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For additional information about how a gift annuity might benefit you, in complete confidence and at no cost or obligation, simply complete and return the response coupon to the Office of Gift Planning, or telephone to speak with one of our Office of Gift Planning staff members in the geographic region nearest you:

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*New rates reflect changes recommended by the Office of Gift Planning for all NEW Charitable Gift Annuities written on or after July 1, 2006. Some restrictions apply.

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☐ Send me a sample Gift Annuity illustration based on the following information:

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A MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND MASTER
Brethren:

Happy New Year! If you're like me, every year you make a long list of resolutions, many of which you won't see through to completion. For 2007, however, I urge all Masons to adopt and fervently work toward the:

Grand Master's Top 10 New Year's Resolutions:

1. Call a brother you haven't seen in a while and ask how he's been. Invite him to lunch or dinner, ask if he needs a ride to the next lodge meeting or if he could use some assistance. Many times when we don't see or hear from a brother, it's for a good reason, such as a family difficulty, health issue or another challenge in his life. Reaching out to show we care, as Masons Helping Masons, can make a real difference in another's life.

2. Make your membership commitment a priority. Attend lodge meetings more regularly. Volunteer to assist with a special event, fundraising project or membership maintenance efforts (see p. 18). Consider filling in a chair if there's a need. Offer to mentor a new candidate or brother.

3. Consider becoming an organ donor; talk to your spouse and/or family members so they know your wishes. Then contact the Masonic Organ Donor Program and sign an organ donor card. It's really that simple!

4. Sign up to tour Ireland with Norm and me this August! As we have traveled across the Commonwealth and even overseas, brethren and their loved ones at the various lodges, valleys, shrines and Grand Lodges have extended warm welcomes and fraternal love that can only be found within this international but very personal brotherhood. We look forward to getting to know many more of you personally through this exciting adventure.

5. Visit the Masonic Village near you, take a tour and learn about the many quality services available to you and your loved ones. While you're there, visit with the residents. Chances are, there will be a member of your lodge or a widow who would be delighted to have someone brighten his or her day. You may even find your experience so enjoyable that you'd like to volunteer on a regular basis.

6. Become active with one of your local Masonic youth groups. After all, they are our leaders of tomorrow, and your time investment will be well spent. Work with your lodge and District Deputy Grand Master to coordinate a Masonic CHIP event to protect the children in your community.

3. Learn more about the Craft! Attend an Academy of Masonic Knowledge meeting (see p. 17) or borrow a book from The Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania, where borrowing privileges are extended only to Pennsylvania Masons.

7. Sign up to tour Ireland with Norm and me this August! As we have traveled across the Commonwealth and even overseas, brethren and their loved ones at the various lodges, valleys, shrines and Grand Lodges have extended warm welcomes and fraternal love that can only be found within this international but very personal brotherhood. We look forward to getting to know many more of you personally through this exciting adventure.

4. Visit the Masonic Village near you, take a tour and learn about the many quality services available to you and your loved ones. While you're there, visit with the residents. Chances are, there will be a member of your lodge or a widow who would be delighted to have someone brighten his or her day. You may even find your experience so enjoyable that you'd like to volunteer on a regular basis.

5. Become active with one of your local Masonic youth groups. After all, they are our leaders of tomorrow, and your time investment will be well spent. Work with your lodge and District Deputy Grand Master to coordinate a Masonic CHIP event to protect the children in your community.

8. Plan a visit to the Masonic Temple in Philadelphia or a visit to the Masonic Village near you, take a tour and learn about the many quality services available to you and your loved ones. While you are there, you are likely to see the many members who have made a difference in your life. Reaching out to help in some way can make a real difference in another's life.

9. Make your membership commitment a priority. Attend lodge meetings more regularly. Volunteer to assist with a special event, fundraising project or membership maintenance efforts (see p. 18). Consider filling in a chair if there's a need. Offer to mentor a new candidate or brother.

10. Consider becoming an organ donor; talk to your spouse and/or family members so they know your wishes. Then contact the Masonic Organ Donor Program and sign an organ donor card. It's really that simple!

Sincerely and fraternal,
R. W. Grand Master

Ronald A. Aungst, Sr.
R. W. Grand Master
Ms. Beverly Harper, one of the gala’s honorees, pictured above has been an active member of the Philadelphia region for decades and is an effective mentor to the leadership of the Masonic Temple. Ms. Harper founded Portfolio Associates, Inc., in 1969. In 2004, because of her marketing expertise and vast knowledge of Philadelphia’s cultural and civic communities, Portfolio was chosen to design and build a strategic organizational, outreach and marketing plan for the Masonic Temple. Through this planning effort, Ms. Harper challenged the Masonic Temple to become an active member of the community, just as it is the duty of each Masonic brother.

“Receiving this recognition and award from the Masons is one of my most treasured honors,” Ms. Harper said. “My vision for the Masonic Temple in Philadelphia is that it will take its place among the ‘must see’ historic sites; and organizations will celebrate significant events in this magnificent building.”


Bro. John W. “Jack” Dean III, and his wife, Kay, (pictured above) reside in Largo, Fla., but are originally from the Philadelphia area. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Law School, Bro. Dean opened his own law office in 1958, Dean & McCoy, which was dissolved in 1977. He then went on to work for a law firm in suburban Philadelphia. During his career, he practiced in the Supreme and Superior Courts of Pennsylvania, as well as the U.S. Eastern District Court, the U.S. Court of Appeals, 3rd Circuit and the U.S. Supreme Court.

Bro. Dean’s Masonic affiliations include Frankford Lodge No. 292; Valley of Philadelphia, A.S.S.R., having served as Sovereign Prince in 1976-77; Allington Royal Arch Chapter No. 245; Philadelphia Council No. 11, Royal and Select Master Masons; Kensington Kadish Commandery No. 54, Knights Templar; York Rite, Philadelphia Consistory of the Red Cross of Constantine; Philadelphia Council No. 13, Knight Masons of the U.S.A., and Royal Order of Jesters. He is a Past Potentate of LaLu Shrine Temple and served as Imperial Potentate of the Shrines of North America and as chairman of the board of directors for Shriners Hospitals for Crippled Children.

Phipps Lichtenfield, right, has a nice chat with “George Washington,” played by Bro. Carl Homan, Robert A. Lamberton Lodge No. 487.

Above - Bro. James A. West, Jr., Lodge No. 45, and his wife, Jill, toast to the season.

Above - Bro. Marie DeBlassie, Lodge No. 45, and his wife, Linda, spread some holiday cheer with Bro. William J. Magnotti, Jr., Pleasant Hills-Guthrie Lodge No. 795, and his wife, Barbara.

What better way to get into the holiday spirit than to walk into a room filled with holiday music, elegant decorations, delicious food and good friends?


Above - Ray Dist, center, District Deputy Grand Master for District 55, who led the efforts to organize the gala, and his wife, Lynn, “mingle” with R.W. Grand Master Angus.

Above - Bro. Todd Ballenger and his wife, Kari, pose for a moment in front of the Christmas tree.

Above - Thomas K. Sturgeon, R.W. Senior Grand Warden, counts money to pay for the numerous silent auction items he and his wife, Joan, bid on and won, with proceeds benefiting Masonic Charities.

Above - Mike Morgan, District Deputy Grand Master for District 57, and his wife, Leah, enjoy the evening.

Above - Sam Spanos, newly appointed District Deputy Grand Master for District 47, auctions off a two-week trip to Greece.

Above - Right, center, District Deputy Grand Master for District 55, who led the efforts to organize the gala, and his wife, Lynn, “mingle” with R.W. Grand Master Angus.
At the December Quarterly Communication, Ronald A. Aungst, Sr., R.W. Grand Master, announced that he has created, with the approval of the Grand Lodge Officers, awards for 60, 70 and 75-year members. Previously, members attaining these service levels received only a paper certificate. "We believe the certificates alone were insufficient when recognizing these significant years of service to the fraternity," the Grand Master said.

The 75-year award has been named the Diamond Jubilee Award and has a diamond chip at the bottom of the wreath. The Grand Secretary has sent information to all lodges announcing these new awards. They will be presented at the official visitation by the District Deputy Grand Master at each lodge, unless there is a special event scheduled whereby the Grand Master will be present, who would at that time make the presentation to those brethren who qualify for the service awards.

R.W. Grand Master Ronald A. Aungst, Sr. and his wife, Norma, invite all Pennsylvania Masons, Wives and Widows residing in Florida permanently or during the winter months, to attend a

Highlights

- Information on services provided by the Masonic Villages of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania
- Exciting updates on current construction and the opening of the Masonic Village at Dallas, the master plan and renovations at the Masonic Village at Lafayette Hill and the new Sycamore Apartments and Sycamore Square marketplace at the Masonic Village at Ebensburg
- Learn about prospects for a new Masonic Village community in Erie, Pa.
- Representatives from the Office of Aging to share information on local services
- Free blood pressure screenings

Special Highlight

Grand Master Aungst will present 50, 60, 70 and 75-Year Masonic Service Emblem pins and preview upcoming programs.

The World Conference of Grand Lodges in France
Nov. 28-30, 2006

R.W. Grand Master Ronald A. Aungst, Sr. and his wife, Norma, join with other Charities Grand Master, Grand Secretary, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of France.

Jeffrey W. Coy, R.W. Grand Treasurer, and his wife, Jo Anne; Mark A. Haines, R.W. Grand Secretary, and his wife, Karen; and Ronald A. Aungst, Sr., and his wife, Norma, stand in front of the Arc of Triumph in Paris.
The Masonic Temple in Philadelphia stands as a landmark for Masons, the community and the nation. The architectural wonder has stood for 133 years serving as a majestic headquarters for the fraternity, amazed visitors with its beauty and educating the public through the library and museum. Thanks to generous donations from lodges and individuals to the Grand Master's Temple Initiative appeal, the Temple is receiving some much-needed restorations and upgrades. These improvements will allow the Temple to preserve Freemasonry's past for future generations to enjoy.

The marble floors throughout the entire Temple were gently cleaned and polished, restoring their original luster and shine. This project was completed just in time for the "Initiated Eye" exhibit now on display.

This archway above the William Rush exhibit was subject to high humidity levels and was severely damaged. Located right above people's heads, it was a major eyesore for the Temple. The archways received a detailed makeover, including the use of a stamp to replicate the intricate stencils (shown to the right).

The HVAC system required the temporary removal of stairs.

The new HVAC system won't be seen, but its job will have a huge impact on the preservation of the Temple's architecture, as well as the museum collection. It will control humidity levels and prevent mold. This upgrade was the most important to protecting the future of the Temple, inside and out.


**Contribution to the Masonic Temple Initiative**

The following lodges and Masonic organizations, through their generous donations, have made improvements to the Masonic Temple a reality. The list includes gifts of $100 and above received January 2004 through December 15, 2006. Great care has been taken to ensure the accuracy and thoroughness of the names listed below. If an error has been made, please contact the Office of Gift Planning at (717) 367-1121, ext. 33460. We will be happy to correct our records. Thank you.

![Image of a list of donors to the Masonic Temple Initiative]
“The Initiated Eye” Now on Display

Exhibit featuring Masonic symbols within our nation’s capital showing through March at the Masonic Temple

by Glenn Waldman, Librarian, The Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania

The exhibit, “The Initiated Eye: Secrets, Symbols, Freemasonry and the Architecture of Washington D.C.” has been loaned to the Masonic Temple by the Octagon, the Museum of the American Architectural Foundation, in Washington, D.C. “The Initiated Eye” consists of paintings by Peter Waddell, which are now decorating the south half of the Temple in Philadelphia. They will remain here until the end of March 2007.

Waddell’s paintings illustrate the Masonic ideals and designs as depicted in the geometrical layout of our nation’s capital. This theme is nicely complemented by the architecture of our National Historic Landmark, the Masonic Temple, where every lodge half, corridor and staircase bespeak the lofty ideals of the oldest and largest fraternity. In addition, the Temple is set in the center of an equally geometrically laid-out city: a simple grid overlaid by a few diagonal streets. It was in Philadelphia that the first Grand Lodge was formed in 1733 and where our founding Fathers, many of whom were Freemasons, declared independence, guided the Revolution and drafted the Constitution. It was from Philadelphia that the new Federal Government moved its seat to Washington, D.C., which was considered a more central location for the capital of a growing, young country.

Born in 1955, Peter Waddell, a native of New Zealand, has been a U.S. citizen since 2002. His specialty is painting images of historic places showing the people and artifacts as they were in the hey-day of the particular place or building – in other words, “being lived in.” Waddell ensures historical accuracy by studying both written accounts of the period and material evidence. Artists are resident at the Todol Place Historic House and Garden in the Georgetown section of our nation’s capital, Waddell has exhibited frequently and has four paintings on Mount Vernon, as well as other historic mansions in Virginia and Maryland.

The Octagon, the Museum of the American Architectural Foundation (AAF), is a nationally recognized museum of architecture and design located two blocks from the White House. One of Washington, D.C.’s earliest residences, the building is a National Historic Landmark (1960) and is accredited by the American Association of Museums (1975). The Octagon’s mission is to educate the public about architecture, design, historic preservation and stewardship of our architectural heritage. These goals are accomplished through onsite exhibits, traveling exhibitions, collections and a wide variety of creative public programs.

To learn more and see the pictures online, visit www.petewaddell.com/initiated.html. A catalogue of “The Initiated Eye” exhibit is for sale through the Masonic Temple Gift Shop for $10.

Lodge No. 9 Brings Christmas Cheer

Sixty brethren and family members of Lodge No. 9, Philadelphia, held a Christmas Party for the 37 youth of the Masonic Children’s Home and the seven children of the Blottier Caring Cottage at the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown on Dec. 3, 2006. The festive event included a cooed holiday meal, as well as a visit from Santa, who handed out gifts.

Prior to the party, each of the children and adults were asked to write a wish list for an item or items that totaled $150. Bro. Robert J. Burns, W.M., and Debra Conglion; Bro. Wayne D. Greenberg, P.M., and his wife, Karen; Bro. Rick Santella, J.W., and Donna Camp; and Bro. Steve Armwood, P.M., each chose the gifts, which were wrapped by Bro. William Norris, P.M., and his wife, Dotty. Other arrangements were made by Bro. William Woodhead, Treasurer, and Bro. David W. Woodhead, P.M., Secretary, who played the role of St. Nick. The lodge generously lends this even every two years at the Masonic Village, which is a large undertaking but a wonderful highlight for the children and adults alike.

The lodge also donated money to children’s home resident Kristen Malasky Norman, who was named All American Cheerleader at National Cheerleading Camp this past summer at Millersville University, to help with the cost of her trip to Florida to cheer in the Orange Bowl Pre-Game Show in January.

Book Suggests Influence on Early Freemasonry

by Bro. Mark Stavish

Met the author recently at a preliminary meeting of the committee-to-be First Traditional Observance Lodge in Pennsylvania. The book intrigued me. It is in that classification of books that are not Masonic, but of Masonic interest. It contains material in the realm of ‘esoterica’, which stems from the preEnlightenment period. One might view Masonic scholars like McNulty to get a Masonic orientation to understand esoteric thought and the Renaissance mystical tradition. Most Masonic scholars do not include the esoteric schools in their writings, yet we find esoteric references as contributing to the development of the Craft.

“The Path of Alchemy” is a guide to a lost and mineral alchemy, which explains how to create and apply medicines for the soul. Bro. Stavish ties alchemy with the Kabbalah, astrology and the four elements in the process of creating distillations for physical healing and spiritual growth. Behind these procedures, symbols, stones, distillations, astrological tables and levels of “worlds” in the Kabbalistic tree of life, we can find concepts and principles that can give us background and understanding of our Masonic ritual. The text acquaints one with alchemic laboratory procedures, the initiate experiences, symbolism and learning. Those interested in the spiritual side of Masonry may find “The Path of Alchemy” a guide to that inner experience. The text reminds us of the early period of history when the natural sciences were developing, and early Freemasonry included scientist thinkers, who also engaged in alchemy, the Hermetic tradition.

Bro. Stavish provides an idea of initiation, the beginning of our going deeper and deeper into our own awareness to meet the “Master” within. A Masonic journey is one of self-understanding with the goal of becoming that perfect alchemist. There seems to be a similar ring, the goal of alchemy is to perfect the human personality.

This is not a Masonic text, yet I found “The Path of Alchemy” to be an interesting and informative read. One may speculate how much ancient knowledge may have contributed, at least indirectly, to the development of Freemasonry. The text helps us appreciate a historical perspective of those aspects of traditional western magic that may shed light on the Masonic degrees and the development of speculative Freemasonry.

A MASONIC BOOK REVIEW TO PERUSE

by Cathy Griswold, Assistant Librarian, The Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania

Rosslyn Chapel had been the subject of many theories connecting it to Scottish Freemasonry, Knights Templar and “lost treasure,” not to mention the part it played in the book and movie “The Da Vinci Code.” New author and Scottish Freemason, Bro. Robert L.D. Cooper tries to sort out his fact from fiction in “The Rosslyn Hoax: Viewing Rosslyn Chapel from a new perspective.”

Bro. Cooper, curator of the Grand Lodge of Scotland Museum and Library, has had ample opportunity to consider the questions that arise from the ideas espoused by Masons and non-Masons. He begins by identifying two approaches to the study of Freemasonry, the “Academic Approach” and the “Popular” or Alternative (or Mythological) Approach, as well as the various techniques used by authors to get their points of view across to the reader.

Bro. Cooper then delves into some of the history of the Scottish stonemasons’ connections to the Stuart (St. Clair) family in the early 17th century. Scottish Freemasonry and the various individuals important to Freemasonry’s formation and history, this leads into chapters on the history of the St. Clair family, who built the chapel and their relation to Scottish Freemasonry. Other chapters are devoted to Rosslyn Chapel, its description and the meaning of the symbolism found inside, the Kirkwall scroll and its link to Freemasonry, as well as “other evidence” that has been used to support stories from Temple sources.

Also included in this book is an extensive bibliography not only of the usual historical sources (which are numerous), but also a number of titles that fall into the speculative or alternative history, some of which can be found in your library.

By writing this book, Bro. Cooper hopes to add some thoughtful evidence to the Rosslyn Chapel story from a Scot’s viewpoint, while pointing out the unique aspects in Scottish Freemasonry. While not wishing to destroy the myths that have surrounded it, he has put forth reasonable explanations that the reader may want to consider.

To borrow this book, or any others, visit the Creativ-Library at www.paganland.org, or call (800) 462-2430, ext. 1935.

THE ROSSLYN HOAX?

by Robert L.D. Cooper

ROBERT L. D. COOPER

February 2007
Thanking Those Who Sacrificed Everything

Somerset Lodge No. 358 wanted to honor the country’s veterans, young and old, in a unique way, so they turned to a forgotten custom. For the past two years, the lodge has held a canteen on Veteran’s Day.

During World War II, soldiers leaving for and returning from battle couldvig a canteen and receive food, drink, clothes, and cigarettes. Canteens were often located near train stations and staffed by local volunteers. The Red Cross, Salvation Army, USO and local organizations were responsible for comforting thousands of soldiers.

Members of the Somerset Lodge wanted to give veterans another opportunity to enjoy coffee, doughnuts, friends and good conversations, so for the second year in a row, they opened their lodge as a canteen from 6 to 11 a.m. on Veteran’s Day.

“We wanted something catchy the guys would respond to,” said Bro. Jim Holiday, Worshipful Master of Lodge No. 358. “We said early because of all the other activities for veterans that day. We get them stocked up with coffee and doughnuts to prepare them for their busy day.”

The event was held to honor veterans, but the doors were opened to anyone from the community. Bro. Holiday said, “Visitors began arriving at 6:30 a.m. and included World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War and Iraqi War veterans, who spent the morning sharing stories with each other. One World War II veteran proudly donned his uniform, which still fit after more than 60 years.

“We don’t do it for individual publicity,” Bro. Holiday said. “It’s a way for the Masons to say thanks to those who allow us to enjoy the freedom we do.”


“It’s a great day,” Bro. Holiday said. “It’s a chance for vets of the community to be thanked, and it helps in getting more and more people aware of what Masons do.”

More than 60 people attended last year’s canteen, and Somerset Lodge plans to hold the event again this year.

The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania Visits the Pentagon

R.W. Grand Master August was pleased to present the 33rd Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Michael W. Hagee, with a fun Tavern Commemorative Statue at a Pentapont Ceremony on Oct. 15. The Tavern is the landmark beginning of Pennsylvania Freemasonry and the U.S. Marine Corps.

“We were very honored to meet General Hagee and his staff,” Executive Director of The Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania, Andrew A. Zollfereid, said. The Grand Master also presented Gen. Hagee with a special Letter of Commendation to recognize his accomplishments throughout four decades of service as a U.S. Marine Corps Officer. A Tavern model was also donated to the new National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico.

Photo Credit: Sgt. Christopher Trinio

Christmas Party Yields Toys, Fun for All

The 15th Masonic District 15th Annual Christmas Party was held Nov. 25, 2006, at the Harford Fireman’s Hall in Harford, Pa.

The evening is a social event to celebrate the holiday season and to provide toys for needy children. Everyone who attends brings a new toy to be given to the Toys for Tots program in the area. Among the 400 brethren and invited guests who attended the event and donated more than 150 new toys for the program. Harford Lodge No. 445 invited the Masonic widows who reside in the area to attend as their guests, and seven were able to attend. A wonderful buffet dinner was provided for all guests. Carmen L. Welsh, W.M., Freedom Lodge No. 329, and dancing was enjoyed by all.


Helping Others

He received his 50-Year Service Emblem, presented to him by officers of the Grand Lodge of New York.

Evelyn was a "professional volunteer," according to her husband. Among her volunteer ventures, she worked with the Red Cross, Meals on Wheels, local hospitals and churches.

The Baums made a habit of traveling throughout the years to Europe, the West Coast, on a tour of National Parks, Florida and Gettysburg. Bro. Jack was fortunate to travel to several foreign countries through his job. He embraced the differences in the way foreigners lived and worked.

He retired in 1987, and the Baums settled in New York to be close to their sons. He and Evelyn, whose marriage spans 52 years, reside in an assisted living home near the Finger Lakes and wine country.

Bro. Jack’s Masonic history makes him proud because of the work Masons do in assisting others. His willingness and the willingness of all donors, to contribute to the growing needs of the Masonic Charities Fund will ensure the Masonic tradition of helping continues for many more generations.

See the back cover for more information on how you can give to the Masonic Charities through a charitable gift annuity.
A Grand Opening...

The Grand Lodge of Cyprus

by Giorgy Waldman, Librarian, The Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania

Not since 1880, when Freemasonry was formally established in Cyprus with a District Grand Lodge, under the United Grand Lodge of England (Freemasonry having been in Cyprus since 1858), has there been such Masonic excitement: a new Grand Lodge has been consecrated. Through the courtesy of Mayor Michael Zampelas, of Nicosia, capital of Cyprus, and the Antiquities Department of the Republic of Cyprus, a Masonic temple was set up especially for this great occasion at the Fanagrou Gate in the Venetian walls of the city.

The Consecration ceremony was performed on Oct. 8, 2000, in the presence of 235 Brethren and 90 other distinguished guests, including our own R.W. Grand Master Ronald A. Augst, Sr.; the M.W. Grand Master of Greece, Spyridon Palaios, and the M.W. Grand Master of Austria, Michael Kraus. Accompanying Master Augst from Pennsylvania were Deputy Grand Master Stephen Gardner, Past Grand Secretary Thomas W. Jackson, Exsuffragio Secretary of the World Conference of Masonic Grand Lodges and Allen A. Hentzinger, Senior Grand Deacon. Bro. Jacob Vorkas was consecrated and welcomed as the world's newest Grand Master, together with his grand officers.

In Cyprus at present, there are 12 lodges operating under the English Constitution. The new Grand Lodge of Cyprus was formed from six lodges originally on the rolls of the Grand Lodge of Greece and will have lodges working in the Greek, Turkish, Armenian and English languages.

Well-populated by Greeks at present, there is also a part of the island that has been foreign to the Venetians and the Ottomans. By the time of the Byzantine Empire for 800 years, beginning in 1343, King Richard I (the Lion-Hearted) of England paid it a visit in 1191 on his way to Jerusalem on the Third Crusade (1190-92), then sold the island to the Knights Templar. The unheralded native chose Guy de Lusignan, who had meanwhile bought Cyprus from the Knights Templar, their ruler in 1192. (Lusignan was a part of Aquitaine, whose ruler, Queen Eleanor of England, was the mother of Richard II.) Guy, in his zeal for fortification, constructed great Gothic buildings, some of which are still extant. His Lusignan dynasty reigned until 1499, when the Venetians wrested Cyprus from them. Their fortress engineer, Giulio Savorgnano, in an effort to keep out the Ottoman Turks, oversaw the building of the walls that still remain.

Only three gates, open sunrise to sunset, allowed access to Nicosia. One gate, Fanagoula, would become the site of the Consecration of the Grand Lodge of Cyprus. That architectural gem, according to the Grand Lodge of Cyprus, was designed by Leonardo da Vinci. Although Cyprus is still plagued by unrest, the growth of Freemasonry is a hopeful sign.

Grand Master Augst was most touched by the Mediterranean hospitality of his hosts. The informal dinner before the Consecration ceremony was particularly memorable, as the guests were presented with a buffet table groaning with local delicacies, featuring lamb (the most popular meat in Cyprus), fruit and especially, the power-punching schnapps, "ouzo," "Food lasts for a moment, friendships last as long as determined, but memories last forever," the Grand Master said.

Left to right: Grand Master Augst; Spyridon Palaios, M.W. Grand Master of Greece; Jacob Vorkas, M.W. Grand Master of Cyprus; Andreas Ashidah, M.W. Deputy Grand Master of Cyprus.

Special Guests of the Masonic Temple

An Evening with the Baron

American Revolutionary War General Friedrich Wilhelm August Baron von Steuben

R.W. Grand Master Augst poses with American Revolutionary War General Friedrich Wilhelm August Baron von Steuben, as portrayed by historian Bro. David Vihula, of Lodge No. 377, Dr. Vihula, a Professor Emeritus from Kent State University, spoke at the Masonic Temple on Oct. 31 about the Baron’s life as a Freemason and trainer of Bro. and General Washington’s Continental Army. The event was sponsored by the Pennsylvania Humanities Council.

R.W. Grand Master Augst and his wife, Norma (front, center), welcomed friends from the Grand Lodge of South Carolina to the Temple in November. The group spent half a day touring the Temple, enjoying lunch in the John Wanamaker Dining Room and exploring historical documents pertaining to their Grand Lodge and the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania on display in The Masonic Library and Museum.

“How Can We Have Our Web Site Hosted on the Grand Lodge Server?”

Any lodge, school of instruction or state-wide appendant or concordant body can have its Web site hosted on the Grand Lodge server at no cost. Be sure to review the Grand Lodge Committee on Internet Services guidelines for posting a lodge Web site, which you can find at http://www.pagrlandodge.org программы/InternetServices_Resolutions.html. We provide hosting space, a user identification, a password and site security. Only ONE person should have access to the server to make changes to your pages. We do not create Web sites or pages. This is your responsibility. We don’t allocate a specific file space limit to any group.

While we will try to be supportive, we are a committee of volunteers, and we have limited time to help diagnose problems in coding. You can use Web-based services such as http://www.netmechanics.com/forntpage.html for that. However, if you have trouble uploading materials, or other problems, we will do our best to respond quickly.

To sign up, a written request should come from the Master or the Secretary of the lodge or other Masonic organization, identifying the full name, mailing address, e-mail address, day and nighttime phone numbers of your Webmaster. Send your request to trlabagh@pAGRlandodge.org or to:

Grand Lodge Committee on Internet Services

Thomas R. Labagh, Chairman

1244 Bainbridge Road

Elizabethtown, PA 17022
NEW Masonic Charities
Credit Cards Now Available

Rewards for You,
Benefits for Masonic Charities

We are proud to announce that the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania has recently launched a new Visa Credit Card. This card is the only card that supports the Grand Lodge and our Masonic Charities. U.S. Bank is the new issuer and has a new rewards program that benefits members and allows you to support your fellow brethren, their loved ones and others who receive services through our Masonic Charities.

When you activate your new card and each time you use it, a donation is made to help support Pennsylvania Masonic Charities programs. In addition to great benefits which include no annual fee, your choice of rewards and 1,000 bonus points with your first purchase, U.S. Bank is pleased to provide a special introductory offer of 0% APR for 6 months on all purchases and bank transfers.

Apply today using the Visa applications that are available at your lodge, or call U.S. Bank at (800) 853-5576, ext. 8878. Remember, the old Visa card previously issued on behalf of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania stopped providing benefits to Pennsylvania Freemasonry as of Sept. 1, 2006. Take this opportunity to transfer any balances on your old card, or any other credit card, by applying for this new card. Thank you in advance for using your purchases to support our Masonic Charities.

For credits and terms of the Visa Platinum Card is the U.S. Bank National Association N9.

The Member Services module at the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania Web site shows how Masons Helping Masons is crossing the Masonic Order to benefit Masons of all ages. The Online Masonic Business Directory can put you in touch with a brother who has special services to offer, and the Employment Center can help you find a job or an employee with a background you can trust.

In the Business Directory, you can post a brief description of your business, service, hobby or personal expertise that you want to offer your fraternal brothers. This unique Masonic network presently includes over 500 business listings. Over 1,800 members have registered for this free service.

The Employment Center provides an opportunity to advertise to fellow Masons job opportunities inside your business. It also allows a member to post a résumé of his qualifications and experience to make himself available to a potential employer. The unique aspect of this Employment Center is that it is possible for both parties to remain anonymous in the early stages of an inquiry and to communicate through the Employment Center both anonymously and discreetly until such time as the parties choose to set up an interview. As of the date of this writing, there are more than 300 résumés and 30 job listings posted in the system.

These opportunities are made available exclusively to Pennsylvania Masons. Only active members in good standing in Pennsylvania lodges are listed. While we cannot guarantee that your business transaction will be exactly as you want it, we can guarantee that it will be with a Pennsylvania Mason. Having that common bond does indeed offer our Masonic brothers a unique advantage that they can pass on to others who share their love of Freemasonry.

To pre-register, simply e-mail your name, address, lodge number, telephone number and e-mail address to Posterize@pagrandlodge.org. You will be notified when your registration is approved.

Masons-Only Services: Masons Helping Masons

Make Your Life Smoke-Free

The Masonic Villages, through the American Lung Association, are offering smoking cessation classes for members of our Family of Freemasonry

T he Masonic Villages became smoke-free communities effective Aug. 7, 2006, for all families, volunteers, visitors and those doing business on the Masonic Village properties. In order to assist individuals who wish to be free from the addiction of tobacco, the American Lung Association's "Freedom from Smoking" classes are being offered free of charge to all interested members and their families. Dates are available in February and March. The classes will be held at the Elizabethtown campus. You will be notified of specific dates and times once they have been established, based on input received from interested individuals.

Anyone who would like to participate may return the coupon to the right to: Human Resources Office, Masonic Village, One Masonic Drive, Elizabethtown, PA 17022. If you have any questions, call toll-free at (877) 753-3218.
Membership Maintenance Update

At the beginning of his term, Ronald A. Aungst Sr., R.W. Grand Master, created the Membership Maintenance Committee to work toward decreasing the number of member suspensions for Non-Payment of Dues (NPD) by 50 percent. The numbers are now in, and here is what was achieved. In 2005, 2,344 brethren were suspended for NPD; in 2006, this number decreased to 1,251, which is a 46.6 percent reduction in suspensions for NPD. There is more to the story, however. If all the lodges suspended delinquent brethren in April 2006, there would have been 3,247 NPD suspensions, or an increase of 33.8 percent over last year. This was avoided because the lodge committees, motivated by their District Deputy Grand Masters (D.D.G.M.), reduced the 3,247 delinquent brethren to only 1,251 actual suspensions by October 2006. This represents a 61.5 percent reduction of what this year’s suspensions would have been had the brethren not stepped forward to make a difference. Through their efforts, 1,994 brethren were maintained.

There is a minimal percentage error in these calculations because some suspended brethren have since paid up and been restored, and some numbers were estimated based on available data. For the purpose of this study, however, these numbers are sufficiently accurate to realize the following:

1. Lodges worked harder at collecting outstanding dues in 2006 than they had in previous years, and their efforts were rewarded. There have always been brethren with zero suspensions, but they had the exceptions.
2. It was beneficial to mandate the D.D.G.M.’s removal prior to a member’s suspension to document that sufficient effort had been put forward to avoid the action.
3. Personal contacts, rather than certified mailings, have had a positive impact on members’ decisions to retain their membership.
4. Approximately 2,000 brethren are still Pennsylvania Freemasons who otherwise would not be due to this initiative.

Our thanks go to the Grand Master for creating this committee and selecting us to serve on it, the District Deputy Grand Masters for carrying out our recommendations and, especially, the lodge committees who actually got the job done.
Honorinq Our Senior Brethren...

Left to right: Bros. Jessica C. McCullough, Sr., P.M., W.M., Wallace L. Sturgeon, P.M., S.W., June Earl Austin; Robert G. Thomas, Senior Deacon; John H. Petricko, D.D.G.M., District 47; Steven E. Kosecký, J.W.; John M. Daniels; and Charles W. Maddox, Sr., Trustee.

On July 16, 1906, Bro. Jesse Earl Austin remembers growing up in a log house on his father’s farm in Virginia. He credits his long life to “good genes, living an honest life according to the Bible, and no smoking and no alcohol.”

He came to Western Pennsylvania in 1936 where he worked on the Pennsylvania Railroad as a conductor until his retirement in 1966.

His fondest memories are of his wife Emma, who passed away in 1987, his family and recollections of conversations with President Harry S. Truman and Bing Crosby.

Bro. Austin may best be remembered for having served as mayor of Oakdale from 1995 to 2001 when, at the age of 101, he “gave it up to let some of the younger folks have a chance.”

Perhaps the oldest serving mayor in the United States, he couldn’t be entered in the Guinness Book of World Records because documented proof of his age was unavailable.

In appreciation of his outstanding service, the members of Oakdale Lodge No. 669 and the community of Oakdale created a beautiful monument and clock in the town square dedicated in his honor on Oct. 10, 1998.

Living on his own until September 2005, Bro. Austin now resides in an assisted living home. His eyesight has grown dim and his hearing has started to fade, but he still prides himself on being able to recite his Masonic Oath and Obligation.

In acknowledgment of Bro. Austin’s 106th birthday, Jesse C. McCullough, W.M., along with officers and members of Oakdale Lodge No. 669 and John H. Petricko, District Deputy Grand Master for the 47th Masonic District, presented Bro. Austin with a special certificate in recognition of his dedicated service to Freemasonry.

A number of distinguished guests attended the installation meeting of Greater Johnstown Lodge No. 538 presented Handel Roberts, P.M., with a certificate from the Grand Lodge recognizing his 50th year as a Past Master. Bro. Roberts, the senior of the lodge’s 62 living Past Masters, was Worshipful Master of Sunnehanna Lodge No. 1555, which later merged with Johnstown and Conemaugh Valley Lodges to become Greater Johnstown Lodge. Though in his 90’s and partially blind, Bro. Roberts attributes his longevity and well-being to staying active by helping totally blind patients at a local treatment center.

On Sept. 4, 2006, George Bartram-Paul Sand Lodge No. 298 observed their 125th Anniversary as a Masonic Lodge, when their founders met in their first Stated Meeting in the Masonic Temple on Chestnut Street in Philadelphia. On Oct. 28, 2006, the lodge celebrated at a banquet combined with the annual banquets of Lansdowne Lodge No. 711 and Springfield-Hanby Lodge No. 767.

Ronald A. Aurgast, Sr., R.W. Grand Master, recognized Bro. Walter M. Swine, P.M., of George Bartram-Paul Sand Lodge No. 298, for his dedicated and loyal Masonic service to his lodge and community. Bro. Swine is 99 years young and will have 75 years of Masonic Service in 2007 (shown above with Bro. Timothy T. Nowell, Worshipful Master of George Bartram-Paul Sand Lodge No. 298; and his Lady, Ian.).

The members of Masonic Lodge No. 299 held a Mortgage Burning Celebration at their new Lodge Hall, located on E. Penn Street, Muncy, Pa., on Oct. 1, 2006. A groundbreaking ceremony was conducted in 2001 and construction was completed in 2002 for this $600,000 structure, which houses the Lodge Room and Social Hall. Through numerous fund raising events and the financial support of the membership and friends, the mortgage has been eliminated.

The event was attended by more than 150 members and guests, at which time several members were recognized for their extraordinary efforts during the past six years during the capital campaign to eliminate the mortgage.

Left to right, Ronald A. Aurgast, Sr., R.W. Grand Master; Marty R. Brain, W.M., Muncy Lodge; Bro. Daniel C. Borringer, President of Muncy Bank and Trust Co., Bro. Roger D. Jarrett, Vice President of Muncy Masonic Temple Association; and Kenneth W. McCluskey, D.D.G.M., of the 18th Masonic District.

Pictured left to right with Bro. George N. White (seated) are Bros. Dean Sips, Kenneth Gillam, Edwin D. Morgan, Larry Harpster, Kenneth Harpster, James Vowder, Larry Harpster Jr. and Samuel Whitman.

...and Building toward Tomorrow

With showers (L to R): Rodney E. Boyce, D.D.G.M. of the 30th Masonic District; James Gillam, Sr., P.M., Marion Lodge No. 562; James H. G.ining, W.M., James Cochran Lodge No. 614; Brian E. Shick, W.M., Marion Lodge No. 552; James C. Hayes, W.M., King Solomon’s Lodge No. 340; and Alan P. Sandeky, P.M., King Solomon’s Lodge No. 346. President: CDS Building Corporation.

Standing (L to R): CDS Building Corporation Board Members Richard E. Bigley, P.M., Marion Lodge No. 562, Secretary; Robert H. Lynn, Sr., Cochran Lodge No. 614; Charles G. Eifman, P.M. (partially hidden) and Fred E. (Sam) Trout III, P.M., King Solomon’s Lodge No. 346; Karl E. Burkhardt, Sr., P.M., Marion Lodge No. 562; Matthew A. Christner, P.M. (hidden) and Elise H. (Alice) Christner, P.M., Cochran Lodge No. 614.

On Sept. 2, 2006, the first shovelfull of earth were removed from the site of the new Pleasant Valley Masonic Center in Bullock Township, Fayette County.

Ten years ago, members of King Solomon’s Lodge No. 346, Marion Lodge No. 562 and James Cochran Lodge No. 614 formed the CDS Building Corporation to raise $500,000 to construct a new Masonic Center. CDS’s President, Bro. Alan R. Sanadsky, told a crowd that the 6,000 sq. ft. facility, which will be built on five acres donated by Bro. Jeffrey Worthington, P.D.D.G.M., King Solomon’s Lodge No. 346 and his wife, Sharon, will also become Three Order of Eastern Star chapters and a chapter of Royal Arch Masons. The new center will be a single-floor, handicap-accessible building with an office/conference room, a large dining hall and warming kitchen, recreation and storage areas.

Rodney E. Boyce, District Deputy Grand Master of the 30th District, congratulated the lodges on their efforts, proclaiming it a historic day for the lodge, and stating that this new facility will quickly become a hub for community activity and service.

Robert Adamovich of Adamovich Design said that in designing the building he looked to Bro. George Washington’s home at Mt. Vernon. He said if Bro. Washington were to come to the area and wished to go to lodge here, maybe this would be the structure he’d be most comfortable with.
Civil War Buffs & Brothers

Ham-Ing It Up for Freemasonry!

Left to right: Bros. A. Lee Handy, Guide, Warren Park Lodge No. 613 (KB3APD); Ralph M. McCulaugh, P.M.; Henry A. Phillipa Lodge No. 337 (WATYFQ); James E. Arnold, P.M., Valley Lodge No. 51, S.W. (KB3VW); Warren A. Park, Entered Apprentice, Warren Park Lodge No. 613 (KB3MRN); Craig Kern, P.M., acting J.W., Germania Lodge No. 596 (KB3NHG); and Jerome W. Silverstein, P.M., Valley Lodge No. 612, Confrating W.M. (KB3PK).

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Serving their Community

Standing, left to right: Bros. Gurney Miller, Loman Paul, Bud Strause and Jim Hochgerth.

Kneeling, left to right: Bros. James Gayuski, John Brobst, Joseph Ademick and Karl Hamilton.


Honoring a Beloved Servant

At Crescendo Lodge No. 322’s 13th annual golf tournament at Hidden Valley Golf Course, the lodge renamed the tournament “the Kenneth R. Blankenhorn, P.M. Memorial Golf Tournament.” Bro. Ken was instrumental in organizing the event from preparation to securing sponsors and prizes for many years until his health started declining. Unique in many ways, it’s a local favorite for its catered buffet, complimentary door prizes for all and flight winner presentations.

Pennsylvania Brethren Travel to England

Bro. Mark Stavish, left, with Guy Ritchie, right.


On June 5, 2005, eight members of St. John’s Lodge No. 115, Philadelphia, traveled overseas to witness the installation of Bro. Adam Kravitse to the chair of Worshipful Master in Lodge of Perfect Light No. 7971, London. Bro. Kravitse has been a member of St. John’s Lodge since Feb. 15, 1993, and became a dual member with Lodge of Perfect Light in April 1999, after moving to London three years prior.

Eight members of St. John’s Lodge and some of their wives traveled to London to support Bro. Kravitse during his installation. While there, they enjoyed the history and sights of England.

Gathering of International Lodges Named St. Albans

The spirit and practice of Masonic ideals were again evident at the 53rd Gathering of International Lodges Named St. Albans, hosted by St. Alban Lodge No. 532, Philadelphia, and their wives were accompanied by Ronald A. Angst, St. R.W. Grand Master, and his lady, Norma, in attending this example of one of the finest hallmarks of Freemasonry, universal brotherhood and fraternal love. In keeping with Freemasonry’s commitment to charity, $5.00 of each attendee’s registration fee is donated to the restoration and maintenance fund for the chapel and crypt devoted to our lodges’ namesake within the cathedral at St. Albans, England.

Instituted and meeting since 1953, the Gathering is hosted each year by a different lodge from within the group of 31 lodges in seven countries bearing the name, or a relationship to “St. Albans” and was attended this year by about 100 brethren and their ladies. The three-day event was filled with meeting old friends, making new ones and a shared interest in the similarities and differences of Masonic ritual among the various jurisdictions.

Members representing St. Alban Lodge No. 529 have been attending the event regularly since 2001. The Philadelphia lodge hosted the Gathering in 2004, its 150th anniversary year, and has again committed to hosting Sept. 7-9, 2007. The events included a business meeting, a trip to the host lodge, a conferral of degrees; a Festive Board, which can best be described as fundamentally similar to Pennsylvania’s Table Lodge; a semi-formal banquet and dance; and a boat tour up and down the river Tyne. This event embodies the philosophy and intent of Freemasonry and that while our rituals, landmarks and traditions from the arks of Freemasonry, the members are the flesh and muscles that hold it together and move it forward.

THE PENNSYLVANIA FREEMASON  FEBRUARY 2007 23
Pennsylvania Masonic YOUTH FOUNDATION

“Best Program All Year”

Kenneit Lodge No. 475 in Kennett Square recently hosted a visit from Freedom Chapter, Order of DeMolay, which meets in Christianity. The chapter members were there to say “thank you” to Kennett Lodge and all the lodges in District 5 for helping to sponsor a member to the annual summer DeMolay Key Man Conference.

Eleven members, three advisors, two Moms and the Chapter Sweetheart were in attendance. The young men performed a flawless exemplification of the DeMolay opening and closing ritual ceremony and performed the Obligation a member takes upon joining. Approximately 30 lodge members were in attendance.

After the ritual, the Chapter Sweetheart was invited into the room and called upon to explain the Masonic Clock fundraiser the chapter created to raise money for themselves and their charity projects. She later sold six clocks. Each member of the chapter was introduced, stated his name and where he lived. The members of the lodge were engaged and afterward complimented the members on their ritual work.

During the final Question & Answer segment of the program, the lodge members asked numerous questions about DeMolay. Its history and its namesake, Jacques DeMolay, last Grand Master of the Knights Templar. Some of the Past Masters inquired about the details of sponsoring a chapter.

The Master Councillor of the chapter, Kris Walking, received a generous donation and an invitation to participate in various upcoming lodge events. After returing to the dining area for pizza, one lodge member was overheard telling the Worshipful Master, “Best program all year!”

DeMolay Honors “Dad” Williamson

Pennsylvania DeMolay honored Samuel C. Williamson, R.W.P.G.M., on Saturday, Dec. 2, 2006, when 32 new members were inducted at the “Dad” Williamson Class. An all-star team of DeMolays from across the state conferred the induction ceremonies. The program included a special luncheon and 80th birthday party for “Dad” Williamson.

“Dad” Williamson’s DeMolay experience began in McKinley Chapter that met in Plum Boro, near Pittsburgh. He served as Executive Officer for 13 years and is also a Grand Treasurer Emeritus of DeMolay International. He is the Founder and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Masonic Youth Foundation.

George B. Zeiner, P.M., Worshipful Master of Kennett Lodge No. 475, stands next to Master Councillor Kris Walking, surrounded by the members and Sweetheart of Freedom Chapter.

Bro. Bob as a 45-year member of Pennsylvania Freemasonry. He was entered into Lucas H. Scott Lodge No. 352 on March 13, Crafted on April 10 and Raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason on May 8, 1961.

Bro. Bob’s introduction to Freemasonry came from his involvement with DeMolay, which joined at the age of 19, on Feb. 21, 1959, as a Charter Member of Chester Chapter, Order of DeMolay. Bro. Bob was a DeMolay prodigy, for in just two short years, he had served as Master Councillor and Scribe of the chapter. He also received two key awards—the Representative DeMolay Award and Distinguished Service Award, and ultimately was honored as a recipient of the Degree of Chevalier.

Not long after he joined the lodge, he became Chapter Advisor of Chester Chapter, and led the chapter to national recognition as Chapter of the Year. The chapter had a reputation as one of the top chapters for many years. He served on the staff of many national DeMolay Leadership Conferences, and was renowned for his public speaking abilities and his ritualistic performances. He was awarded the Guild of the Leather Apron, also known as the Advisor of the Year Award, in 1966.

Bro. Bob served as District Deputy for DeMolay District 41 in the southeast corner of Pennsylvania for many years.

Bro. Bob also served as Director of Membership for New Jersey DeMolay in the mid-1970s for several years when they needed his expert services.

He has taught and written about his craft for many years. He is a court reporter for the San Diego Superior Court of California and to this day has avoided computerization, while still providing the fastest turn-around of court documents in the district.

Bro. Bob was congratulated as Honorary Member of the Supreme Council, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, with the 33° in 1979. He was a resident of Bournemouth and has lived in San Diego, Calif., for the past 26 years. While living in San Diego, he studied acting and starred in several plays. He is also a member of the Franklin Legacy Society.

Scholarships Available!

The annual scholarship program of the Pennsylvania Masonic Youth Foundation will select between 20 and 30 students to receive awards averaging $1,300 each. The annual program runs through March 15, 2007. When applications may be submitted.

The Masonic Scholarship Resource Guide for the 2007 program and the 2007 application are now available on the Internet at http://www.pymfandlodge.org/myfy or may be obtained by writing to PMYF Scholarships, 1244 Bainbridge Road, Elizabeth, PA 17022.

Call today to learn how you can get involved in leading our Masonic youth groups toward success!

FEBRUARY 2007
Our Newest Venture to Expand Retirement Services Across the Commonwealth...

Masonic Village at Erie!

The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, through the Masonic Villages, has been working with the leadership and membership of Zem Zem Shrine in Erie, Pa., to further Shrine Masons' and the Masonic Villages' mission in the northeast part of the Commonwealth. At Zem Zem Shrine's October Quarterly Meeting, the Nobility gave formal approval for the Masonic Villages to proceed with the proposed Masonic Village at Erie. The Committee on Masonic Homes echoed their support for exploring the possibility of developing the vision of the new community.

Plans move forward, the community would include various types of retirement living cottages and apartments, based on resident interest. The Zem Zem Shrine Center, built in 1984, could be renovated to provide additional services for Zem Zem members and residents of the Masonic Village at Erie. Residents would have access to a Clubhouse that could feature amenities such as an event hall, dining room, bistro, lounge, fitness center, library, ceramics and art rooms, hair care studios, convenience store, meeting rooms, and administrative offices. The Masonic Villages would negotiate preferred provider agreements with local healthcare providers to ensure residents access to quality services either in the Erie area or at any of the other Masonic Villages in Pennsylvania.

Living at the Masonic Village at Erie would provide future residents countless recreational opportunities within five miles of Lake Erie, Edinboro University, Erie Zoo, the Warren Theatre, Erie Art Museum, Millcreek Mall, Jerry Uht Ballpark, andtailioA;rum!

Presentations will be held at the Zem Zem Shrine Center, 2525 West 36th Street, Erie, PA 16506. Presentations will be held at 10 a.m., followed by a luncheon, or at 7 p.m., followed by light refreshments.

Mail coupon to: Marketing Office, Masonic Village, One Masonic Drive, Elizabethtown, PA 17022 or call toll-free (800) 676-6452

When a Loved One Needs Nursing Care...

The Masonic Village at Elizabethtown is here to help. The Masonic Health Care Center provides around-the-clock nursing care for up to 453 residents. Within the facility is the Lafayette Special Care Unit, which is specifically designed to provide individualized care for residents with Alzheimer's disease and other related dementia.

Subacute care and rehabilitative services, such as physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy, can also be provided on a short-term basis for residents who wish to return to their homes.

If you or a loved one find yourself in need of long-term nursing care or a rehabilitation stay, call the Admissions Office at (800) 422-1207 to inquire about availability.

Masonic Village at Dallas

Now Reserving for 2007 Occupancy!

Late last year, future residents and friends of Masonic Village at Dallas gathered to celebrate the start of recent construction on the grounds of the Iron Country Club, following receipt of approval for its Planned Residential Development and conditional final plan approval from the local municipality of Dallas Township.

The Masonic Village at Dallas will be an adult active retirement community, with its first phase offering 45 apartments and 38 cottages featuring various floor plans. The master plan for the community includes future possible development of up to 222 additional retirement living accommodations, based on demand, as well as future enhancements to the country club buildings and grounds. The community's initial residents are expected to move into several of the first cottages in mid-January 2007 with completion of phase one anticipated in July 2007.

Retirement living residents will enjoy a dynamic lifestyle within a secure environment without all the worries of home maintenance responsibilities. Residents will not only gain access to the area's premier retirement community, but they will also have preferred access to designated health care facilities, as well as any of the Masonic Village health care facilities across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The Dallas community is also collaborating with area businesses and professionals to establish relationships to ensure every resident is afforded the opportunity for recreational, wellness, cultural, educational and social outreach programs.

Future residents who attended the luncheon, such as Bro. Bob and Anne Rebenack, shown to the left, received a groundbreaking photo taken with Ronald A. Aungst, Sr., P.W. Grand Master, and his wife, Norma, as a keepsake of this momentous occasion.

To learn more about Masonic Village at Dallas, contact the Administrative Office at (866) 851-4243.
Our Lafayette Hill Retirement Family is Growing!

The Masonic Village at Lafayette Hill, formerly known as The Masonic Home of Pennsylvania, was established on May 6, 1871, and joined the Masonic Villages on Jan. 1, 2004. We have been caring for members and their families for over 125 years! Renovations are complete in our nursing and our assisted living areas. We are pleased to announce that our 21 new apartments in Phase II of our renovation project will be ready for occupancy in the spring of 2007. While most of these apartments have been reserved, there are a few left for immediate reservation and you are highly encouraged to call today if you might be interested. Pre-marketing of 85 additional deluxe apartment accommodations is underway, with the completion of Phase III expected in 2008.

We invite you to join us for one of our monthly presentations, which includes an informative seminar and a tour of our retirement community. For more information on upcoming presentations on retirement living, please call the Marketing Office at (610) 382-5760 or complete and mail the coupon to the left. Or, if you prefer, call and schedule a personal tour to see all the changes. Just don't delay! Call today!

Masonic Village at Sewickley - The Popular Choice in Western PA

"M"aybe I should wait until I am not as healthy." Welcome to the biggest myth for retirees considering a move to a retirement community. As the popularity of retirement community living grows in all time-high, it is always surprising to hear these words.

On the other side of that coin, the Sewickley marketing team notes, it is not unusual to contact someone who had previously expressed an interest and is now suffering a health change that no longer allows him to make the move. This can happen at age 65 or at age 85.

The fact is that Masonic Village at Sewickley is now almost fully occupied or reserved. Residents are attending computer classes, traveling to concerts, the zoo and festivals, hosting lectures and other gatherings for social events. There is so much going on that even one new resident almost canceled her winter pilgrimage to Florida feeling that she might miss too much.

There are numerous reasons why retirement communities have become such a popular option. Many residents have moved back to the Pittsburgh area from out of state. Some have moved from town or across the river. While their backgrounds vary, the village’s residents share a lot of similarities.

Maintaining a home is no longer a desirable burden; protecting your financial and health future becomes a priority, and the idea of discovering meaningful friendships becomes very appealing. This is why retirement communities are developing long waiting lists. The lifestyle concept is why Masonic Village at Sewickley is leading the way in Western Pennsylvania.

If you have not toured the village, you owe it to yourself to experience the lifestyle everyone is talking about. Call us at (866) 872-6604 to schedule a personal tour or to make a reservation for our LifeCare Seminar on Feb. 20 at 10 a.m., or our Open House on March 29 at 10 a.m.

Elizabethtown Masonic Village Resident Bro. Carl Walz Shares his Awakening...

W ell, my wife (Jacqueline) and I moved into a cottage at the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown in November 2004. On Jan. 11, 2006, while on a Masonic Village trip to the Pennsylvania Farm Show, my wife suffered a stroke and was transported by ambulance to Milton Hershey Medical Center. After a very long day in the ER and my wife about to be admitted, I was ready to go home, but had no way to get there. I called a friend and neighbor; and in a very short time, both Ray and Bob came to take me home. The true story begins here.

Sitting in the back seat, extremely upset and sobbing at what had happened so suddenly, I thanked my friends for being so supportive in my time of need. "That’s what we all about,” came a reply from the front seat. Because of the state of my psyche at that time, it did not really sink in what the reply meant, and only later after a continuum of events did the full meaning occur to me. My wife had suffered a neurologic event. It was an epiphany for me. My wife had some very serious neurologic problems, and the weeks that followed had many peaks and valleys, but the sustaining influences during this very difficult time was the many acts of kindness of friends, acquaintances, staff and others in the village. Can you imagine the Chief Operating Officer calling to offer help? There were many offers of food and libations, numerous cards and inquiries and always feeling someone was there to help in a time of need. It was an epiphany for me.

It was very difficult, if not impossible, to meaningfully explain what it feels like as a septuagenarian to discover a better and more fundamental understanding of Freemasonry. It came to me suddenly and unexpectedly. Perhaps one must feel it to even begin to understand it. So, what’s it like at Elizabethtown in a community of strangers? There are no strangers: only a village of Freemasons filled with the real meaning of the fraternity.

Bro. Walz is a member of Joseph H. Brown Lodge No. 751. For additional information on Retirement Living at the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown, including the new Sycamore Apartments to be built adjacent to the Sycamore Square marketplace, please call the Marketing Office toll-free at (800) 676-6452.

Military Presentations were the Theme for Widow's Night

L ower Manor Lodge No. 781, at its June 13 Stated Meeting, presented an evening of entertainment for the ladies and widows of the lodge. The speakers were Mrs. Rae Graybill (widow of Bro. Harvey Graybill) and Bro. Vaughn L. Schwalm. Mrs. Graybill gave an interesting and enlightening speech on her experiences as a "Rosie the Riveter" during WWII. She displayed memorabilia which she has collected through the years depicting "Rosie the Riveter," and answered questions from the ladies.

Bro. Schwalm is a Master Sergeant Flight Engineer on EC-130E aircraft at the 19th SOW, Harrisburg International Airport in Middletown, PA. Schwalm showed a 45-minute Discovery Channel program titled "Commando Solo: Afghan Skies," depicting the 1939 while they deployed to a desert location, flying psychological operation missions over Afghanistan.

Brethren, what do you have planned for the widows of YOUR lodge during the months of April, May or June?