

The Pennsylvania FREEMASON

November 2008 • Volume LV No. 4



The Pennsylvania FREEMASON

November 2008

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THE PENNSYLVANIA FREEMASON®

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for consideration. We apologize, but due to
space constraints we are not able to publish every
submission we receive.

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The Pennsylvania FREEMASON

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Stephen Gardner

R.W. Grand Master

Brethren:

In the last month, we have come to mourn the passing of two of our beloved brethren, Right Worshipful Past Grand Master John L. McCain and Right Worshipful Past Grand Warden Thomas H. Burgess. We will dearly miss Brothers McCain and Burgess. Let us hope and pray that we can continue their mission of love for our great fraternity. Please keep their families in your hearts and prayers as we mourn their passing.

The first ten months of this year have seen a steady flow of activity across this Jurisdiction.

As our Blue Lodge Officers enter the month of November, they are approaching their service in 2009 as part of the most ritually qualified class of Blue Lodge Officers in recent memory. The gift they are giving to this fraternity is the result of their commitment, hard work and dedication. This was accomplished by virtue of the efforts of many brethren, both students and instructors, working to prepare their fraternity for a stronger future. To each brother who was part of this magnificent achievement, thank you. This Master Mason and your brethren congratulate and thank you for what you are doing for our beloved fraternity.

Every lodge in our Jurisdiction has the opportunity to participate in the Call 'Em All program. You can read about this program on page 11 of this edition. For those lodges participating in the Call 'Em All program, communications to their membership have clearly improved. Even our lodge Worshipful Masters and Secretaries who consider themselves technically challenged have remarked how easy this tool is to use. If you have not received a call via this new tool, perhaps your lodge does not have your phone number. Contact your Worshipful Master or Secretary to make sure you are included in the most current communication tool added to their tool box.

Because of your sustained generosity, as of the end of September, over \$105,000 has been contributed by Pennsylvania Masons and friends of the fraternity to the Change for the Troops calling card program. The simple act of picking up the phone to say hello is something that all of us take for granted. This is not so for our troops in harm's way. Pennsylvania Masons are now making that call home from the desert a bit easier. Those sons, daughters, family members, friends and neighbors who are serving in Afghanistan and Iraq are seeing that Pennsylvania Masons continue to thank them for their service and sacrifice. Every Blue Lodge in Pennsylvania has contributed. The leadership of Chapter, Council, Commandery and Scottish Rite is also encouraging their respective bodies to be regular contributors for our troops. My request here is simple: continue your kind generosity. Let us, as Pennsylvania Masons, keep telling these heroes, "thank you."

By the time this edition of The Pennsylvania Freemason magazine arrives in your home, the exterior restoration effort on our Grand Lodge building will be just about complete. This is being accomplished on schedule and within budget. J.J. DeLuca, the general contractor overseeing this project, has brought together the craftsmen of this generation to restore what the artisans and craftsmen gave to us over 135 years ago. No other Masonic building in the world can match what is yours in Philadelphia. You owe it to yourself to visit your Grand Lodge and to see the restored elegance of this building. The building is genuinely magnificent. Join your brethren on Dec. 6, 2008, at the Quarterly Communication and see for yourself. You will truly be impressed.

Sincerely & fraternally,



R.W. Grand Master





CHANGE FOR THE TROOPS

Garners Appreciation from Military & Government Leaders



Grand Lodge Officers Stephen Gardner (holding the A-10 bullet), Jay Smith and Bob Bateman and their wives pose with, (left-right), Jean Moretti, Brenden Flynn, Bro. Samuel Freeman, Bro. and Col. [Ret] Harris Brooks and Col. Paul Comtois, who has since petitioned the fraternity.

The Change for the Troops program has gained extensive exposure and support from top military and state governmental leaders, as well as media coverage. Donations to the program from brethren, lodges and other Masonic groups have now exceeded \$105,000.00, allowing the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania to provide international calling cards to thousands of men and women departing to serve in war zones overseas.

Bro. Stephen Gardner, R.W. Grand Master, and members of the Grand Lodge, along with brothers from Brotherhood Lodge No. 126, Philadelphia, were invited to the send-off ceremony for elements of the 111th Fighter Wing, Pennsylvania Air National Guard, departing from Willow Grove Reserve Station on July 27 for Afghanistan. The private event was mainly for families of the troops, so it was quite an honor for some of our Masonic family to be asked to attend.

On behalf of Pennsylvania Freemasons, Grand Master Gardner presented two hundred 300-minute calling cards to 111th Fighter Wing Commander Col. Paul W. Comtois to provide to the departing officers and airmen.

Prior to the send-off ceremonies, Bro. and Col. [Ret.] Harris Brooks arranged for Col. Comtois to provide Grand Master Gardner and the Grand Lodge officers a private tour of the A-10 fighter plane, as well as a briefing on the transition of the station's mission to serve as a homeland defense and national security installation. He also introduced Grand Master Gardner to Major General Jessica Wright, the Adjutant General for the Pennsylvania National Guard, and Major General Stephen Sischo, Commander of the Air National Guard in Pennsylvania and Deputy Adjutant General, who were honored that the Grand Master was in attendance. They were already

Brethren who live outside of Pennsylvania or who cannot make lodge meetings can contribute to Change for the Troops by sending a check to their local lodge and marking "Change for the Troops" in the memo space.

familiar with the Change for Troops program from previous calling card presentations, and even knew the value of the gifts. They were impressed by and grateful for all that Pennsylvania Freemasons are doing for Pennsylvania service people departing for the war zone.

Bro. Brooks also introduced Grand Master Gardner to Congresswoman Allyson Schwartz, who represents Pennsylvania's 13th District, and Brendan Flynn, Director for Military and Veterans Affairs for Congressman Patrick J. Murphy, who serves Pennsylvania's 8th District. They, too, expressed their appreciation for the dedication and support of Pennsylvania Masons. "I am so pleased that the Masons across Pennsylvania and here in my district are lending their efforts to support our men and women serving in the armed forces overseas," Rep. Schwartz said. "It is critical that those of us at home keep those who have deployed in our thoughts and prayers, but it is even more critical that we take that extra step, as the Masons have done, to aid them and their families in this difficult time."

"Everyone... the troops, families, military leadership and even legislators have been unbelievably appreciative of what we're doing," Bro. Brooks said. As a token of appreciation for Pennsylvania Freemasonry's support, Col. Comtois presented Grand Master Gardner with a polished chrome bullet from the A-10 aircraft. On Nov. 10, during Brotherhood Lodge No. 126's meeting in the



Left-right: Major General Stephen Sischo; Stephen Gardner, Grand Master; Major General Jessica Wright; and Bro. and Col. [Ret.] Harris Brooks



Masonic Temple, the senior leadership from the Willow Grove Reserve Station will once again present Grand Master Gardner with the bullet, framed and made into a special plaque for display at the Grand Lodge, as well as an American flag that was flown over the 111th Fighter Wing's headquarters in Afghanistan on behalf of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

Grand Master Gardner presented his "Earn it Again" medallion and a Benjamin Franklin statue to Col. Comtois as Wing Commander of the 111th Fighter Wing and to Major General Sischo as Commander of the Air National Guard in Pennsylvania, on behalf of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

Jean Moretti, Wing Family Program Coordinator for the 111th Fighter Wing of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard unit based in Willow Grove, said, "Our military members appreciate the thought and effort that goes into these generous donations... We are blessed to have the support and commitment of the Pennsylvania Freemasons to our Unit."



Stephen Gardner, R.W. Grand Master, introduces Rep. Allyson Schwartz to Bro. Bob Bateman, his wife, Joanne, and First Lady Patricia Gardner.



Troops board the plane with calling cards in hand.

Brethren,

In January 2009, a 4,000-member stryker brigade will be departing from Pennsylvania for the war zone. We have been told repeatedly that the morale of the troops is much higher because of our efforts to keep them connected with their loved ones at home. Your generosity has been overwhelming, and I am extremely proud of your support of the Change for the Troops program. When the collection bucket passes through your lodge this fall, please remember the troops who will be leaving their families after the holidays to pay the price for our freedom. My request here is simple. Please continue your kind generosity. Let us as Pennsylvania Masons keep telling our heroes, "thank you."

- Stephen Gardner, R.W. Grand Master



We wish to thank the Air Force for providing pictures for publication.





John Linville McCain
Jan. 7, 1916 - Sept. 17, 2008

It is with deep sadness that the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania announces the loss of one of its distinguished members, John Linville McCain, R.W.P.G.M. Bro. McCain passed away Sept. 17, 2008.

He was born on Jan. 7, 1916, the son of the late Harry Bailey McCain and Elizabeth Eva Coleman McCain. He married Genevieve B. Hachmeister McCain on June 28, 1941. He is survived by one son, Bro. John L. McCain, Jr., and two grandchildren.

Bro. McCain was a lifelong resident of the Pittsburgh area. He graduated from the public schools of suburban Dormont. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in industrial engineering from Penn State University in 1937. From 1937-1941, he took courses at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School and worked for the U.S. Steel Corporation at the Homestead and Irvin Works. He served as Second Lieutenant in the Chemical Warfare Service of the U.S. Army, 1941-1946, and rose to Major. Afterward, Bro. McCain joined his father-in-law's firm, Hachmeister Inc., as plant manager and was soon promoted to vice-president, a role he maintained through the acquisition of the company by H.J. Heinz Company, until his retirement in 1964.

Bro. McCain became a Mason in Milnor Lodge No. 287, Pittsburgh, in October 1948. He served as Worshipful Master in 1959 and trustee beginning in 1962. Bro. McCain was appointed District Deputy Grand Master for the 55th Masonic District in 1964 and assumed the station of Junior Grand Warden in 1970. He also served as district chairman of the Masonic Culture Committee and as trustee of the Consolidated Fund and the Joseph W. Murray Fund.

In York Rite Masonry, he was a member of St. Clair Royal Arch Chapter No. 305, in which he served as trustee in 1963 and High Priest in 1973; Mt. Moriah Council No. 2 Royal and Select Master Masons; Pittsburgh Commandery No. 1; Knights Templar,

In Memoriam JOHN LINVILLE MCCAIN

101st Right Worshipful Grand Master, 1976-1977

in which he was Eminent Commander from 1969-1970 and trustee; Excelsior Mark Lodge No. 216, Philadelphia; U.S. Premier Conclave, Knights of the Red Cross of Constantine; Golden Triangle York Rite College No. 32; and Gateway to the West Council No. 5, Knight Masons, U.S.A.

In the Scottish Rite, he was a member of the Valley of Pittsburgh, where he served as Sovereign Prince of the Council of Princes of Jerusalem in 1965-1966 and trustee in 1966-1973. He was made an Honorary Member, 33rd of the Supreme Council in Milwaukee, Wis., in 1970; elected an Active Member of Supreme Council in 1973 and Deputy for Pennsylvania in 1987. He also belonged to the Syria Temple, A.A.O.N.M.S., Pittsburgh; Pittsburgh Court No. 2 of the Royal Order of Jesters; and Carlisle Chapter No. 130, Heroes of '76, of the National Sojourners.

Bro. McCain's other Masonic affiliations include the Masonic Veterans Association of Western Pennsylvania; Wa Cha Gree Forest No. 149 of the Tall Cedars of Lebanon; Islam Grotto, M.O.V.P.E.R., Pittsburgh; Quatuor Coronati Lodge No. 2076, London; and the Societas Rosicruciana in Civitatibus Foederatis.

The first former member of DeMolay to become Grand Master of Pennsylvania, Bro. McCain joined the South Hills Chapter of the Order in 1931, serving as executive officer for Pennsylvania in 1982-1986 and as an Active Member of the DeMolay International Supreme Council. With the closing of the Patton Masonic Institution for Boys in Elizabethtown, he took the first steps to open the facility for Masonic youth programs.

Bro. McCain received the Benjamin Franklin Medal from the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania; the Meritorious Service Certificate from the Richmond Masonic Association of Staten Island; the Christopher Champlin Medal from the Grand Lodge of Rhode Island; the Virginia Craftsman Medal; the Henry Price Medal from the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts; the Phillip C. Tucker Medal from the Grand Lodge of Vermont; the Josiah Hayden Drummond Award from the Grand Lodge of Maine; and the Order of the Purple Cross of the York Rite Sovereign College, of which he was an Associate Regent. Always supportive of the Masonic youth groups, he received the DeMolay Legion of Honor and the Grand Cross of Color from the Order of the Rainbow for Girls.

Bro. McCain was a member of the Southminister United Presbyterian Church in Mt. Lebanon, where he served on the board of deacons. Previously, he belonged to the Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church from 1928-1941. Bro. McCain was a member and president of the McKees Rocks Rotary Club, a member of the board of trustees of the Ohio Valley Hospital, director of the West End Federal Savings and Loan Association and regional director of the Atlantic Financial Federal Savings and Loan Association. He was a member of the Chartiers Country Club, the Ligonier Country Club, the Seaview Country Club, the Sea Pines Club, the Pittsburgh Athletic Association and the Engineers' Society of Western Pennsylvania.

In Memoriam THOMAS H. BURGESS

R.W. Past Grand Warden

It is with deep sadness that the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania announces the loss of one of its distinguished members, Thomas H. Burgess, R.W. Past Grand Warden. Bro. Burgess passed away on Aug. 30, 2008.

He was born and raised in Hazleton, the son of the late Chester Arthur "Ted" Burgess and Mae Reese Burgess. He is survived by his wife, Marcella Bell Burgess, and daughter, Amy.

Bro. Burgess graduated from Hazleton High School, attended Penn State University and graduated from Franklin & Marshall College, Lancaster. He served in the U.S. Army from 1946 to 1949. In 1956, he was employed as a Vice President and Trust Officer for Hazleton National Bank. He was a member of the Hazleton Chapter, American Institute of Banking, and served seven years as Secretary/Treasurer of the Corporate Fiduciaries Association, Group III, Pennsylvania Bankers Association. He also served on the association's Administrative Committee of the Trust Department and was a member of its Trust Marketing Committee.

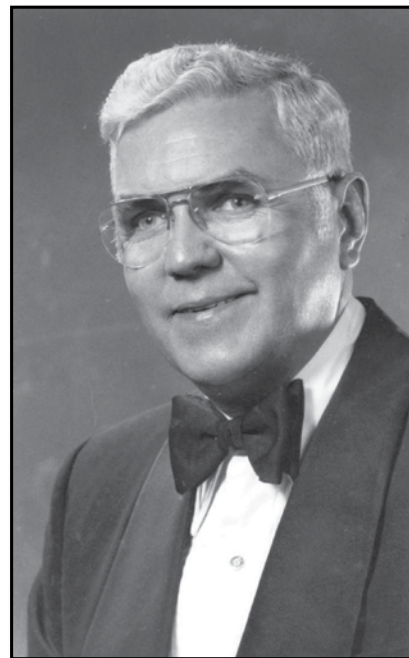
Bro. Burgess was made a Mason in Azalea Lodge No. 687, Hazleton, in 1950 and served as Worshipful Master in 1964 and trustee beginning in 1967. He served as Junior Grand Deacon from 1971-1973, was a member of the Committee on Masonic Culture and served as District Deputy Grand Master for the 45th District from 1975-1977.

In the Scottish Rite, he was a member of the Valley of Bloomsburg, Zerubbabel Council Princes of Jerusalem 16°, and served as Master of Ceremonies, 1976-1977. He was coroneted an Honorary Member of the Supreme Council, 33° in 1981.

Bro. Burgess assumed the station of R.W. Junior Grand Warden in 1977. He served as Senior Grand Warden in 1980.

In the community, Bro. Burgess was a Past President of the Visiting Nurse Association of Hazleton and Vicinity; Past President and Executive Committee member of the United Way of Greater Hazleton, Inc.; and a member of the advisory boards of the Hazleton Salvation Army and the Hazleton Lions Club. He was a member of Grace United Church of Christ, Hazleton, where he served as a Sunday school teacher and as secretary.

Bro. Burgess moved to the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown in 1998. In 2005, he became a member of the Congregation of Sell Chapel, where he served as a greeter and assisted with Communion.



Thomas H. Burgess
Sept. 5, 1928 - Aug. 30, 2008



FROM THE NORTHEAST CORNER

An occasional periodical on Masonic Knowledge published by the Pennsylvania Lodge of Research
Bro. Stephen Gardner, R.W. Grand Master • Bro. William D. Hartman, Worshipful Master, 2008

When the Secretary of the lodge stands to read the Minutes from the previous meeting, he begins by giving the date of that meeting, which may be, for example, June 8, 2008, A.L. 6008. Have you ever wondered why the "6008"? What's the significance of the double date? And what is "A.L."?

Centuries ago, scholars tried to date the beginning of the world. These scholars researched the Old Testament to determine, with the knowledge they had at that time, just when our world was created. One of the foremost scholars in this field was an Anglican Archbishop by the name of James Ussher (1581-1656), who was Archbishop of Armagh, in Ireland, and Primate of all of Ireland, which was still under English rule. Archbishop Ussher, in his scholarly work, "Annals of the Old Testament" (Annales Veteris Testamenti), determined that Creation began on the night preceding Oct. 23, 4004, B.C. (Julian Calendar), which corresponds to the Gregorian calendar (our present usage) of Sept. 21, 4000, B.C.E. (Before the Common or Christian Era)

Masonry, devoted to "enlightening" its members, places great value on light, symbolized by an initiate being brought "out of darkness into true Masonic light." The first act of Creation was light, as we are told in Genesis 1:3: "And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light." Since Freemasonry links its origins "from time immemorial," the Blue Lodge represents the beginning of light, and so symbolically dates itself, using Bishop Ussher's chronology, from the beginning of Creation. Therefore, modern-day Freemasonry uses

this dating, adding 4,000 years to the present date. The "A.L." is Latin for Anno Lux, meaning "in the year of Light."

Other Masonic groups within the Masonic family use this same method to date their own origins. Our modern Knights Templar date their origin from the founding of the original Order of Knights Templar, which was founded in 1118 A.D. Hence, the Record (Minutes) of a Commandery of Knights Templar would be dated, for example, June 8, 2008, A.O. 890, or the 890th year of the Order.

So the next time you are in your lodge, and hear the Secretary begin reading the Minutes, giving the "double date," you now know why it is done that way. It is a reminder, both of our symbolic origins as a fraternity, and your own journey "from darkness to true Masonic light."

We, as Masons, have each pledged to pursue Masonic knowledge. The Pennsylvania Lodge of Research stands as a fountain of Masonic knowledge to all who would attend. Any Pennsylvania Freemason, in good standing, may join the Pennsylvania Lodge of Research, and any Freemason, in good standing, may attend any of its meetings. For further information on how you can join or when and where the next meeting will be held, just go to the Grand Lodge Web site, www.pagrandlodge.org, and click on the PA Lodge of Research link. You can also contact its Secretary, Bro. Charles S. Canning, 2938 W. Chew Street, Allentown, PA 18104, or e-mail him at CAn2938@aol.com



DATE CHANGE! FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2008

Jingle & Mingle Gala



Don't Miss Out on Pittsburgh's
Best Social Event of the Year!

This year's Pittsburgh Jingle and Mingle Gala will be held at the prestigious Oakmont Country Club in suburban Pittsburgh. The Jingle and Mingle is a perfect place to get into the holiday spirit with gift baskets, butlered appetizers and a cash bar. All proceeds of the event will benefit the Masonic Village at Sewickley.

Put on your finest and come enjoy exceptional food, fabulous drinks and live holiday music with the Grand Master, members of the Grand Lodge and your friends. There will be plenty of gift baskets available at the silent auction for all of you last-minute shoppers as well.

The committee is currently searching for brethren to donate items to the auction or sponsor part of the festivities. If you or your business are interested in donating, please call Bro. P.J. Roup at (412) 793-3654.

The cost is \$125 per person or \$200 for two, so bring your spouse or a friend and come support this most worthwhile cause.

For more information about this event, or if you can donate any items for this year's Silent Auction, please contact Bro. Roup at (412) 793-3654 or e-mail DDGM54@pagrandlodge.org.

Reservation Form

Jingle & Mingle Gala

☐ Yes! I would like to attend the gala. I have included a check made payable to Masonic Charities and designated for the Jingle & Mingle Gala.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone () _____

One ticket @ \$125 \$ _____

Two tickets @ \$200 \$ _____

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

Send Reservation Form to:

P.J. Roup, 412 Regency Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15239-1712

COUNCIL OF DELIBERATION

Four top Masonic leaders met and took part in the 139th annual Pennsylvania Council of Deliberation, held July 12, 2008, in the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center.



Above, left-right: Illustrious Herbert N. Gibbons, Sr. 33°, Deputy for Orient of Pa., Prince Hall Affiliation; Illustrious John McNaughton, 33°, Sovereign Grand Commander of the Supreme Council, AASR, for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction; Illustrious Stephen Gardner, 33°, R.W. Grand Master of Masons of Pa.; and Illustrious William L. McCarrier, 33°, Commander-in-Chief and presiding officer of the Pa. Council.

Gentlemen:

I cannot express the absolute delight I experienced in the August "Freemason" and the note from Patrick Finney, LCDR, USN, thanking us for a phone calling card through the Change for the Troops program. You see, Pat and I have worked together for several years, and I have been in touch with him and his family throughout his deployment, followed his support to our country through his Web page, but had no idea he would receive a card. It reached home on a personal level that my contributions, and the efforts of all the Masons, are seen on such a personal scale when least expected.

Thanks to all who continue to contribute, and thanks to Pat for his service to our country and the sacrifices he and his wife, Mary Kate, and the family are making. We look forward to Pat's safe return later this year.

Ronald R. Bellamy

Cassia Mt. Horeb Lodge No. 273, Ardmore



A HISTORY OF MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Benjamin Franklin joined the Masonic fraternity at the age of 25 and spent most of his life establishing the foundations of our country: diplomatic policies, constitutional laws, many inventions we still use today and the concepts of a library and volunteer fire company. He was also a writer and philosopher as well as a benevolent human being.

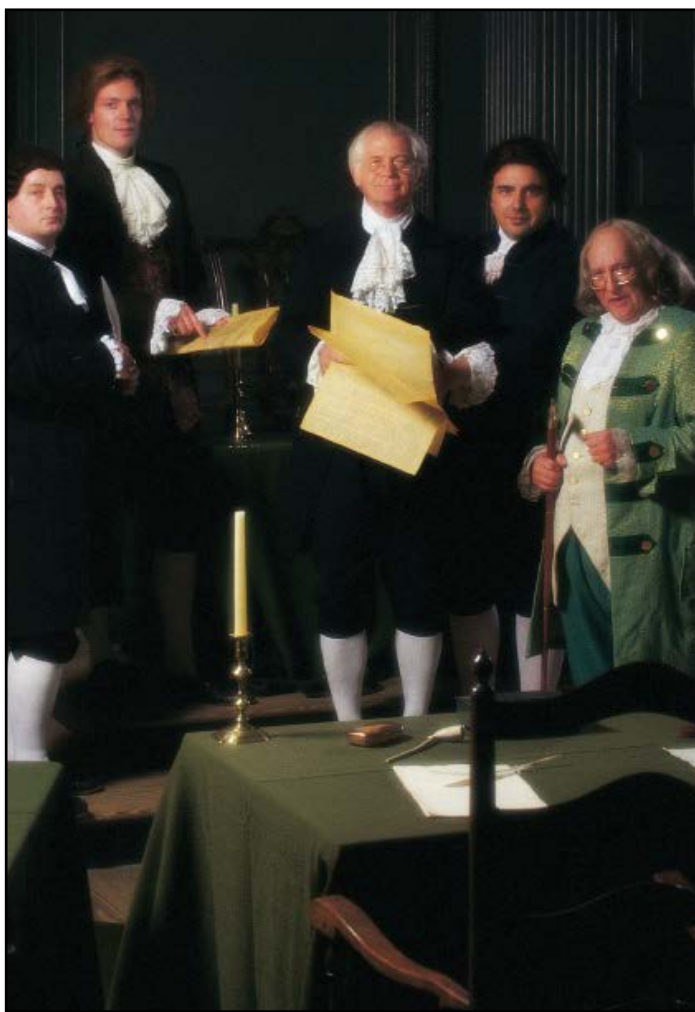
It is easy to understand why such a man could influence members of the oldest lodge in Pennsylvania, Lodge No. 2 in Philadelphia, more than 275 years later.

"We like to look back to the charity of our founding fathers – at a time before we were a nation – and Benjamin Franklin, who at age 25, took money out of his own pocket to give to others," Bro. Lawrence Hubert, Jr., W.M., Lodge No. 2, said. "Ben Franklin found a way. We always try to find ways to help the community. We want to contribute to making the world a better place and leave a good legacy."

Among the lodge's charitable initiatives, which benefit its members and the community at large, are supporting the Masonic Temple in Philadelphia and the Masonic Villages, participating in the Charity Mini Grand Prix to benefit the Masonic Children's Home, working with appendant Masonic organizations and youth groups and volunteering with local Adopt-a-School and drug awareness programs.

Lodge No. 2, with 212 members, was one of several contributors to the restoration of a Steinway grand piano at the Masonic Village at Lafayette Hill (see story on p. 33). With several of their members residing at the Masonic Village, it was a great way to directly support their fellow brothers and the Masonic Charities.

"Our goal is to make specific initiatives and use our philanthropy well," Bro. Hubert said. "By creating many different efforts, our members enthusiastically find ways to become active in whatever way they're capable. We have a strong motivation to be part of the fraternity's foundation of making good men better."



Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania

To the Members of the Grand Lodge:

You are hereby requested to attend the December Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania to be held at 10:00 o'clock, a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 6, 2008 at the Masonic Temple, 1 North Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA.

By Order of the R.W. Grand Master.

Mark A. Haines R.W. Grand Secretary





GRAND MASTER'S 2008 CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT RESULTS



Left-right: Bros. W. Barry Blannett, S.W.; Mark D. Mettler, High Priest and Prophet; Roy Smith, Assistant Rabban; and Richard A. Belmont, Recorder, Past Potentate; all of Irem Shrine, shot 10 under par to win the central tournament.



Left-right: Bros. Guy Matthews, P.D.D.G.M.; Edward R. Stein, D.D.G.M.; Robert J. Bateman, R.W.J.G.W.; Stephen Gardner, R.W.G.M.; David Tansey, D.D.G.M.; Ronald A. Aungst, Sr., R.W.P.G.M.; Raymond T. George, D.D.G.M.; and William Kingsbury, D.D.G.M.

CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA

The central golf tournament was held at the Irem Shriners Country Club on Sept. 16, with 72 golfers hitting the links. The format was "Captain and his Crew."

Brothers Rich Belmont, Recorder and Past Potentate of Irem Shrine, and Ronald A. Aungst, Sr., R.W.P.G.M., co-chaired the event, which raised more than \$10,962 for the Masonic Charities. Fifty percent of the proceeds will benefit the Masonic Children's Home and the other 50 percent will support the Masonic Temple restoration.

The golfers received a gift bag including a leather pouch for golf balls and tees, a sleeve of golf balls, an Irem Country Club ball marker, a buffet lunch, beverages and snacks during and after play and a huge dinner highlighted by a carving station of succulent prime rib.

EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

The eastern golf tournament was held on Sept. 29 at LuLu Country Club in North Hills. Over 90 golfers participated in the fun event featuring a full day of golf, music, cocktails, dinner and a silent auction. Early tabulations indicate that the net proceeds will be in excess of \$25,000 to benefit special projects at the Masonic Villages at Lafayette Hill and Warminster.

Many thanks to Tournament Committee members Bro. Dale H. Fera, Sr., Bro. William J. Greet, Bro. Chris Reynolds, Joyce F. Michelfelder and Carol Wolfinger, who worked hard to make the event a success. More than a dozen residents from the Masonic Village at Lafayette Hill also volunteered their time to assist with the set-up of the auction, act as "hole monitors" and help to stuff the goodie bags.

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

The western golf tournament, held Sept. 22 at the Sewickley Heights Golf Club, hosted a generous group of golfers and an enthusiastic assembly of Masonic Village at Sewickley retirement living resident volunteers.

The day's events began with registration, and then a shot gun start for the golfers at 11:30 am. After completing their round of golf, the men and women enjoyed hors d'oeuvres and dinner in the ballroom. This year's tournament committee, chaired by Bro. Robert F. Dunkle, D.D.G.M., coordinated a Chinese auction, silent auction and a reverse club auction which added to the competitive fun of the day's events. Golf committee members also included Bros. Raymond T. Dietz, D.D.G.M.; Norman E. Flaherty, P.D.D.G.M.; William J. Magnotti, D. William Roberts, P.D.D.G.M.; Paul J. Roup, D.D.G.M.; and Samuel W. Spanos. Jane Binley provided staff support for the event.

Due to the overwhelming support of sponsors, golfers and volunteers, this year's proceeds of over \$7,000 will benefit the Masonic Village at Sewickley's Valley Care Masonic Center.



Enjoying fellowship and fun on the course at the Western PA Tournament were, left-right: Bros. Alex Walters; Rodney Boyce, D.D.G.M.; P.J. Roup, D.D.G.M.; and John Walter. Photo compliments of Doric Lodge No. 630, Sewickley, Arnold Y. Steinberg, W.M.



CALL 'EM ALL UPDATE

At the beginning of the year, the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania kicked off a program, appropriately called "Call 'Em All," which allows lodge leaders to record messages and send them to every brother's phone number in their databases through an auto-dialer service. While lodges do not have to use the program, those that adopted this service sponsored by the Grand Lodge have given it rave reviews.

Lodges use the service to remind brothers about just about anything – lodge meetings, special events, deadlines for dues, special needs and funeral services. Call 'Em All makes informing brothers easy, ensures brothers all receive the correct messages and makes it possible to reach everyone in just a few minutes. "This offered us a one-stop-shop to reach the masses," District Deputy Grand Master Ed Stein, 7th Masonic District, said.

"It works great. I think it's one of the best programs initiated by a Grand Master in a long time," District Deputy Grand Master Barry Wheeler, 31st Masonic District, said. He's also impressed with how easy it is to send a message to everyone. Before, he had to call 10 brothers, who would each call several brothers, and so on until everyone received the message. The old message system took a lot of time and provided much room for human error. "Now, zingo! It just takes one person," Bro. Wheeler emphasized, "It's really, really simple."

Technology Concerns

"For me, I have to be honest with you that it was easy to use the system," Bro. Stein said. "Everyone I know is on board with the program as a means for opening dialogue and communication within the lodges."

While the new Call 'Em All program has raised technological concerns amongst some brothers, the overwhelming majority find that they can operate the system easily, especially if someone takes the time to demonstrate how it works.

Bro. Wheeler worked with the Worshipful Masters in the 31st Masonic

District to help them through the new program. "I tried it first and then went to the other lodges. I told them, 'Listen, it's not hard; you don't have to be a rocket scientist,'" he said, to ease any apprehension.

Impressive Results

The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania had high hopes for Call 'Em All, and it has lived up to R.W. Grand Master Stephen Gardner's expectations.

Bro. Stein has seen the Call 'Em All program at work in the lodges in his district. He's noticed that the program has helped to bring more people to lodge events such as picnics or ladies' night. "Maybe one thing leads to another and a person attends a picnic and through seeing friends and the fraternal bond, it revitalizes his interest in the lodge," Bro. Stein said.

Call 'Em All also has a family aspect. "What you're doing with the Call 'Em All program is you're getting a family involved," Bro. Wheeler said. "The family can feel, 'I'm part of that now – part of the Freemasonry family.'" The camaraderie formed among brothers is enhanced when family members also support and get involved in Freemasonry.

Call 'Em All has also made the fraternity more informed. "The service was a wake-up call that the database wasn't where it should be," Bro. Stein said. When Worshipful Masters and Lodge Secretaries began entering phone numbers into the calling service, they started to realize that some of the information databases were not complete and updated. Call 'Em All provided the incentive to update these databases so everyone has access to the most current information.

Continuing Trend

This powerful technology gives lodges the tools they need to reach out to brothers in unprecedented numbers. Call 'Em All's potential to grow the fraternity and share relevant information is limitless if lodges continue to adopt this program and use it regularly.

36TH MASONIC DISTRICT LODGES UNITE

According to District Deputy Grand Master of the 36th District, Bro. Ricky L. Swalm, the lodges of District 36 make it a habit to invite each other to their events, including degree work. All the lodges (Chester Lodge No. 236; George Bartram-Paul Sand Lodge No. 298, Media; Prospect Lodge No. 578, Prospect Park; Concord Lodge No. 625, Concordville; Penn Lodge No. 709, Concordville; Lansdowne Lodge No. 711; and Springfield-Hanby Lodge No. 767, Springfield) work well together, enhancing each member's experience. Bro. Swalm keeps lodge officers up to date on events and happenings through a bi-monthly newsletter including inspirational messages encouraging brothers to engage each other in Masonic duties and activities. Two of the district's recent outings included the following:

On May 12, more than 150 brethren of Masonic District 36, along with their ladies and guests, honored members who have served in the ranks of the Masonic fraternity for 50 and 60 years. R.W. Grand Master Stephen Gardner and R.W. Junior Grand Warden Robert Bateman also attended the presentation and dinner, hosted by Bartram-Sand Lodge at the Springfield Masonic Temple.

On June 16, members of the 36th Masonic District traveled by chartered bus to visit and attend the Stated Meeting of Abraham C. Treichler Lodge No. 682, Elizabethtown, as a tribute to members of District 36 lodges who now live at the Masonic Village. After a catered dinner, the Worshipful Masters and members of the 36th Masonic District were welcomed by Bro. Larry Ebersole, W.M., and the officers and members of Treichler Lodge.

According to Masonic protocol, Bro. Noble P. Johnson, District



Deputy Grand Master for the 60th Masonic District, introduced Bro. Swalm, who in turn introduced the visiting Worshipful Masters of the 36th Masonic District including Bros. Paul Micun, Chester Lodge; James Standish, George Bartram-Paul Sand Lodge; William Seganti, Concord Lodge; Raymond Bryant, Penn Lodge; and Dean Spangler, Lansdowne Lodge.

During the Stated Meeting, Masonic Service Emblems were presented to two residents of the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown: Bro. Robert C. Tobias, George Bartram Paul Sand Lodge, (50 years) and Bro. John V. Dooley, Chester Lodge, (60 years). Bro. Edward T. Bryant, Chester Lodge, presented the Lewis Jewel to his son, Bro. Raymond Bryant, W.M., Penn Lodge.





MASONIC MEETING AT HISTORIC FORT MIFFLIN



Clockwise:

Left-right: Bros. Thomas W. Simpson III, J.W.; Stephen Gardner, R.W. Grand Master; Raymond E. Cox, 50-Year Emblem recipient; Ray Bryant, W.M.; and Orlando P. Salvato III, P.M., S.W.

*An aerial view of the meeting at the fort.
NUR Colonial Fife & Drum Corp.
presenting the colors*

*Bro. Rick L. Swalm, District Deputy
Grand Master for District 36, with Stephen
Gardner, R.W. Grand Master*



On Sept. 17, a Stated Meeting of Penn Lodge No. 709, Concordville, was held at Historic Fort Mifflin on the Delaware River, site of the oldest continuously used fort in the United States. The 220 brethren who were in attendance from 36 different lodges were honored with a visitation by Bro. Stephen Gardner, R.W. Grand Master. The fort was secured with the closing of the heavy wooden gate and the watchful eyes and ears of Tylers upon the walls in each of the four cardinal points.

At 6 p.m., with a blast from a cannon and rap of the gavel, the first Masonic Meeting at Fort Mifflin was called to order. Grand Master Gardner performed the Flag ceremony accompanied by the NUR Colonials Fife & Drum Corp. Introductions were made while the Unity Gavel traveled from hand to hand.

Using the success of the Meeting in the Hills in Western Pennsylvania as inspiration, and the assistance from brethren of all seven lodges in District 36, the Meeting at the Fort was brought to fruition. It was conceived as a special project to inspire the brethren of our Masonic fraternity and unite them on one special and historic occasion. It is in this same spirit that the Unity Gavel and Box had been conceived.

Originally built in 1771 by the British, Fort Mifflin is the only Revolutionary War battlefield completely intact. It was used by the U.S. Army until 1952 during the Korean War.

In 1777, during the American Revolution, the British Navy attacked Fort Mifflin on Mud Island. Bro. and General George Washington ordered the garrison at Fort Mifflin to hold off the British Navy so the Continental Army could make its way to their winter encampment at Valley Forge.

The British surrounded the garrison of approximately 400 Continental soldiers on three sides, and pummeled the fort with more than 10,000 cannonballs, causing the garrison to evacuate and killing 150 Continental soldiers. The harsh weather prevented British General Howe from chasing them, allowing Bro. and General Washington and the Continental Army to regroup in Valley Forge until spring 1787. Bro. Washington wrote that the defense of the Delaware River was "of the utmost importance to America."

Known as the "Valiant Defender of the Delaware," Fort Mifflin was reconstructed in 1798 as a coastal defense. It served many purposes over the years, as a garrison in the War of 1812, a Confederate prison during the Civil War and as a munitions depot in World Wars I & II. www.fortmifflin.us



LODGES ADVANCE IN STATEWIDE MINIMUM RITUALISTIC STANDARDS



It's been less than a year since R.W. Grand Master Gardner announced to the membership the new Statewide Minimum Ritualistic Standard for Pennsylvania Masons. District Deputy Grand Masters had been informed a year prior to this initiative and many began working with their lodges immediately.

For some lodges, this "new" requirement wasn't so new after all. "Our district welcomes the adoption of the statewide minimum ritualistic standards," said Bro. William L. Kingsbury, District Deputy Grand Master for District C. "Ritualistic proficiency of lodge officers has been in the culture of District C for many years, long before my appointment as District Deputy. In most cases, our lodges have self-imposed even stricter requirements."

Others, however, had quite a bit of work to do. According to Bro. William H. Brandt, Sr., District Deputy Grand Master for the 12th District, many Past Masters remained in their chairs because other brethren in their lodge had not learned the ritual. And while the initiative took off rather slowly, he now boasts that his district's

lodges have increased their qualifications by 75 percent. In fact, Bro. Brandt has implemented an even more stringent policy than the Grand Master's, requiring that brethren know the degree in each chair before being elected to that post. The district has been fortunate that some new young men joining the fraternity have gotten involved and learned the work in order to advance in the chairs. "One-on-one instruction is the key," he said.

Bro. Brandt admits that more than one brother has raised the question, "Why do I have to know this now?" His answer is simple. "If no one knows the work, there will be no work to learn and we'll lose the fraternity. It's what sets us apart. Without it, we could be like any other fraternal organization in the community, but we're not just a fraternal organization — we're Freemasons."



As of the end of September, the Unity Box and Gavel had traveled more than 12,000 miles. Be sure not to miss YOUR turn to share this experience with your fellow brethren across the Commonwealth!

Schedule for the Travel of the Unity Box and Gavel

Aug. 5 - Open & Close Dist. 35 No. 460
 Aug. 8 - Open & Close Dist. 15 No. 472
 Aug. 11 - Open & Close Dist. 34 No. 774
 Aug. 12 - Open & Close Dist. 15 No. 338
 Aug. 14 - Open & Close Dist. D No. 506
 Aug. 15 - 50th Anniversary Banquet Dist. 54 No. 783
 Aug. 16 - 150th Anniversary Banquet Dist. 23 No. 316
 Sept. 1 - Open & Close Dist. 17 No. 247
 Sept. 2 - Open Dist. 18 No. 397, Close Dist. 18 No. 232
 Sept. 3 - Open Dist. 17 No. 602, Close Dist. 17 No. 556
 Sept. 4 - Open & Close Dist. 17 No. 351
 Sept. 8 - Open & Close Dist. 33 No. 675
 Sept. 9 - Open Dist. 33 No. 379, Close Dist. 33 No. 382
 Sept. 12 - Open & Close Dist. 33 No. 532
 Sept. 15 - Open & Close Dist. 17 No. 350
 Sept. 16 - Open & Close Dist. 17 No. 477
 Sept. 17 - Open & Close Dist. 36 No. 709
 Sept. 18 - Open & Close Dist. 58 No. 414
 Oct. 1 - Open & Close Dist. 33 No. 566
 Oct. 3 - Open & Close Dist. 21 No. 314
 Oct. 6 - Open & Close Dist. 21 No. 639

Oct. 7 - Open Dist. 22 No. 505, Close Dist. 22 No. 555
 Oct. 8 - Open & Close Dist. 22 No. 749
 Oct. 9 - Open Dist. 22 No. 334, Close Dist. 22 No. 598
 Oct. 13 - Open Dist. 21 No. 515, Close Dist. 21 No. 537
 Oct. 14 - Open & Close Dist. 10 No. 469
 Oct. 15 - Open & Close Dist. 22 No. 580
 Oct. 21 - Open & Close Dist. 21 No. 268
 Nov. 3 - Open Dist. 31 No. 643, Close Dist. 31 No. 60
 Nov. 4 - Dist. 31 No. 638, Dist. 30 No. 346, Dist. 30 No. 601, Dist. 49 No. 375
 Nov. 5 - Open Dist. 30 No. 275, Close Dist. 31 No. 651
 Nov. 6 - Open Dist. 54 No. 502, Close Dist. 38 No. 683
 Nov. 7 - Open Dist. 55 No. 573, Close Dist. 57 No. 761
 Nov. 10 - Dist. 30 No. 225, Dist. 31 No. 228, Dist. 31 No. 252
 Nov. 11 - Dist. 30 No. 614, Dist. 30 No. 750, Dist. 31 No. 337
 Nov. 12 - Dist. 54 No. 789, Dist. 38 No. 546, Dist. 38 No. 796
 Nov. 13 - Open Dist. 31 No. 615, Close Dist. 30 No. 562
 Nov. 14 - Open & Close Dist. 31 No. 331
 Nov. 17 - Open Dist. 29 No. 623, Close Dist. 47 No. 669
 Nov. 18 - Dist. 47 No. 513, Dist. 29 No. 447, Dist. 55 No. 287, Dist. 55 No. 725

Nov. 19 - Open & Close Dist. 57 No. 743
 Nov. 20 - Open Dist. 55 No. 231, Close Dist. 55, No. 221
 Nov. 21 - Open & Close Dist. 29 No. 454
 Nov. 24 - Open & Close Dist. 54 No. 812
 Nov. 25 - Open & Close Dist. 38 No. 635
 Nov. 26 - Open & Close Dist. 55 No. 45
 Dec. 1 - Open Dist. 47 No. 544, Close Dist. 29 No. 164
 Dec. 2 - Dist. 38 No. 548, Dist. 55 No. 318, Dist. 47 No. 657
 Dec. 4 - Open Dist. 30 No. 568, Close Dist. 29 No. 459
 Dec. 5-6 - Grand Lodge Quarterly Communication
 Dec. 8 - Dist. 49 No. 714, Dist. 49 No. 765, Dist. 47 No. 674
 Dec. 9 - Dist. 47 No. 652, Dist. 57 No. 269, Dist. 57 No. 794
 Dec. 10 - Dist. 57 No. 509, Dist. 49 No. 731, Dist. 29 No. 237
 Dec. 11 - Open Dist. 38 No. 716, Close Dist. 47 No. 630
 Dec. 12 - Open Dist. 47 No. 653, Close Dist. 57 No. 684
 Dec. 15 - Dist. 31 No. 461, Dist. 49 No. 582, Dist. 49 No. 526
 Dec. 16 - Dist. 49 No. 583, Dist. 31 No. 593, Dist. 30 No. 518, Dist. 54 No. 799
 Dec. 17 - Open Dist. 54 No. 613, Close Dist. 54 No. 644
 Dec. 18 - Open & Close Dist. 54 No. 783
 Dec. 22 - Open Dist. 29 No. 297, Close Dist. 29, No. 153

JOIN YOUR BRETHREN!

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





CONGRATULATIONS TO...

Bro. Thomas W. Jackson, R.W. Past Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, recently had an annual award sponsored in his name by the Valley of Rochester, A.A.S.R., at the College of Freemasonry on April 5. The Thomas Jackson Award is to be given to someone who has transformed the message of Freemasonry into an educational inspiration with a high impact on society at a state, regional or national level. On April 19, Bro. Jackson was presented the first-ever "The Order of Nat Granstein" award (shown on right) from the National Grand Lodge of Romania for continuous support and promotion of the interest of The National Grand Lodge of Romania within Universal Regular Freemasonry (shown right). On July 5, he received the first-ever "Decoration for Merit" (shown on left) for support of Russian Regular Freemasonry. Bro. Jackson holds Honorary Grand Rank in 23 World Grand Lodges and has received decorations from 26 Grand Lodges.



Newly raised Master Mason Bro. Warren A. Norris, III, receives the Lewis Jewel from his proud father, Bro. Warren A. Norris, Jr.

When **Bro. Warren A. Norris, Jr., P.M.**, H. Stanley Goodwin Lodge No. 648, Bethlehem, learned that his son, **Bro. Warren A. Norris, III**, now a member of Julian Feild Lodge No. 908, A.F. & A.M. Fort Worth, Texas, was going to become a Master Mason, Bro. Norris wanted to be present for that moment in his son's Masonic life. Bro. Norris made arrangements to have a Lewis Jewel crafted, and on July 6, flew to Fort Worth for the occasion. After the lodge conferred the degree, Bro. Norris was called upon to give the jewel to his son.

UNIONTOWN MASONS ON PARADE



Left-right: Bros. John Wagner, Matthew S. Kremposkey, Robert Farquhar, Richard D. Smith, C. Ralph Bliss, Brian Phillips, Robin W. Beissell, Thomas Gower

In hopes of raising interest in Freemasonry through participation in Uniontown's first May Day Parade, Bro. Darren M. DeCarlo, Chairman, Fayette Lodge No. 228, Uniontown, enlisted the support of his lodge's Worshipful Master, John I. Whitlatch, and Brothers Andrew D. Ferguson, III, P.M., W.M., and Richard D. Smith, P.M., Laurel Lodge No. 651, Uniontown. Barry L. Wheeler, District Deputy Grand Master for District 31, received permission from R.W. Grand Master Stephen Gardner for the brethren to wear Masonic attire and regalia in the parade.



Bro. John N. Seeton received the "Mason of the Year-2007" award at Norristown Lodge No. 620, in January. Above, left-right: Bro. James D. Seeton (brother), Doylestown Lodge No. 245, Eva Seeton (spouse), John N. Seeton, Jr. (son), Bro. John N. Seeton (honoree), Bro. Mark J. Seeton (son) Lodge No. 45, Pittsburgh, and in front, Lauren R. Seeton (granddaughter).



EXPANDING MASONIC EXPERIENCES



Left-right: Bros. Kwan Morrow; Scott D. Simkins, J.W.; Frederick W. Wichterman, P.M.; Ryan P. Rex, S.W.; James T. Willoughby, W.M., Steven P. Ralston, W.M.; George Porchea, P.M.; Eugene H. Rifkind, P.M.; William Smith, J.W.; John Taylor, Jr.; Joel C. Wolfert, S.W.; Johnny Sherrill, S.W.; Dale H. Fera, P.D.D.G.M.; David A. Vahey, P.M.; Robert M. Mills; Paul R. Knapp, W.M., Keith Jones, P.M.; and James Day

Officers and members of Hiram Lodge No. 81, Philadelphia; Widener-Apollo-Kensington Lodge No. 211, Philadelphia; and Concordia Lodge No. 67, Jenkintown, attended the Annual Banquet of Prince Hall's Composite Lodge No. 121 on June 20 and the Conferral of the Third Degree on June 21. A relationship of reciprocal visits has developed over the years between Composite Lodge and Hiram Lodge, with the recent inclusions of Widener-Apollo-Kensington Lodge, Concordia Lodge and Friendship-Williams Lodge No. 400, Jenkintown.

While many similarities exist between the ritual of the Prince Hall Lodge and the Blue Lodge, differences are notable. The opening and closing of a Prince Hall Lodge ritual includes music and singing,

and throughout the degree work, much emotion is exuded.

"No Blue Lodge Mason should miss the opportunity to witness the Conferral of the Third Degree by a Prince Hall Lodge to further instill the oath and obligation we have taken in front of the altar," Bro. Steven Ralston, W.M., Hiram Lodge No. 81, said. "I encourage all Masons to take advantage of these occasions because the most apparent attribute will be the overwhelmingly warm atmosphere of fraternity and brotherhood among all Masons."

The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania granted recognition of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania for visitation purposes at the Quarterly Communication of June 6, 1997.



Photo by Bro. George T. Smith, Sr. 33°

Members of Newtown Lodge No. 427 and East Lodge No. 55, P.H.A., on March 17. Seated in the middle of the front row is Bro. George T. Smith, Jr., Worshipful Master, East Lodge; sitting on his far right is Bro. Edward O. Weissner, R.W.P.G.M., P.M., Worshipful Master, Newtown Lodge.

On March 17, for the first time, members of Newtown Lodge No. 427, Woodside, attended a meeting of Star in the East Lodge No. 55, Prince Hall Affiliation, Philadelphia. Bro. Edward O. Weissner, R.W.P.G.M., P.M., W.M., has been reaching out to other lodges as one fraternal organization to another and has several visits on the calendar for this year. Star in the East Lodge conducted regular business at the meeting and provided a history of Prince Hall Lodges for the Blue Lodge members. Newtown Lodge has reciprocated with an offer for Star in the East Lodge to attend one of its lodge meetings.





TEN YEARS OF LITTLE LEAGUE SUPPORT



Photo courtesy of the Town Flyer

Three members of Lodge No. 45, Pittsburgh, presented a check to the Deer Lakes Little League in May. This is the tenth consecutive year that Bro. Al "Pappy" Gurtner has presented a monetary gift on behalf of the lodge.

Representing Lodge No. 45 are from left to right, Bros. Doug Bechtold, Senior Deacon; Al "Pappy" Gurtner, presenting the check; and Ron Plesh, P.M., Trustee. Accepting for the Little League are players and representatives, front row, Devin Demase, Darrion Demase and Drew Schroeder. Standing are Ryan Stanko and David Weigand.

SERVING AS SOLDIERS AND BROTHERS



On March 12, Bro. Tony L. Chapman, Warren Lodge No. 240, Montrose, was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason. Bro. Chapman, who is serving in the U.S. Army, was recently promoted to Sergeant First Class. Immediately after receiving his third degree, he presented Warren Lodge No. 240 with a new petition for Joseph Robert Minzak, IV, a member of the Pennsylvania National Guard. Bro. Minzak received his third degree on Aug. 13. Conferring Bro. Chapman's degree was Bro. Fred B. Baker, II, P.M., a Vietnam veteran and former Chief Warrant Officer.

DISTRICT 11 FAMILY PICNIC



Knobels' Amusement Resort was the setting for the first family picnic of District 11. All 240+ attendees, consisting of brethren and families, enjoyed the day. Each lodge took a part in providing all the picnic foods and related items. Following the noon meal, all children under the age of 18 were provided a book of tickets for all the rides available throughout the park. Once again, the fellowship and interaction proved that through the Family of Freemasonry, strangers are friends who haven't yet met.

FRATERNAL ARCHWAY HONORS CANCER SURVIVORS



Photograph courtesy of The Punxsutawney Spirit

During this year's Relay for Life in Punxsutawney, Bro. Harry G. Bodenhorn, P.M., Junior Warden, John W. Jenks Lodge No. 534, West Grove, proudly escorted 12-year-old Alexa Bleu Amundson, a cancer survivor, under the archway of swords formed by members of the local Knights of Columbus chapter and John W. Jenks Lodge.

When the Knights of Columbus asked the Masons for assistance forming the archway last year, the Masons gladly stepped forward to help. Many of the brethren also walked in the Relay for Life, which raised an estimated \$70,000 this year.

Cooperation between the Knights and Masons during the past two years at the Relay for Life continues to reinforce the work of the fraternities within the Punxsutawney community.



GOOD SAMARITAN LODGE LIVES UP TO ITS NAME

On July 15, Good Samaritan Lodge No. 336, Gettysburg, officially presented the Ranch Trail Commons flagpole and American flag to Carroll Valley's Mayor and Council.

"When we were finishing the first stage of the park project, we realized we had not included a flagpole in the project, so I asked Gettysburg's Masonic lodge for help," said Police Chief Richard L. Hileman, George Washington Lodge No. 143, Chambersburg.

Good Samaritan Lodge members donated \$1,000 for the flagpole and placed it in the park next to the parking area.

"After looking at the site, it was clear the flagpole was going to need some landscaping, too," Bro. Victor J. Reale, Secretary of Good Samaritan Lodge, said. The Masons signed on J.C. Services, a landscaping design and installation firm, which donated its landscaping services and all the materials, a value of around \$700, to the project.

"The flag obviously has so much meaning for all of us. I am very thankful to the Masons for making sure we had a flag flying over the new park, symbolizing the freedom we all enjoy," Mayor Ron Harris said.

Good Samaritan Lodge has been collaborating with Carroll Valley for several years. In fact, the Gettysburg Masons were back in Carroll Valley on Aug. 5, for National Night Out, a national crime and drug prevention event. The lodge has worked with the police department for the past three years to conduct a Masonic



CHIP program. "Their Child ID program has been a core program for Carroll Valley National Night Out since its inception," Chief Hileman said. "It's a terrific program, and they are great to work with."

In four years, the program has processed more than 200 children for free. If an abduction situation arises, the police will have a photograph, video with voice, fingerprints and DNA for each child. "It's a program that definitely enhances the search process in finding a child," Bro. Reale said.

Good Samaritan Lodge certainly lives up to its name and the traditions of Freemasonry!

RARE "AHIMAN REZON" GIFTED TO GRAND LODGE



On April 18, at the 49th Masonic District's 27th Annual Retiring Masters Dinner, Bro. Stephen Gardner, R.W. Grand Master, received a valuable gift on behalf of the Grand Lodge.

After Grand Master Gardner's remarks, Bro. Jeff Biddle, District Deputy Grand Master for District 49, introduced his special guests, Mr. Donald Squibb and his wife, Patricia. Mr. Squibb is not a brother; however, his late father, Bro. Alvah M. Squibb, received the 33°. Mr. Squibb presented his father's "Ahiman Rezon," a first edition of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania which was published in 1783. The book is relatively rare, and its estimated value is between \$1,000-\$2,000.

At the celebration, attended by 110 people, each Past Master from 2007 was honored individually and received a plaque from Grand Master Gardner.

LODGE AD LUCEM NO. 812 CONFERS ITS FIRST DEGREE



Left-right: Bros. P.J. Roup, District Deputy Grand Master who conferred the degree, Eric M. Waggoner and Robert T. Addleman, Jr., P.D.D.G.M., W.M.

On June 23, Lodge Ad Lucem No. 812, Pennsylvania's newest Traditional Observance Lodge, was pleased to introduce Bro. Eric M. Waggoner into its ranks as an Entered Apprentice Mason.

Traditional Observance Lodges stress Masonic Formation as a process of lifelong learning and moral development as part of candidate education. Bro. Waggoner will not only be required to commit a portion of his work to memory, but also to present a paper on some aspect of the symbolism or ritual of each degree prior to advancement.

He will be assigned mentors to aid in his research and answer any questions he may have along the way.

Bro. Waggoner indicated that what he has seen and learned so far has exceeded all expectations, and he is excited to continue his journey.





RIDE & PICNIC FOR MASONIC CHARITIES



On Sept. 6, the Hiram's Riders Motorcycle Club sponsored an end of the summer picnic and ride with the Grand Master. The ride began at the Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center at 11 a.m., and 70 miles later, finished at Settler's Cabin Park at 1 p.m. Masons and their families enjoyed the Chinese auction, games for kids, 50/50 drawing, catered picnic lunch, fellowship, music and entertainment.

The proceeds from the event were divided equally between Grand Lodge Masonic Charities and the 32° Masonic Learning Center. Pictured above are the riders posed with the motorcycle loaned from Bro. Ernie Cerini, owner of National Road Harley Davidson, to Stephen Gardner, R.W. Grand Master, for the event.

RIDE FOR DYSLEXIC YOUTH

The Hiram's Scottish Riders, a motorcycle club within the Scottish Rite Valley of Reading, raised funds this summer for the 32° Masonic Learning Centers. Grand Master Gardner joined them for the last leg of the ride.

Bro. Victor Frederick, Club President, worked with Sovereign Grand Commander of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction John W. McNaughton to build relations within the various valleys so the ride would be a success.

Bro. Frederick's goal for next year's ride is to raise \$1 million for the learning centers.



Members of two Masonic lodges, Lodge No. 106, Williamsport, and Henry M. Phillips Lodge No. 337, Monongahela, have spent many cold hours standing in front of local retail stores to collect the change of passers-by to benefit the Salvation Army.

Donations provide dinners, clothing, toys, basic necessities and seasonal aid for families in need, shut-ins in hospitals and nursing homes and shelters. The lodges' participation exposes the local community to the good work of the Masons.

For the sixth year, members of Henry M. Phillips Lodge will ring the kettle bell. Despite the cold temperatures, the brethren enjoy greeting the passing neighbors and inviting the children to ring the bell. "Their warm smiles and grins make you forget the cold," Bro. Barry Wheeler, District Deputy Grand Master of District 31, who participated last year, said.

Standing beside a red kettle with a sign that reads "Volunteer Bell Ringers - Masons Care - Lodge 106," more than two dozen members of the lodge have worked a two-hour shift (or more) for the past 12 years. This year will mark their 13th, over which time the lodge has raised more than \$30,000.

"The volunteers typically state that they enjoy ringing the bell – it feels good in a way that writing a contribution check can't touch," said Gary V. Hoover, P.M., Chairman of the Lodge 106 Charity Committee, which sets up shift schedules and recruits volunteers.

To encourage other lodges in their district, as well as Prince Hall lodges, to participate, they purchased a specially-inscribed Lodge 106 Charity Bell which is given to the lodge that raises the most money for the Salvation Army each year.

RINGING IN THE SEASON OF GIVING



Bro. Bill Hollick, P.M., who typically volunteers for more than one shift each year, represents Lodge No. 106.

The Pennsylvania Freemason



ACHIEVING GREATNESS, OLYMPIC STYLE



This summer was the first time Bro. Bob “Bart” Bartholomew watched the U.S. Weight lifting Team compete in the Olympics since 1968 – when he, himself, was a contender.

Bro. Bartholomew recalls marching through the crowd at the Opening Ceremony in Mexico City and looking up to see the President of Mexico proudly sitting with his wife as the balloons floated through the air. “I swear, the goose bumps on you and the honor of

representing the United States – that was the greatest moment of the Olympics for me,” Bro. Bartholomew said.

Bro. Bartholomew’s life didn’t always have the dream-like quality of an Olympic ceremony. “Growing up as a young boy, Bob faced many of the hardships we hear and read about in life,” according to Gus Kappes, Bro. Bartholomew’s brother-in-law. “As the great German philosopher Frederick Nietzsche suggests, ‘That which doesn’t defeat you can only serve to make you stronger.’”

Bro. Bartholomew was born in Allentown, Pa., to Hilda Bartholomew. “My father was one of those absent-type fathers,” Bro. Bartholomew said. His mother raised the children largely by herself, and as the second oldest of seven children, Bro. Bartholomew became a father figure for his younger siblings. While trying to be an exemplary older brother, he attended night school to become a welder.

When some of his buddies started bodybuilding, Bro. Bartholomew joined them. He participated and placed in many Mr. Pennsylvania, Mr. America and Mr. American Physique competitions, but the subjective judging based on looks, personality and physique bothered him. There was little objectivity.

He joined a weight lifting team at the YMCA and began to train with some friends. He liked weight lifting because, “When you lift a weight, you’re just lifting and no one’s picking you,” Bro. Bartholomew said. Instead of lifting to tone his physique, he trained for power and technique. Soon, Bro. Bartholomew’s impressive strength earned him a spot on the York Barbell Club team. “Its team was all the best lifters in the area,” Bro. Bartholomew explained. He gives credit to the club’s owner, Bob Huffman. “...without him, weight lifting would have been nothing in the United States.”

Throughout the 1960s, Bro. Bartholomew won many competitions including the State competition at least eight times and the Eastern Coast competition about half a dozen times. He also placed first in the Nationals in 1966 and around the same time won the North American Championship.

After years of training six days a week for two or more hours each day after a full day of welding, Bro. Bartholomew made the U.S. Olympic weight lifting team. However, the accomplishment of a lifetime came with a cost. “I don’t know if I’d do it again. It cost a lot of money and relationships,” Bro. Bartholomew said. At 32 years old, he was an older competitor in the Olympics and already had a wife and son. With the pressures of weight lifting and the impending Olympics, his marriage did not last. Bro. Bartholomew also did not have a sponsor, so his expenses came out of his own pocket.

Referencing the current Olympics where the coaches wipe sweat off players and hug team members after exceptional performances, Bro. Bartholomew said, “I didn’t have any of that stuff. Nobody had an individual coach there. The U.S. team had one coach and a trainer who was always out and about doing something. I hardly saw him.” So what he learned, he learned on his own.

At the Olympics, Bro. Bartholomew, at 198 lbs., competed as a middle heavyweight in three lifts: the press, snatch, and clean and jerk. In the press, discontinued after the ‘68 Olympics, the athlete lifted the weight from the floor to the shoulders in one movement. When the referee clapped, he shot the weight above his head. In the snatch, a wide grip lift, the athlete grabbed the weight and lifted it above his head in one swift motion. For the clean and jerk, the athlete starts with the “clean,” lifting the weight from the ground to



the neck and finishes with the “jerk,” thrusting the bar above the head.

During the Olympic tryouts, amid weight lifters from 32 other nations, Bro. Bartholomew placed 2nd with his best total score ever. “It seemed like I peaked too early. If I would have lifted in the Olympics like I did in the tryouts, I would have at least placed 4th or 5th,” he said. Instead, Bro. Bartholomew represented the United States with a very respectable 9th place finish.

“After the Olympics, it was like a big weight was lifted off my back,” Bro. Bartholomew said. “I never went to another meet again. I never lifted another weight. I was burned out.”

Bro. Bartholomew continued to work as a welder at Steamfitters Local 420, where he first learned to weld. He later moved to the Poconos where he had several friends who were Masons, and in 1993 became a Master Mason himself. “For me, it changed my life. It’s the greatest fraternity or organization to become a part of. It’s a great influence,” he said. After a move home to Catsauqua, Bro. Bartholomew picked up a dual membership in Porter Lodge No. 284 where he served as Worshipful Master in 2006. “Just that I might be Worshipful Master of a lodge is such a great honor,” Bro. Bartholomew said. As for his Masonic brother from the same lodge, Stephen Gardner, R.W. Grand Master, “I look up to him because it takes one heck of a man to do what [Grand Masters] do for two years,” Bro. Bartholomew said.

Yet, Bro. Bartholomew is quite a role model himself.

For 40 years, he held an American Red Cross Lifeguard Certification and gave back to the community by life guarding at the Allentown YMCA and Catsauqua Municipal swimming pools. He wakes up early four mornings a week and heads to the Catsauqua YMCA for light exercises on the treadmill. “I think exercising is one of the best things for you,” he said. For the rest of his day, Bro. Bartholomew spends as much time as possible with his son, Michael, and two grandchildren, Michael Jr. and Dillon.





Left-right: William R. Fielding, D.D.G.M., 23rd District, and his lady, Sandy; First Lady Pat Gardner; Bro. Stephen Gardner, R.W. Grand Master; and Bro. & Mrs. Clyde E. Baker, Jr. W.M., Myrtle Lodge No. 316; participate in the 150th Anniversary Parade for Myrtle Lodge No. 316, Franklin, on Aug. 16.

150TH ANNIVERSARIES

In 1858, Pennsylvania native President Bro. James Buchanan and Vice President Bro. John C. Breckinridge led the United States. After the November election, Bro. William Fisher Packer was named Governor of Pennsylvania. This year saw the advancement of many inventions, including the ornamented soda fountain and the first shoe manufacturing machine. Charles Darwin and Alfred Wallace announced their theory of evolution.

Cumberland Valley Lodge No. 315, Shippensburg

Through the recommendation of Orrstown Lodge No. 262, Cumberland Valley Lodge No. 315 was constituted on Feb. 18, 1858. It was formed after several members of the fraternity decided not to revive Silensia Lodge No. 198. Member Jeffrey W. Coy, P.M., serves as R.W. Grand Treasurer and member Thomas W. Jackson is R.W. Past Grand Secretary.

Lodge members held a 150th anniversary banquet on Sept. 5, including keynote speaker, Bro. Stephen Gardner, R.W. Grand Master. A commemorative afghan was given to each couple.

Shippensburg was named for Edward Shippen, who founded and laid out the town on land obtained in a patent from the heirs of William Penn in 1730. Shippen served as Mayor of Philadelphia in 1744 and was one of the founders of the College of New Jersey (now Princeton University) and the Pennsylvania Hospital. Shippensburg was incorporated as a borough in 1819 and was home to furniture factories, engine and pump works and other industries. The fertile soil and good water supply of the county led to prosperous farms and early industrial power.

Myrtle Lodge No. 316, Franklin

Through the recommendations of Lodge No. 234, Meadville, Myrtle Lodge No. 316 was constituted on Feb. 22, 1858, President and Bro. George Washington's 126th birthday. The name Myrtle may have been chosen in commemoration of the legend that Adam took a sprig of myrtle on his way out of the Garden of Eden.

On Feb. 22, lodge members gathered for a banquet with entertainment to commemorate their anniversary. On August 15, members participated in vesper services and a walking parade through a local park, followed by Masonic veteran's "A Tribute to America." The following day, Grand Master Gardner visited the lodge, and the day included an open house, Masonic parade, a program at a local park and fireworks.

Venango County was formed in 1800 in northwestern Pennsylvania,

home to many Native Americans. Much of western Pennsylvania was in the center of the conflict between the French and the English and in 1749, the French built a fort at the site despite warnings from young Bro. George Washington. After the French fled, in 1787, the Americans constructed Fort Franklin, named for Bro. Benjamin Franklin. Lumbering, farming and iron furnaces were the main industries in the area, until oil was discovered and speculators and entrepreneurs worldwide rushed to the town.

Ossea Lodge No. 317, Wellsboro

Through recommendations from Friendship Lodge No. 247, Ossea Lodge No. 317 was constituted on Feb. 24, 1858. Well-known members of the lodge include Bro. George William Alexis Stone, Governor of Pennsylvania (1899-1903); Henry W. Williams, Supreme Court Justice and Grand Master for just 29 days, due to his death; and George Linton, Lt. Col. in the U.S. Army during World War II.

In 1976, the home of Ossea Lodge since 1919 was destroyed in a fire. The Lodge Warrant was salvaged and restored as closely as possible to its original condition. In 1978, the cornerstone was laid for the new temple.

Lodge members celebrated their 150th anniversary on March 15. Grand Master Gardner attended the anniversary banquet which included "The Big Gavel" presentation and Bro. Timothy McConnell, D.D.G.M. of District 17, receiving the Lewis Jewel from his father, Bro. Harry McConnell.

Benjamin Wistar Morris laid out Wellsboro in 1806 and named it in honor of his wife, Mary Wells Morris, whose family was among its earliest settlers. The chief industries include tourism, as the home of the "Grand Canyon of Pennsylvania;" glassware; Christmas decorations and wood products.

Tioga County was formed from Luzerne County in 1804; however, county administration was not organized until 1813 when Bro. Hon. John Bannister Gibson, R.W.P.G.M. (1824), Chief Justice of Pennsylvania, presided at the county's first term of court. The land was rich in semi-bituminous coal, forests, iron ore and salt, and the surrounding railroads led to a booming population.

Bedford Lodge No. 320, Bedford

Through the recommendation of Lodge No. 282, Hollidaysburg, Bedford Lodge No. 320 was constituted on May 27, 1858. The first lodge in Bedford, No. 48, was warranted in 1789 but went dark in 1806. Bedford-Bath Lodge No. 137, warranted in 1813, last paid dues in April 1817. Records of these early lodges were burned in





At Bedford Lodge No. 320's 150th Anniversary Banquet, R.W. Grand Master Gardner congratulated members who were 50-Year Service Emblem recipients and all the attendees at the banquet who had served more than 50 years.

the Chestnut Street Hall (Grand Lodge) fire of 1819.

Lodge members held their anniversary banquet on Sept. 7 at the local Bedford Springs Resort, the same location of their 100th anniversary celebration. Grand Master Gardner attended the dinner, and 50-Year Service Awards were presented.

The town of Bedford was incorporated as a borough in 1795. An important military post during the French and Indian War, the area's namesake comes from 1759, when "the fort at Raystown" was re-named Fort Bedford in honor of John Russell, the fourth Duke of Bedford.

Bedford County, created in 1771, became one of the richest iron counties in the state, while agriculture, timber lands and wool and planing mills also flourished. President and Bro. James Buchanan spent summers here while serving as President and received the first trans-Atlantic telegram from England's Queen Victoria.

West Chester Lodge No. 322, West Chester

West Chester Lodge No. 322 was constituted on July 20, 1858. Members of the lodge celebrated their anniversary with a banquet held on Oct. 18. Grand Master Gardner was in attendance.

Chester County was one of the first three original counties William Penn designated, named for the city in England where one of his closest friends was born. The diverse geology of the region includes copper, lead, iron, kaolin, corundum and sand, and led to the rise of quarrying as the area's major industry. The abundance of streams made agriculture a mainstay. Downtown West Chester has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Barger Lodge No. 325, Stroudsburg

Barger Lodge No. 325 was constituted on Oct. 6, 1858. Its anniversary banquet was held on Oct. 5 with a special meeting on Oct. 7 to receive Grand Master Gardner.

Stroudsburg was named after the owner of about 4,000 acres in the area, Revolutionary Col. Jacob Stroud. It was incorporated as a borough in 1815. It is the seat of Monroe County, which was formed in 1836 and named for President and Bro. James Monroe,

(1817-1825). The railroad came to the county in 1856, increasing commerce and tourism. Industries include Christmas trees, berries, nuts, maple syrup, mineral water, beer and milk. The Pocono Mountains and Pocono Raceway make this area a popular recreation and vacation destination.

Lehigh Lodge No. 326, Macungie

Through the recommendation of Lodge No. 284 in Catasauqua, Lehigh Lodge No. 326 was constituted on Nov. 26, 1858. Lodge members celebrated their 150th anniversary with a banquet in April. Grand Master Gardner visited, bringing with him the Unity Gavel and Box.

Trexlerstown, the home of Lehigh Lodge No. 326, is considered to be the oldest village in Lehigh County, part of Macungie Township. It was named for the Trexler family, although there is dispute as to whether it was to honor John, Peter or Jeremiah Trexler.

Lehigh County was bountiful in soil and springs and creeks used to power a few hundred mills. It was also a producer of iron and steel and the area's zinc, slate, limestone and sandstone provided much of the industry.

Union Lodge No. 324, Mifflintown

Through the recommendation of Lodge No. 203, Lewistown, Union Lodge No. 324 was constituted on Dec. 2, 1858. Warranted in 1796, the first lodge in Mifflin County (now Juniata) was Lodge No. 68 and was held in Mifflin (now Mifflintown). The second lodge was established in 1825 and named Jackson Lodge. It was removed to Lewistown, where it is the current Lewistown Lodge No. 203.

A lodge anniversary banquet was held on Sept. 13. Grand Master Gardner presented members with 50-Year Service Awards and received the lodge's donations for his charities.

Mifflintown was named in honor of Governor Thomas Mifflin and incorporated as a borough in 1833. Empire Kosher Poultry, the nation's largest processor of kosher poultry, calls Mifflintown home. In 1870, one-half of Mifflintown was destroyed by a fire, including

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Museum Celebrates Centennial

by Glenys A. Waldman, Ph.D., Senior Librarian



The Library (present Museum) during the late 1800s as ½ library, ½ museum

Home to more than 30,000 Masonic-related items, the Masonic Museum is turning a century old this year. Considering the Masonic Temple was completed in 1873 (interior by 1908) and the Library was founded in 1817, what took the Museum so long?

Before the establishment of the Museum, the librarian collected objects, especially portraits of past Grand Masters and items donated for display because they “needed a good home.” The “official” founding date of the Museum, however, is 1908.

Almost every year, the Report of the Committee on Library in the Grand Lodge “Proceedings,” referred to the acquisition of objects for the Museum. In 1899, Bro. George Herzog completed the decorations in the Library Hall (now the Museum). In May, George P. Rupp was appointed Librarian, thus ending a “transitional state.” The Committee further stated that “Your Committee is impressed with the need of enlarged accommodations for the many visitors who spend more or less time in the Reading-Room, and it trusts that in the contemplated alterations of the Temple building, a larger Smoking Room (the present Reading Room), attached to the Library, will not be forgotten.”

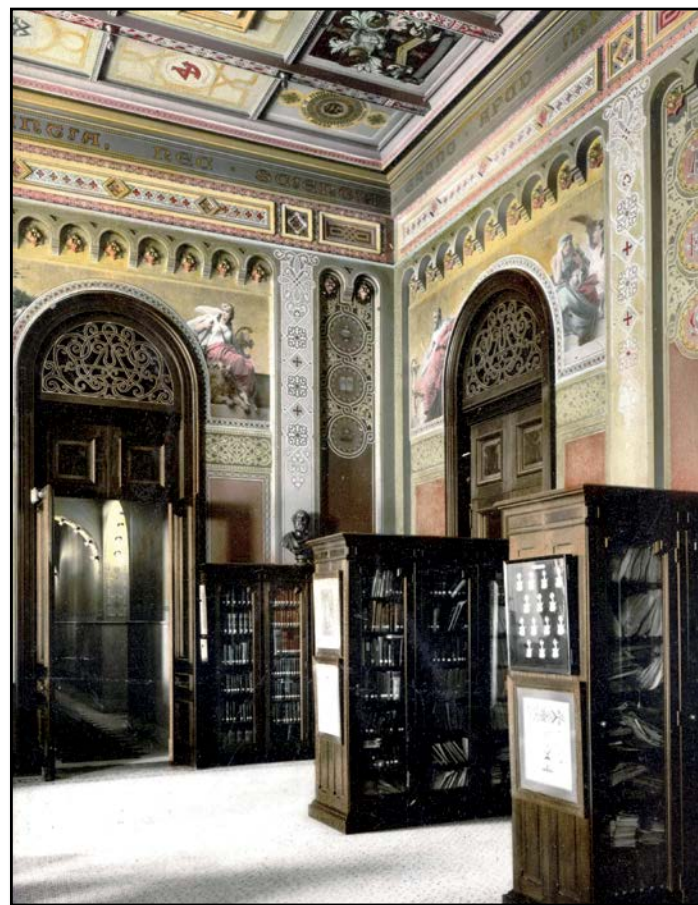
In 1901, the Committee stated it hoped that “In the alterations of the Temple... more space will be assigned us for a proper exhibit of these valuable reminders of the past.” A year later: “The interest shown in [the 1902 Washingtoniana Exhibit commemorating the 150th anniversary of Brother Washington’s initiation into Freemasonry] and incidentally in the smaller collection forming the nucleus of our permanent Masonic Museum, emphasizes the suggestion made heretofore by the Committee of permanent quarters for a proper display... the Library Committee is unofficially advised by the Temple Committee that efforts will be made in the ensuing year to give proper accommodations to the proposed Museum.” “[I]mprovements on the first floor of the Temple” were still being completed in 1903, and the Committee hoped to hold an exhibition as soon as possible because many Masonic jewels and the George Washington apron recently had been acquired. It was also reasoned that with more space, even more visitors and donations would come to the Museum.

In 1904, the Library Committee proudly announced the construction of the steel book stacks, housing 25,000 books in the “fire-proof rooms” to the north of the Reading-Room, thus making room for museum cases, yet leaving half the room for reading. As of the writing of the 1905 Proceedings, the Committee was happy with the new “Smoking and Conversation Room.” The museum cases, once “properly illuminated with electric light” satisfied the immediate need for “proper display of the many hundreds of objects of Masonic interest,” but they only partially fulfilled the need. Soon thereafter, space once again became a problem.

In 1907, the Committee, of which Bro. John Wanamaker had become chair in 1906, hoped “...that the Temple Committee will allow the back corridor on the first floor to be used for Museum purposes,... which they will undertake to make the finest museum of its kind in the country.” The area created by the arch and the two one-ton bronze, glass and iron doors, now the Benjamin Franklin Room, is 55 feet long, 20 feet wide and 23 feet high.

Bro. Herzog was commissioned to decorate the new Museum space, which hosted the Washingtoniana Exhibit in 1902 and the Franklin Bicentennial Exhibit in 1906. Probably due to the success of these two exhibits, and perhaps spurred by the completion of the beautiful mahogany display cases in 1908, still in use today, Bro. Wanamaker formally dedicated the Museum. Bro. Julius F. Sachse, the Librarian, became both the Librarian and Curator in 1908.

The Museum remained in that space until the early 1970s, at which time it became the Benjamin Franklin Room social hall it is today. The Museum moved back into the larger room once occupied by the



The Museum in the Benjamin Franklin Room (ca. 1908)



Library that, in turn, shrank into the old Smoking and Conversation room. Besides those stored in the 1904 stacks, books were also placed in the Archives room – the rejuvenated coal bin in the sub-basement – in addition to countless Museum objects. Compact storage was installed in late 1994.

The Museum continues to collect and display new items, including the 17th century *Support Our Constitution Flag*, the restoration of which is expected to be complete by Flag Day, June 14, 2009. Recent exhibits include “The Initiated Eye: Secrets, Symbols, Freemasonry and the Architecture of Washington, D.C.,” and the on-going William Rush sculpture display. All items in the Museum are benefiting from the recently upgraded HVAC system which controls humidity levels and ensures preservation of the interior of the building.

As part of its dedication to the fraternity and the general public, the Museum participates in cooperative and collaborative ventures with other cultural institutions and organizations throughout the Greater Philadelphia region. They hosted the Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance annual meeting at the Masonic Temple in September and meetings for the 10,000+ membership of the American Association of Museums will be held here next year. As the scaffolding comes down from the exterior of the Temple, more events are being planned. One hundred years-strong, the Museum continues to preserve the history and values of Freemasonry for future Masons and others to appreciate.

The Museum is open for tours during the fall, winter and spring months on Tuesdays-Fridays, beginning at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m. and 4 p.m.; on Saturdays at 10 a.m., 11 a.m. and noon; or at other times through advance arrangements. Call (215) 988-1917 for more information.

41 Years Overdue!

In 1967, the 14th edition of Manly Palmer Hall’s well-known “An Encyclopedic Outline of Masonic, Hermetic, Qabbalistic and Rosicrucian Symbolical Masonry” was published. The Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania promptly acquired it. Shortly thereafter, the brand-new book was borrowed from the Library. The “Outline” must have enjoyed its visit, because it never came back. Forty-one years later, after its borrower died, it appeared on the librarian’s desk: the prodigal returned! (Fortunately we don’t charge fines!) Scour your shelves: if you are a borrower, maybe you have a “visitor” who should return home to the Library. If you’re not a borrower, please become one. You can find out how on the Web site www.pagrandlodge.org by clicking Circulating Library.



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the lodge room, its Masonic library and lodge minutes. After the fire, lodge members were able to obtain a copy of their destroyed Warrant from the Grand Lodge.

Juniata County was erected from Mifflin County in 1831. Lumbering was an early industry, followed by iron furnaces. The river provided an excellent transportation system, but was later eclipsed by the railroad and then interstate highways. The waterway still provides ample recreational opportunities.

100TH ANNIVERSARY

Isaac Hiester Lodge No. 660, Reading

Through the recommendation of Lodge No. 62, Reading, Chandler Lodge No. 227 and Huguenot Lodge No. 377, Isaac Hiester Lodge No. 660 was constituted on Oct. 17, 1908. The lodge was named for Isaac Hiester, a member of Lodge No. 62 and the first District Deputy Grand Master (1826–1828) from Berks County, who served what was then District 6.

The lodge held its 100th anniversary celebration on Sept. 27, which included a visit from Grand Master Gardner and a family picnic at the Rajah Shrine Complex.

Reading was located along a canal system with the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad connecting it to distant markets. It was the center of the iron industry, including W.E. Remppis, which cast the newel posts and possibly the steps and banister for the lower level of the rear staircase in the Masonic Temple.

Berks County was established by Conrad Weiser, the chief negotiator for every major treaty between the colonial settlers in Pennsylvania and the Iroquois Nations from 1731-1758. The county was also home to the families of President Abraham Lincoln, whose great-great-grandfather, great-grandfather and grandfather are buried there. Daniel Boone was born and lived in Berks County

until he was 16; his birthplace still stands as a historic site.

50TH ANNIVERSARY

In 1958, Bro. George M. Leader was Governor of Pennsylvania. In the same year, Sputnik I, the first man-made satellite, fell from its orbit and the U.S. launched its first satellite. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) was also established and the first scheduled jet plane, Pan American, crossed the Atlantic Ocean in six hours and 12 minutes.

Forbes Trail Lodge No. 783, Export

Through the recommendation of Jeannette Lodge No. 750, Forbes Trail Lodge No. 783 was constituted on Jan. 16, 1958. That year, Gen. John Forbes and his soldiers cut through wilderness along the older Traders’ Route, in Uniontown, to save time and avoid swollen streams and obstacles. The route was dubbed Forbes Trail and the lodge was established in its name nearly two centuries later.

To celebrate its 50th anniversary, the lodge held its anniversary banquet on Aug. 15 with guests including Grand Master Gardner. Throughout the meal, photos of the lodge’s history were shared.

Export, also home to the Forbes Trail, was incorporated in 1911. This was the first town in the region to mine coal, transported via Pittsburgh, for international markets.

Created in 1773, Westmoreland County was named for the County of Westmoreland in England. For much of the 19th century, agriculture served as the county’s economic base, with mining and metals growing after the Civil War. Many manufacturing and mining jobs were lost through the 1970s and 1980s. Sony then moved into the county, along with special machine shops, fabrication and electronics.





MASONIC TEMPLE METAMORPHOSIS BE PREPARED TO BE “WOW”ED!

Most of the scaffolding on the side of the Masonic Temple facing JFK Boulevard and City Hall has been removed, and the result of the restoration work on the building is absolutely stunning.

Executive Director of the Library and Museum of Pennsylvania Andrew A. Zellers-Frederick describes the building as “emerging from its cocoon.”

The granite has been power-washed, and according to Bro. Stephen Gardner, R.W. Grand Master, the result is, “Wow! It’s so much brighter than I’d expected. It looks like it did 135 years ago when the building was dedicated.”

The scaffolding over the Broad Street (west) side of the building started coming down in sections in September. According to Zellers-Frederick, the remainder of the scaffolding is scheduled to be removed by December.

“Watching this evolution has been amazing... now that the layers of paint on the hand-carved woodwork and the stonework have been

“This generation of Masons has given something to tomorrow’s generation. One hundred years from now, it’s my hope they’ll look back and say, ‘They did a nice job.’”
– Stephen Gardner, R.W. Grand Master

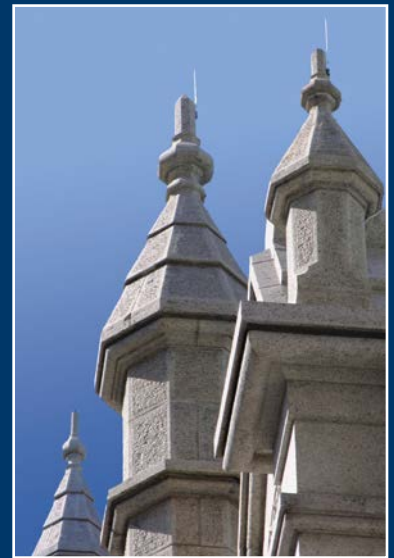
removed and freshly repainted, you can see the detail of the artistry, the leaves on the columns...” Grand Master Gardner said.

The keystones above the windows have been replaced into their proper position and repointed. The windows look magnificent, and the roof is being repainted.

“The artists of today have restored what the artists 135 years ago gave us,” Grand Master Gardner said. “It’s a complete metamorphosis... they found the beauty hidden underneath and restored its pristine appearance.”

Bro. Danny Hinds, Superintendent for the Masonic Temple, climbs the scaffolding frequently to see the work being done by J.J. DeLuca. “The building is shining... it looks fantastic,” he said.

Once the scaffolding on the walkway in front of the building is cleared, work on a new fence and the sidewalk paving will begin. The project should be completed in early 2009.



Photos by Bro. Dennis P. Buttleman,
Curator



"A SONG IN STONE"

By **Walter H. Hunt** Reviewed by Cathy Giaimo, Assistant Librarian

Much has been written about Rosslyn Chapel and the Knights Templar. Their history, symbolism and mythology have been a great source of inspiration and imagination. In the fine tradition of time-travelling fiction, "A Song in Stone" by William H. Hunt follows the adventures of a 21st century man as he makes his way through the 14th century.

Ian Graham is an unemployed television broadcaster in Edinburgh, Scotland, when he is offered a job by another network to make a documentary on Rosslyn Chapel. A few days before the filming is to begin, he makes a reconnaissance trip to Rosslyn. While there, he discovers something that is noticeable only to him. It is the mysterious music which only he can hear. On his return trip to the chapel to begin the filming, he discovers where the musical sound is strongest and suddenly finds himself in 14th century Santiago, Spain, on St. James' Day, July 25, 1307. He also discovers that his two travelling companions, Rob and Juan La Rosa, were men he had just met in 21st century Rosslyn. Thus, the story continues on as the three intrepid pilgrims go on

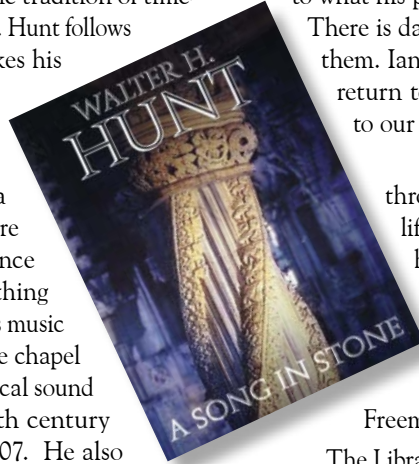
their "journey of light." Ian experiences initiation rituals at various stops along the way which reveal a small piece of the puzzle as to what his purpose is, as well as channeling his inner warrior. There is danger at almost every turn as forces are out to stop them. Ian must get to Paris before Oct. 13, 1307, if he is to return to the 21st century and bring the "healing music" to our world.

The main character, Ian Graham, straddles two worlds throughout the book. He remembers his 21st century life but is not quite a fish out of water, because he also has a vague recollection of being a medieval warrior.

Other characters that were part of his modern life pop back in as visions during his six initiations.

The history of the Knights Templar propels the story forward as author Hunt, a Massachusetts Freemason, employs Masonic symbolism in the story.

The Library has many books on Rosslyn Chapel and Knights Templar – either fiction or non-fiction – that are sure to interest just about everyone. Check out the Circulating Library Web site at www.pagrاندlodge.org or call the library at (800) 462-0430, ext. 1933.



"SECRET SOCIETIES AND THE HERMETIC CODE, *The Rosicrucian, Masonic and Esoteric Transmission in the Arts*"

By **Ernesto Frers** Reviewed by Charles S. Canning, MMS, Academy of Masonic Knowledge

The book is divided into four parts: painting, sculpture, architecture and music. Painting represents half of the text. The author illustrates the esoteric elements of some of the most bizarre works of art, especially in painting. He begins with Byzantine icons as sacred, mystical objects and notes that their symbolism "follows strict Hermetic formulas." In Botticelli's "Primavera," we glance at a classical revival of the Renaissance pagan gods. Frers provides an alchemical interpretation to Piero DiCosimo's "The Death of Procrius." He also gives us a Gnostic and Hermetic interpretation of DaVinci's "The Last Supper." Bosch's "The Garden of Earthly Delights" exhibits satirical motifs of eroticism and violence.

The author illustrates the esoteric arts in Albrecht Durer's "Melancholia," where the artist presents elements of alchemy, numerology, Kabbalah and Hermeticism. Frers points out a ladder in Durer's picture as a Masonic symbol. However, the painting is from 1514 and Jacob's ladder was only added to Masonic symbolism in the late 18th century by William Preston.

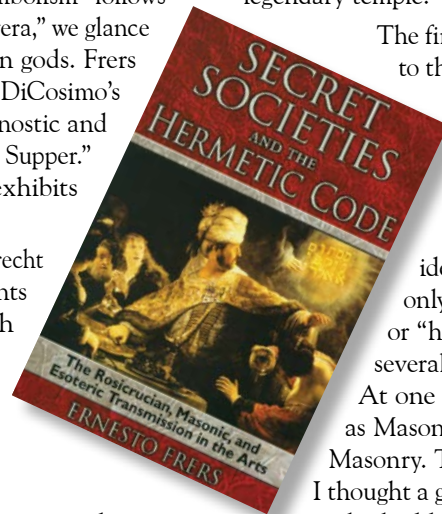
In the second half of the book, Frers begins with a selection of sculpture that includes the Sphinx, in which he discusses its age and facial likeness. The Venus de Milo represents anatomical perfection. He also discusses Michelangelo's David and Cellini's Perseus with the Head of Medusa. Frers offers no esoteric interpretation, only an analysis of their construction.

In architecture, the author discusses those monuments that were built as edifices for the gods: the Great Pyramid of Cheops,

Chartres Cathedral, Notre Dame, El Escorial and Palladio's Villa Cornaro. Chartres, says Frers, was built by the Knights Templar using Hermetic secrets and that Notre Dame contains stone carvings of alchemical symbols. El Escorial is a representation of Solomon's legendary temple.

The final chapter discusses music and the relationship to the astral sounds of the planets. He describes the music of Mozart, Beethoven, Wagner, Debussy, the Beatles and Led Zeppelin among others, taking us from the classical to the modern rock with Satanic overtones.

The title is misleading. There is no real identification with any secret society. There are only general statements such as, "he was a Mason," or "he studied the esoteric arts..." While there are several pages of bibliography, there are no footnotes. At one point, he identifies the colors red and green as Masonic, but never tells us where these are found in Masonry. The analysis of symbolism in art is interesting. I thought a great opportunity to tie in esoteric thought was overlooked by not giving concrete examples of color and cosmology relating to Kabbalistic and Hermetic thought or Masonic and Rosicrucian symbolism. He lessens the credibility of his work by bringing in questionable popular themes such as the Priory of Sion and the Holy Grail. The reader is left with only a glimpse of the subject that was the focus of the title. It would have been more illuminating had he connected the primary cosmic harmonies of Pythagorus to the tune we all know as "Louie, Louie."





BROTHERHOOD + SPORTSMANSHIP = A WINNING COMBINATION!



Of course, every team wants to win a race at the Masonic Village Charity Mini Grand Prix. But there are ways to “win” besides taking a trophy home.

The day hadn’t gone smoothly for the DeMolay race team. Car No. 9, (numbered to honor Lodge No. 9 for sponsoring the car in every race) blew its engine between the time trials and the Dash for Kids. Rather than let them face an early end to their day, Bro. David Tansy, District Deputy Grand Master for District D, came to the rescue and loaned them a spare engine. He then jumped in and helped the mechanic, DeMolay member Chris Setnar, quickly install it and get the car back on the track. To top it off, while they were lined up in the pit, ready to race, Bro. Tansy told the young men that his District D team had agreed to *give* them the engine! What a great expression of brotherhood and example of sportsmanship for the young men of DeMolay!

The Masonic fraternity was the big winner that day, thanks to the fraternal spirit shared by the District D racing team and Bro. Tansy. (For more highlights of the event, see pp. 28-29.)

A NEW SPIRIT OF COOPERATION



A new spirit of cooperation now characterizes the Masonic youth groups, and you will often find DeMolays, Rainbow Girls and Job’s Daughters participating in and supporting each other’s programs.

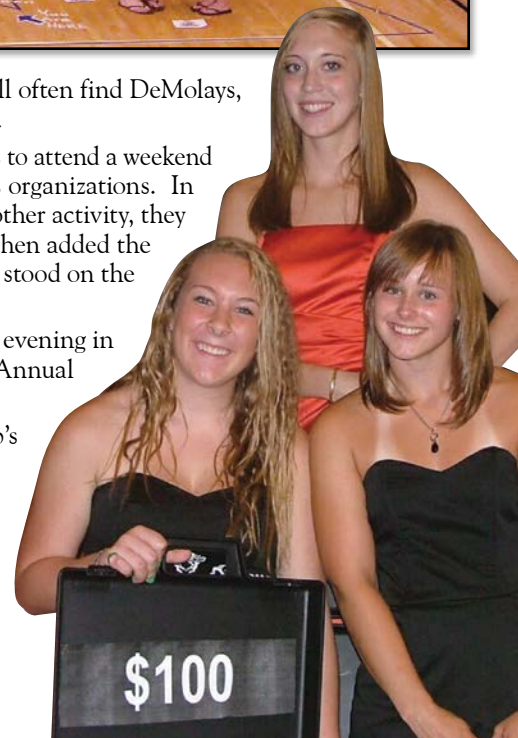
In June, Mrs. Helen Snedden, Supreme Deputy for Rainbow, invited the Job’s Daughters to attend a weekend Rainbow program at the Patton Campus so the girls could learn more about each other’s organizations. In one activity, they created tie-dye t-shirts printed with a logo symbolizing their unity. In another activity, they created the outline of the state of Pennsylvania on the gym floor with masking tape, and then added the locations of their youth groups. To get a better idea of where they were located, all the girls stood on the map in areas close to their home town. (See photo above)

DeMolay officers from the Elizabethtown Chapter drove to Altoona on a Wednesday evening in July to set up disc jockey equipment and to provide a dance for the Rainbow Girls at their Annual Grand Assembly meeting.

The DeMolay Key Man Conference in July brought out some Rainbow Girls and Job’s Daughters to participate in an educational version of “Deal or No Deal.”

In September, Job’s Daughters hosted its annual co-ed flag football tournament with good attendance from both DeMolay and Rainbow. This is one of the most popular social events of the year, including flag football, a fabulous tailgate party and a dance.

Spending time together at Autumn Day, all participants agreed that the synergy of working together will continue to strengthen all the youth groups.



MEET BROTHER SEELEY... 21-YEAR-OLD MAYOR OF LINESVILLE

Over the years, quite a few Masons have served as the Mayor of their local community, but it isn't likely that many of them were elected at age 18. When Bro. Christopher R. Seeley became a member of Pine Lodge No. 498, Linesville, in April of this year, just short of his 21st birthday, he had already served as Mayor of the Borough of Linesville for more than two years.

Bro. Seeley splits his time between pursuing a double major in political science and music at Allegheny College in Meadville and his duties as Mayor in Linesville, but manages to find time for fraternal activity by serving as the Scribe for Erie Chapter, Order of DeMolay.

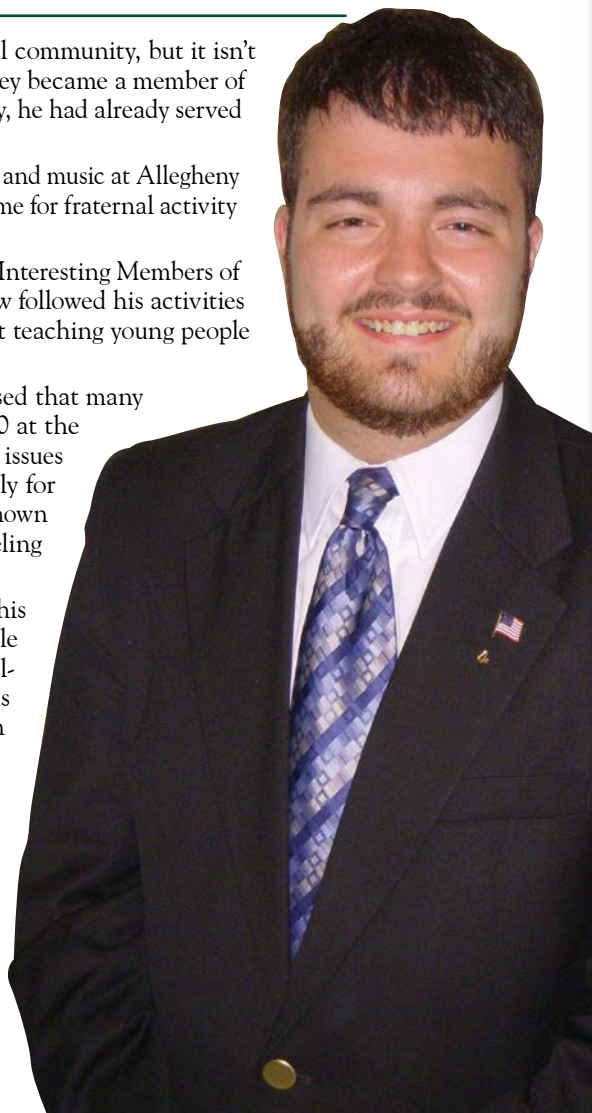
In April, he was the subject of a documentary on "One of the World's Most Interesting Members of Generation Y" filmed by NHK, the Japan Broadcasting Company. The film crew followed his activities at college and at the borough to provide material for a serious program aimed at teaching young people how it is possible to make a difference in their communities.

Bro. Seeley has always been interested in local government and was surprised that many local residents didn't pay much attention to it. With a population of over 1,100 at the 2000 census, Linesville is a one-traffic-light town, but it also isn't without serious issues that need to be discussed and solved. It is a popular tourist location, primarily for Pymatuning Lake and the Linesville spillway, famous for its oversized carp, and known as "the place where ducks walk on the fishes' backs." It is also situated at a traveling mid-point, exactly 500 miles to Chicago and 500 miles to New York City.

When Bro. Seeley decided to run for mayor as a junior in high school, it was his personal goal to get more people to care about the way the business of Linesville was being administered. He won a contested election against a long-time, well-known Linesville Borough Council Member. Interestingly, two other 18-year-olds were elected to serve in mayoral positions that day – one in Michigan and one in Iowa. His term as mayor will end on Dec. 31, 2009.

His family was very supportive when he decided to run for Mayor. He turned 18 just 54 days before the election. Earlier in the year, he was too young to circulate his own nominating petitions, so he convinced his parents to follow him on his door-to-door campaign. When he finished talking, they procured the signatures. He won the election by keeping voters focused on issues, and not his age.

He has a busy schedule and must be well-organized to fulfill his official duties while completing his studies, but he makes time for family and friends. In June, he visited Western Star Lodge No. 304 in Albion to be the Senior Master of Ceremonies for the conferral of the Master Mason Degree on three of his DeMolay brothers from Erie Chapter.



SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Over \$100,000 was given out in 2008 by the Pennsylvania Masonic Youth Foundation through its Educational Endowment Fund. In 2009, it is estimated that between 50 and 60 students will be selected to receive awards ranging from \$1,000 to \$3,000, and including multi-year awards. The annual program runs through March 15, 2009, when applications may be submitted.

The Masonic Scholarship Resource Guide for the 2009 program and the 2009 application are now available online at <http://www.pagrandlodge.org/pmyf> or may be obtained by writing to:

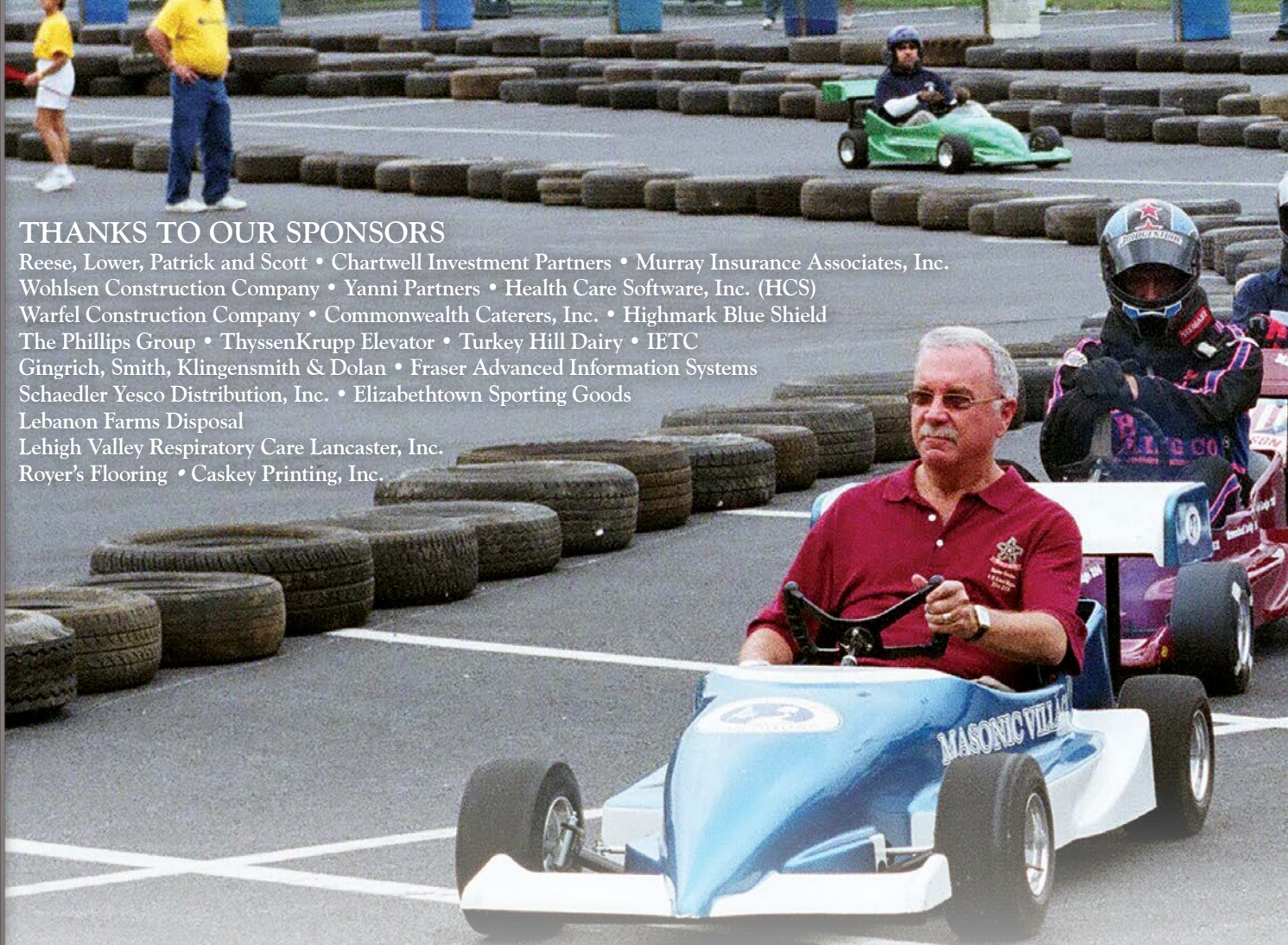
PMYF Scholarships
1244 Bainbridge Road
Elizabethtown, PA 17022





THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

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THANKS! TO OUR MINI GRAND PRIX



Masonic District 10



Warfel Construction Co.



Abraham C. Treichler Lodge No. 682



Lodge No. 2



Masonic District 30



Moscow Lodge No. 504





Masonic Village Charity Mini Grand Prix Results

Through sponsorships and food sales, the 2008 Masonic Village Charity Mini Grand Prix raised more than \$35,000 for the Masonic Children's Home.

Championship Race

1st place: K.L. Harring

2nd place: District 30

3rd place: District D

Pit Stop

1st place: District 10 • 18 sec.

2nd place: Treichler Lodge • 18.22 sec.

3rd place: K.L. Harring • 19.44 sec.

Most Authentic Paint Job

1st place: Warfel Construction Co.

2nd place: Lodge 2 (car #2)

Most Creative Paint Job

1st place: District D

2nd place: Treichler Lodge

Most Authentic Uniform

1st place: Treichler Lodge

2nd place: K.L. Harring

Most Creative Uniform

1st place: District 10

2nd place: Pennsylvania DeMolay

Dash for Kids

1st place: K.L. Harring

2nd place: District 10



RACING TEAMS...



SimplexGrinnell Service Dept.



K.L. Harring Transportation



Masonic District D



SimplexGrinnell Operations Dept.



Pennsylvania DeMolay





ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE FEATURES FELLOWSHIP & FUN

The sun shone brightly on about 8,000 visitors who mingled throughout the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown campus on Autumn Day, Sept. 20.

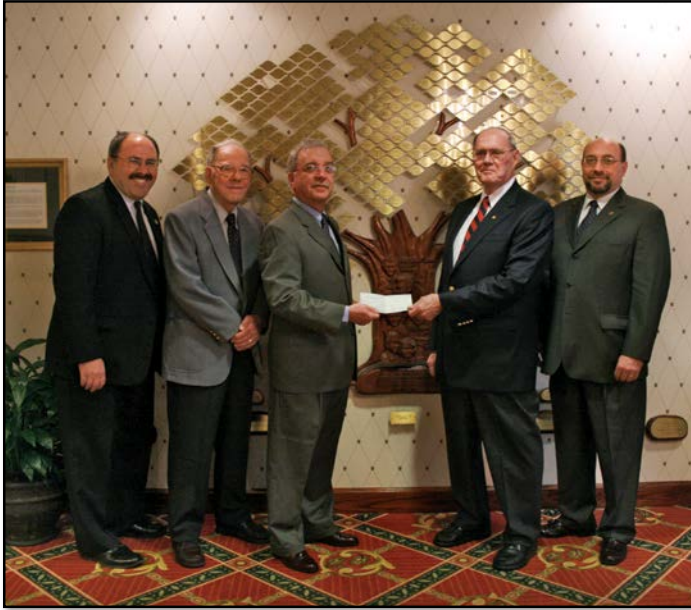
The annual open house is an opportunity for members of our Masonic family and their friends to tour the Masonic Village and learn about services offered, as well as to become more familiar with the many Masonic-affiliated organizations.

Highlights from the day included the Zembo Shrine and Tall Cedar Clowns, children's activities such as face painting and games, several musical acts, a juggler, a mime, a Masonic CHIP program, a blood drive and a plethora of tasty food.

Bus tours of the campus were on-going throughout the day, and many took advantage of the opportunity to tour the new retirement living Sycamore Apartments.



TREE OF LIFE GROWS A GROVE OF SUPPORT



On March 27, Robert Burns Lodge No. 464, Harrisburg, representative, Bro. John E. Adams, Jr., presented a check to Bro. Stephen Gardner, R.W. Grand Master, to cover the costs to expand the Masonic Tree of Life. The Tree of Life, located in the lobby of the Retirement Living clubhouse at the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown, was created and presented by the lodge in 1990 in honor of R.W. Past Grand Master Arthur J. Kurtz.

The current tree of 500 leaves, which is nearly full, will be expanded by the end of 2008 to add a small grove with two new trees each holding an additional 200 leaves. Funds received for the Masonic Tree of Life program are invested to cover the monthly resident service fee for those residents of Retirement Living whose funds have been depleted.

Contribution opportunities are as follows: Base Stones are available in three sizes for gifts of \$10,000, \$25,000 or \$50,000; an Acorn is \$5,000 and a Leaf is \$1,000. If you are interested in making a contribution for a leaf, acorn or stone, please contact the Office of Gift Planning at (800) 599-6454.

Left-right: Bros. Joseph E. Murphy, CEO for the Masonic Villages; Arthur J. Kurtz, R.W. Past Grand Master; Stephen Gardner, R.W. Grand Master; John E. Adams, Jr., and Kenneth E. Beard, Jr., D.D.G.M., District 2.

QUEENS FOR A DAY



The ladies of the Star Points Building and Valley Care Masonic Center at the Masonic Village at Sewickley were treated to an "Enchanted Evening" earlier this year featuring fancy attire, delectable cuisine and regal entertainment surrounded by elegant décor. The event was the work of the William Slater II Master Mason's Club at the Masonic Village at Sewickley and the generosity of program sponsors including 20 local Masonic lodges (see names to the right) and the Advisory Committee of the Order of the Eastern Star.

On Jan. 28, 2009, the ladies, many of whom are wives or widows of Masons or members of the Order of the Eastern Star, will once again receive royal treatment at the second annual "Enchanted Evening."

This event had a lasting effect on last year's guests as conversations about the evening continued for days afterwards. Such a program takes great commitment from the Master Mason's Club, Masonic Village staff and volunteers from various Masonic organizations, including youth groups and Order of the Eastern Star members.

For lodges interested in supporting this event, full table sponsorship is \$300 and half table sponsorship is \$150. Sponsorship of a single lady is \$50. All contributors will be named in the evening's program and any monies received in excess of what is required for this event will be placed in a fund for future events benefiting the village's widows.

If your lodge would like to contribute to the evening's success, please send checks made payable to "Enchanted Evening" to co-chairman Bro. Tracy H. Miller, P.M., 2442 Masonic Drive, Sewickley, PA 15143. For more information, contact Bro. Miller at (412) 749-9086 or co-chairman Bro. David P. Rihl at (412) 741-7914.



BLUE LODGE SPONSORS '08 - THANK YOU!

John A. Brashear Lodge No. 743
Tyrian Lodge No. 644
Dormont Lodge No. 684
Doric Lodge No. 630
Valley Lodge No. 613
Crawford Lodge No. 234
Verona Lodge No. 548
Lodge No. 45
Centennial Lodge No. 544
McKinley-Stuckrath Lodge No. 318
Wilmington Lodge No. 804
North Hills Lodge No. 716
Chartiers Lodge No. 297
Fraternal Lodge No. 483
Myrtle Lodge No. 316
Adelphic Lodge No. 424
Butler Lodge No. 272
Lodge No. 408
Covenant Lodge No. 473
Western Star Lodge No. 304



A LIFE-CHANGING LIFT



Every year, the Pineknoller Days celebration, the popular town fair in Northumberland, sends the soft hum of voices, cheerful music and the smell of freshly fried food floating through the summer breeze.

Just a block and a half away, Keith Strouse lives with his sister's family and mother, Pat. Every year, Keith looks forward to going to the fair. If he was having a good night, Keith could slowly make his way through a section of the fair, clutching his walker with every step. Some years, he only made it there once because he had to wait for a family member to push him down the street in his wheelchair. This year, thanks to the gift of a Joey Lift from Masonic Villages' Outreach Program, Keith made it to the fair. In fact, he didn't just go once, he went every night it was open!

The Joey Lift attaches to the inside of a van, and an electronic arm with a platform automatically extends out to the ground. A family member can roll the scooter onto the platform, and the arm lifts the scooter into the back of the van. "It's really neat how the lift goes up into the van. You just push the red button, and it lifts you up," Keith explained. This contraption made it possible for Keith's family to buy him a scooter that he can use anywhere the van can go.

"Without the lift, we wouldn't have been able to get the scooter," Pat explained. "The lift came first, and then we got the scooter." A scooter is too heavy for Pat to lift into the van, so without the lift, Keith had to walk everywhere. With Cerebral Palsy, walking creates serious hardships, and as a result, Keith was very limited in what he could do.

Pat's late husband, Bro. Franklin Strouse, Eureka Lodge No. 404, Northumberland, was a Mason, and Pat's family still receives publications and promotional material from the Grand Lodge. While the family could not support the Grand Lodge financially, Keith had some tangible needs.

Pat wrote a letter to the Gift Planning Office staff who forwarded the letter to Mrs. Debra Brockman, Director of Admissions and

Outreach at Masonic Villages. Soon after, Pat got a phone call from Debra to discuss how the Outreach Program could best assist the family. "They had already researched obtaining a lift that would make Keith more mobile and independent but could not afford it, so these funds provided for that need," Debra said. Together they decided that a gift, not a loan, of a Joey Lift through Home Assistance was the best fit.

"It was absolutely like a miracle to us. I don't even know if we can put into words how much it means to us... The new Joey Lift allowed us to purchase a scooter which [Keith] has dreamed of for a long time," Pat said. "Keith has never been able to even think of driving a car, and of course in every young man's life they think of owning a car. Well, Keith is able to drive. It may be a scooter, but he's able to steer and be independent."

"I go around town on [the scooter]. I really like it!" Keith said.

The day Keith got his scooter, he took a trip around the block to show off the shiny red paint and his newfound freedom. When he didn't come back, the family had to go out searching for him. They found Keith several blocks away – still riding the scooter, still showing off, still ecstatic. The family, not angry or frightened, just revelled in the fact that they had to go out and find him at all. "We had a good laugh that day," Pat said. "He likes being on his own."

Besides cruising around town, the lift and scooter have opened many doors for Keith and the family. Someday, Keith's sister will be his primary caregiver, and having the lift and scooter will simplify her life. "Anything we do now affects the whole family's life in the future," Pat stressed.

Because of how much the lift and scooter enhance Keith's mobility, he recently went on a job interview. This fall, he plans to break out the blue and white and head to State College for some action-packed Penn State football. With the new lift, friends and family members can borrow the Strouses' van and take Keith to places he's never enjoyed before. Even tasks such as going to the movies used to cause strain for Keith. Now, he's able to roll right up to the theater and enjoy an evening of entertainment. "It's really a godsend," Keith said of the lift.

"Your gift cannot be measured, in any way. Nor will it ever be forgotten," Pat said. "We just can't thank you all enough. It's just meant so much to this family."

The Outreach Program may be able to help you or a family member find the resources you need. For more information, visit our Web site at <http://www.masonicvillagespa.org/outreach.php> or call toll-free (800) 462-7664.

GRAND PIANO WANTED

The Masonic Village at Sewickley is in need of a good quality six-foot Steinway or Baldwin (or similar) grand piano.

If you have a grand piano you would like to give or for further information, please contact Karen Hammond, Activities Supervisor/Concierge, at (412) 741-1400 ext. 3906.



RESTORING MUSIC TO THEIR SOULS



The action of a grand piano has thousands of moving parts, all of which must be adjusted to work together seamlessly.

Thirty years ago, the Masonic Village at Lafayette Hill received a wonderful gift: a Steinway grand piano, which has brought life to resident programming programs in a way that few other instruments could have.

Musicians and piano technicians generally believe that the finest Steinway pianos ever built were manufactured between 1890 and 1940. This was the "Golden Age" of American piano manufacturing and the quality of handwork that was put into these pianos makes them quite desirable. The village's piano was completed in the Steinway Factory on Aug. 3, 1907, and shipped to Philadelphia on Aug. 20, 1907. Unfortunately, use, wear and age had all taken their toll on the beautiful instrument. It had been repaired a few times, had not held a tuning very well for several years, and the action was no longer responsive to players' touch.

Fortunately, staff found the Cunningham Piano Company in Philadelphia, which specializes in bringing these instruments back to their original glory. The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania had used this company to restore their Steinway grand piano and were very pleased. Many other area musicians and piano technicians also recommended the company.

Piano restoration is always custom work. It takes many months and involves duplicating some original components by hand that lose their resilience as the piano ages. The materials for this work are chosen very carefully, the execution must be done flawlessly, and the final fit of these components must be seamless for the piano to perform well again.

The work performed by Cunningham Piano Company took more than six months and cost thousands of dollars, but the time and cost were all well worth the investment. A premier, world class instrument, such as this Steinway, uses woods and techniques in its manufacture that are all but unavailable today. It would be difficult – next to impossible – to replace this instrument with a new one that would perform the same way. Any new piano that would come close to this instrument would cost many times over what was spent on the restoration.

The restored piano was recently revealed and has received nothing but rave reviews from residents and visiting musicians alike. The case has been restored to its original luster, the interior looks as if it has just come from the Steinway factory, and the warm sound is absolutely without equal. The residents and staff are very proud to be able to enjoy this piano again and, with proper care, will continue to enjoy it for many, many years.

We gratefully acknowledge the many donors who made this project possible: Anonymous, Cunningham Piano Company; Lodge No. 2, Philadelphia; Palestine-Roxborough Lodge No. 135, Philadelphia; SEPANPHA; Barbara Shields; The Grand Master's Charity Golf Tournament – Eastern PA; and Williamson-Corinthian Lodge No. 368, Philadelphia.

Masonic Village at Lafayette Hill resident Ethel Mould plays the newly restored Steinway. Previously she was the pianist at Green Creek Church in Green Creek, N.J. Playing a piano of this quality has brought her much joy.





Referrals Welcome at Masonic Children's Home

The Masonic Children's Home, located on the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown campus, currently has a few openings to serve school-aged children. The children's home has the capacity to serve 40 youth within its five cottages, and provides its residents with clothing, medical services and numerous educational and recreational opportunities. The children are encouraged to participate in activities, sports, music, art and worship of their preference. They attend the Elizabethtown Area School District and/or the Lancaster Career and Technology Center and are given the tools they need to reach their full potential; in fact, last marking period, 15 students attained the honor roll, and two the distinguished honor roll. Upon graduation, the youth receive financial support for higher education.

The Masonic Children's Home is an ideal opportunity for children who are orphaned, being raised by aging grandparents, or who come from various socio-economic environments which do not provide the security and support necessary for healthy growth and development. Most importantly, prospective children must want to come to the children's home and take advantage of the opportunities afforded them.

Oftentimes, the children's home can accept sibling groups so they are not separated from each another. The children's home is able to provide additional tutoring services for children with learning disabilities and provide them the extra help they need to be successful in school.

The type of children who are not appropriate for residency include those with extreme treatment needs, police involvement or serious behavioral issues, in order to best serve all of the youth within a group setting.

Licensed by the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, the Masonic Children's Home has an excellent reputation as a quality program. Children are cared for at no cost to the family; the Masonic Children's Home works with local lodges to sponsor them.

The children's home is privately funded through Pennsylvania Masons and generous donors, and does not accept any state or federal funding.

If you know of a child who needs a good home and who would benefit from this type of environment, please refer the parent(s) or guardian(s) to Ms. Virginia Migrala, Director, Children's Services, (717) 367-1121, ext. 33301, or vmigrala@masonicvillagespa.org.

More information is available online at www.masonicvillagespa.org.

Masonic Children's Home Wish List

Many thanks to those who have provided for many of the needs listed in the August issue of "The Pennsylvania Freemason." Below are some additional opportunities to enhance the services provided to our youth:

- 1 Deck for younger girls' cottage\$5,200
- 1 Deck for older girls' cottage.....\$5,200
- 1 Projector\$2,000
- 10 Dining room chairs @ \$200\$2,000
- 10 Study chairs @ \$200.....\$2,000
- 2 Basketball backboards @ \$450.....\$900
- 2 Stationary bike racks @ \$400.....\$800
- 4 Bike racks for vans @ \$200\$800
- 1 Wii/fitness/games/accessories.....\$650
- 1 Portable DVD player.....\$200
- 2 Paper shredders/study @ \$100\$200

If you would like to contribute toward any of these items, please contact Jim Heckman, Director of Gift Planning-Central Region, at (717) 367-1121, ext. 33437 or toll-free (800) 599-6454.



Take the Time to Do What Matters ...Leave the Rest to Us

Now, more than ever, it makes sense to plan for your retirement years at a Masonic Village.

With one monthly service fee including your utilities, real estate taxes, a flexible meal plan and transportation, retirement living at the Masonic Village of your choice provides financial security at a time when the economy appears to be in flux.*

Living in a beautiful continuing care retirement community also provides peace of mind in knowing that should you or your spouse ever need additional healthcare services in the future, the highest quality care will be provided by people you trust.

These should be your BEST years, so leave the home maintenance, landscaping and housecleaning to us, so you can pursue the things in life you've been waiting to enjoy.

Masonic Village residents enjoy a dynamic, carefree environment. Social and recreational activities and amenities provide residents countless opportunities to remain active, reignite forgotten interests or pursue new hobbies. Plus, living among neighbors who share your values, interests and zest for life leads to meaningful friendships.

Experience first-hand the beauty, quality and friendly atmosphere you would expect from our Masonic Villages in Pennsylvania. Take comfort in knowing that no matter how the economy turns, your future is secure.

For more information about any of the
Masonic Villages, visit our new Web site:
www.masonicvillagespa.org

*At the **MASONIC VILLAGE AT DALLAS**, the monthly service fee includes water and sewer, trash and snow removal, real estate taxes, landscaping, home maintenance and housekeeping of common areas. Access to healthcare services is available through preferred access to local healthcare providers as well as any of the Masonic Villages' healthcare facilities in Elizabethtown, Lafayette Hill, Sewickley and Warminster, Pa. The new Clubhouse is underway, to be completed in mid-2009. To tour a model cottage and/or an apartment, and to learn more about the new Clubhouse being built on the grounds of the Irem Country Club, call (866) 851-4243.

The Sycamore Apartments at the **MASONIC VILLAGE AT ELIZABETHTOWN** offer immediate availability – that means no waiting list at the present time! For more information or a personal appointment, call (800) 676-6452 today, before they're all gone.

The new **MASONIC VILLAGE AT LAFAYETTE HILL** (the community has recently been elegantly remodeled!) has limited retirement living accommodations available... however, there may be plans for future expansion! To learn more about current availabilities or to tour an existing apartment, call (610) 828-5760.

The **MASONIC VILLAGE AT SEWICKLEY** offers the additional security of a lifecare community, meaning that you will continue to pay the same rate for assisted living or nursing services, should you need them in the future, as you pay for retirement living services. This gorgeous campus has won numerous construction and architectural awards, and while a few accommodations are still available, the waiting list for many floor plans is starting to grow. To schedule a personal tour or attend the lifecare seminar on Nov. 20, call (866) 872-0664.



Masonic Villages



Have you ever considered leaving a lasting legacy for that special someone in the form of permanent recognition?

The Masonic Charities offers a variety of naming opportunities at each of the Masonic Villages and The Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania. You can choose from a plaque on our Mission of Love Donor Wall, a leaf on the Masonic Tree of Life, or even name a unique fountain, room or other special architectural feature. The Office of Gift Planning has hundreds of choices available beginning at \$1,000. Gifts can be made in your own name or in honor or memory of someone.

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

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING SAMPLE PAYMENT RATES:

One-Life		Two-Life	
Age	Rate	Age	Rate
70	6.1%	70 & 75	5.8%
75	6.7%	75 & 80	6.2%
80	7.6%	80 & 85	6.9%
85	8.9%	85 & 90	7.9%
90+	10.5%		

For further information, contact the gift planning office nearest you:

Central Pennsylvania • Jim Heckman

(717) 367-1121, ext. 33437 or (800) 599-6454

Eastern Pennsylvania • Joyce Michelfelder

(610) 825-6100, ext. 1348

Western Pennsylvania • Jane Binley

(412) 741-1400, ext. 3011 or (866) 872-0664

Out-of-State • Alvin Blitz

(717) 367-1121, ext. 33312 or (800) 599-6454

Financial information about Masonic Charities can be obtained by contacting us at 1-800-599-6454. In addition, Masonic Charities is required to file financial information with several states.

Colorado: Colorado residents may obtain copies of registration and financial documents from the office of the Secretary of State, (303) 894-2680, <http://www.sos.state.co.us/>. **Florida:** SC No. 00774, A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE, WITHIN THE STATE, 1-800-HELP-FLA. **Georgia:** full and fair description of the programs and activities of Masonic Charities and its financial statement are available upon request at the address indicated above. **Illinois:** Contracts and reports regarding Masonic Charities are on file with the Illinois Attorney General. **Maryland:** For the cost of postage and copying, documents and information filed under the Maryland charitable organizations laws can be obtained from the Secretary of State, Charitable Division, State House, Annapolis, MD 21401, (800) 825-4510. **Michigan:** MICS No. 11796 **Mississippi:** The official registration and financial information of Masonic Charities may be obtained from the Mississippi Secretary of State's office by calling 1-888-236-6167. **New Jersey:** INFORMATION FILED WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL CONCERNING THIS CHARITABLE SOLICITATION AND THE PERCENTAGE OF CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED BY THE CHARITY DURING THE LAST REPORTING PERIOD THAT WERE DEDICATED TO THE CHARITABLE PURPOSE MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL BY CALLING (973) 504-6215 AND IS AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET AT www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/ocp.htm#charity. **REGISTRATION WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT.** **New York:** A copy of the latest annual report can be obtained from the organization or from the Office of the Attorney General by writing the Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271. **North Carolina:** Financial information about this organization and a copy of its license are available from the State Solicitation Licensing Branch at 1-888-830-4989. **Pennsylvania:** The official registration and financial information of Masonic Charities may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. **Virginia:** Financial statements are available from the State Office of Consumer Affairs, P.O. Box 1163, Richmond, VA 23218. **Washington:** The notice of solicitation required by the Charitable Solicitation Act is on file with the Washington Secretary of State, and information relating to financial affairs of Masonic Charities is available from the Secretary of State, and the toll-free number for Washington residents: 1-800-332-4483. **West Virginia:** West Virginia residents may obtain a summary of the registration and financial documents from the Secretary of State, State Capitol, Charleston, WV 25305. **REGISTRATION IN THE ABOVE STATES DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION OF MASONIC CHARITIES BY THE STATE.**

COMPLETE AND MAIL THIS FORM TO:

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:
Age(s): _____ Amount*: \$ _____
*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: _____