

The mission of the Freemasons of Minnesota is to engage and inspire good men, who believe in a Supreme Being, to live according to Masonic tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.



# The Minnesota MASON

March–April 2010

VOL. 57, No. 6



**Farewell**  
page 2

**Grand Lodge News**  
pages 1–3, 8



**Minnesota Masonic Charities**  
pages 4–5



**Lodge News & Views**  
page 6

**Masonic Family News**  
page 7

## Masonic donation to Habitat for Humanity



*HELPING HABITAT — Stewartville Lodge No. 203 has donated \$5,000 to “Stewartville Builds,” Rochester Area Habitat for Humanity’s effort to build a decent, affordable home for a Stewartville family. Minnesota Masonic Charities has matched the gift to bring the total donation to \$10,000. In the front row in the center, Bob Lee, Master of Stewartville Lodge, presents a check to Patricia McCleese, program manager for Rochester Area Habitat for Humanity. To McCleese’s left, clockwise from front to back, are Brothers George Menshik and Dale Clark, who are also involved in the “Stewartville Builds” project; along with Brothers Len Griffith and Art Pavlish. Behind Bob Lee, clockwise from back, are Molly Hintz, Tim Horvei, Lincoln Harker and Les Radcliffe, all of whom are involved in the “Stewartville Builds” project.*

## Membership Seminar on April 10th

Deputy Grand Master John L. Cook has announced that a Membership Seminar will be held at the Minnesota Masonic Home, April 10, 2010. The Seminar will begin at 10:00 a.m. and conclude at 4:00 p.m. Check-in begins at 9:00 a.m. You must register in advance.

This seminar has been developed by the Membership Committee to help lodges position themselves to better attract new members and revitalize their lodges to the changing expectations of men in the 21st century. Topics include Opening your Lodge to the Community, Growing Organizations and

Transforming Your Lodge, Success Stories in Minnesota Lodges, and Mentorship.

Letters have been sent to all lodges inviting up to two brothers per lodge. The sign-up deadline is April 5th, and attendance is limited. To help defray expenses, there will be a charge of \$10 per attendee. Lunch is provided.

Contact the Grand Lodge office by phone, 952-948-6700, or e-mail [grandlodge@qwest.net](mailto:grandlodge@qwest.net) to register.

Your time will be well spent—  
David Olson, Senior Grand Deacon

## Ben Franklin Table Lodge set for May 3rd at Minnesota History Center

Brothers, it is my distinct pleasure to invite you and your guest to a very special Masonic evening. The Grand Lodge of Minnesota has partnered with the Minnesota History Center to present a wonderful, fun, and educational celebration of the life of our Masonic Brother, Past Grand Master Benjamin Franklin.

This fine event will take place on Monday, May 3rd, at the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul, starting at 5:30 with hors d’oeuvres and tours of the exhibit now on display honoring the life of this great gentleman. We will then assemble in the Great Hall, with its spectacular views and beautiful architecture, for a wonderful meal and table lodge (yes, with toasts and volleys!). It will truly be a memorable night. There will even be a special visit from Ben himself!

The cost is an all-inclusive \$60 per person, and this is certainly an evening for Masons and guests.

For information and reservations, please call or email R.W. Brother Brian Beermann at 651-379-2822 or [bribeermann@earthlink.net](mailto:bribeermann@earthlink.net).

There are a limited number of reservations that we will be able to accept, so please mark your calendars and make your reservations today!

### Ben Franklin Table Lodge and Celebration Monday, May 3, 2010

at the Minnesota History Center

345 Kellogg Blvd West, St Paul, Minnesota

Social and Exhibit Yours: 5:30–7:00 p.m.

Festive Board: 7:00–9:00 p.m.

Cost: \$60 per person

#### Meal choices

(served by the exceptional Bon Appétit Catering)

- 1) **Charred Ribeye Steak** with a Crimini Ragu, Caramelized Onion Mashed Potatoes and Roasted Vegetables and a Chocolate Mascarpone Torte with White Chocolate Straw for dessert
  - 2) **Parmesan Crusted Walleye** with Wild Rice Pilaf, Seasonal Vegetable and Sweet Corn Butter Sauce
  - 3) **Butternut Squash Ravioli** with Truffled Sage Bisque and Wilted Lacinato Kale with a Strawberry Chantilly Torte with Fresh Raspberry Coulis for dessert
- These will be served with a wonderful Salad Course and Wine or Juice for toasting!

## Templar Lodge No. 176 Presents the 76th Annual Lynnhurst Turkey Dinner

Honoring incoming Grand Master  
John L. Cook, tradition prevailing

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

at the Minneapolis Doubletree Park Place  
1500 Park Place Boulevard  
St. Louis Park, Minnesota

(Please note this is a change in date and location.)

For reservations, contact WB Chris Ronich at  
612-961-3051 or [cronich@comcast.net](mailto:cronich@comcast.net).  
Or visit the lodge website at  
[www.templarlodge176.org](http://www.templarlodge176.org).



## Hear Yea, Hear Yea, Hear Yea

All members located in  
the Minneapolis – St. Paul area  
The Masonic Service Association  
needs volunteers at the Minneapolis  
Veterans Administration Hospital.

We need your help so that  
we can help our veterans.  
Flexible hours to fit your schedule

Please contact  
W. Brother John McBride  
at 952-920-3072  
for further information.



Photo of Benjamin Franklin used with permission of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.





## Farewell

**M.W.B. Thomas G. McCarthy**  
Grand Master

As I write this message, it's only four weeks until the Grand Lodge Annual Communication and the changing of the guard for Grand Lodge officers. I guess it's only natural to look back and reflect on the year.

First of all, THANK YOU, brothers of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota, for the privilege of serving as your Grand Master. I have had the opportunity to experience so many wonderful things just because I happened to hold this office in 2009-2010.

The best part of this position is the chance to travel the state and meet such interesting men—brothers, all. I will treasure the memories of 50-year awards, fire trucks, trolleys, degree work, Job's Daughters, DeMolay and Star... So many stories. So many lessons learned. Thank you. It has been a great year for Tom McCarthy.

Has it been a good year for Masonry? I hope so. More often than not, when I visited a lodge, petitions were read, candidates were balloted and/or degree work was performed. I don't have the statistics from the Grand Secretary, but there certainly seemed to be a good amount of activity around the state. At the Annual Communication, every lodge with a net increase in membership will be formally recognized. It's hard to accomplish, with the average age of our members, but it is a goal every lodge should set for itself in the years to come.

I have noticed increased interest in the appendant bodies, as well. The Scottish Rite Valleys are doing good work, and candidates are petitioning. I am especially pleased to observe that York Rite Masonry seems to be in a real upswing.

This year has seen much activity on the revamped KidsID program. This project has the potential to not only make our communities safer for our children, but to revitalize lodges in the process. I'm looking forward to continuing to work on KidsID locally and on the national level.

The end of the term also must require us to look forward. Having worked with (tradition, as always, prevailing) the next seven Grand Masters, I can say with

confidence that the state organization is in good hands.

One of the real pleasures I've had in the journey to Grand Master is to get to know our (presumptive) next Grand Master, John Cook. I couldn't have asked for a more dedicated and helpful Deputy Grand Master than RWB Cook. John has offered good counsel whenever I have requested it, and I am absolutely confident that he will serve the Craft with humility and distinction.

RWB John and the members of the corporate board have a well-thought-out, yet ambitious plan to make Masonry more relevant and vibrant in the 21st Century. These dozen brothers, however, cannot do it alone. The success of Masonry happens in the local lodges and brother to brother, or brother to prospective member, I encourage you to step up and volunteer in an area of your choice—locally, district-wide or statewide. We truly rely on you.

I'm looking forward to greeting each one of you at the Annual Communication March 26-27. We're going to have some informative sessions, do important work, hear some truly amazing Irish jokes, and have a great time of fellowship.

As the last Irish Blessing I will submit, I leave you with this:

*May the raindrops fall lightly on your brow.*

*May the soft winds freshen your spirit.*

*May the sunshine brighten your heart.*

*May the burdens of the day rest lightly upon you,*

*And may God enfold you in the mantle of His love.*

## 30th annual Minnesota/Texas reunion held



*Patty and GM Tom McCarthy enjoy the Minnesota/Texas reunion.*

According to the records of the committee, twenty-eight of the thirty Grand Masters have attended the Minnesota-Texas reunion during their year in office. In attendance at the 2010 reunion: Past Grand Masters Alyn Dull, Donald Flood, Ward Sonstebly, Charles Baltos, and Grand Master Thomas McCarthy.

The Reunion was held at the Rio Grande Shrine Club in La Feria, Texas with MWB Baltos as Master of Ceremonies and Lowell Larson as Chaplain. MWB Sonstebly, as Chairman of the Committee, handled the door prize program, MWB Dull introduced Grand

Master Tom, Carol Sonstebly presented a corsage to Patty McCarthy, and a musical interlude was provided by MWB Baltos and his guitar. The excellent dinner of roast beef, chicken, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, lettuce salad, cake and coffee or tea was prepared by Chef Charles Hunger. Charles is a Minnesota Mason from Duluth but now a permanent resident of Texas.

During the social time prior to the dinner, Grand Master Tom and Lady Patty made every effort to shake hands and to speak to everyone in attendance, all ninety-four of them. They succeeded.

The last person on the program for the evening was Most Worshipful Thomas G. McCarthy, Grand Master of Masons in Minnesota. He told about the Cornerstone Laying at the University of Minnesota, the new KidsID Program, the One-Day-to-Masonry class in January, and his journey around Minnesota as Grand Master. His comments were well received by all. He announced the dates of the Grand Lodge Annual Communication and hoped that all Masons would be able to attend.

Chaplain Lowell Larson sent us on our way home with a short Benediction.

## 2010 Minnesota State Fair Booth and KidsID

We are starting the schedule for the KidsID booth at the Minnesota State Fair. Our booth will again be in the Education building. For 12 days, from August 26th through September 6th, we will have four people per shift with three shifts per day:

9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

5 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Like last year we will be handing out the Take 25 information. Take 25 is a program of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children®. The goal of Take 25 is to heighten awareness about children's safety issues. With a focus on prevention, the campaign encourages parents, guardians, and other trusted-adult role models to spend time talking to kids

and teaching them ways to be safer.

For venues that have the Minnesota KidsID program scheduled, we will have the dates and locations posted at the fair.

In addition to Take 25, we will be handing out information and talking to people who have questions about Freemasonry. For this we need to have people in place that know about our craft.

We are looking forward to another great year at the fair. As before, the shifts and times are on a first come basis.

Please contact the State Fair booth coordinator to reserve your time slot:

Bruce L. Clarke  
Strait\_ap@yahoo.com or  
contact the Grand Lodge office.

## Minneapolis Lodge No. 19 to host Scots



On May 19, 2010, Minneapolis Lodge 19 will be honored to welcome some of the brethren from Lodge Coupar O'Fife 19, Scotland. All Masons are encouraged to attend the evening's festivities, which will include the Minneapolis Lodge No. 19 stated communication and a Fellowcraft Degree, followed by an authentic harmony/festive board emceed by Scotland's own, Bro. Douglas Abercrombie. Details on how to RSVP are forthcoming and will be posted at [www.nineteener.org](http://www.nineteener.org). Shown in the photo is R. W. Master Craig Rodger from Coupar O'Fife Lodge 19, Scotland.

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Lodge \_\_\_\_\_

Old Address \_\_\_\_\_

Old City \_\_\_\_\_

Old State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

New Address \_\_\_\_\_

New City \_\_\_\_\_

New State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

New Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Effective date of change \_\_\_\_\_

Mail: Office of the Grand Secretary  
11501 Masonic Home Drive  
Bloomington, MN 55437-3699

Phone: 952-948-6700 or 800-245-6050

Email: [grandlodge@qwest.net](mailto:grandlodge@qwest.net)

### Grand Lodge website calendar

find events or avoid scheduling conflicts

[www.mn-masons.org/calendar](http://www.mn-masons.org/calendar)

### The Minnesota MASON

March-April 2010 VOL. 57, No. 6

The Minnesota MASON (USPS 593-460) is the only official publication of the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Minnesota. It is published bimonthly in January-February, March-April, May-June, July-August, September-October, and November-December.

Office of publication of *The Minnesota MASON* is the Grand Lodge of Minnesota, 11501 Masonic Home Drive, Bloomington, Minnesota 55437-3699. Telephone number is 952-948-6700. Periodicals Postage Paid at Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401 and additional entry offices.

POSTMASTER: Please send address corrections to *The Minnesota MASON*, 11501 Masonic Home Drive, Bloomington, Minnesota 55437-3699.

Design & Layout  
Bobbie Lampi

RSL desktop publishing services  
[rlampi@charter.net](mailto:rlampi@charter.net)

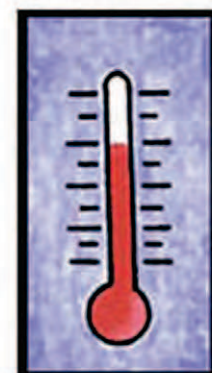
Interested in REVITALIZING your Lodge and GROWING Masonry in Minnesota?

SAVE THE DATE:

APRIL 10, 2010

- Discover ways you can attract new members and keep them
- Enjoy fellowship and meet Brethren from other Lodges to trade ideas and learn how they met success

Watch your e-mail for updates





# Lodge Education Officer = LEO =

## Leadership, Education, Oratory

### Masonic Education: Life Changing!

Ed Halpaus, GLEO

One of the more interesting degrees to study—one that will give the Masonic student many hours of enjoyable learning—is the 2° of the Blue Lodge. Many sincerely enjoy this degree because, from it, they get questions answered and come up with more to explore and research. Some of these questions come to our Education Committee. In this issue of the *Minnesota Mason*, I will try to address some of these questions.

The name Boaz seems to be pronounced the same all over the United States, but the name Jachin is pronounced differently in some jurisdictions from the way we pronounce it in the jurisdiction of Minnesota. One Brother I know, from a southern jurisdiction, says it's pronounced 'JAH kin'. Just in case you wonder which pronunciation is correct, it's the way we say it in the jurisdiction of Minnesota—'JAY kin'. This pronunciation can be found in *Who's Who in the Bible—The Essential Biographical Dictionary*, however the Hebrew pronunciation is YA keen—this pronunciation can be found on one of my favorite sites for Bible research, Search God's Word, at [www.search-godsword.com](http://www.search-godsword.com) in *Easton's Bible Dictionary*, which is on that site.

The pillars are called Boaz and Jachin. In the lecture they are referred to as Jachin and Boaz—the opposite way I just referred to them. Because the lecture is about ancient Israel, the Hebrew language is written right to left, so as we're facing East in the Lodge Room the pillar Jachin is on the right—the south side of the room—and Boaz is on the left—or North side of the room. Thus saying the names the way they may be written in Hebrew is appropriate, but I try to remember to say Boaz and Jachin—as they would be written in English—because that helps me remember that Boaz is on the North, and Jachin is on the South—Boaz on the left and Jachin on the right as we face East, which is the way the candidate for the degree is facing.

That answers the question about which pillar is on the left, and which left is it. There is documentation to this placement. To know for sure the correct position of these pillars, we need only to look in *The Great Light of Masonry*. Just look in 1 Kings 7:21 and also 2 Chronicles 3:17, NIV, where it says: "He erected the pillars at the portico of the temple. The pillar to the south he named Jachin and the one to the north Boaz." This answers the question about who named the pillars. It was King Solomon.

A couple of other questions are important. Why are they named what they are? And which globe is correct for which pillar? These are great questions, because they lead us to some great information we should know regarding these pillars.

I have long said that a Masonic student will also be a Bible student, and this is true no matter what a Mason's religion might be, because there is a lot in *The Great Light* about our degrees. That's a good reason why the Holy Bible is the *Great Light* of Masonry. I truly believe that there is truth in the Volumes of Sacred Law of the other religions we Masons embrace in our varying religions, but it is in the Holy Bible we can learn more about our degrees, as well as the lessons of Masonry.

Boaz and Jachin are the names of the Pillars on the porch of Solomon's Temple. The exact position of the pillars can be found in 1 Kings 7:21. You might also like to know that a very good description of the construction of the pillars can be found in Jeremiah 52: 20-23. (There is a

lot of symbolism in what is written in those verses of scripture that might be interesting to many Masons.) You might, also, want to note that Solomon set these pillars at the entrance of the porch, not at the entrance of the Temple.

The pillar Jachin supports the celestial globe in the symbolic Masonic Lodge, because Jachin was of the priestly line (see 1 Chronicles 24:17). The pillars, in addition to other symbolism, also symbolize church and state. Boaz was the ancestor of the kingly line of David, so the pillar Boaz is topped with the terrestrial globe. There are some lodges that have the pillars and thus the globes reversed. When this happens the brethren witnessing the Middle Chamber Lecture in the 2° are receiving information about the pillars a bit skewed and not exactly correct according to Freemasonry or The Great Light.

There is a legend to the effect that the priests were consecrated to their offices near the pillar of Jachin and the kings crowned near the pillar of Boaz. That is where the additional symbolism of Church and State is associated with these pillars.

We all can see in our mind's eye where the pillars of Boaz and Jachin are kept in our lodge rooms. It seems that most are just placed in a convenient out-of-the-way place. However, there are some lodges that have lodge rooms that are large enough where the pillars can be placed on the left and right of the Tyler's door so that we who attend lodge can pass between them. In a perfect world every Lodge would have room for this. You may wonder why that might be a good thing.

Another question that gets asked is why we say 'passed' for the 2°. The other monikers for the 1° and 3° don't seem to generate the interest that the moniker of the 2° does. We say passed because early in the second section of the degree the new FC passes between the pillars of Boaz and Jachin on his way to the Middle Chamber. And in some lodges the Masons 'pass' between them at every communication. This can serve to remind them of all they learned in their 2°.

Thinking of the word 'passed' reminds me of two very good poems you might like to read. One is by Joseph Torry, which is titled *I Shall Not Pass This Way Again*. Here is the poem:

*Through this toilsome world, alas!  
Once and only once I pass.  
If a kindness I may show,  
If a good deed I may do,  
To my suffering fellow men  
Let me do it while I can  
Nor delay it, for 'tis plain  
I shall not pass this way again.*

Another fine poem you might like on this subject is called *This Way*, by Eliza M. Hickok:

*Whence came and whither bound are we?  
Holds something still of mystery;  
But one grave thought is clear and plain,  
We shall not pass this way again. --*

*Why waste an hour in vain regret,  
For common ills that must be met?  
Why of the thorny road complain?  
We shall not pass this way again. --*

*Why wound, or cause a tear to start?  
Why vex or trouble one poor heart?  
Each hath its secret grief or care,  
Its burden that thou canst not share. --*

*The years glide by: stand strong and true!  
The good thou canst, oh, quickly do!  
Let gentle words sooth woe and pain,  
We shall not pass this way again.*

[Editor's note: The Board of Custodians in Minnesota takes no position on which column is on the right or left.]

# Masonic Conundrum

by L. C. Addison, Education Committee

I guess the groundhogs are not unified in deciding whether we will have a long or short winter. Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow but many others, such as Jimmy the Groundhog (WI) or Buckeye Chuck (OH) did not see theirs. I guess we'll have a recount pretty soon! Thanks go out to all of the brothers who responded to the Conundrum.

## Conundrum #19 answer

The correct answer to Conundrum #19 is: 1965 taken from *The Freemason's Pocket Reference Book*, pp. 65-66. The brothers who answered Conundrum #19 correctly are:

### Metroeast Area

Clarence Anderson, Saint Paul No. 3  
Sean Bulenrose, Tusler-Summit No. 263  
Stephen Beying, Accacia No. 51

### Metrowest Area

Daniel Katzenberger, Minneapolis No. 19  
Larry Erickson, Wayzata No. 205  
Tim Jirak, Wayzata No. 205

### Northeast Area

Charley Korsch, Palestine No. 79

### Northwest Area

Robb Orr, Aurora No. 100  
Bruce Tinesand, Itasca No. 208  
Michael Kvamlov, Roseau No. 268  
Chinwuba Okafor, Bemidji No. 233  
Joe Drevlow, Northern No. 236  
Jim Goldsberry, Northern No. 236  
Lauren Lampi, Itasca No. 208  
Richard Keeton, Corner Stone No. 99

## Southeast Area

Derek Berg, Mystic Star No. 69  
David McCormick II, Rising Sun No. 49

## Conundrum #20

I must give a huge round of applause to the Northwest Area brothers. For the last few conundrums, you all have sent out responses in a great numbers! Next up, the question for Conundrum #20 is this:

In the 1920s, Lord Cornwallis, as Deputy Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England, wrote: "We have seen as many as five Volumes of the Sacred Law in use at one and the same time, and Brethren of the following among other races, taken at random—Europeans, Parsis, Chinese, Burmese, Hindus, Americans, Ceylonese, Punjabis, Mohammedans, Sikhs, Armenians, Greeks, Bengalis, Jews, Aracanese, and Madrassis—participating in the Ceremonies. The Brotherhood of Man, under such circumstances, becomes a living reality." Where was he describing?

When you have the answer, send it by email to: [laddisonii@gmail.com](mailto:laddisonii@gmail.com) [remember to include your name and lodge] or by U.S. mail to: Masonic Conundrum, Attention L.C. Addison, c/o the Grand Lodge of Minnesota, 11501 Masonic Home Drive, Bloomington, MN 55437.

Please remember that the first correct response received from each area of the state will receive a nice gift from the education committee. Have a good time with this question—*Masonic research is fun!*

# Southeastern Minnesota contributes to Honor Flights



Shown in the photo as the \$12,000 check is being presented, from left to right: Grand Secretary Douglas Campbell; Mr. Pete Mathias, Honors Flight Board member; Worthy Matron Mary Anne Goss, Sunshine Chapter, OES; M.W.B. Eric Neetenbeek, Minnesota Masonic Charities; and W.B. Odean Goss, seated.

W. Brother Odean Goss and his wife, Mary Anne, spearheaded the drive to raise funds to help sponsor the next World War II veterans' Honors Flight from southeastern Minnesota. Odean is a dual member of Rising Sun Lodge No. 49 in St. Charles and Pickwick Lodge No. 110 of Pickwick; and both are quite involved in Sunshine Chapter No. 98 of the Eastern Star. They set out to raise funds for the Honors Flights by contacting area lodges, chapters and individual members. Odean also secured a commitment from the Grand Lodge of Minnesota and Minnesota Masonic Charities to match the donations raised, up to a total of \$6,000.

The next three Honors Flights from Southeastern Minnesota are scheduled for April 3rd, May 15th and one in October 2010. Each flight can take about 110 veterans, plus guardians and volunteers. The veterans can participate in this trip for free; volunteers and guardians pay \$550 each. The money paid by the guardians and

volunteers, and the money raised to pay for the veterans' trips, is used to cover the flight, the meals, bus trips in Washington and other miscellaneous items.

If you know of a WWII veteran who would like to make a future Honors flight trip, please contact the Grand Lodge office and we will put you in touch with the Honors Flight Network.



## Grand Lodge Annual Communications

2011 – April 8th and 9th  
At the St. Cloud Civic Center

2012 – April 13th and 14th  
2013 – April 12th and 13th  
2014 – April 4th and 5th

Above at the Northland Inn in Brooklyn Park



MINNESOTA  
MASONIC  
CHARITIES

## A Year's Worth of Data

*The goal is to transform data into information, and information into insight.*

C. Fiorina

Each and every year, data is collected from all of the philanthropies of Minnesota Masonic Charities to create an overall picture of annual changes, improvements and opportunities. While the data is comprehensive, it is the information it provides that truly allows both staff and the MMC Board of Directors to strategically stay the course, or make adjustments so that the programs and services of Minnesota Masonic Charities continue to support our vision of being the "Charity of choice because of the difference we make..."

Here then is the synopsized data for MMC 2009:

### 1) Grants

(NOTE: In 2009, \$3,935,000 was granted to MMC Heritage Charities through annual budget approval by the MMC Board of Directors; \$367,717 was awarded to Lodges, Chapters, and Masonic affiliates through the Matching Funds Grant program, including the Order of the Eastern Star, Scottish Rite, and other organizations.)

#### a) Matching Funds Grants (Lodge and Chapter)

2009 - \$77,870

Number Awarded: 2009 - 116

Lodge and Chapter involvement

2009 - 42 Lodges, 10 Chapters, 6 Masonic affiliates

#### b) Matching Funds Grants (Affiliates)

Scottish Rite

Duluth - 2009: \$50,000

Elk River - 2009: \$50,000

Zuhrah Shrine Guardian Unit

2009 - Defibrillators - \$740

Ruhsam Scholarships OES

2009 - \$11,500

ESTARL Scholarships

2009 - \$20,000

Job's Daughters/Annual Support - 2009 - \$1,000

Travel assistance for Supreme Bethel Honored Queen

2009 - \$5,000

Rainbow Girls - 2008 - \$1,113

Honor Flight - 2009 - \$2,500



### 2) Scholarships

(NOTE: In 2009, \$600,000 was granted to MMC Scholarships through budget approval.)

#### a) Matching Funds Scholarships

2009 - 119 Lodges, 18 Chapters,

1 Prince Hall Lodge

Number of Scholarships Awarded:

2009 - 380

Funds Given to Matching Funds Scholarships

2009 - Lodge/Chapter - \$210,050; MMC - \$150,973.94

#### b) 2009 Signature Scholarships

Number awarded: 5 - Amount: \$5,000 each, for up to 4 years,

5 renewal Signature Scholarships were awarded

#### c) 2009 Masonic Legacy Scholarships

Number awarded: 3 - Amount: \$4,000 each, for up to 4 years

3 Renewal Legacy Scholarships were awarded

#### d) Waldon Scholarships

2009 - 100 @ \$1,000 each (\$50,000 MMC, \$50,000 Grand Lodge)



### 3) Minnesota Masonic Elder Services - Masonic Homes

#### a) Bloomington Residents

Care Center - 2009 - 214 beds with

overall occupancy of 98%

Assisted Living - 2009 - 94% occupancy

TCU Admissions - 2009 - 1389

Rehab Services Patients - 2009 - 1728

#### b) Cluster Home Residents - 2009 - 93% occupancy

#### c) North Ridge Residents

Care Center 2009 - 397 beds with overall 90% occupancy

Assisted Living Suites - 2009 94% occupancy

Assisted Living Apartments - 2009 - 79% occupancy

Independent Living Apartments - 2009 - 79% occupancy

#### d) Number of employees - 2009 - 1350

#### e) Volunteers at MMH

North Ridge - 2009 - 325 volunteers

Bloomington - 2009 - 324 volunteers



### 4) Masonic Cancer Center Fund - \$1,474,000 for Masonic Cancer Center, gift pledge of \$2,800,000 to begin in 2010



### 5) Minnesota Masonic Historical Society & Museum

2009 - 12 traveling exhibits, permanent exhibits at North Ridge, Bloomington, and the St. Paul Masonic Center



## MMC Annual Campaign: *Friends of Masonic Charities* Launches at the Grand Lodge Communication

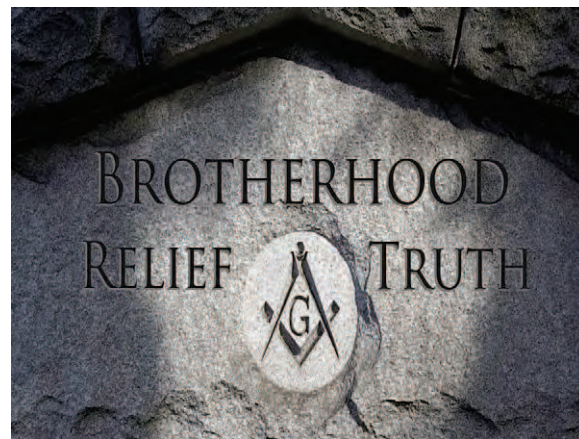
Minnesota Masonic Charities launches its first annual campaign, *Friends of Masonic Charities*, on March 27, 2010, at the Grand Lodge Annual Communication.

The *Friends of Masonic Charities* campaign is the primary fundraiser created to promote greater awareness of the generosity of Minnesota Masons and Stars and to support the many charitable programs and services borne from that generosity.

The *Friends of Masonic Charities* campaign spotlights how Masonic charitable support can also provide a meaningful response to the often asked question, "What do Masons do?"

The Masonic family is committed to strengthening the communities of Minnesota. From matching funds for Lodge and Chapter neighborhood and community projects to major grants for senior care, cancer research, student education, hospitals, children's clinics, Minnesota Masonic Charities reflects the many, many ways that the Masons of Minnesota pledge their support to their communities and to the needs of others.

So much good work has been done. So much more depends on the pledge that the good work will continue. There are many reasons to conduct an annual campaign, but none more important than the simple fact that we can do so much more together to honor that commitment.



*New MMC  
Annual Campaign  
Film  
premieres at  
Communication  
breakfast*

The launch of the campaign includes the debut of a new video specially created to provide filmed (and very moving) testimonies from those who have benefited from the programs and services of Minnesota Masonic Charities and also from those who have made the commitment to support these philanthropies.

#### You weren't able to attend the "premiere"?

The video is designed to be featured at your Lodge and Chapter for personal presentations. One call to Brother John Schwietz, Director of Fund Development at 952-948-6209 or 651-210-5240, will allow you to schedule a showing for members of your Lodge. John will attend and be available for questions as well as provide even more information on the annual campaign.

#### It is really so easy to become a *Friend of Masonic Charities*.

Your gift of any amount will go directly for the support of these charitable programs. Your commitment to give will go directly to the success of this first campaign.

Your personal knowledge that you live by the tenets of Masonic relief?

*Priceless.*



# Our Vision

To be the charity of choice because of the difference we make.

## New feature:

*It's about giving...*



From time to time, this new column will share recent news items, reports or articles from multiple resources that all speak to a subject that remains a constant and consistent part of the American psyche: charitable giving.

In this issue, information from the report *Giving USA*, compiled annually by the American Association of Fundraising Counsel, and also from the National Park Service through the U.S. Department of the Interior bring forth some interesting data which challenges popular belief..

*"A widely-held perception is that corporations and foundations are the biggest sources to tap for grants and donations. The reality is that 82 percent of philanthropic dollars are contributed by individuals and bequests. Corporations and foundations are easier to target; their contribution of 5 percent and 13 percent respectively was 18 percent of the total philanthropic dollars in 2008-2009."*

from the National Park Service, US Dept. Interior

- ❖ Despite economic conditions, Americans gave more than \$307 billion to their favorite charities. Despite the economic downturn, individual giving continues to be in the 82% range.
- ❖ The greatest portion of charitable giving, \$229 billion, was given by individuals or household donors.
- ❖ Charitable bequests made by individuals, at \$23 billion, are estimated to be 7% of all giving.
- ❖ Corporate giving, which is tied to corporate profits, decreased 4.5% (8% when adjusted for inflation) to \$14 billion or 5% over the same time period.
- ❖ People give to support what they value and believe in. The giving percentages are relatively constant year to year with minor shifts.

from *Giving USA* report

## George Washington brings *history to life* at the Minnesota Masonic Historical Society annual dinner.



Sharing memories of our early nation: George Washington



President Washington spends a personal moment with the youngest guest at the event: six year old, Chase Rennich.



Happy Presidential escorts: Sojourners Don Wurden, Don Bauman, Bob Selden and Ron Campbell.

The Minnesota Masonic Historical Society and Museum honored our first President with a George Washington Celebration and Dinner on Saturday, February 13, 2010. Landmark on the Bluffs at Masonic Home Bloomington was the gracious venue for the evening, and guests first socialized in Town Square, happily tasting the mulled wine or apple cider that was offered.

After gathering for dinner, all stood as "his Excellency" was escorted in by appropriately uniformed "Heroes of '76," a unit of the Sojourners, and the sounds of fife and drum.

Following a delicious meal, guests experienced "history as it happened" with stories and remembrances as portrayed by President Washington through the interpretation of Carl Closs.

A former educator and senior business executive who has dedicated his retirement toward helping children and adults discover George Washington, Mr. Closs has become a leading authority on the "father of our country" with the authenticity of detail including dressing in a custom-made, authentic reproduction of the 18th-century military regalia—including the leather boots—worn by General Washington.

Mr. Closs resides near Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, and, in addition to his living biography performances, continues to read, attend conferences at Mount Vernon and communicate with Washingtonian scholars at universities throughout the country.

Guests were offered the opportunity to ask questions following the performance and, as the evening came to a close, many felt it had been the perfect way to travel in time: experiencing history first-hand while never leaving the present.



The Pillars magazine is now here!

Have you received your copy?

Subscriptions are free, and extra copies are available. Call 952-948-6004 to request yours.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**My Dad, a 32-year Mason, is interested in arranging for his estate to include a gift to the Masonic Cancer Center. I am a second-generation Mason myself, and I told him I had heard about the Pillars Society—that it was a legacy program which supports planned giving to the philanthropies of Minnesota Masons. Am I right and, if so, how do we find out more?**

R. S, Minneapolis

**First answer: you are absolutely right. Second answer, you should be receiving your personal copy of *The Pillars* magazine, providing you with even more information. Another second answer: John Schwietz, MMC Director of Fund Development and Brother Mason, would love to speak with you. He can be reached at 952-948-6209 or emailed at [john.schwietz@mnmasonic.org](mailto:john.schwietz@mnmasonic.org). And thanks to you and your father.**



Main: (952) 948-6004

Web: [mnmasoniccharities.org](http://mnmasoniccharities.org)

**Eric Neetenbeek, President/CEO**

(952) 948-6213

[Eric.Neetenbeek@mnmasonic.org](mailto:Eric.Neetenbeek@mnmasonic.org)

**Sara Beddow, Director of Communications**

(952) 948-6202

[Sara.Beddow@mnmasonic.org](mailto:Sara.Beddow@mnmasonic.org)

**John Schwietz,**

**Director of Fund Development**

(952) 948-6209

[John.Schwietz@mnmasonic.org](mailto:John.Schwietz@mnmasonic.org)

**Deb Cutsinger, Executive Assistant**

(952) 948-6206

[Deb.Cutsinger@mnmasonic.org](mailto:Deb.Cutsinger@mnmasonic.org)

**Sandy Knoke,**

**Fund Raising Administrative Assistant**

(952) 948-6208

[Sandy.Knoke@mnmasonic.org](mailto:Sandy.Knoke@mnmasonic.org)



# News & Views from the Lodges

## Constellation Lodge No. 81 installs in Alexandria



The officers for the 2010 term of office appearing in the picture are, front row, left to right: Junior Deacon Lee Christopherson, Senior Warden Brian Bymers, Worshipful Master Michael Pray, Junior Warden James Bridenstine, Senior Steward Matthew Lepac, Secretary Wayne Becker; middle row: Senior Deacon Kenneth Hanson, Treasurer WB Jim Gratiias, LEO WB Richard Konrad, Junior Steward Daniel Snyder; back row: Marshal Ronald Murphy and Chaplain WB Bob Vandenburg.

## Masons gather for centennial celebration

On Saturday, February 27, 2010, members of Helios Lodge were joined by Masons from the area, Grand Lodge of Minnesota officers and guests for an "Open Lodge" meeting commemorating the first installation of Officers one hundred years ago. With Deputy Grand Master of Minnesota John L. Cook, Jr. presiding, the Helios officers were given charge of the Charter, By-Laws, Book of Constitutions, and Lodge furniture. Approximately seventy members and guests attended this ceremony including fourteen of the last nineteen Masters of Helios Lodge.

Following the presentations and comments by Deputy Grand Master Cook and Helios Lodge Worshipful Master Ralph G. Powell, comments were offered by members and visitors. Cambridge Mayor Marllys Palmer expressed her appreciation for the involvement of Helios Lodge in community affairs and thanked the Lodge members for the various activities they support.

Following the Lodge meeting the party retired to the Purple Hawk Supper club to enjoy a Table Lodge Dinner of Seven Toasts. Sixty-six members and guests were served the three-course dinner. Toasts and responses were made to our Country, the Grand Lodge, the Founders of Helios Lodge, to Helios



Deputy Grand Master John L. Cook, Jr. presents a plaque honoring the centennial of Helios Lodge to Worshipful Master Ralph G. Powell.

Lodge Present, to the Future of Helios Lodge, to the Ladies and Honored Guests, and to the Grand Master of Minnesota's Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. As part of the Grand Lodge's participation and support Deputy Grand Master John L. Cook, Jr. presented Helios Lodge with a commemorative plaque recognizing their Centennial. Receiving the Plaque from Deputy Grand Master Cook is Helios Worshipful Master Ralph G. Powell.

## Minneapolis 19 welcomes eight candidates



Minneapolis Lodge No. 19 was honored to have Grand Master Thomas G. McCarthy in attendance at their January 20, 2010, meeting, as eight new candidates went through the Entered Apprentice Degree.

## Corner Stone Lodge honors 50-year members



Corner Stone Lodge No. 99 of Fergus Falls honored John Good and Charles Lindstrom with 50-year pins and certificates at a banquet February 13. Shown presenting the awards are W. Master Stan Fetters, John Good, Charles Lindstrom, and Grand Lodge District Representative Ken Friese.

## Lake Wilson hosts oyster stew dinner



Lake Wilson Lodge No. 62 members enjoy their annual oyster stew dinner. The names around the table are as follows: Front row all the way around the tables, left to right, are Jim Long, Fred Benson, Brent Miller, Mark Carlson, Jim York, and Ray Pierson. Back of the tables, left to right, are Robert Gass, Glenn Kluis, Donald Gass, Mark York, Grant Lillevold, Steve Hartle, Gary Carlson, Craig Nepp, and Lee York on the end.

## Open invitation to attend Phoenix Daylight Lodge



Pictured are the installed officers of Phoenix Daylight Lodge No. 350.

## Three generations in Virginia Lodge



Virginia Lodge No. 264 raised two candidates to the Master Mason Degree on January 16, 2010. Shown, left to right: Grandfather and Junior Warden, Arnold Maki; son-in-law, Andrew Burns; grandson, Bradley Gustafson; and son-in-law and Worshipful Master, Daniel Gustafson.

Brethren, do you want to attend Blue Lodge? Having difficulty climbing stairs, driving at night or staying out late in the evening? Then Phoenix Daylight Lodge No. 350 would like to invite you to visit our monthly stated and/or social meetings.

Stated meetings are on the 2nd Wednesday of each month—12:00 noon luncheon followed by the 1:00 p.m. stated meeting.

Our social meetings are on the 4th Wednesday of each month and are open to wives, friends and guests—12:00 noon social luncheon and the 1:00 p.m. social program.

Phoenix Daylight Lodge is located at the Paul Revere Masonic Center, 6509 Walker Street, St. Louis Park.

Contact W. Master Jack Lindgren at 952-226-4785 or Secretary Michael Wahl at 952-226-5454 if you are interested in visiting Phoenix DAYLIGHT Lodge.

The Grand Lodge website is  
[www.mn-masons.org](http://www.mn-masons.org)



# News from the Masonic Family

## Winslow Lewis Lodge No. 125 sponsors Firearms Safety Training in Osseo



W. Brother Emilio Munoz, Dist. Rep #33, of Winslow Lewis Lodge No. 125, assists Jake with firearm handling and safety as a part of the MN DNR Firearms Training at the Shooting Range. Range activity is the final class for completion of the course.



Brother Lloyd Bendickson, Treasurer of Winslow Lewis Lodge No. 125, helps Jeff with his rifle at the final class of the DNR Firearms Safety Training sponsored by the lodge.

Many of the Brothers of Winslow Lewis Lodge are certified Firearms Safety Instructors, and, as such, the Lodge sponsors classes of the Department of Natural Resources Firearms Safety Training for people of all ages in the Osseo area. At completion of the course, which is conducted at the Lodge and a shooting range, students receive a Firearms Safety Permit. Permits such as these are needed for young hunters and also for hunters of all ages hunting big game in some states.

The Lodge holds three classes each year, in the spring, summer, and autumn. In addition, there also are Brothers certified to instruct those interested in Archery as well. Winslow Lewis Lodge does these kind of classes as a service to the community.

## Save the Date! Minnesota Job's Daughters Twins Game

Sunday, September 5th  
Once we get written confirmation from the Twins on our sections and total tickets, we will post it here.  
Everyone in the Masonic family is welcome to join us!

## Rev Up for Camp Up Job's Daughters Fundraiser for Minnesota JD Campers



Come one! Come all!  
Minnesota Job's Daughters  
All-Masonic Motorcycle Ride!

Date: Sunday, May 16  
Leave your Lodge and head for Camp Lake Hubert, just north of Brainerd.

Arrival time: 12 noon for lunch, which will be provided

Before departing for home, tour the camp and ride around the lakes. Members of Masonic Lodges, Eastern Star Chapters, and their friends are invited to participate.

Cost: \$20 per rider (car or motorcycle)

Questions? Contact  
Associate Grand Guardian Larry Jensen at 612-419-4292 or email: agg@mnjd.org



## Delta Lodge No. 119 A.F. & A.M. Marshall, Minnesota

cordially invites you to honor an outstanding Mason with the Hiram Award. Neil Bengtson Jr., has been a Mason for over 60 years. For 25 of those years, he dedicated himself as a Custodian of the Work.

He has served as Grand Commander of Knights Templar for two years, Master of Delta Lodge No. 119, and is a member of many other Masonic affiliations.

Please join us in honoring Brother Neil!

Saturday, April 24, 2010  
Albright United Methodist Church,  
301 N. High Street, Marshall  
Lunch at noon, followed by the Hiram Award Presentation.

RSVP to:  
Tom Bjerke at 507-532-4040 or  
teric@iw.net

Mike Maxwell at 507-829-1504 or  
maxwell-masonry@charter.net  
Dennis Rafson at 507-532-6565 or  
dkrkmr@iw.net

## Mora Lodge No. 223 2nd Annual Sportsman Expo Saturday, June 26, 2010

Wares for the sportsman on display. We urge Masons to exhibit or attend. Why not make a road trip to Mora, Minnesota, with your bike, classic auto, or group of Masons?

We would be happy to see fellow Masons supporting us.

Contact:  
SNG Services at 320-630-1698 or  
sngservices@q.com  
for more information

## A bit of the Irish green at Oriental Lodge honors GM McCarthy



Grand Orator William R. O'Callister was appropriately attired and ready to serve at his post as Secretary of Oriental Lodge No. 34 in Cannon Falls at its stated meeting on St. Patrick's Day. He is shown here as he pays a bit of respect to Grand Master Thomas G. McCarthy.

## Become a member of the Masonic Motorcycle Club International

Minnesota Chapter #24 meets in the winter also.

Visit us on the Grand Lodge website:  
[www.mn-masons.org/masonic-family/motorcycle-club](http://www.mn-masons.org/masonic-family/motorcycle-club)

Or the national website at  
[www.masonicmotorcycleclub.org](http://www.masonicmotorcycleclub.org)  
Click on Chapter #24

Or call Gordy Aune Jr.,  
Secretary/Treasurer, 763-585-1766



## Masonic Discount! St. Paul Osman Shrine Circus April 8-11, 2010

Minnesota State Fairgrounds Coliseum  
Discount is \$5 per ticket, a 20-30% saving on standard seating!

For the best discounts and to select your own seats, get your tickets on-line at <http://www.shrinecircus.com> and follow the link to the St. Paul Osman Shrine Circus.

Use the special Masonic Discount Code: MASON2

## TUSLER-SUMMIT LODGE Spring Sunday Brunch

Sunday, April 25  
8am-1pm

Join us for our premiere Spring Brunch on Sunday, April 25th from 8am-1pm. Adults \$8, children \$5. As always, it's all you can eat!



- Pancakes
- Eggs
- Potatoes
- Hash Browns
- Bacon
- Sausage
- Fruit
- And more!

Roseville Masonic Center-1321 West Cty Rd B2 in Roseville  
We are right at the intersection of Hamline and B2.

## Masonic RV Tours

Masonic RV Tours is a new LLC that arranges and conducts tours exclusively for Masons and their families traveling in their RV's. They offer several tours at very reasonable prices (usually less than half of what most caravan companies charge).

The tours are from 15 to 35 days and have typical driving distances of 100 to 200 miles on travel days. Often the caravan will stay 2-3 days at interesting locations along the route.

Tour packages include RV park fees, admission to museums, national parks, historical landmarks and several included events. The caravans often visit Blue Lodges, Shrine Centers and other places of Masonic interest. Each tour has several meals included as well as potlucks and socials.

### Popular tours are:

Alaska and the Yukon, 32 days

The Oregon Trail, 30 days

Skyline Drive – Blue Ridge Parkway (includes Gettysburg and Washington, DC), 16 days

Nova Scotia and Maritimes, 28 days

### Visit their web site at:

[www.MasonicRVtours.com](http://www.MasonicRVtours.com)  
or call toll free 877 276-3070.



## Knife and Fork Degree

### Robbinsdale Area Shrine Club Pancake Breakfast

With our pancakes made with hard durum wheat

Sunday, April 18, 2010, from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Plymouth Middle School

10011 36th Avenue North,

in Plymouth (just west of Hwy 169)

Questions? Contact Larry at 763-559-5894



## The George Washington Masonic Memorial The Freemasons' White House Stones Exhibit

by Mark A. Tabbert

The George Washington Masonic Memorial opened a new exhibit in February featuring forty-five historic White House stones. Each stone is marked by a Scottish stonemason who helped build the White House. The stones are reassembled for the first time since President Harry S. Truman sent one to every United States Masonic Grand Lodge in 1952. Complementing the stones is a Minute Book from The Lodge of Journeymen Masons No. 8 of Edinburgh, Scotland. It lists members of the lodge who, in 1794, immigrated to help build the White House.

Accompanying the Minute Book is the lodge's Mark Book, showing each stonemason's trade mark. By comparing these marks to the marks on the stones, visitors may identify the men who helped to build the President's House. The exhibit opened in conjunction with the Memorial Association's 100th Anniversary and will run through May 2011.

In 1789, first president George Washington and the United States Congress were determined to build a great capital city. By 1792, the site was chosen, designer Pierre L'Enfant's street plan was adapted, and work began. At the city's center would be the United States Capitol, the "People's House." The President's House would be located on Pennsylvania Avenue. Washington reviewed the site and personally selected architect James Hoban's design. The mansion's cornerstone was laid with a small civic and Masonic ceremony on October 13, 1792.

Although foundation work then began in earnest, the government soon discovered the young nation had an abundance of craftsmen, but few master stonemasons. What's more, those it did have were working on the United States Capitol. After a thorough search in America and Europe, agent George Walker traveled to Edinburgh, Scotland. By spring 1794, he had recruited at least eight stonemasons from The Lodge of Journeymen Masons No. 8.

With the arrival of the eight Scots stonemasons, the White House walls rose

to completion in 1798. During construction, the stonemasons, being Freemasons, joined the local lodge. Federal Lodge No.15 had been chartered September 12, 1793, by the Grand Lodge of Maryland. James Hoban was its first Worshipful Master. Federal Lodge became the first lodge when the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia was constituted in 1811. The exhibit also includes Federal Lodge's first Account Book listing the Scots stonemasons and White House architect James Hoban as its first Master. Additional materials include a letter from President Truman, historic photographs and other items.

The White House stones were discovered soon after Truman became president in 1945. With major plaster cracks appearing and a piano dropping nearly through the floor, it was obvious that the executive mansion needed a complete overhaul. The First Family relocated to Blair House as work began. By 1950, only the White House facade and some of the original foundation stones remained. President Truman inspected the work often and during one tour he noticed a large number of stones engraved with mason's marks. Recognizing that they were made by Scottish stonemasons, he contacted the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia and had more than 100 of them delivered to the Grand Lodge headquarters on New York Avenue—just three blocks away.

In 1952, President Truman asked the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia to send one of the marked stones to each United States Grand Lodge. Each stone had a small White House brass plaque affixed to it accompanied by a letter—framed of recycled White House wood—to the Grand Master. Additional stones were distributed to Canadian Grand Lodges, several Order of Eastern Star state grand chapters, a few local lodges, DeMolay International, the two United States Scottish Rite Supreme Councils, the Grand Lodge of Israel, and the Grand Lodge of the Philippines. Many were



hand delivered by Truman or by Carl Claudy, Executive Secretary of the Masonic Service Association. In 2004, the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia presented stones to the recently independent Grand Lodge of Alaska and Grand Lodge of Hawaii.

This unique exhibit of American and Scottish Masonic history is sponsored by the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction, Valley of Washington, Orient of the District of Columbia, and by the Grand Lodge, F.A.A.M., of the District of Columbia. It is also made possible by the cooperation and support of many United States Grand Lodges, the Grand Lodge of Scotland, The Lodge of Journeymen Masons No. 8 of Edinburgh, Federal Lodge No. 1 of the District of Columbia, and the White House Historical Association.

The George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association is a private, non-profit educational organization. Its membership is comprised of fifty-two Grand Lodges (fifty states, plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico), representing nearly two million



Freemasons in the United States. The Memorial Association was created on Washington's Birthday, February 22, 1910. Between 1922 and 1932, it built the George Washington Masonic Memorial through volunteer donations from American Freemasons. The Association's mission is: *To inspire humanity through education to emulate and promote the virtues, character and vision of George Washington, the Man, the Mason and Father of our Country.*

Mark A. Tabbert is the Director of Collections of the George Washington Masonic Memorial.

## Which one are you?

An older Mason went to see a young Brother from his lodge. Upon their meeting, the older Mason was invited into the man's home. The Mason told the young Brother about his life and how things were going. Their conversation covered a variety of subjects including the weather, recent lodge activities, computers and technological advances in the news.

The older Mason commented upon the fact that he had a newer computer at home, but that it was mostly used to play card games, such as Cribbage or Hearts. The Mason had Internet access along with e-mail, but he wasn't quite sure how to use the programs. It was noted he had some friends his age who communicated with their grown children via e-mail, but those friends lived across town.

Through their discussion, the Mason reported that in his day he used to attend many lodge functions including those in nearby towns. He always had a good time, but the Brothers he traveled with had now either moved away or didn't care to go to lodge activities anymore.

The young Brother watched his friend's face as he spoke. The Mason's eyes looked off into the distances, and the sound of his voice was thoughtful. The young Brother sensed that his friend felt there wasn't anything that could be done about it.

The younger man had his friend join him in the kitchen. As they stood talking, near the sink, he filled three pots with water and placed each on a high fire. Soon the pots came to boil. In the first the Brother placed carrots, in the second he placed eggs, and in the last he placed ground coffee beans. He let them simmer, while talking with the Mason about a recent 100-year Table Lodge celebration he had attended at Helios Lodge.

They discussed improvements in Grand Lodge's communications including the e-newsletter, which featured upcoming Masonic events, and *Minnesota Mason* newspaper. It was noted that Masons reading these communications could then plan to attend events including making travel arrangements with Brothers from their lodges.

This then led to conversation about Grand Lodge's new web site, which has tools Lodges can download for fundraising, increasing membership and doing degree work. Also on there are YouTube links to Masonic events/conversations and much, much more.

Following this, they discussed the revitalized Grand Lodge committees and their great efforts to support and grow the craft. Then there were conversations about educational e-mail letters through Ed

Halpaus and Neil Neddermeyer's *Cinosam*.

They also discussed the young Brother's willingness to set-up the Mason's computer to automatically receive the e-newsletter, educational

e-mail and—with the click of the mouse—to be on the Grand Lodge web site. Following this, the Brother suggested that each of them alternate giving rides to one another to lodge and other Masonic events as traveling with a friend was both enjoyable and economical.

It was then that the Brother noticed twenty minutes had passed and he turned off the burners. He then fished the carrots out of the first pot and placed them in a bowl. The eggs were next taken out and placed into a different bowl. And, lastly, he ladled coffee out of the remaining pot and placed it into a third bowl.

Turning to the Mason, he asked, "Tell me what you see." "Carrots, eggs, and coffee," the Mason replied. The Brother had his friend come closer and asked him to feel the carrots. The Mason did as asked and noted that they were soft. The Brother then asked him to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, the Mason observed, as he had expected, that the egg was hard-boiled. Finally, the Brother asked the Mason to sip the coffee.



by WB Mike Hill, Public Relations Committee

The Mason smiled, as he tasted its rich aroma. The Brother then asked, "What do the three bowls represent?" The Mason shook his head, not sure where the conversation was going...

The Brother then proceeded to explain that each of the objects in the pots had faced the same adversity—boiling water. However, that being said, each had also reacted differently.

The carrot went in strong, hard, and unrelenting. However, after being subjected to the boiling water or life in general, it had softened and become weak. The egg had been fragile. Its thin outer shell had protected its liquid interior, but after sitting in the boiling water, its insides had become hardened.

As to the ground coffee beans their reaction was unique. After being boiled the beans changed the water. Like the Masonic fraternity, they released their fragrance and flavor, which in turn had a positive effect on all who partook of it.

The Brother then reported he had two questions for the Mason. The first question was, "Which one of the objects in the pot did he want to be?" and the second, "When was the Mason going to be home next so they could get together to set up his computer?"

*Now then, which one do you want to be?*