Increased Rates for Charitable Gift Annuities!

Effective March 1, Masonic Homes increased the payout rate for Charitable Gift Annuities.

When you take out a Charitable Gift Annuity with the Masonic Homes, you receive a guaranteed return for as long as you live and that rate will never fluctuate. The rate of return is based on your age at the time you take out the annuity.

The following is a sampling of the revised Gift Annuity rates in effect at the Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown, PA:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>One Life Rate</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Two Life Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
<td>50-55</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
<td>55-60</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
<td>60-65</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
<td>65-70</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
<td>70-75</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Benefits include:
- A significant immediate charitable deduction.
- A guaranteed lifetime return.
- Income which is partially tax-free.
- Capital gain savings if annuity is funded with appreciated assets.
- Satisfaction in knowing you are helping to assure the future strength of the Masonic Homes and allowing them to fulfill their Mission of Love.

To summarize, you receive:
1. The satisfaction of making a gift.
2. Annual payments you cannot outlive.
3. Tax benefits, such as a contribution deduction, delayed capital gains tax, and annual payments that are partially tax-free for a period of time.
4. Fewer worries about investments or money management matters.
5. Payments that don’t penalize age - the older you are, the larger your payments.
6. Flexibility types and amounts to fit your needs and means.
7. A unique way to give while you live.

Talking Brother to Brother
Masons View The Future in Three Statewide Forums

Addressing issues and challenges of the Fraternity, R.W. Grand Master Edward O. Weisser met with Pennsylvania Masons in three forums across the state on consecutive Saturdays in March. The purposes of the sessions were to reaffirm the feelings of the brethren on important issues and to garner their suggestions for solving problems, particularly those relating to membership development and retention.

"These meetings have been great," the Grand Master said. "The positive opinions expressed, the personal involvement demonstrated and the free-flowing suggestions received from brethren are the fuel that will power our Fraternity into the new century. There are challenges we have to face, and there is no doubt we agree we will win because success prevails when Masons go hand in hand with unanimity."

More than 150 attended the forum in Philadelphia, March 8; nearly 200 in Harrisburg, March 15; and 210 in Pittsburgh, March 22. All of the sessions opened at 10 a.m., were conducted in an informal environment, featured sincere dialogue and questions, and concluded precisely at noon.

Three topics were addressed at each forum: Membership development and retention; under-continued on page 6.
John J. Robinson stated in his book A Support Charities, keep honor (that is, be true to your word), and accept civic and moral responsibilities. Do we always find that attracts men who already adhere to a set of values and a belief all can certainly assure you that our members on the whole do adhere to our Masonic values. I have had many members tell me that their families have been so good to them, and that their belief in God has carried them through many trying days. Many have said how charitable their brethren have been by sending meals, by telephoning, and visiting them. They have assured me that Masons have men who have lived up to the teaching of what true brethren means because they find their Lodge brethren caring and concerned. A brother told me that his Lodge brother had taken care of his lawn, had shoveled the snow from his driveway, and have taken his wife to the store when she needed to shop. Another brother explained how good God has been to him and his only need was a new Masonic Bible. The new Bible was needed he said because, "I have worn out the Bible I received from my Lodge when I was raised." How many of us can make that statement? I have supplied this brother with a new Masonically embossed Bible. Yes, many good men are contributing members of our fraternity.

Many of the members are points of light in our communities. We are happy that Masons, good men with strong and noble character traits, are civic leaders and serve as commissioners, congressmen, mayors, and supervisors in our state. It is with a sense of pride that many of these high profile individuals acknowledge their Masonic membership, and we in turn are proud of their achievements. Many Masons and their families spearhead community charities to help all persons. Yes, Masons are public servants serving mankind.

Honor means your word is your bond. Honor is knowing that a Brother is trustworthy and believable. As Grand Master, I trust the officers and members to carry out their duties, to be responsible for their actions and to respond in a truthful way to the requests of the Fraternity because they have pledged to do so. I thank the officers of the Lodges for following the directives and abiding by the landmarks of our Fraternity. Masons living to their oath are honorable.

However, I am distressed to report that we have a few brethren who have used the black ball viciously to get even with a recommender, or to get even with men with whom they have come in contact during their lives. Is this in keeping with our Masonic values? Have these members forgotten their moral obligations? I believe they have and they should not have the privilege to sit among us. We also have had some who have forgotten the meaning of the moral code of charity and have violated this Masonic value. We have a few of our Fraternity who have been convicted in a court of law of a felony. Those who violate these laws will be removed from Masonry. It is in the discovery of these few individuals that we must say "no," all Masons are not abiding by the values of Masonry.

Newspapers and periodicals throughout the Commonwealth are carrying articles, letters, and editorials concerning "moral values," "fidelity values," and "ethical concerns." Every evening a television commentator references at some time during a broadcast by a broad topic, Masons can play a formidable role in setting a worthy example to youth, families, and all citizens. We must adhere to our Masonic values and make sure they are never compromised.

We, as Masons, should always remember that part of the closing charge which reminds us of our duties as Masons “that around this Altar you have solemnly and repeatedly promised to befriend and relieve, with unvarying constancy, so far as shall be in your power, every Brother who shall need your assistance, that you have promised to remind him, in the most tender manner, of his failings, and aid his reformation; to vindicate his character when wrongfully traduced; and to suggest, in his behalf the most candid, favorable, and pacifying circumstances even when his conduct is justly reprehensible." Brethren, if we choose to follow our God given values, we will be a credit to ourselves, our families, to our Fraternity and mostly to our God.

Sincerely and fraternaly,

Edward O. Weisser
R.W. Grand Master

Masons at the Ball Games

The Phillies at the Pirates

Friday night, June 6, will be "Masons Night at the Ball Yard" in Western Pennsylvania when the Pittsburgh Pirates host the Philadelphia Phillies at Three Rivers Stadium. R.W. Grand Master Edward O. Weisser will be there to throw out the first pitch. Special ticket prices are $27 reserved seats that cost $45. For tickets, contact your Lodge or Lodge No. 707, Williamston Masons Fund Memorial To Original Little League Founder

By Brother William E. Fritz
Secretary of Lodge No 665

Fifty-eight years ago a young man made a promise to two young boys. The young man was Carl E. Stotz; the boys were Major and Jimmy Gehron, his nephews.

This promise was couched in a question: "How would you like to play on a regular team with uniform, a new ball for every game, and boys that you can really win over?"

The question was formulated in 1930 — not only for those two young boys, but for millions of young boys and men since then.

This promise is known as "Little League Baseball," At one time, the city of Williamsport, Pennsylvania, was known as the "father city of the world." It is now known, except by a few historians, as the "Birthplace of Little League Baseball." Each August, for a week, it enjoys special recognition and the notoriety associated with it.

Many individuals over the years have tried to lay claim to the founding of Little League Baseball; for those of you who are unaware, Brother Carl E. Stotz was..." (the founder of the Original League) which named its field the "Carl E. Stotz Field, Birthplace of Little League Baseball." Brother Stotz was inducted into the West Branch Sports Hall of Fame and to the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame.

On a monument that he built at the Original League in Memorial Park to honor the volunteers, Brother Stotz gave credit for the founding of Little League to many men who "in many ways established his dream..." which will prevail as long as little boys and girls are afforded the opportunity to enjoy the game they have come to love.

A native son of Williamsport born Feb. 20, 1910, Brother Stotz started his journey in Freemasonry on Jan. 13, 1947, as a member of John L. Audett Lodge No. 207, Williamsport. He was also a member of the Scottish Rite Valley of Williamsport. He was a member of the Masonic Fraternity for 45 years prior to his death on June 4, 1992. Those of us who knew him, saw a man of profound integrity and character... when I called "Brother, friend, and mentor." His life and the way he conducted it did honor to his Lodge and the Masonic Fraternity.

In 1996, (there was) an unsuccessful drive... to build a monument to Carl. In the Fall of 1995, with the blessing of Glen E. Paulhus, current 18th Masonic District Deputy Grand Master, I again started a successful drive to raise funds to build a memorial to Brother Stotz... contacting Masons and groups with Masonic affiliations. The driver's success was once again "Masons Care." On Aug. 23, 1996, the Memorial to Brother Stotz was dedicated by D.D.G.M. Paulhus with the assistance of Worshipful Masters, officers, and members of lodges in the 18th Masonic District. The memorial was given to the city of Williamsport and the original Little League with funds for perpetual care.

Editor's Note: The story by Bro. Fritz was edited for space considerations. Bro. Fritz has been involved with The Original Little League and spearheaded the fundraising for the memorial.

The memorial to Brother Stotz is unveiled.

Masons, Friends United to Build, Install Special Rail Car to Shriners’ Hospital

A specially designed arm-powered rail car that travels on 200 feet of scale model track has been installed for the children at the Shriners’ Hospital in Philadelphia to enjoy while they are being rehabilitated for future building of their upper body muscle tone.

Five brethren from Ephrata Lodge No. 665 went to Philadelphia on Dec. 21 to lay the track and set up the unique arm-powered rail car. That day’s work put the finishing touches on a year-long project that involved contributions and "labor of love" by Masons from two Pennsylvania lodges and friends in Ohio, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

After they assembled the specially-designed arm-powered rail car for children at the hospital, the Philadelphia lodge, the five Masons from Ephrata Lodge No. 665 (photo above) watched as Angel Reyes, a resident at the hospital, gave it a test run. The brethren who did the assembling were: H. Gordon Conover, J.D.; William Ulrich, P.M.; John Brendle; Stanford Cox, S.W.; and John Bille.

Fred Kraft, W.A.M., of Chandler Lodge No. 227, West Reading, fabricated the wooden patterns for the wheels, obtained the castings and decorated them. John Razo, of Oley, designed and assembled the cars, machined castings and axles, and fabricated the castings for the tracks. Ranger Manufacturing Co. in Ohio produced stainless steel crank arms. Dr. and Mrs. James Steward, of New Jersey, provided a copy of the concept that was used to design the modified version.
Grant for George Washington Memorial

R.W. Grand Master Edward O. Weiszer (center) on Dec. 23 presented a $1,000 check to Edgar M. Peppel (left), President of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association. Bro. Peppel is a M.W. Past Grand Master of New Jersey, Past Grand Master Mason W. Scott Snow, who was Vice President and member of the Executive Committee of the Memorial in Alexandria, Va., was present for the presentation. The contribution represents one-half payment to air condition the Auditorium in the Memorial; the balance will be paid upon completion of the project.

District 7 Sock-Hop Earns $$$ For D&A

In the photo to the left, R.W. Deputy Grand Master James L. Ernette (fourth from left), President of The Pennsylvania Masonic Foundation for the Prevention of Drug and Alcohol Abuse Among Children, Joseph W. White (center), Director of the Foundation, and Marvin G. Speich, R.W. Grand Treasurer, were present to accept the donation. Also present were (l-r) Jeffrey Rhein, W.M. of Lodge No. 62; Kevin Ludwig, W.M. of Isaac Hiest Lodge No. 660; Donald Snyder, of Reading Lodge No. 549, District Chairman for the event; Donald Himmelwright, W.M. of Reading Lodge No. 435; and Harold Graf, W.M. of Chandler Lodge No. 227. Other lodges of the District that participated, but not represented on the photo, are: Tarentum Lodge No. 367 and St. John’s Lodge No. 435, West Reading; Huguenot Lodge No. 377, Kulzutown; Vaux Lodge No. 406, Hamburg; and Union Lodge No. 479, Birdsopto. Frank E. Daniels, D.D.G.M., 7th Masonic District, was unable to attend.

Reading Police Confer Degree

A degree team of Reading policemen conferred the Master Mason’s Degree on Ronald Brooke Sellman, 3rd, in St. John’s Lodge No. 435, Reading, on January 17. Bro. Sellman (center) is pictured with Westphal Master Michael P. Light (with gavel) and the other of the confer­mental team: Front- James T. Fahrman, P.M. (left), Chandler Lodge No. 22; J.W.; and Anthony C. Martinelli, F.M. (right), St. John’s Lodge, as S.W. Rear (l-r) - Leon Krammes as Kneunent, and William Herting as Guide, both of Chandler Lodge; Michael R. Heke, St. John’s Lodge, as J.M.C.; Michael Garapoli, Chandler Lodge, as S.M.C.; William Rehfeld, Reading Lodge No. 549, as J.D.; and Hugh H. Drey, St. John’s Lodge No. 435, as S.D.

THE PENNSYLVANIA FREEMASON®
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C/O 1997 S.W. Grand Lodge E.A.M., of Pennsylvania

Distributed by The Pennsylvania Freemason

The Scottish Rite Research Society has launched its 1997 membership drive offering a bonus book, Is It True What They Say About Freemasonry? The Masters Degree of Anti-Masonry, by Dr. S. Ernest Morris and Art De Hayes. Since the Research Society now has more than 5,000 members and has set its sights on 10,000, the second edition of the book is being given to all brethren who renew their membership in 1997 and to some fraternity members during the spring. To become a member of the Scottish Rite Research Society and receive the publication, a Mason should send a note of application, including his name, address, lodge affiliation, Scottish Rite Valley (if applicable) along with his check for $20 payable to "The Scottish Rite Research Society" and mail to the Society at 1733-16th ST., NW, Washington, DC 20009-3103. Life membership is available at $300.

The Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania will be held in the Scottish Rite Cathedral, West Reading, on Wednesday afternoon, June 4. In the evening, the Grand Master’s Banquet and entertainment will be held at the nearby Sheraton Berkshire Inn, Wyomissing.

R.W. Grand Master Edward O. Weiszer and the Grand Lodge Officers will open the Quarterly Communication in the air-conditioned, 1,200-seat William M. Marr Auditorium of the new Scottish Rite Cathedral at 2 p.m. The Communication will con­clude by 4 p.m. Admission by Masons to the Quarterly Communication is the same as for Blue Lodge. Current dues cards are necessary.

Ladies are encouraged to accompany their Masons to the Reading area. While the brethren are attending the Quarterly Communication, the ladies will be able to enjoy a shopping trip to the VF Outlets. Buses will shuttle among the Sheraton Berkshire, VF Outlets, and Scottish Rite Cathedral. From 4 p.m., after the Quarterly Communication, the facilities at the Scottish Rite Cathedral will be available as a place to "freshen up" before the banquet.

The Grand Master’s banquet in the Sheraton Berkshire Inn will be at 6:30 p.m., pre­ceded by a social period at 5:30 p.m. Entertainment will follow the banquet. Men’s attire for the evening will be either tuxedo or business suit.

Tickets for the banquet and entertainment are $20 per person. To purchase tickets, complete the coupon on the right, and send it with your check to David Jacobs, P.M., as directed on the coupon. Ticket application forms also are available from all Blue Lodge secretaries.

Research Society Offers Book

You can play a board game about famous Masons much like you would play Bingo? The Fort Washington Chapter of the Philalethes Society has produced the game. If you want to know more about the game, contact Robert G. Boyington at (513) 451-0533; fax (513) 921-1003; or e-mail at 1032 22.1301@compuserve.com any time.

On July 4, you can join thousands of Americans to Let Freedom Ring! Former presidents, famous actors, renowned journalists, and patriotic Americans from all walks of life will belt in churches, court houses, town halls, rate capitol, national monuments, cemeteries — any facility where there is a bell. The National Let Freedom Ring ceremony was estab­lished to bring $1,000,000 to the Shriners’ Department Committee that aided families to sign the Declaration of Independence. Anyone interested in being part of Let Freedom Ring on July 4 can request a “Recruitment Kit” by calling 1-800-330-1776 or e-mail your name, address, phone number, and the name of the ringing institution at july4befree@net.com

For more information, call the American Legion Post No. 9, 203 E. 5th Street, Corydon, IN 47112. For reservations, call (812) 887-2050 before May 28, 1997.

JUNE QUARTERLY
Communication Banquet and Entertainment June 4, 1997 at 6:30 P.M.

Sheraton Hotel
Rte. 422, W. & Paper Mill Road, Wyomissing, PA

Tickets: $30.00 in advance, $32.00 at the door. Proceeds benefit The Scottish Rite Research Society. For more information, call: 610-374-5651.

The Pennsylvania Freemason / May 1997

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The Pennsylvania Department of Aging has sponsored a pharmaceutical prescription assistance program for Pennsylvania senior citizens called the Pharmaceutical Assistance Contract for the Elderly (PACE). While most Pennsylvanians are aware of this program, it is important to know that some charges have developed to make this service available to more senior citizens who are struggling with fixed incomes. The following information may help you, a family member, or a friend obtain just enough help to make that budget a little easier to manage. You may be eligible for PACE if you are 65 years old or older and are a resident of Pennsylvania, and have been for at least 90 days prior to applying for the program. You are ineligible for pharmaceutical benefits provided by Medicare assistance and your 1996 reported taxable income was less than $14,000 for a single person; less than $17,200 for a married couple. In the past, if you did not meet those requirements you were not eligible to receive PACE benefits. However, beginning in 1997, PACE/NET has been developed by the Office of Aging to help those who otherwise might not qualify for pharmaceutical benefits. Even if you do not meet the eligibility requirements for PACE, you may still qualify for some benefits through PACENET. The guidelines for PACENET allow those people with slightly more income to obtain some pharmaceutical assistance after meeting the annual deductible. PACENET is available to you if you are 65 years old or older and are a Pennsylvania resident and have lived within the Commonwealth for at least 90 days prior to the date of your application. You are not eligible for pharmaceutical assistance benefits provided by Medical Assistance. Your total reported taxable income for 1996 had to be between $14,000 and $16,000 for a single person; between $17,200 and $19,200 for a married couple.

If you meet these requirements, you can then satisfy an annual $50 deductible before reimbursement of costs for prescriptions occurs. If you believe you might qualify for PACE, please call your local Office of Aging to obtain an application. On your preferences, call the Outreach Program at 1-800-462-7664. As with any benefit for services or services from the government, PACE requires complete documentation of all personal information, income, and health insurance coverage. Applications are available in the county and local offices and state offices and local pharmacies.

The Outreach Program Offers Information on Prescription Assistance

**When he was in**

ed by his three predecessors: George E. Boyer (left), J.D.G.M. from 1976 to 1986; Roland H. Schoik, 1991 to 1996; and Robert E. Gerhart (right), 1986 to 1991. The three Past District Deputy grand masters will grant dispensations to require that one month elapse between the conferring of the degrees so that all three degrees can be conferred on a Saturday in May or June for up to five candidates for each lodge session. All other requirements regarding petitioning, investigation, balloting, etc. remain in effect.

**Prince Hall Grand Lodge**

Some time ago, the Prince Hall Grand Lodge asked if our Grand Lodge would allow them to approach the Grand Lodge of England to issue a proper warrant. The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania advised the Grand Lodge of England that there would be no objection to their issuing a proper warrant if they so desired.

**In Pennsylvania**

The Pennsylvania Department of Aging has sponsored a pharmaceutical prescription assistance program for Pennsylvania senior citizens called the Pharmaceutical Assistance Contract for the Elderly (PACE). While most Pennsylvanians are aware of this program, it is important to know that some charges have developed to make this service available to more senior citizens who are struggling with fixed incomes. The following information may help you, a family member, or a friend obtain just enough help to make that budget a little easier to manage. You may be eligible for PACE if you are 65 years old or older and are a resident of Pennsylvania, and have been for at least 90 days prior to applying for the program. You are ineligible for pharmaceutical benefits provided by Medicare assistance and your 1996 reported taxable income was less than $14,000 for a single person; less than $17,200 for a married couple. In the past, if you did not meet those requirements you were not eligible to receive PACE benefits. However, beginning in 1997, PACENET has been developed by the Office of Aging to help those who otherwise might not qualify for pharmaceutical benefits. Even if you do not meet the eligibility requirements for PACE, you may still qualify for some benefits through PACENET. The guidelines for PACENET allow those people with slightly more income to obtain some pharmaceutical assistance after meeting the annual deductible. PACENET is available to you if you are 65 years old or older and are a Pennsylvania resident and have lived within the Commonwealth for at least 90 days prior to the date of your application. You are not eligible for pharmaceutical assistance benefits provided by Medical Assistance. Your total reported taxable income for 1996 had to be between $14,000 and $16,000 for a single person; between $17,200 and $19,200 for a married couple.

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Developing a Freedom Hall of Fame

Antique Apron Presented to Museum

At its stated meeting on Jan. 8, the brethren of Leonard Forman Lodge No. 782, Philadelphia, presented an antique silk, painted apron to the Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania. The framed apron now is prominently displayed inside the entrance to the museum.

The unique, highly decorative aprons were originally worn by brethren in a Massachusetts Lodge in the mid-1800s. This apron was acquired in 1993 by Gary J. Bruder, P.M. of Leonard Forman Lodge.

The presentation was made in Egyptian Hall of the Masonic Temple of (I-r): Craig G. Cohen, W.M., and Ben Bruder, both of Leonard Forman Lodge, to Marvin A. Cunningham, Sr., R.W. Junior Grand Warden; Joseph DiPinto, Jr., D.D.G.M. Masonic District C; and John Minotti, St. Alban-Swain Lodge N° 529, Assistant Curator of the Museum.

R.W.G.M. Edward O. Weisser and The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania Presents

BORN TO ALASKA

GLACIER DISCOVERY CRUISE

First Week of August - Trip Open to Masons and Friends

A 7-Day Cruise Aboard Holland America Line’s MS Ryndam (Plus Post-Cruise Options)

For Best Cabin Selection - Save up to $3,778 per Couple

OFF Holland America’s Published Prices!

VANTAGE DELUXE WORLD TRAVEL TOLL-FREE 1-800-833-0899

Your Trip to Alaska Will Include: Cabin Grade Selection • All Shipboard Meals, Midnight Buffet, Etc. • First Class Entertainment • Captains Welcome Aboard Party.

(Air Fare and Selected Options Extra)

CABIN DESCRIPTION

- Deluxe Cat. A (twin bed) $2,339
- Deluxe Cat. B (twin bed) $2,299
- Deluxe Cat. C (twin bed) $2,199
- Deluxe Cat. D (twin bed) $2,139
- Deluxe Cat. E (twin bed) $2,099
- Deluxe Cat. F (twin bed) $2,049
- Deluxe Cat. G (twin bed) $2,029
- Deluxe Cat. H (twin bed) $1,999
- Deluxe Cat. I (twin bed) $1,979
- Deluxe Cat. J (twin bed) $1,949
- Deluxe Cat. K (twin bed) $1,929
- Deluxe Cat. L (twin bed) $1,909
- Deluxe Cat. M (twin bed) $1,899

CABIN PRICING

- Deluxe Cat. A: $2,265
- Deluxe Cat. B: $2,205
- Deluxe Cat. C: $2,125
- Deluxe Cat. D: $2,105
- Deluxe Cat. E: $2,065
- Deluxe Cat. F: $2,035
- Deluxe Cat. G: $2,015
- Deluxe Cat. H: $1,995
- Deluxe Cat. I: $1,975
- Deluxe Cat. J: $1,945
- Deluxe Cat. K: $1,925
- Deluxe Cat. L: $1,905
- Deluxe Cat. M: $1,895

Please note cruise only by U.S. dollars, per person and based on double occupancy. Singles and triple cabins are available upon request and subject to availability. Pair/other taxes: Approximately $252.

EXCHANGED is my check payable to the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania in the amount of $40 for each reservation. Refund of deposit will be made up to May 1, 1997 on all cancellations except for 10%.

A phone call to the cruise line is required to confirm the reservation of your cabin selection.

MASONIC AFFILIATION (list)

Send To: PENNSYLVANIA GRAND LODGE, c/o Vantage Deluxe World Travel, 111 Cypress St., Brooklyn, NY 11216

For Advanced Information, Call: 1-800-833-0899

TROOPERS FROM 8 LODGES CONFER DEGREE

State Policemen from eight lodges throughout eastern Pennsylvania conferred the Master Mason’s Degree in St. John’s Lodge No. 435, Reading, upon a fellow Trooper, Bruce E. Gostisen, Anthony T. Manzullino (front right), then Worshipful Master of St. John’s Lodge, and Michael Holland (center with gavel), of Big Spring Lodge No. 300, Millersville, the confering Master, Master Albert W. Bogart (second from left), in presenting Emblems of Gold.

Karl W. Fritz, P.M., Benton Lodge No. 667, at the age of 102 attended the extra meeting of his lodge to witness the conferment of the Third Degree on his grandson, Gary K. Strauch. He was the first line signer on Gary’s petition and was presented his purple jacket by Guy H. Peterman, W.M., and John H. Wainscott, Jr., P.D.D.G.M. of the 35th Masonic.

PERRY A. STRAUCH, a member of W. K. Bray Lodge No. 356, Harrisburg, was installed as Supreme Tall Cedar of the Tall Cedars of North America during the Midwinter Conference of the Supreme Forest January 10-12 in Lancaster, is shown with ten-year-old Christopher Allen Fina, of Breinigville, the Tall Cedar Goodwill Ambassador for 1997. The Tall Cedars of Lebanon have provided continuous financial support since 1951 to the Masonic Dystrophy Association, contributing more than $7,000 to the Jerry Lewis Labor Day Telethon.

Edward F. Ross, a member of W. K. Bray Lodge No. 150, Emporia, VA, on March 1 began serving as Director of the Hospital Visitation Program for the Masonic Service Association of the United States.

Charles Miller (seated), a member of Palestine-Robbins Lodge No. 135, Philadelphia, who has been a Mason for 48 years, celebrated his 105th birthday on Feb. 20 at his residence in Crest Haven Nursing Home, Cape May, NJ. To celebrate his birthday, Paul J. Feigel, W.M., (left) and Anthony Carotenuto, S.W., along with other members of his Lodge presented him with a Friend to Friend jacket donated by a lodge member and a lodge hat.

CHARLES MILLER (seated), a member of Palestine-Robbins Lodge No. 135, Philadelphia, who has been a Mason for 48 years, celebrated his 105th birthday on Feb. 20 at his residence in Crest Haven Nursing Home, Cape May, NJ. To celebrate his birthday, Paul J. Feigel, W.M., (left) and Anthony Carotenuto, S.W., along with other members of his Lodge presented him with a Friend to Friend jacket donated by a lodge member and a lodge hat.

MASON’S NOTE

TAKING FRIEND-TO-FRIEND / BROTHER-TO-BROTHER, James R. Miller, P.M., of Alaquippa Lodge No. 375, did an outstanding job in retaining 54 members by contacting them before they would have been suspended for non-payment of dues. He also is responsible for having five suspended brethren reinstated.

For the second consecutive year, the Worshipful Master of 50 years ago was present in Milion Lodge No. 256 to assist Gary E. Harewood (center), D.D.G.M., 46th Masonic District, and the Worshipful Master, Dalo F. Bogart (second from left), in presenting Emblems of Gold. The 50-year members (at right) who received their awards were Frederick A. Simon and Lee S. Canter.

MASONIC AFFILIATION (list)

Send To: PENNSYLVANIA GRAND LODGE, c/o Vantage Deluxe World Travel, 111 Cypress St., Brooklyn, NY 11216

For Advanced Information, Call: 1-800-833-0899

4 BROTHERS GET EMBLEMS

Four brothers by the name of Cook — Harold A., Ernest D., James A., and William H., P.M. — were among six brethren, all members of Salem Lodge No. 330, Harmi, who were presented 50-Year Emblems of Gold by R.W. Grand Master, Edward O. Weisser on Jan. 11 in the Masonic Temple, Scranton.

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THE PENNSYLVANIA FREEMASON / May 1997 9
There are 23 most helpful Masons across Pennsylvania and another 50 throughout Florida who serve voluntarily as Counsellors for the Masonic Homes. They are the key information and assistance source for people seeking admission to the Masonic Homes.

The Admissions Counsellors Program, of which they are a part, began in June, 1988, to meet the unique needs of those who seek residency in the Masonic Health Care Center or the Village Green area, which includes congregational and personal care, of the Masonic Homes.

Always friendly, the Counsellors are generally the first link an applicant has to the Masonic Homes. In their special liaison role, they carry out three very important responsibilities.

First, counsellors provide accurate information about the Masonic Homes. Since most applicants do not live close enough to visit the Masonic Homes, Counsellors go to their residences to share complete information.

Second, they assist the applicants and family members in completing the applications, which also provides the Masonic Homes with complete information needed to assess the applicants' needs and serve them better.

Finally, they support the applicants and family members in making what are probably the most difficult decisions of their lives.

The Admissions Counsellors are provided with extensive training and spend a few days at the Masonic Homes each year to be updated on policies, procedures and new programs. The yearly visit to the Masonic Homes by the Admissions Counsellors from Pennsylvania was in October. During their stay, the Counsellors' sessions were presented from managers and supervisors across the Masonic Homes' campus. They move from one area to another to meet residents and staff, and dine with them, to get a feel for what the Masonic Homes is all about. Each year, the Masonic Homes holds a celebration in their honor to thank them for everything they do. The highlights of this year's visit included a tour of the Lafayette Special Care Center.

The opportunity to see the Masonic Health Care Center Assembly Room for the first time. The Admissions Counsellors in Florida are updated on events via mailings.

Most Lodges in Pennsylvania have a three-member Masonic Homes Committee to provide additional fraternal support, comfort, transport or any other service in an effort to help in the admission process. When an individual expresses interest in applying to live at the Masonic Homes, the Admissions Counsellor and one member of the sponsoring Lodge's Masonic Homes Committee visit the applicant.

If the applicant resides in a state other than Pennsylvania or Florida, the application is issued to the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania rather than to the Admissions Counsellor. The Grand Lodge then forwards the application to the Grand Lodge of the appropriate state who, in turn, finds a local Lodge to assist the applicant.

According to Claudia Stephens, Director of Admissions and Resident Services, the program is a success because of the Admissions Counsellors. "They do the leg work, visiting peoples' homes and dealing with very difficult situations. Many residents remember their counsellor and how they helped them," she said.

On average, with the help of the Admissions Counsellors, the Admissions Office processes 400 applications a year for the Masonic Health Care Center and Village Green Area of the Masonic Homes.

The Masonic Homes' Admissions Counsellors in Pennsylvania include:
Region 1: Nelson M. Bailey, Jr., Lodge No. 620; George E. Boyer, Lodge No. 254; J. Walter Price, Lodge No. 712; William E. Riley, Lodge No. 385; William S. Corlett, Lodge No. 781; Region 2: Charles A. Hennickel, Lodge No. 226; Robert H. Mason, Lodge No. 21; Sherman N. Miller, Lodge No. 764; John C. Richard, Lodge No. 43; Richard S. Wood, Lodge No. 197; Region 3: John P. Henry, Jr., Lodge No. 324; Robert E. Spriggle, Lodge No. 619; Region 4: Charles W. Doeger, Lodge No. 540; David R. Johnston, Lodge No. 319; Wesley E. Smith, Sr., Lodge No. 674; Region 5: John G. Johnson, Lodge No. 575; Donald J. Lolley, Lodge No. 316; Robert K. Parrish, Lodge No. 695; Region 6: Allen J. Henniger, Lodge No. 232; Clifford E. Reed, Sr., Lodge No. 515; Region 7: Rev. James A. Guten, Lodge No. 322; Clinton E. Shrive, Lodge No. 664; Robert S. Swoyes, Lodge No. 673.

The Masonic Homes' Admissions Counsellors in Florida include:
Region 1: John E. Rush, Lodge No. 794; Howard DeTamble, Lodge No. 778; Albert Enkovitz, Lodge No. 648; Earl Gasper, Lodge No. 254; Panton Glazier, Lodge No. 600; Ronald L. Gruno, Lodge No. 497; Marj. H. Feildinger, Lodge No. 230; J. Wesley Hill, Lodge No. 529; Edward L. Mark, Lodge No. 126; Harold L. Meyers, Lodge No. 456; W. F. Michael, Lodge No. 776; Joseph B. Pittman, Lodge No. 711; William M. Rees, Lodge No. 595; Irwin K. Rennissen, Lodge No. 292; James Sandeman, Lodge No. 220; Allen M. Wilson; Region 2: George Geor, Lodge No. 660; Clarence R. Kopp, Lodge No. 587; Louis M. Marshall, Lodge No. 540; Theodore P. Schett, Lodge No. 682; Martin C. Scece, Lodge No. 21; Region 3: Dean M. Lennett, Lodge No. 300; Leland S. Mcnatt, Lodge No. 355; Region 4: Burt Gorback, Lodge No. 544; Jackson C. Powers, Lodge No. 237; Ewing Thurner, Lodge No. 470; Region 5: Charles E. Shindel, Lodge No. 648; Walter W. Grote, Lodge No. 218; John D. Likon, Lodge No. 265; Charles E. Schiechter, Lodge No. 309.

Because the Masonic Homes foresaw important health care concerns such as cost containment, pressure which often lead to shorter hospital stays, plans have been made to raise the level of acuity in the services the facility can provide.

The Masonic Homes has operated a transitional unit since February, 1996, designed with capabilities to perform subacute care for individuals who may require complex medical management following a hospital stay. In January, 1997, the Masonic Homes opened its new 51-bed Renaissance Unit in the Ben Franklin Building of the Masonic Health Care Center with more equipment conducive to providing services such as physical therapy, respiratory services including ventilators and tracheotomies, feeding tubes, continuous heart monitoring, pain management and rehabilitation for patients recovering from fractures, strokes, heart attacks or surgery.

The Renaissance Unit offers a higher level of subacute care for individuals who need medical or rehabilitative services. Immediately after, or instead of, acute hospitalization, an individual can receive active, complex medical treatments through subacute care until stabilization occurs. Comprehensive medical, rehabilitation and consultation programs and services designed to meet the needs of each patient are provided. The staff of this unit receives special training and encourages patients to reach their highest level of independence in their own pace. The unit provides all the services available in a hospital transitional unit for a much lower cost and in a more homelike environment.

The name of the Renaissance Unit was chosen in the spring to exemplify the staff's mission: To help patients experience the opportunity for a "new beginning" after a health-related setback. And, because the unit provides services to all Pennsylvania Masons and their eligible family members and is not limited to serving only residents of the Masonic Homes, it offers a valuable choice to eligible individuals who require a subacute level of care.

Prior to the opening of the new Renaissance Unit, the Masonic Homes held meetings for residents and staff to discuss the changes in today's health care. Several individuals volunteered to talk about their experience on the Renaissance Unit:

Mildred Huber, wife of Bro. Arthur Huber, spoke on behalf of her wife, Clinton, who suffers from Cohn's disease. "I guarantee you they handled the people who work in that unit to get her where she is," she said.

Lawrence Shelley, Hiriam Lodge No. 616, Allentown, said, "It was the best thing to ever happened to me. I was in no condition to ever walk when I got here. The staff is service-oriented; all of my questions were answered promptly, and pastoral support helped a good deal, too." More than 400 residents, staff, health care professionals, and visitors celebrated an open house/health fair on Wednesday, January 29, 1997, 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. in the Masonic Health Care Center Assembly Room.

For more information about the Renaissance Unit, call 1-800-422-1207.

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**New Renaissance Unit Helps Individuals Return Home Sooner**

Bro. Francis Cassetto exercises on the treadmill as Judy Brandt, Physical Therapist, supervises. "I appreciate the care I got and I will never forget it," she said.

Richard Kishpough, Barger Lodge No. 325, Stroudsburg, spoke on behalf of his wife, Carmen, who suffers from Cohn's disease. "I guarantee you they handled the people who work in that unit to get her where she is," he said.

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**Return Home Sooner**

**Masonic Homes**

There was an error in the publication of the e-Mason web site identification in the February issue of The Pennsylvania Freemason. Please note that the correct web site address is: HTTP://WWW.CUBEML.COM/USERS/BLULODGE/SOCULIB.HTML
Cottage Model Now Available

If you have been waiting anxiously to see one of our new cottages before making a decision, now you have that opportunity! Call the Marketing Office at 1-800-676-6452 for an appointment to have a personal tour.

This photo was taken on February 27, 1997. If you would like to see the finished product, please call our Marketing Office at 1-800-676-6452 and we will be happy to schedule you for a tour.

Masonic Homes Offers Another Benefit to Residents: Long-Term Care Insurance

A task force of residents recently evaluated available insurance programs and recommended that the Masonic Homes offer a group long-term care insurance program provided through UNUM Insurance Company.

The program is an option for current residents and future residents on the Masonic Homes’ priority and waiting lists who are considering long-term care insurance. The program provides benefit coverage for skilled nursing services, personal care services, professional home care services and adult day care, all of which are available through the continuum of care services provided on the Masonic Homes’ campus. The program may also offer discounts that might not be available with other programs.

If you are interested in obtaining more information about this long-term care insurance program, write to: Marketing Office, Masonic Homes, One Masonic Drive, Elizabethtown, PA 17022.

Six Music Talent Search Semi-Finals

On May 18, Finale: Compete June 7

Six of the 17 semi-final competitions in the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania Music Talent Search will be held on May 18 across the state. The semi-final competition for Region 5 was scheduled for April 27 in the Erie Playhouse. The finals’ competition will be June 7 in Elizabethtown and will be concluded with the final judging of the annual Essay Contest.

All of the competitions are to begin at 2 p.m. in their respective locations as follows:

Region 1: Masonic Temple, One North Broad St., Philadelphia.
Region 2: Scottish Rite Cathedral, 310 S. Seventh St., West Reading.
Region 3: Masonic Temple, Valley Forge and Linon St., Johnstown.
Region 6: Williamsport Consistory, 348 Market St., Williamsport.
Region 7: East Stroudsburg University, Auditorium, 200 Prospect St., East Stroudsburg.

The finalists’ competition, also at 2 p.m., will be on June 7 in the Assembly Room of the Health Center of the Masonic Homes at One Masonic Drive, Elizabethtown.

Manheim Lodge Burns Mortgage

During the January stated meeting, members of Manheim Lodge No. 587 burned its mortgage years ahead of schedule. The lodge hall was occupied in 1990 with the expectation of satisfying the mortgage early in the next century. A generous bequest from their late brother, Alvin W. Shenker, allowed for the early mortgage-burning as well as to establish a modest scholarship program for local high school students. Worshipful Master Terry Millard (right) and James E. Staub (center), President of the Hall Association, burn the mortgage while Rev. Garrett G. Diem, R.M., of the Hall Association, looks on.

Greeting German G.M.

R.W. Grand Master Edward O. Weissner greets the M.W. Grand Master of the United Grand Lodges of Germany, Rainer J. Schickel, on Feb. 20, when he was in Philadelphia for an official visit to a meeting of Hermann Lodge No. 125, Philadelphia and attended by two other German-speaking lodges, Humboldt Lodge No. 325, Hatboro, and Teutonia Lodge No. 367, Reading. Grand Master Schickel presented a commemorative plaque to the library and museum.

More Residential Services Available in Spring 1998!

There’s no time like the present to start planning for your future. By Spring 1998, the Masonic Homes will have more spaces available in the Village Green Area. This residential option provides residents with a large private room and personal bathroom. Residents who live in this area enjoy three meals a day in the beautiful Grand Lodge Hall Dining Room.

The Masonic Homes will also have spaces available in the newly renovated Freemasons Building. This beautiful residential option is well suited for individuals who are not ready to live their lives independently, but who may need assistance with some daily activities such as eating, bathing, and taking medication.

In both areas, shuttle buses are available for convenient transportation and many recreational opportunities are planned for residents.

For more information about residential areas call 1-800-422-1207.
DeMolays See History in the Making

On January 20, the Pennsylvania DeMolay Delegation, 212 people strong, traveled to Washington, DC, for the inauguration of President William J. Clinton, a Senior DeMolay and Past State Master Councilor of Arkansas. The Pennsylvania DeMolay group was escorted by State Master Councilor Robert R. Nye, Jr., and State Sweetheart Lauren M. Hampton and included DeMolay advisors, families, and friends from throughout the Commonwealth. Shirley Forte, a Job’s Daughter from Brazil who is an exchange student staying with a Job’s Daughter family in Hanover, also joined the trip, getting a glimpse of the pomp, pageantry and people who make this quadrennial event uniquely American.

The five-bus entourage left Elizabethville at 7:15 a.m. and traveled to the George Washington National Masonic Memorial in Alexandria, VA, where the buses were parked and an early lunch was eaten. Some of the Pennsylvania group toured the Memorial. The delegation was organized into small groups, which boarded the Metro into the city. Some chose to go directly to the parade route to stake out good locations while others joined the sea of people on the Mall side of the Capitol for the swearing in of the President and Vice President. Some members, including Eric Clepper, were interviewed by television reporters and many celebrities were spotted in the crowd including Whoopie Goldberg, Kevin Costner, Dr. Ruth, Barbara Walters, Hugh Downs, and Senior DeMolay Willard Scott.

The popularity of the inaugural trip has been growing since 1989 when fourteen DeMolay state officers took a bus tour to the inauguration of George Bush. Four years later this number grew to 94 people in two full buses.

Thanks to the sponsorship of Lodge No. 9, Philadelphia, a banner was made for display in the parade route, and each participant received a commemorative hat.

A.G.R.E.A.T. PROGRAM!

The Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.) program held its first training seminar at the Masonic Conference Center—Patton Campus in Elizabethtown on February 2-7. The G.R.E.A.T. program was created in 1991 by the Police Department of Phoenix, AZ, as an extension of its D.A.R.E. program participation, recognizing the growth of gangs which thrive on the distribution of drugs.

The program trains uniformed officers to teach a nine-week program to 6th and 7th grade students to help them discover the ramifications of gang violence in their lives. It includes many optional activities to be conducted year-round to reinforce the classroom instruction.

The G.R.E.A.T. program is conducted as a cooperative effort between the Phoenix Police Department, the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, and the Department of the Treasury, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms.

The training at the Patton Campus was open to officers from police forces from across the country. There were 26 graduates in this first class held at the Patton Campus, including two officers from Pennsylvania. The G.R.E.A.T. program has been active in the city of Philadelphia since 1994.

The graduation class received certificates during a commencement service in the William A. Carpenter Chapel, during which Thomas R. Labagh, Director of the Pennsylvania Youth Foundation, was the guest speaker.

Scottish Rite Night at Elk Lodge

Officers of Coudersport Consistory visited Elk Lodge No. 379, Ridgway, for Scottish Rite Night during the March 11 stated meeting. Shown at the meeting are (left to right): Larry J. Boardman, P.M., Secretary of the Valley of Coudersport; Mark A. Sharrow, W.W., of Elk Lodge; Ralph H. Besecor, D.D.G.M. 33rd Masonic District and 2nd U. Commander of Coudersport Consistory; and George F. Baxter, P.M., Commander-in-Chief of the Consistory, who presented the program of Scottish Rite History.

My Brothers:

I have heard Masonic leaders in recent years refer to Freemasonry as a sleeping giant, and in one of my talks which I prepared a dozen years ago I also referred to it as a sleeping giant. Now I pause to think and wonder why.

I wonder not only about why giant but also I wonder why sleeping. The sleeping aspect is readily comprehensible when we consider to relative quiescence of Freemasonry today as compared to our past, but why is it not awake. The implication of being a giant begs definition. If Freemasonry may be accurately defined a "giant," what qualities does it possess which places it in that position?

In the year of 1717 when speculative Freemasonry had its formal beginning and during the preceding years it existed informally, it was a position in history when ethical and moral values were at a high and the influence of religion was being challenged. That time was probably ripe for the birth of an organization which promoted what we regard as admirable ethical and moral principles and a stimulus to an intellectual pursuit. In retrospect we could probably say the time was ripe for the birth of a prospective giant. The giant, however, was not born a giant. It grew and developed into a position of impact which caused it to be distinguishably different from those surrounding it.

Freemasonry took its terminological function from the early cathedral Builders from which it probably arose. But instead of building cathedrals of stone and mortar, Freemasonry began to build cathedrals of the human soul and spirit using not stone and mortar but using man's hunger for knowledge, truth and goodness, a love of God and loyalty to his fellow man. And thus began our Masonic heritage.

As this potential giant evolved, it moved across the earth; gaining in strength and influence and creating an effect which may be conservatively defined as enormous. We need only look back to its influence through its members on the impact it created in the development of the American nation for verification. During its existence, its influence increased and decreased at various times, but it was always felt. Based upon the result, there can be no doubt that it did indeed evolve into a giant. But make no mistake, it was its influence that made it a giant. Now, today, there are many leaders who refer to it as a sleeping giant. Definitely, a great potential little felt.

If Freemasonry is a sleeping giant and If indeed we do recognize its significance, it is time for us to awaken the giant lest we permit it to sleep too long, and thus like Rip van Winkle find that it awakens with an inability to achieve further greatness.

We must first of all comprehend why it is sleeping. We were a viable force throughout many generations of society. Why should we cease to be so today? Its philosophy has not changed over our years of existence; only the Members have changed. Have we become an anachronism in present-day society? Have our principles and values actually had no place for the last quarter century?

There can be no question that the environment has changed, and we must now determine whether we wish to retain our principles and values and lift others up to use or change to fit into today's environment and thus step down to meet present-day standards. If we truly believe in the philosophy upon which we were founded and upon which we existed for over three hundred years, the decision is a simple one. Now we must determine our next move.

First, our future must build upon accomplishments of the present, not only those of the past. We cannot continue to look back and dwell upon our past, glorying in what was not nor can we continue to mourn the loss. Pride in our past can be self-destructive if it causes us to ignore the present upon which our future depends. Longfellow wrote, "Look not mournful to the past; it comes not back again."

My Brothers, the potential to wake what we have chosen to term a sleeping giant, albeit an influential sleeping giant, lies within our hands. We as individuals cannot pass the responsibility off to either the future or the present leaders. Each one of us has an obligation to the past of which we are so proud. Longfellow also wrote, "Wise keep the present; it is thine."

A great starting place would be to reinforce the Brother part of Brotherhood. I am firmly convinced it is of paramount importance that the practice of the Brotherhood we preach be restored or the Craft. We seem to have largely forgotten this fundamental principle which came so readily to our past Brothers.

If the giant sleeps too long, it may change from a sleeping giant to a dying giant. I once read where Freemasonry was in a rut, and it would behoove us to remember that the only difference between a rut and a grave is the depth of the hole. My Brothers, Freemasonry is too important to sleep, and it is certainly too important to die. But we are the only ones who can awaken it.
Why We, Answer The Call! Treatise Chronicles Hardships Of Embattled Valley Forge Troops

A year ago in March, when announcing the plans to reconstruct the nearly deteriorated National Valley Forge at Valley Forge, R.W. Grand Master Edward O. Weisler said, "Masonry has always been there to answer the call. Certainly, Brother Washington and his troops did when they endured that brutal winter encampment in 1777 and 1778."

What it was like and what the long-suffering troops endured in that encampment in 1777 is vividly described in a treatise about Valley Forge that has been saved in a file folder in The Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania. The treatise is not dated, though it appears to have been compiled after 1910 or 1911. The name of the person who compiled the facts is not included either; it merely concludes with hand-written initials that appear to be "WJ." What follows are moving excerpts from that report.

December 10, 1777. After an exhausting march from White Marsh, via Gulph Mills, Washington's troops arrived upon the hills at Valley Forge. Four days later nearly three thousand men of this force were sick or too nearly naked to do things.

General Washington brought this refugio from his camps in the vicinity of White Marsh, a place twelve miles from the city, a place from which he brought to this refuge General Washington and his beleaguered soldiers who, at this site, suffered the terrible hardships of the historic winter of 1777. With renewed spirit, this same army emerged to successfully engage the British army in June of 1778.

Today, the Arch, which is 60 feet high and 30 feet wide, stands in disrepair. It is closed to the public for safety reasons.

The National Memorial Arch at Valley Forge has stood for more than 80 years as a tribute to Brother and General George Washington and his beleaguered soldiers who, at this site, suffered the terrible hardships of the historic winter of 1777. With renewed spirit, this same army emerged to successfully engage the British army in June of 1778.

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The Restoration Project

During 1996-1997 the Freemasons of Pennsylvania will restore the Arch to its original grandeur at a cost of $1.5 million dollars. The underlying brick work will be reconstructed, structural steel will be placed in the existing attic area and the ornamentation and lettering will be restored and enhanced.

Be a Part of History! You can be a part of this great historical event! With a donation of only $5, your name will be inscribed in the GOLD BOOK which will be placed in the time capsule on the day of the dedication. A duplicate copy of the GOLD BOOK will be placed in the Library and Museum at the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

To contribute to the restoration of the Arch, use this side.

Please place the following names in the GOLD BOOK to be placed in the Time Capsule at the National Memorial Arch at Valley Forge in support of the restoration of the Arch by the Freemasons of Pennsylvania. It is understood that these names will appear in the GOLD BOOK to be placed in the Library and Museum at the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. (Please send check in the enclosed envelope made payable to the Grand Lodge Charity Fund/National Memorial Arch in the amount of $5 for each name to be included.)

Total enclosed: $ (Contributions are tax deductible)

Name (Please print) "In Honor of"/"In Memory of" Lodge # or Organization (if applicable)

Send Contributions to: Grand Lodge Charity Fund/National Memorial Arch
Masonic Temple, One North Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107-2598

FACTS ABOUT THE ARCH

The National Memorial Arch...

...is approximately 60 feet high, 30 feet wide.
...was constructed of 900 granite blocks, each weighing more than a ton.
...has an original roof constructed of solid granite stones. Deterioration of joints between the stones allowed water to infiltrate the structure, so a lead-coated copper roof was installed over the granite in the early 1980s.
...has two rooms inside the top of the Arch that are about 13 by 15 feet with unfinished, irregular concrete floors and are accessible only through openings about 3 by 3 feet.
...has 835 bronze letters and numbers, mostly about 8 feet high, on the text panels and interior archway.
...has 160 bronze roses in the archway ceiling.
...has 90 bronze cornice caps.

THE RESTORATION

During reconstruction, the Arch...
...is surrounded by scaffolding and covered with tarping of heavy, translucent fiber-reinforced polyurethane.
...has a temporary enclosure over the roof of the temporary structure to circulate air within to aid the drying process.
...had more than 7.5 tons of concrete poured into the two rooms to level them in preparation for installation of structural steel.
...will have more than 9 tons of structural steel placed in the two rooms to strengthen the structure and transfer the load of the structure onto the archway.
...has approximately 37 deteriorated or cracked granite blocks that are being cut out or replaced to be replaced by granite from the quarries that supplied the original stones. A 3 by 5 inch plate with a square and compass emblem and inscription, "Restored by the Freemasons of Pennsylvania 1996-1997, Edward O. Weisler, R.W. Grand Master," will be placed behind each new stone prior to setting.
...will be cleaned by pressure-washing to remove atmospheric dirt and deposits after all of the bronze has been cleaned and restored and all mortar joints have been re-pointed.
...will have a vault to be covered by a capstone for the deposit of a time capsule with many Masonic-related articles as well as the names of individual Freemasons and their family members who contribute at least $5 toward the Restoration Project.

PLAN TO BE PART OF HISTORY

Dedication and laying of the capstone at the restored National Memorial Arch will take place in a public ceremony on Sunday, August 24, at 2 p.m., followed by a parade within the Valley Forge National Park.

All Masons, their families, and their friends, will want to attend this historic commemoration.

Send Contributions to: Grand Lodge Charity Fund/National Memorial Arch
Masonic Temple, One North Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107-2598
Why the Freemasons of Pennsylvania are restoring the National Memorial Arch

"Freemasons have always been there to answer the call," said R.W. Grand Master of Masons in Pennsylvania, Edward O. Weisser. "Certainly, Brother Washington and his embattled troops did when they endured that brutal winter encampment in 1777 and 1778. "We, as Freemasons, believe our children and their children need to know that the men in 1777 cared about freedom. They need to know that Freemasons in 1996 still care about freedom."

George Washington and Freemasonry

George Washington was a great Freemason. He served as Master of his Masonic Lodge in Alexandria, Virginia at the same time he was President of the United States.

Freemasons are most proud of George Washington, whose leadership, strength and courage gave his army the will to survive against terrible odds at Valley Forge and helped give birth to our nation.

To Find Out More About Freemasonry

Freemasonry is "The World's Premier Men's Organization." Its singular purpose is "to make good men better." It accepts only those believed to be of the highest character. To inquire about how you may be considered for membership, call 1-800-990-1935 or write to:

The Grand Lodge of F&AM of Pennsylvania
One North Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107-2598

"It is my hope that every Pennsylvania Freemason will support our restoration of the National Memorial Arch at Valley Forge - one of the most visible symbols of our nation's freedom."

- Edward O. Weisser
R.W. Grand Master

Use this side to contribute to the Perpetual Care of the Arch

Enclosed is a contribution in the amount of $_________ made payable to the Grand Lodge Charity Fund/ National Memorial Arch to help the Freemasons of North America support the perpetual care of the National Memorial Arch at Valley Forge. (A return envelope is enclosed for your convenience.)

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<th>Lodge/Organization/Individual</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Amount Contributed</th>
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NOTE: Contributions are tax deductible

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Masonic Temple, One North Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107-2598
The National Memorial Arch at Valley Forge

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Name (please print) ____________________________

“In Honor of” / “In Memory of” ____________________________

Lodge # or Organization (if applicable) __________

Send Contributions to: Grand Lodge Charity Fund/National Memorial Arch

Masonic Temple, One North Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107-2398
Masonic Homes

The Masonic Homes serve the Fraternity, our family members, our youth, and the community through a continuum of quality care services encompassed in our “Mission of Love.” During 1996, the Masonic Homes has continued to grow and modernize its entire facility, expand the services, and reach out to those in need of our care.

Phase 4 of the Masonic Health Care Center Construction Project was completed for occupancy early in 1996. With the opening of this new West Wing (Roosevelt Building), we now have a new main entrance to the Masonic Health Care Center with a beautiful lobby, gift shop, library and meditation chapel. This new building also provides a therapy pool for group swims, aquatic exercise programs, and individual physical therapy sessions for residents. Therapeutic recreation rooms, including new arts and crafts room and ceramics room, are designed to add to the programing capabilities in the Masonic Health Care Center. The new Assembly Room provides us with the opportunity to do large group programming for religious, secular, musical activities as well as theatrical productions and seminars. An outside courtyard is designed to be used as an amphitheater for resident programming in the warmer weather. All of these additions are designed to accommodate residents using wheelchairs or other assistive devices.

Parts of Phase 5 of the construction project were also completed, including Ben Franklin Ground and First Floors. In November, the Ground Floor became the new home of the Adult Daily Living Center, which offers adult day care services to individuals with physical and/or cognitive impairments. Our center provides residents and individuals from the community with goal-oriented programs and services during the day that will allow them to live at home with their families instead of entering a nursing facility. This new location in the Masonic Health Care Center will accommodate a total of 41 clients, and allows easy access to all of our ancillary clinics without leaving the building. Our Adult Daily Living Center fits perfectly with the future model of health care as it moves toward providing long term care services that will allow people to live at home.

On Ben Franklin First Floor, the Lafayette Special Care Unit provides care and treatment for as many as 49 residents living their lives with dementia. The unit is split into two separate resident care units, Lafayette East, and Lafayette West, so the staff can provide the appropriate level of care required for residents who are at a higher or lower level of functioning. These units provide programming in an environment specifically designed for dementia care. Outdoor courtyards, designed to enhance therapeutic recreation and nostalgic memories, allow residents to wander freely, yet remain in a safe and secure environment. Separate pantries on each unit provide a kitchen setting where residents may cook and bake. Each resident room has a nostalgia cabinet outside the door, where residents and their families may place items to remind the resident of something from his or her past.

The Transitional Unit, which has been in operation since February 1996, was moved from the Roosevelt Building to the second floor of the Ben Franklin Building, and its name was changed to the “Renaissance Unit,” to better reflect the unit’s emphasis on rehabilitation and recovery. The 51-bed Renaissance Unit is designed with capabilities to perform subacute care, offering comprehensive medical, rehabilitation, and consultation programs and services to meet the needs of each patient. This level of care is designed for individuals who have had an acute illness, injury, or is in the process of rehabilitation.

The Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania has expanded, providing a new research and reading room and opening a unique gift shop. The magnificent Grand Lodge facility where the culture and heritage of the Fraternity, our nation, and our society are preserved, is world-renowned for its outstanding historical art collections and research capabilities.

And, the Masonic Charities Fund of the Grand Lodge continues to help people and communities, supporting especially worthy programs for education, treatment, personal relief, and disaster relief.

Your generous support is appreciated. You can always make a tax-deductible contribution anytime directly to one of the Masonic Charities. Simply designate one of the Masonic Charities to receive your gift.

Charity is caring. Thank you for being a part of it.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Edward O. Weiss
R.W. Grand Master

Masonic Charities

Masonic Charities

Brethren and Friends:

Charity, the treasured wood-carved statue by Benjamin Rush, that stands in our Grand Lodge, portrays a mother embracing her child. Her expression tells us that she is filled with love for the gift of life and radiates a compassion that says she is dedicated to caring for that gift through all of her days. A likeness of that statue is predominant on the Grand Master’s medallion as a tribute to mothers and as a reminder of our concern for the care of humankind.

The first tenet of Freemasonry is “Charity.” We are able to accept that challenge and can address many of the human needs to a great extent because the philanthropy afforded the Masonic Charities of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

Again, this 1996 Annual Report is more than words and figures. It reflects challenges met and progress made in helping and serving others in society’s changing environment as we approach the 21st century. It is a measure of the efficiency and the effectiveness of the dedicated stewardship prevalent throughout our charitable endeavors.

The Masonic Homes in 1996 climax a well-designed building program that has spanned many years when most of the additions and renovations were completed and the Health Care Center was occupied. Construction of more independent living units was begun, and the Masonic Homes reached out further into the community with its mission of caring. We remain justifiably proud of our Masonic Homes as a very fine health care facility, an active retirement community, and the provider of outreach assistance to individuals and families.

Freemasonry has continued to manifest its high concern for the welfare and development of youth through the activities of the Pennsylvania Youth Foundation and The Pennsylvania Masonic Foundation for the Prevention of Drug and Alcohol Abuse Among Children. The Youth Foundation offers leadership and guidance, scholarships, activities, and facilities for Masonically-related youth organizations. The Drug and Alcohol Foundation makes possible training programs for teachers, counselors, and law enforcement personnel throughout Pennsylvania to interface and interact with youngsters in drug and alcohol abuse prevention programs.

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Sincerely and fraternally,

Edward O. Weiss
R.W. Grand Master

1996 Annual Report
Masonic Homes (continued)

exacerbation stage of a disease process. Immediately after, or instead of, acute hospitalization, individuals can receive active, complex medical treatments through subacute care until stabilization occurs. Rehabilitation services for patients with orthopedic problems and for patients recovering from strokes, surgery or deconditioning are provided. The unit has the capacity to administer cardiac rehabilitation including telemetry monitoring and patient education, respiratory care services, IV therapy, nutrition, pain management, and care and monitoring of residents receiving dialysis treatments. All Masons in good standing and their eligible family members are eligible for admission to the Renaissance Unit. This new service was established to meet the health care needs of the changing times, as individuals are being discharged earlier from hospitals and often require specialized, skilled care before they can return home or to their most independent living situation possible.

Throughout 1996, the Outreach Program continued to provide information and referral services to those in need of help. Outreach has developed protocols for response for requests for home assistance programs. The Outreach Director visited lodges in every Masonic Region and attended various Masonic functions to offer information on the Outreach Program and the Masonic Homes in general. The Caregiver Support Group, organized through the Outreach Program, continues to meet regularly at the Masonic Homes to provide support to residents and individuals from surrounding communities. An affiliation with the Alliance of Information and Referral Specialties has resulted in increased access to service providers nationwide, and has increased awareness of our program.

The Children’s Home expanded its capacity from 32 to 40 youth when the Harrison Cottage opened in January 1996. With this expansion, the program now consists of five cottages, each with a capacity for eight youths. Our population increased from 27 in January 1996 to 36 by the end of the year. Our youth continue to participate in a wide range of activities, including part-time employment, volunteering and community service, school activities, music lessons, sports, church services, recreational trips, and vacations. The Masonic Homes-Patton School Alumni Association continues to provide support to our program through scholarships to our graduates attending college, various purchases for our recreation program, and social activities with the youth.

The Masonic Homes’ Independent Living Program has continued to expand throughout 1996. The opening of the Louis and Charles Eisenlohr Buildings as apartments offers an additional 23 units under a rental plan on the Masonic Homes’ campus. The Charles Eisenlohr Building also provides accommodations for the Eisenhower Commons Dining Room. The Smith Sr. and Smith Jr. Buildings are under construction, and are expected to be open for occupancy under the rental plan by the end of 1997.

Phase I of the independent living cottage construction project, which consists of 36 units, began in August 1996 with anticipated completion scheduled for summer 1997. The remaining cottages in Phase II and Phase III, consisting of 36 and 28 cottages respectively, will be constructed in accordance with demand shown by members of the Fraternity and their eligible family members.

Mr. Raymond Westling, program participant and Susan Pagley, Director of Masonic Homes’ Adult Daily Living Center, work together on a jigsaw puzzle.

Committee on Masonic Homes
Edward O. Weisser, Chairman
R. W. Grand Master
Langhorne
James L. Ernette
R. W. Deputy Grand Master
Greensburg
Robert L. Diugo, Jr.
R. W. Senior Grand Warden
Elysburg
Marvin A. Cunningham, Sr.
R. W. Junior Grand Warden
Collegeville
Marvin G. Speicher
R. W. Grand Treasurer
Robesonia
Thomas W. Jackson
R. W. Grand Secretary
Audubon
Carl R. Flohr
Chambersburg
William L. McCarrier
Butler
Norman A. Fox
Meion Station
Dean E. Vaughn
Havre de Grace
D. William Roberts
Pittsburgh
Robert L. Engel
Kissimmee
Guy T. Matthews
Langhorne
Masonic Charities

1996 Annual Report

Masonic Homes

Condensed Statements of Unrestricted Activities for the years ended December 31, 1996 and 1995.

(Dollars in Thousands)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1996</th>
<th>1995</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operating revenues</td>
<td>$36,708</td>
<td>$30,921</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operating expenses</td>
<td>47,646</td>
<td>44,098</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loss incurred in the fulfillment of our charitable mission</td>
<td>(10,878)</td>
<td>(13,177)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revenues and support in excess of expenses</td>
<td>$18,594</td>
<td>$7,488</td>
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</table>

The operating expenses of the Masonic Homes have historically exceeded our operating revenues. Through the generosity of Freemasons and friends of the Fraternity, contributions and bequests enable us to cover this deficit. The bequests which have been generously donated to the Masonic Homes have been invested and the investment income earned on these funds allows us to continue and expand our “mission of love.” Any excess of revenues over expenses (after these nonoperating revenues are applied) are reinvested so we can continue to meet the Fraternity’s needs via capital improvements and expanded services to our residents.
Volunteer Services at the Masonic Homes

How easy it is to get caught up in today's fast-paced, technological world, sometimes missing the very simple pleasures and purpose of life. People who share moments with others who need them, find genuine happiness in caring, in giving love to others, in volunteering.

Hundreds of volunteers, both residents of Masonic Homes and of neighboring towns, explored the wonder of volunteering in 1996 at Masonic Homes. In the Independent Living Community, 180 residents volunteered more than 6,000 hours providing services and assistance to directly benefit their community. In the Congregate Living, 150 residents volunteered nearly 50,000 hours of service in staffing various areas and proving the adage "It's not how many years you have lived, but rather how you live your years!" In the Masonic Health Care Center, more than 500 volunteers provided 20,000 hours benefitting residents in their daily living activities. During the summer, 45 teenagers, 13 years and older, unsafely volunteered 2,300 hours in the Masonic Health Care Center, providing energy, enthusiasm, and lots of extra "TLC" to our residents. Many other Masonic affiliated groups also gave their time and compassion to residents in the Masonic Health Care Center assisting at programs, church service, and activities.

Volunteers, you are needed and appreciated; thank you!

The Pennsylvania Youth Foundation

The Pennsylvania Youth Foundation provides programs for the Masonic-related youth organizations at the Masonic Conference Center in Emmaus, a campus on the campus of the former Thomas Ranken Pattison Institution for Boys. These programs provide opportunities for self-improvement in their mental, spiritual, religious, and physical development through programs in athletics, sportsmanship, citizenship, morality, public speaking, and the arts.

The programs of the Masonic-related youth organizations provide excellent activities which meet the purpose of the Pennsylvania Youth Foundation, and that is primarily concerned with promoting the Order of the Rainbow for Girls, the Order of Job's Daughters and the Order of DeMolay for young men.

For the second consecutive year, the Order of DeMolay and the Order of Job's Daughters grew in membership. This is a significant turn-around from the trends of the previous decade. The growth of the youth groups is of vital importance to the extension of Masonic principles to all young people.

Establishing new Rainbow, DeMolay, and Job's Daughters groups is the best way for Lodges to get involved in the work of the Foundation. By sponsoring a Masonic youth group, a Lodge can make a significant impact on the lives of teenagers who are attracted to the programs. Lodges and all Masons are encouraged to support the youth with their contributions of time, money, and personal talents.

As the saying goes, "ONE HUNDRED YEARS FROM NOW it will not matter what my bank account was, what sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove. But, the world may be different, because I was important in the life of a youth."

The Pennsylvania Masonic Foundation for the Prevention of Drug and Alcohol Abuse Among Children


Pennsylvania has a successful Student Assistance Program thanks to Masons. With the Foundation's support of the Department of Education's training, there are Student Assistance Teams in every sector and junior high school in the Commonwealth. During the 1995-1996 school term, let me tell you, 29,193 students provided 46,090 in-school services and 32,337 out-of-school services. There were 7,618 students who needed treatment. The good news is that 73 percent of those referred experienced no subsequent violations.

Three Carl W. Stenberg Scholarships of $1,000 each per year for four years were awarded to students who were recommended by their Student Assistance Teams after they successfully completed a counseling program and turned their lives around. Fourteen Stenberg Scholarships have been awarded since 1993.

In continued support of D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education), the Foundation supplied the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency with the use of the Masonic Conference Center where law enforcement officers from across the state train to teach 5th and 6th graders to say "no" and combat peer pressures. In 1996, 84 officers were trained, making a total of 21.4 to date.

The Foundation gave support to the National Foundation for Children; supported treatment and rehabilitation at Adedolphi Village; was active in memberships in the Philadelphia Prevention Partnership and P.R.I.D.E. (Parents Resource Institute for Drug Education); participated in law enforcement, community leaders, and educators conferences; and supported the Annual Meeting of the Friends of The Masonic Library and Museum.

The important work of the Foundation would not be possible without your help. Thank you for your support and we ask that you remember the Foundation through your Masonic Charities contributions.

The Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania

The library's move in January into expanded quarters made it possible to bring many books from the stacks, making them accessible to our users and gaining room for collection growth. The Satellite Libraries are in operation.

Additions of greatest interest were Robert Burns, the Freemason by the Grand Lodge of Scotland; Pointing Father: Rediscovery of George Washington by Robert Brookhiser, Jr.; Revolutionary Brotherhood by Steven C. Bullock, and Ancient and Accepted a Chronicle of the Proceeding 1845-1945 of the Supreme Council established in England in 1845, by John Mandelberg.

170 volumes of records of inactive Lodges, ranging from 1823-1892 were added to the Archives. Likenesses of 235 Masons have been rehoused and 65 photos of Signers of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution has been catalogued.

The Museum has added one of the John Wanamaker brass signage signs from the flagship store at 13th and Market Streets, Philadelphia. Also added were 90 other objects including the "Banking on You Brother" Masonic Temple bank.

Paintings from Archives storage, have been refurbished under the Committee on Temple and burg. Exhibits commemorating the 300th anniversary of Robert Burns death and a new permanent one on Washington were mounted.

21,176 people toured the Masonic Temple in 1996; June was the busiest month with 2,378 people.

The Masonic Library and Museum hosted the winter meeting of The Masonic Council of Philadelphia.

The Annual Meeting of the Friends of The Masonic Library and Museum was held on October 16.

Board of Directors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>James L. Ernette</td>
<td>President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R. W. Deputy Grand Master</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eugene D. Lucas</td>
<td>Director</td>
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</table>

1996 Annual Report
A Gift That Endures

Do you want to make a difference in the lives of those individuals who benefit from the Masonic Charities of The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania? If so, you may wish to consider a charitable bequest.

Why a Bequest?

A charitable bequest is a method for Masons and friends to perpetuate their interest in Masonic Charities. Your Will can be drafted to leave either a specific gift or a percentage of your estate to a Masonic Charity. A specific gift can be a dollar amount, a particular piece of real estate or personal property. A residuary gift is either a specific gift or a percentage of the remainder of your estate after you have provided for your family, Church, college, Blue Lodge or other such charitable organizations which are important to you. More complex bequests can involve the creation of trusts providing financial security for one or more loved ones during their lifetimes and later for the Masonic Charities of your choice.

Where Should You Start?

We suggest you begin by determining the Masonic Charity(ies) you wish to remember. You may choose from among any of the following: the Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown; The Masonic Foundation for the Prevention of Drug and Alcohol Abuse Among Children; the Pennsylvania Youth Foundation; The Masonic Charities Fund; and The Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania.

You should then make an appointment with your attorney. Your attorney will advise you whether you can give Masonic Charities(s) simply by adding an amendment known as a Codicil to your Will or whether it would be better to draft an entirely new Will.

While your attorney will be able to provide you with the exact wording for your gift, the following suggestions may be helpful. Simply insert the proper name for the specific Masonic Charities(ies) you wish to remember in the appropriate blanks.

Devises of Real Estate:

1. I give and devise unto the ________ and its successors, whose address is One North Broad Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107, free and clear of all death taxes, ALL THAT CERTAIN lot or piece of ground with the improvements thereon erected situate and known as ________ (herein fully describe the real estate), direct that the said real estate and the proceeds derived from the sale thereof shall be used and applied for the purpose of ________.

Devises of Personal Property:

1. I give and devise unto the ________ and its successors, whose address is One North Broad Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107, the sum of $ ________ free of all death taxes.

Devises and Residuary Estate:

The rest, residue, and remainder of my estate, real and personal, of every nature and whatsoever situate, free of all death taxes, I give, devise, and bequeath unto ________ and its successors, whose address is One North Broad Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107.

Are There Other Giving Opportunities?

Yes. Depending on your personal circumstances, you may wish to consider an outright gift of cash, securities, real property of personal or life insurance. You may find the benefits offered by a charitable gift annuity, pooled income fund, charitable remainder trust compelling. Such methods typically offer a life income for up to two persons and can provide welcome savings in taxes.

To learn more about charitable bequests and other methods of giving, please call the Development Office at the Masonic Homes at (717) 367-1121, extension 33311 or (800) 599-6454.