hanson; Third Kings, Alphonzo Grant, Jr.  
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 Row 1 (l-r) Fifth Manhattan, Wilfredo Lopez; Bronx, Marlon Thomas; Second Kings, Walter J. Wasnieski, III; Seventh Manhattan, Jon R. Pufahl; Sixth Manhattan, Mark K. Suckle; Ninth Manhattan, Jerry Messina; Second Manhattan, Victor E. Marshall, Jr.



### MID-STATE REGION

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 Row 2 (l-r) Cattaraugus, George W. Anthony; Ontario-Seneca-Yates, John C. Hubbard; Allegany, Hal W. Francis; Steuben, Matthew J. Mehlenbacher  
 Row 1 (l-r) Wayne, John P. Krest; First Erie, Michael E. Storck; Genesee-Wyoming, Henry W. Robinson; Livingston, Douglas L. Stanley; Niagara-Orleans, Robert L. Donovan



# Staff Officers

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## WESTERN REGION

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 Putnam, Douglas W. Adams; Third Kings, Anthony  
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 Row 2 (l-r) First Manhattan, Michael D. Aragon; Suffolk,  
 Kevin G. McCauley; Fourth Manhattan, Kenneth Joel  
 Ginn; First Kings, David J. McDowell  
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 Kings, Angel Ruiz; Richmond, Reynardo (Nikko)  
 Gutierrez; Fifth Manhattan, James B. Roberts, Jr.; First  
 Westchester-Putnam, Brian F. Tessler; Tenth Manhattan,  
 Wanderlei C. Silva



### MID-STATE REGION

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 First Oneida, Cayuga-Tompkins,  
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 Madison, Richard P. Freeman  
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 Oswego, Michael S. Faulkner; Second St. Lawrence,  
 Brenton G. Taylor  
 Row 1 (l-r) Broome-Chenango, Scott G. Kinne; Second  
 Oneida, David R. Taylor, Jr.; Onondaga, Gabriel Iza;  
 Onondaga, William H. Toth, II

### WESTERN REGION

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 Row 2 (l-r) Wayne, Jeffrey A. Gagnon; Steuben, Charles  
 J. Knighton; Steuben, Donald G. Farrand; Ontario-  
 Seneca-Yates, Frederick J. Newton; Allegany, Kyle P.  
 Vance; Genesee-Wyoming, William R. Geitner  
 Row 1 (l-r) Cattaraugus, Steven J. Joyce; Second Erie, Joel  
 T. Burkley; Niagara-Orleans, John C. Seefeldt; Niagara-  
 Orleans, Peter C. Stein; First Erie, Daniel J. Dinatale





RW GRIFFITH JONES,  
*PRESIDENT*

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE MASONIC HALL AND HOME  
[griffj3@stny.rr.com](mailto:griffj3@stny.rr.com)

## 150 Years: A Long Time

In 2014 we mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Incorporation of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Hall and Asylum Fund. It was on April 21, 1864 that the New York State Legislature gave its approval, thus creating the Board that would be responsible for maintaining the property and assets of this Fraternity.

Fast forward to 2014: So many men have taken on the role of Trustee, all with the sole purpose of preservation of those things we hold so dear. These include Masonic Hall in New York City, the Masonic Care Community (formerly the Masonic Home) in Utica, Round Lake Camp in Northern Oneida County and the George Washington Historic Site in Tappan, New York, to name a few. Those of us who serve today share with our Brothers who served before us the same passion and responsibility.

This year we made substantial improvements to the Round Lake property, just in time for the Camp Turk program to begin. All the bathrooms in all the cabins were renovated. In New York City, the Grand Lodge building has been undergoing some mandated repairs over the last several years and we have already identified where we need to allocate resources next. The George Washington National Historic Site

in Tappan last year had a new period-correct roof installed. In Utica we have made many improvements over the last decade, to better care for the more than 500 seniors who live there, but several of our older buildings have issues that need to be addressed. One is the steeple of our beloved Daniel D. Tompkins Memorial Chapel. Time passes and as with your own home, repairs to buildings and facilities are a constant concern.

During our St. John's Day events it was my pleasure to meet many Brothers and their families from throughout the state. We estimate that more than 800 people attended the Friday night picnic, and staff tell me that more than 600 cars were parked on campus for the Saturday events. In addition to marking the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Trustees, we marked the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our premier retirement community, Acacia Village. It was a wonderful weekend, filled with fellowship and camaraderie.

On behalf of the entire Board of Trustees of the Masonic Hall and Home, I assure you we look forward to serving this Fraternity. We will follow proudly in the footsteps of those men who came before us. ▲

## Awards Committee



RW GEORGE R. WACOB,  
*CHAIRMAN*

[grwacob1@optonline.net](mailto:grwacob1@optonline.net)

## Awards Committee reorganizes

On behalf of the Grand Lodge Awards Committee, I would like to thank MW William J. Thomas for appointing a completely new Awards Committee and having the confidence in us to perform the great work of our predecessors. The committee met in Utica during St. John's Weekend and discussed plans to better implement the procedures in processing the various awards under our jurisdiction.

Updated information and forms for 2015 regarding the Dedicated Service Award and the various Community Service Awards will be sent out in September. The deadline for the Dedicated Service Award will be in mid-November. All recommended applicants will be notified of acceptance

or rejection by January 2015. No recommendations will be considered after the cutoff date. Community Service Awards will be processed immediately and Lodges will be notified of acceptance or rejection shortly thereafter.

The 50-year Golden Anniversary aprons are back, along with new 60- and 70-year anniversary aprons. The apron, along with a certificate, will be sent following the request of your Lodge Secretary to Grand Lodge Services.

This committee is dedicated to providing a fair and comprehensive evaluation of each and every award recommendation that is requested. It will complete its review in a timely fashion. ▲



**BRO. ROB RAFFLE,**  
*EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR*  
 MASONIC CARE COMMUNITY OF NEW YORK  
[raffler@mccny.com](mailto:raffler@mccny.com)

## So Many Benefits to Life at the Masonic Care Community



Seniors from 15 other skilled nursing and assisted living centers in Central New York enjoy coming to the Masonic Care Community to participate in the Annual Senior Olympics. Team Masonic has dominated play and won the overall title for the last five years. The event encourages activity and our seniors look forward to seeing old friends who are living in other area homes.

Many individuals still think of a skilled nursing environment as a place their children will “put” them. When I hear this comment my answer is always the same: You want your children to place you at the Masonic Care Community. There are numerous benefits to living on our beautiful campus in Utica. Here are several:

There is always something to do, no matter where you live on campus. Acacia Village was one of the first such independent living communities in upstate New York. Residents there are active in a number of pursuits. They play cards, enjoy building projects in our woodshop, discuss current events, and enjoy any number of social events with their fellow residents. Wiley Hall, our adult residential home, is designed for the senior who is still active but needs a little extra assistance. They also enjoy an array of activities throughout the week, including trips to local stores and restaurants. In our skilled nursing community, you might think the number of activities would dwindle, but that isn't the case. The seniors of the Health Pavilion have multiple activities from which to choose daily, including wellness programs, bowling, trips and musical entertainment.

I would direct you to our website, [www.mccny.com](http://www.mccny.com). Click on Senior Care, and then click on Community Life. You will find the monthly activity calendars for each household. To access the Wiley Hall calendar, click on Adult Residential, then Community Life. You will see that our Community Life Leaders are busy every day of the week and so are our residents.

Individuals who live at the Masonic Care Community have the ability to age in place. It is disrupting to move from a home you have known all your life. But when you move to the Masonic Care Community you don't have to worry about leaving familiar surroundings again. As your needs change, we assist you with our different levels of care. Residents who originally moved to Acacia Village, and have now found the need for skilled nursing services, get visits from their former Acacia Village neighbors. They can still enjoy the 400-acre campus. For our married couples this is especially important. If one needs a higher level of care, the other is living on the campus. Couples aren't separated from each other and we

provide transportation to keep them connected.

Medical care is top notch at the Masonic Care Community. We are fortunate to have board-certified geriatricians on staff in our Health Pavilion. We also have a long-time employee, Valerie Yager, who started at MCC as a Certified Nurse's Aide and has worked her way up to Nurse Practitioner. This team, combined with our therapy and nursing staff, provides the best possible environment for your loved one in the rehabilitation center and skilled nursing. Wiley Hall residents also benefit from visits, when warranted, from our medical team; and both Wiley and Acacia Village can utilize the skill and expertise of our home care agency.

Our staff care. The word care is our middle name. We put our residents first—resident before task. For example, it's not uncommon to see people from our housekeeping department stop what they are doing to help a visitor find a resident's room. Or you might see one of our food service workers assisting an individual to a seat in the Wintergarden. Visitors on campus can always expect to see a smiling face and be greeted by our staff. We are proud to be part of the 121-year history of this organization. We are here to serve more than 500 seniors and their families who call this community home. Even at the end of someone's life, our staff goes above and beyond to assist in that process. They not only take care of the resident, but also the resident's family. Again, our staff care.

I have given you a couple of examples of why the Masonic Care Community is the place where you want to live. Residents have so much to do, many find their health actually improves. They find individuals of similar backgrounds and life experiences, and create new friendships. Our MCC neighbors live in beautiful buildings, all of which have been constructed or remodeled in the last fifteen years. Families and friends are welcome to visit anytime, and they know when they do come to campus they will be welcomed with open arms.

To get more information on this Jewel of Masonry, check out our website at [www.mccny.com](http://www.mccny.com). We also invite you to visit, take a tour and see why care is our middle name.



## The 2014 St. John's Day Celebration: Something for Everyone

A beautiful transition to summer helped the Masonic Care Community welcome hundreds of Masons and their families to the annual St. John's Day event in Utica. Hundreds packed Acacia Village on Friday night for a special

picnic that featured the Steve Falvo Easy Money Big Band, with plenty of good food and fellowship.

On Saturday a variety of vendors set up on the Great Lawn. Musical entertainment was provided by Fritz's Polka Band. The

Masonic War Veterans held their annual wreath-laying ceremony in front of the Soldiers and Sailors building, and then led the line of march to the Daniel D. Tompkins Memorial Chapel. ▲





# Fall Activities at the Masonic Care Community Campus

There is always something going on at the Masonic Care Community Campus in Utica. We have a list here of many activities, but also urge you to visit our website at [MCCNY.COM](http://MCCNY.COM) or like us on Facebook to get the most up-to-the-minute information!

Every year, the Masonic Care Community shares this beautiful campus with a host of not-for-profit organizations that hold events here. There is no charge for using the campus and MCC is credited as a major sponsor for this in-kind donation. In 2013, these agencies generated more than 500,000 dollars for their combined charities.



## Saturday September 13<sup>th</sup> – The Mighty Run

We expect close to 3,000 people who will be ready to play in the mud and raise money for the benefit of the residents of the Masonic Care Community. In addition to the participants, we anticipate more than 6,000 spectators. Kids can have fun getting dirty too in the Mighty Mite race! It's a lot of fun, with informational booths, food, and some terrific entertainment! We hope you will make a point to join us! For more information on the Mighty Run go the website [www.themightyrun.com](http://www.themightyrun.com)

## Saturday September 20<sup>th</sup>

Juvenile Diabetes Walk – Registration will begin in the gymnasium at 9:00 A.M. The walk begins at 10:00 A.M.

## Sunday September 21<sup>st</sup>

The Annual Kidney Foundation Walk – Registration begins in the gymnasium at 9:00 A.M. The walk begins at 10:00 AM

## Saturday September 27<sup>th</sup>

The Crohn's Colitis Walk – Registration begins in the gymnasium at 1:00 P.M, the walk begins at 2:00 P.M

## Sunday October 19<sup>th</sup>

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk – Registration begins in front of the Administration Building at 8:00 A.M, the Walk steps off at 10:00 A.M.

## Saturday October 25<sup>th</sup>

The second Annual Boolermaker Kids Run – Registration and spooky activities begin in the Gym at 8:00 A.M. The runs, which will vary by age, and length, will begin at 9:00 A.M.

## Wednesday November 26 thru Thursday December 25<sup>th</sup>

The Resource Center for Independent Living's Wonderland of Lights – 5:30 to 8:30 P.M. Go to [www.mccny.com](http://www.mccny.com) for more information. ▲





# *Honoring M. W. William J. Thomas*

## **Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York**

**Russo's on the Bay, Saturday**

**October 25, 5:30 p.m.—10:30 p.m.**

162-45 Cross Bay Blvd, Howard Beach, NY 11414  
www.russosonthebay.com

**Reservation Deadline:**  
**September 27, 2014.**

**Dress: Formal Attire**



**5:30 p.m. Cocktail Hour** with various food stations. **Followed by Dinner & Dancing. Five Course Banquet** with wide choice of entree.

**Subscription: \$125 per person.**  
Free valet parking

**Open Bar during the entire event.**

### **Susan Taylor-Thomas and the Most Worshipful William J. Thomas**

### **look forward to greeting you on Saturday, October 25, 2014**

If you require overnight accommodations on the Friday and/or Saturday night, the committee has negotiated a special rate of \$149.00 per night + tax. For **Crown Plaza Hotel**, located at 138-10 135th Ave, Jamaica , NY 11436 - telephone **(718)530-1160** and quote Group Code: **MAS**. Make hotel reservation prior to 10/10/2014 to receive this special rate.

Any questions can be addressed by Mark Suckle at [ddgm@suckle.net](mailto:ddgm@suckle.net) or (516) 448-3124. For Meal reservations, please complete the form below & enclose it in an envelope with your check. Payable to "**Masonic Brotherhood Fund**" - Mail form & check to: **Grand Master's Ball Committee, c/o Grand Lodge F & AM, 71 W 23 Street, 17th Floor, New York NY 10010-4149.** *Detach here and return completed form with check.*

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ seats @ \$125 per person - Total Amount of Check: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Do Not Send Cash**

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Current Office/Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse or Companion's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home/Business/Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

NY District & Lodge Name/Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Seating Preference: Lodge No/Name: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_





## DEPUTY GRAND MASTER'S DINNER AND APRON PRESENTATION

RW JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON DEPUTY GRAND MASTER  
AND THE FOLLOWING APPOINTED GRAND LINE OFFICERS

RW JAMES R. KINTZEL DEPUTY GRAND MARSHAL  
RW CHRISTOPHER J. HOUGH JUNIOR GRAND DEACON  
RW JAMES R. MacCONNELL DEPUTY GRAND STANDARD BEARER  
AND RW RICHARD J. KESSLER GRAND LECTURER

To be held at Michael's Banquet Facility  
4885 Southwestern Boulevard, Hamburg, NY 14075  
716-649-4218 716-649-1402

**SATURDAY OCTOBER 18, 2014**

**SOCIAL HOUR 5:30 - 7:00 PM**

Cash Bar—Hot and Cold Hors d'oeuvres  
For your listening pleasure, music performed by Kevin Clark on the piano

**DINNER 7:15 PM**

Men's Attire: Tux or Dark Suit Women's Attire: Semi Formal

**DONATION: \$45.00 per person**

Make checks payable to : "Erie County Masonic Foundation, Inc."

**Hotel Accommodations near Michael's Banquet Facility**

**RED ROOF INN 716-648-7222 QUALITY INN 716-649-0500**

**OTHER NEARBY HOTELS**

**MILLENNIUM HOTEL 716-681-2400 GARDEN PLAZA HOTEL 716-635-9000**

### **Hors d'oeuvres**

*Assorted Cheese and Crackers  
Fresh vegetables and Dips  
Fresh Fruit and Melon Tray  
Smoked Salmon Display  
Frutta di Mare  
Stuffed Mushrooms*

### **Dinner Menu**

*Fresh Rolls and Salad  
Filet of Sirloin with Demi-Glaze  
Chicken Cordon Bleu  
Orange Roughy  
with  
Chef's Choice  
Steamed Vegetables  
and  
Herb Roasted Potatoes*

### **Dessert**

*Coffee and Tea Service*

### APRON PRESENTATION RESERVATION FORM

**COST PER PERSON \$ 45. 00**

Make Check Payable to : "ERIE COUNTY MASONIC FOUNDATION, INC"

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ reservation(s) to the Grand Lodge Apron Presentation on October 18, 2014  
**(RESERVATION DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 8, 2014. NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Lodge: \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_

Meal Selection: Filet of Sirloin: \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Cordon Bleu: \_\_\_\_\_ Orange Roughy: \_\_\_\_\_

**ALL SEATING IS RESERVED**

**REMIT TO: JAMES R. KINTZEL 1049 BLAKELEY ROAD EAST AURORA, NY 14052-9717  
PHONE: 716-652-0501 EMAIL: jkintzel@roadrunner.com**



**INTERNATIONAL ORDER  
OF THE RAINBOW FOR GIRLS IN NY**

Mrs. GALE GOULD  
Supreme Deputy in NY  
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Website: [www.nyiorg.org](http://www.nyiorg.org)

: [facebook.com/NY Rainbow](https://www.facebook.com/NYRainbow)



**ORGANIZATION  
OF TRIANGLES, INC.**

MARY MADISON  
State Director  
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Website: [www.nytriangle.org](http://www.nytriangle.org)

: [facebook.com/OOTNY](https://www.facebook.com/OOTNY)



**NEW YORK DEMOLAY**

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Executive Officer  
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: [Facebook.com/NYDemolay](https://www.facebook.com/NYDemolay)

: [Twitter.com/NYDeMolay](https://twitter.com/NYDeMolay)

: [NYDeMolay](https://www.instagram.com/NYDeMolay)

## NY DeMolay honors Idaho GM, and vice versa



(l-r) MW and Dad William J. Thomas, New York Grand Master;  
RW and Dad William M. Sardone, NY DeMolay Executive Officer;  
and MW and Dad Daniel B. Heberling, Idaho Grand Master

The members of James W. Husted-Fiat Lux Lodge 1068 honored the Grand Master of Idaho, the MW Daniel B. Heberling, in New York City at the Annual Idaho Night. The honors were not only Masonic, but DeMolay as well. MW and Dad Heberling was made an honorary member of the NY DeMolay Alumni.

At the same time, the MW and Dad William J. Thomas, who is already a member of NY DeMolay Santorum Chapter 1, was made an honorary member of Idaho DeMolay. It is great to see DeMolay supported by two Grand Masters in two jurisdictions. ▲

## Sunrise Triangle celebrates 25<sup>th</sup>



With more than one hundred friends, family and supporters in attendance, over thirty Past Beloved Queens of the Organization of Triangles, Inc. joined Beloved Queen Jessica Catapano and the officers of Sunrise Triangle 146 on June 27. The celebration marked the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Triangle's institution. ▲



NEW YORK DEMOLAY



INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE RAINBOW



ORGANIZATION OF TRIANGLES, INC.



## The Mighty Games



A new addition to our St. John's Day weekend this year was the Mighty Games. To mirror an interest in physical fitness and fun, as well as promote the Mighty Run Adventure race on the Masonic Care Community campus on September 13, the Mighty Games introduced some old-fashioned fun. Competitors vied in sack races, an egg-on-the-spoon race and the three-legged race in the middle of the Great Lawn. The Mighty Games also featured a live local radio station remote broadcast, which was a first for our St. John's Day events. ▲

## Wakan-Hubbard Lodge present a DeWitt Clinton Award

Wakan-Hubbard Lodge 154 of Penfield held its Master's Dinner on Saturday, June 7. The dinner commemorated the Masonic year of W Angelo DiCataldo, DSA, as Master of the Lodge and the installation of W Don Bell, DSA, as the new Master. It also was the occasion for the presentation of the DeWitt Clinton award to Thomas Richards, the immediate-past Mayor of the City of Rochester.

Thomas Richards had a very successful career as both a lawyer and as CEO of Rochester Gas and Electric. After retirement he was tapped by then-Rochester Mayor Robert Duffy to be the city corporate counsel. As corporate counsel he orchestrated the shutdown and sale of the high-speed ferry, handled redevelopment of Rochester Midtown Mall and helped sort out financial entanglements involving many parts of the city. He worked with city union workers to negotiate a healthcare agreement, settle labor contracts and repair relationships with city unions.

He was moved to deputy mayor for a short period of time. Then with Mayor Duffy being elected Lieutenant Governor, Richards served as Interim Mayor. He then was elected Mayor for his own term. He recently left the office of mayor to focus on his family.

Wakan-Hubbard Lodge recommended Thomas Richards for the Dewitt Clinton Award due to his actions during his public service. He worked to improve city finances and spending. One of his accomplishments was working to get over \$1 billion in new investment in the city to improve its economic position. He focused on the city neighborhoods. He understood their potential, knew what they needed, and understood them functionally and financially.

He spent his public service in improving the city of Rochester, without thinking of promoting himself. He did



(l-r) W Angelo DiCataldo and Mayor Thomas Richards

this after retirement and during the time when his family was going through health issues, including the death of his son due to cancer. He exemplifies the best in public service, just as our Past Grand Master DeWitt Clinton did.

Thomas Richards did not have to enter public service, as he was comfortably retired, but took the call and did more than most while working for the betterment of the city, its neighborhoods, workers and citizens. He exemplifies all that the DeWitt Clinton Award recognizes.

Mr. Richards really appreciated receiving the DeWitt Clinton Award and stated that he would show his wife the Lodge's proclamation. His family was unable to attend the award ceremony, as one of his grandsons was celebrating a birthday. ▲

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## Charity

Three things will last forever: Faith, Hope and Charity. The greatest of these is Charity. As we continue to support our almost 500 residents of the Masonic Care Community, I am reminded of this on a daily basis. There are Brothers and Lodges asking how they can continue to support the mission of MCC and carry out the promise of caring for Masons and their families.

Charity or Love is the greatest way we can reach out to another human being. Your support was strong at the annual St. John's Day Festival, with outreach to our residents, inquiries about the wish list and ideas of how to grow our programs into the future. I thank you for your generosity and hope it will continue throughout the year.

For those of you looking for a new way to support us, we have recently launched our annual ornament sale, highlighting the windows of the beautiful Daniel D. Tompkins Chapel.

For a \$100 donation to the Masonic Care Community you will receive a limited-edition ornament as our way of saying thank you. This year the ornament is designed after the trio of stained glass windows depicting the saintly figures of Faith, Hope and Charity.

The Tompkins Chapel is a building known for its unmatched charm. We are anticipating having to renovate the more than 100-year-old building in the near future, to maintain its pristine beauty. This is a significant financial undertaking for MCC, but a very worthy one. If you or your Lodge are interested in assisting to help underwrite these costs, upkeep on the organ, or if you have any questions on the annual ornament sales, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you all for your continued support of the Masonic Care Community and the mission we serve. ▲

## *Now You Can Bring* OUR BELOVED CHAPEL HOME...

Introducing the first ornament in a collector's series that highlights the beautiful Tiffany windows of the Daniel D. Tompkins Memorial Chapel. The series begins with the trio of windows depicting the figures of Faith, Hope, and Charity. Start your collection today and bring a piece of the Tompkins Chapel to life in your home.

**This limited edition ornament is yours with your \$100 contribution. All proceeds to benefit Tompkins Chapel renovations.**

**To purchase, please contact:**  
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MCC is a 501c3 organization; all donations are tax deductible as allowed by law. Fair market value of goods and services received is \$14.00, thus \$86.00 of each sale is tax-deductible as allowed by law. Shipping and handling not included.

## Donations to Masonic Care Community



Harmonie Lodge 699 held a “Bar Takeover” event in Buffalo this spring, with the proceeds donated to the Masonic Care Community. Pictured are Dan Di Natale of the Erie District, MCC Director of Development Victoria Cataldo and President of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Hall and Home, RW Griffith Jones III.



The Masonic Care Community again benefited from the generosity of the participants in the 2014 Grand Secretary’s Golf Tournament – Second Kings Charity Fund. Pictured are MCC Controller Jill Wynne, Tournament organizer RW Walter Wasnieski, MCC Executive Director Brother Rob Raffle and Director of Development Victoria Cataldo.



As many of you are aware, the Masonic Care Community covers 400 acres. Our beautiful Acacia Village, which is celebrating twenty years of exceptional living this year, is surrounded by the beauty of the Mohawk Valley. For years we have talked about adding a driving range to the eastern side of the village, and thanks to a donation received from Sandy Creek Lodge 564 during the annual St. John’s Day weekend, that driving range is now a reality for our Acacia Village residents. Pictured here are RW John Munson, RW C. James Wing, RW Kenneth Wheeler, WM Eric Wing, W.M. Lorice Setzler, W Edson Setzler, MCC Executive Director Brother Robert Raffle, Buildings and Grounds Director Bob Butler and Development Director Victoria Cataldo. This donation was made in honor of all Brothers of the Sandy Creek Lodge 564.



Our Director of Grounds and Transportation had the Acacia Village Driving Range set up within days of the equipment donation. The facility was also featured as one of the great outdoor activities for residents of the Masonic Care Community in our July Masonic Care Community Report that aired on the local NBC affiliate on July 17. If you would like to view that report, go to our website at [www.mccny.com](http://www.mccny.com) click on “About Us” in the upper blue bar, and then click on the Masonic Care Community Reports.



The 5th Annual Lights of Honor raised \$2,100 for resident services at the Masonic Care Community. The lights were spread across the back of Acacia Village, with hundreds of messages in honor of an accomplishment or in memory of loved ones.

More donations to Masonic Care Community on the following page



Homemade lap blankets for the residents of the Masonic Care Community were donated during the annual St. John's Day weekend. The ladies of Pelham Lodge 712 have been graciously hand making and donating these items on an annual basis. Pictured are Sonja Juers, Susan M. Winter, Trustee RW Kurt Ott and Board of Trustees President RW Griffith Jones III.



Our special thanks to the First Nassau District, who for the past 30 years have come to the Masonic Care Community to offer our residents Christmas in May. This group brings holiday cheer, complete with a decorated Christmas tree, a visit from Santa Claus and presents for all our residents. There is holiday music, sing alongs and a whole lot of fun. Everyone looks forward to this annual visit, and we applaud your dedication to the wellbeing of our residents.

## Hands-On Nutrition

by Jill Maxam, M.S. CCC-SLP  
 Director of Speech and Hearing Services  
 Masonic Care Community



This past summer the Masonic Care Community launched an interdisciplinary garden, which our occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech therapy, community life, nutrition and wellness departments used to enhance the lives of our rehab and long term care residents. Lela Niemetz, Rehab R.D. and the creator of the MIGHT (Masonic Inspires Getting Healthy Together) Garden, said, "Growing edible plants from seed fosters a hands-on educational project designed to inspire good nutrition with a holistic approach for our residents, staff and community." Everyone was included. Residents worked on therapy skills while gardening and staff volunteered their

time to interact with the residents and earn wellness points. Once the plants matured, they were harvested. Then nutrition education classes were offered. Class topics included: how to store and sustain fresh vegetables, what nutrients are in the vegetables and cooking demonstrations/tastings.

Residents involved in the physical, occupational, and speech therapies were also able to use the garden to practice real world skills, such as bending to weed, walking/balancing on uneven surfaces, fine motor skills, following directions with planting seeds, memory, and attention to gardening tasks. The garden allows therapeutic goals to be accomplished in the context of real

world activities, which promote the return to community living. The raised bed gardens were easily accessible to our residents and throughout the summer many participated in this project. This year's garden included Matina tomatoes, Hungarian wax peppers, cucumbers, Brandywine tomatoes, spinach, peppers, sweet basil, cilantro, golden wax beans, zucchini and squash.

MCC's Hands-on Gardening is just another way our staff research and coordinate innovative activities for our residents. If this could be a project that your Lodge or District might be interested in supporting, please contact Victoria Cataldo in our Development office at 315/798 4703. ▲

## Make plans to attend 2015 camp session

The 2014 camping season was a huge success and plans are already underway for 2015. Registration for the 2015 camp season will begin on January 1. Be sure to visit our website at [www.campturk.org](http://www.campturk.org) to register. The following dates have been set for 2015. One-, two- and three-week sessions are available:

### Boys' Camp

July 5, 2015 – July 25, 2015

### Girls' Sessions

July 26, 2015 – August 15, 2015

Financial aid applications are available January 1. These must be submitted by May 1. Check out our website at [www.campturk.org](http://www.campturk.org), or if you have questions, please contact us at [CampTurk@aol.com](mailto:CampTurk@aol.com) or call 315/392-2081.



## Life's Transitions

by Ernie Stockwell

The Masonic Care Community's motto is "For Life's Transitions." How appropriate, I thought, while attending the memorial service celebrating the life of an Acacia Village friend who had passed away.

As I reflect on my life, I have come to realize that life itself is a series of transitions, the first being the transition from life in the womb to life outside the womb, the last being the transition to life eternal with our Maker. Life between these two is a succession of a greater variety of transitions. Each one affords us new opportunities, new challenges, new rewards, new joys, new sorrows, new failures and new successes.

In moving to Acacia Village we are blessed that we go to one of the finest facilities of its kind, with a gorgeous campus set in the beautiful Mohawk Valley. Here is a caring staff that wants to help us make this transition a satisfying one, a comfortable new home. Here we find that we have become part of a community of friendly, caring and generous folks who are trying to make the final transition in life enjoyable and meaningful. Knowing and associating with these people is an enriching experience.



Ernie Stockwell is pictured here with his wife Christine. They made Acacia Village their home in 2004 and continue to be active, fun-loving and caring neighbors.

The fact that Acacia Village provides the first of three levels of care right on this campus is reassuring and one of the reasons we chose to live here. While we cannot predict which, if any, of the other levels we may need, we are assured that our final transition will be the best possible. We thank you, Masons! ▲



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## Using the Internet

We live in a digital age. Information is at our fingertips. The Masonic Care Community embraced new technologies when we redeveloped our website and added a Facebook page. These two outlets give us the opportunity to communicate up-to-the-minute information to Masons and non-Masons, alike. So far, our website reaches tens of thousands of people every week. Our Facebook page is averaging a reach of close to ten thousand people each week, and the week of St. John's Day we reached almost thirty thousand people. Some of those eyeballs belong to members of the Fraternity but others are just members of the community who are seeing firsthand what we are doing on the Utica Campus.

If you haven't visited our website you should, and here are a couple of reasons why: You know someone who might be interested in our services. There is no better resource than [www.mccny.com](http://www.mccny.com). You can access information on the Health Pavilion (skilled nursing services), Rehabilitation, Adult Resident Care at Wiley Hall and Independent Living at Acacia Village. We have an events page to let our Brothers and the community know what's happening on campus. You can also access information on Round Lake and Tappan.

If you click on "About Us" in the upper blue bar you will access a variety of pages. One of the more popular is our Masonic Care Community Reports, which air on the Utica NBC affiliate. While we would love to place these reports on stations throughout the state, that is not an option due to cost. Thanks to our website, you can watch all the reports that address different issues each month. In July we highlighted all the benefits to our residents that the 400-acre campus provides. In August we talked about the benefits of this campus to the community at large, as well as how our employees are using it to meet their wellness goals. We are also posting electronic versions of *The Empire State Mason* magazine. Not only can you find the most recent issue, but also we have started to archive them at this site for easy access. I invite you to take



### Masonic Care Community Report

The Masonic Care Community produces and airs a two-minute report on the local NBC affiliate each month that highlights the services and activities on the campus. These reports can be accessed on our website at [www.mccny.com](http://www.mccny.com). Click on "About Us" in the upper blue bar, then click on "Masonic Care Community Reports."

some time and visit our site. If you have a Brother who doesn't have access to the Internet, share it with him and his family. It's the best way I know to get the information about all the services of the Masonic Care Community.

Facebook is another popular social media site. It all began with college students. I am dating myself, but I can still remember my daughter showing it to me when she came home from college in 2007. The site has morphed since its creation and now the majority of users are over 30. What I like best about Facebook is the ability to communicate almost instantaneously about campus activities. St. John's Day pictures were posted and shared. I watched a number of individuals taking photos on their smart phones and posting their experiences.

We Baby Boomers have had to adapt to this new world of electronic communications. It's not difficult to embrace the technology and we urge you to check out our website [www.mccny.com](http://www.mccny.com) and like us on Facebook (the Masonic Care Community). ▲



# The 1964/1965 World's Fair

by Kathy Contino-Turner

On April 22, 1964 the World's Fair opened in New York City with the theme of "Peace Through Understanding." It was open for two seasons: April 22, 1964 to October 18, 1964 and then April 21, 1965 to October 17, 1965. More than 51 million people walked through the gates in Flushing Meadows Corona Park in Queens. The New York State Masonic Fraternity had a building at the Fair, the Masonic Brotherhood Center. Construction of the facility began on August 20, 1963, as Masons hoped this historic occasion would let the world know the Fraternity better. The Grand Master at the time, the Most Worshipful Harry Ostrov, was involved in all aspects of this undertaking.

The Masonic Brotherhood Center was a crescent-shaped structure fronted by a 60-foot arch formed by the Square and Compasses, symbolizing the Masonic Fraternity. The exterior was white and gold. The entrance to the exhibit was a bridge with a reflecting pool. The Square and Compasses, embodying the letter "G," was five stories high.

There is an interesting note to the fair: This is where Brother Walt Disney designed and perfected his system of Audio-Animatronics. Four different shows were created by Disney and if you have ever been to Walt Disney World in Florida or Disneyland in California, you know they are entertaining audiences today. Those displays were "Pepsi Presents Walt Disney's 'It's a Small World,' a Salute to UNICEF and the World's Children"; General Electric's "Progressland" or as it's now known, "The Carousel of Progress"; The Ford Motor Company's "Ford's Magic Skyway," which became the PeopleMover ride system; and in the Illinois pavilion Disney created a life-like Abraham Lincoln, which inspired the "Hall of Presidents."

Fifty years later the site of the World's Fair still exists. Some of it has been repurposed and many of the buildings and displays have long since disappeared from the site. As for the Masonic Brotherhood Center, two pieces from that display are now part of the Masonic Care Community. On our Great Lawn you will see a large Square and Compass. It hung over the entrance to the Masonic Pavilion. It is the centerpiece of our lawn. At night it glows brightly for all to enjoy. Our Child Care Center has the other piece of World's Fair history. The



flagpole that stands in front of this building is the flagpole that stood in front of the Masonic Brotherhood Center at the World's Fair. It is proudly used every day.

MW Harry Ostrov said at the construction ceremony that "Our building will be a beacon to call to men of good will, whether they belong to our Fraternity or not. We will welcome veterans, past and present, and see that they are made welcome and comfortable at this Masonic Center. Anyone who wishes will be more than welcome to come and see what we stand for, to see what we have done in our craft and what we will do in the future; to come, to sit, to see, to be refreshed and to go away with what we hope will be the correct and proper image of Free Masonry."

It seems to me, the Utica campus is a fitting home for these pieces of Masonic World's Fair history and a tribute to those words. We welcome all to the Masonic Care Community, where, thanks to the support of this Fraternity, we have been taking care of people since 1893. The campus is also home to the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory that has made the future brighter for those struggling with heart disease. The Square and Compasses from the 1964-65 World's Fair will continue to be a beacon on this campus, as we continue to show the world that Freemasons practice what they preach. ▲

## Another Donation to Masonic Care Community



Erie County Masonic Foundation donated \$2500 to the Masonic Care Community for the purchase of equipment for our rehabilitation therapy department. The money has been used to purchase an adjustable height cycle table and an upper body exercise table. ▲



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## New NYS estate tax changes

Just as New Yorkers survived a long harsh winter, on March 31, 2014 the New York State Legislature passed the Executive Budget for 2014-2015, bringing with it substantial changes to trusts and estates law in New York. The new law increases the New York estate tax exclusion amount from \$1,000,000 to the new amount of \$2,062,500 for individuals dying on or after April 1, 2014 and before April 1, 2015. From April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016 the exemption is \$3,125,000. From April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017 the exemption increases to \$4,187,500 and from April 1, 2017 to December 31, 2018 it increases to \$5,250,000. Therefore from January 1, 2019 it will be the same as the Federal exemption.

Before 2014 if you died with a \$2,000,000 estate, your heirs would pay an estate tax on \$1,000,000 (the NYS estate exclusion was \$1,000,000) or about \$99,600,00 in NYS estate taxes. However, if you die today, your heirs would owe nothing on a \$2,000,000 estate; as the deduction as of April 2, 2014 is \$2,062,500. However, beware: As New Yorkers with estates of more than \$2,062,500 this year and eventually those in excess of \$5,250,000, the new law can wallop the wealthiest. While the old law exempted the first \$1,000,000 from taxes, the new law eliminated all exemptions if the value of the taxable estate exceeds 105 percent of the exemption in effect that year-making the entire estate subject to a sliding tax. A very small amount of the excess value could wind up costing an estate a huge amount in taxes.

What should you do now to find out how this new law will affect you and your estate?

1. Get help, by talking to an accountant and/or estate-planning attorney.
2. The lower middle class got some estate tax relief from this law.
3. You can still gift \$14,000 a year to anyone.
4. Protect your heirs to avoid the "cliff". Each spouse should create a Will that contains a credit shelter or bypass trust that benefits the surviving spouse, but is drafted in a manner that excludes the trust from being included in the surviving spouse's taxable estate.
5. The wealthiest New Yorkers whom Governor Cuomo supposedly wanted to reward to stay in New York, rather than leave for financial or tax reasons, now have more estate tax reasons to depart.
6. The New York estate and income tax changes may require consideration as to whether changes should be made to your existing estate plans or certain trusts. Particularly with regard to the estate tax exemption, it will require estate plans to be revisited to make sure they still have the desired result. Since the new law is effective as of April 1, 2014, it may be advisable to have such plans and trusts reviewed as soon as possible.

As New Yorkers all, we can hope for is that the New York Legislature corrects the inequities in this new tax law.

*This article is not intended to be a source of legal advice. Does not create an attorney-client relationship. It is purely a resource of information for Masons. ▲*

## Audit Committee

The Grand Master recently established a special Grand Lodge Audit Committee. The Audit Committee is charged with furthering the financial goals of Freemasonry at a time when we have fewer members and resources. The Audit Committee is chaired by RW Bernard Rashes who retired from the Office of the MTA Inspector General and the U.S. General Accountability Office. Brother Rashes brings experience in conducting financial and program analysis reviews.

The Audit Committee has met with Grand Lodge officers and professional staff several times to gain an understanding of financial operations. It plans to conduct several audits during

the next several months. The committee drafted its mission statement as a guide for future work.

### Mission Statement

The Grand Master established the Audit Committee of the Grand Lodge of Masons in the State of New York. The Audit Committee's role includes overseeing and assisting the Grand Lodge in fulfilling its responsibilities to maintain a high level of confidence in the financial reporting, internal controls and operational aspects of the organization. The Audit Committee's role also includes a focus on financial processes for the management of business and financial risk and compliance with applicable rules and

regulations established by the Grand Lodge and regulatory bodies.

The Audit Committee was given the authority to conduct assessments of Grand Lodge operations. In these instances, the Audit Committee will conduct an exit conference with officials to obtain their comments on the findings and recommendations prior to issuing a draft report. All final reports will be submitted to the Grand Master for his review. In performing its duties, the Audit Committee will maintain effective working relationships with Grand Lodge officials, Grand Lodge Finance Committee and external auditors. ▲



## Grand Lodge Publications Committee



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### Good communications begin in Lodge

In the Grand Master's Address, delivered at the June 21, 2014 Investiture Service in Utica (see the full text elsewhere in this issue of the *ESM*), Most Worshipful William J. Thomas spoke about the importance of communication. Communication can be defined as "the art of conveying an idea or message... of influencing or motivating..." Good communication, effective communication should be practiced every day in our personal, business and social life, but it is vitally important to the development, continuity and well being of every Masonic Lodge. Simply put, it is a necessity for maintaining the interest and enthusiasm of every Brother.

In past issues of the *ESM* we have expounded upon many of the means employed today for effective communications with our Brothers, from personal phone calls, emails and websites to other forms of electronic social media—many of which are further explained in this issue of the *ESM*. This column is to remind us all of the need to continue to produce timely, informative, interesting Lodge Trestleboards, as they remain the primary means we have of communicating with all our

Brothers.

Lodge Trestleboards are still most often printed and distributed through the postal system, but more often these days they are also produced and forwarded electronically via email or posted on a Lodge website. Regardless, the important lesson to be remembered is that every Lodge communication should be interesting and relevant to each and every Brother receiving it. Your Trestleboard should motivate and convey enthusiasm. And a few additional suggestions: Include a calendar of events, use pictures of past activities, name names and include family happenings of glad and sad tidings. Brothers like to know what is happening in their Masonic family.

Finally, keep in mind that there are many distractions competing for the mind, the eye, and the attention of our members. Your Trestleboard is your Lodge's single most important window to what is happening in your world of Freemasonry. Make your Trestleboard a positive and rewarding read each time it is communicated. ▲



## Committee on Youth



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### Seventy-three receive Girls Scout Gold Awards



On June 10 RW Michael J Finocchio, Staff Officer for the Second Nassau Masonic District, addressed seventy-three Girl Scouts at Adelphi University. The Gold awardees, from Nassau County G.S.A., were assembled for

their annual Gold Award ceremonies. Each received the Masonic Girl Scout Gold Award and matching pin.

The presentation included a letter of congratulations from Grand Master William J. Thomas, thanking them

for their hard work. In each case, the young lady performed a community service project, helping to make each community a little bit better. ▲

## Sleep Apnea as a Cause of Atrial Fibrillation



With the Grand High Priest's Allocation for 2013-2014, ME R.J. Kessler selected the Cardiac Research Institute at Masonic Medical Research Laboratory (MMRL) to receive \$10,000 to support investigation into sleep apnea. The Principal Investigator of this project is Dr. Brian K. Panama, who is also a NYS Royal Arch Mason. With sleep apnea increasing in prevalence, it is critically important that scientists like Dr. Panama work to understand the deleterious effects of the disease. According to Dr. Panama "Obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) is characterized by multiple upper airway closures during sleep, leading to temporary intervals of apnea, or episodes in which the subjects stop breathing. During these airway closures, the affected individual is unaware, and sometimes the only indicator is loud snoring."

It is estimated that 20 million adults in the United States have OSA; many do not know that they have the disease. Because of the breathing interruptions during sleep, people with OSA experience daytime sleepiness and increased risk of accidents.

Importantly, OSA is also associated with increased risk of cardiovascular disease, including atrial fibrillation (AF), which is a major focus of research at Masonic Medical Research Laboratory. While these associations have long been recognized, the specific mechanisms underlying the development of atrial fibrillation in the setting of OSA are not known.

Panama and his colleagues are developing a model of OSA with which to elucidate the mechanisms involved in the increased susceptibility to AF, including the effect of OSA on blood pressure and heart function. Their studies are designed to lead to development of novel targets for therapy of OSA-mediated AF.

## Royal Arch Masons Donate \$100,000 to the MMRL

The Royal Arch Masons (RAM) donated \$100,000 to the Cardiac Research Institute at Masonic Medical Research Laboratory (MMRL) through the Royal Arch Masons Medical Research Foundation. The MMRL will have a dedication ceremony on July 19 at 9:30 a.m. that will recognize this gift. In attendance will be ME Edmund "Ted" Harrison, General Grand High Priest of Royal Arch Masons International, Piers Vaughn, Grand High Priest of the State of New York and several other dignitaries of Royal Arch Freemasonry. The MMRL plans to designate the courtyard outside of the RAM Wing as the Royal Arch Masons Courtyard.

According to Dr. Charles Antzelevitch, Executive Director and Director of Research of the MMRL, "These funds will be applied towards research aimed at advancing the development of novel drugs for the treatment of atrial fibrillation, one of

the greatest unmet medical needs facing our society today."

Royal Arch Masons have been at MMRL's side since its inception over fifty years ago and have contributed prominently to MMRL's elite stature today. For additional details regarding the event, please visit [www.mmrl.edu](http://www.mmrl.edu) or visit us on the MMRL Facebook Page and search for RAM Dedication. ▲





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## Observant Masonry

When Grand Master William J. Thomas addressed his new appointees in Tompkins Chapel on Saturday, June 21, he announced his support for an initiative that encourages the establishment of a number of Observant Lodges across the state. During his extensive Town Hall meetings across the state, a large number of Master Masons—particularly the younger ones—expressed a keen desire to see such Lodges established. Thanks to the proliferation of books on Masonry and the Internet, most candidates are well versed in Freemasonry before they are Initiated. They already have a clear idea of what they expect from our Craft.

What these candidates seek is moving and exceptional ritual, a wide-ranging and in-depth educational system, the pride of belonging to an exclusive organization with roots which go beyond the establishment of the country. They want an opportunity to mix with a broad range of people who might otherwise have “remained perpetually at a distance.”

What, then, is Observant Masonry? Let us begin with what it is not. It is not a society within Masonry that seeks to be exclusive and separate. It is one way of practicing Masonry, equally as valid as focusing on charity, being proud of local traditions and enjoying a casual atmosphere with friends. Observant Masonry recreates the Lodge experience of the early years of our state, when Masons made a special effort to dress formally for their meetings to show respect for their Lodge. Their Ritual was—and is—both excellent and well

understood, for they meet regularly to discuss philosophy and spirituality, and to educate their new members in the Seven Liberal Arts and Sciences.

In particular, they appreciate the welcome addition of music to the Ritual; and the periods of silence and reflection. They work to ensure the initiatory experience—from the Chamber of Reflection, in which the candidate solemnly meditates upon the life-changing step he is about to take, to the final charge—is something that remains with the candidate for the rest of his life. They also dine well, for they recognize this social function is important in building lifelong bonds of brotherly love.

Lodges which apply to become Observant will be expected to adhere to certain standards of practice and may elect to adopt some or all of a voluntary code, as well. These will be published in the coming weeks. Once proven proficient they will be approved by the Grand Master and will be entitled to bear the letters “OM” after their Lodge name and number until the next Grand Lodge session.

Over the coming editions, and in *Hiram's Highlights*, we will showcase Lodges who earn the title of Observant Lodge and meet some of their sponsors. In the photograph below, you can see the members of Seneca River Lodge 160, who have just installed their new Master and who intend to be one of the first to earn the title of Observant Masonry. Those interested in learning more about this initiative are encouraged to contact me at [piers.2014om@gmail.com](mailto:piers.2014om@gmail.com). ▲

## First Steps in Observancy

Seneca River Lodge 160 installed its officers for 2014-2015 on Tuesday, June 17 in Liverpool, NY. As do all Masonic Lodges with a new line of officers, Seneca River is looking forward to a great year ahead. But unlike most Lodges in New York, Seneca River's officers are all members of the Central New York Observant Masonry Club and all affiliated with Seneca River during the past year. RW William Vassily formed the club in 2013 with the hope that there would be enough interest in the Central New York area to eventually form an Observant or European Concept-styled Lodge. Such Lodges emphasize a formal dress code and attention to detail in ritual—creating a true initiatic experience—Masonic education and festive boards, or dinners, at each meeting. Candidates for membership will progress slowly and only after proving proficiency.

The club received a great response from brethren in the area and after a few meetings the idea of reviving a struggling Lodge rather than creating a new one was agreed upon. Seneca



River had been looking into merging with another Lodge for some time and its long-time members looked favorably upon the idea of keeping its name and number alive.

Seneca River Lodge's first Observant Worshipful Master is RW Richard Powell. As DDGM in 2007 he first floated the idea of what would eventually be called an Observant Masonic Lodge. RW Powell was inspired by an article about a Lodge in Seattle, WA that had formed something similar. Fast-forward seven years and the proposal is finally becoming a reality. ▲



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## Recipients recognized for 2014 program

Congratulations go to the deserving student recipients of this year's Education Assistance Program.

Once again, the children and grandchildren of members of Lodges in the State of New York have been given grants to help in their further education. This year's recipients totaled 555 and that brings the nineteen-year total to over 11,000 students. Lodges from every District across the state sponsored these students.

The six public presentations to honor the recipients throughout the state were enjoyed by nearly 1,000 family members and guests. MW William J. Thomas, Grand Master, and members of the Grand Line, along with RW Nathan Lipper and representatives from the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Hall & Home, spoke to those in attendance and made presentations. RW Michael Shipman, Chairman, explained that the recipients had exhibited high academic achievement, while being active in their church and community. Coming from strong family backgrounds, they are sure to become the leaders of tomorrow. The students are studying everything

from A (accounting, aerospace engineering, anthropology, animal science, architecture) to Z (zoology) and going to schools from SUNY Albany to Yale University. The Grand Master, recipients, and those in attendance then joined the families for refreshments.

This year's program, as in previous years, also featured the presentation of awards to several students from the Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons and Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite. At the formal presentations, pictures were taken and sent to the students' local newspaper.

Perhaps you know a deserving child, grandchild or widow of one of our Brothers. They may not know about the assistance Grand Lodge has to offer. New scholarship applications will be available January 1, 2015 for the 2015-2016 school year. Watch this column for any changes in requirements or dates. You may also keep informed of the Education Assistance Program by visiting the New York State Mason website ([www.nymasons.org](http://www.nymasons.org)).

Education is the cornerstone of the future. ▲



## Grand Chaplain's Corner

RW JOHN HILL,  
GRAND CHAPLAIN

As the media constantly focuses on the evil around us in our daily lives, we need to ask ourselves if we are prisoners of despair or prisoners of hope. Many circumstances and events in our lives make us feel as if we are prisoners of some cruel fate. From the Christian perspective, we are called to be prisoners of hope. The hope that deliverance from the evil around us will come should be sought after, even if that deliverance is delayed.

In this computer age, many want everything they seek immediately. The virtue of patience seems almost non-existent. As Masonic Brothers we need to work at developing the virtue of patience. I asked a Masonic Brother the other day if he was a fisherman. He said, No, he didn't have the patience. You and I here in America have been taught that we should be doers and masters of our lives. Sometimes we cannot do anything that will change our situation. All we can do is wait for the Great Architect of the Universe to act in His own time. The first line of Psalm 47:10 (KJV) reads: "Be still and know that I am God."

As Masons we can find ourselves struggling in our personal life and still reach out to help others as we do what we can and wait for solutions to our own problems. When we wait we do not have to wait alone. One of my greatest joys as a member of the Masonic fellowship is to know I can share my joys and struggles with my Masonic Brothers. My Brothers are kind. In my Masonic golf league we always commend a Brother when he makes a good golf shot. When another Brother or I make a terrible golf shot, no one says anything. What could be better than that?

A final word of advice comes from Scripture (Philippians 4:7-8): "And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." ▲

# Ritual Renaissance Program

by RW Stewart C. McCloud II, Chairman  
stewmciijuno.com

This year our Grand Master MW William J. Thomas has elevated the Ritual Renaissance Program (RRP) to the status of a Special Grand Lodge Committee. Our team thanks him for this honor and looks forward to serving every Mason in the State of New York. The RRP began as the brainchild of RW Richard C. Friedman, PJGW and we have had great success over the last two years. From the beginning, the Ritual Renaissance Program's chief aims have been to get the Brothers excited about doing ritual, to raise the bar of performance excellence and to lift the level of understanding.

In the first year we tackled the opening and closing of Lodge and the Degree of Entered Apprentice. MW James E. Sullivan sent a letter to every Master asking him to appoint a Ritual Director (RD) to oversee the teaching and rehearsing of our Ritual in his Lodge. The RDs were then invited to attend the orientation in their area, along with the District Deputy Grand Masters, Grand Lodge Staff Officers and Assistant Grand Lecturers. Not only were performance tips and meanings taught at each session, but a remarkable CD was also presented to every RD. This CD has vast amounts of tools and resource materials just waiting to be read and utilized, including a fabulous floor-work animation. This alone is worth its weight in gold.

In year two we took on the Degree of Fellowcraft, with special emphasis on the Middle Chamber Lecture. We also invited Brothers who have done or are interested in doing the MCL. It was evident from many of the orientations that the MCL can be successfully divided among many Brothers in a round-



robin approach to this demanding but beautiful piece of ritual. The year-two free CD contains everything from both years and should be used as a resource in every Lodge. This way, we can strive to lead our brethren to everlasting light.

Year three will culminate with the Degree of Master Mason, giving prominence to the Hiram Drama. Our team will try to give the Lodges innovative ways to portray the drama, as well as alternate solutions for those

who do not have a drama team.

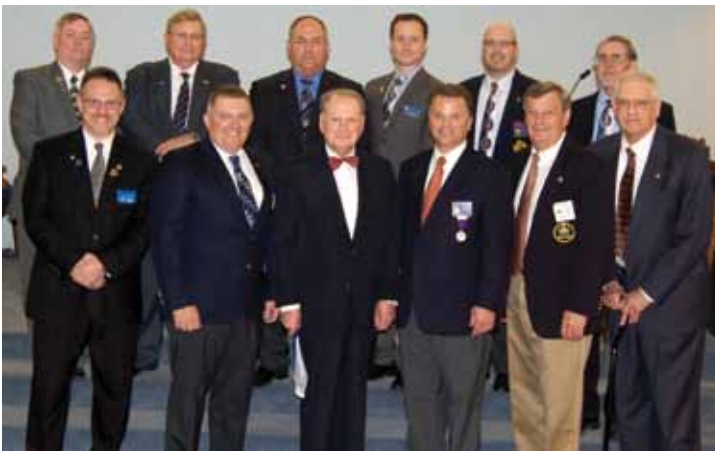
This is a program designed to assist every Brother in our jurisdiction. The Ritual Directors should return to their Lodge with a renewed zeal and transmit that to their Brothers. Our Ritual is the backbone of Freemasonry and defines us as both men and Masons. This is what sets us apart from the world as a whole. After all, without it we could be members of any other fraternity. The RRP is another tool for you to use. Our goal is to open up everyone's mind to the meanings and beauty of our Ritual. Please do not think of us as the Ritual Police. The RRP team is striving to assist in raising the bar when doing the opening and closing or a Degree. We hope that you have found the past two years to be fruitful and informative.

We would ask every Master who has not already done so to appoint a Ritual Director in his Lodge and encourage him to attend the next orientation. Our team is here to give advice and support to every Mason in this great jurisdiction. All you need to do is ask. Please contact Vice-Chairman, RW Richard M. Torrey, [rwddgm1012@gmail.com](mailto:rwddgm1012@gmail.com), or me if you have any questions. ▲

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## Mid-State North holds Ritual Renaissance

by RW Richard M. Torrey



(Row 2) (l-r) W Michael Cassavaw, W Bruce Naumann, VW Joe Maslak, W Ryan Boyle, RW Ed Sinay, Jr., and VW Bill Toth  
Row 1 (l-r) VW Michael Miller, W Jack Dombrowski, RW Harvey Eysman, RW Richard Torrey, RW Chris Heberle, and RW Gary Hartman.

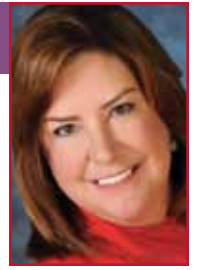
The Mid-State North Ritual Renaissance Program orientation was held on May 31 at the Masonic Memorial Center in North Syracuse. We had fifty-three Brothers present, showing dedication and commitment to our Ritual, as we strive to improve ourselves in Masonry. RW Richard M. Torrey had the honor and pleasure of introducing the RW Richard Morley, Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of F & A M of the State of New York, who participated in the orientation.

Every Brother went home with a folder of valuable information and a CD with all the working tools to implement this program within his respective Lodge. The Fellowcraft Club of Memorial Lodge 648 and Ann Torrey put on a luncheon for all to enjoy. The Brothers had a great time of Masonic Ritual, education and fellowship.

I especially would like to thank my RRP Team Leaders for all their help and participation. We were able to put on another fine program in our region. Thanks go to all the brethren who came out to invest their time, as we raise the bar to improve ourselves in our Masonic Ritual. ▲



LINDA RAE AVOLIO,  
RETIREMENT COUNSELOR  
ACACIA VILLAGE  
avolio@acaciavillageny.org



## Acacia Village Welcomes New Neighbors

When Brother Raymond and Freida Mazza made the decision to move to Acacia Village they knew right away they had made the perfect choice. Freida enjoys going to exercise classes regularly and Ray is helping out with the new driving range. They've played Beach Ball Volleyball, gone to the gym and have started swimming occasionally. I asked them what has appealed to them the most about moving here and they are quick to say, "The camaraderie and ease of making new friends." Within days of moving here they had new neighbors asking them to join them for dinner and when they don't have plans they can choose a cozy table for two in the Terrace Dining Room or head to the Acacia Village Café for a quick and casual bite to eat. Another thing that they say impressed them immediately was how fast the staff knew them by name.



Freida Mazza, Linda Rae Avolio and Brother Ray Mazza enjoy the 2014 St. John's Day Friday night picnic at Acacia Village.

They adore their new apartment in the Building B expansion. They love the walk-in shower in the master suite and the fact that they have their own washer and dryer in the apartment. They also like the fact that the garage is attached to the building so that when they go out they don't even have to leave the building until they are buckled in.

Freida is no stranger to our Masonic Care Community Campus. She served as the Director of Resident Care here through the '80s and '90s. She also spent a short time in our Rehabilitation Center following hip surgery and was very impressed with the care that she received. Brother Ray is a member of the Utica Lodge 47 and a member of the Ziyara Shriners.

Ray and Freida were high school sweethearts and married in 1954. They have four children, Cheryl, Karen, Andrea and Ray, and several grandchildren. They celebrate their diamond anniversary this fall.

After high school, Ray went to Utica College and studied Industrial Management and Freida went to Crouse Irving Nursing School, where she was Valedictorian, and continued her education at SUNY and graduated Cum Laude. Ray served in Korea and was wounded at the Battle of Chochiwan. When he returned home he worked at GE Radio Recovery and Univac and became the Purchasing Manager at Divine Brothers and Munson Machinery. After he retired, Ray served as the Director of the Oneida County "Preparing for Disaster" department.

We are so glad that Brother Ray and Freida have joined us. They have gone from saying, "We're not ready yet to why didn't we do this sooner?"

To find out more information about Acacia Village or to schedule a tour give us a call anytime at 800/593-3353 or contact us by email. Go to our website at [www.AcaciaVillageNY.org](http://www.AcaciaVillageNY.org) for more information and to see our video tour. ▲







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## Acacia Village, Where Everyone is Special

Sometimes you will never know the true value of a moment until it becomes a memory.  
~ Unknown

**B**rother Phil and Philomena Arciero moved to Acacia Village on February 2, 2000. Philomena often told us the story that when they moved here her son wanted to buy them new furniture. She assured him that they weren't planning on being here that long. Phil passed away in 2010 and Philomena recently left us in April of 2014 and they enjoyed their time living at Acacia Village.

The Arcieros were the type of people you would want to be your grandparents. Philomena would frequently share delicious baked goods with the staff. She always referred to us as "honey." Brother Phil loved to share stories of the past. It was heartening to see the excitement in Phil and Philomena's faces when they were preparing for a visit from their family members. We enjoyed those family visits as well, as they all just fit right in around Acacia Village.

After Philomena passed this spring we received a letter from the Arciero family and we wanted to share a portion of it with you:

*To the Staff of Acacia Village:*

*It is difficult to thank each and every one of you. My mother would frequently relate the kindness and attention any and all of you would lay upon her.*

*From her dialysis bus drivers, to the kitchen and wait staff, to the personnel at the desk/front office, to the maintenance team, you all were her caretaker/watchdog. We, as her family thank you for your devoted attention. It allowed us, from out of state to rest peacefully knowing she was with such caring people and organization.*

*The beauty of it all is that my mother thought she received "special" treatment from the Acacia Staff. However, it was my observation, the Acacia Staff as a whole treated everyone equally, that is, with patience, respect and kindness.*

*Sincerely yours,  
The Arciero Family*



(l-r) Nora Cieri (sister of Philomena Arciero and a longtime Acacia Village resident) with Philomena and Brother Phil Arciero. This photo was taken at the 10th Anniversary Gala of Acacia Village. In 2014 we celebrate 20 years of exceptional living.

It is true. We appreciate and respect all of our residents. The staff members enjoy listening to stories about their interesting careers and exciting travels. We are a family at Acacia Village and are indeed fortunate to have known so many wonderful people who touched our lives while they were with us. The most amazing people live here and we look forward to enjoying their company well into the future. We are blessed with an exceptional team of caring and compassionate people, who enjoy their work and love their residents.

We invite you to visit, take a tour, and meet our family. Contact Linda Avolio or me at 800/593-3353 or contact us by email. Go to our website at [www.AcaciaVillageNY.org](http://www.AcaciaVillageNY.org) for more information and to see our video tour. ▲





# Years of Service

## 79 YEARS

### HEIGHTS

Richard F. Dunbar

## 78 YEARS

### AMOS-FORT GREENE

Louis A. Feinstein

## 71 YEARS

### RIDGEWOOD

James Thomas McCrary

## 70 YEARS

### AMOS-FORT GREENE

Robert Fleischer

### HANCOCK

James E. Mills

### MASTER BUILDER

Fenton F. Harrison

### PHOENIX

Gerald E. Douglass

## 65 YEARS

### AVOCA

Harold R. Katner

### ERAC

Jay S. Riggs

### QUEEN CITY-CHRISTOPHER G. FOX

Robert M. Alt

### WATERTOWN

Robert L. Anthony

## 60 YEARS

### AKRON

Robert W. Bordner

### CORNUCOPIA

Samuel V. Samuelian

### JOSHUA

Lawrence M. Greebel

### NEW DORP

William E. Asmann

### BATAVIA

Paul H. Joslin

### DIAMOND THISTLE

Edward J. Goldner

### LOWVILLE

Douglas F. Herzig

### PERSEVERANCE-SUBURBAN

Earl Y. Meyers

### BETHLEHEM

Burleigh M. Cubert  
Joel L. Levy

### DUNKIRK-IRONDEQUOIT

William H. Block

### MATINECOCK

Charles S. Gildersleeve

### WASHINGTON

Robert J. Johnston

### BRASHER

Robert W. Tharrett

### FRATERNAL

Earl L. Covell

### MILLENNIUM

Robert L. Simpson

### HARRY S TRUMAN

Theodore S. Lowenthal

### MOUNT MORIAH

Glenn L. Leet

## 55 YEARS

### BEACON LIGHT

Henry Edmund Lenzian

### COMPOSITE

Sampson Lester Friedman

### RICHMOND HILL

Robert E. Kemp

### STISSING

Gerald W. Chestney

### BOONVILLE-URIEL

Richard J. Schoonmaker

### PERSEVERANCE-SUBURBAN

Jerome Michaels

### SPARTAN

Rune M. Josephson  
C. Flint Moger

## 50 YEARS

### ARLINGTON HEIGHTS

George Van Gaasbeek

### FAYETTEVILLE CENTRAL CITY

Richard Arthur Lewis

### LIVERPOOL SYRACUSE

Lee Fetterly

### MYSTIC CIRCLE

Robert Harris Russell

### ARMY AND NAVY

James Mowat, III

### HUDSON RIVER

Richard Wilbur Abbott

### MIDWOOD FORTITUDE

Robert M. Weiss

### SUFFOLK

Lester G. Homan  
Henry G. Mehl

### BRITANNIA

William Chapman

### JOSEPH WARREN-GOTHIC

Alan D. Berlin

### MINEOLA

George Adam Schaller



FRIDAY LADIES' PROGRAM



OPENING MESSAGE FOR PICNIC



Masonic War Vets



**RW JAMES H. RICE**  
GRAND HISTORIAN

I have been using material from the old safe in the back room of my second Lodge, Milo 108, for several of my articles in *The Empire State Mason*. I am the Lodge Historian of this and my primary Lodge and recently started coordinating the 100-year anniversary event of the Lodge building. The Lodge officers and members have expended many hours bringing back the Lodge room, dining room and other areas by scraping, putting and painting to promote the many great features of the building. We have even remodeled one area into a library for use by Lodge members and any Masons from the Ontario-Seneca-Yates District. We have offered to store any records or books that Lodges have not the space to store. Our plans were to provide easy access to Masonic members to use this facility.

When on Tuesday, May 13 a severe thunder and rainstorm came through the Branchport and Penn Yan area of Yates County and dumped five to nine inches of rain in different sections over a four to five-hour period.

Because Penn Yan is at the lowest point of the surrounding area the rain runoff accumulated toward the center of the village. A stream called Jacob's Brook, which runs through the center of town, received all this water. On East Elm Street, Jacob's Brook runs under the street and several parking lots to eventually empty into the Keuka Outlet near the Burkett Mills facility. As the brook enters under the municipal parking lot next to the Wagner restaurant the water level is normally twelve to fifteen feet below the macadam of the parking lot.



Water coming over East Elm Street in Penn Yan with Milo Lodge building on right just beyond the cars.

Due to the accumulation of debris and vehicles the entry of the brook under the ground was partially blocked. The huge amount of water caused the brook level to rise, which flooded over the parking lot and East Elm Street. The water was one to three feet high crossing East Elm Street in front of the Lodge and surging down Basin Street on the west side of the Lodge.

The parking lot directly to the west of the Lodge and behind the Odd Fellows/Millie's Pantry building suffered significant damage because of the water. Several vehicles that were parked in the lot overnight were still there the next day as the parking lot had dropped several feet trapping the cars. The building that housed the Owl's Nest on Seneca Street directly to the south of the parking lot had collapsed.

On the east side of Basin Street the building that formerly housed the Penn Yan Police Department was completely flooded, showing a water and mud level of at least nine to ten feet high on its north wall. The Masonic Lodge and Penn Yan Diner buildings had at least nine and one-half feet of water in their basements. The diner lost all its coolers and freezers that contained their food stocks in their basement. Even though they were almost full, the water had floated them out of the original locations.

The space between the Lodge and old PYPD building had four trash dumpsters and a lot of debris accumulated after the water receded. One of the dumpster had destroyed a doorway to the basement of the Lodge and was sitting on top of an emergency electrical generator. Another dumpster was located between the metal railing and the Lodge building along Basin Street several feet off the ground.

The windows in the former stage area of the basement were broken out. In the mechanical room in the basement, the furnaces and all electrical panels were covered with mud and water. The two storerooms were completely covered and all items lost. The drop ceiling in the raised lounge area of the basement was taken down by the water and mud. The two bathrooms in the basement were destroyed. The stairway to the main street level was completely covered almost to the first floor level with mud and water.

On Wednesday evening, May 14, the Lodge officers were to have a meeting to begin scraping the entryway to the second floor for painting. Needless to say, these plans were put on hold due to the flood. With no electricity in the building, John Long provided two generators to supply power to several large fans he acquired to begin the drying out process. He had spent the day at the Lodge removing the carpet in the Living Well store (damaged beyond recovery) and working with the Cross Fit renter in the basement to remove the mud and water in the basement. The carpet in the front area of the Literacy Volunteers store was also removed.

By Thursday, May 15, electricians had electricity restored to the three first-floor stores so more fans could be placed to

*continue on page 44*

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PS Form 3526, September 2007 (Page 2 of 3)

begin the drying out process, plus a new breaker panel box had been installed. No water service is available to any part of the building except for a spigot at the water entrance. This was used to supply water to a power washer to remove the mud coating on the walls in the basement and to clean the floors. A second source of water was obtained from the Wagner Restaurant to help power wash the front entry and stairway to the basement.

On Saturday, May 17, the Cross Fit members had totally removed the hardwood floor from all the basement areas and stacked it behind the Lodge. All of their floor mats had been removed and stacked outside. The officers of the Lodge gathered to help shovel and sweep the basement and assess the damage to the building. The Master, Chris Egburtson, had brought a portable pump and hoses to remove the mud and water from a sump area in the southwest corner of the basement.

During the week of the 19<sup>th</sup> of May, all the debris and mud behind the Lodge had been removed through the efforts of John Long. We can now access the back of the building to begin repairing and replacing doors, windows, etc.

The Lodge has spent all its funds to complete what has been done so far. We still need to have more electrical and plumbing work done. Also we will need to replace the furnaces and sub-floor in the basement. The main basement floor had cement poured the week of June 1. John Long is pursuing any grants that might be available to help us restore the building to its former status. We kept the schedule for the 100-year dedication of the building on June 28. The Lodge greatly appreciates the assistance given by several Masonic-related organizations, as well as those who may do so in the future. ▲

## Craft inspires family devotion



(l-r) W Richard C. Morley, Past Master 2000-2001 and current District Chairman of Masonic Safety ID Program; RW William S. Morley, Past Master 2004-2006, past DDGM 2010-2012, GLSO 2012-2014; RW Richard S. Morley DSA, Junior Grand Warden, Past Master 2001-2002; and W Michael A. Morley, Past Master 1999-2000.

At a recent meeting of Delhi Lodge 439, Junior Grand Warden Richard S. Morley joined his three sons. The Junior Grand Warden and his boys are Past Masters of Delhi Lodge 439. ▲

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### SEPTEMBER 2014

- 4 GM Lodge visit: Shakespeare, NYC
- 6 ESM Cruise to Bermuda, Port Liberty
- 12 Grand Commandery, Lake George
- 13 Mighty Run, Utica
- 13 Grand Unity Day (ritual, 4 GLs), Trenton, NJ
- 14 Traveling Gavel, Monroe
- 20 Steuben Day Parade, NYC
- 25 Royal Arch, Cryptic Triennial, Buffalo

### OCTOBER 2014

- 4 WNY Ball, Buffalo
- 8 OES Grand Chapter, Binghamton
- 10 MMRL Every Heartbeat Counts, Utica
- 11 Triangle Annual Assembly, Liverpool
- 11 Cryptic IGM Ball, Owego
- 11 West Point Football Game
- 12 Grand Treasurer Apron Presentation, Rockville Centre
- 13 Columbus Day Parade, NYC
- 17 PGM Trosin Honor Night, Valley of Buffalo

### OCTOBER 2014 *continued*

- 18 Lodge Room Dedication, Valley of Buffalo
- 18 DGM Apron Presentation, Buffalo
- 19 Garibaldi 150-year Anniversary Dinner, NYC
- 24 Rededication, Anatolia Lodge, NYC
- 25 GM Ball, NYC
- 31 Rededication, Garibaldi Lodge, NYC

### NOVEMBER 2014

- 1 PGM Sullivan Homecoming, Lockport
- 2 JGW Apron Presentation, Delhi
- 15 Grand Commander's Ball, Rochester
- 16 Rededication, Warsaw
- 22 Toys For Tots Ball, NYC
- 29 Toys for Tots Children's Party, NYC

### DECEMBER 2014

- 4 Toys for Tots Hospital Visit, NYC
- 13 MMRL Flotilla event, Ft. Lauderdale
- 27 St. John the Evangelist

## Lodge honors Parker for sixty years



(l-r) RW Kevin J. Parker and RW Orin E. Parker

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The Enchanted Mountains Lodge 252 held an Awards Night on Saturday, June 14. The event was held at the Lodge in Olean, New York. The Lodge conferred one particularly noteworthy award.

RW Orin E. Parker was recognized for sixty years of dedication, loyalty and service to his Lodge and Freemasonry. His son, RW Kevin J. Parker, had the honor of presenting RW Orin with his sixty-year pin and certificate.

Brother Orin was raised in Adoniram Lodge 833 in 1954. He was Master of Adoniram Lodge in 1960 and 1984 and District Deputy Grand Master in the Cattaraugus District in 1977. He is an Army veteran who served during the Korean War. Orin retired from Acme Electric in 1993. ▲





In July of 2013 two traveling men were driving home from a visit to the Grand Lodge of New Jersey. As they sat in traffic, one of them announced that he wanted to start up a charitable organization that benefited people who suffered from Multiple Sclerosis (MS). After a short discussion the other Brother took out a sharpie and pad and began to write an outline. Thus was born Masons Against MS. In 2010 Brother Javier Medina, Senior Deacon of Guiding Star Angle Lodge 565, had been diagnosed with MS. Rather than remain idle, our Brother decided to become proactive by spearheading this new charity.

During that summer Masons Against MS reached out to then-DGM RW William J. Thomas for guidance on whether or not there was an organization already doing charity work to aid these who suffered from MS. After some time



Walk MS 2014

RW William J. Thomas explained that there was no one else working on such a worthy endeavor and gave his support and blessing. Since then, Masons Against MS has been working hard on creating awareness of this mysterious disease.

In November the Guiding Star Angle Lodge 565 Fellow Craft Club hosted a presentation by Michelle Lennox of the National Multiple Sclerosis society. In April, Masons Against MS held its first Charity Brunch at the Old '76 House in Tappan, New York. And in May they participated in the Annual MS Walk in lower Manhattan for the New York City-Southern New York Chapter of

the National MS Society.

From the inception of this charity to date, Masons Against MS has raised just over \$8,000 in donations and has been contacted by brethren showing interest and support from all over the country and overseas, as well.

As the summer approaches, Masons Against MS is not by any means going dark. They will be developing a website, planning the year's events and securing sponsors for MS Walk 2015. For more information contact Brother Javier Medina at [jmedina.gsa565@gmail.com](mailto:jmedina.gsa565@gmail.com). ▲



(l-r) Brother Brian Galloway, Michelle Lennox, National MS Society; Brothers Jay Medina and Rob Rivera



RW RICHARD J. KESSLER,  
GRAND LECTURER  
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**B**rethren, I am extremely elated to address you as the Grand Lecturer of this great jurisdiction. I have always professed that the lifeblood of our Fraternity is education and ritual. From the standpoint of your Grand Lecturer, those terms are synonymous. Although Grand Lodge has many vital committees, such as Membership and Membership Retention, the only true way we have of ensuring that we can attract and retain quality Brothers is by constantly and innovatively providing them with more light.

During the St. John's weekend in Utica, I was able to conduct an optional meeting with all of the Assistant Grand Lecturers (AGLs) who attended our annual festivities. Having over 50% attendance was remarkable. During the seminar all were encouraged to express their thoughts, hopes, successes and failures. It is only through a strong exchange such as this that we can all become better ministers of our Ritual.

I also had successive meetings with the Ritual Renaissance Committee and the Custodians of the Work. Both meetings were enthusiastic, thought provoking and forward thinking. Brothers, I am proud to say that our beloved Ritual is in great hands.

The highlight of the weekend was obligating all of our AGLs.

I thank Grand Master Thomas for allowing me this prodigious honor. Through the obligation, the tie between all the AGLs and me was strengthened, as we all pledged to be worthy of the sacred trust you have placed in us.

The Regional Assistant Grand Lecturer Conferences in August were all well attended. I would like to thank the four Regional Assistant Grand Lecturers for their outstanding support and efforts to ensure that the instructions were properly conveyed to all of the AGLs. RW Lawrence Kania, Western Region; VW Dennis Davis, Mid-State Region; RW Gerald Irwin, Hudson Valley Region; and RW Stenrick Adams, Metropolitan Region performed admirably in their initial duties as Regional Assistant Grand Lecturers.

I urge each Brother to earnestly support your District's Assistant Grand Lecturer and also to attend your District Grand Lecturer Convention. The full fall schedule was not available at the time of this communication. For the latest information, sign on to the Grand Lodge website for the schedule of the Grand Lecturer. You can contact me through the Grand Lecturer portal or directly through email at [GrandLecturerNY@gmail.com](mailto:GrandLecturerNY@gmail.com). I look forward to seeing you in my travels. ▲



RW JAMSHED R. GHADIALI,  
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## Community Service Committee



### Community Service Committee repurposes

**T**he Community Service Committee has been revamped again and has a lean and mean look. The umbrella committee consists of (a) the Masonic Blood Program, which has been combined with the Organ Donor Program, (b) Masonic Safety ID Program and (c) Masonic Model Student Assistance Program. The number of Brothers in these three committees is reduced to eleven from forty-seven; rest assured, they are very capable of handling the activities, with your help and cooperation. All Brothers in the State are needed to make a success of the programs. As our Grand Master's theme states, "Together Everybody Achieves More (TEAM)."

#### The Masonic Blood and Organ Program

It makes sense to combine the two programs, as they complement each other. They also bring the good work done by the Freemasons into the public eye. The public relations and good impressions we gain help even in getting good men to join our organization. The Blood program has been with the Masons since the forties. The committee needs your help in volunteering at the events and rolling your sleeves to donate a pint of blood. The goal this year is to make sure that all Districts in the State hold blood drives, and those who hold

less than four can strive to reach that number.

In the time it takes to read this article, someone will pass away waiting for an organ. Over 10,000 in NY State, alone, are waiting, and this includes two of our Brothers. We need to increase awareness and ask everyone we meet to sign up.

#### New York Masonic Safety ID Program

We in NY started the program and now it has spread to different parts of the country. RW Paul K. Gibbon will be missed but Brothers Donald J. Elliott and William M. Plank have taken over the reins and have started planning events for the coming year. Again, we need help from all the Regional and District Chairmen to hold the events. We will be requesting the District Deputies to assign Brothers to the positions to make it a success. The goal is to reach the 500,000 mark as soon as possible.

#### Masonic Model Student Assistance Program

This program is being revived and overhauled to make it functional and effective. If you are in the educational field and have some ideas, please step forward and contact Brothers Donald R. Dunego, John A. Gallant or Richard S. Morley. ▲

