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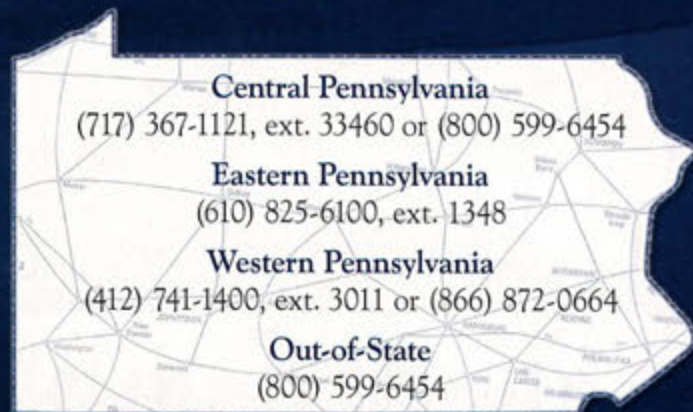
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| 80 | 8.2% | 80 & 85 | 7.5% |
| 85 | 9.7% | 85 & 90 | 8.6% |
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*Rates reflect changes recommended by the Office of Gift Planning for all Charitable Gift Annuities written on or after July 1, 2006. Some restrictions apply.

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

- ☐ Send me your brochure on Gift Annuities.
- ☐ Send me a sample Gift Annuity illustration based on the following information:
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*If you are considering a gift of appreciated stock, please estimate your cost basis: \$ _____
- ☐ Contact me to discuss a possible Gift Annuity with a Masonic Charity.
- ☐ Send me information about the Franklin Legacy Society.
- ☐ I/We have remembered the following Masonic Charity(ies) in my/our estate plan: _____

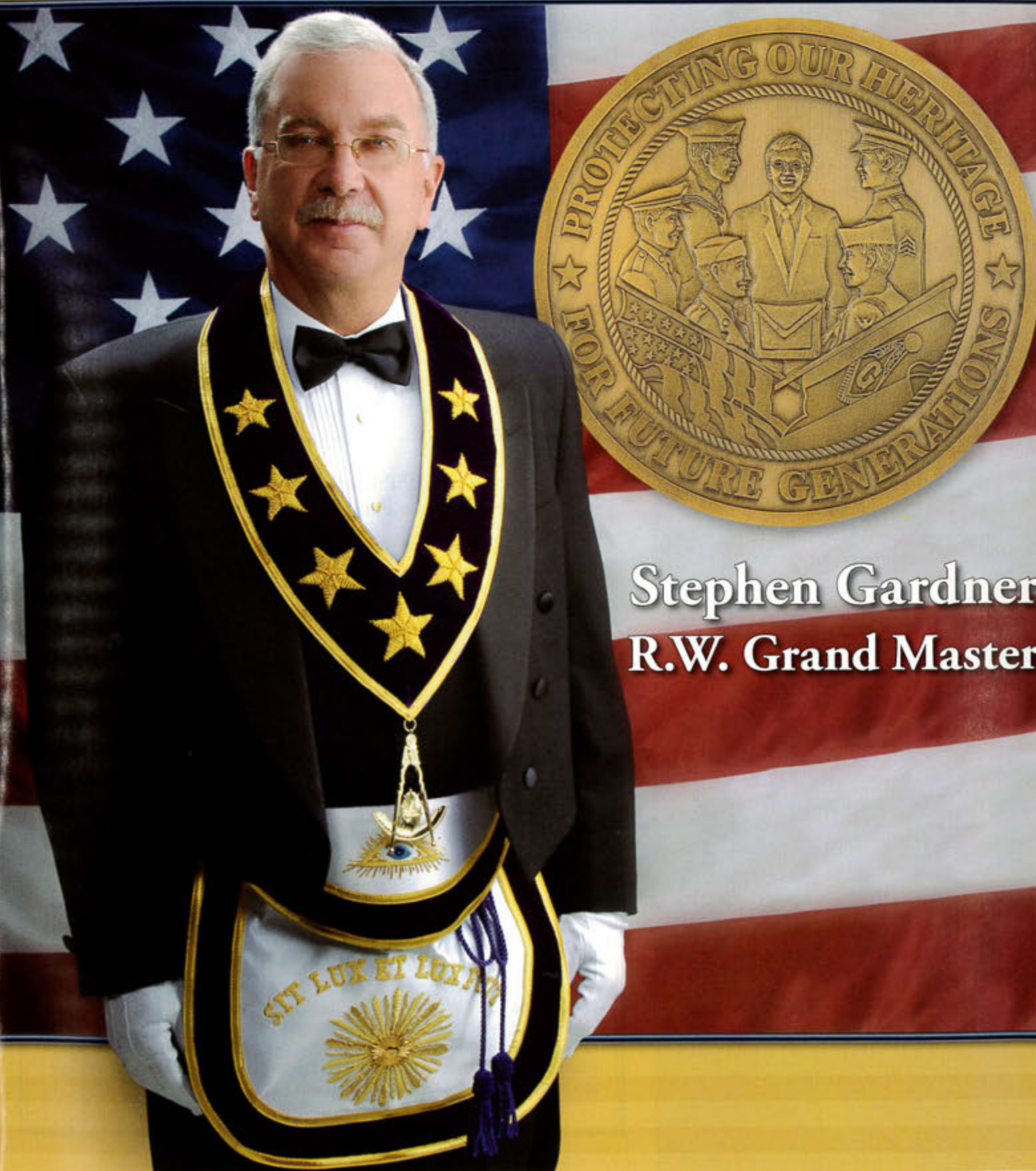
Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone () _____

E-mail Address: _____



Stephen Gardner
R.W. Grand Master

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THE PENNSYLVANIA FREEMASON®

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of Pennsylvania

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Publication Schedule for The Pennsylvania Freemason

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|---------------|-------------------|
| May 2008 | February 16, 2008 |
| August 2008 | May 16, 2008 |
| November 2008 | August 15, 2008 |
| February 2009 | November 7, 2008 |
| May 2009 | February 13, 2009 |
| August 2009 | May 19, 2009 |
| November 2009 | August 17, 2009 |

The Pennsylvania FREEMASON

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are correct and complete.

Stephen Gardner, Editor

STEPHEN GARDNER

117TH RIGHT WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER

Stephen Gardner, a Past Master of Porter Lodge No. 284, North
Catasauqua, and Past District Deputy Grand Master of Masonic
District 10, was installed Dec. 27, 2007, as the 117th R.W. Grand
Master of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

Bro. Gardner, 56, the son of the late Harold and Mary Gardner,
was born in Philadelphia and grew up in Darby. Three months
before graduating from Darby-Colwyn High School, Darby, he
enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served during the Vietnam War. He
served from 1969-1973 as a member of the Naval Security Group,
Naval Intelligence, and then in the Naval Reserves until 1975.

"Since my Dad was in the Navy, I had always envisioned
serving," he said. "For me, it was not a question of if, but when."

His military experience having sparked his interest in an up-
and-coming profession, he went on to attend East Stroudsburg State
College under the GI Bill, graduating with a Bachelor of Science
degree in Computer Science. "I was stationed with an amazing
number of teacher-types, skilled particularly in arithmetic. I almost
became a teacher, like my wife."

Employed by Mack Trucks/Volvo Information Technology since
1977, Bro. Gardner is a Project Manager/Project Leader, providing
support services for the Materials and Manufacturing areas of Mack
Trucks and Volvo AB Trucks North America. His community
service has included serving as his department's Chairman for
the United Fund Drive, as treasurer of the Catasauqua High
School Soccer Booster Club and coaching youth soccer
teams in Catasauqua and Whitehall.

Bro. Gardner is a member of Catasauqua Presbyterian
Church, where he has served as a member and Past
Moderator of the Board of Deacons, on the Business
Affairs Committee and Nominating Committee and as a
member of the Presbyterian Men of Catasauqua.

He and Patricia (Lulias) Gardner were married
on June 8, 1974. Patricia is a teacher at Saint Michael
the Archangel School in Colesville, and is a Sunday
School teacher and a member of Saint Nicholas
Greek Orthodox Church, Bethlehem. She
served as a Junior Girl Scout Leader for
23 years, as Service Unit Director of the
Catasauqua Girl Scouts and as Archery
Instructor, Craft Instructor and Assistant
Camp Director for Girl Scout Day
Camp. She also instructed crafts and
was Director of Cub Scout Day Camp.
Her other interests include bowling,
reading and crocheting. She is a past
member of Parent Organizations in
Catasauqua area schools.

The Gardners are the proud
parents of two sons, Brothers John
Stephen Gardner and Peter Stephen
Gardner. Bro. John is married to
Bethany Joy (Yoder) Gardner, a
teacher, who gave birth to their
first child, Alexis, on Nov. 27,
2007. Bro. John works at Volvo
Powertrain, Inc., Hagerstown,
Md., as a Product Engineer.

He is a Senior DeMolay and will also be serving as Worshipful
Master of George Washington Lodge No. 143, Chambersburg, for
the 2008 Masonic year. Bro. John is also a Plural member of Porter
Lodge No. 284.

Bro. Peter is a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force. He
recently graduated as an Electronic Weapons Officer at Randolph
Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, and is currently stationed at
Offutt Air Force Base in Omaha, Neb., serving on board an RC-135
aircraft. He also is a Senior DeMolay and a member of Porter Lodge
No. 284.

Grand Master Gardner's recreational interests include hunting,
fishing, bowling (he has been a member of a Masonic bowling league)
and skydiving. Yes, Bro. Gardner has gone sky diving four times at
Freefall Adventures, Williamstown, N.J., with his sons.





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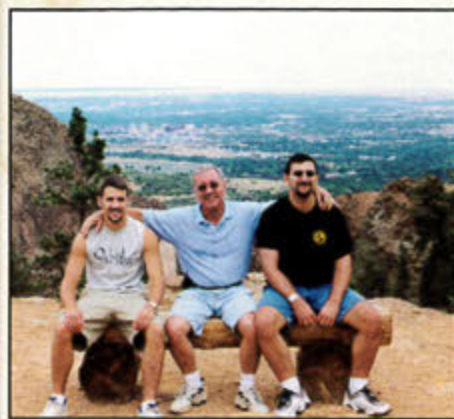


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13.

1. Naval Graduation
2. Bro. Stephen Gardner as Worshipful Master of Porter Lodge No. 284 in 1987
3. Commissioning of Bro. Peter Gardner, 2nd Lt., U.S. Air Force, left to right: Bethany and Bro. John Gardner, Bro. Seamus McCaffery, Peter Gardner, and Patricia and Stephen Gardner
4. Stephen Gardner, District Deputy Grand Master of District 10, 1992-1998
5. Bro. John Gardner with the late Bro. Ed Brown, P.M., on April 20, 2001, when Bro. John received his 3rd Degree. During Grand Master Gardner's term, a chair will be reserved in Grand Lodge, in memory of Bro. Ed Brown, a Past Master of Porter Lodge, who was a very dear friend of the entire Gardner family.
6. Deep Sea Fishing at Wildwood Crest, N.J., 1984
7. Wildwood Crest, N.J., 1984
8. Our favorite granddaughter, Alexis Evanthia Gardner, the day she was born
9. Family vacation to Seven Falls, Colo., in September 2002
10. Bro. John Gardner received his 3rd degree from his dad, Bro. Stephen Gardner, on April 20, 2001
11. The wedding of Bro. John Gardner and Bethany Yoder on June 3, 2006
12. Stephen and Patricia's wedding on June 8, 1974, with Bro. Stephen's parents, the late Harold and Mary Gardner
13. December 2003



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14. Pete, Steve and John at Seven Falls Colo., Sept. 1, 2002
 15. Family Vacation to Pike's Peak, Colo., Aug. 31, 2002
 16. Peter receiving his wings, Sept. 14, 2007, in Texas
 17. Washington D.C., May 1985
 18. "Three Bums": John, Steve and Pete, Halloween 1983
 19. Family Portrait, August 1982
 20. Our Wedding, with Pat's Parents Anthony and Stella Lulias, June 8, 1974
 21. John and Pete, Birthday Party 1983
 22. How We Stay Happily Married!



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23. Steve on a Motorcycle in Kamiseya, Japan in 1970
 24. Pete Gardner, 3rd Degree with Grand Lodge Officers, Oct. 18, 2002
 25. Presentation of Steve at Porter Lodge No. 284 as R.W.J.G.W., January 2002
 26. Steve Receiving the DeMolay Legion of Honor, July 19, 2003
 27. Steve's Presentation at Porter Lodge as R.W.J.G.W., January 2002
 28. Steve Receiving His 33rd degree at Grand Rapids, MI, August 2005
 29. John, Bethany and Grandpup "Nikki"
 30. Pete Gardner Receiving His EA degree, Sept. 27, 2002
 31. Attending the Annual Grand, December 2001
 32. Alexis Evanthia Gardner, came into the world at 7 lbs., 21" long on Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2007, at 6:53 a.m.



32.



Sky Diving at Freefall Adventures, N.J., August 2001

R.W. Grand Master Stephen Gardner's Masonic Record

Porter Lodge No. 284
Raised (Oct. 9, 1981)
Worshipful Master (1987)
Representative in Grand Lodge (1999-2001)
Porter-Chapman Hall and Temple Association (1985-1987)

10th Masonic District
District Deputy Grand Master (1992-1998)
Co-Chairman for the 10th Masonic District Blood Donor Club (1999-2001)

Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania
R.W. Deputy Grand Master (2006-2007)
R.W. Senior Grand Warden (2004-2005)
R.W. Junior Grand Warden (2002-2003)
Committee on Landmarks (2002-present)
Committee on Appeals (2000-2001)
Committee on Finance (2002-present)
Committee on Masonic Homes (2002-present)
Masonic Homes Admissions, Home Assistance and Resident Services Sub-Committee (2002-2003)
Masonic Homes Building and Grounds Sub-Committee (2002-present)
Masonic Homes Human Resources Sub-Committee (2002-present)
Grand Lodge Committee on Preservation of Monuments - Chairman (2006-2007)
Masonic Charities Capital Campaign Steering Committee (2007-present)
Membership Services Committee Board of Directors (2005-present)
Committee on The Pennsylvania Freemason (2002-present)
Masonic Library and Museum Board of Directors (2002-present)
Masonic Homes Gift Planning Sub-Committee (2004-2005)
Committee on Masonic Education and Training (2000-2001)
Committee on the John Wanamaker Research Center Chairman (2002-2003)

Administrators of the Pension Plan Chairman (2002-2003)
Subordinate Lodge Loan Committee (2002-present)
Grand Lodge Technical Advisor (1996-1997)
R.W. Grand Master's District Deputy Grand Master's Resource Committee (2000-2001)

Other Masonic Affiliated Bodies
Catasauqua Royal Arch Chapter No. 278
Past High Priest (1988)
Trustee, Grievance Committee
Excelsior Mark Lodge
Lehigh Valley Joshua Society
Past President
Allen-Beauceant Commandery No. 20, Allentown
Allen Council No. 23, Royal and Select Master Masons, Allentown Valley of Allentown
33° August 2005
Occasional Cast Member
Mary Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine, Allentown
Lu Lu Shriner, A.A.O.N.M.S., Plymouth Meeting
Pennsylvania Lodge of Research
William Allen No. 176, York Rite Sovereign College of North America
Lehigh Valley High-12
Masonic Veterans of Pennsylvania
Royal Order of Scotland
Lux en Tenebris Council No. 176, Allied Masonic Degrees

Honors
DeMolay Legion of Honor
Order of the Purple Cross

A Message from the Grand Master

Brethren:

It is my great privilege and honor to serve you as Grand Master for 2008-2009.

My theme for the next two years is two-fold. You'll notice the words on my medallion, "Protecting Our Heritage for Future Generations." This is meaningful and important to me for a number of reasons. First, as a Mason, I believe that we owe it not only to our forefathers, but to our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren to pass along the values we stand for as members of the oldest and largest fraternity in the world. Secondly, as an American and a veteran, I understand and appreciate the sacrifice our military men and women make to keep our country safe from harm and to maintain our freedom. In the same manner, we must prepare Pennsylvania Freemasonry for future generations by reestablishing our ritualistic standards, increasing communication, rejuvenating our lodges and therefore, coming together in unanimity to strengthen our brotherhood.

My personal pride in the selfless and courageous work of our military is clearly displayed on my medallion. The five men in World War II era uniforms depict enlisted servicemen in each of the five branches of our military. The Marine is a depiction of my grandfather, John Gardner, circa 1910. The sailor is likened to my father, Bro. Harold R. Gardner. Representing the Coast Guard is Bro. Paul (Augie) Hirschel, a Past Master of Porter Lodge No. 284. The Airman portrays my youngest son, Bro. Peter Gardner, a 2nd Lieutenant U.S.A.F. currently serving in Omaha, Neb., a member of Porter Lodge No. 284. The soldier depicts my father-in-law, Bro. Anthony J. Lulias, Lodge No. 9. In the center is a Master Mason, resembling my oldest son, John, a member of Porter Lodge No. 284 and George Washington Lodge No. 143. The American and Masonic flags crossed at the bottom symbolize the tie between Freemasonry, the founding of our country, and patriotism.

The medallion represents the guiding principles we abide by today... as Americans and Freemasons, we have inherited a strong legacy which we are responsible to uphold, augment and impart to future generations. I feel strongly that we must remember, honor and thank those who have given us the freedoms we have today, and that it is our responsibility to ensure that the sacrifices they have and continue to make for our liberty are not in vain. Similarly, if we fail to enable our Masonic heritage to thrive well into the future, then we have not fulfilled our duty and obligation.

The logo you will see used throughout my term is a star formed by the word "Freemasonry." It is symbolic, and yet underneath it is a quote from Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe (1749-1832), a German writer whose words convey the precise message we all need to embrace: "What you have inherited from your forefathers, earn over again for yourselves, or it will not remain yours."

We must work to preserve, strengthen, grow and yes, re-earn our heritage the same way our military re-earns our freedom. We cannot take it for granted, as the future truly is in our hands. What the future holds for Pennsylvania Freemasonry is up to each and every one of us.

Are YOU willing to Earn it Again?

If so, I ask you to join me in efforts to improve communication, revitalize our lodges and continue to welcome good men into our brotherhood. I will encourage all lodges to utilize an efficient and effective voice broadcasting system to increase participation, and will offer a new tie, featuring the Earn it Again star, to first-line signers of candidates' applications. I will invite all of our brethren across the state to take part in the passing of our Unity Gavel throughout the Commonwealth, a reminder that our fraternity is more than 120,200 men strong... making a commitment that together, we will work toward Protecting our Heritage for Future Generations.

Each time you leave a lodge meeting, you will see a container with an American flag graphic and the words "Change for the Troops." Take time to remember our troops in harm's way by contributing your pocket change toward the purchase of calling cards, so they know Pennsylvania Masons appreciate their willingness to Earn it Again.

And at the same time, devote yourself to the same challenge.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Stephen Gardner
R.W. Grand Master





**Right Worshipful
Deputy Grand Master**



**Thomas K. Sturgeon
and his wife, Joan**

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.

**Right Worshipful
Senior Grand Warden**



**Jay W. Smith
and his wife, Nancy**

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 eight grandchildren. They are members of Chiques United Methodist Church, where he has served as a Sunday School Teacher and Youth Coordinator.

**Right Worshipful
Junior Grand Warden**



**Robert J. Bateman
and his wife, Joanne**

Bro. Robert J. Bateman will be presented as R.W. Junior Grand Warden on Jan. 21. He is a Past Master of Springfield-Hanby Lodge No. 767 and served as District Deputy Grand Master of the 36th Masonic District. He has served as District Masonic Education Chairman, Representative in Grand Lodge and as an instructor in the School of Instruction. He is a member of Howell Royal Arch Chapter No. 202, Allen Council Royal and Select Master Masons No. 23, Allen-Beauceant Commandery No. 20, Valley of Philadelphia, Lu Lu Shriners and the Delaware County Shrine Club. He is also a member of the Masonic Veterans of Pennsylvania, Masonic Blood Donor Club and Pennsylvania Masonic Shield and Square Club.

Bro. Bateman served in the U.S. Active Army Reserves. He retired from the Upper Darby School District after 35 years, last serving as Coordinator for Custodial Services.

Bro. Bateman became a volunteer firefighter at the age of sixteen and is currently a life member of Upper Darby Fire Company Station 3. He is a member of American Legion Post 214 and the Chapel of the Four Chaplains. He was a coach of both Youth Flag Football and Little League Baseball, and was Treasurer and later President of the Transport Workers Union Local 289 AFL/CIO.

Bro. Bateman and his wife, Joanne, live in Upper Darby, Pa. They have three children and one granddaughter. He is a member of Covenant United Methodist Church, where he serves as a consultant for custodial needs and chemical safety. Through his church, he is also a member of the Life Center Feeding Program Team, which helps feed the homeless and others in the community.

**Right Worshipful
Grand Treasurer**



**Jeffrey W. Coy
and his wife, Jo Anne**

Bro. Coy is a Past Master and past Trustee of Cumberland Valley Lodge No. 315. He has been the Choir Director for the Valley of Harrisburg A.A.S.R., and is an Active Member of the Supreme Council, 33° for Pennsylvania. 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. In 2004, Bro. Coy was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Public Service from Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania.

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 over 30 years.

**Right Worshipful
Grand Secretary**



**Mark A. Haines
and his wife, Karen**

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, 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.

Newly Appointed Floor Officers



SENIOR GRAND DEACON
Robert J. Bateman Jr.
Lodge No. 767, District 36



JUNIOR GRAND DEACON
Edwin T. Young
Lodge No. 284, District 10



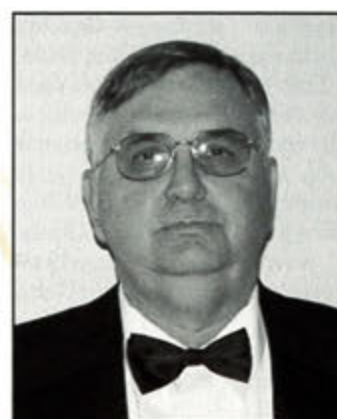
GRAND STEWARD
Bryan K. Fritz
Lodge No. 284, District 10



GRAND STEWARD
George Nakonetschny
Lodge No. 806, District 8
Lodge No. 245, District 8

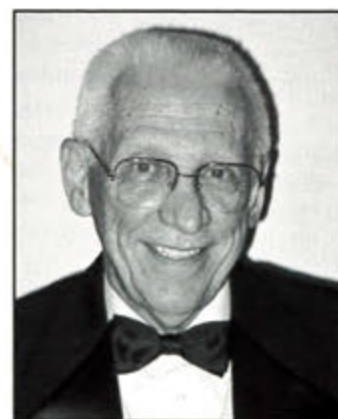


GRAND SWORD BEARER
John S. Gardner
Lodge No. 284, District 10
Lodge No. 143, District 3



GRAND PURSUIVANT
Kenneth Rinear
Lodge No. 512, District 10
Lodge No. 295, District E

Aides to the Grand Master



Donald E. Altrichter
Lodge No. 440, District 10



Peter S. Gardner
Lodge No. 284, District 10

Newly Appointed District Deputy Grand Masters



MASONIC DISTRICT B
Thomas Hopkins
Lodge No. 712
Presentation: Feb. 7, 2008



MASONIC DISTRICT D
David Tansey
Lodge No. 506
Presentation: Jan. 10, 2008



MASONIC DISTRICT 8
Carl L. Swope
Lodge No. 245
Presentation: Jan. 17, 2008



MASONIC DISTRICT 13
Darwin L. Shoener, Jr.
Lodge No. 291
Presentation: Jan. 16, 2008



MASONIC DISTRICT 19
Gregory L. Latchford
Lodge No. 319
Presentation: Jan. 8, 2008



MASONIC DISTRICT 34
Robert C. Snyder II
Lodge No. 774
Presentation: Jan. 11, 2008



MASONIC DISTRICT 36
Ricky L. Swalm
Lodge No. 625
Presentation: Jan. 30, 2008



MASONIC DISTRICT 52
William Hazlet III
Lodge No. 521
Presentation: Nov. 12, 2007



MASONIC DISTRICT 53
Gordon Hensel
Lodge No. 575
Presentation: Feb. 8, 2008



MASONIC DISTRICT 57
Douglas L. Heinz
Lodge No. 269
Presentation: Jan. 19, 2008



MASONIC DISTRICT 58
Robert C. Briggs
Lodge No. 737
Presentation: Feb. 13, 2008

Unity Box and Gavel

This box, the Unity Box, is built of wood from trees in each of our 58 Masonic Districts across the entire state of Pennsylvania, as well as from England, the home of our Mother Grand Lodge, symbolically reflecting our fraternal heritage and Masonic roots.

Each piece of wood is as unique as each of our districts, with its own individual identity, character, strengths and weaknesses. On the top of the box, each district is individually depicted and readily identifiable by the wood from that district. Yet as if part of a jigsaw puzzle, each piece is integral to completing the overall picture of Pennsylvania Freemasonry.

This masterpiece is the work of Brothers Greg Miller and Nick Smith of Slatington Lodge No. 440.

The box will house the Unity Gavel, (shown to the right), identical to the gavel Stephen Gardner, R.W. Grand Master, will use during his term as Grand Master.

In the foundation of the box is where all individual districts in our great jurisdiction come together in unanimity. Symbolically, this is where one brother is bound to another, supporting every brother Master Mason. Here, each individual serves to make the others stronger and to support the whole; their combined strength is greater than that of their individual selves. While each piece of wood retains its individuality, it unites to form one box to hold the gavel. Similarly, we are each an integral member of the oldest and largest fraternity in the world, bringing our own unique strengths to our brotherhood, sharing the responsibility for Protecting Our Heritage for Future Generations.

The Unity Box and Unity Gavel will travel on a journey throughout the entire state of Pennsylvania. The Unity Gavel was first used by Grand Master Gardner in Philadelphia in Grand Lodge on Dec. 27, 2007, and will conclude its travels in Grand Lodge on Dec. 28, 2009, in Pittsburgh. Their Masonic travels will take them to every district, with a goal to be in every one of our 440 Blue Lodges in Pennsylvania during the 2008 and 2009 Masonic years. This is an extremely ambitious and challenging schedule, which Bro. Ralph Slider, District Deputy Grand Master of District 10, has graciously volunteered to arrange.

The traveling schedule of the Unity Box and Gavel will be advertised both in The Pennsylvania Freemason magazine, as well as online on the Grand Lodge Web site, www.pagrandlodge.org. Grand Master Gardner also requests that lodges advertise the arrival of the Unity Gavel and Box in their lodge notices as well, so that the brethren make a special effort to attend their lodge for the meeting when they will be visiting. The Unity Gavel is to be used as part of the regular business of the lodge, but more especially, to be passed around the lodge room, so that every brother at that meeting may have it in his possession, even if it is only for a moment. Each brother will therefore be handling the same gavel shared at every lodge across the Commonwealth, as a reminder of our connection and unity.

The physical travels of this gavel and this box will symbolically serve to ever remind us that we, as individual Freemasons, Blue Lodges and Masonic Districts, have a direct connection with every brother, every lodge and every Masonic district across this great jurisdiction and throughout our world.

Physically, the gavel will only be in your

hands ever so briefly... symbolically, so is the time very brief that we have to protect our heritage as Masons and Americans for those generations yet to be. We must Earn it Again!

A Gift from the Heart

When your lodge receives the Unity Box and Gavel, you may want to take a second glance at the wood used for District 10, for it was given from the heart.

Ralph H. Slider, Sr., District Deputy Grand Master for District 10, wasn't sure where to get a nice piece of wood to represent his district on the Unity Box. Living in an apartment, he and his wife do not have access to a tree in their backyard from which he could cut a limb. Fortunately, Bro. Ralph's daughter, Kathi S. Dye, and grandson, Eric Michael, live nearby in a home with a large yard. One day, Bro. Ralph and Eric went walking through the yard looking for a nice piece of wood to cut off one of the trees for the Unity Box. Not having much success, Bro. Ralph said, "I don't know what I'm going to do... I guess I'll have to look elsewhere."

Eric replied, "No, wait." He soon returned with his birdhouse and said, "Take this." Bro. Ralph was hesitant to accept such a personal gift from the young boy, but Eric insisted.

Perhaps Eric was willing to give up his birdhouse for the fraternity in honor of his father, who had been a member before passing away six years ago when Eric was just 4. Bro. Slider had given his son-in-law, Michael Jamie Christopher Dye, all three degrees almost a year before he succumbed to cancer, making Kathi a young Masonic widow.

Eric is already following in his dad's, his grandfather's and his uncle's footsteps (Bro. Slider's son, Ralph Jr., is also a member of Greenleaf Lodge No. 561, Allentown). On Nov. 5, Greenleaf Lodge celebrated its 125th anniversary during the lodge's annual banquet, which is always held the Monday before Election Day. This year, it just so happened that the date of the annual banquet fell on then-Worshipful Master Brian S. Timms' birthday, which is also Eric's birthday! The brethren, whom included some of the Grand Lodge Officers, sang "Happy Birthday" to both Bro. Timms and to Eric, who attended as a guest of Bro. Slider.

Now, wouldn't his father be proud?



Schedule for the Travel of the Unity Box and Gavel

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| January 1 - Open Dist. 9 No. 283, Close Dist. 50 No. 325 | February 7 - Open Dist. 45 No. 621, Close Dist. 7 No. 435 | March 13 - Open Dist. 45 No. 677, Close Dist. 10 No. 512 |
| January 3 - Open Dist. 50 No. 594, Close Dist. 9 No. 152 | February 11 - Open Dist. 15 No. 341, Close Dist. 12 No. 442 | March 14 - Open & Close Dist. 13 No. 597 |
| January 4 - Open & Close Dist. 10 No. 284 | February 12 - Open Dist. 12 No. 474, Close Dist. 15 No. 338 | March 18 - Open Dist. 16 No. 163, Close Dist. 16 No. 70 |
| January 7 - Open & Close Dist. 7 No. 62 | February 13 - Open Dist. 15 No. 240, Close Dist. 12 No. 395 | March 19 - Open & Close Dist. 14 No. 344 |
| January 8 - Open Dist. 10 No. 469, Close Dist. 9 No. 396 | February 14 - Open Dist. 12 No. 541, Close Dist. 15 No. 445 | April 1 - Open Dist. 59 No. 301, Close Dist. 14 No. 542 |
| January 9 - Open Dist. 9 No. 637, Close Dist. 50 No. 780 | February 15 - Open & Close Dist. 16 No. 418 | April 2 - Open & Close Dist. 14 No. 249 |
| January 10 - Open Dist. 50 No. 413, Close Dist. 50 No. 311 | February 16 - Open & Close Dist. 16 No. 471 | April 3 - Open Dist. 14 No. 218, Close Dist. 13 No. 291 |
| January 11 - Open & Close Dist. 10 No. 720 | February 18 - Open Dist. 16 No. 618, Close Dist. 35 No. 265 | April 4 - Open & Close Dist. 14 No. 466 |
| January 14 - Open Dist. 50 No. 622, Close Dist. 45 No. 467 | February 19 - Open Dist. 35 No. 224, Close Dist. 16 No. 415 | April 7 - Open & Close Dist. 35 No. 354 |
| January 15 - Open Dist. 45 No. 611, Close Dist. 9 No. 567 | February 20 - Open & Close Dist. 16 No. 108 | April 8 - Open Dist. 13 No. 588, Close Dist. 59 No. 233 |
| January 16 - Open Dist. 9 No. 648, Close Dist. 45 No. 238 | February 21 - Open & Close Dist. 7 No. 479 | April 10 - Open Dist. 7 No. 406, Close Dist. 7 No. 549 |
| January 17 - Open Dist. 10 No. 561, Close Dist. 10 No. 440 | February 27 - Open & Close Dist. 50 No. 628 | April 14 - Open Dist. 14 No. 330, Close Dist. 13 No. 345 |
| January 18 - Open & Close Dist. 59 No. 468 | March 3 - Open Dist. 12 No. 61, Close Dist. 12 No. 531 | April 15 - Open Dist. 10 No. 673, Close Dist. 10 No. 792 |
| January 19 - Open & Close Dist. 7 No. 377 | March 4 - Open Dist. 12 No. 655, Close Dist. 35 No. 349 | May 1 - Open & Close Dist. 59 No. 499 |
| January 21 - Open & Close Dist. 7 No. 660 | March 5 - Open & Close Dist. 35 No. 462 | May 5 - Open Dist. 13 No. 339, Close Dist. 13 No. 584 |
| January 22 - Open & Close Dist. 10 No. 326 | March 6 - Open & Close Dist. 12 No. 763 | May 6 - Open Dist. 13 No. 323, Close Dist. 13 No. 523 |
| January 23 - Open & Close Dist. 10 No. 811 | March 7 - Open Dist. 15 No. 472, Close Dist. 15 No. 328 | May 8 - Open & Close Dist. 59 No. 504 |
| January 24 - Open & Close Dist. 7 No. 479 | March 10 - Open Dist. 59 No. 579, Close Dist. 59 No. 664 | May 13 - Open Dist. 16 No. 306, Close Dist. 16 No. 263 |
| February 4 - Open Dist. 15 No. 248, Close Dist. 15 No. 360 | March 11 - Open & Close Dist. 35 No. 460 | May 20 - Open Dist. 12 No. 332, Close Dist. 15 No. 438 |
| February 5 - Open Dist. 7 No. 227, Close Dist. 45 No. 327 | March 12 - Open & Close Dist. 45 No. 242 | |



View of the Masonic Temple and City Hall in Philadelphia

Why must we "Protect Our Heritage for Future Generations?" What does it mean to "Earn it Again?"

JEFFREY COY

All of the basic freedoms that we all cherish as Americans were purchased for us by our forefathers. The challenges and questions for our generation will be: Are we willing to sacrifice so that these freedoms are in place and saved for future generations? Someone once reminded all of us that, "To whom much is given, much will also be required."

In essence, that is our challenge. We have been given much as a people, and our requirement, or even expectation is... Will we keep it? Will we preserve it? Indeed, will we enhance what we have been given for the generations to come?

Freemasons must take the lead in this effort. Perhaps because we cherish our past, but more importantly because we understand that we must re-purchase our liberties in our generation. We, as Freemasons, must be leaders in this effort, and not followers. We must enlighten our fellow citizens in the necessity of sacrificing, if necessary, to maintain our liberties.

Hopefully, when the history of our generation is

written the historians will say of us, "Our republic was preserved because they held our heritage high and kept our ship of state calm as it sailed on often stormy seas."

BOB BATEMAN

We need to remember the excitement and the thrill we had when we experienced Freemasonry for the first time. As Freemasons, we must live and lead by example and live up to the fundamental principles of what Freemasonry is and means to us. We need to get back to our roots and get reacquainted with our ritual, our brethren and our way of life. We need to practice Freemasonry in our everyday living for everyone to see and be a part of... then we will truly "Earn It Again."

We cannot expect our brethren who traveled the Masonic Road before us to be the only driving force keeping Freemasonry alive. We all need to do our part to preserve our rich heritage. Our degrees are the most beautiful explanations of who we are and what we stand for. The greatest gift we have to give is our history and the desire to share it with another

brother. Be a mentor, an instructor, a floor officer or just attend your lodge meetings. Protecting Our Heritage for Future Generations and keeping our history alive is enjoined upon us all.

THOMAS STURGEON

Throughout my life and my professional career, it became imminently clear that I would achieve only what I earned through hard work. If our fraternity is going to flourish, it will do so only through hard work. It is up to every Pennsylvania Mason to "Earn it Again."

It is also every Mason's responsibility to "Protect Our Heritage for Future Generations." Our predecessors in Freemasonry did what was necessary to protect our heritage, and now the responsibility is ours. Join with your Grand Lodge officers in "Protecting Our Heritage for Future Generations" to come.

JAY SMITH

We cannot sit back and let someone else do our job, or sit on the laurels of our forefathers.

We must earn the respect of our brothers and our communities in which Freemasonry is located. Over the years, we as Freemasons have become relaxed in our community activities, in attending our lodges and in our degree work... and now, we must step forward and work hard to earn the confidences and respect Freemasonry deserves.

In Pennsylvania, Freemasonry is deeply rooted in an oral tradition. We are unique in that our ritual is never written down. By passing the ritual from mouth to ear and from one generation to the next, we will be able to preserve this tradition. There are other Masonic ceremonies, lodge histories, secretary's records and memorabilia that are also important to Freemasonry. The task of preserving the above for future generations lies with each one

of us. We must preserve what we have in order that Freemasonry may continue for future generations.

MARK HAINES

We, as Masons, have the distinct privilege and honor to belong to the oldest and most prestigious fraternity of the world.

Our fraternity has flourished as a result of our forefathers preserving, protecting and passing on to us our laws (landmarks); education and ritual. These are the critical components that separate us from all other organizations and it is imperative that we are able to preserve all three of them. While each of the three is as important as the other, the ritual is the one component that is only passed from one generation to the next via mouth to ear. This

becomes critical to the success of each lodge's future. It is imperative that we continue to learn and teach the ritual in order to preserve it in its purest form, so we are able to pass it on to future members.

Each of us should take the time to remember our oath and obligation and each year rededicate ourselves to the values and high standards that our fraternity represents as we strive to be better men, husbands and fathers... not only within the lodge, but in our everyday activities.

We are the future of the fraternity, and it is imperative that we are able to Protect Our Heritage for Future Generations.



New Statewide Minimum Ritualistic Standard

During the January 2007 D.D.G.M. Workshop in Elizabethtown, then-R.W. Deputy Grand Master Stephen Gardner announced his intention to initiate, during the onset of his term as Grand Master, a State-wide Ritualistic Minimum Standard for brethren desiring to serve as Worshipful Master of their lodge.

The announcement followed a survey conducted in December 2006 asking all District Deputy Grand Masters to share what their lodges' requirements were for advancing through the officers' line and whether or not there were sufficient numbers of brethren capable of conferring the degrees as needed for interested candidates.

Grand Master Gardner made the announcement to District Deputy Grand Masters a year in advance so they could begin to prepare their lodges' incoming Masters and upcoming officers in the line.

"I believe this step is essential, as in some areas, we have district-wide degree teams because individual lodges do not have enough brethren able to confer degrees on candidates," Grand Master Gardner said. "This places a large burden on those brethren who have disciplined themselves to confer degrees, as they are often called upon to serve whenever there is a need. We must step up to help to share the burden of this significant work. My vision is that within five to 10 years down the road, this initiative will be an effective element in turning this predicament around."

For more than 15 percent of Pennsylvania lodges, this requirement presents a significant challenge. "Some of our brethren may be wondering, 'Why must I meet this requirement when the brother who served before me did not?'" Grand Master Gardner said. "But the reality is, our ritualistic work is unique and significant, and we must 'Earn it Again.' Just as I challenge that 15 percent to learn the ritual, I am also challenging the other 85 percent to support the 15 percent by spending the necessary time to be effective mentors. Together, we can Protect Our Heritage for Future Generations."

Grand Master Gardner has received overwhelming support for this proficiency initiative. "Brethren have stopped me in public; I've received phone calls and emails from a large number of brethren who are genuinely excited about and supportive of the establishment of a minimum ritualistic standard," he said. "Now we need these brethren, and others, to be willing to step up to the plate, put their arm around the shoulder of those needing to learn the work, and offer to work with them to get it accomplished."

Richard Fitzsimmons, District Deputy Grand Master of District 24, took this directive to heart. He surveyed the lodges in his district and found that many did not have hard and fast requirements of Lodge Masters. He

"This requirement not only will boost the confidence of our Masters as they accomplish these achievements, but the entire lodge benefits from the growth of the Master, because he is willing to share the degree work and the privilege of conferring the knowledge to candidates for membership,"

-Stephen Gardner, R.W. Grand Master

consulted with Brothers Michael J. Stafford, P.M., Principal of the 24th District School of Instruction; Robert K. Parrish, P.D.D.G.M.; and J. Robert Taylor, P.D.D.G.M.; and developed an Officer Proficiency program to begin working with the Senior Wardens, Junior Wardens and progressively through the officers' line until all are up to speed with the degree knowledge. The Officer Proficiency program offered would, if aggressively undertaken, provide the opportunity for the lodge officer to become proficient in at least one of the three degrees in 2007, a

second one by 2008 and a third degree by 2009, far exceeding the current minimum requirements. Bro. Fitzsimmons took the plan back to members of his district for their input, and then implemented it.

Bro. Fitzsimmons is pleased that a number of the brethren have shown an increased sense of responsibility and commitment to the lodge by trying their best to learn the ritual. While not all of the officers of the lodges in District 24 reached the goal, the program increased awareness among the brethren of the condition of ritual proficiency within the district and the necessity to implement a remedial program as soon as possible. Bro. Rob Gornall, Senior Warden of Perry Keystone Lodge No. 392, Erie, began receiving instruction from Bro. Stafford in late February. He became certified in, and had the opportunity to confer, all three degrees in 2007, achieving what Bro. Fitzsimmons called "the ultimate outcome."

"Everyone is at varying learning levels, we found," Bro. Fitzsimmons said. "The age of the brethren learning the ritual, jobs, family and social commitments are all factors that need to be taken into consideration, as well as a proficient instructor to teach the work and the availability of his time. The task of re-establishing the standards of the past is a monumental one, but is one that must be undertaken in order to retain and maintain the way our ritualistic work is done here in Pennsylvania."

"Why this is important to me," Bro. Fitzsimmons said, "is that I can see in our district where many of our instructors are aging and not able to teach any longer, they are moving away from the community and yes, unfortunately, we're losing them to death, as well. I don't want to lose our uniqueness as Pennsylvania Masons, and not be able to continue to pass along our ritual mouth to ear - so we need to reverse what has become a norm in proficiency. Working with another brother on the ritual not only affords the opportunity to learn the work of the fraternity, but it provides the opportunity to learn more about his family, his lodge, his work, his hobbies, etc. That personal touch is so important; learning about each other is part of what Masonry is really all about."



Change for the Troops



Many of our fellow brethren, loved ones, friends and other brave members of the military are making a great sacrifice by serving in our armed forces to preserve our freedom. Beginning with January lodge meetings, brethren will be asked to empty their pockets of change as they leave the lodge room and place their coins in a collection container. The funds collected each month will be sent by the Lodge Secretary to the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, where the lodge's donations will be logged and placed into an account from which international calling cards will be purchased to send to our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. These calling cards will enable our service men and women to better keep in touch with their families back home.

How it Will Work

Funds will be collected at every meeting of every lodge over the next two years. The Senior Warden, when called on for his comments at the close of the lodge, is charged with announcing this program to the brethren.

This is a true grass roots effort. Lodge funds are NOT to be used for this. The source of the funding is intentional; it is to be the pocket change you otherwise would have carried out of lodge and taken home with you. This is deliberate. Each donation is to be given directly from the hands of the individual brothers at our lodges to our troops in harm's way in the combat theaters of Afghanistan and Iraq. Cards will only be sent to our men and women in those two areas of operation - nowhere else. It is to be a conscious reminder of the price our men and women in the armed forces pay every day.

Each month, no matter what the amount of the collected funds may be, the Lodge Secretary is to send a check, issued by the lodge for that exact amount payable to the "Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania Change for our Troops Fund," to the Office of the R.W. Grand Treasurer in Philadelphia. By sending the contributions in each month, this will help to provide a constant and even flow of funding. The funds collected are to be part of the minutes to be read at the next Stated Meeting of the lodge.

Upon receipt in Philadelphia, the donations will be deposited into that fund reserved for that purpose. Records will be kept so each lodge has the full assurance that an individual accounting of their contributions occurs. These records will be updated upon receipt of the contributions, with acknowledgement being sent from the Office of the R.W. Grand Treasurer to the Lodge Secretary via e-mail.

Once a month, calling cards will be purchased in increments of 300 minutes; this amount has been chosen with consideration for the time it often takes for calls to be placed from our military men and women in these remote areas. The volume of cards purchased will be a direct function of the funds collected and sent to the Grand Treasurer. The cards will be placed in individual sleeves, (shown above) and transported into both Iraq and Afghanistan. Once on site, the cards will methodically be distributed to the servicemen and servicewomen of all branches of service.

Why it Will Work

While the change rattling in each of our pockets may not amount to much, when combined they will add up to a considerable gift... an opportunity for our troops in harm's way to call home when the sound of a familiar voice and expression of love is needed most. It's also our opportunity to thank them for their service and their sacrifice.

We will incur no additional overhead expenses as a result of this worthwhile program. This task is being absorbed and supported by existing staff so that 100 percent of the funds collected will be used for the acquisition of the calling cards.

The freedoms we enjoy have never been free; they have come at an extremely high cost, paid by veterans, as well as those troops serving today. Brother by brother, month by month, lodge by lodge... let's show them our appreciation for their willingness to Earn it Again.



Bro. Peter Gardner, son of Stephen Gardner, R.W. Grand Master



Revitalize Your Lodge!

Broadcast Messages to Your Members in Minutes!

The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania has initiated a contract with an auto dialer service which will allow lodge leaders to easily record a message and automatically send it to every brother's phone number in their database within minutes! It is a quick and easy way to improve communication and participation within a lodge or district.

Grand Lodge will fund this program at no expense to the lodges throughout 2008 and 2009, providing a virtually unlimited number of prerecorded calls to the membership. There is no obligation on the part of any lodge to participate; however, the benefits will be lost on those who choose not to utilize it.

What the Technology Can Do:

Record a message in the sender's voice and send it en masse to a membership list to, for example:

- Remind brethren to attend a lodge meeting, providing an preview of the program
- Send out important/last-minute announcements, i.e. if a brother is in ill health or needs assistance
- Report schedule changes
- Announce upcoming events, i.e. banquets, picnics, fundraisers, etc.
- Inform brethren and/or invite them to an upcoming funeral service
- Remind members when dues are due

This technology can save the time and effort previously spent on phone trees/calling chains.

How it Works:

- The lodge creates a list of the phone numbers of its members and logs them into a distribution list. An unlimited number of subgroups also can be created, for use with various committees within the lodge.
- The auto dialer software calls everyone on the phone list at the time the caller designates. Calls can be made anywhere in the continental U.S., Canada and Hawaii without long distance charges.
- Broadcasts can start seconds after the message is recorded, or the message can be recorded and scheduled for broadcast at a future date or time. All calls are placed and completed within five to 10 minutes from when the broadcast begins.
- When a person answers the call, he/she is given the option to hear the message again at no additional cost.
- If a brother wishes not to receive calls, he can indicate this while listening to the message. This simple action will remove him from the phone call list, or he can simply let the lodge know he wishes not to receive these calls.
- When the call is answered by an answering machine, it leaves a message.

- When the service gets a busy signal or no answer, it tries the number three more times after waiting a few minutes.
- When the broadcast completes, the system sends a summary of the results, i.e. statistics regarding how many calls were picked up, how many were answered by a machine, how many went unanswered, etc. This helps the lodge determine its effectiveness.

Why Should Our Lodge Use It?

This program is being made available for all lodges to use based on the successful efforts of Salem Lodge No. 330, Hamlin, PA. Led by Bro. Andrew Crouthamel, W.M., these brethren have found it to be so effective, the officers have been privately funding the service out of their own pockets, not from lodge funds.

Bro. Alvin W. Hollister, District Deputy Grand Master of District 14 and member of Salem Lodge No. 330, is chairman of the lodge's committee dedicated to increasing communication flow and participation among members.

"The effect on meetings has been tremendous," he said. "During the earlier part of the year, we were seeing increased attendance in the range of 50 percent over previous years. Currently, as the 'snowbirds' begin to depart for warmer parts, we are still running around a 20 percent increase. A similar effect is apparent in the number of petitions, but something more interesting has surfaced. We are seeing petitions brought in by recommenders who normally don't take an active part in the lodge. I know many lodges have those members who will bring in petitions on a regular basis, and many members may never bring in a petition. I believe this program has helped us to break through that scenario in some way. Whether the member realizes that he is important to the lodge or whatever the change, it has driven them to take the initiative and recommend that family member, neighbor or whomever may have been on his mind for a while."

Overall, the rate of petitions is running at almost twice their historical rate. Attendance at Masonic funerals has more than doubled. New and increased interest in the officer line is also attributed to this outreach to the membership. The membership is more aware of, and participates in, lodge activities at levels clearly higher than in its past. Even those brethren who do not attend the 'advertised' functions, now feel a higher level of association with their lodge. They are also reaching the house-bound brothers of their lodge, making them once again feel that fraternal connection to their lodge.

These results have been relatively easy to achieve through the lodge auto dialer program. The Worshipful Master of Salem Lodge, working from a script he prepares, simply calls a 1-800 phone number and records his message to be sent to the members of his lodge. He can review and re-record this message as many times as he wishes until he is satisfied with it and tells the system to use it. Once he approves it, the message is sent to the membership



First-line signers on a candidate's petition for membership will receive the Grand Master's Freemasonry Earn it Again tie.

of Salem Lodge, or any specific distribution list designated at the time. Done!

Bro. Alvin emphasizes the importance of collecting one's thoughts before sending the broadcast. "You can imagine the frustration of listening to a recorded message that is not well constructed," he advised. "Outline the important facts to be included in the message, write out your full dialogue and then call in and record the broadcast for distribution."

Because of their sustained efforts, Salem Lodge has 100 percent of their membership in their auto dialer program. They maintain two auto dialer distribution lists. In some instances, the call will be placed to the officers of the lodge as a reminder of their commitments to rehearsals and the like. In most instances, the call is made to all members of the lodge as a reminder about upcoming events or as a notification of unforeseen situations, such as funeral services. None of the brethren of Salem Lodge have asked to be removed from the phone call distribution list. In fact, Bro. Alvin has never had one single negative comment regarding the program. The brethren look forward to the calls from their lodge, and even their family members seem to think it's a good idea.

"Every man (and many of their wives) is very forthcoming in saying what a great program it is and how impressed they are that we've taken this step," Bro. Alvin said. "As an example, while sitting at a ham dinner one evening at our lodge, I saw a member and his wife come through the door who I had never seen at a lodge function. He is a good friend, and I know him well, but for one reason or another he never seemed to make it to lodge. As they came over and sat down next to us, the conversation went directly to the calling program. His wife started right off by saying how nice it was to receive the call reminding them of the ham dinner and the Stated Meeting coming up the next week. She told her husband right away that they'd have to make sure they make it to the dinner, and sure enough, they did. I know from my own standpoint, when I get home and there is a message on the answering machine from the lodge, my wife, one of my daughters or my son is anxious to give me the message. They feel as though they are a part of things, and I think that's great."

"One of the small, but I believe important, effects of the program is that it gives each of the members and their families a familiarity with the Worshipful Master," Bro. Alvin said. "When I see a member's wife in the local grocery store and she says, 'Drew

called, I understand you guys have a meeting next Monday. Gee, I can't believe it's the beginning of November already,' I know that she feels a connection to the lodge. In many lodges, the family members probably have to think for a moment to come up with the Worshipful Master's name, but I would venture to guess that this year (2007), in Salem Lodge No. 330, the members and many of their wives have that name right on the tip of their tongue. For her to know Drew (Bro. Crouthamel), on a first name basis, is great."

So, considering the success this lodge has experienced... Why would your lodge NOT want to use it?

The Lodge Challenge

Each and every lodge is challenged to double their lodge meeting attendance through the use of this powerful broadcast technology. But the technology can't do it all... Every brother in the lodge room knows at least one brother who hasn't been there in a while. Are there a number of Past Masters or new members who have lost interest recently, and if so, why? Make it your priority to find out and invite him to join you back at lodge. If each brother reaches out to one other brother, it wouldn't take long to revitalize an entire lodge!





Capital Campaign Successfully Completes First Phase

Yesterday's LEGACY TOMORROW'S Promise



"Yesterday's Legacy-Tomorrow's Promise," the \$50 million Capital and Endowment Campaign currently underway, has achieved \$28.7 million in contributions to date, it was announced by Bro. Joseph E. Murphy, NHA, Chief Executive Officer of the Masonic Villages and campaign manager. The objective of the campaign is to build the endowment for all of our Masonic Charities of the R.W. Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, that in years to come there will be funds to support the needs of our youth, our seniors, our members and our Masonic Temple—those vital programs that ensure Yesterday's Legacy is Tomorrow's Promise.

This total has been pledged during the "quiet phase" of the campaign from 2004 to 2007, due to the generosity and caring of our Masonic leadership, current and past lodge leaders, employees and generous members and their families. Of special note in this total, is the commitment and dedication of the Masonic Villages' and Masonic Temple employees who have pledged more than \$381,000.

Of the \$50 million campaign goal, \$15 million is intended to support the Masonic Temple and Library/Museum, and \$35 million is slated for Caring Masonic Communities, including the Masonic Villages and the Pennsylvania Masonic Youth Foundation. Donors are free to designate their gifts to any of these beneficiaries, as well as to more specific charitable causes within the Caring Masonic Communities.

The public phase of the campaign will be launched in early 2008 with mailings and meetings with prospective donors. The campaign offers attractive naming opportunities for donors, starting at the \$5,000 gift amount. Additionally, for Masonic family members who have included one of the Masonic Charities for a bequest in their will or estate plan, a conservatively projected amount can be counted toward the campaign now (without legal obligation), with public recognition at the campaign's conclusion, and naming opportunity, if appropriate and desired.

An additional special feature of the campaign counts life income gifts, such as Charitable Gift Annuities, at their full face value. Gifts of appreciated stock are welcome, and provide an attractive double tax saving. For more information, please call the Office of Gift Planning at (800) 599-6454. To view the capital campaign video, visit www.pagrandlodge.org and click on Masonic Charities Capital Campaign.

R.W. Past Grand Master Of The Grand Lodge of PA Elected to International Masonic Organization



On Sept. 8, 2007, Bro. and Knight Edward H. Fowler, Jr., of Belle Vernon, Pa., was elected and installed the Most Eminent Grand Master-General of Convent General Knights of the York Cross of Honor for the year 2007-2008 at the 72nd Annual Conclave held in Nashville, Tenn. Convent General is comprised of 81 subordinate Priorities with approximately 12,700 members in the United States, Australia, Canada, France and the Philippines. Bro. Fowler was also invested with the distinctive honor of Knight Grand Cross, which is the highest honor that can be received from Convent General.

Membership in the Knights of the York Cross of Honor is by invitation only, and requires its members to have been elected and installed as the Presiding Officer in all four of the York Rite Organizations, i.e. Lodge, Chapter, Council and Commandery. It is an honorary organization comprised of Masonic leaders who have faithfully served Freemasonry.

Pennsylvania Academy of Masonic Knowledge

Saturday, March 15, 2008

The next session of the Academy of Masonic Knowledge will be held on Saturday, March 15, in the Deike Auditorium of the Freemasons Cultural Center on the campus of the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown. Registration will open at 8:30 a.m., with the program beginning at 9:30 a.m. A free lunch will be served at noon, and the program will be completed by 3:30 p.m. ALL Masons are welcome to attend. Plan to come and bring a brother or two along with you. Dress is coat and tie.

Pre-registration is required. E-mail Bro. Jim Standish at stdsh@comcast.net with your name, address, lodge number, telephone number and e-mail address by March 12, or send the above information to Bro. Standish at 1 Pierce Court, Glen Mills, PA 19342-1787.

JOIN YOUR BRETHREN!

Use the NEW Masonic Credit Card and Benefit Our Masonic Charities



The new Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania Visa credit card is the **only** card that supports the Grand Lodge and our Masonic Charities. U.S. Bank offers a rewards program that benefits members and allows you to support our Masonic Charities every time you use it. 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 balance transfers.

Apply today using the Visa applications that are available at your lodge, or call U.S. Bank at (800) 853-5576, ext. 8878. The creditor and issuer of the Visa Platinum card is the U.S. Bank National Association ND.

The card is also available with a picture of the Masonic Temple in Philadelphia, a group of famous Masons or a circle of children.

Request for Financial Panel Members

Outreach Program Seeks Assistance to Provide Direction for those in need of Financial Guidance.

A substantial number of individuals who contact the Masonic Outreach Program are in need of basic budgeting advice and guidance that will provide them with the skills necessary to effectively manage their finances. Many of these individuals are not in the position to be able to afford such services. The Masonic Outreach Program is in the preliminary stages of coordinating a panel of professionals who will be available to give direction to distressed Brethren, their spouses, widows and others who need assistance in the area of budgeting and or other related services at minimal or no cost.

Individuals wanting more extensive financial services, with the ability to afford such services, may also refer to the program for resources.

How Will it Work? Callers would contact the Outreach Office where they would be screened and, if determined appropriate,

would be referred to a professional on the panel. The professional would decide if they want to work with individuals on a case by case basis.

What Can YOU Do? Initially, we need professionals who are members of the fraternity, Eastern Star or family and friends of the Masonic Villages to seriously consider becoming a charter member of this new and exciting venture to serve those in need of these services.

A committee will be formed of volunteers wanting to help shape the program, including creating guidelines and operating procedures.

Interested in learning more or volunteering to be part of this exciting new venture? Please return the completed coupon below to: Masonic Outreach Program, Masonic Village, One Masonic Drive, Elizabethtown, PA 17022 or call 1-800-462-7664.

Yes, I am willing to help the Masonic Outreach Program provide financial guidance to friends in need.

Name _____

Profession _____

Lodge or Chapter _____

Specialty _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Fax _____

E-mail _____





Brothers In Arms

They are two men from different backgrounds, living in different parts of the world. They have never met, but are brothers who serve one another and share similar values. Both members of the Abraham C. Treichler Lodge No. 682, Elizabethtown, Brothers Gen. C. Robert "Bob" Kehler and PFC Ken "Kenny" Henry have dedicated themselves to defending our country's freedom, as well as belonging to a fraternity based on principles of truth, faith, good will and honor.



Bro. and General C. Robert "Bob" Kehler

Bro. Robert's military career includes assignments with global responsibilities and eight promotions, as he is now the Commander, Air Force Space Command, Peterson Air Force Base, Colo. He was promoted to General in October, making him one of just 41 four-star officers in the uniformed services of the United States.

"I'm delighted to be in command of this organization," he said. "It's a dream come true; very exciting and humbling. I'm very mindful of my responsibility for the Airmen under my command and the broader military team, as well as the nation as a whole."

Bro. Robert is responsible for the development, acquisition and operation of the Air Force's space and missile systems. He oversees a global network of satellite command and control, communications, missile warning and launch facilities and ensures America's intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) force is combat-ready. He leads nearly 40,000 space professionals who provide combat forces and capabilities to North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. Strategic Command.

"Space capabilities have shaped the American way of warfare in the 21st century, just like airpower did in the 20th," Bro. Robert said at a ceremony on Oct. 24. "The sky is no limit to what we can do."

In 1975, he entered the Air Force as a distinguished graduate of the Air Force ROTC program. His education includes a bachelor's degree from Pennsylvania State University, a Master of Science degree from University of Oklahoma and a Master of Arts degree from the Naval War College in Newport, R.I. He is a distinguished graduate of the Squadron Officer School, and has attended the Air Command and Staff College, Armed Forces Staff College, Air War College, Carnegie Mellon University and John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Bro. Robert has served as a point man on Capitol Hill for the President's ICBM Modernization Program; formulated revolutionary changes to nuclear war plan structure and targeting with approval from the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Secretary of Defense; and managed the \$45-billion Air Force space program through the corporate resources allocation process. In his most recent post, as Deputy Commander, U.S. Strategic Command, he helped provide the President and Secretary of Defense with a broad range of strategic capabilities and options for the joint warfighter through mission areas, including space operations, integrated missile defense, computer network operations and global strike.

His major awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Meritorious Service Medal and the Air Force Commendation Medal.

Bro. Robert credits his father, Bro. Claude E. Kehler, Jr., a 58-year member of Shamokin Lodge No. 255, with igniting his interest in the military.

"His view on military service and community service really inspired me to believe it was the noble thing to do," Bro. Robert said. "I wouldn't be where I am today without him."

Bro. Claude served four years in the U.S. Army, earning the rank of Captain. In World War II, he received orders from Gen. George S. Patton, Jr. to relocate 143 German prisoners and, later, return them to Germany. At his son's promotion ceremony, he pinned the fourth star on Bro. Robert's hat.

"He earned his way; he always loved to study. I'm very, very proud of him," Bro. Claude said. "Sometimes when I see him, I salute him. He always says, 'You don't have to do that, dad.'"

Bro. Claude worked as a city councilman and public safety director in Shamokin, Pa., and is the namesake for the Claude E. Kehler Community Park in Shamokin. He was actively involved with the local fire company, serving as fire commissioner for 36 years, and was recently honored for 50 years of service to Rescue Fire Engine & Hose Co. #3.

He helped implement many changes and advances in firefighting and fire prevention, including organizing the first-ever mutual aid fire fighting agreements between Shamokin and surrounding communities and establishing the Regional Area Police Information Dispatch (RAPID) system, covering 60,000 residents. His work inspired Robert to join fire companies in the different cities he has called home, including Washington, D.C.

Bro. Claude, a resident of the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown for four years, has further influenced his son by encouraging him to join the Masonic fraternity. In 2004, Bro. Robert was raised, along with his brother-in-law, Steve Palmer, who is married to Bro. Claude's daughter, Carol Rabe Palmer. Bro. Robert now resides in Colorado, so attending meetings and events is difficult, but he is nonetheless committed to the Craft.

"Observing Masonic activities, especially what I saw in Elizabethtown, influenced me to join the Masons," he said. "It is remarkable the way [Masons] take care of one another and others. The care of my mother was first rate."

Bro. Robert and his wife, Marjorie, have two sons, Matt and Jared. He likes to play golf and the guitar, although he claims neither to be his forte, and ski when he finds the time.

PFC Ken Henry moved to the Masonic Children's Home in 2004 after his home life grew unstable and it began affecting his school performance. After his arrival in Elizabethtown, Bro. Ken's grades went from C's and D's to A's and B's. In 2006, he graduated from

the Lancaster County Career and Technology Center with a plumbing certification and enlisted in the U.S. Army.

"I wanted to serve my country," Bro. Ken said. "I felt like I needed discipline, and I wasn't quite ready for college."



Bro. and PFC Ken "Kenny" Henry

Deployed to Iraq last May, he is benefiting from the many advances of Bro. Robert's satellite commands, especially in remote parts of the country.

"Space systems are a critical piece of the joint war fighting team," Bro. Robert said. "I feel a direct connection to what [Bro. Ken] does everyday and spend a lot of time worrying about what he, his fellow soldiers, Airmen and Marines need."

Bro. Ken's unit has been conducting air assault missions, which involve roping out of helicopters to the middle of fields in the dark of night; foot patrols; traffic control points; and various relief missions to deliver food, toys and medical supplies to citizens.

"Being in the Army has made me not take as many things for granted," he said. "It let me see that in countries such as Iraq, living isn't easy. I've learned to overcome things that I wouldn't be able to before, and handle a great deal of stress and responsibility in fast-acting situations."

In 2005, he became a Mason to give back to the organization that has afforded him so many opportunities.

"It is my hope by being a Mason, I can re-give the kindness that I was given to someone else who needs it," Bro. Ken said. "It has shown me the bigger picture about life in general; that it is not always about one's self, but about others and taking time out for those people who are less fortunate."

Residents and staff of the Masonic Village, as well as lodge brothers, have sent care packages and notes Bro. Henry's way, and he is very grateful for everyone who has taken time and effort to support him. Time in the desert has allowed him a chance to reflect on many facets of his life.

"In many letters, people have started using the term 'hero' to

describe me due to what choice I made and the current job I hold," Bro. Ken said in one recent thank you letter. "I am not a hero, I only do my job. The real heroes are the Masonic Children's Home, for they do so much with so little. They take in the unwanted, abused and uncared for, and give them a place to call home. They are rearing tomorrow's leaders, artists, CEO's and presidents - all out of the kindness of their hearts, exhausting all their efforts to take care of these kids. I am very thankful to be a part of that family. It has shown me nothing but love and kindness, from my lodge brothers, to the Children's Home, to the staff. I would not be here today if it were not for those who took a chance on an 18-year-old with a chip on his shoulder and a lot of potential."

Bro. Ken will tentatively return for a visit in January, and is expected to complete his current tour in Iraq in May. He has one year left in the Army, and is waiting to see what the future holds in store for him. College is in his plans, with the hopes of being an officer, following a similar path as Bro. Robert Kehler.

The commitment and dedication of a soldier and a brother requires them to "stay the course with unwavering devotion," Bro. Ken said. There's a chance he and Bro. Robert will meet one day at a lodge meeting, and albeit strangers, find they have chosen similar directions in life. Bro. Ken and Bro. Robert are both outstanding examples of selfless sacrifice and devotion to one another, their country and mankind.

They have dedicated their lives to "Protecting Our Heritage for Future Generations," which is only possible when we are willing to "Earn it Again."



Left to right: Bro. Ken "Kenny" Henry; Andrew Shore (back), Grandson of Bro. Daniel Weller, a supporter of the Masonic Children's Home; Antonio Arroyo-Diaz; and Ms. Ginny Migrala, Director of Children's Services





FREEMASONRY, Rituals, Symbols & History of the Secret Society

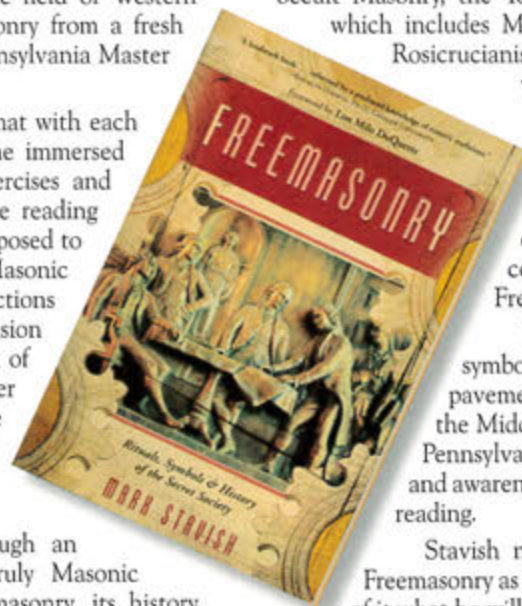
by Mark Stavish Reviewed by Bro. Charles S. Canning, Academy of Masonic Knowledge

"Freemasonry" is one of the most comprehensive studies written on the esoteric aspects of Freemasonry in the past 50 years. The author is a recognized scholar in the field of Western magic traditions and approaches Freemasonry from a fresh non-traditional viewpoint. He is also a Pennsylvania Master Mason.

Bro. Stavish provides a workbook format with each chapter, encouraging the reader to become immersed in the subject through recommended exercises and readings. Pennsylvania Masons will not be reading about Pennsylvania Masonry, but will be exposed to a broader view of the Craft. Most books on Masonic rituals and symbols are written for jurisdictions outside of Pennsylvania. The great expansion of symbol motifs that occurred at the turn of the 19th century set Pennsylvania's purer ritual apart. In this text, Stavish makes the connection with the esoteric past, which is carried by the broad scope of Masonry into the present.

The author guides the reader through an understanding and participation in a truly Masonic journey. Step-by-step, the scope of Freemasonry, its history, philosophy and principles are studied to gain a deeper appreciation of what Freemasonry is and the dimensions of its contemporary existence. Stavish gives us road signs and guides us to a choice of doorways that allow us to begin our journey. Along the way, we understand the esoteric influences and the goal of self-improvement, which is the primary focus.

Through the development of Freemasonry from operative art to a speculative science, Stavish connects the historic context of esoteric thought. Pennsylvania Masons will be less familiar with subjects such as the "trestleboards" of the symbolic degrees and will gain a welcomed appreciation for their meaning.



The lost word and the Masonic quest begin the focus of the second half of the text. This is followed by a review of 18th century occult Masonry, the York Rite and 19th century occult revival, which includes Martinism, Strict Observance Masonry and Rosicrucianism.

While I disagree with the connection of offshoots of Freemasonry, such as Martinism, being a part of the regular Craft, their inclusion here is understandable from the viewpoint of the author, in that they are a 21st century reality in the "universal" scope of Freemasonry.

There are several appendices that address symbols, such as the trestleboards, checkered pavement, Bible readings of the three degrees and the Middle Chamber, which are not included in our Pennsylvania ritual. They provide additional insight and awareness when coming upon these in their general reading.

Stavish notes, "...there are as many variations of Freemasonry as there are Freemasons. Each chooses to make of it what he will, and in turn the Fraternity both shapes and is shaped by its members." Contemporary Freemasonry has failed to provide genuine philosophical teachings for its expectant members. There is a general failure to study the liberal arts and sciences and esotericism. Many see the ideals of the 18th century still vital to Freemasonry today.

This is one of the best studies of the esoteric influence on Freemasonry that I have come across. I had the pleasure of consulting on the writing of this book, and found myself adopting new modes of thinking to my Masonic cosmology. I strongly recommend this book to every Freemason, especially Pennsylvania Masons, that they may fully appreciate the depth of our Craft.

Masonic Library and Museum Association Meets in the Masonic Temple, Philadelphia: Your Librarian Elected President



Your Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania proudly hosted the 15th annual meeting of the Masonic Library and Museum Association, Oct. 10-13, 2007. The last time The Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania hosted was the sixth annual meeting, Oct. 15-17, 1998. The Association is an international group of Masonic librarians, archivists, curators and directors who have as their mission "...to assist and support, through education, facilitation of communication, coordination of effort, and other means, those individuals charged with the collection, management, and preservation of the Masonic heritage" (MLMA Bylaws, Art. 2).

On Oct. 11, Bro. President Dick E. Browning, P.G.M. of Arkansas, opened the meeting. After welcoming remarks by R.W. Grand Secretary Mark A. Haines, and Executive Director of the Masonic Library and Museum Andrew Zellers-Frederick, the meeting continued with sessions on shared cataloguing, e-books and digitization of records. The group toured City Hall, the Masonic Temple and the National Constitution Center. MLMA also participated in a video-conference with the renowned Masonic scholar, Professor Margaret Jacob. Through the wonders of technology, MLMA used the facilities at the University of Pennsylvania, while Professor Jacob did the same at the University of California, Los Angeles. She spoke on "Eighteenth-Century Freemasonry and the Cosmopolitan Ideal," then happily accepted questions. An exuberant discussion erupted, and the session ended with MLMA and Prof. Jacob applauding each others' work.

After serving six years as Secretary of the Masonic Library and Museum Association, your Librarian, Glenys A. Waldman, was elected its President. For more information, please go to MLMA's friendly site, www.mlmassn.org.

Brother Lafayette's 250th Birthday Commemorated

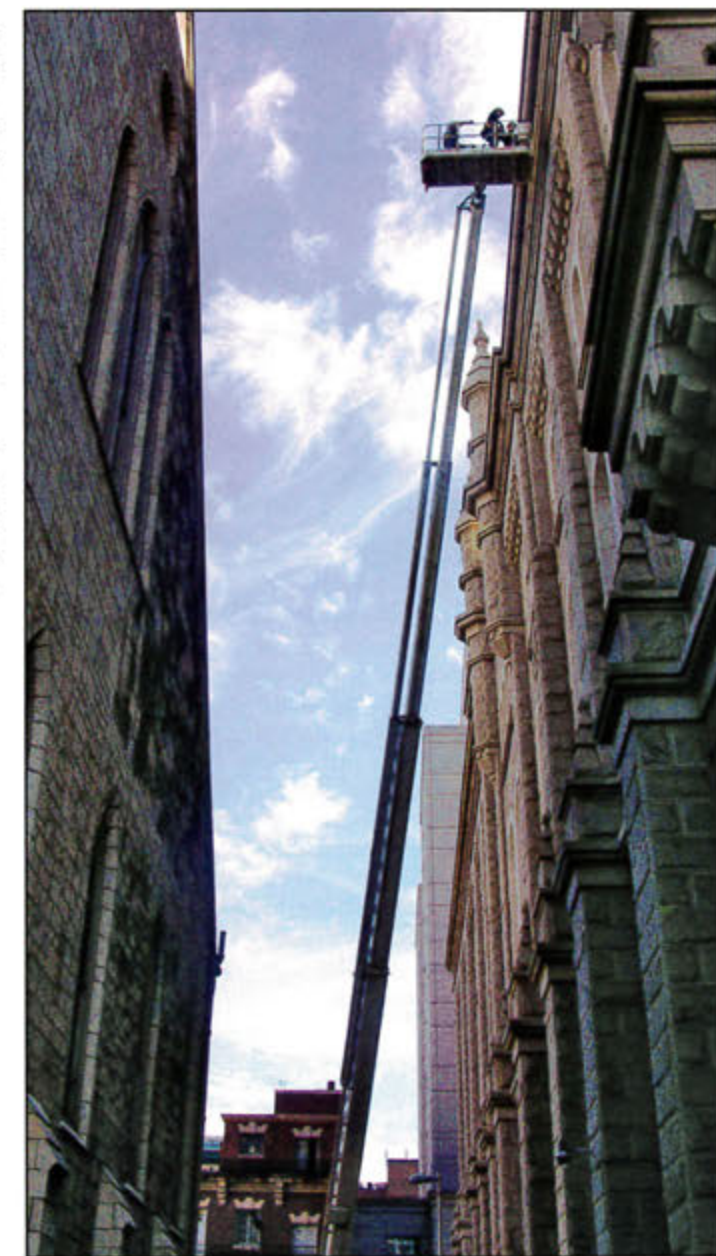
To honor the 250th anniversary of Brother Marie Joseph Paul Yves Roch Gilbert Motier, the Marquis de Lafayette, a series of special events were held in the Masonic Temple on the weekend of Oct. 20. The Saturday program, co-sponsored by the Pennsylvania Humanities Council and the Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania, had two excellent lectures on different aspects of Bro. Lafayette's 1757-1834 life delivered by Dr. Stuart Leibiger, Chairman of the History Department at Philadelphia's La Salle University, and Dr. Robert Allison, the Chairman of the History and American Study Departments of Boston's Suffolk University. A wonderful luncheon at the historic 1773 City Tavern, complete with a talk by Bro. Lafayette, and a walking tour of sites related to the French aristocrat in Philadelphia's Olde City and Society Hill sections followed.

The festivities were concluded on Sunday with an organ concert by renowned organist Marc F. Cheban, co-sponsored with St. Alban Lodge No. 529, Philadelphia, in the Masonic Temple's beautiful Corinthian Hall. The program, entitled "The Music of Lafayette," was a fitting way to honor a dedicated Mason who was truly a hero of both the Old and the New World. All who attended had a memorable and enjoyable experience.



Birthday wishes were given at "The Music of Lafayette" concert to Brother and General Lafayette and his Lady (portrayed by John L. Weber, a Revolutionary War reenactor and member of the Olde Fort Mifflin Historical Society, and Elizabeth L. Weber) seated in Corinthian Hall.

Support Study for Masonic Temple's Restoration



To assist the major renovations and restoration work currently underway on the Masonic Temple, the Philadelphia-based firm of DPK&A has been engaged to conduct a needed "Historic Structures Report" of this National Historic Landmark building. DPK&A is an award-winning firm of architects, restoration architects, historians and architectural conservators which specializes in the type of work required for a project of this magnitude and importance. This lengthy study, in addition to the other work they are providing to guide the restoration project's daily work, will provide a detailed account and documentation, including both the interior and exterior, of all aspects of the building from the top of its two towers down into its lower areas, over two stories beneath the surface. The study will guide this project, as well as provide invaluable data for all future endeavors for the Masonic Temple. Shown in the photograph are members of the DPK&A Project Team as they inspect the Masonic Temple's massive stonework and important architectural features.



Former PSU Player Inspires Masonic Youth

It was a touchdown followed by a two-point conversion at the 92nd Annual Abraham C. Treichler Lodge No. 682 F. & A.M. Banquet on Nov. 7, 2007, when Adam Taliaferro, former Penn State football player, shared his message of courage and perseverance.



Left to right: Kari Labagh, Andrew Stueckroth, Jordan Specht, Mackenzie Kauffman, Matthew Eberts, Adam Taliaferro, Jarrid Baker & Christian Louer.

The banquet was open to Masons, family, friends, Masonic youth and residents of Masonic Village and Elizabethtown. Adam's story started on Sept. 23, 2000, when, with less than two minutes remaining in the Penn State game against rival Ohio State, he made a routine tackle that changed the course of his life. The Voorhees, N.J., native had broken his neck—the same injury suffered by actor Christopher Reeves. He was given only a three percent chance of ever walking again, but Adam's parents had very different ideas, and did not tell him the prognosis. His drive to re-learn everything he learned as a baby—how to sit up, how to crawl and finally, how to walk, enabled him to recover, and to lead the PSU team onto the field one year after the accident.

Coach Joe Paterno calls Adam, "Our Miracle." His message was both captivating and inspirational, and it wowed the crowd of nearly 300 who attended the banquet held at the Freemasons Cultural Center in Elizabethtown.



Jarrid Baker speaks with Adam Taliaferro after the banquet.

The Pennsylvania Freemason

As Worshipful Master Gerald I. Fretwell introduced Adam, he noted that prior to his injury, Adam was an outstanding NFL prospect as a cornerback, was ranked the seventh best high school player in the nation and graduated as a National Honor Society member. Offered scholarships to numerous schools, Adam chose to play for Penn State. After his recovery, he stayed with the team as a coach, managing to graduate four years from his original enrollment. In spring 2008, he will graduate from Rutgers University Law School.

Following his presentation, Adam fielded questions and mingled with many well-wishers and Penn State fans who lined up to talk to him, get autographs and pose for pictures with him. Adam spent a lot of time talking to members of Job's Daughter's Bethel No. 15 and Elizabethtown DeMolay who had attended the evening, and who walked away with a greater appreciation for those things that are truly important in life: family, friends, education and faith.

DeMolays Visit at Masonic Village

Members of George Washington Chapter, Order of DeMolay recently visited Bro. Harold "Moose" Buhrman at the Masonic Village Health Care Center in Elizabethtown. Bro. Buhrman is a 46-year member of George Washington Lodge No. 143, Chambersburg. Although not a Past Master, he was very regular in his attendance until he moved to Elizabethtown.

The DeMolays presented him with a lodge coin, and the Master Councilor, Matthew Maple, pinned a lodge lapel pin on his shirt. Matthew plays ninth grade football at Faust Junior High School in Chambersburg where Bro. Buhrman's son, Chris, is the athletic director.

Bro. Buhrman turned off the football game he was watching on TV to visit with the DeMolays. He was surprised by the visit, and especially the large turnout. He wanted to know if the boys played football and what positions they played. The DeMolays were accompanied by Jess A. Leidig, III, Worshipful Master of Bro. Buhrman's Lodge.



The DeMolay delegation poses outside the Masonic Village Health Care Center.

Scholarships Available

The Pennsylvania Masonic Youth Foundation annual scholarship program will select between 20 and 30 students to receive awards, averaging \$1,300 each. The program runs through March 15, 2008, when applications may be submitted. The Masonic Scholarship Resource Guide for the 2008 program, and the 2008 application, are now available on the Internet at <http://www.pagrandle.org/pmyf> or may be obtained by writing to: PMYF Scholarships, 1244 Bainbridge Road, Elizabethtown, PA 17022

Isn't That A Cult?



Every so often, a member of a Masonic-sponsored youth group will invite a friend to join and be told that they can't, because "my parents say it's a cult." All Masonic-related youth groups MUST have parental permission before a youth may join, so it's important to us that parents understand what we're about, and why we're most definitely NOT a cult. We hope the information in this article will help you respond to such misunderstandings.

Why would someone think these groups are cults?

We're not entirely sure. Different people probably have different reasons. Some that we have encountered are: lack of knowledge, misunderstanding, mistrust of fraternal organizations in general, a negative experience and perhaps most commonly ...just because someone else told them they are!

What is a cult?

Cults may be religious, social, philosophical or political. In general, cults take everything to the extreme. Most experts agree that it takes more than just a different set of beliefs than the norm to make a cult. Most groups with new or different ideas, especially those with religious content, are apt to be labeled a cult. The most useful definitions of cults include the characteristic of excessive control over members and the existence of a charismatic and powerful leader. Groups with these characteristics often do terrible damage to their members and families associated with their members. A few that we have all seen in the news have resulted in mass murders and/or suicides among their members. Some cult leaders, like the infamous Charles Manson, "The Manson Family;" Rev. Jim Jones, "The People's Temple;" David Koresh, "The Branch Davidians;" and Marshall Applewhite, "Heaven's Gate;" have drawn public attention to the cult leader "type." They tend to be "control-freaks," who rule by strength, fear and sometimes even violence. They may claim divinity or to have supernatural or supernormal powers. They require unquestionable loyalty, obedience and dependence from their members.

So are Masonic-related groups cults?

Masonic-related youth groups are NOT cults, because:

- They encourage members to be actively involved in their church, school and community. Cults trade on isolating their members from outside influences.
- They place a tremendous emphasis on the importance of the family, and the authority of the young person's parents. Cults claim top authority for themselves, and often try to replace or supplant a member's family.
- They make no claims to a unique or exclusive knowledge of truth.



We encourage our members to pursue and grow in their own family's faith tradition. We teach religious tolerance, not religious pluralism. Cults always point inside the group to look for truth, never out to other groups.

- They work cooperatively with other community groups toward common goals and worthwhile services. Cults operate on an "us versus them" mentality, and isolate members from the public.
- They emphasize service to others through giving of time, talents and financial resources. Cults demand that service and investment of resources be only for the benefit of the group.
- They encourage parents to be involved in all of their youth's activity with the group, whether as a guest, or even as a volunteer leader. Cults practice deceit and "hiding," not openness and welcoming.
- They encourage independent thinking, initiative and leadership. Good team members are co-leaders, not mindless followers. Cults seek unquestioning obedience to a domineering leader, not democratic, cooperative leadership among their members.

What can we do?

We cannot change the minds of those who are rigidly, irrationally against Masonic youth groups and the Masonic fraternity. However, we can make sure that we know what we stand for, and that we are comfortable defending our Masonic family. We can encourage those with doubts to go see for themselves. We can suggest that they take some time to visit with a local group, and talk with the members and adult volunteers involved. We can urge them to ask honest questions, express their concerns and be ready to listen openly to the responses. We can encourage them to visit with their own religious leaders to learn their faith's official position on our organizations. We can show respect for those who take into consideration the position of their faith community and its leaders.

We should offer to help them identify people they trust and respect, who are already associated with Masonic-related organizations, to seek out their opinions. The Masonic youth groups will absolutely respect and abide by a parental decision to keep their child from joining these groups. No child will ever be permitted to participate in activities with a Masonic youth group without parental permission. We agree that the Masonic youth groups are not for everyone. Neither is Freemasonry.

For more information on the Masonic youth groups in Pennsylvania, please contact the Pennsylvania Masonic Youth Foundation, 1244 Bainbridge Road, Elizabethtown, PA 17022 (800) 266-8424, or at www.pagrandle.org/pmyf.

R.W. Grand Master Stephen Gardner and his wife, Patricia, Invite You to Attend a

Masonic Reunion

for Pennsylvania Masons, Wives and Widows who now reside permanently in Florida or who visit there during the winter months



Reunion Schedule

Thursday, February 21, 2008 Tampa Airport Marriott Hotel, Tampa
Friday, February 22, 2008 Sahib Shrine Center (Sahib Temple), Sarasota
Saturday, February 23, 2008 Palm Beach Gardens Marriott, Palm Beach



Each reunion features a reception (11 - 11:45 a.m.) followed by lunch (11:45 a.m.) and a program (1- 2 p.m.)

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 Elizabethtown
- Representatives from the Office of Aging to share information on local services • Free blood pressure screenings

Special Highlight

Grand Master Gardner will present 50-Year, 60-Year and 70-Year Masonic Service Emblems and 75-Year Diamond Jubilee Awards. He will also preview upcoming programs. (If you are eligible to receive a milestone Service Emblem in 2008, or if you did not receive it when you were eligible in a previous year, please indicate that when you respond to your invitation by Friday, Jan. 25, 2008.)

If you have any questions, please contact the Masonic Villages at (717) 367-1121, ext. 33849.



Grand Master's Charity Mini Grand Prix

August 2, 2008

Rain Date - August 3, 2008
at Masonic Village
at Elizabethtown



To sign up, call 717-367-1121 ext. 33488
or e-mail bsweigart@masonicvillagespa.org by June 1, 2008

Autumn Day 2008

Mark Your Calendar Saturday, Sept. 20



Masonic Villages

Retirement Living Update



Dallas

The first residents of the Masonic Village at Dallas's Walther Apartments moved into their new home on Oct. 31, and already have enjoyed a number of social events with their neighbors in the cottages down the lane.

There are still some apartment homes and cottages available for immediate reservation at this new active retirement community. Start off the New Year with a resolution to make arrangements to move in, in time to watch the beautiful landscaping bloom on the adjoining golf course.

For more information, call (866) 851-4243 to make your reservation to attend one of the following presentations, or to schedule a personal appointment to tour the community.

Upcoming Presentations

- Jan. 9 at East Mountain Inn, Wilkes-Barre
- Jan. 16 at Holiday Inn Wilkes-Barre
- Jan. 23 and Feb. 6 at Irem Clubhouse
- Feb. 26 and March 5 at East Mountain Inn, Wilkes-Barre
- March 19, April 16 and April 30 at Irem Clubhouse

Elizabethtown

The first residents of the Sycamore South Apartments are expected to move into their homes in mid-January. Currently, there are still some choice apartments available for immediate reservation in the Sycamore North Building, expected to open at the end of March. This means that you would NOT have to be placed on a priority list, but could move into your new home within months!

Call today at (800) 676-6452 to make an appointment for a personal tour, and make plans to move into your new home in time to see the formal gardens at their finest!

Lafayette Hill

If you haven't yet had an opportunity to tour the NEW Masonic Village at Lafayette Hill, you'll be amazed at what you'll see! The entire community has been remodeled, and the results are outstanding.

While the 18 of the 21 newly renovated deluxe apartments have been reserved, pre-marketing has begun for 85 new deluxe apartments proposed to be built and connected to the existing building, based on interest levels.

Don't wait until they're all gone! Call today (610) 828-6750 to schedule a personal tour or to make your reservation for one of the following presentations.

Upcoming Presentations

- Jan. 18, Feb. 7, March 13 and April 18 at the Masonic Village at Lafayette Hill Auditorium
- March 6 at Hampton Inn, Quakertown
- April 3 at Hampton Inn, Quakertown

Sewickley

The Masonic Village at Sewickley is now approximately 98 percent full, which means there are only a few select accommodations available for immediate reservation. A waiting list will soon be developed in the near future.

For more information, to schedule a personal appointment or to make a reservation to attend one of the upcoming presentations, call (866) 872-0664.

Upcoming Presentations

- Jan. 31, Feb. 28, March 27 and April 22 in the Clubhouse

For the Highest Quality Health Care Services... You Have 4 Excellent Choices!

The Masonic Villages offer assisted living, health care and rehabilitative services at our Elizabethtown, Lafayette Hill, Sewickley and Warminster communities. For more information, please contact the location of your choice:

Elizabethtown Assisted Living & Nursing Services: (800) 676-6452

Lafayette Hill Assisted Living & Nursing Services: (610) 828-6750

Sewickley Assisted Living Services: (412) 741-1400, ext. 360 Nursing Services: (412) 741-1400, ext. 3020

Warminster Assisted Living & Nursing Services: (215) 672-2500, ext. 116