



# THE VIRGINIA MASONIC HERALD

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SPRING 2024

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In the East of Williamsburg Lodge No. 6,  
Williamsburg, Virginia.

# The Virginia Masonic Herald

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# Mission and Vision Statement of The Grand Lodge, A.F. and A.M., of Virginia

The mission of the Grand Lodge of Virginia is to teach and perpetuate a way of life that promotes the Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God and to assist its Lodges to grow and prosper.

The vision of the Grand Lodge of Virginia is to be the premier organization composed of men of integrity and character, who are honest, true to their word, believe in God, are devoted to family, charitable in their community, and courteous and helpful to each other.

<https://grandlodgeofvirginia.org/>

## Masonic Herald Deadlines

Summer Issue	May 1
Fall Issue	August 1
Winter Issue	November 1
Spring Issue	February 1

# The Grand Master's Message

## It is Our Duty

Wikipedia explains that the word “Duty” is derived from the word “due” meaning that which is owing, from French origins, and related to the Latin word “debitum” from which “debt” is drawn. Thus, “duty” is defined as a commitment or expectation to perform some action in general, if certain circumstances arise. It further states duty may arise in a system of ethics or morality, especially in an honor culture. It continues, “performing one’s duty may require some sacrifice of self-interest.”

A sense of duty is also a virtue or personality trait that characterizes someone who is diligent about fulfilling individual duties or who confidently knows their calling. Cicero, an early Roman philosopher discusses duty in his work, *On Duties*, and suggests duties can come from four different sources: As a result of being human; as a result of one’s particular place in life; as a result of one’s character; and as a result of one’s own moral expectations for oneself.

As I prepared for the re-enactment of the Cornerstone Ceremony at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial last February, I was deeply moved by the words which had been spoken one hundred years prior as construction commenced on this spectacular monument. The dedication portion of the program still rings in my mind.

“Know all ye who hear me: We are assembled and proclaim ourselves Free and Accepted Masons, true to the laws of our country, professing to fear God, and to confer benefits upon mankind. We have secrets concealed from the eyes of the world; secrets that have never been found out, but secrets that are lawful and honorable, and not repugnant to the laws of God or man. They were entrusted in peace and honor to Masons of ancient times, and have been safely and faithfully transmitted to us,



Jack Kayle Lewis  
Grand Master

and *it is now our duty* to convey them unimpaired to the latest posterity.

The Tenets of our profession are Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. We inculcate four cardinal virtues, Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence and Justice. If we had not practiced those tenets and inculcated those virtues, our Institution would not have descended to us through generation after generation, nor would it have numbered among its members so many pure and illustrious personages who were and are always ready to promote its welfare.

As Deputy Grand Master of this Grand Lodge, I pronounce the cornerstone of this building true, trusty and well laid. May the Corn of Nourish-

ment, the Wine of Refreshment, and the Oil of Joy and Gladness, and all the other necessities of life abound among all the people. May the blessings of heaven rest upon this work. May the building here to be erected be preserved throughout all the ages.”

In this dedication, you will find the phrase, “it is our duty.” Just as the thousands of Freemasons assembled on the hillside in Alexandria a century ago heard these words, Masons today must too. Our world has seemingly lost the love of the word duty and what it means. Once in this great land, there was tremendous pride in and respect for our Institutions and those in positions of responsibility and authority. Once there was a true spirit of being neighborly and caring for others with an emphasis on civility that had been championed by the one honored on that hillside in Alexandria, the Father of our Nation. Today all too frequently we see demonstrations of a self-centered approach to life, a “what’s in it for me” mentality, with no regard for the welfare of anyone else.

The lessons and teachings of Freemasonry enabled the enlightened to embrace the best of humanity. Our Tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth are a road-map for a bountiful life when followed and our Cardinal Virtues establish the boundaries within which we can succeed. Our challenge in the 21st century is to fulfill our responsibility to not only sustain the Fraternity, but to grow it. This was clearly understood by those who traveled before us, and it must be our focus today.

This year, I am blessed to be supported by a dedicated and supportive Line of elected and appointed Grand Lodge Officers, and an outstanding group of enthusiastic District Deputy Grand Masters. Together we are focused on four areas of emphasis, that

Continued on page 4.



# The Grand Master's Message

Continued from page 3.

are all woven into the goal of "Building Better Leaders," in a Fraternity where every Mason is a leader. Our Masonic Brothers are in leadership roles in their homes, their communities, their churches, their workplace and obviously, in all components of the Virginia Masonic Family.

At this year's Division Leadership Conferences, many have heard these focuses explained, and you have also heard this from your District Deputy when making his Lodge visits. As we look to "Building Better Leaders," we are striving to increase membership in all members of the Masonic family, enhancing Lodge officer's skills and confidence, investing in our future leaders, and showing the world who we are by living Freemasonry and being models of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

This year I am asking every Virginia Freemason to help us grow by providing educational information about our Fraternity to good and true men, and to seek other opportunities for personal and Masonic growth in other bodies and groups, so we might do our duty to convey the message. Our districts have been directed to help better prepare the Lodge officers, current and future for that is our duty. I am calling on every Lodge in the Commonwealth to visibly demonstrate support of youth in their community. We know the wonderful job of building leaders done by our three Masonic Youth Groups, and they need and are owed our support. Where these do not currently exist, we must grow them, and in the meantime sup-

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port those youth programs that do exist. The modeling of our Tenets is perhaps the greatest way to show the world what Freemasonry is today. We need to proudly display our Masonic emblems, but our actions are far more powerful.

Living Freemasonry daily requires a never-ending commitment to our obligations and the recognition we are at our best when we embody the spirit of servant leadership and act accordingly. The human component of each of us means sometimes we may fall short in our attempt to move from the rough to the perfect ashlar. In those moments, we must renew our efforts by careful study and reflect on our teachings to find

both the strength and will to try again. Demonstrations of Brotherly Love show the world that caring about others is never a sign of weakness, but the badge of those who are both strong and courageous. To provide Relief to those in need is one of the first great moral and Masonic lessons we are taught. We are reminded of this as we depart our meetings to again mix with the world. Therefore we can never abandon this responsibility. Truth is perhaps the one thing that most distinguishes our Fraternity from others. It is true that those outside are amazed by us, as they attempt to understand the concepts of a square deal or meeting on the level.

Of the four focus areas, each is very important as we strive to convey the significance of Freemasonry to those around us, and to attract those suitable to pass through the West Gate and find the Light we celebrate. But living Freemasonry daily is the greatest means by which we can grow the Virginia Masonic Family

I would ask you to start each day by challenging yourself to "Be a Mason and Leader today," and then conduct yourself in a way that demonstrates you are bound by your obligations to the Fraternity. If we do this, then at the close of the day we will have made the world a better place, and each of us might again look at ourselves, knowing today I did my best, and knowing it is our duty.



*Jack K. Lewis*  
Jack Kayle Lewis  
Grand Master

**"As every Lodge has a right to keep itself an entire body, they ought never to interfere in the business of another Lodge."**

*The Constitutions of Freemasonry*

# Most Worshipful Jack Kayle Lewis Itinerary 2024

<b>March 2024</b>		23	St. John's Day
2	DLC: Abingdon	28-29	Rainbow for Girls: Grand Assembly
4	Lodge Official Visit: Snowville No. 159	30	Shrine: Imperial Session
7	Lodge Official Visit: Cherrydale-Columbia No. 42	<b>July 2024</b>	
8	*GMOV: 3	1-3	Shrine: Imperial Session
9	*GMOV: 20	6	Oklahoma Masonic Indian Degree
10	Wreath Laying: Tall Cedars of Lebanon at Mount Vernon	11-14	Job's Daughter's: Grand Session
11	Lodge Official Visit: Washington and Henry No. 344	15	Lodge Official Visit: Catawba No. 342
15	*GMOV: 29	16	Grand Lodge: SP and I Meeting
16	Scottish Rite: Workshop	17	Grand Lodge: Council Meeting
16	*GMOV: 17	17	MAHOVA: Board of Governors Meeting
18	Lodge Official Visit: Intermont No. 269	18	James Stanley Johnson Memorial Golf Tournament
19	Grand Lodge: SP and I Meeting	19-21	Northeast Conference of Grand Masters
20	Grand Lodge: Council Meeting	26	*GMOV: 1A and 1B
20	MAHOVA: Board of Governors Meeting	27	DeMolay: Annual Conclave and Banquet
21-24	Shrine: Spring South Atlantic Shrine Association Convention	28-29	Rainbow for Girls: Supreme Assembly
29	*GMOV: 35	<b>August 2024</b>	
30-31	Commandery: Easter Observance	2	*GMOV: 21
<b>April 2024</b>		3	*GMOV: 19
4	Lodge Official Visit: Bedford No. 244	5	Lodge Official Visit: Charles Franklin Schuler No. 74
5	*GMOV: 14	9	*GMOV: 48 and 50
6	Lodge Official Visit: Victory Daylight No. 1778	10	*GMOV: 40
6	Shrine: Kazim Potentate's Ball	13	Lodge Official Visit: Glen Allen No. 131
9	Lodge Official Visit: Ashburn Sterling No. 288	16	*GMOV: 4
12	*GMOV: 15A and 15B	17	Wreath Laying: Tomb of the Unknown Soldier
13	Scottish Rite: Richmond Spring Reunion	17	*GMOV: 2
13	Shrine: Acca Potentate's Ball	20	Grand Lodge: SP and I Meeting
16	Grand Lodge: SP and I Meeting	21	Grand Lodge: Council Meeting
17	Grand Lodge: Council Meeting	21	MAHOVA: Board of Governors Meeting
17	MAHOVA: Board of Governors Meeting	23	*GMOV: 41
19	*GMOV: 44	<b>September 2024</b>	
20	*GMOV: 47 and 49	24	*GMOV: 37
26	*GMOV: 8	30	*GMOV: 39
27	*GMOV: 9	31	Widows Sons Masonic Riders: Grand Master's Ride
28	Wreath Laying: James Monroe's Tomb	5	Lodge Official Visit: Churchland No. 276
<b>May 2024</b>		6-7	DDGM Conference (Gary Huffman)
1	Lodge Official Visit: Mentow No. 180	6-7	Shrine: Fall MASA Convention
2	Lodge Official Visit: Tuckahoe No. 347	13	*GMOV: 57
3-4	Job's Daughters: Leadership Weekend	14	*GMOV: 24
3-5	Commandery: Grand Conclave	16-17	Royal Arch: Grand Chapter
6	GLoNY: Grand Annual Communication	17	Grand Lodge: SP and I Meeting
10	*GMOV: 27	18	Grand Lodge: Council Meeting
11	MAHOVA: Ambassador's Conference	18	MAHOVA: Board of Governors Meeting
11	*GMOV: 33	21	*GMOV: 42 and 43
13	Lodge Official Visit: Dinwiddie No. 136	23	Lodge Official Visit: Meridian No. 284
14	Grand Lodge: SP and I Meeting	23	Lodge Official Visit: Spotsylvania No. 26
15	Grand Lodge: Council Meeting	27-29	Scottish Rite: 100th Anniversary Conference
15	MAHOVA: Board of Governors Meeting	<b>October 2024</b>	
17	*GMOV: 7 and 10	4	MAHOVA: Board of Governor's Retreat
18	Lodge Official Visit: Lafayette No. 137	5	MAHOVA Family Day
20-24	Eastern Star: Grand Chapter	5	Lafayette Event: 200th Anniversary Gala
24	*GMOV: 45	7	GLoDE: Grand Annual Communication
31	*GMOV: 5 and 6	11	*GMOV: 31
<b>June 2024</b>		12	Lodge Official Visit: Lake Drummond No. 178
1	DeMolay: Degrees and Dinner	15	Lodge Official Visit: Anderson No. 258
3	Lodge Official Visit: Polk No. 61	18	*GMOV: 25
5	Lodge Official Visit: Princess Anne No. 25	19	*GMOV: 38
7	*GMOV: 11	24	Lodge Official Visit: Norfolk No. 1
8	Wreath Laying: MacArthur Memorial	26	Lodge Official Visit: Peyton-Randolph No. 1774
8	*GMOV: 36 and 56	<b>November 2024</b>	
11-14	GLoVT: Grand Annual Communication	4	Lodge Official Visit: Fredericksburg No. 4
18	Grand Lodge: SP and I Meeting	5-10	Grand Annual Communication
18	MAHOVA: Summer Solstice Dinner	*GMOV, Grand Master's Official Visit	
19	Grand Lodge: Council Meeting		
19	MAHOVA: Board of Governors Meeting		
21	GMOV: 22A and 22B		

## Ritual School Schedule

<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>District(s)</b>
Wickham/Smith	Clifton Forge No. 166	3/2	20
Clement-McFarland	Piedmont No. 152	3/4-6	38, 39
Ira Curtis Hudson	Central No. 300	3/14	12
James Alfred Butts, Jr.	South Hill No. 297	3/16	27
Robert Lewis Gibbs	Tuckahoe No. 347	3/16	15A, 15B, 16
Richard E. Loving	Fairfax No. 43	3/23	7, 10
DeBusk/Sheally	Newport No. 261	3/25-27	40, 41
Campbell Area School	Campbell No. 316	3/25-28	21, 24, 25, 37, 38
Charles Eldon Fulgham	Purdie No. 170	3/26-28	31, 33
James Bolling Myers	Midlothian No. 211	3/27, 28	16, 29
Willard D. Monk	Tazewell No. 62	4/2-4	45
Lokie Leo Voight (formerly Fred D. Bowmen)	Unity No. 146	4/6	3, 5, 6
Kennedy/Simpson	Lee No. 209	4/12-13	19
C. Frank Hicks	Lake Drummond No. 178	4/13	36, 56
James Henry Parkerson, Jr.	Bayside No. 218	4/15	36, 56
C.A. Whitted	Buckingham No. 242	4/15-16	17
Robert Lewis Gibbs	Tuckahoe No. 347	4/20	15A, 15B, 16
Lewis Q. Moore	Abingdon No. 48	4/23-25	45, 47
Showalter/Strock	Virginia May No. 38	4/24-26	40, 41, 42
William Hiram Wood	Elmer Timberman No. 54	5/4	1A, 1B
Charles A. Sinclair, Jr.	Mt. Carmel No. 133	5/11	4
Robert Lewis Gibbs	Tuckahoe No. 347	5/18	15A, 15B, 16
Steward Arthur Deem	Masonic Temple Norfolk	5/18	35
Henry C. Wallace	Hoge No. 8	5/20-21	48, 49, 50
Dr. Walter A. Porter	Old Town No. 68	5/21-23	43
Charles A. Sinclair, Jr.	Mt. Carmel No. 133	6/8	4
Robert Lewis Gibbs	Tuckahoe No. 347	6/15	15A, 15B, 16
Elmo J.'Bo" Norfleet	Nansemond No. 77	6/22	33
Ashby Wade May	Liberty No. 95	6/24-27	22A, 22B, 24
Robert Lewis Gibbs	Tuckahoe No. 347	7/20	15A, 15B, 16
Robert Lewis Gibbs	Tuckahoe No. 347	8/17	15A, 15B, 16
E. Tyree Mountcastle	Chickahominy No. 286	9/5	57
E. Tyree Mountcastle	Mann Page No. 157	9/6	57
E. Tyree Mountcastle	Williamsburg No. 6	9/7	57
Kenneth O. Shelton	Ashburn/Sterling No. 288	9/14	2
Leonard Shelby Hughes	Nottoway No. 147	9/14	27
L. N. Criddlin	Preston No. 47	9/16-17	48, 49
C.S. Revell/B.D. Hudson	Newport News Scottish Rite	9/17-19	14
Robert Lewis Gibbs	Tuckahoe No. 347	9/21	15A, 15B, 16
Johnson/Rowell/Dungan	Westmoreland No. 212	9/21	8, 9
Edward Page Henry	Prince George No. 115	9/23-25	29, 16
Kidd/Lupton	Taylor No. 23	9/26-28	22A, 22B, 24
Lon Norman Dooley	Lebanon No. 251	9/30-10	44, 47
Lokie Leo Voight (formerly Fred D. Bowmen)	Mt. Jackson No. 103	10/14	3, 5, 6
Robert Lewis Gibbs	Tuckahoe No. 347	10/19	15A, 15B, 16
James Noah Hillman	Catlett No. 35	10/16-19	48, 49, 50
Gilbert/Hubble	Marion No. 31	10/22	42, 43, 44
Joseph T. Stewart	Courtland No. 85	10/22	31, 33
Oliver/Hoback	Bland No. 206	10/22	41, 42
O.B. Omohundro	Waddell No. 228	10/26	7, 10

# Graduation Speech

## (A Modest Proposal in a Most Friendly Manner)

*In the character of a Master Mason, you are authorized to correct the errors and irregularities of your less informed Brethren, ...afford the best example for the conduct of the less informed ...The Ancient Landmarks of the Order...you are carefully to observe, and never suffer them to be infringed, or countenance a deviation from the established usages and customs of the Fraternity... Let no motive, therefore, make you ... violate your vows.<sup>1</sup>*

American Freemasons for decades now have been showered with public relations campaigns, surveys, reformations, revivals, dreaded innovations, demographic studies, frightening statistics, dire predictions of the demise of the Craft, One-Day Conferrals, substitutions of “the Books” for learning and delivering catechisms, resorts to ritual monitors and even printed rituals, “elevator speeches,” 2B1Ask1 bumper stickers and overall analysis paralysis.

The firmament, to Freemasonry, has an infinite capacity to fall and fall and keep falling. No doubt the current average dues-paying lifetime of American Freemasons, now two and a half years and still falling, has both Lodge and Grand Lodge Secretaries vibrating with terror and frustration.

This article argues that suggesting to a newly raised Master Mason that any Brother present at his raising is “less learned” than himself strains credulity. That data-less statement insanely informs him that “less informed” Brethren have witnessed and perhaps participated in his raising, the Degree cast has endowed him with all Masonic law, tradition, practice, ritual content, allegory and, not least, Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. Accordingly, he may smugly depart to drop several Benjamins on a big, shiny, eye-catching Masonic ring.

Let us get real: The Charge at Rais-

ing to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason dis-invites the new guy from ever returning to the Lodge that raised him or any other. Hey, let us grow up and sniff the world as it currently exists. Contemporary America consists of millions of people who think that everyone around them are “less informed” than they are, and as such, being “more informed” makes themselves experts on any and all subjects that may arise.

Nevertheless, learned professions still abound. Lawyers, doctors, nurses, teachers, engineers, therapists and other professionals must successfully acquire several credentials before they may lawfully practice their professions.

The first credential, guess what, is a degree. Lawyers need the J.D.; doctors need the M.D.; nurses need the B.S. in nursing; teachers need the B.A.Ed.; engineers need the B.S. Therapists need various degrees in psychology.

But the degree, by itself, gets them nothing. They still have to submit to boards, examinations and licensing authorities to prove fit and fully prepared to practice their chosen fields legally. After all that they have to attend required “continuing education” every year, as long as they wish to “practice” their professions. In real life, a degree constitutes just one step on the way to gaining the privilege of practicing a learned profession. If these professionals follow these steps, they may then become qualified “experts” in their fields.

So, what about our newly raised Master Masons? How does briefly enacting the part of Hiram Abiff make him an “expert” Master Mason (“But you are not”)? The Degree of Master Mason, while it deserves the adjective “sublime,” once understood, remains just a degree. It does not confer expertise.

Perhaps, then, wisdom, reality, and integrity dictate a few things should be added to the Charge. Something like:

But know this: the Degree of Master Mason is just that, a degree. While we congratulate you for your perseverance, dedication, faith, trust and determination in attaining that Degree, you have yet to experience the fulfillment, spiritual awakening and self-improvement that further education and acquisition of a sense of true Brotherhood that you may acquire by learning the grand history of our Craft, the marvelous admonitions contained in our Constitutions, and the rules by which every Lodge and Grand Lodge govern themselves. Indeed, at this point you do not and cannot identify the “Ancient Landmarks of the Order” for the simple reason that the finest minds of our Institution have failed to agree on any specific list of such Landmarks since the birth of our Fraternity centuries ago. We welcome your contribution to that debate.

Nevertheless, if you study our Institution, acquire the profound friendships Masonry guarantees by bringing together men who would otherwise remain at a perpetual distance, learn to admonish your Brethren rather than bite their backs, both receive and provide Masonic relief in times of distress, and procure the useful knowledge the Craft offers, you may one day, and the sooner the better, hold your Fraternity dear for providing the world, your country, your community, and yourself, Peace, Concord and Harmony in the Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God.

So Mote it be.

### Reference

1. "Charge at Raising to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason," *Presentation Volume*, Grand Lodge of Virginia, Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of the Commonwealth of Virginia (various editions).

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**PRIZES and GIFTS NEEDED**  
(TAX DEDUCTIBLE)

We need gifts of golf balls and equipment, household items, tools, snacks and anything of value to give away. Every sponsor WILL be acknowledged. A great way to get the good name of a business involved with our youth!

**Ian M. Shipley Memorial  
Golf Tournament  
Committee Contacts:**  
 Lin Spears, Chm @ (804) 436-2996  
 Gary Brumfiel @ (757) 451-1469  
 Wayne Golden @ (757) 319-0705  
 Jacob Houser @ (540) 718-1263  
 Larry Koon @ (804) 512-6502  
 Rob Parker @ (804) 642-2978  
 Art Pendleton @ (540) 397-2723

**A message from:  
Jack Kayle Lewis,  
Grand Master of Masons  
in Virginia**

Like Ian McLaurin Shipley, Jr., I believe that the future of our communities rests in the hands and minds of our youth.

For this reason, I am encouraging all Virginia Masons, their friends, business associates and golfers everywhere to support this tournament.



For Scholarship information:  
Calls may be directed to the  
Scholarship Fund, Grand Lodge  
A.F. & A.M. of Virginia 804-222-3110



**The Scholarship Fund  
of the Grand Lodge,  
A.F. & A.M., of Virginia  
Presents**

**27<sup>th</sup> Annual**

**Ian McLaurin Shipley, Jr.  
Memorial Golf  
Tournament  
Thursday,  
April 18, 2024**

**FORMAT**

**4-man Florida Best Ball,  
(Captain's choice)  
Includes: 18 holes with cart, gift  
bag, family style meal and  
awards presentation**

**Awards: 1st, 2nd and 3rd place  
foursomes. Door prizes, Hole  
prizes, and Long Drive Prizes.**

**LOCATION**

**Kiskiack Golf Club  
8104 Club Dr.  
Williamsburg, VA 23188**

**PROCEEDS SUPPORT THE  
GRAND LODGE  
SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

**TEE TIME**

**Thursday, April 18, 2024**

**Check in @ 8:00 AM**

**Shotgun Start @ 9:00 AM**



# What is Missing?

As anyone who has taken the time to look at Freemasonry will tell you, it is a remarkably well created organization. However, as with every elegant machine, it is only as good as its maintenance, cleaning, oiling, etc. Knowing the importance of how a Mason is made (Initiated, Passed, and Raised) has vouchers, balloting, coaching, and... And what? This is the missing bit for many Masons in the Craft, Mentoring. It is the maintenance, the cleaning, recalibrating, and oiling of this marvelous mechanism called Masonry.

Pull down a copy of the Grand Lodge of Virginia's *Presentation Volume*<sup>1</sup> and you will find that it covers Mentoring in detail. Details from the beginning of the Masonic process, the candidate, the initiation, supporting the coaching, follow on information, and explanations for each stage of becoming a Master Mason. It is also a commitment throughout the career of a person being mentored. It is like Freemasonry, a lifetime relationship. After covering the degrees, it goes on to open up more information on further details on Masonry as a whole, covering a number of topics of interest that a new Mason, or for that matter, a long-time Mason, to

Right Worshipful Gerald L. Frey review and them to find their interests and questions answered in a consistent manner.

What is overlooked is not as important as what can be found in the pages dealing with the Mentor section of the *Presentation Volume*. It is broken down into seven segments or chapters:

- 3 What is a Mentor?
- 4 Pre-Initiation Instructions
- 5 Degree of Entered Apprentice
- 6 Degree of Fellowcraft
- 7 Degree of Master Mason
- 8 Practical Aspects of Freemasonry, and
- 9 General Information

Within the *Mentor's Manual* or guide it is acknowledged that information alone is not all there is to the process. A suggested method is laid out in some detail which is the guide portion of this text.

One of the largest questions laid out is, "who should be a Mentor?" It is not for the faint of heart or those that are unable to commit to the position of Mentor. It takes work, scheduling, and dedication to those that undertake this work. Moreover it is unsung, no badges, labels, not even the commonly held status of some Lodge position. Taking

Mentorship must not be looked upon as a thankless task, far from it. There is a reward, a pretty amazing reward, which is seeing the new Master Mason, regardless of age, becoming more knowledgeable, responsible, active, participatory, and, yes, committed to the Craft. When done correctly, it is a point of pride, knowing it is not only a job well done, but defines both the Mentor and his protégé. There will, over time, be a notable shorthand communication between the two, and this in turn means others will observe the benefit of having a long-term relationship with a knowledgeable and more importantly caring Brother. This does not go unnoticed by those around either the Mentor or the protégé. Every bit as important is having an increased number of Brethren that can answer core questions about the Craft and its workings.

There is an old adage that goes something like this, "if you do not know something, teach it!" Meaning if we do not know something, in order to teach it, we must learn not only the subject matter but how to present it to someone else. Not knowing something is alright, learning is not something we can walk away from. It is the substance of Freemasonry, the sharing and even how we will be remembered by our Brethren. Knowledge, it has been said, cannot be taken from us, but sharing it openly and freely is a legacy worth passing along.

So take down the Grand Lodge of Virginia's *Presentation Volume* from your bookshelf, find the Mentor Manual section and be the glue of the Craft, that person that binds us with our past as we live our times forward. Look to pages 273-361. Remembering that knowledge does not have an expiration date and sharing that knowledge can be shared an unlimited number of times.

## References

<sup>1</sup>*Presentation Volume*, Revised 2017



Brother Clarence Casson

All of our Lodges have had many inquiries about, and petitions for, membership in the last couple years. Therefore, it is essential that we learn more about these new members if we hope to retain them and prepare them for future leadership roles in our Fraternity. We need to know:

1. Who these men are and why they want to join our Fraternity.
2. How well they have been prepared to be active and productive members of their Lodges.
3. What expectations they have about becoming Masons.

Recognizing the importance of these questions, the Masonic Fellowship Discussion Group recently conducted a New Members Forum at one of its bi-monthly breakfast meetings in the Northeastern Area. A total of 55 Master Masons from 16 Lodges attended this meeting, and among them were 15 new Masons who were raised within the last 18 months. These articulate new Masons gave us some great answers.

#### **Who they are.**

They have been Masons from two weeks to eighteen months and attended an average of twelve meetings since being raised, some as many as forty meetings and as few as two. Twelve were assigned mentors and received candidate booklets; two received the materials, but were not assisted by mentors; and one received no assistance at all.

#### **What they told us.**

During the meeting our new Masons commented at length about their petitioning and joining experiences. Their comments generally reflect many of the same ideas that ten other new Masons expressed at a similar meeting held the year before.

- The process of joining our Fraternity has changed substantially. Many say they have friends and relatives who are Masons, but most new members make

inquiries via the Internet and know much about Masonry before they ask about membership.

- Most Lodges respond promptly to inquiries, but there are concerns about the time required between the presentation of the petition and the conferral of the First Degree. They have questions about how well the Investigating Committee and the sponsors explain the procedures involved.

- The printed materials in the current candidate booklets received mixed reviews. Candidates need basic information (for themselves and their spouses) about the Fraternity, but they expect materials received after the Entered Apprentice and Fellowcraft Degrees to help move them on quickly to the next degree. They want additional Masonic education after the conferral of the Master Mason Degree and an incentive for advanced Masonic study would be welcomed.

- While the printed candidate materials are appreciated by new Masons, all cited the competency of the Mentor as the most important part of the Intender program. They want, and indeed expect, mentors assigned to them to be knowledgeable about all aspects of Masonry. It appears that a well-trained and informed cadre of mentors is essential to the success of this program.

- The quality of the degree work directly affects the impression made on a candidate. Lectures do help in explaining the degrees, but a more detailed follow-up would be appreciated after the conferral of degrees, to help them understand the lectures more completely.

- Advancement in Masonry is an individual decision made by each Mason. But our new Masons would like more opportunities to participate in Lodge activities. They are eager to become more involved. And, they have become great boosters of the Fraternity.

#### **Why did you join the Masons?**

- It was time for me to grow up and make some decisions in life. I knew something about Masonry from friends, but they did not talk much about it. I wanted to learn for myself.

- My grandfather was a Mason, but my father was not. From what I had heard from my Grandfather I decided to ask someone and get involved.

- Although my grandfather was a Prince Hall Mason, I did not know if they would accept me. Today Masons are much more open about it, but the only way to find out is to join. It is better to be inside looking out, than outside peeking in.

- I read a lot about Masonry on the Internet, and in books, but I knew I had to find out more.

- I heard some bad things as well as good things about Masonry and wondered which were true. I decided that the only way was to see for myself, and I am glad I did. I am going to do what I can to spread the truth about Masonry.

- When I moved here, I wanted to meet new people and get involved. I was impressed by the moral conduct of the few Masons I met and decided to follow that route.

#### **Is it easy (or hard) to join?**

- I was pleased that my Internet inquiry was answered within a week. Any longer, I would have thought they were not interested, and I would not have followed up.

- I was invited to dinner right after I inquired and met lots of great people. I came back a couple of times and decided this was for me, so I joined. The Lodge I contacted made me come back four times before receiving a petition to join. Only after I got materials and talked things over with my wife, did I decide to join. We are both very comfortable in the decision we made.

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# Better Masons?

Continued from page 10.

- The fees and Investigating Committee were explained to me when I first contacted the Lodge, but they did not tell me how long it would take. If I had known that up-front, it would have helped.

- I learned the meeting date of the Lodge to which I was referred did not work for me but had no problem finding one that was more convenient.

## **What happened after you petitioned a Lodge?**

- I was investigated at the Lodge and my wife was not involved. She asked about the Lodge and read materials, but it would have been easier if she had been involved from the start.

- I was confused about the fees at first, but now understand them. Something in writing at the start would have helped.

- I was disappointed it took so long to get my first degree. I was excited when I joined but lost some of that during the wait. The people I talked with at first should have prepared me for the delay, and I did not know enough to ask them.

- I wish there was a faster way to move from the Entered Apprentice to Fellowcraft and Master Mason Degrees. The stuff about the history and structure of Masonry would have been fine to learn while I was waiting for my first degree, but after I got the Entered Apprentice Degree, I wanted to learn what I needed for each of the next two degrees.

## **How well were you prepared for your degrees?**

- I used the printed materials and they helped, but I could have used better explanations from my Mentor.

- The books are good to study, but I would still have lots of questions, if someone had not explained them to me.

- I was lucky that my Mentor knew his work well, and he used the books to explain things in his own words.

- Learning is a two-way street and both the Mentor, and the Candidate have to be on the same page to communicate and explain some very complicated ideas.

- My Mentor knows everything there is to know about Masonry. He did a great job. Someday I would like to be a Mentor, but do not want to do it until I can do it the right way. I would like to be trained as a Mentor to help new Masons, the way I was.

- One problem was finding a time and place to meet with my Mentor. It would have been nice to have a regular schedule to work our way through the learning process for each degree.

- I might have learned faster, if all of us working on degrees could have met and studied together. When others ask questions that I do not think of, I learn from the answers. Also, films or other materials might have helped.

## **What has happened since you became a Master Mason?**

- I know now that what I learned from the Intender books was only a start, I need to learn a lot more to understand what it is to be a Mason. Where can I go to get that knowledge?

- My main concern when I was working on my degrees was to learn enough to move to the next one. Now I am ready to move on and learn more. I will do that, if I am given a chance.

- I am looking for places and meetings, where I can get the same kind of help, I got from my Mentor.

- I know we have schools to teach rituals and floor work, but how about something that teaches us what Masonry really is?

- I have attended my regular Lodge meetings, but most of them are boring. I wish we had more opportunity to talk about and discuss Masonry instead of just paying bills and voting on new members.

## **What are your impressions of your degrees?**

- Overall, the experience was great. Some people working on the degrees seemed confused, but I know now that there is a lot to learn and it takes work.

- I listened closely and learned a lot from the lectures because they were given well. I really liked the Fellowcraft lectures.

- It is hard to get the meaning of the lectures the first time you hear them. There is so much going on, it is hard to take it all in. I am ready to learn more about the lectures now.

- From what I see now, I am glad I did not go through a One-Day-Conferral, but I know some guys liked that experience. I liked being the only candidate for all my degrees.

- After my First Degree, I felt lost until I came back for the next two. I really did not feel that I was a part of the Lodge until I got my dues card. I wish I could have attended meetings as an Entered Apprentice or Fellowcraft. I think it would have given me a head start toward becoming more active in my Lodge.

## **What do you expect from your Masonic membership?**

- Brotherhood, fellowship and knowledge about life

- I already have several friends lined up, who will be joining me in my Lodge.

- I am on the lookout for others who could benefit like me.

- I want to learn as much as I can about Masonry, so that I can become a better man and Mason. I think it is all there for me, I just have to work on it.

- I am probably the best booster of Masonry around.

*Reprinted courtesy of the Illinois Masonic Fellowship Discussion Group*

Right Worshipful William A. Parks, Jr.

Freemasonry repeatedly admonishes its acolytes to provide “Relief.” Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth reign as among the most sacred tenets of its Institution, including relief of distressed worthy Brother Master Masons, their widows and orphans. Masonic widows are invited to attend various events, such as visits from Grand Masters and Ladies nights, and receive poinsettias and fruit baskets at Christmas and on other occasions. Some Brethren cannot conceive of fraternal relief beyond financial aid, outreach programs, and admission to the Masonic Home of Virginia. As a Fraternity, does Masonry sufficiently admonish the Craft to provide relief to bereaved and grieving Brethren?

Amidst the world’s concerns and employments, too many Brethren overlook the priceless opportunity to befriend and relieve a Brother’s distress, sorrow, and desolation when his loved one passes away.

Yet as Brothers, Freemasons are family. By ignoring the distress of grief-stricken members, too many Brethren may be missing occasions to experience the development, formation, and depth of genuine and profoundly intimate brotherly love and affection that results from taking steps, however awkward and difficult, to relieve such distress.

How does the Craft respond to Brethren who suffer the loss of loved ones; the death of a spouse, partner, child, parent, or sibling? Do the Brethren fraternally turn their attention to the devastation and grief that attend such losses? How many of the Craft attend the funeral services and memorials of those beloved of Brethren experiencing such losses? How many follow up with visits, phone calls, texts, emails, offers of rides to Lodge stateds, invitations to share meals, or ball games?

How many Brethren drop out of Lodge attendance and activities when their Brothers fail to attempt to soften the effects of their grief? How many grieving Brethren feel their Fraternity has let them down when their very own Brothers are oblivious to their pain, their loss, their loneliness? That’s when fortitude should overcome reluctance to comfort the afflicted.

Consider this:

*The deaths of those precious to us changes our lives forever. I discovered this reality as a boy, when several of my family members and friends died. To be bereaved means to be torn apart and have special needs. While I didn’t know the word, I instinctively felt bereaved. Yet I was dismayed that no one around me talked about the deaths. What’s more, no one continued to check with me about my thoughts and feelings or offer me ongoing compassion and comfort, it was as if the deaths never happened. Inside me, I was experiencing deep pain and many confusing new thoughts and feelings.<sup>1</sup>*

Consider the experience of a Brother who, ten years after his father died, saw on the street an old car that looked like his dad’s from when the son was about nine years old. So a fifty-something year old man saw a forty year old car that reminded him of his father, gone ten years and there he was, crying. Bereavement carries no time limits.

Or think about the Brother whose wife, after several months in hospice, passes away. He has witnessed the unstoppable deterioration of the woman who bore his kids, now scattered all over, themselves busy raising their own children. The woman who shared decades of births, travels, birthdays, the intimacies of marriage, the vicissitudes of life, the woman who stuck with him through thick and thin. Yet, no Brother

calls, none are at his door upon hearing the news of her passing. None visit, few, if any, attend the memorial for his beloved companion and helpmate. Should any member of the Craft then be surprised the grieving Brother has absented himself from his Lodge since the moment of his devastation?

Loss of a loved one can be as distressing as terminal disease, job loss, divorce, disabling injury, and even armed combat. Medical science now holds that PET brain scans of the bereaved resemble and even appear identical to such scans of those suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder incurred by soldiers in combat.

As for the Brethren saddened by loss of a loved one: *The most beautiful people we have known are those who have known defeat, known suffering, known struggle, known loss, and have found their way out of the depths. These persons have an appreciation, a sensitivity, and an understanding of life that fills them with compassion, gentleness, and a deep loving concern. Beautiful people do not just happen.<sup>2</sup>* What Freemason, admonished to befriend and relieve every Brother who shall need his assistance, obligated to help, aid and assist his Brethren, would pass up the chance to gain or enhance his friendship with such a beautiful person?

When a Brother suffers the death of a loved one, that is the time to reflect upon the overriding importance of the words, “friend” and “friendship” that through no accident appear dozens of times in Masonic ritual, from Entered Apprentice to the Seventy-Year Veteran’s Award.

In befriending the grieving, it helps to follow “The Mourner’s Bill of Rights,” which provides that the mourner has the right to:

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# the Afflicted

Continued from page 12.

1. Experience [his] own unique grief.
2. Talk about [his] grief.
3. Feel a multitude of emotions.
4. Be tolerant of [his] physical and emotional limits.
5. Experience “grief bursts.”
6. Make use of ritual.
7. Embrace [his] spirituality.
8. Search for meaning.
9. Treasure [his] memories.
10. Move toward [his] grief and heal.<sup>3</sup>

Given his Obligations, every member of the Craft should welcome the opportunity to help his mourning Brother to grieve; to cry with him, listen to him, call, email, and text with him, break bread with him, explore memories with him, talk with him, invite him on road trips, embrace him, give him, and receive from him brotherly love and affection. *For there is hope of a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again and that the tender branch thereof will not cease.*

Thus may we ever meet, act, and part.

## References

1. Wolfelt, Alan D, Ph.D., *Understanding Your Grief*, Second Edition (Companion Press, 2021), p. iii
2. Ibid. *Quoting Elizabeth Kubler-Ross*, p. 190.
3. Ibid. pp. 203-204

# One Big Family

Brother Edward Tooma

What do I like most about being a Freemason? The fact I belong to one big family.

Most Worshipful James W. Golladay, Jr. (2022) who had the right idea with his theme "Freemasonry - A Family Affair."

No matter where I go on this planet, there are always Masonic Lodges nearby. Even though I have never set foot in them before, when attending, I am always welcomed and received as though I have been a part of this far-off distant Lodge for ages.

Fortunately, I have visited many Masonic meetings both here and abroad and met with Brothers who made me feel as though I have known them for many years.

We are family, a close-knit Institution and one to which I am proud to belong.

As a fellow Mason, you never have to feel lonely as a traveling man. The door of a Lodge is always open, and you are always invited to share in the fellowship that only a family of Masons can offer.

You do not have to go to far-off lands to visit other Lodges. Try going to different locations within your district and branch yourself out.

Many of our Brothers attend only their own Lodge meetings. By doing this, you are missing out on so much. Make it a point to round up a group, so you can meet with others and participate in the many family and Lodge activities that are always taking place. "Freemasonry - Is a Family Affair."

**“I have always followed my father’s advice: he told me, first to always keep my word and, second, never insult anybody unintentionally. If I insult you, you can be sure I intend to. And, third, he told me not to go around looking for trouble.”**

*Bro. John Wayne*

# Adding a Little

Brother Harvey Miller

We as Freemasons acknowledge that we have six jewels within our Lodges here in America, three immovable, to wit, the Square, Level, and Plumb, and three movable, the Rough Ashlar, Perfect Ashlar, and Trestleboard.

The Ashlars are always on display, usually prominently, at the foot of the East. The Trestleboard is used by the Master to lay out the design or plan for the Lodge, sort of like a “lesson plan” for a teacher, or a battle-plan for a commanding officer, wherein the objectives, ideas, and creativity reach fruition.

The Rough Ashlar, as we are taught early on in the Entered Apprentice’s Lecture, is emblematical of a young craftsman who is seeking to refine and hone his character, skills, and expand his knowledge, a perpetual project.

Indeed, and the Perfect Ashlar is what all Craftsmen strive to obtain, on a daily-basis, in perfecting his own Craft, and further expanding and building upon their already vast, yet ever changing experiences and knowledge, bearing in mind the task as Masons of making the world a better place in which to live.

At John A. Lejeune Lodge No. 350, our Rough and Perfect Ashlars were first obtained by donation during 1941. They are very special Ashlars indeed, as they were quarried from the Govern-



Original Ashlars at John A. Lejeune Lodge No. 350

ment Island Quarry, located in Stafford County, here in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Historically, this stone, known as “Virginia Freestone,” is derived from the same quarry as the cornerstone of the United States Capitol, which was laid down in a ceremonial placement by Worshipful George Washington, on September 18, 1793. The Executive Mansion, later formally named the “White House” by Brother Theodore Roosevelt in 1901, and the Cape

Henry Lighthouse, located at Fort Story, Virginia, are all constructed of the very same Virginia Freestone used by operative masons.

Our Ashlars were displayed in our Lodge perched precariously on the second step in the East. They are large weighing in at almost ~50 pounds each.

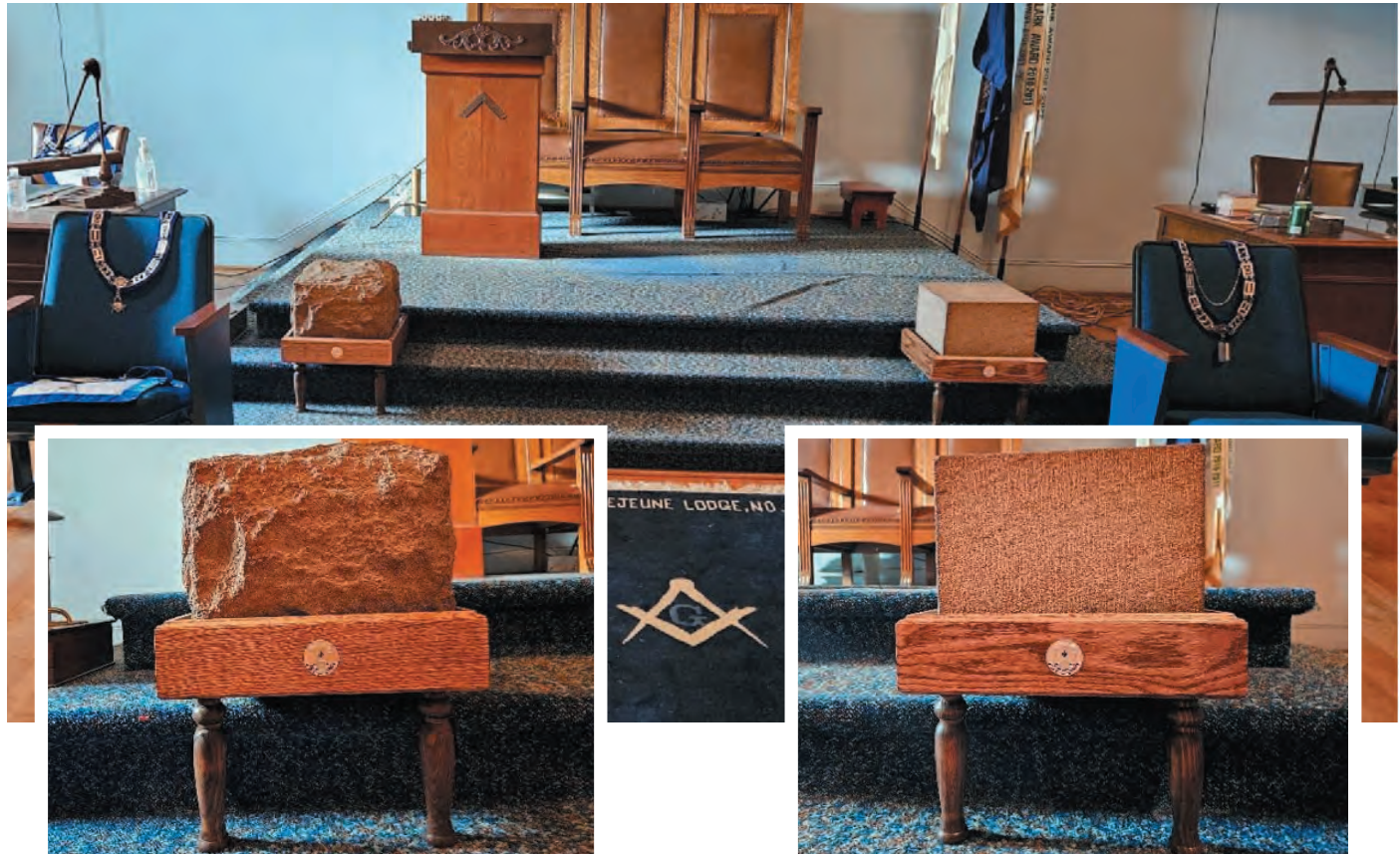
During a moving conversation at one of our informal Friday sessions with the Worshipful Brandon Bateman, we mentioned in passing that maybe we could polish up their display and improve their appearance to something befitting their significance to the Craft.

I am relatively new to the Craft and am continually amazed at the history, beauty, and provenance exhibited in our Lodges. I love how stained wood brings forth richness in buildings of importance and adds a sort of elegance to formal settings. I constantly look for ways to improve my surroundings, and to ply the use of the trade skills that were so diligently passed on to me by my fa-



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# le Prominence



Ashlars at John A. Lejeune Lodge No. 350, resplendent upon their “lip tables.”

ther and grandfathers. I have thought of different ways to use what little skill I had to improve the appearance of our Lodge and set it apart from others.

I later asked the Worshipful Master if he would mind my taking on the challenge of putting a more polished look to the Ashlars and he graciously permitted me to proceed. With that, I took to pad and paper and brought in a tape measure to the next stated communication and quickly took measurements of the Ashlars and the adjacent steps. In hindsight, the Twenty-Four Inch Gauge was there, but I did not think about using it for this purpose. Being an amateur woodworker, I made some rough plans on some graph-paper I carried in my notebook and obtained the materials to make what I call “lip tables.”

Three wood-species were used in the table construction consisting of red oak, yellow pine, and South American plywood. I also picked up some hardware for leg mounting and two emblems for ornamentation. All the while, my wife was looking over my shoulder as she was amused at some of my undertakings and took an interest and served as an aid in obtaining some materials. Using the rough plans as a reference,

Two holes on the front are for the emblems. After the sanding and finishing construction, my wife procured blue felt for the base of the tables.

I was astonished at the improvement in the presentation of the Ashlars in our Lodge and my Brothers all appeared to be pleased with them, as well. Worshipful Master was especially ec-

static about them, which means a great deal to me.

Our two Ashlars now hold a more reverent position and are even more predominately displayed within our Lodge here in Quantico! I am certain our namesake, Brother and Lieutenant General John Archer Lejeune, Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps from 1920-1929, is smiling down on us, as well.

As Masons, we govern our daily transactions with mankind cognizant of the never ending quest to transform our Rough Ashlars into those difficult to attain Perfect Ashlars, ever-remembering that the tools of the Operative Mason, be they ancient or modern, speculatively, have profoundly beautiful application and relevance today, especially, today.

Over the past couple of decades, Freemasonry has struggled with various solutions to its falling membership. One-Day-Conferrals, substituting Catechisms with “The Books,” gastronomic improvements, “Strict Observance,” “Restoration Masonry,” and even “Island Masonry” (which posits “Strength in Fewness”) have failed to achieve not only numerical growth but also retention of those who undergo the rigors of becoming Master Masons.

Membership retention advocates face stunning statistics: the current dues-paying life of a Master Mason now approximates two and a half years. What gives? Conferral of the Degrees requires effort, teamwork, expense, and involvement of dozens of dedicated, learned Brethren to produce a single Master Mason. Why are their efforts so cavalierly discarded? Why are we creating so-called “expert” Master Masons who seldom and sometimes never return to Lodge?

Let us look at the problem from the twenty-first century candidate’s point of view.

The Candidate has undergone two Degrees before arriving at the Lodge for his Raising. Perhaps he has done “The Books,” perhaps he has returned his two Catechisms, and maybe he is lucky enough to have petitioned a Lodge with enough growth to have witnessed conferral of the two degrees on others. Maybe the Master has presented him with pins depicting the Entered Apprentice and Fellowcraft positions of the square and compass. His Lodge may have had the foresight and good manners to make him welcome at its dinners even before he was initiated an Entered Apprentice.

But now his Brethren are about to raise him to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. Out of respect for the occasion, he is wearing his best duds: the clothes he wears to wedding and fu-

Right Worshipful William A. Parks, Jr. nerals. He knows it is his Big Night.

The blue pajamas and hoodwink are no surprise. Been there, done that. By now the words, “just and legally constituted Lodge” roll trippingly off his tongue. His knees ache a bit due to the length of the Obligation.

After being reinvested, he re-enters to Lodge. In short order, he is insulted, again blindfolded, assaulted several times, taken to the floor, wrapped in a dusty and likely moldy canvas, dragged across the floor and still blindfolded, experiences the Hiram Legend aurally only. Suddenly, the canvas opens, the hoodwink removed and several Brethren surround him, kneeling, reciting a prayer that is probably new to him, dragged to his feet, embraced as he has never been embraced before, and the jewel of Hiram taken away.

Without a break, and he is not even asked if he needs a break, he is offered no refreshment, no relief, and he is conducted to the East for yet another lecture.

And this one’s a doozy. The vast cloud of words includes the month of Zif, Mount Moriah, Abraham, Isaac, Josephus and the numbers three, 1,453; 2,906; 3,300; 80,000, and 70,000.

The lecture includes symbols and references that the new Master Mason will never hear again: The Pot of Incense, the Bee Hive, the Sword Pointing to a Naked Heart, the Anchor and Ark, the All-seeing Eye, the Scythe, Setting Maul, Spade, Coffin, and Sprig of Acacia, most of which he will never encounter again in Blue Lodge unless he returns to witness a Raising himself.

Finally, a distinguished Brother charges him that “you are authorized to correct the errors and irregularities of your less informed Brethren.” Say what? Right now, he is the least informed Brother in the room. How would he presume to identify any “less informed Brethren,” never mind have

the chutzpah to “correct [their] errors and irregularities?”

Furthermore, “[t]he Ancient Landmarks of the Order, entrusted to your care, you are carefully to preserve, and never suffer them to be infringed, or countenance a deviation from the established usages and customs of the Fraternity.”

Guess what? The Grand Lodge of Virginia has never adopted a list of the “Ancient Landmarks” except for a few that are applied to the application of other Grand Lodges for recognition as “regular,” a concept yet, and probably never to be learned by the Candid---er, newly Raised Master Mason, now supposed “expert.”

As for “the established usages and customs of the Fraternity,” good luck with that. He will have to hunt high and low for those, some will come to him, if he regularly attends Ritual School (if the Lodge has one) and he will be fortunate indeed, if he can get a list from any Brother, leastwise the Committee on Masonic Education.

At least in a prior degree, the lecture advised the Candidate “to converse with well-informed Brethren, who will be always ready to give, as you will be to receive, instruction.”

The new, fresh as a daisy Master Mason at some point must be bored, bewildered and, more than likely, overwhelmed by all this strange, esoteric, occult stuff that just does not seem at first blush to relate in any way to job, career, child rearing, making good men better, or, drum roll, friendship, which, if Brother new Master Mason dares to persist, he will find mentioned about three dozen times in Masonic Ritual.

Finally, the Master directs that Brother new Master Mason be “seated among the Brethren” and asks him to say a few words. Chances are remote that he will express awe, comprehension and admiration for a ceremony and drama of fi-

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# Know A Secret?

Continued from page 16.

delity, honor, devotion, betrayal, greed, retribution, punishment, and resurrection.

Then what? Most likely the Worshipful Master tells him when the next stated communication occurs and expresses the hope that Brother new Master Mason will “join us.”

Thud!

Refreshments, maybe. But no systematic instruction, no established canon of Masonic tradition, history, practice, protocol, courtesy; nothing about the marvelous *Constitutions of Masonry*, nothing about the *Methodical Digest* and its complex rules and regulations designed to protect and preserve the precious friendships fostered by devotion to the Craft.

At this point in the proceedings, where are the Brethren who signed Brother new Master Mason’s petition? Where are the members of the Investigating Committee who reported to the Lodge that, pointedly, “he will make us a good member?”

Where are the directions to the Grand Lodge website for further instruction?

Truth is, as he was told at the beginning of the Hiram drama, he is not “an expert Master Mason” nor does he have any idea how to become one. Does the Worshipful Master direct him to the District Education Officer or Lodge Education Officer? Will he ever learn that no Brother should introduce himself as “Worshipful,” “Right Worshipful,” or “Illustrious?” That those are honorifics by which others are to address the Brethren who have earned them?

And on and on, no wonder so few return. This Brother is like a high school valedictorian entering college who is required to take a course in calculus without being told what calculus is. The Master Mason Degree has exposed him to nineteenth century logorrhea and Roget’s exhibitionism that few twenty-first century men, regardless of their

intelligence, expertise, education and attainments, are prepared to absorb in a single evening of an Obligation, an unfamiliar drama, a lecture that in reality exhorts the Candidate to duties impossible to fulfill, and a Charge that tells him: “Thus you will render yourself deserving of the honor which we have conferred, and merit the confidence we have reposed.”

Had Ernest Hemingway adopted the style of nineteenth century Freemasons, he would not have sold a single book.

Neither Grand Lodge strictures nor Masonic tradition prescribe any particular formula to prepare the Candidate for the wonders of the Degree of Master Mason. Unlike a fresh student of Shakespeare, Freemasonry provides no advice to the Master Mason candidate to just roll with the ritual, take in as much of the drama, lecture, and charge as he can, not to worry that they may seem too much to ever understand, never mind completely comprehend in one evening.

Accordingly, a new greeting, a new welcome, a new absolutely warm reception to immediately follow the rigors of Raising must arise to encourage new Brother Master Mason’s persistence and perseverance, to motivate compliance with the countless duties, obligations, demands and exhortations of the degree.

It might go something like this:

Welcome, my friend and Brother, to our Fraternity. We know that you have stuck with us through a long evening. It would be ridiculous for us to expect you to understand all that you have experienced during this long and stressful evening.

As Leonardo Da Vinci said, we are all still learning.

But let us remember a few things. You signed a Petition expressing your respect and admiration for our Fraternity. It was signed by two of your Brethren. You met with an Investigating

Committee that approved of your desire to join, found that your motives were proper, and that you are a good man and true.

Much of what you experienced tonight may be considered secret. But buried in Masonic ritual you will find its most precious secret: Friendship. The word itself appears over three dozen times in our ritual, from your first entrance to the Lodge through the 70-Year Veteran’s Award conferral, to our ceremony of Masonic burial.

We live in an age in which true, person-to-person friendship is rare. Survey after survey in recent years prove that people are enjoying fewer and fewer friendships, now fewer than two on average.

We balloted unanimously to admit you among us primarily to receive and welcome you as a new friend. The many rules, admonitions and goals you have heard tonight help us to become better, truer friends, friends who are ready and willing to help our Brothers in distress, to visit the sick, to comfort the afflicted, to lend a sympathetic ear or simply to enjoy one another’s company.

None of this happens overnight or through a few rituals. To be our friend, we want you to join us at our dinners, at our rituals, on our road trips to other Lodges.

Thus, this night, we hope to have begun to confer upon you and to share with you that most precious and valuable human relationship, Friendship for life.

Welcome, my Brother, to the world’s oldest and largest Fraternity. We wish for you to be our friend. We look forward to your questions. We hope to cherish your company, your companionship, your friendship and Brotherly love.

Brethren, let us all join in joyously welcoming our new Friend and Brother to our gentle Craft. 3 Raps, 3X3 applause.

Worshipful Samuel G. Welty

Something unique has been taking place in Ocean View Lodge No. 335 for the last few years. A new Masonic Honor has been created to recognize the workers of our Craft called the Edward Rogers Gearheart, Order of Nehemiah. We all observe, from time to time in, how there always seem to be those good Brothers who prefer to give orders, and others who work hard to see that the job gets done. The more industrious of the two often receive far too little thanks for their efforts, but they do what must be done, because they see it as their duty in service to their Brethren. We can all see how hard they work on behalf of our Fraternity, and how much they have sacrificed for our benefit. They do their work with kindness, respect, and above all, with love for the Brethren, and they have kept on working when most others would have quit long ago. It is to honor those Brethren that this award was created, and it is in their honor that the story is now shared with you.

The words of Nehemiah ...

And those who remained in the city were in great affliction; for the city walls were in ruins, and its gates had been burned with fire. So, I went to Jerusalem and said unto the people,

“Ye see our distress and that Jerusalem lieth in waste. Come, let us repair the walls, for the God of the heavens will prosper us to arise and build.” So, we built; for the people had a mind to work. And our surrounding enemies conspired against us, so the people of Israel prayed to God and set a watch against their enemies both day and night. And I said unto the people,

“Be ye not afraid, but remember the Lord your God, and fight for your Brethren, and families, and homes.”

And from that time forth, half of the people wrought in work, and the other half held their spears. They that bore burdens wrought with one hand

with his sword girded by his side ... and we built.

And every person of Judah was in Jerusalem to labor, each to their own gifts, until the wall was finished.

And when our enemies heard of our works, they were afraid and cast down their eyes, for they now knew ... that this mighty victory was wrought by our God.

From this passage, we learn of the strength and sacrifice of the people of Israel who, when under threat of destruction from all sides, came together of one mind, and one heart by the grace of God, and accomplished the task He had set them for the betterment of all.

As Master Masons, we strive to emulate those examples in a symbolic profession based on spiritual buildings, made using figurative tools, and of living stones. The example we are taught to emulate is not King Solomon, who sits enthroned in the east, but Hiram Abif, a worker, tradesman, and faithful servant, steadfast to the end.

Once a year, Ocean View Lodge calls to the East, one or two Brethren who have set this example, not with words, but their actions, working tirelessly to make our Craft better for the rest of us.

Some of the recipients include: Most Worshipful Alan Wayne Adkins, Most Worshipful Lewis Kerford Campbell, Right Worshipful Richard McCoy Young, Right Worshipful William Alan Parks, Jr., Right Worshipful Joseph Leon Stocks, and Worshipful Melvin Delano Fortson.

### The Edward Rogers Gearheart Order of Nehemiah

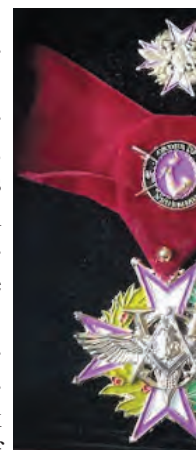
ERGON – Greek, translates as ‘work’- verb, ‘to work’ the daily toil of our lives, the undertaking of a task to be done. - noun, the business of our profession, the job itself, as well as the result of that labor. In a single word it illumi-

nates that which we "say we will do," that which we "actually do," and that which we "become by those actions." These three stages of every creation are echoed by the Holy Trinity, (the Father who speaks, the Son who acts, and the Spirit who becomes) ERGON is a word of five letters, the central of which is the letter ‘G’ representing geometry, or the Grand Architect whom in all ages, smiles down on those who work to attain their objective; as the apostle James wrote, “What does it profit, my Brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works?” This makes the difference in all things.

The symbolism of this award includes: the Cross of St. John, adopted by the Hospitallers, an order of knights dedicated to service and defense of the innocent during the time of the Crusades. The eight points of the cross allude to their eight obligations: truth, faith, repentance, humility, justice, mercy, sincerity, and endurance. These tenets derived from our two patrons in Masonry are always to be revered as illustrated by the white cross of St. John.

Behind the Cross is a Garland of Laurel and Olive. Laurel, sacred to Apollo, the Greek god of light, is an emblem of triumph over death or loss. The Olive, representing peace and fruition, endures all things for centuries and was the tree used for the cross on which Jesus of Nazareth was crucified.

The Neck Ribbon is of deepest crimson, reminding us that the ability to put into action, that which others merely pretend to believe, is truly the life’s blood of our Fraternity.



Continued on page 19.

# Nehemiah

Continued from page 18.

The Upper Crest is a circled golden chain (representing hard service) surrounding a naked arm (industry) holding aloft the flaming torch (zeal) which drives the darkness from our midst. These are flanked by the Scottish Claymore, and Spartan Javelin. The mighty claymore reminds us of the Scottish origins of our Fraternity, while the Spartan javelin (doru) reminds us that with the perfect tools, wise leadership, and zealous cooperation, the smallest group of people may accomplish the impossible. Each symbol has a deeper meaning. The sword and spear defend not only the warrior, but those near at their side, and the torch offers light freely to all who would open their eyes to see.

Horus is one of the best-known Egyptian gods, and one of the first symbols of the rising sun in the east. The god's original Egyptian name 'Hr' translates to 'above.' For us, the falcon god Horus reminds us of the presence of a higher power which man in all ages has sought to understand, personify, and emulate. He is therefore present, not as a symbol of deity but of hope for enlightenment.

All these disparate symbols bring together as one, the fervency of the ancients, wisdom of the Greeks, faith of the Christians, and commitment of the modern Fraternity. Only by learning, understanding, and acknowledging the wisdom of the ages, both the obvious and the obscure, can we truly begin the work there is yet to do.

There is one other element of the award that merits distinction, the Clasp. How easy it is to ignore this small component of pure functionality. Is it not simply there to hold the ribbon about

the neck? The Clasp does its job, unseen and unacknowledged. This is the usual lot for the one who does the work, that of indifference. Rarely even a word of gratitude is heard for the rare person who does what others only say. History is littered with gods, kings, priests, generals and the rest, but remember my Brother, that everything that has ever, or will ever be achieved on the face of this earth, was accomplished only by the one who actually does the work. As labor is what truly holds up the great works of every age, so for us, the clasp of a laborer holds this honor in its place, for without that laborer, those mighty will surely come crashing down to the dust of the earth from whence they came.

Most Brethren who receive this award are likely very humble and hesitant to wear such finery. We all know Brethren who work, unconcerned with accolades and showy appreciation. These are the ones who deserve such honors most, and the least likely to wish to be seen as a "show off." Still, they are

encouraged to display the Order in any appropriate situation, not to call attention to themselves, but to inspire others to follow their example. The surest way to achieve the goal of more "workers" and fewer "talkers," is to demonstrate to them that their labors are noticed, acknowledged, and appreciated. The Order of Nehemiah was created to give its recipients the opportunity to lead others along the path of service. Ever recollecting the words of Jesus of Nazareth...

"He who would be first among you, must be the servant of all."

The work is always there to be done, ever expanding and never relenting. As we build the future of our Craft together, we stand on the foundation of those blessed Brethren who have brought us this far, and it is left to us to build Freemasonry into a brighter tomorrow. We are proud to have amongst us, the shining examples of the Edward Rogers Gearheart Order of Nehemiah, those already honored and those yet to become so. So now my Brother, let us begin.



# Visiting a Lodge within a Lodge

Worshipful David Smallridge



Today was an exceptional day to visit a Lodge within a Lodge. It was an honor and privilege to attend the Peyton Randolph Lodge of Research No. 1774 quarterly Stated Communications, which meets within the historically significant Williamsburg Masonic Lodge No. 6. October is Founders Month, and it was an immense privilege to be attending one of our Founding Father's namesake Research Lodge. The Festive Board and presentations on "Imposters Among the Workers" by Right Worshipful Benjamin Hill, orated by Worshipful Ken Goode, and "Founders Day Presentation-Peyton Randolph" presented by Right Worshipful Gerald L. Frey were truly exceptional. An amazing group of men and Brethren.

One of my favorite parts of the Williamsburg Lodge Room, aside from the history, is the three represented orders of architecture. In the East, the Master has four pillars of the Ionic architecture for Wisdom. In the West, the Senior Warden has two pillars of the Doric architecture for strength. And in the South, the Junior Warden has two pillars of the Corinthian architecture for Beauty.



# Advertise and Support

The Grand Lodge of Virginia permits commercial advertisement(s) in the *Masonic Herald*. This advertising helps offset the costs of publishing and distributing the *Virginia Masonic Herald*. All advertisements are approved prior to publishing, by the Grand Master or by approved guidance from the Grand Master.

The advertisement rates are:

Full Page	\$750
1/2 Page	\$500
1/3 Page	\$350
1/4 Page	\$250
Business Card	\$80



If a person or organization runs an ad in four (4) consecutive issues then a discount is given, the cost will be three (3) times the amount for the ad plus half of another same size ad, e.g., 1/2 page ad for four issues would be \$500 + \$500 + \$500 + \$250 = \$1,750 versus \$2,000.

All advertisements must be acceptable and within good taste to all Masons and portray good wholesome Masonic values. Any advertisement material must be in camera ready form. It must be submitted on or before the publication's deadline. Digital submissions must be 300 dpi, PDF, and 10% larger than the space to be filled.

All advertisement bills must be paid to the Grand Lodge office prior to the ads being placed into an issue. No advertisements will be placed in the Herald after the submission deadline has passed.

Advertisements for alcohol, nicotine, drug related, or sexual items, etc., will not be considered for publication. Un-Masonic advertisements will be rejected.

**Masonic Herald Deadlines**

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Date</b>
Winter	November 1
Spring	February 1
Summer	May 1
Fall	August 1

"Freemasonry has no dogma or theology. It offers no sacraments. It teaches that it is important for every man to have a religion of his own choice and to be faithful to it in thought and action. As a result, men of different religions meet in fellowship and brotherhood under the fatherhood of God. I think that a good Mason is made even more faithful to the tenets of his faith by his membership in the Lodge."

*Brother and Reverend Dr. Norman Vincent Peale*

**Fifty-Year Veterans**

Bro. Ashby Wiley Rhea  
 Bro. Charles Everett Bolyard, Jr.  
 Wor. Claude Samuel Shelton  
 Bro. David Elliot Cullen, Sr.  
 Wor. Edgar Leroy Little  
 Bro. Frederick Carr Harrell  
 Bro. Harold Edward Lester  
 Wor. Harry Lee Self  
 Bro. Henry Earl McPherson  
 Wor. Herbert Harris Shipe  
 Wor. Herbert Hobson Eades, Jr.  
 Wor. James Wellington Martin  
 Bro. Jimmie Lee Davenport  
 Wor. Jimmy Harlow Singleton  
 Wor. John Benford McGregor  
 Bro. Joseph Trimble Monroe  
 Bro. Kelly Franklin Viers  
 Bro. Kenneth Richard Nelson  
 Bro. Marvin Dean Beasley  
 Wor. Michael Taylor Boggs  
 Bro. Nattie Thomas Strong  
 Bro. Richard Hallie Smith, Jr.  
 Bro. Richmond Henre Dugger, III  
 Wor. Robert Edward Fielding  
 Wor. William Pulley Rickard, III  
 Bro. James Madison Wilkinson, II  
 Wor. John Benford McGregor  
 Bro. Marvin Dean Beasley  
 Bro. Russell Kenneth Coyner  
 Bro. Charles Brian Fisher  
 Wor. Walter Lee Sullivan  
 Wor. Charles Richard Vick  
 Bro. William Jarrell Vinson, Jr.  
 Bro. James Ronald Olinger  
 Wor. Robert Crews Eades, Sr.  
 Bro. Steven Franklyn Dowd  
 Bro. Arland L. Mathias  
 Bro. Robert Joseph Flynn, Jr.  
 Bro. Stuart Shelton Clements, Jr.  
 Bro. David Glenn HollandsWorth  
 Bro. Steven Otis Willis  
 Bro. Dale Raymond Cyr  
 Bro. Claude Mason Carr  
 Bro. Denver Darwin Roupe  
 Bro. Henry Vernon Cashwell  
 Bro. Robert Alapheus Blake  
 Bro. Russell Kenneth Coyner  
 Bro. Avery Alexander Richardson  
 Bro. Brian Craig Barnes, Sr.  
 Bro. Carl Mason Gardner  
 Bro. Ellis Eugene Pugh  
 Wor. Joseph Lacy Almond  
 Bro. Marvin Wayne Lester  
 Wor. Russell Bailey Clark, Jr.  
 Wor. Walter Lee Sullivan  
 Bro. William Jarrell Vinson, Jr.  
 Bro. Basil Eugene Riley  
 Bro. Charles Brian Fisher  
 Wor. Charles Richard Vick  
 Wor. Clifford Nelson Atkinson  
 Bro. Danny Eldon Moore  
 Bro. Ivan Theodor Miller  
 Bro. James Madison Wilkinson, II  
 Bro. John Henry Smith  
 Bro. Joseph F. Varney, Jr.  
 Bro. Joseph Trimble Monroe  
 Bro. Marion Culpepper Love, Jr.  
 Bro. Paul E. Moore  
 Bro. Robert Pigott Sharp, Jr.  
 Bro. Robert Joseph Flynn, Jr.  
 Bro. Stuart Shelton Clements, Jr.  
 Bro. Ivan Theodor Miller  
 Bro. Harry Eugene Lawson  
 Bro. James Harold Belcher  
 Bro. Michael D. Stumpp  
 Bro. Robert Edward Kambarn  
 Bro. Gary W. Grant  
 Wor. William Devany Spruill, Jr.  
 Bro. Michael Zangwell Blumberg  
 Bro. Walter Grayson Satchell, Jr.  
 Wor. Alfred Dunlap Hurt, Jr.  
 Bro. Robert Mckendley Jackson  
 Bro. William Gordon Estes, Jr.  
 Bro. Henry Vernon Cashwell  
 Bro. John Phillip Schoendorff  
 Bro. Edward Bartlett Baker  
 Bro. Ronald Lynn Saunders

Wor. Robert Calvin Hudgins, Sr.  
 Bro. Harry Eugene Lawson  
 Wor. Loyd Evan Davis  
 Bro. William Edward Chittenden  
 Bro. Ellis Eugene Pugh  
 Wor. George William Thomas, Jr.  
 Bro. James Harold Belcher  
 Bro. Michael D. Stumpp  
 Bro. Robert Edward Kambarn  
 Bro. William John Black  
 Bro. William Leslie Robinson  
 Bro. Arland L. Mathias  
 Bro. Claude Mason Carr  
 Bro. Dale Raymond Cyr  
 Bro. Danny Eldon Moore  
 Bro. Denver Darwin Roupe  
 Bro. Gary W. Grant  
 Bro. James Ronald Olinger  
 Bro. Paul E. Moore  
 Bro. Robert Alapheus Blake  
 Wor. Robert Crews Eades, Sr.  
 Bro. Steven Franklyn Dowd  
 Wor. William Devany Spruill, Jr.  
 Wor. Robert Dennis Lockwood  
 Bro. Douglas Preston Adkins  
 Bro. Freeland Ervillie Cook  
 Bro. John Carlton Lowry  
 Wor. John Manning Jett, Sr.  
 Bro. Mark Prescott Dunham  
 Bro. Johns William Bailey  
 Bro. Victor Rudesindo Golderos, III  
 Bro. Freeland Ervillie Cook  
 Bro. Jeffrey Michael Zwerdling  
 Bro. Freddie Gene Stevens  
 Wor. Michael Bruce Montgomery  
 Bro. Walter Carlton, Jr.  
 Bro. Harold Thomas McAdams  
 Bro. Barry Kenneth Peele  
 Bro. Delano Farmer  
 Bro. Norberto Juan Rossini  
 Wor. Neil Gene Lilly  
 Bro. Kenneth Ray Overman  
 Bro. Barry Kenneth Peele  
 Bro. Freddie Gene Stevens  
 Wor. Bobby Leon Gardner  
 Wor. Carlbert Earl Whitaker  
 Bro. Clarence Eugene Williams  
 Bro. Joseph Franklin Pippen  
 Bro. Kenneth Wayne Jessup  
 Bro. Donald Dean Goins  
 Bro. Delano Farmer  
 Bro. Norberto Juan Rossini  
 Wor. Walter Winchell Young  
 Bro. Dennis Albert Miller  
 Bro. Floyd Edwin Waterfield, Jr.  
 Bro. Frank Keyser Kirtley, Jr.  
 Wor. Frederick Louis Gosain  
 Bro. Robert Aiken Wheeler  
 Bro. Robert Lee Burnett, III  
 Wor. Harold Hampton Booth, Jr.  
 Wor. James Larry Fannon  
 Bro. Johns William Bailey  
 Bro. Kenneth Wayne Jessup  
 Bro. Paul Wayne Horton  
 Wor. Wayne Keith Hurd  
 Wor. Alfred Dunlap Hurt, Jr.  
 Wor. Carlbert Earl Whitaker  
 Wor. Charlie Fletcher Clay  
 Bro. Douglas Preston Adkins  
 Bro. Edward Bartlett Baker  
 Bro. Elton Lorraine Kessel, Jr.  
 Bro. Harold Thomas McAdams  
 Bro. Jeffrey Michael Zwerdling  
 Bro. John Carlton Lowry  
 Bro. John Phillip Schoendorff  
 Bro. Joseph Franklin Pippen  
 Bro. Leon Theodore Harris  
 Wor. Loyd Evan Davis  
 Bro. Mark Prescott Dunham  
 Wor. Michael Bruce Montgomery  
 Bro. Michael Clark Strickland  
 Bro. Michael Zangwell Blumberg  
 Wor. Neil Gene Lilly  
 Wor. Robert Calvin Hudgins, Sr.  
 Wor. Robert Dennis Lockwood  
 Bro. Robert Mason White  
 Bro. Ronald Harris Hill  
 Bro. Ronald Lynn Saunders  
 Bro. Victor Rudesindo Golderos, III

Bro. Walter Carlton, Jr.  
 Bro. Walter Grayson Satchell, Jr.  
 Bro. William Edward Chittenden  
 Bro. William Gordon Estes, Jr.  
 Bro. William John Black  
 Bro. William Leslie Robinson  
 Bro. Dennis Earl Williams  
 Bro. James Kenneth Spruill  
 Wor. James William Nunley  
 Bro. Jay Tronfeld  
 Bro. Elton Lorraine Kessel, Jr.  
 Bro. Lester H. Albers, Jr.  
 Bro. Gene T. Andrews  
 Bro. William Edmond Baker  
 Bro. Gerald Arrington Bell  
 Bro. Charles Jacob Belote  
 Rt. Wor. Clayton Arthur Bemis  
 Rt. Wor. Ward Bruce Bolt  
 Bro. Archie Wilton Braly  
 Rt. Wor. Billy Darrell Breeding  
 Bro. Frank Overton Brooks, Jr.  
 Bro. Carroll Evans Brown  
 Wor. Ronald Eugene Burke, Sr.  
 Rt. Wor. William Corbett Campbell  
 Bro. Vernon Lee Chilton  
 Wor. Guster Clevenger Clifton  
 Bro. Hugh Willis Compton  
 Wor. Wellington Sherwood Corbin  
 Bro. Danny Dale Crawford  
 Wor. Charles Melvin Culley  
 Wor. Charles Melvin Culley  
 Rt. Wor. Gerald Romain Cyrus, Sr.  
 Bro. William Stephan Dail  
 Bro. Perry Lee Dark  
 Wor. James Gordon Davidson  
 Bro. John Sidney Deason, III  
 Bro. Luisito Toledo Dela Cruz  
 Bro. Fred Cushing Dunevant  
 Bro. Joel A. Edwards  
 Wor. John Harry Epperson  
 Bro. Douglas Mack Fleming  
 Rt. Wor. Jimmy Dean Forrester  
 Bro. Edward Leroy Fournier  
 Wor. Harold Russell Giles, Jr.  
 Bro. Howard Elliott Gordon  
 Bro. Carl Bruce Hallstead  
 Bro. James Thomas Hare, Jr.  
 Bro. Charles Cawley Harris  
 Bro. William Christopher Hight  
 Bro. David Wayne Holland  
 Rt. Wor. Dolan Junior Housden  
 Bro. Floyd Atwood Howlett  
 Bro. Richard Clyde Javins  
 Bro. Douglas Webster Jewell, Sr.  
 Bro. Elbert Earl Keel  
 Bro. James Greer King  
 Bro. Michael Nicholas Klecz  
 Bro. Knud Robert Knudsen  
 Bro. Robert Jackson Lowe, Sr.  
 Rt. Wor. Obediah Allen Martin  
 Bro. William Gerald Messengill  
 Bro. Fred A. Masterson  
 Wor. Gary Edward McGaughey  
 Rt. Wor. Glenn Elbert McNeece  
 Bro. Richard Phelps Miller  
 Bro. Robert Gemmill Moul  
 Bro. Carl Edward Mullins  
 Wor. Derrick Tucker Napier  
 Bro. Richard William Orloff  
 Wor. Dudley Madison Palmer  
 Bro. Thomas Olin Paschal  
 Wor. Ernest Lee Perkins  
 Bro. Luther Dannis Priest  
 Bro. Bernard Carlton Puckett  
 Bro. Rodney John Rudnick  
 Bro. Robert William Rummel  
 Bro. Jonathan Solomon Ruskin  
 Bro. Florentino Salles Salud  
 Wor. Freddie Lee Settle  
 Wor. Craig Arthur Sharp  
 Bro. Frederick Wayne Smith  
 Bro. David Ryland Smith  
 Bro. Richard Albert Stevenson  
 Bro. Bryan William Stotler  
 Bro. John Mirl Taylor  
 Rt. Wor. Edgar Dewane Turner  
 Rt. Wor. Billy Wayne Vaught  
 Bro. Jack Eugene Vestal  
 Bro. James Raymond Wallace

# For Masonic Veterans

23 and February 15, 2024 +

Bro. Robert Grant Walls, Jr.  
Wor. Daniel Noah Ward  
Bro. Allen Clyde Williams  
Rt. Wor. Michael Earl Williams  
Bro. Clarence Wesley Wilson  
Bro. Roger Dale Wood  
Wor. Reverdy Edmond Wright  
Wor. Jay Hanson Wruck  
Bro. Stanley Zane Yarbro

## Sixty-Year Veterans

Wor. James Calvin Caton  
Wor. Lawrence Edwin Smoot  
Wor. Thomas Carey Lawson, III  
Bro. William Roger Gray  
Wor. William Thomas Gilbert  
Wor. McDonald John Edmondson  
Wor. Wayne Allen Evans  
Wor. Robert Lafayette Pannell  
Wor. Elijah Asbury Wilkerson  
Bro. David Allan Page  
Wor. Paul Forrest Ritenour, Sr.  
Bro. Frank Lee Taylor, Jr.  
Bro. Bernard Allen Nash  
Wor. Joseph Francis Thornton  
Bro. John Joseph Haymans, III  
Bro. Wallace Finley Hawkins, III  
Bro. David Allan Page  
Bro. Robert Elmer Montgomery  
Bro. John Joseph Haymans, III  
Bro. William Holland Waters  
Bro. Gene Edward Evans  
Bro. John Austin Buchanan  
Bro. John Stephen Fitzgerald  
Wor. Dewey Stanley Milligan  
Bro. George Minor Hill  
Bro. Frank Lee Taylor, Jr.  
Bro. Thomas Cleveland Sawyer, Jr.  
Bro. Wallace Finley Hawkins, Jr.  
Bro. Gene Allen Fickler  
Bro. Bernard Allen Nash  
Wor. Elijah Asbury Wilkerson  
Bro. John Edward Bransford  
Wor. Joseph Francis Thornton  
Wor. Wayne Allen Evans  
Bro. Merrick Burl Vincent  
Bro. Raymond Spencer Forrest  
Wor. Jack Wayne Burks  
Bro. George Franklin Atwell  
Bro. James Franklin Hespeler, III  
Bro. Sidney Marvin Supple  
Bro. John Robert Mrotek  
Bro. Gene Gatewood Crittenden  
Bro. Nelson Davenport Luncford  
Bro. Raymond Spencer Forrest  
Bro. Robert Boice Edwards  
Wor. Dewey Stanley Milligan  
Bro. Robert Elmer Montgomery  
Bro. Sidney Marvin Supple  
Bro. John Edward Bransford  
Bro. Herbert Franklin England, Jr.  
Bro. Aster Couch  
Bro. Gene Allen Fickler  
Bro. Gene Edward Evans  
Bro. George Minor Hill  
Wor. Jack Wayne Burks  
Bro. John Austin Buchanan  
Bro. Merrick Burl Vincent  
Bro. Richard Douglass Brigman, Jr.  
Bro. Thomas Cleveland Sawyer, Jr.  
Bro. William Holland Waters  
Bro. Eldon Dautridge Sharples, Jr.  
Bro. Steven John Abramedis  
Rt. Wor. Harold Philip Anten  
Wor. Albert Thornhill Baber, Jr.  
Bro. Lowell Bradley Baughan  
Bro. Peyton Beirns Baughan  
Wor. George Raymond Bierman  
Bro. William Day Blaylock  
Rt. Wor. Geronimo Vernon Boggs  
Bro. Bernard Coles Buchanan, Sr.  
Bro. Thomas Lee Bucher  
Bro. Garney Eudean Carter  
Bro. Johnny Barton Cornett, Sr.  
Bro. Billy Joe Edwards  
Wor. Allen Brittan Hess  
Bro. Clarence Edgar Hill, Jr.  
Bro. George Edward Hockaday



L-R: Jeremy A. Roland, Worshipful Master, Most Worshipful Alan W. Adkins (1997), Most Worshipful V. Stuart Cook (2017), Worshipful Guy P. Richardson, and Most Worshipful Frederick G. Martin, III (2003).

Several members and visitors joined in congratulating Brother Richardson on this special occasion. Most Worshipful V. Stuart Cook (2017) presented Worshipful Guy P. Richardson his 75-Year Veteran's Award at the January 8, 2024, Stated Communication of Westhampton Lodge No. 302. Brother Richardson served as Worshipful Master in 2007. Those Brethren participating in the ceremony were

Bro. Bruce Milford Kendall  
Wor. Leon Dee Layman  
Bro. Ronald Allen Lee  
Bro. John Russell Lindstrom  
Rt. Wor. John Vaiden Matthews, Jr.  
Bro. Charles William Mayernik  
Bro. James Naff Mitchell  
Rt. Wor. Richard Gustavus Motley  
Bro. Raymond McDonald Muncey  
Bro. Daniel Edmond Necessary  
Bro. James Winston North, Sr.  
Bro. Ted O'Brien  
Bro. George William Pickeral  
Rt. Wor. Thomas Clayton Ransone  
Bro. Harold Eugene Russell  
Bro. William Charles Sherwood  
Bro. Frederick Bernard Smith  
Bro. Harold D. Smith, Jr.  
Bro. Benjamin R. Spangler  
Bro. Norman Lee Sprague  
Bro. Robert Witt Stilley  
Rt. Wor. Ernest Allen Talbert  
Bro. James Henry Tomlin, Jr.  
Bro. John William Wallace  
Bro. Billy Bennett Ward  
Wor. Granville William White  
Bro. L. Timothy Whitmore  
Bro. Harvey Clarke Williams  
Bro. Charles Sherman Wooten  
Bro. Harry Elmer Yates  
Bro. Carroll Vincent Young

## Seventy-Year Veterans

Wor. William Frederick Meyer  
Bro. Fredric Irving McGhee  
Bro. Robert Alexander Harrison, Jr.  
Wor. Willie Vernon Bradshaw  
Bro. James Allen Pearson  
Bro. Roy Alexander Stutts, III  
Bro. Fredric Irving McGhee  
Wor. William Frederick Meyer  
Wor. Willie Vernon Bradshaw  
Bro. Michael Alexander Korb, Jr.  
Bro. Oma Lee Spencer  
Bro. Michael Alexander Korb, Jr.  
Bro. Roy Alexander Stutts, III  
Bro. Billy Bowen Hawkins  
Bro. Bill Joe James  
Bro. Jack Pankey Jeffries  
Bro. William Ray Reynolds  
Bro. Henry Randolph Shelton  
Bro. James William Tapscott

## Seventy-Five-Year Veterans

Wor. James Carrol Counts  
Bro. Orvil Cranfill Metheny  
Wor. Guy Preston Richardson

# Masonic Awards and Recognition



L-R: Wor. Joe Langdale, Joe Benedetti (FISH President), Maura Rush (FISH Director), Kathleen Pock (FISH Newsletter Editor), Wor. Peter Booker.

Williamsburg Lodge No. 6 had the honor of awarding the Community Builders Award to FISH Inc. FISH is a volunteer-operated, non-profit organization that provides food, clothing, and

small housewares to persons in need who live in Williamsburg, James City County and York County. Williamsburg No. 6 has had the privilege of contributing monthly donations to this wonderful organization.



L-R: Wor. David Silcox, Rt. Wor. Russell Pence, Noah Yoder (Manager at Mercy House), Wor. Matthew Frakes

Rockingham Union Lodge No. 27 in collaboration with "So Mote It Beef BBQ," delivered four smoked turkeys and one smoked ham to the Mercy House, Inc. in Harrisonburg for the Thanksgiving holiday.



These two Worshipful Brothers of St. Johns Lodge No. 144 were presented their 50-Year Veteran's Award card, pin, and certificates by Right Worshipful Lee Kern.



Secretary Bill Harvey (left) and Senior Warden David Carter (right) made a large contribution of coats and winter wear to the staff of Liberty Baptist Church's Clothes Closet. Monroe Lodge No. 301 conducted a 'coat drive' within the Lodge to make this contribution to the outreach. This project is a continuation of the Lodge's Acts of Kindness to their community.



**M. "George" Clark LUTCF, CEP**

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 george@kscbenefits.com  
 KSCBenefits.com

705 Mobjack Place, Suite A  
 Newport News, VA 23606



# Masonic Awards and Recognition



Melissa Roach King was presented the Community Builders Lodge from Anderson Lodge No. 258, in Gretna. King is the owner and operator of the Fancy Frog Restaurant and Catering. King received the award from Worshipful Danny Grayson Rowles, Treasurer of Anderson Lodge No. 258. The event took place during the Lodge's Fall Dinner for Widows and Christmas Saturday Night event. The dinner was held at First Baptist Church Gretna.



L-R: Bro. John Albert, Rt. Wor. Brian L. Bosley, Wor. Kenny Thomas, Bro. Audrey King, Rt. Wor. Will Bryan, and Rt. Wor. Brett Shifflett.

The Brothers of Charles F. Shuler No. 103). Lodge No. 74 in conjunction with "So Mote It Beef," continued their tradition of providing hams to families in need. They were supported by members of every Lodge in District 5 (Ashlar Lodge No. 125 of Shenandoah, Magnetic No. 184 of Stanley, Lafayette Lodge No. 137 of Luray, along with Mount Jackson

Ten hams were delivered to area families and three were delivered to the "West Luray Rec Center" to help provide meals for those in need. Along with the hams, \$350 was raised for further community outreach activities.



L-R: Wor. James D. Pitts, Jr., Rt. Wor. Gordon L Jones, Bro. R. Bruce Murray, Wor. John A. Robins, Jr., Wor. Richard P. Lewter, Rt. Wor. F. Davis Wilson, Wor. M. Heath Bray, Wor. David E. Birdsall, Jr. , Bro. Ben S. Rennolds, Jr. , Wor. R. D. Johnson, II, and Wor. Eric S. Smith.


The newly installed of officers at Urbanna Lodge No. 83, for 2024.

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# Masonic Awards and Recognition



wreaths on grave-sites at our Nation's military cemeteries across the country.

When some of the Masonic District 1A Brothers first started supporting WAA in December 2014, there were not enough wreaths to cover the graves. We could load both arms with wreaths and make several trips from the trucks to the headstones. In recent years, WAA has become a huge success with thousands of people lining up at Arlington and Alexandria National Cemeteries to place one to two wreaths on headstones and memorials. Now, the pressing need is to increase the volunteer force to help with "Wreaths Out" in January.

Brothers from Andrew Jackson Lodge No. 120, Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22 and Henry Knox Field/John Blair Lodge No. 349, their family members, and friends gathered at Arlington National Cemetery for "Wreaths Out."

"Wreaths Out" is not as glamorous and press worthy as the "Wreaths In" aspect of Wreaths Across America (WAA) <https://www.wreathsassamerica.org/> where over two million volunteers nationwide remember the fallen, honor those who serve, and teach the next generation the value of the concept of freedom of how we were raised. Wreaths are provided through the WAA donations. Volunteers place



teers. We started at the site of Brother President William Howard Taft and spread out from there picking up wreaths from the graves and depositing them in dumpsters. The snow slowed down the effort but was not a deterrent. Brother Ron Craft's family provided much needed breakfast burritos to give us strength.



Everyone that participated are planning on supporting this worthwhile event next year through wreath sponsorships and showing up to honor those resting in peace at our National cemeteries. We will send out recruiting requests to help next year. We have a few months to come up with more effective "Wreaths Out" working tools for the job.



The Worshipful Russell Davidson of Staunton River Lodge No. 155. The Grand Master, Jack K. Lewis, made an official visit to our Lodge and our Lodge officers.



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# Masonic Awards and Recognition



Andrew Jackson Lodge No. 120 is proud to present the Oklahoma Masonic Indian Degree team made up of Native American Freemasons from the state of Oklahoma. The team travels around the state, country, and world performing the Master Mason Degree according to the Oklahoma Grand Lodge ritual. The second section of the Degree is performed in full Native American regalia.

In addition to degree work the team also puts on educational programs, which include Native American sing-

ing, dance, and a Q & A session. The degree work is for the enjoyment of Master Masons everywhere. The educational programs are for everyone. The whole family is invited to attend all except the Master Mason's Degree.

The event will be held at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Theater, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria, on July 6, 2024. There are a limited number of tickets available, so please order yours early.

This program is being sponsored by Andrew Jackson Lodge No. 120 for the benefit of MAHOVA. Tickets are \$200 each. This will be a fully tax-deductible donation for donors who support the Masonic Home. Please make your check to MAHOVA-Your Masonic Community and mail to MAHOVA,

Development Office, PO Box 7866, Henrico, VA 23231-0366. Or you can pay online at MAHOVA.org and click donate now to choose the OKLAHOMA Masonic Degree.



The enclosed picture is Brother Benjamin R. Spangler who was Initiated on July 29, 1961, Passed on August 8, 1961 and Raised on September 23, 1961 in Stuart Lodge No. 224 in Lebanon.

Due to some misinformation as to his whereabouts on the anniversary of his 60-Year Veteran's Award, we were un-

able to present the Veteran's Pin to him, but we have since made contact, apologized, and presented him with his pin.

Brother Spangler is approaching ninety-five years old and lives alone with his dog and cat.

## MAHOVA Selects New Chief Executive Officer

Recently, the governing board unanimously adopted a resolution accepting the CEO Search Committee's recommendation to hire Randy P. Smith as MAHOVA Chief Executive Officer. The previous CEO, Anne B. Hagen, announced her retirement this past summer and is entering into a well-deserved retirement. Anne has faithfully served MAHOVA since August 2009. She began her career as Chief Financial Officer, advanced to Vice President and CFO, before being named CEO in 2019. In its decision to select a successor to Anne Hagen, the governing board sought to continue the standard of excellence forged by Anne's vision and leadership through the pandemic and with the caring staff so loved by the residents.

Worshipful Samuel M. Jones, President of MAHOVA, explained that the residents and the staff maintain a very close relationship, "just like we're one big family." Worshipful Brother Jones pointed out that MAHOVA was recognized five out of the last six years by the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* as one of Richmond's Top Places to Work.

Smith, a resident of Williamsburg, has served the needs of seniors in over



**Randy P. Smith**  
Chief Executive Officer for MAHOVA

nineteen states, mostly on the east coast, and is highly honored to be contributing to the lives of the residents of MAHOVA. "I am very excited to share with the entire Masonic community in Virginia the kind, caring and respectful environment on display at MAHOVA and look forward to continuing the Governing Board's important mission."

Smith brings with him nearly twenty years of experience in senior living through various regional and executive

positions. He also brings a well traveled viewpoint for caring service to seniors. Smith said he appreciates the governing board's confidence and looks forward to serving the board and MAHOVA's residents and family members.

Randy and Anne have been working closely together over several weeks, meeting with as many of our board, residents, family, staff, and Masons as possible since his arrival at MAHOVA. In late January, MAHOVA's annual Employee Awards Event attended by both residents and employees was held. Randy led the recognition and celebration of over 300-years of service, the employee of the year, along with Anne's retirement. Randy has been quite impressed by the tenure of our staff, the quality of care provided to our residents and the beauty of our campus.

Be sure and take the time to introduce yourself to Randy the next time you visit MAHOVA. His office door is always open for friends and visitors, and he looks forward to meeting you!

MAHOVA - Your Masonic Community is a continuing care community dedicated to retired Master Masons, their wives, and widows and other select family members.

Randy Smith, a resident of Williamsburg, has served the needs of seniors in over nineteen states, mostly on the east coast, and is highly honored to be contributing to the lives of the residents of MAHOVA. I am very excited to share with the entire Masonic community in Virginia the kind, caring and respectful environment on display at MAHOVA and look forward to continuing the Governing Board's important mission.



## MAHOVA Honorariums and Memorials

Many Lodges and individuals contribute a gift to the Masonic Home to either honor a living person or a Lodge out of respect and appreciation or to generate a legacy of care in honor of one who has passed to the Celestial Lodge above. As these tax-deductible gifts are received by the Home, acknowledgments of the gift, but not the dollar total, are sent to the person honored or to the family of the person memorialized. In grateful recognition of these touching gifts and to recognize those persons so honored, we call attention to the following combined list of memorial and honorarium gifts that were made to the Masonic Home.

<b>Honor/Memorial</b>	<b>Donor Name</b>	<b>Honor/Memorial</b>	<b>Donor Name</b>
Willie Adams	Varina Lodge No. 272	Evelyn Holliday	Terry F. Hilton
Wayne Andrews	Richard K. Brown	Richard Hurt	Kathryn Selby
James H. Ash	James O. Ash	Winfred Isgett	Terry F. Hilton
Stafford and Lillian Bolton	Susan B. Ayres	John Jenkins	Franklin Lodge No. 151
Louis Bradshaw	Warwick Lodge No. 336	David Johnson	Carter Lodge No. 323
Ronald Brookings	Joppa Lodge No. 40	Gregory Johnson	Edward M. Riley
Fay Brown	Alan W. Adkins	Randy Kangas	Joppa Lodge No. 40
John Burnette	Sandra Blanchard	Donald Kinkade	Warwick Lodge No. 336
Virginia Burton	Montrose Chapter No. 176	Alvin Smith Knight	Oriental Lodge No. 20
Sandra Butler	Michael R. Smith	Ronald W. Lane	Varina Lodge No. 272
Paul Cantor	MAHOVA Masonic Ritual Class	Steven Lantis	Terry F. Hilton
	Mildred Milby	Jack Van Leliveld	Edward M. Riley
Richard Carden	Georgeen Carden	Julius Lilly	Warwick Lodge No. 336
	John Garcia	Forest Mayhew	Thomas W. Andrews
Noah C. Carr, Jr.	James O. Ash	Joseph McGee	Botetourt Lodge No. 7
John Cole	Carter Lodge No. 323	Roy McGee	Warwick Lodge No. 336
Carrington Scott Davis	Terry F. Hilton	Roy M. McKenney	James O. Ash
William Davis	Warwick Lodge No. 336	Clara H. Meadows	Nancy M. Holder
James Terry Dean	Black Heath Daylight Lodge No. 1982		Irving G. Meadows
	Terry F. Hilton	Paul Miller	David M. O'Dell
David Dejan	Varina Lodge No. 272	Phillip Daniel Modisett	Frederick R. Dixon
Burnley Doxey, Jr.	Warwick Lodge No. 336	Chip Muncy	Mildred Milby
Charles Dressler	Dale W. Dressler	Billy Newman	Warwick Lodge No. 336
Richard Dudley	Ann Honeycutt	Lillian Price	Richard Evans
George B. Dungan	James O. Ash	Joe Rose	Edward M. Riley
Willard Eastwood	Poquoson Lodge No. 49	Donald Sink	Warwick Lodge No. 336
Don A. Evans	David R. Evans	Lee Sloppy	Cathy Hinkle
Gregory Faust	Widow's Sons' Lodge No. 60	Patricia Smith	Montrose Chapter No. 176
Leroy Freeman	Warwick Lodge No. 336	Linwood Spears	James O. Ash
Jim Fryrear	Edward M. Riley	Harvey W. Spurlock	Harvey Spurlock
Carl Gagliardi	Michael R. Aulicino	Robert Stohlman	Debra Stohlman
Ashley L. Garrett	Nancy M. Holder	Donald Strehle	Cheryl Runyon
Edna Griffith	Franklin Lodge No. 151	Harry Tomlinson	Joppa Lodge No. 40
Samuel Hay	Edward M. Riley	Don and Carol Vickers	James E. Hammond
Ronald Hill	Varina Lodge No. 272	Robert Walker, Jr.	Warwick Lodge No. 336
Woodrow Hitt	Poquoson Lodge No. 49	Christopher Wathen	Edward M. Riley
Thomas M. Holder	Nancy M. Holder	Harry B. Whitt, Jr.	Virginia May Lodge No. 38
		Jesse Yeaman	Carter Lodge No. 323





**Resident Birthdays**

Date	Resident Name	Lodge Name
<b>April</b>		
4/1	Frances Gillie	Babcock Lodge No. 322
4/1	Nancy Lee Martin	Glen Allen Lodge No. 131
4/2	Walter Davis	Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4
4/2	Ann Hobson	Babcock Lodge No. 322
4/4	John Carpenter	Meridian Lodge No. 284
4/8	Thomas Kaufman	Churchland Lodge No. 276
4/9	Shirley Robinson	Glen Allen Lodge No. 131
4/12	Marcella Campbell	Cloverhill Lodge No. 253
4/12	Jane Harrison	Widow's Sons' Lodge No. 60
4/16	Elizabeth Jones	Washington and Henry Lodge No. 344
4/18	Leta Shannon	Warwick Lodge No. 336
4/20	Kenneth Lorente	Temple Lodge No. 9
4/24	Charles Montgomery	Liberty Lodge No. 95
4/26	Peggy Roberts	Westhampton Lodge No. 302
<b>May</b>		
5/1	Seymour Kern	Covington Lodge No. 171
5/8	Lettie Muncy	Sandston Lodge No. 216
5/8	Raymond Taylor	Westhampton Lodge No. 302
5/10	John Martin	Oriental Lodge No. 20
5/11	Mildred Milby	West Point Lodge No. 238
5/12	Sue Grizzard	Westhampton Lodge No. 302
5/13	Robert Hall	Woodland Heights Lodge No. 345
5/16	Valerie Hall	Ashland Lodge No. 168
5/16	Shirley Smith	Nansemond Lodge No. 77
5/16	Bland Wade	Widow's Sons' Lodge No. 60
5/17	Zada Lea Kahn	Monitor Lodge No. 197
5/17	Daisy White	Piedmont Lodge No. 152
5/21	Rodney Van Houten	Naomi Lodge No. 87
5/21	Judy Wade	Widow's Sons' Lodge No. 60
5/22	Cleveland Grizzard	Westhampton Lodge No. 302
5/22	David Jenkins	Babcock Lodge No. 322
5/30	Gardner Rollings	Wakefield Lodge No. 198
<b>June</b>		
6/2	Kathy Matthews	Bremond Lodge No. 241
6/2	Sue Willis	Mineral Lodge No. 311
6/3	Penelope Cowne	Manasseh Lodge No. 182
6/4	Mildred Ammons	Warwick Lodge No. 336
6/4	Joseph Westfall	Petersburg Lodge No. 15
6/8	Mary "Molly" Perdue	Warwick Lodge No. 336
6/9	Albert Knapp	Richmond Lodge No. 10
6/11	Barry Snedker	Northside Lodge No. 292
6/21	Virginia Lancaster	Temple Lodge No. 9
6/23	Catherine Murray	Urbanna Lodge No. 83
6/23	Dolores Reinhold	Widow's Sons' Lodge No. 60
6/25	Thomas Johnson	Sandston Lodge No. 216
6/27	Anna Sherrod	Northside Lodge No. 292
6/28	Rebecca Lenhart	Chase City Lodge No. 119
6/30	Dolly Roberts	Varina Lodge No. 272
6/30	Deborah Sanford	Metropolitan Lodge No. 11

**Resident Anniversaries**

Date	Resident Name	Lodge Name
<b>April</b>		
4/18/1953	Theodore and Beatrice Holm	Chickahominy Lodge No. 286
<b>May</b>		
5/6/1978	Raymond and Chris Taylor	Westhampton Lodge No. 302
5/16/1961	Albert and Jean Knapp	Richmond Lodge No. 10
5/17/1969	William and Judy West	Washington and Henry Lodge No. 344
5/21/1988	Bland and Judy Wade	Widow's Sons' Lodge No. 60
5/22/1998	David Jenkins and Evelyn Harding	Babcock Lodge No. 322
<b>June</b>		
6/2/1973	Steven and Deborah Sanford	Metropolitan Lodge No. 11
6/20/1959	Charles and Althea Hinson	Elmer Timberman Lodge No. 54
6/22/1963	Cleveland and Sue Grizzard	Westhampton Lodge No. 302
6/30/1956	Blaine and Rebecca Lenhart	Chase City Lodge No. 119

**New Residents**

Date	Resident Name	Lodge Name
<b>November</b>		
11/21/2023	Ken Schlegel	Meridian Lodge No. 284
11/21/2023	Carol Schlegel	Meridian Lodge No. 284
<b>December</b>		
N/A		
<b>January - 2024</b>		
1/23/2024	William West	Washington and Henry Lodge No. 344
1/23/2024	Judy West	Washington and Henry Lodge No. 344
1/30/2024	Oscar Sherrod	Northside Lodge No. 292

**Resident Deaths**

Date	Resident Name	Lodge Name
<b>November</b>		
N/A		
<b>December</b>		
12/27/2023	Paul Canter	Sandston Lodge No. 216
12/29/2023	Anne Winder	Richmond Randolph Lodge No. 19
<b>January - 2024</b>		
1/21/2024	Fay Gardner	Metropolitan Lodge No. 11
1/26/2024	Evelyn Holliday	Norview Lodge No. 113

# MAHOVA



Candlelight hors d'oeuvres hour.



Renovated courtyard ribbon cutting.



Candlelight social hour.



Christmas celebrations.



Candlelight dinner with friends.



Christmas at MAHOVA.



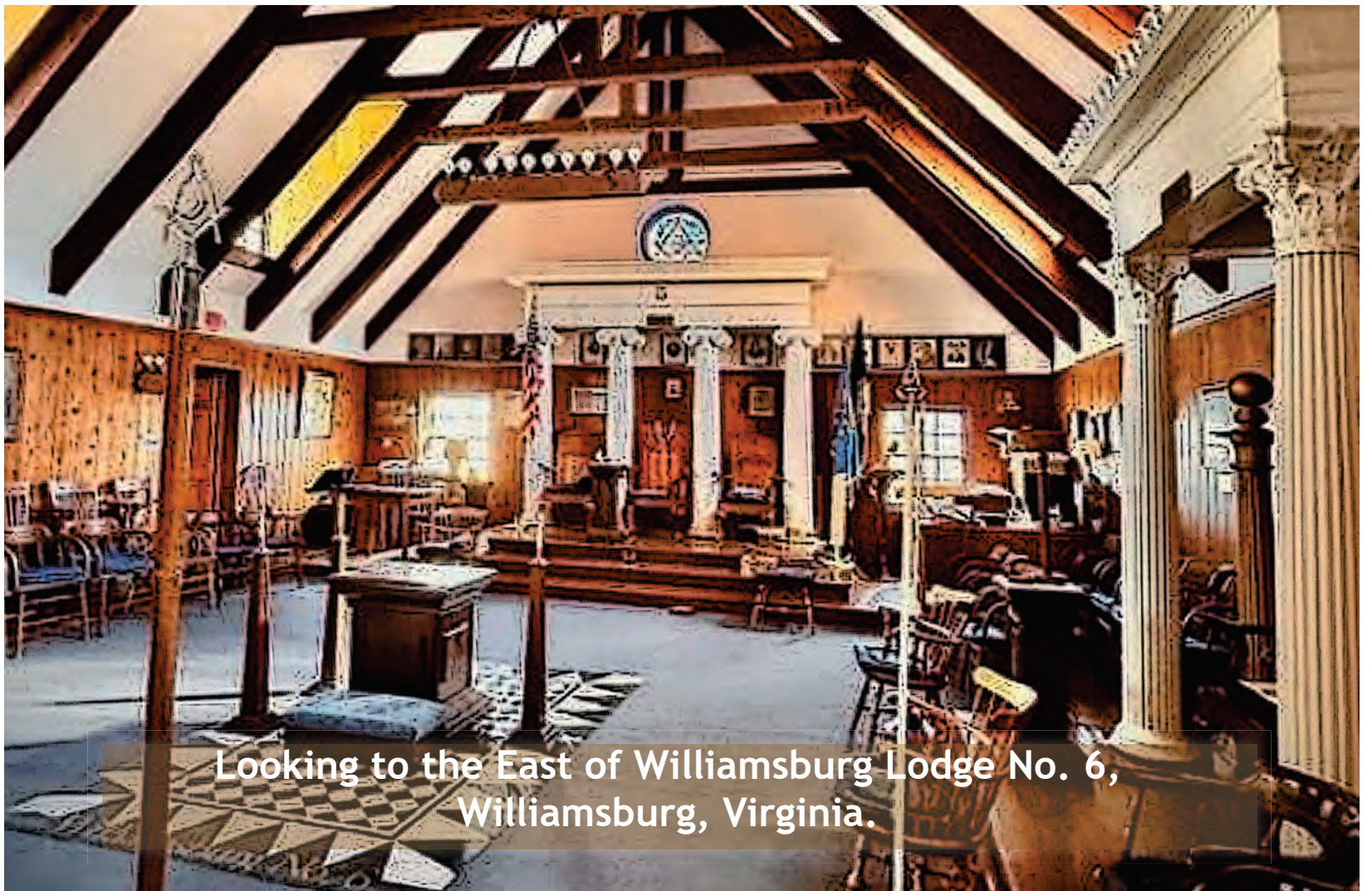
Candlelight dinner hour.



Black and white social with special guest, Larry Maples.



Gourmet dinner night.



Looking to the East of Williamsburg Lodge No. 6,  
Williamsburg, Virginia.