

THE NORTHERN LIGHT

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THE MAGAZINE FOR SCOTTISH RITE MASONS OF AMERICASM



**PEANUTS
AND CRACKERJACK**
by Ymelda Rivera Laxton



**Q & A WITH
BRO. TRAVIS SIMPKINS**
by Alan E. Foulds



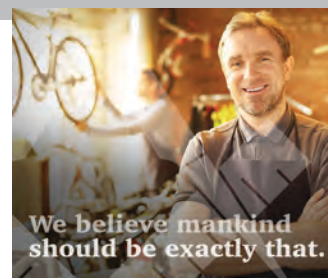
**GRAND
ALMONER'S FUND**



CONTENTS

THE NORTHERN LIGHT

- | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|---|
| 3 Message from the
Sovereign Grand Commander | 15 Grand Almoner's | 25 DeMolay |
| 4 Collectanea Close-Up
From the Museum & Library | 19 Brothers on the Net | 26 Dyslexia Centers Letters |
| 8 Moving Forward | 20 In Memoriam | 28 Today's Family |
| 10 Local Mason Goes World Wide | 21 Stamp Act | 29 More Than Just Books |
| 12 Bro. Travis Simpkins | 22 Book Nook | 30 The Path Forward
Responding to You |
| 14 Notes from
Scottish Rite Journal | 23 Quotables | 31 Et Cetera, etc. |
| | 24 Health Wise | |



4

10

15

30

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SOVEREIGN GRAND COMMANDER

David A. Glattly, 33°

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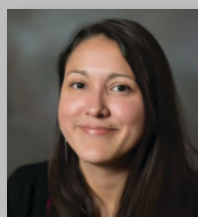
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David A. Glattly, 33°

SOVEREIGN GRAND COMMANDER

The Supreme Council of the NMJ established a Grand Almoner's Fund several years ago to help, aid, and assist Masonic Brothers, widows, and their families that have fallen on hard times, have medical hardships or have been affected by weather disasters.

What is an Almoner? The dictionary describes an almoner as "one who distributes alms." Alms are described as "money or food given to those in need." The words "alms" and "almoner" are almost never used in the English language today, similar to the word "hospitaller" which is similarly a word that represents charity. But within the Masonic culture, these words have come to mean much in our fraternal bonds. Several of our Valleys have Almoner or Hospitaller funds.

The vision statement of the NMJ was developed to explain how much we believe in assisting Brother Masons. As Freemasons, we all took a similar oath when becoming members of our fraternity. As Scottish Rite Masons, it is our passion to live up to our Masonic oath and our vision statement.

As your SGC, I receive sometimes several requests per week from our state Deputies. Our Grand Almoner, Ill. Peter J. Samiec, 33°, and I waste no time in reviewing an Almoner's Fund request and usually respond immediately with a check going out overnight. We create many smiles, as well as many tears of surprise when these presentations are made locally. You can be very proud of being a Scottish Rite Mason and part of this fraternity taking care of our Brothers.

In the past several months we have assisted many Brothers and widows in need of assistance. We replaced the roof of an NMJ widow's home that was ripped off by a hurricane in Florida, we have assisted several brothers who have been suffering long term illnesses where personal funds have run out, and helped make a family's

Christmas come true when our Brother was out of work and could not provide gifts to his children.

There are some very special stories that I'll never forget. We have, and still are assisting, one of our Brothers who suffered a grizzly bear attack while on a hunting trip, and was torn apart, including his face.

Remember this also: We assist ALL Brother Masons in need, not just Scottish Rite Masons. And, in most occasions, it is not the Brother in need making the request, but rather from a Scottish Rite Mason who knows of a Brother in need. Masons are more likely to be givers and not ask for themselves.

Recently, we found out about a young DeMolay member in trouble. His dad is suffering with cancer and was out of work for some time. His mother is working two jobs to try to fund the family. The roof of his home was leaking, and the heating system failed. The Deputy of that state called and asked if we could assist. I told him exactly what Commander McNaughton told me during Hurricane Sandy support when I asked the same question. DeMolay is part of us. Treat him the same as a Brother Mason. We replaced the roof and provided a new heating system for this young man's family in time for Christmas. Our Brother that delivered the check joined the family in their tears of joy. Our Grand Almoner's Fund continues to change the lives of Masonic families. I am so proud to be a part of this great charity. I thank each of our members that contribute to this fund so that we can continue to do such great work.

Fraternally,

David A. Glattly, 33°, SGC

"As Scottish Rite Masons, it is our passion to live up to our Masonic oath and our vision statement."

- David A. Glattly -



COLLECTANEA CLOSE-UP

From the Museum & Library

Peanuts and Cracker Jack

Spring is in the air and baseball season is upon us. It is an opportune time to highlight the variety of objects in the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library collection that celebrate Freemasonry, fraternalism, and America's national pastime.



ALL Star Masonic BASEBALL GAME PLAYED IN TRENTON, N. J., OCT. 12, 1935

between NATIONAL and AMERICAN LEAGUE Players. Nationals winning score 7-6
under auspices of Tall Cedars, Trenton Forest, No. 4

W. CLIFFORD CASE, *Grand Tall Cedar*

FRONT ROW LEFT TO RIGHT—
Tiny Parker, *Umpire*; Sam Jones, Lefty Grove, Sam Foxx, Jimmie Foxx, Rip Collins, Cliff Case, G. T. C. Trenton Forest; Max Bishop, Herb Pennock, Charles Gelbert, Frankie Hayes
MIDDLE ROW—Hulet, Ethan Allen, Geo. Davis, Dazzy Vance, Waite Hoyt, Red Rolfe, Curley Odgen, Dick Porter
BACK ROW—Charley Hargreaves, Geo. Earnshaw, Bucky Walters, Rube Walberg, Jim Pattison, Lena Blackburn

All-Star Masonic Baseball Game, 1935. Moyer, Trenton, New Jersey. Gift of Donald Randall.

The All-Star Masonic Baseball Game

This 1935 photograph, "All Star Masonic Baseball Game," commemorates a game played in Trenton, NJ, between National League and American League players. The Tall Cedars of Lebanon, Trenton Forest, No. 4, sponsored the game, played on October 13, 1935, at Wetzell Field. The National League beat the American League seven to six. The game was part of a fundraising event that included a banquet and entertainment at Crescent Temple and benefited the Masonic Tall Cedar Hospital Endowment Fund.

Clifford Case, a former minor-league player and member of the Tall Cedars of Lebanon, spearheaded the effort to organize the game. Case, a local businessman, who owned and operated Case's Pork Roll company, was also the president of a minor-league baseball team, the Trenton Senators. New Jersey baseball historians name Case as an instrumental figure in local baseball history and credit him and manager Joe Cambria with bringing the Senators, formerly the White Roses, back to New Jersey from York, PA. Case's nephew, George Case, also played professionally for the Washington Senators in the 1930s and 1940s.

The photograph features several Baseball Hall of Fame members, including Arthur "Dazzy" Vance and James "The Beast" Foxx, wearing their respective fraternal headgear. The wife of New York Yankees third baseman Robert "Red" Rolfe gave a copy of this photograph to nephew Don Randall. Randall later donated the photograph to the Museum & Library in 1990. Rolfe, a New Hampshire native and athletic director at Dartmouth College from 1954-67, played in the game and is pictured.

Masonic Baseball Leagues

In 2015, the Museum & Library purchased this pin-striped baseball jersey. The jersey bears a team name across the chest, “Ionic,” and a blue patch on one sleeve with a square and compasses symbol and G in the center. Research suggests the jersey was worn by a member of a team in a Masonic baseball league in the late 1910s or early 1920s. The jersey has a label stitched into it with the name Thomas E. Wilson and Company, Chicago, Illinois. Histories of the firm, known today as the Wilson Sporting Goods Company, help us to date the jersey between 1916 and 1925, when it was using the Thomas E. Wilson name and this particular label.



Masonic Ionic Baseball Jersey, 1916-1925. Thomas E. Wilson and Company, Chicago, Illinois. Museum Purchase. Photograph by David Bohl.

There were several Masonic baseball leagues active in the early 1900s. Teams played throughout the United States from Detroit, MI, and Duluth, MN, to Newark, NJ, and western New York. Freemasons in Duluth even organized an indoor baseball league in 1914, which was active into the 1920s. There was one team named Ionic that played in Detroit. Newspaper accounts from 1917 through 1921 trace the league’s games and frequently reference this Ionic team, who were the 1918 champions. The jersey might have been used by this team, though the evidence is not conclusive.

Interestingly, in a 1910 edition of the *Masonic Voice-Review*, several Grand Masters of Illinois are cited as “ruling” that a group of baseball clubs with all Masonic players could not use the name “Masonic Baseball League” or any other name in which Mason or Masonic appeared in the jurisdiction. While the teams were not banned, Past Illinois Grand Master Alexander H. Bell also rendered a decision that “no Masonic lodge could legally vote funds out of its treasury to equip or support a baseball team,” stating that “it would not do for lodges to vote funds for the entertainment and amusement of a few members, who desire to engage in something foreign to Masonry.”

Lodge Play

A number of local and Masonic newspapers from the late 1800s and early 1900s mention not only Masonic baseball league games, but friendly games played between lodges during joint group excursions as well as games played for charity.

A ticket from our Library & Archives collection illustrates this type of baseball tradition in New Jersey. The ticket admitted a person to a 1911 game between Irvington’s Franklin Lodge No. 10, and Newark’s Oriental Lodge No. 51. According to an article in the *Newark Evening News*, the game, an annual tradition, was played at Heidelberg Park in Maplewood, NJ. Both teams played against other local teams, Masonic and non-Masonic. The same article cited that the annual baseball rivalry inspired fraternal and community interest in the area.



Ticket, 1911. New Jersey. Gift of Grant Romer.

COLLECTANEA CLOSE-UP

From the Museum & Library

Baseball, perhaps the most widely played sport in America in the late 1800s, evolved from casual town ball games limited to a few to a popular game for the masses. Baseball's appeal resonated with adults and children from different backgrounds, towns, and cities throughout the United States. It became a popular theme in songs, literature, and even film and the sport's terminology became a part of the American vernacular. Children and adults played casual pick-up games and participated in leagues across the country. A person did not have to be an exemplary athlete or baseball connoisseur to enjoy playing or watching the sport.

Two objects in the collection—a mark and a badge—reflect baseball's deep-rooted societal appeal and show how both an individual and a fraternal group expressed a meaningful connection to baseball.

A Mason's Mark

Baseball was such a significant part of Freemason Harry Wellington Davis's life that he chose baseball emblems—crossed bats, a baseball cap, and a ball—as his personal mark for when he received his mark degree. Marks selected for this degree often represented or incorporated a Mason's name or occupation, or feature Masonic symbols. Sometimes they reveal an interest, hobby, or passion. Davis, a salesman from Lexington, MA, belonged to Menotomy Royal Arch Chapter in Arlington, MA, and was a member of the Lexingtons, a Lexington baseball club active in the 1880s. Lexington teams competed in a local intercity league with Arlington, Belmont, Lincoln, and Boston. They played on the Lexington Common—site of the battle of the Revolutionary War—until 1885, when the Common became a preserved historic site.



Mark of Harry Wellington Davis, from Book of Marks for Menotomy Royal Arch Chapter, 1867-1897. Gift of Mystic-Woburn Royal Arch Chapter, Woburn, MA.

of Pythias emblem—a knight's helmet with a shield, and the letters "FCB" for friendship, charity, and benevolence—adorns the center.



Badge, 1900-1940. Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library.

According to newspapers of the era, several Knights of Pythias teams played in amateur baseball leagues in the early to mid-1900s. Other manufacturing companies, including Peck and Snyder Sporting Goods in New York, produced flags, pins and medals for sports groups. An 1896 Peck and Snyder catalog featured three different types of champion baseball badges, similar to the Knights of Pythias one pictured here. Though this badge's history is unknown, it may have been an award for a winning Knights of Pythias team.

Baseball Badge

Fraternal groups of all kinds participated in baseball leagues across the country. The Whitehead & Hoag company, active between 1893 and 1952, manufactured this badge for a Knights of Pythias group. Whitehead & Hoag manufactured pins, badges, flags, banners, and other advertising novelties. Subjects featured in their products included political campaigns, universities, sports, animals, and household products. This particular badge features a baseball at its center with two baseball bats and two hats at top with the words "1st Prize" on the back. The Knights

The Museum & Library is always looking for more information and items related to baseball, Freemasonry, and fraternalism. Did someone in your family or your lodge participate in a Masonic baseball league? Contact Ymelda Rivera Laxton, Assistant Curator, at ylaxton@srmml.org with information. Visit our website to see the objects featured in this article and other fraternal baseball items at www.srmml.org.

Baseball Mystery

In 1998, the museum purchased this intriguing photograph of an Independent Order of Odd Fellows baseball team. The photograph is mounted on cardstock and shows a group of men wearing baseball uniforms embroidered with the name West Lynn, an area in Massachusetts, and three links—a symbol associated with the Odd Fellows. A photo studio name and address, “Wires 139 Broad Street,” is embossed at the bottom center of the card. While staff research has turned up some information about the photo studio, we have, as of yet, found little information about the West Lynn Odd Fellows lodge. Past Grand Lodge of Massachusetts Odd Fellows proceedings list at least five different lodges located in Lynn over the past 150 years including West Lynn, East Lynn, Bay State, Providence, and Myrtle Rebekah lodges.



William Marshall Wires owned and operated a photography studio in Lynn, MA, from 1879-1920. Wires studio was located at various locations on Broad Street from 1879-1914, before moving to Market Street. The studio stayed on Market Street until Wires' death in 1920. This information helps us to date the photograph between 1879 and 1914 since the Broad Street address is printed on the card. But, who are the Odd Fellows in this photograph? How long did this team play? Who did they play against?

We are calling all history enthusiasts to help us further identify this photograph and answer these questions. Email Ymelda Rivera Laxton, Assistant Curator, at ylaxton@srmml.org, with information or ideas.



West Lynn Independent Order of Odd Fellows Baseball Team, 1880-1914.
W. Marshall Wires, Lynn, MA.
Museum Purchase.

MOVING FORWARD

by Alan E. Foulds

As you may remember, packaged together with the November issue of *The Northern Light* was a booklet called “The Path Forward.” It spelled out the rejuvenation plans for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction and, by extension, all of Freemasonry. As part of the project an in depth survey was conducted. It highlighted quite clearly and loudly what our membership is looking for. The Path Forward is a direct response to those thoughts. In every issue of *The Northern Light* we intend to shine a light on what’s in store for the future.

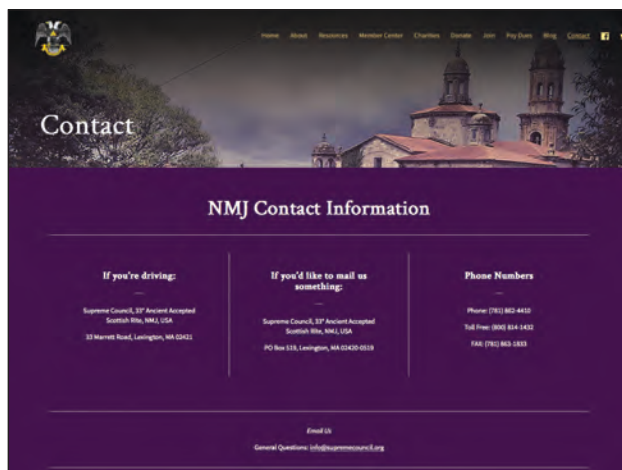
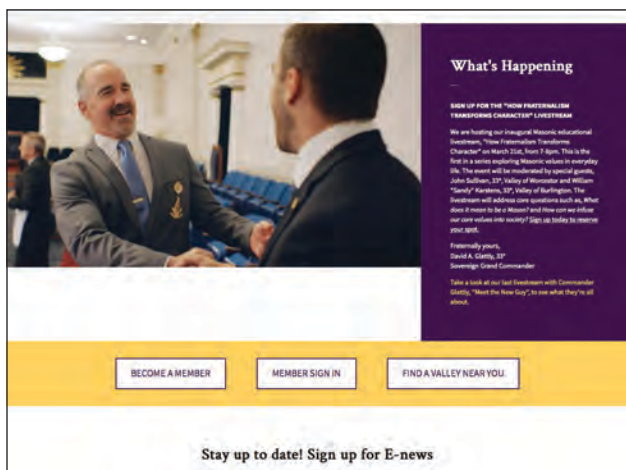
TO RECAP

Already, we have a new and more useful website.

We are carving out better connections with leadership. Evidence of this initiative is the recent live webcast with the Sovereign Grand Commander.

There is better use of social media. Facebook and Twitter activity has been stepped up, and a video library has been created.

A new, modern look for *The Northern Light* debuted in February, and changes in content puts the focus on our Brothers.



WHAT'S NEXT?

Members asked for more. For instance, you asked for more Masonic education. You want to dig deeper into the degrees and teachings. To answer your call new live interactive Masonic education programming has been developed. The Hautes Grade Academy already has a waiting list.

Additionally, in March an interactive livestream event, called “How Fraternalism Transforms Character” explored Masonic values in everyday life. It asked the question “What does it really mean to be a Mason?” It also touched on infusing our core values into society as we grow on a personal level, and how we can use those values on a daily basis. Also discussed were the key drivers of our fraternity.

The online seminar was led by two Scottish Rite Brothers, both experienced Masonic educators and mentors. Ill. John Sullivan, 33°, is a member of the Valley of Worcester and is currently a District Deputy Grand Master. Ill. William “Sandy” Karstens, 33°, is from the Valley of Burlington. He has served as a Deputy’s Representative and is presently the membership chair for the Vermont Council of Deliberation.

This is only the beginning. This particular series will continue, and an ongoing presence online will result in future livestream events with leadership – events that you, the member, can observe or participate in right from the comfort of your own den. Additionally, all these presentations will remain available for viewing even after the events take place.

As we all are taking these first steps on The Path Forward, keep in mind that it is only the beginning. This initiative is not merely a one-time shot in the arm. Instead, it is a new way of operating and a new way of thinking about who we are as a fraternity. It is how we will – and must – operate in order for our timeless institution, not only to survive, but to thrive in the modern world.

As the Sovereign Grand Commander said, quite succinctly, in his February message,

“Much more to come.”



With Some Brotherly Help

by Michael A. Smith

This all started one cold December evening in 2013, when I was serving as Tyler for our stated meeting at Freeport Lodge No.23 in the great state of Maine. As I was scouring the anteroom for anomalous eavesdroppers and cow-hands, my gaze fell upon a dusty line of books that had likely been standing upon the display case for decades, unread. One title grabbed me, *Short Talks on Masonry*, by Joseph Fort Newton, published in 1928.

I have been producing and publishing audio books for some years and in many genres, but this was different. This was a book made up of short, deep yet digestible independent chunks, disseminating upon the history, allegories and meanings to be found within Masonry, and exceedingly interesting to my recently raised eyes. Here were some explanations about what I had gotten myself into.



For example, in the Short Talk entitled “*The Ruffians*” (STB V05 N9), Newton talks about the blows given by them to the throat, heart and head, explaining them as allegories for statecraft, priestcraft, and the mob mind, that kill by robbing us of our freedoms of speech (throat), belief (heart), and thought (head). Further, that because the Ruffians were Fellowcrafts from within our own circle, it is within ourselves that we should

be most vigilant. This would make a great audio book, I thought.

In pursuing the rights to turn this excellent book into audio, I ultimately found myself corresponding with MW Bro. George Braatz, PGM of Ohio and executive secretary of the Masonic Service Association of North America in Burtonsville, MD, the mission of which is to spread Masonic information among Grand Lodges, and support disaster relief campaigns and hospital visitation throughout North America. Apparently, no one had ever seriously considered producing audio from their publications, so I composed a contract that brought profits back to the MSANA to directly support their worthy campaigns, and sent it off.

“*The Builders – A Story and Study of Freemasonry*,” also by Newton and a seminal work on the history of Freemasonry, was next on the list. Rather than keep all the fun for myself, I contracted with another narrator, Bro. Craig Hummel, who also happens to be a PGM of the Grand Lodge of Iowa. He has produced an eminently listenable audio book and had this to say about it: “This project has been an immense joy and educational experience. It may have been written over 100 years ago, but his observations, like Masonry, are absolutely timeless.” Both it and the first *Short Talks on Masonry* audio books are now available through Audible.com, Amazon, and iTunes.

I discovered that the *Short Talk Bulletins* have been published by the MSANA every month since 1923, and the 33 that I produced for the audio book were but a drop in the bucket. They cover topics from specific history and members of the craft, to symbolism and allegories, appendant bodies, philosophy of the degrees, and more, and are **regarded as the most widely read Masonic publication in the world**. Being a preacher’s son, I recognized the quality of the writing, and the truth and timeless relevance of the content. The MSANA is currently publishing a five-volume hardbound



anthology, containing more than 1,100 Short Talks, written by some of our most influential thinkers - the wisest heads and very leaders of our modern craft. If Masonry in North America was a church, these would be the sermons.

That's great, I thought, but all of that wonderful information is contained in big reference volumes and not exactly accessible to the average smartphone savvy Brother on the go. But then, after some excellent conversation with the Grand Lodge of Maine's Grand Librarian, Ed King, a vision took shape for the Short Talk Bulletin Online Audio Library, where for a \$20 annual subscription that directly supports the MSANA, members receive the current *Short Talk Bulletin* as a professionally produced spoken audio file, and also access to all of the historical STBs as they are produced, through a smartphone or a computer. It can now be found through the MSANA web page www.msana.com or directly at <https://gumroad.com/l/STBOAL> or <http://bit.ly/1LaTtNd>. There are currently more than 300 already available.

Again, not wanting to keep all the fun for myself, I'm getting submissions and recordings of other Brothers delivering Short Talks for the Audio Library, a list, including (so far) seven Past Grand Masters, seven more Grand Officers, and a host of other Brothers from all over. The ubiquity of technology today has really brought a wide palette to the instructive tongue. The vision includes many more, especially some of the authors of the more recent STBs voicing their own writing, such as RW Arthur Borland (DGM Oregon, STB V93 N9, *Masonry and the Art of Fly Fishing*), Maine's Grand Secretary, RW Mark Rustin (STB V92 N9 *Tuscan, Corinthian Columns Working Together*), and Miss Job's Daughter 2016-17 of Virginia, Elizabeth Meldrum

(STB V95 N12 *Job's Daughters And Freemasonry*).

The vision concludes with hope that these books and this thousand-plus-faceted jewel of Masonic light can benefit all who might have ears ready to hear. The Masters' Wages contained herein are truly sublime, and the work of getting all of these lessons in place and ready for the attentive ear has been and continues to be inspiring and eye-opening. Hearing the Grand Orator of the Grand Lodge of California's Short Talk about sharing a meal with Jewish, Christian, and Muslim Brothers in Jerusalem is one example. Reading and hearing of James Allen's essay, "As A Man Thinketh" is another. From the Masons behind Mt. Rushmore to the Masons behind the Constitution; from the initial Three Distinct Knocks to the Importance Of The Legend Of Hiram Abiff, the *Short Talk Bulletins* have it covered.

The *Short Talk Bulletins* were originally sent to all constituent Grand Lodges and member lodges with the idea of presenting them every month in every lodge. The MSANA's founders recognized the value of sending every Brother home from a lodge meeting with something higher than he arrived with. It was the embodiment of the spread of Masonic information. Nowadays, the presenting of STBs in lodge meetings has largely ceased and may be linked with the declining blue lodge attendance everyone notices. As a preacher's son, I recognize the value of the sermon. It is, after all, the "meat" of why people attend church. Lodge is the same way. We are there to improve ourselves, and a church service without a sermon is akin to a stated meeting with only the minutes to consider. So, I have been presenting a *Short Talk Bulletin* at just about every stated recently, and the discussions and fellowship that have resulted have been without precedent.



The Northern Light recently talked with Bro. Travis Simpkins – a man who has put his artistic talents to use for the fraternity over the past several months. Among his work for the craft have been portraits of many of our departed Active and Active Emeritus Members, for use in a visual memorial during last year's Annual Meeting in Rochester. In addition, he has been commissioned to do portraits for the Sovereign Grand Commander and Grand Masters within the jurisdiction. Here's what he has to say:

TNL : Tell me Travis. What lodge and Valley do you belong to?

Bro. Simpkins: I am a member of Morningstar Lodge in Worcester. For Scottish Rite I am a member of the Valley of Worcester, and the Valley of Boston for Consistory.

TNL : How long have you been a Mason?

Bro. Simpkins: A relatively short time. I joined my blue lodge about two years ago, and this April (2018) I will have been a 32° Mason for a year.

TNL : Tell me about your art background. Is this what you do for a living, or is it a hobby?

Bro. Simpkins: I have been doing this work profes-

sionally for about 18 years. I work out of my home studio.

TNL : What are your chief mediums and subjects?

Bro. Simpkins: Mostly I do portraiture. I work in both charcoal and oils. Many of my projects originate at museums. For instance, I will do copies of works at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston, as gifts during staff retirements or other recognitions. Also, I have done sketches of sculptures. Another place where you'll see my work is author portraits in their books. Recently I created an image of Ill. Arturo deHoyos, 33°, of the Southern Jurisdiction. I drew an image of a bust of Albert Pike which appeared on the cover of a magazine for the Masonic Society. Currently I am working on oil paintings for the Grand Masters of both Massachusetts and New Jersey.

TNL : How do you divide your day?

Bro. Simpkins: Actually I have a simple routine. In the morning I work at painting, and in the afternoons I do my drawing.

TNL : Do you have a favorite artist – someone who you emulate or look to for inspiration?

Bro. Simpkins: I like Norman Rockwell. Also, I admire 19th and early 20th century artists such as John Singer Sargent. My charcoal work is much in the renaissance style.

TNL : How did you become involved with the memorials project for Supreme Council?

Bro. Simpkins: My first connections with the Masonic work came before this particular project. I was called and asked to update a portrait of Ill. David A. Glattly, 33°, before he was elected as Sovereign Grand Commander. Ill. William Holland, 33°, saw my work and asked if I would do a series of drawings for the Annual Meeting Necrology. Now I am working on doing the same for all the current Active and Active Emeritus Members. Five down and about a hundred to go.

TNL : Your work looks great and it is deeply appreciated by our membership. Thank you.

1



*Funerary Mask of Tutankhamun Travis Simpkins 2017
Egyptian, 18th Dynasty, 1323 B.C.*

CAPTIONS

Figure 1:
Funerary Mask of Tutankhamun.
18th Dynasty, 1323 BC.
The Egyptian Museum, Cairo. 2017.

By Travis Simpkins

2



*Bust of Christ, 1867 Travis Simpkins 2017
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston*

Figure 2 :
Bust of Christ. 1867.
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. 2017.

By Travis Simpkins

3



Figure 3:
Saint George Slaying the Dragon. 1470.
Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum,
Boston. 2015.

By Travis Simpkins

SCOTTISH RITE® JOURNAL

OF FREEMASONRY & SOUTHERN JURISDICTION & USA



Photography: Kia C. Boone

Celebrate THE CRAFT ON MAY 19, 2018



CELEBRATING THE CRAFT (CTC) premiered on Saturday, May 19, 2011. It was designed to raise money and awareness for House of the Temple Historic Preservation Foundation and the Scottish Rite Foundation. It was an idea that would be the first of its kind for the Scottish Rite.

After extensive planning and hard work by the staff at the House of the Temple, it kicked off with a bang, raising \$400,000 in its inaugural year. Since then, it has grown to be an evening-long webcast that brings together friends and family in Valleys across the nation. Viewers laugh, learn, and gener-

ously pledge their support throughout the evening. Each year has seen an even greater achievement—with our most successful event being in 2016, when we raised \$1.2 million in donations. Over the years, we've had Masons from 40+ different Valleys join us live on set or hosting their own CTC party to show their dedication to the Scottish Rite. Our gratitude for the overwhelming enthusiasm of our members cannot be put into words.

We hope you'll join us and watch the show at www.scottishrite.org on Saturday, May 19, 2018, at 6:30 p.m. EST for our next Celebrating the Craft.

Good Fences



Photography: Elizabeth A. W. McCarthy

THE LATEST PROJECT TO BE undertaken by the restoration team at the House of the Temple is the installation of a fence in the northeast corner of the property. The black iron fence on the south side of the property completely closes the southern yard that prevents access to the deep moats that partially surround the building. The north lawn was not as well protected. The plans for the restoration project anticipated the completion of this fencing. Because of the safety issues concerned with pedestrians approaching the moat from the north lawn, the team undertook the completion of this section of fencing.

If you're in Washington, DC, you can tour the House of the Temple Monday-Thursday and see this magnificent Masonic structure. Tour details can be found at www.scottishrite.org.

Photography: Kurtis Hall for Maryville University. Used with permission.



Madison and
Amanda Burley

KIDTALK CELEBRATION A HUGE SUCCESS FOR ST. LOUIS.

THE WALKER SCOTTISH RITE CLINIC celebrated another milestone fundraising event to support the RiteCare program at Maryville University in St. Louis, MO. The gala hosted 250 friends and raised over \$150,000 through Silent Auctions, "Speak Up for Kids" Fund Drive, and donations to support the Clinic's mission to provide free speech and language services to preschool age children. The Walker Scottish Rite Clinic was founded

in 1988 by the Scottish Rite Masons in St. Louis and expanded the RiteCare program in 2015, through a professional partnership with Maryville.

An honored guest was Amanda Burley who was a patient at the Walker Scottish Rite Clinic in 1991, and went on to earn a master's degree in early childhood education. Today her children, Madison and Parker, are receiving individual therapy at the clinic. This is a success story spanning generations.

THE GRAND ALMONER'S FUND

OUR VISION...OUR MISSION



The Grand Almoner's Fund is committing \$500,000 annually to Masons, their children and their widows in need regardless of affiliation. The funds provide relief at the ready to Masons in crisis when they need it most.



THE GRAND ALMONER'S FUND

THE BRIDEGROOM FAMILY *A Follow-Up Story*

After receiving assistance from the Grand Almoner's Fund in 2015 to help with his daughter Phoenix's battle with cancer, Brother John A. Bridegroom provided this update on Phoenix's progress.

Phoenix Bridegroom was diagnosed with Pre-B Ph+ ALL, a form of children's leukemia, when she was 5 years old. She has courageously battled this terrible disease most of her life. After achieving remission through traditional treatment, she relapsed and had to undergo a bone marrow transplant. In 2015, our family was blessed to receive the generous gift from the Scottish Rite Almoner's Fund, which enabled us to focus on Phoenix's treatment and recovery during a very difficult time. We are forever grateful for the generosity and kindness shown to us by the Scottish Rite Masons and the Almoner's Fund.

In November of 2016, while preparing to share our success story with the members of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, Phoenix relapsed again. We were informed that our best chance for survival was to undergo an experimental treatment called CAR T-Cell therapy. While Phoenix again battled this terrible disease, doctors harvested her T-Cells and sent them to the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, where this new treatment was pioneered. While Phoenix underwent chemotherapy here in Indiana at Riley Hospital for Children, the team in Philadelphia worked to genetically engineer her T-Cells to fight the cancer. This incredible new treatment has recently been approved by the FDA, but at that time it was still just a study into which she was accepted.

Once Phoenix achieved remission, we left for a long six to eight week stay in Philadelphia while she received the CAR T-Cell therapy. Again we found ourselves uprooting our lives, struggling with uncertainty and fear, and preparing for a long struggle. When your



child is fighting for her life, the rest of the world has to be put aside. While that is never easy, it is programs such as the Almoner's Fund that make it possible.

It was late April of 2017 when Phoenix received this life-saving treatment. Today, she is in full remission and doing very well. She has some challenges going forward as a result of the treatment, primarily that she will always have a compromised immune system. Since her cancer was affecting her B-Cells, doctors engineered her T-Cells to destroy all of her B-Cells. As a

Help your fellow Brother in need.

Donate easily and securely online at:

[http://bit.ly/ GrandAlmonersFund](http://bit.ly/GrandAlmonersFund) and select

"Scottish Rite Grand Almoner's" from the drop down menu.

OUR VISION...OUR MISSION

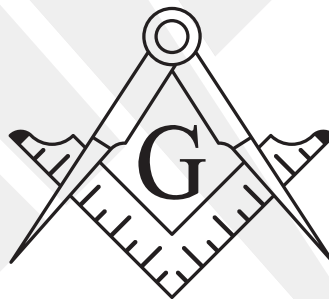
result, she cannot receive immunizations, and she receives an infusion of IVIG, which is essentially an immune system booster, every month. These are easily managed and minor compared to fighting leukemia.

Phoenix turned 12 years old on February 27, and she is enjoying all of the things that most 12-year-old girls do. She is in the fifth grade and active in Girl Scouts, her school choir and even plays the violin in her school orchestra. She is doing wonderfully academically, and even made the principal's honor roll. She recently had her 9-month checkup, and everything looks great.

We are so happy to be here with a good report, and we are grateful to the amazing medical teams at both Riley Hospital for Children and Children's Hospital of Philadelphia who work tirelessly to save the lives of so many children. We are also grateful to the Scottish Rite Almoner's Fund and the Scottish Rite Freemasons for being there for us when we needed it most.



- John A. Bridegroom, 32°



If You Know Someone Who Needs Help

If you hear of, or know any Freemason who is in need of financial assistance, contact your Valley Secretary, any Active Member of the Supreme Council, or your State Deputy. Please be prepared to provide them with details as to why assistance is needed. Reasons may include loss of income, illness, death, home foreclosure, natural disaster, or other crisis. You may be asked to further investigate the circumstances.

THE GRAND ALMONER'S FUND

A MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND ALMONER

The Grand Almoner's Fund has become living proof that the Scottish Rite Northern Masonic Jurisdiction has taken to heart its commitment to our vision statement: We will strive to be a fraternity that fulfills our Masonic obligation to care for our members.

Where there's been a need, we've been there. In the beginning our focus was on matters of an individual nature, but time and circumstances have brought about a change. When Superstorm Sandy struck the East Coast, then Commander John Wm. McNaughton 33°, requested that substantial aid be made available to our members and families hardest hit. As a result, many received immediate aid. This allowed them to obtain food, shelter and clothing rapidly, thus easing, at least partially, the pain and suffering incurred as a result of the storm.

The knowledge and experience gained through our outreach to the Masonic communities of New Jersey and New York have allowed us to reach out to others in need. Recently, natural disasters struck the states of Texas and Florida as well as Puerto Rico, and we were there to help. Using our system of debit card distribution, we were once again able to relieve the suffering of many Brothers and families in those parts of the country. The numerous cards and letters of gratitude we've received are living testimony to our good works and inspire us to greater heights.



Please assist us in fulfilling the Masonic obligation to help, aid, and assist our poor and distressed Brothers. You'll be a part of one of the most gratifying aspects of our craft.

*- Peter J. Samiec, 33°
Grand Lieutenant Commander
Grand Almoner*



This, that, and other important things

Over the years, I have found that people tend to equate cybersecurity with ID protection. It is that, but more.

Perhaps the biggest problem facing computer users is malware. Malicious software is any and all harmful software, including such things as worms, spyware, viruses, ransomware, and Trojan horses.

Malware often is responsible for significant damage. Malware might monitor your computer activity. It could steal or use sensitive data or simply delete it. Malware could lock your computer and demand ransom to unlock it. And it may do nothing more than corrupt files and make your computer run slow, freeze or crash.

At this point, it should be obvious you need anti-malware software. While there are a number of good products, I will focus on the one I use: Malwarebytes (malwarebytes.com).

There now are two versions: Malwarebytes 3.0 Premium and Malwarebytes 3.0 Free. Rather than bore you with a lot of technical gobbledy-gook, the important difference between the two is that the free version is a cleanup product. The \$39.99 premium version provides real-time malware protection.

I prefer the premium version because it is always on the alert for malware. In fact, Malwarebytes promotes itself as a replacement for the antivirus software you now are using, though both versions of Malwarebytes 3.0 are designed to run along with separate antivirus software.

If you are looking for separate antivirus software, I can recommend Sophos (sophos.com), Avast (avast.com) and AVG (avg.com).

Tip: You can reduce your chances of downloading malware by not opening popups.

Telemarketers: Our last column hit a raw nerve with readers. Never before have I received so much feedback. And I would advise telemarketers to stay away from you.

As many of you reminded me, I neglected to mention products designed to stop robocalls and other telemarketers for landline users.

If you want to protect a landline, I can suggest you begin by considering these products: Digitone Call Blocker Plus (digitone.com), CPR V5000 Call Blocker (cprcallblocker.com) and Nomorobo (nomorobo.com). While Nomorobo is free, it only works on VoIP (voice over Internet protocol) landline phones. It also is available for iPhone and Android phones.

AI Google Clips: You may well have read a news article or seen a TV news item regarding the new \$249 Google Clips camera that relies on AI (artificial intelligence) to take the photos you really and truly want.

Clips is billed as a smart device that you leave in a room. This always on the alert camera then will take the photos of

your youngsters, grand-kids, cats and dogs. It then saves each photo (clip) for transfer to your smartphone. There also is a button that allows you to take photos manually.

Most Google Clips reviewers feel the negatives surpass the positives. I agree. It is pricey. It doesn't always work as advertised.

As for me, Google Clips is symbolic of a troubling trend. Increasingly, there are devices that are replacing humans. We use robotic vacuum cleaners, automated toys for our dogs and cats, and self-driving cars are on the horizon. Are we really so lazy that we now need an AI camera?

More importantly, AI is not necessarily benign. Elon Musk put it this way: "If you're not concerned about AI safety, you should be. Vastly more risk than North Korea." He may be right.

DIY checkout: Perhaps it is just me, but I find Walmart's "Scan & Go," Kroger's "Scan. Bag. Go" and similar technologies to be quite underwhelming.

Essentially, these retailers want me to scan and bag my own groceries and other goods. It is good for the retailers as it will enable them to reduce labor costs. So then it is bad for people (teens, seniors looking for extra income or to keep busy, or the unemployed) who are looking for minimum wage type of jobs.

As for consumers, I just don't see any advantage. There are claims this sort of technology will shorten the time one spends in the store. Perhaps so, but somehow I doubt the time savings will be significant.

I have avoided all opportunities to scan and bag my own groceries. I'll only consider using this technology when the stores offer me a discount for doing so. After all, they should share their savings with customers.

Patronizing seniors: I am fed up with those who think that once a person hits 65, that individual is no longer capable of simultaneously walking and chewing gum.

Particularly annoying was a recent insult from a chief technology officer: "Unlike the curious minds of children who aren't afraid to click buttons and change settings, older generations are fearful of 'messing something up' even though that's hard to do. They don't understand that whatever is done can usually be easily undone. If we want our parents and grandparents to adopt new technology and reap the benefits, We need to be willing to come alongside them and show them how it works."

Sadly, this view is pretty common.

Questions and comments?

Send them to me at cpstlrr@gmail.com and I will reply promptly.



Leigh E. Morris, 33°



Ill. John T. Phillips, 33°

1947 – 2018

Ill. John T. Phillips, 33°, an Active Member of this Supreme Council and Deputy for the state of Illinois, died on Saturday, January 6, 2018.

Raised a Master Mason in Rising Sun Lodge No. 115, of Grayslake, IL on Feb. 3, 1996, where he was Past Master.

On April 22, 1988, he was united in marriage with Catherine Amann.

For the complete balustre on the life of Ill. John T. Phillips, 33°, visit the Member's Center at ScottishRiteNMJ.org.



Ill. Dale O. Babbitt, 33°

1927 – 2018

Ill. Dale O. Babbitt, 33°, an Active Emeritus Member of this Supreme Council for the state of Wisconsin, died on Friday, February 9, 2018.

Raised a Master Mason in Bloomer Lodge No. 281, in Bloomer, WI. In 1974, he transferred to Chippewa Falls Lodge No. 176, where he was Past Master.

In 1946 he married Mavis Steinmetz.

For the complete balustre on the life of Ill. Dale O. Babbitt, 33°, visit the Member's Center at ScottishRiteNMJ.org.

Support a Child at a Dyslexia Center Near You

The Children's Dyslexia Centers is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

It costs \$5,000 to tutor one child for one year. Typically, children require an average of two years of tutoring. Your tax-exempt contribution can be designated to support a specific children's dyslexia center or a dyslexia center where the need is greatest.

**For information about making a donation,
please call the development office at:**

800-814-1432 ext. 3326

Or send a check directly, payable to:

**Children's Dyslexia
Centers, Inc.**

33 Marrett Road
Lexington, MA 02421

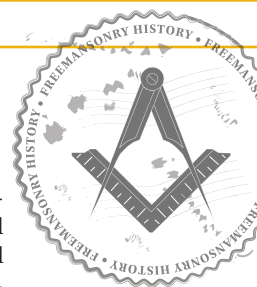


JAMES HOBAN



James Hoban was the architect and superintendent for the White House and the Capitol Building. He was honored by stamps issued in 1981. He was born in Ireland in 1762. He emigrated to America in 1785, and became one of the architects who helped build Charleston, SC. His reputation resulted in his being employed to construct the President's Mansion. Following its burning by the British

in the War of 1812, he was retained to direct its rebuilding. At this time its walls were painted white to hide the discoloration of the fire and it became known as "The White House." It is believed that Bro. Hoban received his degrees in Ireland. In September 1793, nine Masons engaged in the construction petitioned for a dispensation to form a lodge. It was granted, and the first meeting of Federal Lodge No. 15 of Maryland was held in the home of one of the members. Bro. Hoban was chosen as first Worshipful Master and served nine years in that capacity.



Robert A. Domingue

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

The two-cent value of the Famous American Composers issue released by the U.S. in 1940, pictures John Philip Sousa. He was a 50+-year member of Hiram Lodge No. 10, Washington, DC, raised on November 8, 1881. He was a member of Eureka Chapter. He was created a Noble in Almas Shrine Temple, AAONMS, on April 21, 1922. At the time of the Imperial Session of the AAONMS held in Washington, DC, in June 1923, Bro. Sousa composed a march which he called his masterpiece – "Nobles of the Mystic Shrine March" dedicated to Almas Temple and the Imperial Council.

He enlisted in the United States Marine band in which his father was a trombonist and on September 30, 1880 assumed conductorship of that band. During the next 12 years his leadership brought fame to the band as well as to himself. He composed a number of marches such as "Semper Fidelis" which became the official march of the U.S. Marine Corps. He also designed a form of tuba called the Sousaphone which was acclaimed by all military bands.



DANIEL O'CONNELL



Ireland issued stamps in 1929, to commemorate the centenary of the Catholic Emancipation which picture Daniel O'Connell. He was known as "The Liberator," and united Irish Roman Catholics under the leadership of their priests into a league for urging Irish claims. In 1823, he originated the Catholic Association and was elected a member of parliament in 1828. He led the agitation for the abolition of tithes of the established Church of Ireland. He was made Lord Mayor of Dublin.

Bro. O'Connell was raised in Lodge No. 189, Dublin, in 1797 and served as Master of that Lodge in 1800. He later became a member of Lodge No. 13, Limerick, and a charter member of a lodge in Tralee. He once defined Masonry as "Philanthropy unconfined by sect, nation, and religion" and stated that he was pleased to own himself a Mason.

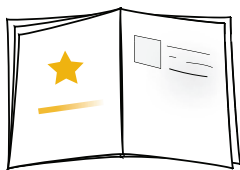
CHARLES LOUIS DE SECONDAT
BARON DE LA BREDE et DE MONTESQUIEU

Charles Montesquieu is pictured on a semi-postal stamp issued by France in 1949. On May 12, 1730, at a lodge held at the Horn Tavern in Westminster, he was admitted a member of the Ancient and Honorable Society of Free Masons; a Catholic Master, the Duke of Norfolk, conducted the ceremony. The Horn Lodge at Westminster is now Royal Somerset House and Inverness No. 4.

Charles Montesquieu was born in 1689, in Bordeaux, France and studied at the Oratorian College of Juilly and then at Bordeaux. Following his studies, he married; his wife brought him a substantial dowry when he was 26 years old, and the following year he inherited a fortune and his title upon the death of an uncle. As a lawyer, he served as the Counselor of the Bordeaux Parliament in 1714 and as its President in 1716. He withdrew from the practice of law to devote his full attention to study, writing and philosophizing. He soon achieved literary success through his early publications and became a member of the Academie Francaise and the Royal Society of London. He was also highly regarded in the British colonies in America as a champion of British liberty.

In 1755, he died in Paris.





Successful Masonic Lodges and Grand Lodges Learning to Thrive

by **Martin G. McConnell**

Dr. Jacques G. Ruelland, review

Some books are only entertaining. Others are useful. Still others are instructive. The one I am presenting has those three characteristics at the same time.

Troubled by the decline of Freemasonry, the author has sought the causes of that phenomenon. Lodges and Grand Lodges in decline are often poorly managed and, while Grand Lodges survive, many local lodges decline or perish. Both entities are more concerned with the details of their daily activities than the place of the craft in society; more anxious to safeguard the privileges of some members than maintain a warm and fraternal climate. They lose themselves in the proceedings and, at the same time, lose the spirit that should animate them.

In 1994, at a conference on Freemasonry, I heard a speaker say that the Masonic lodges were models of good management. At the time, I wondered how this Brother could say such a thing, since I had then been making the same observation that this book unveils.

In order to remedy Masonic operational problems the author proposes changes to both structure and process – and methods to facilitate basic administration, thus allowing time for the fraternal spirit to inhabit the lodges and improve relationships among Brethren; a management that builds on the abilities and skills of young Masons rather than on intractable rules and practices.

However, this is not a cookbook. It could be likened to *Freemasonry and its Etiquette*, written by William Preston Campbell-Everden (London: A. Lewis, 1955), or even to *The Etiquette of Freemasonry*, written by “An Old Past Master,” and published by the same publisher in 1908. But its author goes further. The observations he makes about lodge and Grand Lodge management are accurate, very pertinent and sometimes daring; but the various, audacious changes he proposes have the distinction of reviving the spirit which must prevail in the lodge. Subtly, the author proposes solutions that put chaos in order.

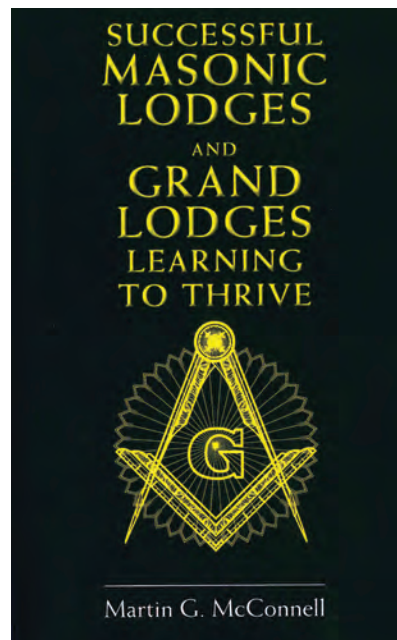
For it is indeed a chaos, according to the author, in which the young Masons are often not able to properly assimilate into Freemasonry. Without a sense of belonging, they lose interest. This book, which is not merely a set of prescriptions, proposes an opening of the lodge to improved perceptions of organization and process. It takes a fresh look at what is essential, and what is not.

Is not the essential thing in lodge or Grand Lodge, the search for truth in everything, to practice beneficence and to create among all human beings a world Brotherhood? To achieve this, the lodge must be effectively managed with a well-organized program. This book introduces the reader to both sound lodge management practice and essential program components, thereby filling a vital gap in the vast Masonic literature.

A healthier, more efficient, more serene management of lodges and Grand Lodges is an excellent suggestion and may be the beginning of a true renewal of Freemasonry. Changes are needed so that new Masons remain in the order to preserve it for the future.

A new look at the lodge and Grand Lodge implies perceiving them as structures in motion, in a world in motion, and turning them to the light of the future, leaving behind counterproductive habits and routines. If one does not progress, does not move, and becomes sclerotic, he may be overtaken by paralysis and death. To change or not to change; that’s the question.

Let us hope that this essential book will be read and understood as a path to success. This hope nourishes the book. The future of Freemasonry depends on it.



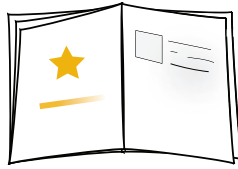
Paperback

[amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

So, Why Did You Become a Mason?

by Thomas Martin

Robert Bruno, review

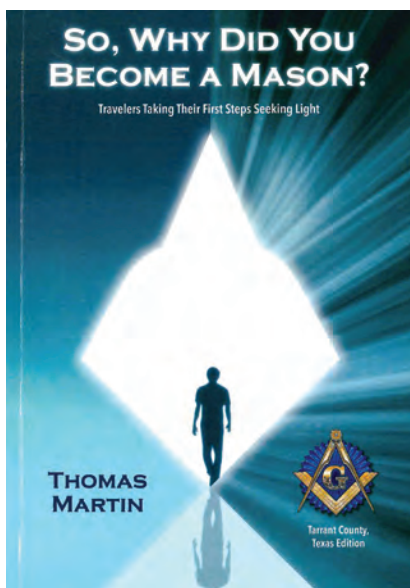


The first thing you will note in this book is that it is not a single book, but like the Bible it is a collection of short stories written by various authors describing their individual journeys to and through the portals of Freemasonry.

While each Master Mason writes of his own travel in the desired and subsequent journey through the process of initiation, passing, and raising they bring to light the purpose of their travels and their own perception of the various symbols and rituals used to inculcate and present the virtues that Masonry attempts to teach based on the various volumes of Sacred Law or Holy Scripture.

They demonstrate that they feel that Masonry truly is a way of life, a philosophy and education of moral instruction that will enhance the enlightenment and individual growth of those who choose to walk the path to knowledge of the self.

It is very possible that each of us may find similarities in some of these stories that reflect like reasons in our own journey and that the true purpose of Freemasonry is still alive and well in the care of the newer members of this ancient fraternity.



Paperback
TMartinBooks.com

“ QUOTABLES ”

Freedom of speech and thought matters, especially when it is speech and thought with which we disagree. The moment the majority decides to destroy people for engaging in thought it dislikes, thought crime becomes a reality.

– Ben Shapiro

There is no quick fix. At the end of the day, you still have to do the work to maintain your weight. It can't be a diet. You have to change your life.

– Al Roker

Science and reason liberate us from the shackles of superstition by offering us a framework for understanding our shared humanity. Ultimately, we all have the capacity to treasure life and enrich the world in incalculable ways.

– Gad Saad

The mystery of human existence lies not in just staying alive, but in finding something to live for.

– Fyodor Dostoyevsky

Treat your past as a book that you learn from instead of a hammer that you beat yourself up about.

– Bill Whittle

No one starts out with the answers. You figure them out as you go and you learn from the people who figured them out before you.

– Andrew Klavan

While we may not mind being used, we resent deeply being made to feel discarded.

– Chris Matthews

Here's the thing about rights. They're not actually supposed to be voted on. That's why they're called rights.

– Rachel Maddow

You never know what doors are going to open up and why they are going to open up. You've got to be ready to walk through them.

– Lester Holt

Great achievers are driven, not so much by the pursuit of success, but by the fear of failure.

– Larry Ellison,
Cofounder and CTO of Oracle

We find joy in thinking, doing and discovering - in improving people's lives and catalyzing positive change in the world.

– Robert Smith,
Founder and CEO of Vista Equity Partners

NEW BREAKTHROUGH IN TYPE 1 DIABETES TREATMENT

Researchers have come up with a new procedure that creates a mini-pancreas, allowing type 1 diabetes patients to become insulin independent. The University of Miami's Diabetes Research Institute researchers have injected insulin-producing islet cells into a fatty area of the stomach cavity.

"In type 1 diabetes, the insulin-producing cells of the pancreas have been mistakenly destroyed by the immune system, requiring patients to manage their blood sugar levels through a daily regimen of insulin therapy," according to the university. "Islet transplantation has allowed many patients to live without the need for insulin injections after receiving a transplant of donor cells. Some patients who have received islet transplants at the DRI have been insulin independent for more than a decade."

The study was published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* in May 2017. Diabetes currently affects over 30 million people in the U.S. alone, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. More than 80 million people fit the conditions required for 'prediabetes' and will likely develop the disease in the future.

YOU CAN BOOST YOUR THINKING IN JUST 10 MINUTES

Anyone can learn and understand more after just 10 minutes of moderate to vigorous exercise. That is the finding of a University of Western Ontario study published in the January 2018 issue of *Neuropsychologia*.

The effects of ten minutes of exercise appear to be immediate. In the study, a group used an exercise bike for ten minutes and was then tested on reaction time in completing a non-standard task. The exercisers had an immediate 14 percent gain in cognitive performance.

Previous studies have shown that 20 minutes of exercise confers brain benefits, but this study shows that even people with physical and mental limitations can benefit from minor exercise.

The implications are important for everyone. If you are taking a test or about to engage in any mental task, ten minutes of exercise beforehand can give you an edge.

ORGAN DONORS SAVE LIVES

Once an impossible dream, organ and tissue transplants saved the lives of more than 33,600 people during 2016 creating a new reality for them and their families. Despite the many successes, more than 116,000 Americans are actively waiting for an organ transplant to save their lives and a new person is added to the list every ten minutes on average.

These chronic shortages cause over 8,000 people to lose their lives each year because no donors are available. While more than 138 million people in the U.S. are registered as organ donors, about half the population can still register which would dramatically increase the number of available donations from the deceased. Including tissues such as corneas, skin, and organs, a single donor could potentially help more than 75 people.

Fully 80 percent of all patients waiting for a transplant are in need of a kidney, and 12 percent are waiting on a liver. While giving a kidney represents a substantial sacrifice for a living donor, the National Kidney Foundation explains that most people who have chosen to donate a kidney experience little to no long-term problems and go on to live healthy lives. Meanwhile, the liver will regenerate itself over time if a portion is removed for a donation.



OCEAN SWEEPER SET TO CORRAL PLASTIC DEBRIS

The ocean's floating plastic problem is huge, but, as it happens, there are some actual solutions on the horizon.

One solution comes from Boyan Slat who plans to test his ambitious ocean cleanup plan this summer.

The scale of the problem is enormous. An estimated 5 trillion pieces of floating plastic garbage inhabit the oceans, breaking into microscopic pieces that kill birds and disrupt sea animal life. Another 8 trillion metric tons of plastic enter the ocean each year.

According to UNESCO, one uninhabited island between Chile and New Zealand is now a garbage patch, with 38 million pieces of plastic coating its formerly white sand beaches.

The worst areas of plastic pollution are in the ocean gyres, areas where ocean currents meet and rotate endlessly, now clogged with plastic debris. There are five such ocean areas, each the size of Texas. Slat's idea, now funded by millions in contributions, is to deploy 1.24 mile-long solid pipes which will float on the ocean in a U

shape. The pipes will float freely with an array of one-third-mile deep anchors that provide drag.

Floating plastic and particles will gather in the U-shaped area. Then a cleanup ship will scoop up the debris and take it to land for recycling.

After several tests and changes to the idea, TheOceanCleanUp.com is ready to deploy the first sweeper this year.

Critics of the plan are legion, and they make some serious points. For one thing, critics say the plan seriously underestimates how wild the oceans are. Colossal waves may simply snap the pipes. Sea life will colonize the pipes and ultimately sink them. And, the worst plastic is said to be below the surface, not on it, in the form of microplastic clouds inhabiting the seawater.

Finally, critics say that laws and public education are cheaper and more to the point. Disposable plastic should not be used and the earth's 7 billion inhabitants should not throw plastic into the sea.

NEW BLOOD TEST IDENTIFIES HEART ATTACK

A new blood test that became available in the U.S. in January 2017, can rule out heart attack in patients with symptoms and can suggest if a patient is likely to have a heart attack within 30 days.

The test is called high-sensitivity TnT - or hs-TnT - and it detects the presence of troponin T proteins in the blood. During a heart attack, troponin proteins spill out of dying cells. This new test is 1,000 times more sensitive at detecting the proteins than standard TnT tests.

For emergency room physicians, the test has the benefit of taking the guess-work out of observing symptoms. A patient with the symptoms of a heart attack might have to spend a day in the hospital under observation. But with the hs-TnT test, patients can be released in a few hours instead of a day.

FUEL UP WITH ENERGY-BOOSTING FOODS

Forget the energy drinks. Dietitians say if you want a steady stream of energy without the ups and downs, try whole foods, grains, fruits and vegetables.

The key to sustaining energy throughout the day is balance.

Start the day with a portion of whole grain and fruit. Throughout the day, eat fresh fruit, nuts, seeds, beans, and non-starchy vegetables in small portions.

For a pick-me-up, Research Dietitian Aubrey Jarman recommends a slice of apple or one whole wheat cracker with peanut butter. Follow up with water to stay hydrated.

Meats and fish are also part of a balanced diet, especially when used modestly.



ARE YOU A SENIOR DEMOLAY?

**DID YOU KNOW DEMOLAY TURNS
100 IN 2019?**

Support DeMolay. enShrine your name.

4X8 Brick - \$200

4X8 Brick + Mini Replica - \$250

8X8 Brick - \$1,000

8X8 Brick + Mini Replica - \$1,050

DeMolay.org/Courtyard

LETTERS FROM THE MITTIGA FAMILY

My name is Alyssa Mittiga, a tutor, currently in advanced training at The Children's Dyslexia Center, a parent of a dyslexic child, and I myself am dyslexic. All of these components shape who I am.



I first came to the Children's Dyslexia Center for two reasons: first to submit an application for my son, who is dyslexic, and second, to submit the paperwork to become

a scholar myself. You know the saying "Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime?" I wanted to be taught how to teach my son to read. I am the mother of four, with a background in education as well as a master's degree in literacy. Yes, a master's degree in literacy and yet I couldn't teach my son to read. I homeschool my children, and I know the statistics (about 50% chance each child will also have it). This knowledge leads me to understand there is a great chance that my other children might have it as well. My son Joseph was admitted to the program as a student, and I as a scholar. Initially, I wanted the training so I could teach my son, and if my other children displayed signs, I would have the tools to teach them as well, but midway through the training I realized what a fantastic opportunity I had to reach out and help others, parents and students alike. I was watching the success of my students at the center happen right in front of me and it was utterly amazing, but I was also watching from another perspective; that of a parent. One day I watched my son pick up a book and read to his younger siblings, and I sat and cried. It was a moment of bliss. My tears were of joy at seeing my son read to his younger sister and brother. This was a moment in time taken for granted by so many.

The training I was fortunate enough to receive was more profound than my entire education in literacy. I entered with very little understanding about phonics, rules, and generalization along with the role they play in both reading and writing. More importantly, I didn't know what I didn't know, until I started learning. Then I realized, that even though I have learned a considerable amount in a very short period of time, there is always more.

After going through the initial classroom training and after reading and completing seven papers I felt that I could identify much of what I experienced in life,

with what I was reading and writing about. I learned about how the brain works and how the dyslexic's brain is wired differently. Knowing that I passed this on to my son makes it difficult and, yet, the struggle he encounters on a daily basis is one I so vividly remember. I forget the name of words for objects, people, and things, get lost on road trips, misspell words so badly that spell check cannot pick up a correct word and end up using a basic word instead, and I read things incorrectly all the time. When Joseph does these things, I both smile because I understand, and a piece of my heart breaks, because it's due to me.

Back to the training. When the first lesson approached and that moment of "am I ready to do this?" sets in, it was like a first day of anything. The time leading up to the actual moment was far more intimidating than the actual day itself. My students were wonderful, and as I worked with them lesson after lesson, I noticed tiny details, pondered the inconsistencies that are consistencies, that provoked learning. Then, I flash forward to observation days. I came to love them. Why? Because, this was where concrete learning took place. I am a visual learner, and Linda or Kathleen who supervised my lessons, would jump right in and take over for something I either had not previously heard or seen. (You can't read everything in a book) Those were "ahhh" moments, that molded the scholar I have become. Those moments where when I knew exactly why 100 hours of service is required in this program where others have a week of classroom training and send you off into the world. That is one of many reasons this program is so successful.

My students all hit a period around 16-18 weeks into the tutoring, where things just started to click, and gains were being made—noticeable gains. It was amazing for me to watch, as I saw it not only at the center, but at home. The elation of joy at seeing my students grow, is priceless. It is a moment when I wanted all children who are dyslexic, or even who have difficulty reading to be able to have this gift as well. An analogy for you: It's like knowing there is a cure for cancer, but very few know about it, and many pretend it doesn't exist.

My own moment of looking at the world of text differently happened about four weeks after the awakening moment in my students. When I was reading with my students I would see a word and think "it doesn't follow the rules," or "I need to ask Linda about this." It was like seeing the words on a page in all blue, and suddenly a word is red. I began paying attention to words like I'd never done before. I was witnessing

printed language in an entirely new way.

Even in the final month of training, I was still learning. It never stopped, nor would I wish it to. So, I have continued on and currently am doing advanced training. As a homeschooling parent with this education, I have been sought out by so many parents. I cannot begin to tell you the impact this has had on other lives. When I began training, it was with the mindset of educating my own children, but flash forward two years and I can say that this education was a turning point in my life. It enabled me to help a homeschooling family with five children to tutor two other homeschooling families' children, and to private tutor multiple children as well. This education that I have been blessed with has impacted countless others in just two years. When I began this journey, I had no idea of the impact it would provide to so many. None of this would have been possible without all of you. I have been granted one of the greatest gifts around: an education, and my students, as well as my son have, too. So, I say to you all with a generous heart, thank you from my very core.

Linda Martin is a fantastic educator, who gives of herself all of the time; is always ready to teach on the spot, and answer all my questions. She is devoted to The Children's Dyslexia Center, educating scholars, helping children and is constantly working diligently on fundraising. She is unbelievably knowledgeable, and I'm so grateful to be able to learn under her. Thank you Linda for all that you do, and all that you give of yourself. You have made an enormous impact on my life and my education. I'm forever grateful.

I would like to close by giving thanks to the Scottish Rite Masons, the Children's Dyslexia Center, the board of directors, all individuals who have made donations, all sponsors, and everyone who contributed. Your generosity positively impacts the lives of so very many. It is like a domino effect, and words cannot express the gratitude I feel for the generosity you bestow upon our students, our children, and those of us in training.

Thank You.



Hello, My name is Joseph Mittiga, I am eight years old, and I attended The Children's Dyslexia Center for two years. I would like to share my story with you.

What life was like before the Dyslexia Center

Before I went to the center reading was a chore because I didn't know many words and that made me feel anxious to read. My writing was unusual in many ways; such as my words were floating above the line, sometimes backwards, and sometime my letters were upside down and others backwards. I hardly knew my sounds. When I compared myself to my sister and brother I felt like I was the one behind in learning to read.



What I learned at The Children's Dyslexia Center

I learned many things during my time at the center. Some of these things are known as my tools that I keep in my toolbox. This is not a literal tool box, but the tools I learned to use and carry with me everywhere. I learned how to finger spell which I still use today when I want to spell words that I don't know. This is when I use my fingers to tell my brain what sounds I need to use to spell the word correctly. Highlighting words that I didn't know helped me to pay attention to them and to read them correctly. Tracing is when my finger tells my brain what is really on the page. I put my finger on the desk and trace the word I see. Doing this makes my brain pay attention to each letter sound, and then I am able to pull the entire word together. Another thing I learned was when I read and don't understand the sentence, I reread until I understand what was going on in the book. These are all the tools I keep in my toolbox.

After my tutoring at the center

I felt like The Children's Dyslexia Center helped me in the greatest ways, because now I'm reading chapter books. When I go to the library, I just pick books off the shelf and start reading them. This makes me feel like I'm not behind anymore, and when I want to read on my own, I do. At night, I read with a book light in my bed.

Thank you for the gift of reading.

RENTING OUT A ROOM TO TRAVELERS?

Millions of people are renting rooms in private homes instead of hotels. And millions are doing the hosting. Before you join the crowd to rent out a room for that extra dash of cash, review your homeowners insurance. Likely, your homeowners insurance doesn't cover damage or liability if you rent rooms, according to *How Stuff Works*. Once you rent a room, your home becomes a business. Be sure to talk to your insurance agent before you rent out a room. You might be well advised to get a landlord policy to cover liability and damage. That is especially true if you have a pool.

FACING FEARS HELPS CHILDREN DEVELOP CONFIDENCE

Children encounter many scary situations as they develop, and, according to Alison Alden from the Anxiety Treatment Center of Greater Chicago, there are ways to identify the early warning signs of anxiety.

Alden uses the example of a child that grows scared when approaching a large dog. The child's natural reaction is to shy away, called behavioral inhibition, and this is the point where intervention is necessary to prevent causing a long-term issue.

Allowing the child to avoid confronting the fear, Alden explains, will only make the issue worse by reinforcing the anxiety in the future. Instead, parents should model behavior that helps them overcome fears such as approaching the dog, petting it, reassuring the child that everything is safe and inviting him to pet the dog himself. Even if the parent is helping by getting involved, the child is still facing fears and will develop the confidence needed to face new and different situations as they grow.

Popular blog *Focus on the Family* suggests that two other ways to help children grow their confidence are to help them own their fears and to identify courage. Owning their fears means acknowledging that the fear exists and admitting that it is a problem. For instance, a child that is scared of the dark could merely say aloud: "I am scared of the dark because I can't see what is out there." A parent can even help at first by saying it with the child at the same time. Once the feelings of fear have been put into words, it allows the child and parent to break it down into what makes it scary in the first place so that they can tackle the actual issue.

Helping a child identify courage means reminding children of a time in which they were brave in the face of danger or a scary situation in the past. If they can do it once, the logic goes, they can do it

again by using the same tactics they used the first time. Over time, this strategy continually reinforces itself as there will be more and more memories from which to draw courage.

HOW KEEPING A HOUSE BOOK CAN HELP YOUR FAMILY

Anyone who has dealt with the death of a loved one has likely had to endure the stress and uncertainty of how to proceed with getting the person's affairs in order. According to *The Simple Dollar*, taking the time to assemble a house book will answer a lot of specific questions about how a person would like things to be handled as well as arming the caretaker with all of the information needed to get it done. It will include a master record of any and all assets and outstanding obligations that a person might have along with instructions on how to access them. First, take an inventory of any accounts open in your name including everything



from retirement savings to the library card. The most critical items on this list are 401(k)s, IRAs, Roth IRAs, and any annuity or other long-term income vehicles that have a beneficiary or can be transferred. Write down anything required to access those accounts such as numbers and passwords and, when possible, have a copy of any signed contracts, membership identification, or statements. Clearly indicate any relevant websites or secondary authentication that might be needed to login to the accounts online or transfer ownership.

Next, collect any legal documents and insurance information that family will need to present to the estate lawyer or probate court if there are any legal snags. This will include a copy of your will along with any documents relating to trusts if there are any. The most common type of insurance to be concerned with for the deceased is the life policy, and those beneficiaries will need to be explicitly indicated along with contact information for how to receive the funds. Along with basic life, there might also be a burial policy in

place that has prepaid for those arrangements.

Third, consider all of the valuable assets in the house or safe that will be left to loved ones, and collect any relevant serial numbers, combinations, and locations so that they can be easily found. If the items are a bit obscure, such as a comic book collection, it might also be a good idea to leave a few instructions on the best way to liquidate the valuables.

Lastly, consider the fact that loved ones will be going through this record during a time of grief. Leaving behind personal notes of wisdom and reassurance will likely be appreciated and timely. In any event, loved ones will undoubtedly be much better prepared to deal with the details of a passing with a house book at hand.

FLOUR DOESN'T LAST FOREVER

If you buy flour in December for special baking, you will probably have some left over in February. The good news is that, if you've stored it in an air-tight container, it's probably still good for Valentine's Day cakes.

A good rule of thumb is to throw away wheat flour in four to six months, according to *Eat By Date*. Self-rising flour, which has baking powder in it, has a shorter shelf life. Corn flour can last up to a year. Buying the right amount helps prevent waste. One five pound bag of flour equals 17.5 cups.

KEEPING TRACK OF A CHILD AT A THEME PARK

One minute you are holding your kid's hand, and the next, he's gone.

At a crowded theme park, jostling crowds or just a busy kid can quickly turn a fun day into a terrifying experience for child and parent.

That was one mother's fear as she struggled to hold on to her child at a theme park and she came up with a clever solution.

Michelle Walsh solved the problem that day by writing her cell phone number on her child's arm. But later she improved upon the idea, creating the SafetyTat, a temporary tattoo for kids.

According to *The Wall Street Journal*, the plan worked well for one family touring a huge science center. In an instant, they lost track of their 4-year-old daughter. Then, just as quickly, the mother's cell phone began ringing: Security had the child at the front desk. The tattoo worked. SafetyTats are sold in children's stores, amusement parks, travel stores, and online at safetytat.com.

You can get sticky labels with a place for a phone number and medical information. Customized water-based tattoos can also be ordered online.

Album of Masonic Impostors

The Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library launched its blog ten years ago, in May 2008. Nearly 650 blog posts later, we're still going strong. To celebrate this anniversary, we're republishing our very first blog post in this column here. Be sure to visit our blog at <http://nationalheritagemuseum.typepad.com/>, where you can read ten years' worth of entertaining, fascinating, and well-researched articles about objects from the Museum & Library's collections. If you have something to say about a post, be sure to leave a comment. We love hearing from our readers.

Why would someone impersonate a Freemason? And why publish a book showing some of the supposedly more nefarious characters who have impersonated Masons?

Pictured here is a page from the *Album of Masonic Impostors* which was published in 1903, by The Masonic Relief Association of the United States and Canada. This organization served as a clearing house for improving the methods for providing relief by various Masonic organizations. It also disseminated information throughout North America about men known to have tried (and, in many cases, succeeded) in defrauding Masonic relief agencies.

During an era when employer-provided benefits were uncommon, many people turned to fraternal organizations for help with funerals, health-related expenses, and other unexpected challenges. Death benefits and types of insurance were some of what members received for paying dues. In fact, many non-Masonic fraternal organizations have become life insurance companies. Some still keep "fraternal" in their name, although the fraternal aspect of many of these organizations has been de-emphasized, or disappeared altogether.

Although Masonic lodges did not, by and large, offer formal insurance programs, many did give cash and other forms of support to Masons who were ill, out of work, or had fallen on hard times. Because there was money to be had by members who were genuinely in need, enterprising con men traveled around posing as Masons. Visiting different towns and cities, they sought relief (in the form of money) from Masonic organizations. The Masonic Relief Association published an "Official Warning Circular" on a regular basis that alerted Masonic organizations to some of the con men that might come their way. We have a number of these circulars in our collection. *The Album of Masonic Impostors* is a rogues' gallery of some of these

men. This publication highlights the significant role that photography played in conveying information to Masonic organizations in their efforts to protect themselves from those known to have already scammed lodges or relief boards.

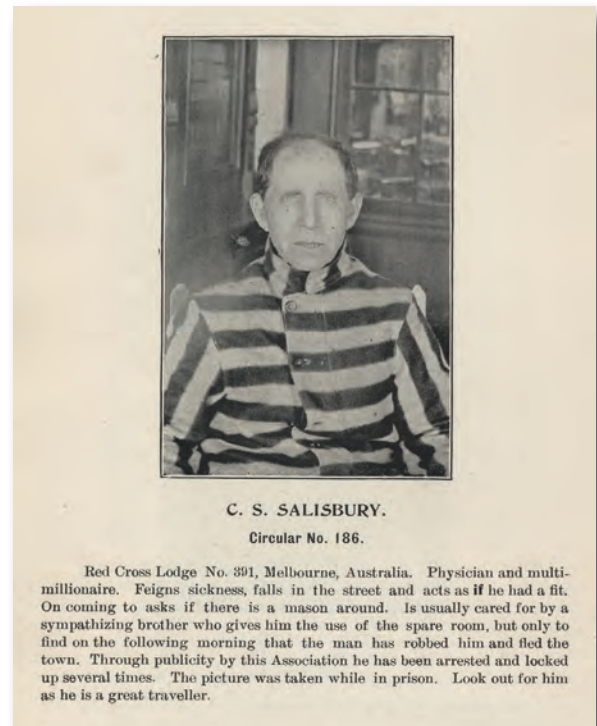
If you want to learn more about the role of Masonic and fraternal organizations in providing relief and social services, or even about Masonic impostors, we've got a number of great resources. A good place to start is:

Beito, David T., *From Mutual Aid to the Welfare State: Fraternal Societies and Social Services, 1890-1967*. Chapel Hill, N.C. : University of North Carolina Press, 2000.

To read more about Masonic impostors, check out all of our blog posts on the subject at http://nationalheritagemuseum.typepad.com/library_and_archives/masonic-impostors/.



Jeffrey Croteau



The Van Gorden-Williams Library & Archives is located in Lexington, Massachusetts, at the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library and is open to the public. Have questions? Drop us a line at library@srmm.org or give us a call at 781-457-4109.

THE PATH FORWARD - RESPONDING TO YOU

by Ill. Gail N. Kemp, 33°

The 2018 Conference of Grand Masters of North America was held in Indianapolis, IN, in February. The Northern Masonic Jurisdiction (NMJ) had a booth at the event, presenting its Path Forward initiative. Grand Masters and Grand Lodge officers from across the nation stopped by the booth to learn about the Path Forward and to ask questions. The Path Forward was well received and, as you might imagine, with diverse attitudes about Freemasonry from 50 independent jurisdictions, the questions asked ranged widely.

This short article is not about ritual, but one of the questions asked is worth noting since it reflects to some extent the state of the craft. A Grand Lodge officer was concerned that in his state half or more of his lodge officers could not perform the ritual work. He reiterated the steps the Grand Lodge had taken to correct the problem, without much success, but he was asking what other ideas might be available. What we could tell him was that in a recent survey conducted for the Scottish Rite 48% of Masons agree that many men avoid leadership roles in the blue lodges to avoid memorizing ritual. Are we



confusing leadership and ritual proficiency? What to do about this problem? Well, maybe we need to think a bit outside the proverbial box.

The Path Forward initiative was developed, as a result of the survey, in response to many of the suggestions and concerns learned from you and from non-Masons as well. The program is offered, free of charge, to and through our Grand Lodges for use at the blue lodge level.

How do you get more information?

There are several ways:

- Two Past Grand Masters, Ill. Daniel M. Wilson, 33°, of New Jersey and Ill. Gail N. Kemp, 33°, of Indiana, are available, at no charge, through Supreme Council to meet with the Grand Lodge officers of the 15 states of the NMJ for an in-depth presentation on the program. To schedule a presentation contact either of them. Email addresses are: dwilson@srmnj.org and gkemp@srmnj.org.

- The Supreme Council website has information about the program. Blue lodges, with authorization from their Grand Lodge, may visit the website to secure materials - often customized for their individual lodge. The website is: scottishritenmj.org.

- For an in-depth review of the survey and the development of the Path Forward initiative you can order the book on the website by our immediate Past Sovereign Grand Commander, John Wm. McNaughton, *Reclaiming the Soul of Freemasonry*. All proceeds benefit the Grand Almoner's Fund.

We Need More Masonic Moments

One of the more fun features in *The Northern Light* has been a section called “Masonic Moments.” It features Masonic photography by our members throughout the jurisdiction, of people, places, and objects found throughout the world. In the past we have seen images of unique lodge buildings, the square and compasses carved into a hillside, and markers depicting exploits and adventures of Masons past. Not only are the photos interesting, but they show the universality of our fraternity. The well has run dry, and we need more. As you head out on summer vacations be sure to bring your camera or phone to snap images of anything Masonic. Send them to us either in hard copy or via email to afoulds@srnmj.org, with a caption and a subject line “Masonic Moments.” Any Masonically-related photos are fair game, but remember, the more exotic, the better.

SGC Honored

In late February, Sovereign Grand Commander David A. Glattly, 33°, was honored during the Conference of Grand Masters of North America. During a session with DeMolay International and Shriners International, the Grand Commander was awarded the Knight Grand Cross, the highest award of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of America.

New Website Features

If you haven't been there yet, it's time to visit the greatly revamped website of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction (ScottishRiteNMI.org). At the “Resources” tab you'll find an explanation of The Path Forward. Also, there is an archive of all issues of *The Northern Light*, right back to its beginnings in 1970. We have an ever-growing video library. Currently, 14 presentations cover such subjects as education, history, inspiration, and the Grand Almoner's Fund. At the Member Center there is Valley information, lists of degree days, the Scottish Rite Shop, and, when appropriate, a link to the live streams. The blog site, alone, makes it worth the visit. It is the best place to learn about the new education program, called “Hauts Grades Academy,” as well as Masonic subjects of all types.

When Changing Addresses

If you have moved and *The Northern Light* (and other Scottish Rite material) is still going to your old address, you can fix that problem quite easily. Go to ScottishRiteNMI.org, go to Member Center and sign in. To create a login ID, you just need your member number and your birth date. A “Welcome” page pops up with your name. On the left side, click on “Edit Personal Information.” Once there, you can make the necessary changes. If you don't want to do it yourself, you can still contact your local Valley Secretary. If you don't know who that is or how to reach him, visit ScottishRiteNMI.org, then click on “Valleys” at the top left, just under the double eagle. The secretary will be glad to help you get your information updated.

Pay Your Dues Online

Paying your dues has never been easier. Just have your Scottish Rite member number handy, together with your address associated with your membership, and visit our ScottishRiteNMI.org. Follow the simple instructions and you will be all paid up in no time.

A Brother's Voice

A major impetus for The Path Forward project is for the fraternity to focus more on its members. *The Northern Light* is a part of that movement. As you saw in the February issue, changes have been made to modernize the magazine and make it more readable. Also, we take a new focus on the members. In the coming months there will be further changes to keep up with and to get ahead of the times. One new feature which made its debut is called “A Brother's Voice,” and it is just that. It is a way for the average Scottish Rite Mason to have a voice in the magazine. We want to see more of these, and we urge you to put yours down on paper and send them in. The submissions to this page need not be as long or as deeply researched as many of our feature articles. They only need to come from the heart. You can tell a story, describe a project on your Valley or lodge, or maybe expound on your philosophy. You do not need to consider yourself a writer, but the editor urges you to submit something that you feel is important to say to your Brothers. This new feature is experimental for now and may take on different shapes as it matures, but here is your chance to be in on the ground floor, to be published, and to connect with your fraternity in the only communication vehicle that is distributed to the entire membership all at the same time. To submit a story and be considered for publication in a future issue, send an MS Word document of 500-1,500 words to afoulds@srnmj.org.



The editor is standing in front of an image of Washington Street, Boston, 1953. It was displayed as part of a 2003 exhibition at the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library called “New England Neon.”

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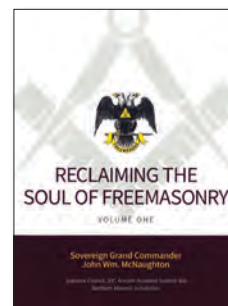
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Reclaiming the Soul of Freemasonry, by John Wm. McNaughton, 33°, Past Sovereign Grand Commander of the Scottish Rite, NMJ, is a data-driven, clear, yet hopeful view of the state of Freemasonry and its future. The book presents the results of the most comprehensive study of Freemasonry and the Scottish Rite conducted in more than 20 years. Commander McNaughton presents survey and research findings that quantify the problems facing the fraternity and ways to address our most serious issues.

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