

Preserving Our Masonic Heritage

The Masonic Temple in Philadelphia stands as a significant symbol of Masonic heritage to Pennsylvania Freemasons and Freemasons around the world. Ours is the grandest Masonic Temple in the western hemisphere and unlike anything else in the nation, or the world, according to architects and artists, structural engineers and scholars.

More than 132 years old, the Temple is in need of significant funding to strengthen its permanent endowment fund and to complete essential interior and exterior restorations, refurbishments and renovations. Freemasons and friends interested in making a difference by helping to preserve this magnificent structure for future generations are invited to consider an outright or planned gift to the Masonic Temple's Gold Book Society Fund and/or its Philanthropic Endowment Society Fund.

Gifts to the Gold Book Society Fund are used, principal and interest, to maintain and preserve the Temple. Gifts to the Philanthropic Endowment Society Fund become a permanent part of the Temple's endowment fund where only the interest generated by the fund is used to preserve and protect the Temple. Many fitting opportunities currently exist to honor or remember loved family members or persons held in respect and esteem.

While outright gifts best enable the Temple's pressing physical needs to be addressed, planned gifts such as charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, pooled income funds and bequests help to build the Temple's endowment while at the same time affording donors opportunities to realize important personal goals and objectives. The donors of a gift annuity, for example, can choose to start receiving payments in the year their annuity is funded or to defer such payments until a future time ...perhaps to increase income during their retirement years.

To learn more about the benefits you might realize from an outright or planned gift in support of the Masonic Temple, in complete confidence and at no cost or obligation, simply complete and return the accompanying response form or call to speak with one of our Office of Gift Planning staff members in the geographical region nearest you:

Central Pennsylvania (717) 367-1121, ext. 33460 or (800) 599-6454	Western Pennsylvania (412) 741-1400, ext. 3011 or (866) 872-0664
Eastern Pennsylvania (610) 825-6100, ext. 1348	Out-of-State (800) 599-6454

Sample Gift Annuity Payment Rates*:

One-Life		Two-Life		*Rates recommended by the American Council on Gift Annuities, effective July 1, 2004. Two-life rates are less due to added life expectancy.
Age	Rate	Age	Rate	
65	6.0%	60 & 65	5.5%	
70	6.5%	65 & 70	5.7%	
75	7.1%	70 & 75	6.1%	
80	8.0%	75 & 80	6.6%	
85	9.5%	80 & 85	7.3%	
90	11.3%	85 & 90	8.4%	

The official registration and financial information for any of the Masonic Charities may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, (800) 732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Attention Postmaster: Dated Material Enclosed



COMPLETE AND MAIL THIS FORM TO:

Office of Gift Planning, Masonic Charities,
One Masonic Drive, Elizabethtown, PA 17022

- ☐ Send me your brochure on the Gold Book Society Fund and the Philanthropic Endowment Society Fund.
- ☐ Send me your brochure on Gift Annuities.
- ☐ Send me a sample Gift Annuity illustration based on the following information:

Age(s): _____ Amount: \$ _____

- ☐ Send me information about Memorial and Honorarium Gift opportunities available at the Masonic Temple.
- ☐ Send me your brochure on giving through my Will.
- ☐ Contact me to arrange a personal appointment to discuss a possible gift.
- ☐ I/We have already included a provision for the Masonic Temple in my/our Will and/or Estate plans.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: (____) _____

E-mail Address: _____



The Pennsylvania FREEMASON

Volume LIII January 2006 Number 1



Grand Lodge
of Pennsylvania
A Legacy of 275 Years



Benjamin Franklin
300th Birthday Celebration



Tun Tavern
Birthplace of American
Freemasonry

Inaugural Issue for Ronald A. Aungst, Sr., R.W. Grand Master



The Pennsylvania FREEMASON

January 2006

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THE PENNSYLVANIA FREEMASON®

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of Pennsylvania

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On the front cover: The Grand Master's portrait was done by Davor Photo, the staff of which have been longtime friends of his since he was an advisor to his high school's yearbook.

The Pennsylvania FREEMASON

Statement of Ownership

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Ronald A. Aungst, Sr., Editor

RONALD A. AUNGST, SR.

116TH RIGHT WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER



Ronald A. Aungst, Sr., was born in Jersey Shore, Pa., on Nov. 30, 1949, to the late Luther R. Aungst, Sr., and Dorothy K. Aungst-Carothers. He has two brothers: Tom, of Ephrata, Pa., and the late Luther Aungst Jr., with whom he received his first degrees in the Craft.

A graduate of California State College, California, Pa., with a bachelor's degree in Education, Bro. Ron continued his studies there and later at Penn State toward completing his master's in administration, as well as his Secondary Principal Certification, Elementary Principal Certification and Administration Certification.

Bro. Ron returned to the Jersey Shore Area School District where he was employed for 35 years, serving first as a technical education instructor and then rising to the position of principal in three of the four elementary schools in the district. He implemented numerous innovative and progressive programs during his career, such as the district's full-day kindergarten and visual communication programs, the high school's Environthon Team and its national award-winning yearbook. He utilized the skills he gained as a champion high school wrestler to motivate student athletes for 10 years – eight at the high school as an assistant to his former wrestling coach, and concluding his coaching career when the high school team won the PIAA – AAA Team Championship in 1980 with two individual state champions. He retired at the end of this past June to focus on his role as Grand Master.

As a member of Trinity United Methodist Church of Jersey Shore, Bro. Ron has served as Chairman of the Finance Committee, Trustee, member of the Pastor Parish Relations Committee and the church choir, and assisted in

Masonic Record

LaBelle Vallee Lodge No. 232

Worshipful Master 1986

Masonic Temple Association President 1988 – 1994

Substitute Representative in Grand Lodge 1996 – 1997

Stewards Committee Chairman 1995 – 1998

18th Masonic District

Solomon II District Chairman 1988 – 1989

Masonic Education District Chairman 1993

Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania

District Deputy Grand Master (District 18) 1998 – 1999

Aide to the Grand Master 1997

Regional 6 Masonic Education Chairman 1994 – 1997

District Chairman of Masonic Education 1993

Other Masonic Affiliated Bodies

Valley of Williamsport Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite

Lycoming Royal Arch Chapter No. 222

Baldwin Commandery No. 22

Adniram Council No. 26

Susquehanna Council No. 244 Allied Masonic Degrees

Red Cross of Constantine, Williamsport Conclave

Northeast York Rite College No. 102

Zafar Grotto Club

Excelsior Mark Lodge No. 216

LuLu and Irem Shriner

Pennsylvania Lodge of Research

Charter member of Pacific Rim Lodge No. 12,

Vladivostok, Russia

Additional Awards

Legion of Honor

York Rite Purple Cross (2006 – Arkansas)

other fundraising activities. He also assisted in the Major Contributors Building Fund Committee for a substantial building expansion for the church.

Active in his community, Bro. Ron was recently honored with the 2004 Community Leadership Award from the Susquehanna Council of Boy Scouts and was recognized for his accomplishments as a co-chairman of the local United Way for the Lycoming County Educators. He has been a Supervisor in his township where he served as Zoning Officer, Chairman of the Board, Roadmaster and as Township Secretary/Treasurer. Additionally, he has been on the community's recreation board, coached the area Little League team and co-chaired the implementation of a recycling center for the Pine Creek Valley. Recently, Bro. Ron was elected to the Board of Directors of the Pinnacle Condominium Association.

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Son Ronald Jr., with his wife, Dawn, and granddaughter, Alexa



Daughter Rachelle with her husband, Matt, and grandson, Reis

"My father is a hard working, encouraging and supportive role model. His ability to work at his full potential and go beyond what is expected of him has been instilled in us as well. He is a good listener, is fair and has a positive outlook on things."



Daughter Renee with her boyfriend, Jeff, and granddaughter, Kadence

"My father is a hard worker who wants to see everyone be able to make it in life and will do anything to help. He is a strong, determined, well-rounded and loveable person who always puts others before himself."

"My father is a man of the highest integrity, has a love for life, and most of all is a family man. He is a natural leader and enjoys the opportunity to teach others about his love of Freemasonry."



Mother, the late Dorothy K. Aungst-Carothers and Father, the late Luther R. Aungst, Sr.

Meet the Aungst Family



With wife, Norma, at a Masonic function

"In many ways, I feel as though by meeting so many terrific friends, my family has expanded. I'm looking forward to meeting all the wonderful people involved in Freemasonry and getting to see different parts of the state I haven't visited yet."

"We're all very proud of him. He's a real caring and loving guy who is willing to help anybody out whenever and wherever possible."

Son Ryan and his fiancé, Jen



continued from p. 1

Bro. Ron is married to the former Norma J. Eddy, his high school sweetheart, to whom he has been married for 34 years. As a young girl, Norma followed in her family tradition by becoming a Rainbow Girl like her four sisters. Also like her mother, she became a member of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania, Order of the Eastern Star and the Order of the Amaranth, having served as Worthy Royal Matron of the Tiadaghton Court and as a District Deputy. Her decision to become so involved also was greatly influenced by friend Barbie Weissner.

Bro. Ron and Norma are the proud parents of four children:

Ronald Jr., is a senior research specialist for Albany Molecular Research, Inc., currently working in Singapore through December 2006. His wife, Dawn Dlugé Aungst, daughter of R.W.P.G.M. Robert L. Dlugé, Jr., is a Physician's Assistant. They have a daughter, Alexa, 3 1/2 months old.

Rachelle, a kindergarten teacher, resides in Loyalsock with her husband, Matt Salvatori, a social worker, and their 3 1/2-year-old son, Reis.

Renee, a graphic designer, lives in Williamport. She and her boyfriend, Jeff Dauber, have a daughter, Kadence.

Ryan, a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America, is a chef in Williamsport. He is engaged to wed Jen Shoemaker in August.

Ron Jr. and Ryan continued their family tradition by joining their father's lodge. Having enjoyed being in fraternal organizations in college, Ron Jr. wanted to continue to serve the community. "What better way than to become a member of a fraternity that my father so loved and enjoyed," he said. Ryan also was inspired to join because of the altruistic aspect of Freemasonry. "Just seeing all of the help Masons do to help charities, to be able to participate in the activities they do, and the opportunity to meet other interesting people caused me to want to join," he said.



Top, left to right:

- Bro. Ron up to his elbows in Maine lobster during a summer vacation with Bro. Elvin and Janice Warfel

- Reading on the beach is Bro. Ron's and Norma's favorite way to relax.

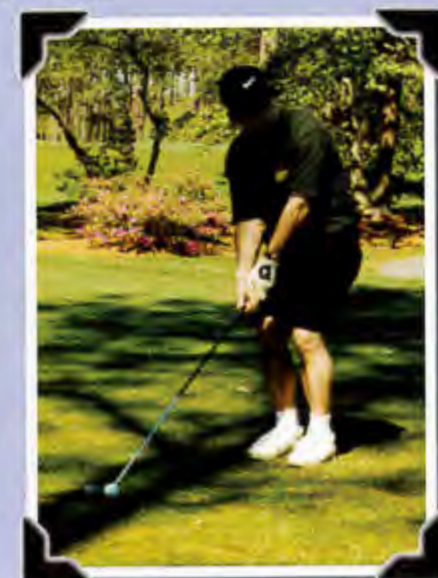
- Teaching grandson Reis how to jump the ocean waves

Bottom, left to right:

- Presenting granddaughter Kadence with her yearly carved pumpkin

- Golfing in Myrtle Beach with friend Bro. Al Henninger is one of the Grand Master's favorite pastimes.

- Celebrating 25 years of marriage on a cruise ship



A MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND MASTER

Brethren:

Our great fraternity originated from necessity. In the Middle Ages, when stonemasons and other craftsmen traveled throughout Europe from one construction site to the next, they began to form guilds and gather together in shelter houses. The knowledge and skills of the trade had to be passed from one operative mason to another, from the experienced to the inexperienced, with masters introducing new workers as apprentices and teaching their fellows to become masters of the craft. The square and compasses, the tools of the trade, became the symbol of their brotherhood, identifying their skills as bona fide masons. They were concerned for each other and were charitable to those in need. They took care of the elderly – their widows, orphans and destitute brethren.

They were Masons Helping Masons. I believe it is time to revisit our past and learn from it; to remember from whence we came, and apply those same principles to our works of today and our goals for tomorrow. We each have been given abilities that we can use to strengthen our fraternal bonds individually, and Pennsylvania Freemasonry in its entirety.

Becoming a Mason is a privilege which comes with responsibilities – to conduct our lives in a moral and compassionate way and to treat one another with brotherly love and affection. We are the future of Freemasonry, and the strength of the fraternity rests with each and every one of us.

I have heard too many Brethren, as they receive their 50 Year Masonic Service Emblems, say that they wished they were more active in their lodge, had volunteered more time in their community or spent more time with their family. We must not let that happen to ourselves or to any of our Brethren.

Whether or not we maintain members is dependent upon what we make of our relationships and our willingness to go the extra mile for one another. I have commissioned a Retention Committee to focus our efforts on enhancing the

value of membership and ensuring that we meet the needs of our Brethren. But neither the Grand Lodge, nor our Blue Lodges, can accomplish this without a grassroots effort on the part of our individual members. The success of this fraternity begins and ends with YOU! I believe that if we demonstrate to one another the many benefits of membership, our numbers will naturally increase; our existing members will remain and others will want to join so they, too, can experience how Freemasonry enriches a man's life.

One way to reach out to your fellow Brethren is through the new Online Business Directory on our Grand Lodge Web site. Every Pennsylvania Mason who is able to use the Internet will have the opportunity to post one listing of commercial services he provides, businesses he is

connected with, or perhaps, personal hobbies he is willing to share. This convenient network will assist members to meet and share information about each other, and allow users to locate a Mason from whom he may wish to obtain services. There is an inherent sense of trust between members of the Masonic fraternity, and while this service does not guarantee a satisfactory business transaction, it provides a means for Brethren to locate another Brother who may be able to provide a needed service. The concept for this came to me when my daughter, Renee, needed some work done on her car while she was away at school in York, Pa. She called me, wondering where she should take her car so that she would be taken care of fairly. I called a Brother in the area, who referred me to another Brother who was a mechanic. This gave me peace of mind, and I directed Renee to his shop to get her car fixed. It is my hope that this same type of experience will multiply itself many times over to the benefit of all of our members and their families.

I will also initiate a Widows Program, as I believe that it is our responsibility to care for the wives of our Brethren who have gone before us. We already do this for the many residents of our Masonic Villages, and there are some lodges that maintain contact with the widows of their deceased



"WE ARE MASONS HELPING MASONS"

brethren in exemplary fashion. To facilitate this new initiative for all of our Brethren to demonstrate their commitment, each lodge will be given a guide with ideas for activities and other means to include our widows and to honor them regularly.

We will also strengthen our commitment to our youth. For many years, the Pennsylvania Youth Foundation and The Pennsylvania Masonic Foundation for Children have operated separately, but with a similar mission. To preserve resources and increase efficiency, the Grand Lodge has decided to consolidate the efforts and responsibilities of these two charities. Renamed the Pennsylvania Masonic Youth Foundation, this entity will continue to provide the same services and functions that the two separate foundations previously offered. The Masonic CHIP program has produced tremendous results, and we will continue our efforts to ID and protect the children of Pennsylvania by reaching out into our communities in these and in other ways. We will also continue to support our Masonic youth groups by exploring creative ways to increase participation and provide valuable educational and fun programs.

Grand Lodge, itself, will be making a few changes to enhance the services we provide to members and the community. We have restructured our staff and volunteers to better serve our members, and will explore ways to invite community groups to enjoy and appreciate the magnificent Masonic treasure that is ours. Most importantly, we will persist with our ongoing vision to protect, preserve, maintain and support our Masonic Temple. This, brethren, is my passion, and I will strongly encourage donations toward the endowment of this historic monument for perpetuity.

Our bonds grow through shared experiences, and we have much to celebrate in 2006. The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania will commemorate our 275th Anniversary this year! If you have not had the opportunity to tour our breathtaking Masonic Temple, there is no better time than right now! Bring your family and your friends to share in the wonder of our Masonic and American heritage.

Around the world, Masons and non-Masons alike are observing the 300th Anniversary of the birth of Bro. Ben

Franklin and acknowledging his countless achievements and contributions to society. Grand Lodge will participate and sponsor some entertaining and educational events throughout the year, and I encourage you to participate with your family and/or your lodge.

As your Grand Master, my goal and mission is to exceed the expectations of our members, and to do it with fraternalism, professionalism, service and sincerity. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible over the next two years. Even more importantly, I anticipate working hand-in-hand with you to strengthen our fraternity, one member at a time. I am here to serve you.

Those of you who know me, know that my family comes first and foremost in my life. The Bible I have used to take my obligation will be passed on through my family, hopefully for generations to come, just as I hope my love for Freemasonry will continue to emanate through future generations.

Our Masonic values are true and alive; it is our obligation to perpetuate them so that the spirit, pride and legacy of those original Freemasons lives on forever.

As I reflect upon my Masonic journey and the many reasons why Freemasonry has become so important to me, I see faces. Faces of those who have lent an ear, offered guidance and provided support — oftentimes without my having to ask for it. We each have a special and significant role to play and something we can contribute to our Family of Freemasonry. There are numerous ways to show our commitment to our fellow Brethren, simply by extending a helping hand or offering a shoulder to lean on. These are the personal things that remain significant in one's life. Going out of one's way to help another Brother should not be considered a hardship, but a privilege.

After all, we are a brotherhood of men under the fatherhood of God.

We are Masons Helping Masons.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Ronald A. Aungst, Sr.
Ronald A. Aungst, Sr.



Every year, the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania hosts a formal dinner in honor of the Grand Master. This year, the dinner was held at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Philadelphia. Grand Master Aungst, Sr. is seated at the head of the table.



A woman is presented with a memento during the dinner.



Presenting Grand Master Aungst, Sr. with a memento during the dinner.



During the ceremony, the Grand Master presented a memento to a woman who has been a member of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania for many years.

YOUR GRAND LODGE OFFICERS



STEPHEN GARDNER AND HIS WIFE, PATRICIA



THOMAS K. STURGEON AND HIS WIFE, JOAN



JAY W. SMITH AND HIS WIFE, NANCY

SERVING THE CRAFT



JEFFREY W. COY AND HIS WIFE, JO ANNE



MARK A. HAINES AND HIS WIFE, KAREN



DONALD L. ALBERT AND HIS WIFE, KATHLEEN

Many Thanks & Best Wishes on Your Retirement!

Bro. Gardner is a Past Master of Porter Lodge No. 284 and served as District Deputy Grand Master of the 10th Masonic District. He served as Most Excellent High Priest of Catasauqua Royal Arch Chapter No. 278, is a member of Allen Council No. 23, Royal and Select Master Masons, and Allen Commandery No. 20. He is a member of the Valley of Allentown and is an Honorary Member of Supreme Council, 33°. He also belongs to York Rite College, William Allen No. 176, LuLu Shrine, Mary Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine, Pennsylvania Lodge of Research, Royal Order of Scotland, Excelsior Mark Lodge No. 216, Lehigh Valley High Twelve and is a Past President of Lehigh Valley Joshua Association. He is a recipient of the DeMolay Legion of Honor.

Bro. Gardner served as a Communication Technician in the U.S. Navy and graduated from East Stroudsburg State College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science. He is employed by Volvo Information Technologies as an Information Technology Project Manager.

Bro. Gardner and his wife, Patricia, live in Catasauqua and have two sons. They attend Catasauqua Presbyterian Church, where he has served as Moderator of the Board of Deacons and on the Business Affairs and Nominating committees. He has coached various youth soccer teams and served as Treasurer of the Catasauqua High School Soccer Booster Club.

Bro. Sturgeon is a Past Master of Oakdale Lodge No. 669 and served as District Deputy Grand Master of the 47th Masonic District. He served as Commander-in-Chief of the Valley of Pittsburgh and is an Honorary Member of Supreme Council, 33°. He was made an Active Member of the Supreme Council in PA in 1999. He also belongs to Zerubbabel-Duquesne Royal Arch Chapter No. 162, Washington Council No. 1 Royal and Select Master Masons and Duquesne Commandery No. 72. He is a member of Syria Shrine, Provost Guard, Shrine Club South, West Hills Caravan and served as Director of the Royal Order of Jesters Court No. 2. He is a member of the Law Enforcement Pin Club, PA Shield and Square Club, Masonic Veterans of Western PA, Tall Cedars of Lebanon, Wa-Cha-Gree Forest No. 149 and the Golden Triangle York Rite College. He was awarded the Order of the Purple Cross and is a recipient of the DeMolay Legion of Honor.

Bro. Sturgeon holds a Master of Science degree in Police Management. He served as President of the PA Chiefs of Police, was inducted into the PA Police Hall of Fame and was awarded the first Award of Excellence in the PA Chiefs of Police Association. Currently, he is the Deputy Director of the Bureau of Investigations and Enforcement for the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board.

Bro. Sturgeon and his wife, Joan, have six children and seven grandchildren. They are members of Crossroads United Methodist Church.

Bro. Smith is a Past Master of Casiphia Lodge No. 551 and served as Junior Grand Deacon and District Deputy Grand Master of the 1st Masonic District. He is a member of Royal Arch Chapter No. 43, Goodwin Council No. 19 and Lancaster Commandery No. 13. He has served as Thrice Potent Master in the Valley of Lancaster, Lodge of Perfection, as Most Wise Master in the Valley of Harrisburg and is an Honorary Member of the Supreme Council, 33°. He is a member of the Chapter of Rose Croix and is a Past President of the Lancaster Scottish Rite Club of Harrisburg Consistory. He is a member of Zembo Temple and the Lancaster County Shrine Club. He also belongs to Trinity Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine and Appendant Orders and Constant Council No. 239, Allied Masonic Degrees. He was awarded the DeMolay Legion of Honor and DeMolay Cross of Honor.

Bro. Smith attended Stevens State School of Technology and Penn State University. He retired from the PA Department of Transportation as Chief of the Highway Quality Assurance Division after 40 years of service. He is a professional engineer and land surveyor, self-employed part-time in the business of land surveying and related engineering.

Bro. Smith and his wife, Nancy, have three children and seven grandchildren. They are members of Chiques United Methodist Church, where he has served as a Sunday School Teacher and Youth Coordinator.

Bro. Coy is a Past Master of Cumberland Valley Lodge No. 315. He is the Choir Director for the Valley of Harrisburg A.A.S.R., and is an Honorary Member of the Supreme Council, 33°. He is a member of the Tall Cedars of Lebanon, George Washington Royal Arch Chapter No. 176, George Washington Council No. 66, Continental Commandery No. 56, the Royal Order of Scotland and Red Cross of Constantine.

Bro. Coy is a recipient of the DeMolay Legion of Honor. He has also served the Grand Lodge as the Grand Organist for the Central Pennsylvania area.

A graduate of Shippensburg University, Bro. Coy is a former Chairman of the Shippensburg University Board of Trustees.

Bro. Coy served 11 terms as State Representative for the 89th Legislative District of Franklin and Cumberland counties, having been elected to his first two-year term in 1982. He is also Vice Chairman of the Orrstown Bank and is a member of many other community organizations.

Bro. Coy served nine years on the Chesapeake Bay Commission with representatives from Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia. Currently, he serves as a Commissioner of the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board.

He and his wife, Jo Anne, live in Shippensburg. They are members of Memorial Lutheran Church, where he has been the organist for 30 years.

Bro. Haines is a Past Master of Reading Lodge No. 549 and is a dual member of Teutonia Lodge No. 367. He served as District Deputy Grand Master for the 7th Masonic District and is a member of the PA Lodge of Research. He served as Most Excellent High Priest of Reading Royal Arch Chapter No. 152 and is a member of Creigh Council No. 16, Royal and Select Masters; Reading Commandery No. 9; Constantine Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine; and Excelsior Mark Lodge No. 216. Bro. Haines is a Past Thrice Potent Master and Trustee of Reading Lodge of Perfection, a member of the Valley of Reading and is an Honorary Member of the Supreme Council, 33°. He is a Past President of the Director's Staff of Rajah Shrine and a member of Fellowship High Twelve Club No. 669.

An Advisor for the Reading Chapter, Order of DeMolay, Bro. Haines was awarded the DeMolay Legion of Honor. He also served as an Advisor for Reading Assembly, The International Order of The Rainbow for Girls.

Bro. Haines graduated from Penn State University with a degree in Business Administration.

He was installed as the R.W. Grand Secretary on Dec. 27, 2005. Previously, he was employed as Deputy Grand Secretary and held various management positions within the insurance industry.

He and his wife, Karen, have five children. They live in West Lawn and attend Peace Lutheran Church.

Bro. Albert has served the fraternity as R.W. Grand Secretary from Dec. 27, 1999 through his retirement on Dec. 27, 2005. For six years, he served as the Grand Marshal.

Bro. Albert is a Past Master of Euclid Lodge No. 698 (he is presently a member of Robert Burns Lodge No. 464, following the merger of these two lodges). He is a member of the Valley of Harrisburg, served as Most Wise Master of Harrisburg Chapter of Rose Croix and is an Honorary Member of the Supreme Council, 33°. He is a member of Perseverance Royal Arch Chapter No. 21; Harrisburg Council No. 7, Royal and Select Master Masons of Pennsylvania; Pilgrim Commandery No. 11; Erin Council No. 6, Knight Masons; and Trinity Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine. He is a member of the Zembo Shrine, Harrisburg, the Temple's Color Guard and the Upper Dauphin Shrine Club. He is a member of the Royal Order of Scotland.

Prior to becoming Deputy Grand Secretary in 1998, Bro. Albert was an engineer and product manager, retiring after 33 years at AMP, Inc., Harrisburg. He graduated from the Industrial Management Institute, an affiliate of Penn State University.

Bro. Albert and his wife, Kathleen, live in Boothwyn, Pa. They have two sons, two daughters, two grandsons and five granddaughters.

NEWLY APPOINTED OFFICERS



SENIOR GRAND DEACON
Allen J. Henninger, P.D.D.G.M.
Lodge No. 232, D-18, R-6



JUNIOR GRAND DEACON
Ronald A. Aungst, Jr.
Lodge No. 232, D-18, R-6



GRAND STEWARD
Sam R. Aungst, P.M.
Lodge No. 397, D-18, R-6



GRAND STEWARD
F. Rick Knepper, P.M.
Lodge No. 572, D-34, R-3



ASST. GRAND MARSHAL
William S. Arnold, Sr., P.M.
Lodge No. 704, D-60, R-2



GRAND SWORD BEARER
Ryan R. A. Aungst
Lodge No. 232, D-18, R-6



GRAND PURSUIVANT
John E. Herman
Lodge No. 232, D-18, R-6

AIDES TO THE GRAND MASTER



Nathan T. Meredith
Lodge No. 232, D-18, R-6



Michael L. Smith, P.M.
Lodge No. 381, D-19, R-3



W. Jack Yates
Lodge No. 408, D-25, R-5

NEWLY APPOINTED GRAND CHAPLAINS



Rev. Jerry D. Belloit
Lodge No. 550, D-23, R-5



Rabbi Bradley N. Bleefeld
Lodge No. 19, D-C, R-1



Rev. Paul E. Moats
Lodge No. 232, D-18, R-6



Rev. A. Preston Van Deursen
Lodge No. 551, D-1, R-2

NEWLY APPOINTED DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS



MASONIC DISTRICT 3
S. Eugene Herritt
Lodge No. 315, Region 2
Presentation: Jan. 7, 2006



MASONIC DISTRICT 7
Edward R. Stein
Lodge No. 377, Region 2
Presentation: Jan. 18, 2006



MASONIC DISTRICT 10
Ralph H. Slider, Sr.
Lodge No. 561, Region 7
Presentation: Jan. 13, 2006



MASONIC DISTRICT 12
William H. Brandt, Sr.
Lodge No. 763, Region 7
Presentation: Jan. 19, 2006



MASONIC DISTRICT 16
Raymond G. Bagley, Jr.
Lodge No. 415, Region 6
Presentation: Jan. 30, 2006



MASONIC DISTRICT 23
William R. Fielding
Lodge No. 754, Region 5
Presentation: Jan. 12, 2006



MASONIC DISTRICT 24
Richard N. Fitzsimmons
Lodge No. 392, Region 5
Presentation: Jan. 6, 2006



MASONIC DISTRICT 30
Rodney E. Boyce
Lodge No. 518, Region 4
Presentation: Feb. 4, 2006



MASONIC DISTRICT 35
Earl D. Mordan, Jr.
Lodge No. 791, Region 5
Presentation: Jan. 25, 2006



MASONIC DISTRICT 37
Glenn R. Krugle, Jr., D.D.G.M.
Lodge No. 791, Region 5
Presentation: Jan. 14, 2006



MASONIC DISTRICT 38
Robert F. Dunkle
Lodge No. 548, Region 4
Presentation: Jan. 16, 2006



MASONIC DISTRICT 47
John H. Petricko, D.D.G.M.
Lodge No. 669, Region 4
Presentation: Jan. 23, 2006

All District Deputy Grand Master presentations will be open so that family members and friends may be included in this momentous honor in each Brother's Masonic life.



Upcoming Events

Throughout R.W. Grand Master Ronald A. Augst Sr.'s term, the fraternity will engage in various educational events and celebratory activities to acknowledge and commemorate the many accomplishments that Bro. Ben Franklin achieved on behalf of Freemasonry and the world. Your participation is encouraged.

Celebrate the New Year!

with Bros. Ben Franklin & Mozart
during an Unforgettable New Year's Eve
in the Historic Fulton Opera House!



Join the Grand Master and his wife, Norma, this New Year's Eve at the historic Fulton Opera House in downtown Lancaster, Pa., for the Pennsylvania Academy of Music's presentation of "Franklin Celebrates Mozart." This engaging program takes a fresh and innovative approach with its one-of-a-kind celebration of the 250th Birthday of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and the 300th birthday of Benjamin Franklin, coming up in 2006.

Beginning at 9:30 p.m., the program will celebrate the musical genius of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and the inventive genius of Benjamin Franklin. In true Masonic form, a special mystery guest will also be revealed during the evening!

A special ticket price for the Pennsylvania Academy of Music's New Year's Eve Gala is available to all Masons and their guests. Invitations have already been sent to all Masons in District 1, but all Pennsylvania Masons are welcome to enjoy the evening and start the New Year off right, alongside fellow Brethren and their loved ones. A cocktail and hors d'oeuvres reception at 8:30 p.m., is complimentary for all Masons and their guests attending the concert.

For tickets or more information, contact Ms. Cynthia Charles at (717) 399-2292.

Lecture & Book Signing with Author of *The Origins of Freemasonry: Facts and Fictions*

Margaret C. Jacob, Ph.D.



On January 5, 2006 at 6 p.m., Margaret C. Jacob, Ph.D., distinguished professor of history at U.C.L.A. and author of many books, including *Living the Enlightenment: Freemasonry and Politics in Eighteenth Century Europe* and *The Radical Enlightenment: Pantheists, Freemasons and Republicans*, will give a lecture in the Masonic Temple's Oriental Hall, followed by an informal gathering in the Grand Banquet Hall, where she will be available to sign her new book, *The Origins of Freemasonry: Facts and Fictions*, which includes insight on Bro. Franklin. Space is limited. Anyone interested in attending may contact Catherine Giaimo at (215) 988-1933.

January 17, 2006 ~ 11 a.m.

To celebrate Bro. Ben Franklin's Birthday, the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania will join in a parade organized by the Philosophical Society and the Friends of Franklin. The Grand Master encourages all members who would like to be part of the celebration to meet, dressed in Masonic regalia, at 5th and Liberty streets in Philadelphia to represent the Masonic Order in the march, which will conclude with a wreath laying at Bro. Franklin's graveside.



April 17, 2006 ~ Time TBA

The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania will hold a traditional march and perform a Masonic Funeral Service and wreath laying at Bro. Ben Franklin's graveside in observance of the day he died (he was never buried with Masonic honors). The march will follow a similar parade route as the January 17 event.

A luncheon at the Masonic Temple will follow the ceremony.



For more information on these events and how you can get involved, contact the Grand Secretary's Office at (215) 988-1901.

Need Help? Outreach is Here.

Although the Outreach Program is located at the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown, we receive calls and assist individuals throughout the United States. Please take a minute to look at a sampling of some of the services we provide:

✓ Consumer Education and Advocacy

You probably have heard of the new Medicare D Prescription Plan that will be implemented on Jan. 1, 2006. These plans are being offered through private insurers, not the government. They must meet a standard of coverage set by Medicare; however can vary on:

- Which pharmacy they participate with
- Which prescriptions they cover
- What they charge as far as a deductible and monthly premium.

So here are a few tips to consider:

Enrollment is open until May 15, 2006, so there is no need to make a hurried decision. Sift through the sales pitches. Make a list of the current prescriptions you take and the pharmacy that you want to use. Become familiar with your current healthcare coverage. Ask questions. A great resource is the Apprise program available to you by calling your local county Office of Aging.

- ✓ Information and referral to appropriate agencies and services for a variety of issues and needs
- ✓ Financial assistance to eligible Pennsylvania Masons
- ✓ Information on ways to reduce or subsidize the rising cost of medications
- ✓ Caregiver Support and Education Group
- ✓ Durable Medical Equipment Loan Closet.

We accept and loan out from our limited supply of wheelchairs, walkers and hospital beds to individuals with short-term needs.

- ✓ COMPASS - Panel of Attorneys with certain specialties who volunteer to assist Outreach in providing direction to individuals in need of legal assistance.

- ✓ Presentations specific to Outreach Services and Admissions for your Lodge
- ✓ Adult Daily Living Center - adult day care
- ✓ Bleiler Caring Cottage - a home for adults with mild to moderate mental retardation

The Outreach Program has a wealth of information to share. If you or someone you know may benefit from our program or would like more information, call toll-free (800) 462-7664 or in the Lancaster area at (717) 361-5080.

Changes to Masonic Temple Structure Provide *Improved* Member Services

Some changes have been made within the structure of the Masonic Temple in Philadelphia to improve services provided to our Family of Freemasonry and the community in general. This restructuring effort will increase efficiencies, improve communication, reduce expenses, provide continuity among the administrations of subsequent Grand Masters and prepare for the future of Grand Lodge services.

The first service area, "Membership Services," includes the staff and functions of the Grand Master's Office, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary's Office, Masonic Education, Masonic Blood and Organ Donor Club, Preservation of Monuments and Academy of Masonic Knowledge. Mark Haines, Right Worshipful Grand Secretary, is responsible for the leadership and supervision of the day-to-day operations of Membership Services. Bro. Haines joined the Masonic Temple staff on Sept. 6, 2005, to prepare for his role upon the retirement of Bro. Donald L. Albert effective Dec. 27, 2005. Refer to p. 7 for biographical information on these brethren.

The second service area, the "Masonic Library and Museum," includes the staff and functions of the Committee on Temple, Library and Museum and Gift Shop. A search is underway for an Executive Director (see below), who will be responsible for the leadership and supervision of the day-to-day operations of the Masonic Library and Museum.

The Grand Master is the Chairman of both service areas, and is aided by two separate committees comprised of the Grand Lodge Officers and other Masonic leaders who will lend their expertise within the respective service areas.

The Masonic Library and Museum of PA Seeks an Executive Director

The Grand Lodge of F. & A.M. of Pennsylvania is seeking a qualified individual to lead our historic Masonic Temple, Library and Museum as it serves the fraternity and reaches out to educate the community. Qualified candidates should have experience leading and managing in a non-profit organization, including knowledge in event planning, museum tours, marketing and the Philadelphia cultural community. For additional information, please contact hr@portfolioassociates.net. We are an equal opportunity employer.

The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania

The beginnings of Freemasonry in America coincide in many ways with the history and culture of the United States. Records of Freemasonry in America date back to 1730, when Bro. Benjamin Franklin made note of it in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, writing, "there are several lodges of Free Masons erected in this province ..."

From here, Freemasonry's origins can be traced to the formation of the first Grand Lodge of England (and in the world) in 1717. It was formed in London by four lodges which had been meeting in different taverns throughout the city. Its Constitution was compiled in 1723 by James Anderson, Grand Secretary. Eight years later, the Grand Lodge of Ireland began work and was immediately recognized by the Grand Lodge of England. During the years 1749 and 1750, a number of English and some Irish Masons could neither affiliate with nor visit Lodges under the Grand Lodge of 1717, because they belonged to "the laboring class." On July 17, 1751, these Masons formed a second Grand Lodge of England, known as the "Most Ancient and Honorable Society of Free and Accepted Masons according to the old Constitution." Its Masonic attitude was more progressive than the older Grand Lodge and more appealing to men interested in Freemasonry. The members of this organization, contending that their ritual alone preserved the ancient customs and usages of the Craft, styled themselves "Ancient York Masons" and dubbed the 1717 Grand Lodge "the Modern Grand Lodge," because they felt that the older body had modernized its ritual, thus straying from the ancient usages and landmarks. The Constitution of the 1751 or "Ancient" Grand Lodge is the "Ahiman Rezon" compiled by Bro. Lawrence Dermott, Grand Secretary, and printed in 1756. Both English Grand Lodges, "Moderns" and "Ancients," and their subordinate lodges continued their separate ways, as rivals and competitors. The lodges eventually united in 1813, but members from both groups were represented in the early American colonies.

When Masonry came to Pennsylvania is difficult to determine. In 1730, the Duke of Norfolk, then the Grand Master of the (1717) Grand Lodge of England (Moderns), deputized Colonel Daniel Coxe of New Jersey, a member of the Lodge at the Devil Tavern within Temple Bar, London, to be "the Provincial Grand Master of the Provinces of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania." His deputation took effect June 24, 1730 and extended to June 24, 1732. The deputation authorized Bro. Coxe to appoint his officers for the two years he was the Grand Master. This explains a certain entry in "Liber B," which lists William Allen as Grand Master on June 24, 1731. "Liber B" was the account book (from 1731 to 1738) and only known record of St. John's Lodge in Philadelphia. It is now in the possession of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

Bro. Allen was then elected Grand Master on St. John the Baptist's Day in 1732, as recorded in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, June 19 - 26 of that same year. As Grand Master, Bro. Allen appointed William Pringle, Deputy Grand Master, and Thomas Boude and Benjamin Franklin, Wardens. Bro. Franklin would become Grand Master in 1734, the same year he published "Anderson's Constitutions," the first Masonic book printed in America.

Philadelphia became the Mother City of Freemasonry in America for both the Ancients and the Moderns. According to records from 1732, the first meeting place of the Pennsylvania Masonic Lodges was Philadelphia's Tun Tavern. Built in 1685, Tun Tavern was one of the very first breweries in the country. Located on Philadelphia's thriving Delaware River waterfront, it quickly became a meeting place for several

How Freemasons Shaped Our Nation

- ✓ Eight Freemasons signed the Declaration of Independence
- ✓ Thirteen Freemasons signed the Constitution of the United States
- ✓ Fourteen Freemasons served as U.S. Presidents

1731



Celebrates its 275th Anniversary

groups, including the Masons in St. John's Lodge No. 1, which was constituted by Bro. Daniel Coxe in 1730.

By Sept. 5, 1749, discontent was stirring among some Brethren of the Pennsylvania Grand Lodge. They worried that their self-constituted Grand Lodge lacked the authority it formerly possessed and made an appeal to the Masonic authorities in London for the second appointment of a Provincial Grand Master of Pennsylvania. The Grand Master of England (Moderns), William Lord Baron of Rochdale, appointed William Allen, who had been Grand Master in Pennsylvania in 1731. This marked the end of the independent Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania and its inception as a Provincial Grand Lodge affiliated with and deriving its authority from the Grand Lodge of England (Moderns). It was composed of three Philadelphia Lodges: St. John's, No. 2 and No. 3. In 1755, the first American Masonic Lodge house was dedicated in Philadelphia by the Grand Lodge of Moderns.

On Feb. 13, 1760, the Members of Lodge No. 1 (Ancients) in Philadelphia, balloted for their own Provincial Grand Master. William Ball, a wealthy landowner, was elected. Following the election of Bro. Ball, an application was made by the Members of Lodge No. 1 to the Grand Lodge (Ancients) in London for a Provincial Grand Warrant for Pennsylvania. They were successful in their efforts, and a warrant for the Provincial Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania (Ancients) was issued on July 15, 1761. This venerable document is in the archives of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

Whereas the original Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania (Moderns) had been very conservative and relatively inactive, the new Grand Lodge of the Ancients was progressive and alert to all opportunities. During its entire career, the Modern Grand Lodge never supported more than four constituent lodges, even in its most prosperous years. On the other hand, from the date of its establishment up to the beginning of the Revolutionary War, the Ancient Grand Lodge granted warrants to 16 lodges and during the Revolution warranted seven more.

Indeed, the war only intensified the rivalry and considerable friction between Ancients and Moderns in Pennsylvania, because the Modern lodges, to a great extent, were composed of conservatives who were inclined to be Loyalists, while a large majority of the Ancients espoused the cause of independence. As the American Revolution stirred strong opposition to Great Britain's rule within the colonies, the liberality of the Ancients became contagious in America. The influence of the Moderns waned and was ultimately extinguished as the last record of these beliefs was written in 1793.

By 1813, Modern and Ancients worldwide began to be reconciled and united. But no reconciliation was necessary in Pennsylvania where the Moderns ceased to exist. Therefore, the ritualistic changes and compromises resulting from the reconciliation of 1813 did not affect the ritual in this Commonwealth, and Pennsylvania Masons continued to work in the pure "Ancient" way, as "Ancient York Masons."

This appellation was changed to "Free and Accepted Masons" in 1872. No written record of this change has been discovered, except that at about this time, the general return forms issued by Grand Lodge for the use of the subordinate lodges began to be printed with the "F. & A.M." designation. During the 19th century, Grand Lodge concentrated on building stability and uniformity among the lodges in Pennsylvania, and during the 20th century continued to strengthen the membership. In the 21st century the lodges will be working on increasing outreach into their communities.

In 2006, Pennsylvania Masons across the Commonwealth will celebrate the 275th Anniversary of the Grand Lodge of England's recognition of Freemasonry in America, which marked the beginning of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania as it exists today.

Information and photographs were provided courtesy of The Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania, specifically through the efforts of Glenys Waldeman, Librarian, and Dennis Buttleman, Curator.

The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania differs most from other Jurisdictions in the expression of its rituals. To possess or use a written or printed ritual or Masonic code or cipher is a Masonic offense. All knowledge of ritual in Pennsylvania, whether the learner is a candidate or an officer, must be acquired "mouth to ear." Pennsylvania is the only Jurisdiction which titles its Grand Lodge Officers "Right Worshipful," instead of the usual "Most Worshipful." The members are universally called "Brother." As of January 1994, Pennsylvania Masons may enjoy dual membership.

2006



Happy Birthday, Brother Ben!

Join in the Worldwide Celebration of the Many Accomplishments of Brother

Ben Franklin during the Tercentennial of his Birth

Jan. 17, 2006 marks the 300th Anniversary of Bro. Benjamin Franklin's birth, and while commemorations will take place worldwide, his adopted hometown of Philadelphia will be throwing a birthday celebration unlike any other. The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania is preparing to join in the Tercentennial observance to honor Bro. Franklin's countless achievements, from the invention of the swim fin to the publication of "The Constitutions of the Free-Masons," the first Masonic book in America.

The campaign, organized by the federally-commissioned Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary group, will feature a multimillion dollar touring exhibition, "Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World." It is extremely fitting that the exhibit debuted at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia on December 15, 2005, where it will run until April 30, 2006. It was in the City of Brotherly Love that Bro. Franklin lived, worked, studied, politicked, and became known as a Mason and Founding Father.

Five treasures from The Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania have joined hundreds of other rare and historic items from other institutions and private lenders in what is the largest, state-of-the-art display of original Franklin material ever exhibited. Some of the artifacts have never before been on exhibit. From Philadelphia the exhibit will travel to: St. Louis, Missouri Historical Society, June 8, 2006 - Sept. 4, 2006; Houston, The Houston Museum of Natural Science,

Oct. 11, 2006 - Jan. 21, 2007; Denver, Denver Museum of Nature and Science, March 2, 2007 - May 28, 2007; Atlanta, Atlanta History Center, July 4, 2007 - Oct. 14, 2007; ending in Paris, Musée des Arts et Métiers and Musée Carnavalet, Dec. 4, 2007 - March 30, 2008.

This is not the first time such an impressive collection has been assembled. In 1906, the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania launched the "Franklin Loan Exhibition," which celebrated the Bicentenary Celebration of Bro. Franklin's birth. During the rather short duration of the exhibition (March 6, 1906 until April 23, 1906), an overwhelming 47,287 visitors viewed the exhibit at the Masonic Temple. Another special commemoration took place in 1981, the 250th Anniversary of Bro. Franklin's Initiation into the Craft, as well as the formation of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

The five objects from The Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania (not yet acquired in 1906) included in the current "Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World" exhibit are two "Fugio" (for tempus fugit - "time flies") coins, designed by Bro. Franklin; his calling card; a snuff box on which Bro. Franklin is pictured with Bro. Voltaire and Jean-Jacques Rousseau; as well as the Masonic sash which is purported to have been Bro. Franklin's. Due to the fragility of the Franklin sash, it will return to The Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania sometime after April 30, 2006, where it will re-join the other "Frankliniana" in the Museum.

Other rare Franklin objects on display in the collection of The Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania include what is known as a Franklin jeton, or medal, dated 1783 and struck in honor of Bro. Franklin's Masonic career; several rare lithographs and engravings; Bro. Franklin's 1734 reprint of Anderson's "The Constitutions of the Free-Masons;" as well as the original subscription list for the erection of Freemasons'

Hall in 1755, the first Masonic Hall in America and also where Bro. Franklin's Lodge met.

Now is an excellent time to visit Philadelphia and retrace Brother Franklin's footsteps in the city where he accomplished so much and influenced so many. A large variety of events will take place throughout the city during 2006 including Ben-themed exhibitions, concerts, special offers and themed restaurant menus. The Franklin Institute Science Museum will feature a permanent exhibit called, "Franklin ... He's Electric!" It will explore Bro. Franklin's contributions to scientific history in America in the areas of meteorology, electricity, optics and aquatics. Walking tours will allow visitors to follow Franklin's footsteps through the city where he lived, worked, socialized and was buried.

Other states will join Pennsylvania in honoring America's favorite overachiever. At Adventure Aquarium in Camden, N.J., guests will trace the evolution of swim gear back to Bro. Franklin's 18th century invention of swim paddles and flippers. At the Hollis Branch of Queens Borough Public Library in Hollis, N.Y., an exhibition will detail Franklin's efforts to integrate foreign cultural elements into American society and the influence it created. The Modesto Art Museum in Modesto, Calif., is hosting a Mail Art Event and has been accepting submissions of mail art commemorating the father of the U.S. Postal System to be a part of the exhibit, which will go on display Jan. 9.

Americans aren't the only ones who can claim ties to Bro. Franklin. While the Founding Father was born in Boston and journeyed to Philadelphia, his family came to America from England, and Bro. Franklin spent several years there on diplomatic business. Thus, the United Kingdom will also be celebrating the Tercentennial with, "The Medical World of Benjamin Franklin," an exhibit illustrating Bro. Franklin's contributions in the areas of health and medicine at The Royal Society of Medicine in London.

Visit www.benfranklin300.com for the latest information on the Ben Franklin Tercentenary and how Philadelphia's cultural institutions are playing a role in honoring one of our most influential and accomplished brethren. For information on visiting the National Constitution Center and purchasing tickets to "Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World," please visit www.constitutioncenter.org.



"A penny saved is a penny earned..."



Fugio coins, designed by Bro. Franklin



The Masonic sash which is purported to have been Bro. Franklin's.

The photographs of the items displayed on this page were taken by Peter Harholdt.

**For Upcoming Events
Celebrating the 300th Birthday of
Bro. Ben Franklin, see page 10.**

Information and photographs were provided courtesy of The Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania, specifically through the efforts of Glenys Waldeman, Librarian, and Dennis Buttleman, Curator.

THE
CONSTITUTIONS
OF THE
FREE-MASONS.

History, Charges, Regulations, &c.
in that most Ancient and Right
Worshipful FRATERNITY.

For the Use of the LODGES



EDINBURGH: Printed by J. Ballantyne, 1795.
Reprinted in Philadelphia by David Colver for the Use
of the Lodges in 1804, 1814, 1824, 1834, 1844, 1854, 1864, 1874, 1884, 1894, 1904, 1914, 1924, 1934, 1944, 1954, 1964, 1974, 1984, 1994, 2004.

Bro. Franklin's 1734
reprint of Anderson's
"The Constitutions of
the Free-Masons"



Bro. Franklin is pictured on this snuff box with
Bro. Voltaire and Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Bro. Franklin's calling card



Remember Our Widows

...and Our Brethren Whom They Loved and Supported



One of the significant programs R.W. Grand Master Ronald A. Aungst, Sr., is planning for the lodges is a Widow's program. Designed with the guidance of Bro. and Dr. Elvin Warfel, the program will focus lodges' efforts on ways to remember and recognize the widows of our deceased Brethren.

"Our Brethren's widows are our responsibility," the Grand Master said. "Just as we would wish for our Brethren to care for our wives should anything happen to any of us, it is our obligation to extend the love of our Family of Freemasonry to the widows of our Brethren who have gone before us."

The fraternity has always considered the Mason and his family a part of the lodge family, and some lodges continue to honor the widows of their deceased brethren in thoughtful and compassionate ways. In many cases, however, after her husband is deceased, his widow loses all contact with his lodge. The Widows Program is being developed to help lodges establish a program whereby this no longer occurs.

Initially, the focus will be on organizing the program. A printed guide is in the works and will include a list of 15-20 specific activities the lodge may want to do. From this list, the lodge should determine which of the activities are appropriate for the lodge and their particular dynamics, talents, interests, resources, etc. Certain holidays like Easter, Passover, Mother's Day, Christmas and Hanukkah are ideal times for the lodges to plan an activity that includes their widows.

The guide will also include direction on the volunteers needed to run the Widows Program and a detailed plan on how to create and implement a yearly program. Each lodge will receive a copy of the program very soon. The Grand Master will expect information from each lodge on what they are planning for their widows.

Now is the time to plan your lodge's event during the month of April, May or June in honor of Mother's Day. The Grand Master will personally host a Widows Program at each of the Masonic Villages.

Special Session for One-Day Class Members

to be Held by Academy of Masonic Knowledge

The Grand Lodge Academy of Masonic Knowledge will hold a Special Program for Master Masons who were initiated through the One-Day Classes, titled, "Understanding Freemasonry," on Saturday, March 18, 2006, at the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown.

The program is being held at the request of Ronald A. Aungst, Sr., Right Worshipful Grand Master, to ensure that the newly-made members through the One-Day Classes have every opportunity to have a full understanding of the fraternity and what it means to be a Freemason. "Having received all three degrees in one day, there are many questions that may have gone unanswered," he said. Developed by the Academy Committee, this program will utilize local experts to answer these questions, rather than the usual format of inviting prominent Masonic scholars to present the material.

"Understanding Freemasonry" will address a number of basic issues concerning the three Degrees, as well as a broader understanding of Freemasonry. Topics will be presented and reaction and discussion will be encouraged for such subjects as secrecy, Masonic etiquette, why Freemasonry is not a religion, what is legitimate Masonic information in literature and the media, wills and wills and other related topics. The program will begin at 9 a.m., and will consist of a morning session, a luncheon and an afternoon session. There is no cost for attendance at the program or luncheon.

The Grand Master will be sending One-Day Class members a personal invitation to attend this special session, especially designed with them in mind. However, each lodge is asked to also contact their members who were made Masons through the One-Day Classes, along with their mentors, to encourage their registration and travel together to the program.



Business Directory Exclusively for Pennsylvania Masons

How often have you wondered if there was a member of your lodge or district who is in a particular business or service industry? Or perhaps you have said to yourself, "I wish I knew a brother who could do this — I'd feel better if I was working with someone I could trust."

If so, you are not alone.

Grand Master Ronald A. Aungst, Sr., has initiated a brand new Online Business Directory as a special benefit, exclusively for Pennsylvania Masons. "I recognized the need for this service through first-hand experience and became determined to develop a resource for our Brethren to network and share information with one another that is helpful in a time of need," he said. "Whether you're looking for someone who offers a specific product, or you're out of town and need to find a service provider you can trust, having a resource where you can identify fellow Brethren to assist you can be a great asset."

Every Pennsylvania Mason who is able to use the Internet will have the opportunity to post one listing of commercial services he provides, businesses he is connected with, or perhaps, personal hobbies he is willing to share. This directory will provide another opportunity for members to reach out to one another as *Masons Helping Masons*, just as the On-Line Masonic Employment Center has helped to connect Masons with prospective employers and employees. The potential is enormous, with 130,000 Pennsylvania Masons eligible to participate.

Initially, the directory listings will all be the same size, with each user having an equal opportunity for sharing information with others. Any member of a lodge working under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania will have the chance to sign up as a user, with the option to post or view business listings. Those who choose to post a directory listing will have the opportunity to do this without cost; however, they may be asked to consider making a contribution to a Masonic charity at a later date. At the end of the first year, assuming successful growth of users and a record of satisfied participation, the program may expand to allow for larger listings, uploaded graphics and photos and other premier features, for a reasonable service fee. For now, this is an offering of equal service to all members and it will grow based on its acceptance and usage.

The directory is intended to be for business listings. It is likely that some members will take the opportunity to post personal listings of services offered or tangible items available

for sale or lease, using this like a newspaper's classified ad section. This is acceptable, too. The most important feature is that each Pennsylvania Mason will have an equal opportunity to post one listing — what he lists is up to him, within, of course, due bounds of morality and good taste.

If a registered participant is identified as having lost active member status, (by suspension, expulsion, resignation, transfer to another jurisdiction or death) the registrant will be removed from the database, and all related activities will be removed, including job postings, business listings and other services dependent upon verified membership.

Inevitably there will be Brother Masons from other jurisdictions who will want to have a listing as well.

They may live and do business in Pennsylvania, and may even hold membership in appendant or concordant Pennsylvania bodies. The only way to maintain the integrity of the information provided is to limit participation to Masons who hold primary or dual membership in a lodge working under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. Therefore, no exceptions to this

standard will be granted.

It is important to remember that the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania is merely providing the network through which its members may meet and share information about each other; it does not guarantee a satisfactory business transaction and does not endorse any individual listing. The members meet on the level of confirmed mutual fraternal membership, but any business relationship that ensues from the initial contact is between the customer and the business; the Grand Lodge, nor the local lodge, will arbitrate unsatisfactory transactions.

In essence, this tool is a business reference that says, "If a man has been accepted as a Pennsylvania Mason, he withstood a significant character investigation and was unanimously approved by his community peers — it makes sense to take the chance of doing business with this man." It provides a certain assurance that there is a better chance of satisfaction and fair dealing with a fellow Mason than in any other non-contractual agreement.



To participate in the
Grand Lodge On-Line
Masonic Business
Directory, visit the Web site
www.pagrandlodge.org

Lodge Anniversaries

2006

Date	Years	Lodge (District)	Grand Master's Visit
May 12	125	Lewisville Lodge No. 556 (17)	March 25
May 15	150	Chartiers Lodge No. 297 (29)	April 1
May 24	100	Tri-County Lodge No. 643 (31)	Oct. 21
June 7	50	Pocono Lodge No. 780 (50)	May 27
June 22	100	Tyrian Lodge No. 644 (54)	June 24
June 25	150	Muncy Lodge No. 299 (18)	June 3
July 6	200	Lodge No. 106 (18)	May 6 & 7
July 9	175	Pulaski Lodge No. 216 (11)	Sept. 9
Sept. 4	150	G. W. Bartram-Paul Sand Lodge No. 298 (36)	Oct. 28
Sept. 9	150	Waverly Lodge No. 301 (59)	April 4
Sept. 15	125	Olive Lodge No. 557 (56)	Sept. 11
Sept. 23	150	Eureka Lodge No. 302 (3)	Sept. 16
Nov. 28	100	H. Stanley Goodwin Lodge No. 648 (9)	Oct. 14
Dec. 20	100	Red Lion Lodge No. 649 (42)	July 15

Other Notable Events in 2006

May 1	225 th Anniversary of the Grand Lodge of New York
May 10	International Shriner's Day, 130 th Anniversary
June 10	200 th Anniversary of the Grand Lodge of Delaware
Sept. 30	Autumn Day at Masonic Village at Elizabethtown

2007

Date	Years	Lodge (District)	Grand Master's Visit
Jan. 7	150	Western Star Lodge No. 304 (25)	The Grand Master
Jan. 31	125	Shiloh Lodge No. 558 (6)	is still in the process
Feb. 9	50	Lowther Manor Lodge No. 781 (2)	of confirming
April 1	150	Williamson Lodge No. 307 (60)	the dates for his
April 3	200	Union Lodge No. 108 (16)	visits to lodges
May 4	125	Garfield Lodge No. 559 (52)	celebrating
June 5	150	Trojan Lodge No. 306 (16)	their landmark
June 18	100	LaFayette Lodge No. 652 (47)	anniversaries in
June 19	100	Crafton Lodge No. 653 (47)	2007.
June 20	100	Laurel Lodge No. 651 (31)	
Sept. 5	150	Warren Lodge No. 310 (6)	
Sept. 29	150	Fritz Lodge No. 308 (6)	
Oct. 1	100	Fidelity Lodge No. 655 (12)	
Oct. 19	150	Williamson Lodge No. 309 (5)	
Oct. 22	150	Portland Lodge No. 311 (50)	
Nov. 5	150	Summit Lodge No. 312 (41)	
Nov. 10	125	Greenleaf Lodge No. 561 (10)	
Nov. 26	150	Mount Moriah Lodge No. 300 (34)	
Dec. 20	125	Marion Lodge No. 562 (30)	

A Recent Example of Masons Helping Masons...



Bro. Benjamin Hanbicki, Worshipful Master of Doylestown Lodge No. 245, puts his arms around Bros. Albert McDevitt Jr. and Sr., after he conferred the 3rd degree in the Masonic Lodge Room in Elizabethtown.

Bro. Albert McDevitt, a resident in the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown's retirement living area, dearly wanted to see his son, Albert Jr., receive his Master Mason degree in Doylestown Lodge No. 245 but was not able to make the 100-mile trip. Hearing of this, the officers and several other members of the lodge assembled at Doylestown for a noble purpose; if the father could not get to the Lodge meeting, they would bring the Lodge to him. After receiving a speedy dispensation from then-Grand Master William Slater II, they transported all of the necessary paraphernalia – aprons, collars, jewels and refreshments – and at 10 a.m., opened an extra meeting to confer the 3rd degree on Albert McDevitt, Jr., in the Masonic Lodge Room in Elizabethtown with his proud father in attendance.

As the officers are regularly employed, Saturdays are usually a time to spend with their families. But their compassion and dedication to the Craft led them to choose to spend the day with their Brethren – their Masonic family – as *Masons Helping Masons*.

MASONS Helping MASONS



We want to hear how our Brethren are going out of their way to exemplify the true spirit of Freemasonry. If you have any stories to share, please forward them to your District Deputy Grand Master, and you may read about them in future issues of The Pennsylvania Freemason!

"Over 10 years ago I was working in South Carolina. One evening, as we were returning to our hotel after dinner, I caught a glimpse of a man hustling toward our elevator. I stopped the door from closing, and he got on.

"I noticed the Masonic lapel pin on his sport coat and said a few words to him that a Mason would recognize. When the elevator got to his floor, he turned, smiled and pointed to the square and compass on his coat and nodded his head. I held up my Masonic ring and we shook hands.

"The next morning at breakfast, we introduced ourselves and we spoke like two old friends. We both worked for Mack Trucks; he as an engineer out of Hagerstown, Md., and I in the IT department out of Allentown, Pa.

"About four years ago, I got a surprise phone call from this same Brother, Lamar Sease, who I met in that elevator many years ago. He said, 'You never told me your son, John Gardner, was looking for an engineering position.' He had me send him John's resume, and the rest is, as they say, history. John has been on board Mack Trucks in Hagerstown now for over three years.

"You might ask, 'how did Lamar even find out that your son was looking for work?'

"After being laid off by his employer during a massive downsizing, John had moved to Chambersburg, Pa., started attending George Washington Lodge No. 143 and took up dual membership there. He also stepped in as one of the Chapter Advisors for George Washington Chapter of DeMolay.

"John Stains, D.D.G.M. for District 3, heard about my son's lay off from his son, who is also a DeMolay Chapter Advisor. The following Sunday, Bro. Stains was sitting with a friend at the coffee hour after church and remarked about what happened to my son. The person he was talking to at coffee hour, said, 'John Gardner ... is he related to Steve Gardner?'

"The next day, I got that phone call from Lamar Sease.

"Our great fraternity truly spans the miles and generations."

- Stephen Gardner

Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master

"One of the amazing things about Freemasonry to me is that no matter where you go, when you run into another Mason you feel a certain bond that is indescribable. I find that almost all of my friends are Masons, and not by design; it just seems to work out that way."

- Thomas K. Sturgeon

Right Worshipful Senior Grand Warden

"When I was District Deputy Grand Master for District 1, I was invited down to Willow Valley by a group of 50-55 Masons in a luncheon club. They decided to follow me around to all of the official visitations I made during my term to show their support. Some were even from out-of-state and one was from Canada. To me, that's Masonry. It demonstrated their support to other lodges and across the district, and they also learned more about Masonry in District 1. They still do the same thing with their current District Deputy.

"Also, when my son, Steven, attended Penn College in Williamsport, Bro. Judge Greevy took my son under his wing, making sure he was available should any problems arise."

- Jay W. Smith

Right Worshipful Junior Grand Warden

"The best thing a Brother Master Mason did for me was, when I asked, he gave me a petition for membership in our fraternity. He encouraged me at the time and provided me with the help I needed to become a Mason."

- Jeffrey W. Coy

Right Worshipful Grand Treasurer

"Our son attends Pittsburgh University. A Brother Deputy who is employed at the university, knowing that we live more than three hours from the school, opens up their home to our son should he ever need it. It was nice of him to offer our son someone to talk to or a place to stay should he need it. It's good to know there are people who are willing to help you or your family members out."

- Mark A. Haines

Right Worshipful Grand Secretary

Two Masons Helping Masons See the Fruits of their Labors



Groundbreaking ceremony for the original Independent Living Community in Elizabethtown

Two Right Worshipful Past Grand Masters who led the Grand Lodge and our Masonic Villages through periods of great growth are now solidifying their commitment to the Mission of Love by becoming residents of one of the communities. Bro. Arthur and Jane Kurtz moved into a retirement living apartment at the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown on Dec. 7, 2005, and Bro. Marvin and Rosalie Cunningham are looking forward to being amongst the first cottage residents at the Masonic Village at Dallas.

In his inaugural issue of *The Pennsylvania Freemason* dated February 1988, Bro. Arthur J. Kurtz stated, "...of the anticipated highlights of my two years to come, I wish to acquaint you with the most fervent and personally desired project of my administration. It is the independent retirement community to be constructed on the grounds of the Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown."

His vision soon became reality. On May 27, 1988, the Committee on Masonic Homes approved the master plans for the community, and at the June 1 Quarterly Communication, Grand Lodge approved construction for Phase 1 of the plans. A groundbreaking ceremony was held at the site on March 9, 1989, and construction began in June. On Sept. 22, the Datestone Ceremony was held in the Deike Auditorium and the first residents moved into their new homes in 1990. Since then, the Masonic Villages have served well over 1,400 retirement living residents in Elizabethtown, as well as hundreds more in Lafayette Hill, Sewickley and soon in Dallas.

In honor of their Past Master, members of Robert Burns Lodge No. 464 presented the Tree of Life sculpture to the Masonic Village. On display in the retirement living clubhouse lobby, the Tree of Life is a perpetual reminder of the man whose hard work and dedication allowed the community to grow and enhance the lives of so many. Carved from mahogany by sculptor Sanford Warfel, the Tree of

Life permits a donor to make a contribution and add a leaf or base stone to the tree in honor or memory of someone or as an expression of gratitude. These funds are placed in an investment account and restricted for partial or fully subsidized payment for the monthly Resident's Service Fee for those retirement living residents whose funds have been depleted.

Also in 1988, the Committee on Masonic Homes adopted a new admissions policy that no longer required residents to turn over assets upon admission.

Although these significant strides were made during his term, Bro. Kurtz doesn't claim them as his own; instead, he gives the credit to those who served the fraternity before and with him. Yet he is proud of what they accomplished together.



Lifelong Harrisburg residents, Bro. and Mrs. Kurtz relocated less than 30 miles to move into their two-bedroom apartment in Elizabethtown – in the same community that he endorsed 17 years ago. In addition to sharing the community with Brethren and ladies whom they already know, Bro. and Mrs. Kurtz also look forward to taking day trips and attending concerts and other forms of entertainment on campus. Healthcare security and the convenience of on-campus transportation, dining and maintenance-free living are also major perks.

"The Masonic Villages is an outstanding charitable organization. I think it's the finest medical facility in the entire country and it corresponds with our purpose for Freemasonry," Bro. Kurtz said. "It's a wonderful place to stay for the rest of my life."

Bro. Kurtz at the presentation of the Tree of Life



Bro. Marvin A. Cunningham, Sr., also led the fraternity through great change during his administration in 2002-2003. He was instrumental in implementing the union of the Masonic Homes of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania (now the Masonic Villages) with the Masonic Home of Pennsylvania (now the Masonic Village at Lafayette Hill). This significant event was the culmination of more than 100 years of discussions among members across the state and strengthened the communities and their missions to provide quality services to our Family of Freemasonry. Also during his term, the Committee on Masonic Homes approved the development of a master plan for the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown and constructed the master plan for the Masonic Village at Sewickley, which consisted of retirement living apartments and cottages.

While discussions with the Irem Shrine did not begin until after his term as Grand Master, Bro. Cunningham was excited to hear of the opportunity for the Masonic Village at Dallas. "I have watched the quality of the cottages and the apartments since we started building at Elizabethtown, and I think it's wonderful that the Mission of the Masonic Villages is extending to this locale. It also provides good relations with our members at the Shrine," he said.

Even so, when they first heard the good news, the Cunninghams thought it would be a great place for them to live – sometime in the future. "Originally we decided to wait a few more years, but upon discovering how popular it was becoming, we thought we'd better get our names on the list or we might have to wait longer than we wanted to," Bro. Cunningham said. Now he and Rosalie agree that the timing will be just right – their cottage should be done just before the holidays.



Bro. Cunningham performing the Datestone Ceremony for the Star Points Building at the Masonic Village at Sewickley



They will downsize from two homes to one, leaving their maintenance woes behind them. While they will miss their church family in Collegeville and the beautiful scenery of the Poconos, they anticipate finding a new place to nourish their souls amidst the beautiful mountainous landscape surrounding the Masonic Village at Dallas.

Outdoor enthusiasts, the Cunninghams enjoy walking and riding their bikes, something they will be able to do at nearby College Misericordia, which can be seen from the Irem Shrine Clubhouse. Harvey's Lake, the largest natural lake in the Commonwealth, is just three miles from the Masonic Village. Instead of going away for enjoyment, they will travel just a few miles from their new home!

The Cunninghams have chosen a two-bedroom, 1½ bath cottage, and are particularly impressed with the excellent quality and low-maintenance designs of the cottage interiors. They plan to do a lot of reading, especially since Bro. Cunningham is now officially retired... although he still plans to stay busy with Masonic activities and, of course, the golf course in his backyard. Rosalie plans to get involved with a local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, which sparks her interest in patriotism and quilting.

They also anticipate getting to know their new neighbors. "I think it affords more of a social atmosphere with people in a small community," Rosalie said. "It will truly be like a little village." Bro. Cunningham sums it up like this: "We felt it was a good fit for us for future quality living. I think it will be a life of excellence. It seems like it's meant to be – a good marriage between the Masonic Villages and the Shriners at the Irem Temple."

Two Brethren – both Masons Helping Masons – have taken the necessary steps to plan for their future. If you would like more information on how you, too, can become part of the Masonic Villages family, contact the community of your choice listed on page 22.

Bro. Cunningham shakes hands with Bro. Morton Lader, then-Chairman of the Masonic Home of PA, (now the Masonic Village at Lafayette Hill), Bro. Joseph E. Murphy, CEO of the Masonic Villages, and Adrienne Staudenmayer, Executive Director of the Lafayette Hill community, show their support.



Florida Masonic Reunions

Grand Master Ronald A. Aungst, Sr., and his wife, Norma, will host three Masonic reunions scheduled for Pennsylvania Freemasons who now reside in Florida permanently or during the winter months.

The purpose of the reunions is to increase awareness about the expansion of services and opportunities provided through the Masonic Villages of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

Grand Master Aungst will award 50-year Emblems of Gold to Brethren in Florida. Bro. Joseph E. Murphy, Chief Executive Officer of the Masonic Villages, and members of the Masonic Villages staff will share information about the benefits and full continuum of services provided for Masons, their families and others by the Masonic Villages in Dallas, Elizabethtown, Lafayette Hill, Sewickley and Warminster.

Pennsylvania Masons residing in Florida should have received invitations during the beginning of January to attend one of the reunions. If you have not received an invitation and would like to attend, please call (717) 367-1121, extension 33849.

Dates & Locations

Thursday, Feb. 23	Tampa Airport Marriott
Friday, Feb. 24	Sahib Shrine Center~Sarasota
Saturday, Feb. 25	Palm Beach Gardens Marriott

Reunion Schedules

11 a.m. - Reception
11:45 a.m. - Lunch
1 p.m. - Program

Mark Your Calendar...
AUTUMN DAY 2006!
Saturday, Sept. 30
Masonic Village at Elizabethtown



GROWING ...to Serve

Dallas

(570) 675-1866

More than 70 percent of the Phase I accommodations at the Masonic Village at Dallas have been reserved. Construction of the retirement living cottages and apartments will begin in spring 2006, with some of the units ready for occupancy as early as fall 2006. The first phase includes 38 cottages and 44 apartments.

The Dallas community is developing a master plan for potential future growth on the country club's premier golf course. Enhancements to the country club buildings and grounds also are planned as development of the community progresses.

Elizabethtown

(717) 367-1121

Just as the 102 newest cottages on the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown campus are completed, pre-marketing of up to 66 new apartments continues by the Marketing staff. The apartments will be located near the proposed marketplace - Sycamore Square, which will be built at the entrance to the campus. The marketplace will provide opportunities for all residents to conveniently access retail shops, restaurants and medical specialty services, as well as other types of professional services.

Lafayette Hill

(610) 825-6100

At the Masonic Village at Lafayette Hill, pre-marketing continues on 21 new retirement living apartments that will be converted from existing assisting living accommodations.

In the Health Center, several double occupancy rooms will be converted into private rooms. The nursing area also will boast a new great room, country kitchen and private dining room for special events. In the assisted living area, the nurses' station will be relocated to the second floor. A new dining room and waiting room with a living room will be built throughout 2006.

Sewickley

(412) 741-1400

With 90 percent of the retirement living units reserved, the window of opportunity is closing quickly for those interested in the remaining available apartments at the Masonic Village at Sewickley. Pre-marketing continues for eight new villas to be located behind the existing villas on newly acquired land. Construction will begin in early 2006.

Warminster

(215) 672-2500

The Masonic Village at Warminster has continued at high occupancy rates, with additional activity garnered through the use of the Frey-Southampton Masonic Center.

Pennsylvania Masonic Youth Foundation



Left- Quality training will still be offered to youth and adult leaders alike, such as those offered to these participants in a recent publication seminar. Right- The adventure-based learning of the LifeSkills and LifeChangers

Conference will also continue in the new foundation.



The Pennsylvania Masonic Youth Foundation is the new name signaling the merger of the Pennsylvania Youth Foundation and The Pennsylvania Masonic Foundation for Children. The result melds a focus on education, training and teaching of Masonic principles to young people with programs that combat substance abuse, bullying and the abduction of children.

In 2006, the foundation will continue programs of support for DeMolay, Rainbow Girls and Job's Daughters at the Masonic Conference Center-Patton Campus in Elizabethtown, where the foundation is headquartered. It will administer the major scholarship programs of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. It will also provide a variety of educational seminars and workshops, such as the LifeSkills and LifeChangers conferences, to help young people develop leadership and communication skills. Recognizing the unselfish efforts of quality adult volunteers, the foundation will continue to administer the Daniel Carter Beard Masonic Scouter Award and the HODEGOS Award for outstanding leaders of the Masonic Youth groups.

A major goal continues to be the expansion of the Masonic youth groups into every Masonic district. This is the best way for Freemasonry to reach out to the young people in the community who need to learn from Masons and to benefit by learning to live by Masonic principles.

The foundation will continue to facilitate the Child Identification Program (CHIP) by lodges across the Commonwealth. It will also provide support for D.A.R.E. education, Student Assistance Training of Trainers and programs that combat bullying and in-school violence. Through the programs supported by the Pennsylvania Masonic Youth Foundation, the fraternity continues its long-standing commitment of helping children grow to be healthy and responsible young leaders in their community.

Pennsylvania Masonic Youth Foundation
1244 Bainbridge Road
Elizabethtown, PA 17022-9423
(717) 367-1536



Left- The important work of our fraternity with CHIP, the Student Assistance Program (SAP), DARE, and other key programs will also continue.

Right- The foundation will continue supporting the quality programming of Pennsylvania's Masonic-sponsored youth groups, including the use of the Masonic Conference Center in Elizabethtown.



Donor Profile: Jay G. Brossman Leaving a Legacy

Hundreds of times each year, Bro. Jay G. Brossman stands atop a sparkling, snow-covered mountain, skis braced, ready to experience the thrill of rushing down the rugged slope before skidding to a graceful stop at the bottom and starting all over again.

But only once in a lifetime does one have the chance to reach the pinnacle of gift giving – the opportunity to feel the intense rush of satisfaction and pride that comes along with committing to a selfless sacrifice that will enrich the lives of countless others in need. Fortunate are those who commit to leaving a legacy that will serve as an example for future generations and enable a charity to continue its mission.

A native of Ephrata, Pa., Bro. Jay, age 75, currently resides in Frisco, Colo., with his wife, Sally. He has two daughters, six grandchildren and two great-grandsons. He is a member of Ephrata Lodge No. 665 F. & A.M., Valley of Reading Consistory and Reading Rajah Shrine Center in Blandon, Pa. He recently received his 50-Year Masonic Service Emblem from the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. Bro. Jay is also a member of Georgetown Lodge No. 12 A.F. & A.M. and Breckenridge Lodge No. 47 A.F. & A.M. in Colorado, where he served as Worshipful Master in 2002 and 2003. He and Sally also are members of the Order of Eastern Star, Chapter 42 in Georgetown, Colo. They were Worthy Patron and Worthy Matron from 2004 to 2005.

Bro. Jay and Sally ski every day during the ski season, October through June. In the past year, Bro. Jay has logged 255 days of skiing on the several ski mountains within 20 miles of their home.

They are also active members of Colorado Summit County Senior Center. Bro. Jay enjoys the company of good friends, a quality that naturally guided him toward Freemasonry.

Bro. Jay made his first significant gift to the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown at the end of 1998 to build a new swimming pool at the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown. The pool, which was named in memory of his late son, J. Glen Brossman, was opened in the 1999 summer season for use by the many residents, children and employees at the Elizabethtown campus.

In 2003, Bro. Jay was looking for a way to increase his current income level in retirement, when he purchased a charitable gift annuity from the Masonic Village, which provided him a fixed income for life.

Subsequently, in 2004, after inquiring with the Gift Planning Office on how he might further assist the Masonic Villages, Bro. Jay established a charitable remainder unitrust to benefit himself and his wife for their lives and then ultimately the Masonic Villages upon their deaths. Bro. Jay serves as trustee of his own trust and is receiving an income each year based on the value of the trust. He received a charitable deduction for part of the value of his appreciated stock to fund the trust while avoiding capital gains taxes on the sale of the stock.

In reflecting upon his gifts, Bro. Jay shared, "I think there is a lot of good done through these charities. All the people I talk to there at the Masonic Village are very happy, and I've met a lot of nice people through the years." Even with the satisfaction of knowing that he had made a significant contribution to the future of the Masonic Villages, Bro. Jay was not finished giving.

Most recently, Bro. Jay made the ultimate gift – a major commitment through his estate plan to support the Masonic Villages for many years to come. Bro. Jay noted, "Making this legacy gift was important to me because it is my way of sharing the benefits I attained in my lifetime with my fellow Brethren and their families. To me, this is akin to reaching the mountaintop of giving." In recognition of this and Bro. Jay's many other charitable gifts, the Committee on the Masonic Homes named the Brossman Ballroom in his honor, so that residents and visitors to the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown would remember the man who exemplifies the tenets of the Fraternity.

"I am especially proud, as a Pennsylvania Mason, of the charity services our Masonic Villages have provided to our Brethren, Eastern Star members and their families," Bro. Jay said. "I am delighted to know that my legacy gift will continue making a significant impact on future generations assisted by the Masonic Villages."



Debbie's Place to Call "Home" Now Has a New Name...

Her Own



Elaine, Debbie and Bro. Kenneth Bleiler stand in front of the Bleiler Caring Cottage at the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown.

It seems everybody knows Debbie Bleiler at the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown. She is the smiling face at the campus beauty salon; the one giving warm hugs to fellow parishioners at the Sell Chapel on Sunday mornings. Residents and staff describe her as compassionate, caring and always willing to help those in need.

Debbie moved to the Masonic Village six years ago, and became one of the very first permanent residents at the Residential/Respite Cottage – now home to eight adults with developmental challenges. Bro. Kenneth and wife Elaine Bleiler are proud of their daughter in many ways. But both agree that Debbie might not be the person she is today, had she not been given the opportunities provided by the Masonic Village.

As of November, Debbie has one more reason for being well-known around campus. That's because, through ongoing support and generous donations, the Bleilers earned the honor of officially naming Debbie's current home the "Bleiler Caring Cottage."

Supporting the program comes as second nature to the Bleilers. It is simply a continuation of the care and guidance they provided their daughter for nearly 40 years before she came to the Masonic Village. Both are thankful for what the Masonic Village has offered their family.

"All eight caregivers welcomed [Debbie] with open arms and have guided the residents to adjust to living together, enriching their lives in so many ways," Mrs. Bleiler said. "I knew after a few months that Debbie was very happy."

Both parents note that Debbie has become more independent and has grown emotionally since she moved to the cottage. The experience also has been positive for Bro. and

Mrs. Bleiler.

"It was like a load had been lifted from our shoulders, knowing that she would be taken care of for the rest of her life," Bro. Bleiler said.

The Bleilers moved to the Masonic Village in September 2000, a year after Debbie made the campus her new home. They immediately stirred up some attention by becoming the first family to have three generations living on campus. Elaine's father, Bro. Hahn, had moved to the Masonic Village in 1997.

Over the years, the Bleilers have garnered more interest on campus for their dedication to the Bleiler Caring Cottage. Perhaps the most noted of their contributions is the Caribbean cruise the Bleilers financed for six cottage residents and three staff members. The trip was paid for by the profits earned from Elaine's angel pin sales.

Bro. and Mrs. Bleiler have enjoyed seeing the cottage grow over the years, and hope that the program continues to touch the lives of families like theirs.

"Our hope is to see the program expand and provide opportunities and peace of mind which we now have knowing our loved one is in a caring environment," Bro. Bleiler said.



**On Your Mark...
Get Set... Get Ready!**

**Grand Master's
Charity Mini Grand Prix**

August 5, 2006
Rain date - August 6, 2006
at Masonic Village at Elizabethtown

**To sign up... Call (717) 367-1121, ext. 33488
or e-mail bsweigart@masonicvillagespa.org
by June 1, 2006**