



Message from the Grand East



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Communications and Public Relations go hand in hand to produce the best and the most favorable impressions for our Craft. It leads to new members and new opportunities to show the World that we are truly what we say we are.

The following article appeared in the New York Times on Wednesday, October 4, 2006 and was carried not only in the New York City edition but also in the National edition as well. Be proud of what the words say and stand proud that you are a Mason, especially a New York State Mason.

Thank you

Best to all,
Neal

October 2006

Secret Society, Spilling a Few Secrets

By [JAMES BARRON](#)

For more than two centuries, the Freemasons and their grandiose rituals have played a secretive, mysterious role in American life. One of the Masons' symbols looks a lot like the all-seeing eye on the back of every \$1 bill. And look whose picture is on the other side.

George Washington was not the first Mason, and not the only famous one. Mozart worked thinly disguised touches of Masonry into operas. Fourteen presidents and everyone from the Rev. Norman Vincent Peale to the comedian Red Skelton belonged. Masons presided when the cornerstone was laid at the Statue of Liberty.

But the Masons' numbers have been steadily dwindling – whatever their secrets are, they apparently do not have one for avoiding death – and apparently do not have one for avoiding death – and their ranks have been graying. So the [New York State](#) Masons have followed other state Masonic societies in doing something that they would have once considered heretical: they are actively reaching out for new members. And, in the process, a famously reticent fraternal organization that now puts a premium on its community service has lifted its veil of secrecy just a bit.

The Masons are not giving out the secret words that members are supposed to say to get into meetings (although these days, simply showing a dues card might do). But the Masons are giving public tours of the New York Grand Lodge Headquarters.

So people can see the gilded ceiling, the marble walls, the benches along the sides for the rank and file and, at either end, the throne-like chairs for high-ranking Masons. And, in a conference room next door, there is more gold, though it is only paint on a copy of a larger-than-life statue of George Washington.

The lodge also hired a public relations firm to spread the word about its 225th anniversary, which was last month. And the Masons have run advertisements in movie theaters and run one-day classes to award the first three Masonic degrees in a single session. Until then, would-be Masons had to spend months learning what they needed to know to rise from Entered Apprentice to Fellowcraft to Master Mason.

“We’re still not thinking of it as recruiting or trying to amass people,” said Thomas M. Savini, the director of the library at the New York Grand Lodge Headquarters, on West 23rd Street and the Avenue of the Americas, “but I think we’ve reached a point where we realized that not saying anything isn’t making it any easier.”

They had also reached a point where they could not ignore what others were saying about them in “The Da Vinci Code” and other bestsellers like “The Book of Fate” by Brad Meltzer.

“What ‘The Da Vinci Code’ gave us was an opportunity to say, ‘Here’s what we are,’” Mr. Savini said.

What there is, inside the grand lodge headquarters, are a dozen ornate rooms where some 60 lodges still hold meetings regularly.

Those dozen rooms have no windows. Leading the way into one of them, the Grand Master, or leader of all Masons in New York State, Neal I. Bidnick, said the layout was no different from any other lodge room in the world, with an altar and candles in the center. At the one end are two pieces of stone, each about the size of a cinder block – one uncut, the other finished.

“We take a good man and polish the rough edges,” Mr. Bidnick said. (The Masons do not admit women.)

In the hallways of the grand lodge headquarters, the walls are crowded with framed photographs of Masons past and present, but mostly past: Hubert H. Humphrey, the former vice president; and William J. Bratton, the former police commissioner who is now the chief of police in Los Angeles.

But there are fewer names on the membership rolls than there once were: 54,000 in New York, down from a high of 346,413 in 1929. Membership rose again after World War II, rising to 307,323 in 1957 before beginning a long slide.

As Mr. Bidnick explains it, New York’s Masons are heavily involved in community service, underwriting medical research and supplying 29,000 American flags, one for every public school classroom in the city. But still there are the secret rooms where Masons gather.

“Why do we bring them into a room like this?” Mr. Bidnick asked. “Basically, all our rituals are designed to be educational. All these things they show you on TV, the assumptions are wrong.”

He has heard the conspiracy theories. “We’re often asked why we have a G” as a symbol, Mr. Bidnick said. “We had a person in here from CNN before ‘The Da Vinci Code.’ She pointed out that only in English and German does the word for God begin with a G. But masonry is an educational institution, so that G stands for geometry.”

And, on one wall, is a stained-glass panel with a G in a square and compasses.

Geometry is but one of the seven liberal arts. A Mason who could not remember the other six would need only to look up, for they are written on the ceiling: arithmetic, rhetoric, logic, grammar, music and astronomy. The four cardinal virtues – fortitude, prudence, temperance and justice – are written there, too.

And Mr. Bidnick said when Masons refer to God, they refer to the great architect of the universe. To hear him and Mr. Savini tell it, there is nothing theological in the reference. Mr. Savini said that Masonry was dogma-free. “It doesn’t tell a man how to interpret a symbol, which leaves it open to people outside to misinterpret it,” he said.

They would not describe in detail what happens in the room when members are present for a lodge meeting. Mr. Savini did dispel what he said were misconceptions – that there are secret tattoos, for example. “Masonry has nothing to do with tattoos,” he said. “You don’t get a tattoo when you become a Mason.”

Still, he himself has a tattoo, though not a Masonic tattoo.

And Mr. Savini points out that the eye on the dollar bill is not really a Masonic symbol. “We use the eye,” he said, “but opticians use the eye. It makes us look ridiculous if we say it links into some Masonic connection that was not there.”



Masonic Compact

Because I am a Freemason...

☞... I believe that **freedom of religion** is an inalienable human right and **tolerance** an indispensable trait of human character; therefore, I will stand in my Lodge with Brothers of all faiths, and respect their beliefs as they respect mine, and I will demonstrate the spirit of Brotherhood in all aspects of my life.

☞... I know that **education** and the rational use of the mind are the keys to facing the problems of humanity; therefore, I will bring my questions and my ideas to my Lodge, and strive to advance the growth of my mind alongside my Brothers.

☞... I know that the rich **tradition of Freemasonry** and its framework of **Ritual** are important platforms for growth and learning; therefore, I vow to stand upon these platforms to improve myself as a human being, and I vow to help in the mission of the Craft to provide tools, atmosphere, challenges and motivation to help each Brother do the same.

☞... I know that **charity** is the distinguishing human virtue, and that **personal community service** is the best demonstration of one's commitment to humanity; I acknowledge that words without deeds are meaningless, and I vow to work with my Lodge to provide service to the community, and to promote charity, friendship, morality, harmony, integrity, fidelity and love.

☞... I know that my obligation to community extends beyond my local sphere and is partly fulfilled in my **patriotism**: love of my country, obedience to its laws and celebration of the freedoms and opportunities it symbolizes.

☞... I know that **leadership** is best demonstrated by **commitment to serving others**; I will therefore participate in, and help work at improving individual leadership skills, and serve the Brothers of my Lodge to the best of my ability.

☞... I know that **friendship, fidelity and family** are the foundations of a well-lived life; I therefore vow to be a faithful friend to my Brothers, as I expect my Lodge to respect my personal obligations, and to treat my family as though my family were their own.

☞... I know that the last great lesson of Freemasonry -- **the value of personal integrity and the sanctity of one's word** -- is a lesson for all people in all times; I therefore vow to be a man of my word.

☞... I know that **Masonry's power is best exercised when its Light is shared** with the world at large; I therefore vow to bring the best of myself to my Lodge, in order that my growth might be fostered and nurtured, and to present myself to the world as a working Freemason, on the path to building a more perfect temple.

Because I am a Freemason,

these values and aspirations are guideposts for my progress through life.

Welcome to NETNEWS!

For those of you who are new to this publication, we hope you enjoy what you see and come back. Below you will find all you need to know in order to submit articles or pictures and the timeframes for those submissions. Suggestions and opinions are welcome.

In any case, we are gearing up for another exciting year of Free Masonry and we hope you are as excited as we are. Here are a couple of guidelines with regards to submitting information to NETNEWS.

As before, NETNEWS will focus on:

- Messages from Grand Lodge Officers;
- Messages from Grand Lodge Committees;
- Local items / News by District;
- News from around the state; and
- Calendars & upcoming events by District.

Input for NETNEWS comes from the Grand Lodge Officers, Committee Chairmen and Appendant Bodies. However, content will also be collected and/or generated by an appointed representative in each District.

Every month, you will be able to count on NETNEWS to provide you with important Masonic information you may not find elsewhere.

Please remember a couple of important rules regarding submissions that are **not** identical to those of ESM. The two publications may be similar, but NETNEWS is a monthly publication and ESM is quarterly. ESM deadlines are on the first of the months due and NETNEWS is due on the 5th.

- **ALL INPUT DUE BY THE 5TH OF THE MONTH**
- Written information should be in Microsoft Word, Text File, or Email
- Please include your name and contact information (address, email and/or phone number) with your submission. All submissions selected for publication will be reviewed and you will be contacted to confirm authenticity. Please understand that anything submitted without the proper permission or forms cannot be published.
- Anything you submit must either be original or, if it has been published before, must be accompanied by written permission of the publication in which it appears as this is now copyrighted. If you wrote the article, please include a paragraph to that effect.
- Photographs must be scanned at no more than 150 DPI and saved in JPG format. Photos must be accompanied by a release stating that you have been granted permission to publish the person's likeness. If a child (under the age of 18) is in the photo, a "Child ID Photo Release Form" must accompany your submission. This form is available by going to the Forms Page on the ESM website: <http://esmason.com/forms.html>
Please make sure to tell us who is in the photo! A separate release is required for each person in the photo.
- Input and questions should be sent to: nynetnews@gmail.com OR;
Steven P. Koch
43 Robert Lane
Wappingers Falls, N.Y. 12590

The NETNEWS team looks forward to serving you, our Brothers, with the latest information on a regular basis, every month of the year.

S&F

Steven P. Koch – NETNEWS Editor

Publicity Lodge No. 1000 celebrated the 225th Anniversary of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York in Lower Manhattan at the John Street United Methodist Church, and at Liberty Plaza, the site of the World Trade Center disaster, on the day before the Fifth Anniversary of 9/11 on Sunday, September 10, 2006.

The morning began with a continental breakfast served to participants as they arrived, beginning at 8:00 AM. An organ prelude, performed by Bro. Erik E. Carlson, Organist, ended precisely at 9:00 AM, when the Interfaith Service began with a welcome extended by The Rev. Jason P. Radmacher, Minister of the John Street United Methodist Church.

RW Raymond P. Alvarez, PG Rep., Master of Publicity Lodge, led the preparation for worship, which was followed by congregational singing of America the Beautiful. The Invocation was given by Bro. Robert J. Mahony, Senior Warden, and was followed by four readings - from the Christian Tradition by W Anthony J. Miller, PM; from the Taoist Tradition by Bro. Eric J. Shorter, Junior Warden; from the Islamic Tradition by Bro. Mahony, SW; and from the Hebrew Tradition by Bro. Alan B. Stolzer, Marshal. The Master then led the congregation in prayer, followed by the singing of Let There Be Peace on Earth. The Benediction was given by RW John R. Prout, PG Treas., Treasurer of the Lodge.

The Master then called on W Dennis A. Daugherty, P.M. & Trustee of the Lodge, to assemble the Brethren in procession. The following procession was formed:

Bro. William D. Baughman, J.M.C. of Consolidated Lodge No. 31, led the company, and carried the National Flag; and then, in pairs, Bro. Alain R. Hain, J.M.C. and RW Eugene Carlson, PDDGM & PM of Publicity Lodge, as Stewards with staves; Bro. Bruce A. Laue, member of Kane Lodge No. 454 and Bro. Moises (Matt) A. Olivas, S.S. of Consolidated Lodge; Bro. Stolzer and Bro. John A. Unruh, a member of Publicity Lodge, as Masters of Ceremony with staves; Bro. Lance Dashefsky, SW of Consolidated Lodge and W John Walker Robinson, Master of Lux Aeterna Lodge No. 1184; WJohn J. Barral, Master of James W. Husted/Fiat Lux Lodge No. 1068; W Hayrettin Kiltic, Master of Kane Lodge No. 454 and W Stevan Nikolic, Master of Consolidated Lodge No. 31; and, as a lone parader, W Valery Nikolaev, Master of St. John's Lodge No. 1; Bro. Joseph Aoun, S.M.C. of Publicity Lodge and Bro. Chuka Ebere, member of Publicity Lodge, as Deacons with staves; RW John R. Prout, PG Treas. and RW Martin L. Kanter, PDDGM, First Manhattan District; Bro. Mahony, SW and Bro. Shorter, JW; RW Christopher L. Allen, DDGM, First Manhattan District, and RW Alvarez, Master; and W Miller and VW Paul D. Reitz, PAGL & PM & Secretary of Kane Lodge, as Stewards with staves. WJason P. Sheridan, PM & Sec'y of St. John's Lodge No. 1, forwent his position in the procession to take photographs.



The Parade proceeded west from the church to Nassau Street, then left on Nassau to Liberty Street, and then right on Liberty Street to Liberty Plaza. W Daugherty aligned the group in an east-west line near the chain link fence that serves as the south border of The Site, and all looked down into The Pit. The Master addressed those assembled, and RW Prout offered prayer. Bro. Hain, JMC, led the Moment of Remembrance, and read out The List of the six events which occurred on the morning of September 11, 2001, during the 102 minutes that changed Life in the United States of America forever:

- 8:46 AM Flight 11 crashed into the World Trade Center North Tower,
- 9:03 AM Flight 175 crashed into the World Trade Center South Tower,
- 9:37 AM Flight 77 crashed into The Pentagon,

9:59 AM The South Tower of the World Trade Center collapsed,
10:06 AM Flight 93 crashed in a field in Pennsylvania, and
10:28 AM The North Tower of the World Trade Center collapsed.

Each event was commemorated by the sounding of a chime.

The Master offered a closing prayer, and called for a Moment of Silence, during which the Master sounded TAPS. The group then returned to the John Street United Methodist Church in procession, and enjoyed coffee and conversation prior to departure from the church.

Others attending the service included Mrs. Elaine Alvarez, Mrs. Trudy Reitz, Ms. Brandl Frey, Ms. Sherry Laue and Mr. Vince Dominguez.

My Brothers,

Columbus Day was Monday, October 9, 2006. As they have done in the past, Garibaldi Lodge # 542 marched in the Columbus Day Parade in New York City. All Metro Deputies and Staff Officers were asked to attend and accompany the Grand Master M.: W.: Neal I. Bidnick and the rest of the Grand Lodge Line in showing the people of New York this great fraternity of ours.

The event was open to all Brothers of the craft to join. It was a great day for the Brothers who participated and celebrated the Italian heritage of Garibaldi Lodge.

The parade season is coming to an end this year, but if you still have one coming up in your area please contact me with the details and hopefully, if scheduling permits we can have some members of Grand Lodge join you for your parade.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at the parades,

Sincerely & Fraternaly

R.: W.: Roy Puckhaber, Parade Chairman



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Citation

Whereas, this month, more than 50,000 Freemasons in the Empire State will mark the start of a year-long celebration of the 225th Anniversary of the establishment of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons in the State of New York; and

Whereas, the MASONIC HALL in New York City, one of the world's architectural treasures which has stood on its present site since 1875, will be rededicated on September 9, 2006, reaffirming Freemasonic ties to ancient landmarks of their craft; and

Whereas, this significant event will commence a series of Family Day activities sponsored by Masonic groups in communities throughout New York State, reaffirming their commitment to the values of FAMILY; and

Whereas, the Grand Lodge will present more than 33,000 American Flags to community-based service organizations and schools throughout the State of New York reaffirming their pledge to uphold the ideals of PATRIOTISM; and

Whereas, this year's Grand Lodge charitable fundraising efforts will continue to benefit the students of the State of New York through Educational Assistance Scholarships, Child ID Programs and a unique and highly successful effort to help identify children at risk ... the Masonic Student Assistance Training Program for educators, reaffirming their understanding of the importance of EDUCATION and CHARITY; and

Whereas, Masons throughout New York State support hundreds of local youth groups and activities such as the Masonic Youth Camp, Camp Turk, DeMolay, Rainbow Girls, Constellation of Junior Stars, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and countless other youth organizations, reaffirming their dedication to serving YOUTH; and

Whereas, Masons of the State of New York operate a state-of-the-art health facility in Utica, New York, the Masonic Care Community campus, which proudly offers an ever-expanding and updated continuum of medically-supervised care ranging from independent living, assisted living, and skilled nursing and includes rehabilitation, as well as palliative and respite care, reaffirming their compassion and caring for the HEALTH AND WELL-BEING of our citizens; and

Whereas, Masons of New York State have established and maintained one of the foremost medical research facilities in the world, The Masonic Medical Research Laboratory in Utica, recognized and acclaimed for its pioneering and advanced studies of genetic and biological causes of heart arrhythmias, reaffirming their commitment to MEDICAL RESEARCH; and

Whereas, looking to the future, the Masons of New York are building upon a rich heritage with a purpose and vision that all citizens of our state and nation recognize, and it is fitting that we join to congratulate the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons in the State of New York and its Brothers on celebrating this milestone anniversary year;

Now, Therefore, I, George E. Pataki, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby cite the

GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK

on the occasion of the 225th Anniversary of its establishment in the great Empire State.



Governor
September 2006

ANNOUNCING

The 2006 Grand Master's Ball



GRAND MASTER'S JOURNAL

A Journal honoring the Grand Master will be published to commemorate this event. We encourage you to place an ad in the Journal. All proceeds will be distributed to our Masonic Youth Organizations and to the Masonic Student Assistance Training Program (MSAT).

Journal Ad Deadlines: Saturday • October 14, 2006
Ad Order Forms will be mailed to all Lodges.

For more information please contact:
RW Kurt Ort, Chairman
(845) 735-4557
e-mail: schiller.304@verizon.net

Include your Ad in the Grand Master's Journal. This Journal will be given to all advertisers and guests. Fill in the advertising contract below, attach your Ad and mail with your check payable to "Masonic Brotherhood Fund".

Then mail it to:
Ann: L.E. Wund
6 Garrison Rd. • Lake Carmel, NY 10512
Tel: (H) (845) 225-4132 (O) (914) 267-4067
e-mail: grandmasterjournal06@gmail.com

- Gold Page \$250
- Silver Page \$200
- Full White Page \$150
- Half Page \$90
- Quarter Page \$50
- Gold Page Booster \$10

DEADLINE FOR JOURNAL AD: October 14, 2006

JOURNAL / CHECK

SIGNATURE

(Please make a copy for your records.)

SATURDAY - NOVEMBER 11, 2006

HONORING

MW NEAL I. BIDNICK

GRAND MASTER OF MASONS IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK

6:00 p.m. - COCKTAIL HOUR
Followed By Dinner and Dancing

TICKETS \$80.00 PER PERSON

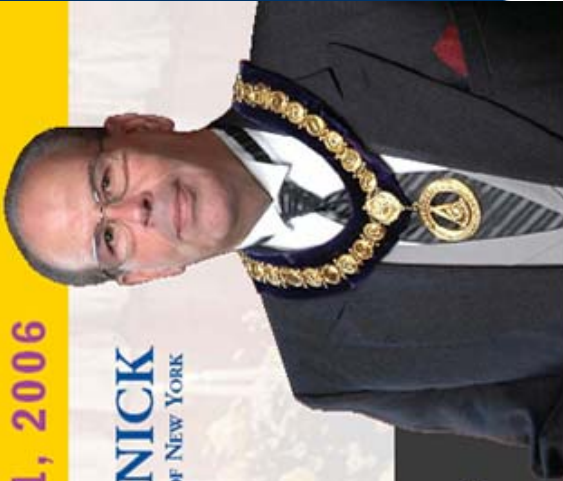
DINNER RESERVATION DEADLINE

Saturday • October 14, 2006



555 Northern Boulevard • Great Neck, NY
Phone (516) 487-7900

RESERVE NOW



2006 GRAND MASTER'S BALL

Honoring MW Neal I. Bidnick, Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York

For reservations, please complete the form below, and enclose it in an envelope with your check made payable to "Masonic Brotherhood Fund".

Then mail it to:

Ann: Kurt Ort
12 Brookhaven Court
Pearl River, NY 10965-1011
Tel: (H) (845) 735-4557
(FAX) (212) 633-2639
e-mail: grandmasterball06@gmail.com

PLEASE RESERVE SEATS / TABLES

FOR

LODGE NO.

DISTRICT

Reservation Deadline:

Saturday • October 14, 2006

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$





Grand Lodge
Free and Accepted Masons
of the
State of New York
Grand Master's Ball Committee

Kurt Ott
Chairman

Lawrence E. Wund
Journal Chairman

Ihsan Tokcu
Dinner Chairman

Dear Brothers,

A Commemorative Journal honoring our new Grand Master, The Most Worshipful Neal I. Bidnick, will be published and distributed at the Grand Master's Ball to be held on Saturday evening, November 11, 2006 at Leonard's of Great Neck. The proceeds from this Journal will benefit our youth; namely the "Masonic Student Assistance Training Program" (MSAT) as well as our Masonic youth groups; the Order of DeMolay, the Order of the Constellation of Junior Stars for Girls, International Order of Rainbow for Girls and the Organization of Triangles, Inc.

Enclosed please find contracts for your Lodge [Committee] or personal ads for the Journal. Instructions can be found on the form. Please use one for your ad(s) and feel free to pass on the other to anyone who would be interested in supporting the journal. Checks should be made payable to the "Masonic Brotherhood Fund." Contract and checks should be sent to L.E. Wund, 6 Garrison Rd., Lake Carmel, NY 10512. Ads text and graphics may be Emailed to grandmastersjournal@verizon.net or grandmasterjournal06@gmail.com. The deadline for journal ads will be October 14, 2006.

We appreciate your help in assisting me in making this Journal a success!

Sincerely & Fraternaly

Lawrence E. Wund

Lawrence E. Wund

... I know that charity is the distinguishing human virtue, and that personal community service is the best demonstration of one's commitment to humanity; I acknowledge that words without deeds are meaningless, and I vow to work with my Lodge to provide service to the community, and to promote charity, friendship, morality, harmony, integrity, fidelity and love.



Reception & Dinner

honoring

**R.:W.: Edward G. Gilbert
Deputy Grand Master**

of the

**State of New York
Free & Accepted Masons**

Saturday, October 28, 2006

at the

Buffalo/Niagara Marriott

1340 Millersport Hwy, Buffalo, NY 14221-4993

Donation: \$56.00 per person

Social Hour 5:30 - 7:00 PM

Open Bar & Hors d'oeuvres

Dinner 7:15 PM

**Prime Rib of Beef or
French Cut Chicken**

Ladies: Semi-formal

Gentlemen: Tuxedo or Dark Suit

Make Checks payable to: Erie County Masonic Foundation - Deadline October 18, 2006

W. King Mix, 248 Poinciana Pkwy, Cheektowaga, NY 14225-5212

Phone (716) 684-5946

E-mail: King5946@adelphia.net

Note: A block of Rooms has been reserved @\$99 per night. Make room reservations with the Marriott Hotel

(716) 689-6900 - Fax (716) 689-0483

Hosted by the Western Region Masonic Districts, F. & A.M.

Clip here -----

Enclosed is \$ _____ For _____ Reservations @ \$56.00 per person

Name: _____ Title _____

Companion: _____ Lodge/Organization _____

District _____

Address _____

Phone No. _____ E-mail _____

Dinner Choice: Myself: [] Prime Rib of Beef [] French Cut Chicken

Companion: [] Prime Rib of Beef [] French Cut Chicken

I prefer to be seated with: Lodge: # _____ District _____ Other _____

Make checks payable to: Erie County Masonic Foundation and

Mail to: W. King Mix, 248 Poinciana Pkwy, Cheektowaga, NY 14225-5212



*The Brethren of
Sauquoit Lodge 150, Utica Lodge 47
and the Oneida Districts*

*Cordially and fraternally invite you
to attend a dinner in honor of our own*

*R.:W.: Dennis A. Breheny
Senior Grand Warden
Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons
of the State of New York*

*Friday evening, the twenty seventh of October, 2006
Beginning with a cocktail and hors d'oeuvres reception from half past six o'clock
with dinner being served at half past seven o'clock*

*Grande Ballroom
Radisson Hotel
200 Genesee Street • Utica, NY*

*Distinguished Guests
M.:W.: Neal I. Bidnick, Grand Master
of Masons in the State of New York
Mrs. Joyce Bidnick
R.:W.: Edward Gilbert, Deputy Grand Master
Mrs. Helen Gilbert*

*Apron and Cuffs symbolizing the Office of Senior Grand Warden
Presented by the Brethren of Utica Lodge 47*

Semi-Formal Dress • \$40.00 per person • Cash Bar

RSVP, no later than the first of October, 2006

Grande Buffet featuring

Prime Rib • Turkey • Chicken Romano • Haddock Oreganato

*Please make checks payable to Sauquoit Lodge 150
John Seiselmyer, Secretary
150 Forest Street • Deerfield, NY 13502*
(315) 732-5197*

**Note the address correction for RSVP*

Dear Brethren:

Please take note that we have a *new* Customer Service Representative in the Lodge Services / Registry Department at the Office of the Grand Secretary. It is with pleasure that the Grand Secretary and I introduce Mr. David Fransen to our staff at the Office of the Grand Secretary. Up until yesterday, Mr. Fransen had been assigned to the Masonic Brotherhood Fund Department. The Grand Secretary and I assure you that we have every confidence in Mr. Fransen and his ability to provide helpful, friendly and courteous service to the members of the Craft.

All calls for Lodge Services / Registry and inquiries pertaining to the MORI System should be addressed to Mr. David Fransen, Monday through Friday between 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM at (212) 337-6647, Toll-Free at 1(800) 362-7664 Extension # 647; E-mail at LodgeServicesNY@aol.com; and Fax # (212) 463-7485.

In addition, RW Bro. Howard Bonsaing is available on a part-time basis to respond to your inquiries in the Lodge Services / Registry Department at (212) 337-6648, Toll-Free at 1(800) 362-7664 Extension # 648; and Fax # (212) 463-7485.

Our former employee, Mr. Andrew Beatrice, has accepted a position with another employer. I certainly join with the Grand Secretary in wishing him much success with his future endeavors.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Richard W. Bateman, GP
Assistant Grand Secretary
Grand Lodge F & AM State of New York

MASONIC HALL IN NYC ATTRACT 2,000 VISITORS IN TWO DAYS

GRAND LODGE HOME IS BIG DRAW IN "OPEN HOUSE NEW YORK"

One of the year's biggest tourist attractions in the "Big Apple" is "Open House New York", sponsored by the city ... this year it was scheduled for the weekend of October 7th and 8th. According to Brother Jose Javier Camacho, Chairman of Grand Lodge Masonic Hall Tours Committee, the event was an outstanding success.

According to official figures, close to 2,000 visitors participated in escorted tours through the beautiful headquarters building of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York this past Saturday and Sunday. One of the architectural gems of the capital city of the world, Masonic Hall is a prime site for visitors, Masonic and non-Masonic, from many nations of the free world. Free tours are conducted daily from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM and on weekends and holidays by appointment.

For further information, or to volunteer your time as a Masonic Hall Tour Guide, please call: 1-800-3MASON4 or (212) 337 - 6602.

Ask for our Brother Jose Camacho, Chairman of Masonic Hall Tours.

Masonic Hall is owned, operated, and maintained by the Trustees of the Masonic Hall and Home.

Grand Lecturer

Brethren;

Again I thank you Brethren for your support as I travel around the State for the Grand Lecturer Conventions. You have shown great enthusiasm and willingness to participate in improving the ritual in your Districts. I again extend an invitation to all Brothers to attend the conventions. Attendance is not restricted to officers of a Lodge.

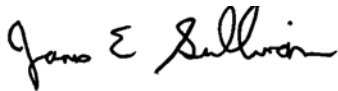
Five Lodges, so far, have qualified for the Potts Award by having the Master, Wardens, Deacons, and Masters of Ceremony in attendance as a convention. Congratulations to Alexandria Lodge No. 297 (Jefferson-Lewis), Queensbury Lodge No. 121 (Saratoga-Warren), Beukendall Lodge No. 915 (Rensselaer-Schenectady), Speedsville-Newark-Valley Lodge No. 265 (Chemung-Schuyler-Tioga), and Spencer Lodge No. 290 (Chemung-Schuyler-Tioga).

At the conventions, we have talked of the importance of supporting each other and our families. We need to show that we like each other. Show your enthusiasm to see a Brother when you see him, whether in Lodge or in your daily lives.

We have agreed that all of us need to work towards presenting the best ritual possible. Continue to improve your Openings and Closings. Practice, practice, and practice. Make sure you ask the Assistant Grand Lecturers for assistance. They are ready and willing to help.

I look forward to being with you at your Grand Lecturer's Convention.

Your Brother,



Grand Lecturer Conventions: November/December (October schedule in September NetNews)

October 10	Niagara-Orleans	November 1	Cayuga-Tompkins
October 11	Livingston	November 2	Ontario-Seneca-Yates
October 12	Cayuga-Tompkins	November 3	Niagara-Orleans
October 13	Onondaga	November 6	Herkimer
October 16	Albany	November 7	1 st Oneida
October 17	Fulton-Montgomery	November 8	Cortland-Madison
October 23	1 st Erie	November 9	Oswego
October 24	Monroe	November 13	Cattaraugus
October 26	Wayne	November 14	Sullivan
October 30	1 st & 2 nd St. Lawrence	November 15	Genesee-Wyoming
		November 16	Steuben

December 4 2nd Oneida

Mission Statement: To provide training, education, assistance, and motivation to the officers and brothers in the District Lodges in order to optimize the learning of the Standard Work and Lectures.

Grand Lodge Calendar

October to November 2006

Sunday, October 15, 2006	Building Dedication Fraternal Lodge – 2PM	Chazy
Monday, October 16, 2006	Sixth Manhattan District Apron Presentation – 6PM	NYC
Thursday, October 19, 2006	Scottish Rite 2006 Symbolic Lodge Awards	Damascus Shrine
Friday, October 20, 2006	Cayuga-Tompkins Apron Presentation & MMRL Presentation	Cayuga-Tompkins Dist
Sunday, October 22, 2006	Order of Eastern Star Testimonial Dinner	Saratoga Springs
Monday, October 23, 2006	Order of Eastern Star Grand Chapter Opening Session	Saratoga Springs
Monday, October 23, 2006	Years of Service Awards - Maimonides Marshal Lodge	NYC
Wednesday, October 25, 2006	Seventh Manhattan District - Apron Presentation	NYC
Friday, October 27, 2006	Apron Presentation - Dennis Breheny – Sr Grand Warden	Utica
Saturday, October 28, 2006	Apron Presentation - Edward Gilbert - Deputy Grand Master	Buffalo
Sunday, October 29, 2006	Apron Presentation - James Sullivan - Grand Lecturer	Lockport
Thursday, November 02, 2006	White Hat Night at Rockville Center – Valley of RVC	Rockville Center
Friday, November 03, 2006	First Degree Garibaldi Lodge	NYC
Saturday, November 11, 2006	Grand Master's Ball	Leonard's – Great Neck
Saturday, November 18, 2006	Copernicus Lodge Dinner Dance	Miller Ridge Inn
Sunday, November 19, 2006	Toys for Tots Dinner – Russo's – 12 Noon	Queens

Grand Lodge Apron Presentations

October 27	Senior Grand Warden	Dennis Breheny	Utica, NY
October 28	Deputy Grand Master	Edward Gilbert	Amherst, NY
October 29	Grand Lecturer	James Sullivan	Lockport, NY
November 11	Grand Master	Neal Bidnick	Great Neck, NY



Grand Lodge Committee Chairmen

COMMITTEE	CHAIRMAN	TELEPHONE NO.	EMAIL ADDRESS
Awards *	Gilbert J. Walter	(315) 492-5743	gwalter10@twcny.rr.com
Brotherhood Fund *	Robert D. Stack	(516) 569-1951	masonic_brotherhood_fund@yahoo.com
Camp Turk	Dennis A. Breheny	(315) 724-2226	dennisbreh@hotmail.com
Charters *	Ralph Bailey	(814) 368-9996	rwbailey78@adelphia.net
Child Identification	Charles P. Uhle	(845) 226-8145	cpuhle@aol.com
Communications Umbrella	Ronald J. Steiner	(845) 354-4192	nysmason@aol.com
Community Involvement Umbrella	Clarence J. Eckhoff Jr.	(315) 646-3564	cje52@imcnet.net
Community Service	Jordan Kaplan	(631) 730-5781	jkappiano64@aol.com
Constitutions *	Gary A. Henningsen	(609) 409-1204	garyhenningsen2@aol.com
Custodians of the Work *	Richard Friedman	(585) 425-1981	richddgm@frontier.rr.com
DGM Advisory Committee	Edward Gilbert	(716) 822-2051	RWEGilbert@adelphia.net
Endowments *	Ivan S. Obolensky	(212) 861-4240	
Finance *	Alan J. Berk	(212) 861-3012	alan-lrco@nyc.rr.com
Fraternal Correspondence	Gary A. Henningsen	(609) 409-1204	garyhenningsen2@aol.com
George Washington National Memorial	Robert E. Freyer	(516) 221-4039	
George Washington Tappan	Bernhard Nick	(845) 365-4055	thenicks@optonline.net
GL Educational Asst. Program	C.F.' Bill' Maurer	(201) 294-5503	bill@maurer.org
Grand Lodge Convention	H. Stephen Lieb	(914) 723-4476	NYGLEAP@aol.com
Historians	Kurt Ott	(845) 735-4557	schiller.304@verizon.net
Individual Development Course (IDC)	George Peter	(315) 364-8455	gp21@cornell.edu
Law Enforcement *	Lawrence J. Hammel	(718) 631-9816	ddgm5986@aol.com
Leadership & Education Services *	Martin A. Danoff	(212) 982-7144	legaleagle70@att.net
Lodge Renewal Task Force	Marino Cesarini	(516) 741-6989	marinoc1@optonline.net
Lodges and Buildings *	Martin Kanter	(732) 632-8229	shadow44@optonline.net
Long-Range Planning *	Chris Heberle	(315) 656-8326	cbhebb4@aol.com
Masonic Benevolence Committee *	Fred C. Fredrickson	(518) 861-7013	Ffredrickson@hesc.com
Masonic Blood Donor Program	Martin Kanter	(732) 632-8229	shadow44@optonline.net
Masonic Brotherhood Foundation	Michael J. MIMOZO	(631) 586-7905	MMIMOZO@aol.com
Masonic Fellowship & Family Involvement	Sheldon D. Stachel	(718) 998-8569	Sheldon.Stachel@woodhullhc.nychhc.org
Masonic Hall Tours	Bruce Widger	(315) 673-9142	drbwidger@alltel.net
Masonic Home Activity	Clayton 'Skip' Swain	(518) 863-4694	swaincom@frontiernet.net
Masonic Jurisprudence *	Jose J. Camacho	(212) 337-6600	
Masonic University of NY (MUNY)	George N. Wineberg	(315) 429-8411	buvis@usadatanet.net
Membership	Bruce Widger	(315) 673-9142	drdwidger@alltel.net
Mentoring Track	Don Vetal	(315) 491-0960	
Military OutReach Umbrella	George Peter	(315) 364-8455	gp21@cornell.edu
National Foundation for Children (MSAT)	Bruce Chilton	(585) 342-0562	boxman@rochester.rr.com
Necrology *	Arthur P. Fisch	(718) 237-0603	afisch8711@aol.com
Online Newsletter	David Crawford	(585) 482-0400	nymasons163@yahoo.com
Proctor	Thomas M. McMullin	(607) 748-6284	tmmcmullin@yahoo.com
Public Relations	Herbert M. Groce, Jr.	(973) 361-8816	archgroce@msn.com
Publications Committee *	Steven P. Koch	(845) 702-7430	Stevenpkoch@aol.com
Related Organizations	Steven Rubin	(212) 643-5402	stevenadamrubin@msn.com
Restorations *	Walter Gillis	(914) 271-5309	swgillis@bestweb.net
Technology	Ronald N. Bower	(716) 434-4946	ronnbower@aol.com
Unity *	Edward Gilbert	(716) 822-2051	RWEGilbert@adelphia.net
Veterans Service	Manuel Abad	(631) 331-3256	mabad@suffolk.lib.ny.us
Youth	Stu Card	(315) 845-6249	cards@ntcnet.com
	Daniel M. Semel	(212) 628-5613	dansem@aol.com
	Thomas M. Paglia	(716) 227-2046	
	Cary S. Cohn	(516) 781-1157	ccohn1127@aol.com



The success of each year's Masonic Brotherhood Fund Campaign is dependent upon the efficiency and knowledge of all our Chairmen, and their ability to properly solicit donations.

The MBF meetings, in different locations around the State, attribute to these goals, and make the system of recording run smoothly.

It is important that the Lodge, District, and Area Chairmen, particularly the new appointees, as well as the DDGMs, attend in their areas.

I realize that I am asking you to take some of your valuable time, and we have tried to make the locations easily accessible, and a time, which allows for convenient travel. The dates and locations are listed below. All meetings will start at the time designated and will be over as soon as the material is covered.

Please RSVP, so that proper arrangements can be made for refreshments.

I look forward to seeing you this Fall. Please make every effort to attend. Thank you.

Fraternally,
Robert D. Stack, PGT
State Chairman

Location and Dates 2006—Check time for each location

October 28th	Buffalo –Marriott Hotel 10 AM
October 30 th	Rockville Centre-Scottish Rite Temple 7:30 PM
November 4 th	Middletown Masonic Temple 10 AM
November 29th	Grand Lodge -71 West 23rd St NYC 7:30 PM



By now we have all received the 225th Anniversary Masonic Brotherhood Fund mailing in which we received a logo that should be proudly displayed for all to see. Masonry is not a secret society. Let's show it.



- *225th Anniversary Commemorative Crystal*
- *Etched with Official Grand Lodge Seal*
- *Dated 1781-2006*
- *Issued exclusively for contribution of \$100.00 to Masonic Brotherhood Fund*

In celebration of the 225th Anniversary of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York, a special crystal commemorative, finely etched with our official Grand Lodge Seal and the dates 1781-2006 will be issued exclusively to those donors who give a contribution of \$100.00 or more to the Masonic Brotherhood Fund during this landmark year.

Even if you cannot donate at this level, you have our heartfelt thanks for your support of any amount sent to help us reach our goals for Charity.

If you have been following Masonic happenings in the Empire State since Labor Day you know this has been a very active period filled with many significant events. From the start of the 225th Anniversary Year celebrating Masonry in New York on September 9th ... activities in local Lodges as well as Masonic Hall in NYC have focused great interest and public attention on our gentle craft. The pages of this edition of **NETNEWS** are filled with the latest stories and pictures of these Masonic activities. If your Lodge and District are not on line with us, why not? It is so easy to display your activities electronically, you really should plan to correct this and come on board.

This past week there was a terrific story and pictures on Freemasonry in New York in the New York Times edition of Wednesday, October 4, 2006 and still available for you to view on line by accessing our Grand Lodge website: www.nymasons.org.

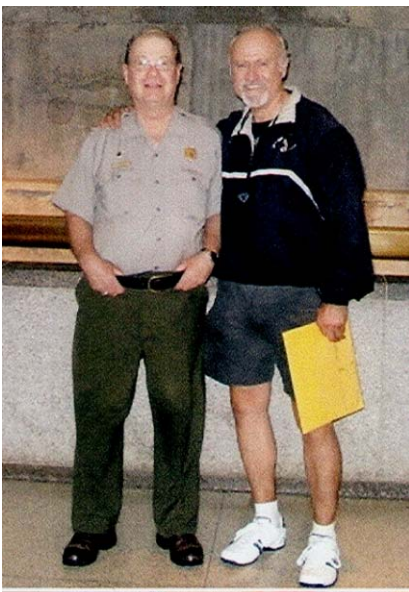
What a powerful impression! What a Public Relations coup !!!

On the front page there is a very prominent two column seven inches high four color photograph of Grand Master Neal Bidnick and RW Tom Savini in Masonic regalia (taken in the Renaissance Room of Masonic Hall) as a lead-in to the feature article by noted Times writer James Barron that appears on the front page of the second section. The bold front page caption is headlined, "From the Masons, a Few Secrets Revealed." On the FRONT PAGE of the New York Times!!!

The front page of the Metro Section is dominated by a magnificent color photograph of the imposing statue of George Washington located on the sixth floor of Masonic Hall. That very, very impressive Times photograph measures fully ten inches high and covers three columns of the Times five column format and dominates the entire page. You have to see it to fully appreciate the grandeur and beauty of that photograph.

The well written story by James Barron and is headlined, "A Secret Society, Spilling a Few Secrets." It starts on page one and continues on the second page under a four banner headline reading, "The Secretive Society of Freemasons, Spilling a Few Secrets." There is a small color photograph depicting a Masonic pin on display in the collection from the Chancellor Livingston Library.

There can be little doubt that this presentation in the prestigious New York Times will have a great positive impact and convey an important message to the reading public and our fraternity as well. The many, many comments generated in the few days since publication have all been positive and supportive. Public response to the Times story is already generating heightened interest in who we are as Masons and what we do. Look for additional media and print coverage in the months ahead as your Grand Lodge Communications team continues to do their job and put our best Masonic face forward.



RW Doug Tucker, Deputy Grand Master State of Washington, was in NYC to see the Yankees and also made time to visit the Statue of Liberty. RW C.F. William Maurer, Grand Representative of Washington State near the GL of NY, a Ranger at the Statue, had the privilege of showing the Deputy Grand Master the Masonic symbols and history of the lady in NY harbor.

THE PERSONAL TOUCH

There is nothing like a personal touch to warm one's spirits.

Have you ever been laid up because of an operation or an injury, and not been able to get out to Lodge or even to visit someone socially? It is depressing when you can't function as you have been used to doing. You know you can only watch so much TV, read papers, and thumb through so many magazines -- you need that personal touch!

Brethren, as we approach the last three months of the year, what better thing can you do than to lift someone's spirit? Whether it be a Brother who is laid up or a Brother who is unable to come to Lodge for any reason. Ask your Secretary to review the roster and advise you of Brothers who could use a spirit lift. Take the time to share some fellowship with him and his family. His spirits will rise and his family will know that the Brothers care.

I can't tell you the feeling that you will get, I can only tell you it is very rewarding from a personal experience. If you are able to give him a ride to and from Lodge, take him out to lunch now and then, and if he needs a lift to the doctor, provide it for him. You don't have to do this all by yourself -- get the Brothers of the Lodge involved. Make it a Lodge function -- after a

Just imagine if the whole Lodge visited a Brother and the newspaper got wind of it. The story and pictures would be worth their weight in gold. Just to give you an idea, every year my Lodge provides a senior citizen dinner for 100 people in the community. I mean free, with all the trimmings, along with music and singing. Do we lift their spirits, you bet and do we smile, you bet, and do we get all the Brothers to participate, you bet.

There's nothing like THE PERSONAL TOUCH.

Walt Gillis
Chairman - Public Relations
swgilles@bestweb.net

The Grand Lodge Public Relations Committee will again sponsor a series of informational seminars for Brothers who have been appointed as a **Public Relations or Community Affairs Liaison** at the District or Lodge Level.

The purpose of these meetings is to give insight into how you can best get the word out about our Masonic activities both within the craft as well as to outside media ... Short and sweet, but to the point and we hope helpful and insightful.

All interested Brothers are invited to attend.

Utica Saturday, October 28, 2006 8:30 AM - Noon
Masonic Care Community Campus
Administration Building
Lower Level Conference Center

Lockport Sunday, October 29, 2006 8:30 AM- Noon
Lockport Masonic Temple
1 Cottage Street
Lockport, NY
Park behind Lodge building and enter through the rear door, please.

Important:

Please RSVP : Walt Gillis: GL Public Relations: swgilles@bestweb.net

This committee was established in May 2006 by Grand Master Bidnick and encompasses the following programs: Blood Donor, Child ID (CHIP), Community Service and Masonic Student Assistance Training (MSAT). Each of these programs has a direct impact on community involvement. Even more, these programs each show your community that Masons are concerned and involved in their welfare.

The Masonic Blood Donor Program, a community oriented mainstay, continues to assist communities throughout the state to acquire and maintain an adequate and safe blood supply. Sheldon D. Stachel the program chairman is working hard to get ALL districts involved. Remember, BLOOD is a priceless gift - a lifesaver. For more information about this program and/or starting the program in your District and/or Lodge contact Sheldon by telephone or E-mail.

The Child ID Program continues to be the most dynamic community involvement program in this jurisdiction. Last year more than 42,000 children participated. This year, the new chairman, Charles Uhle, has raised the goal to 60,000 children. The committee has been hard at work introducing the new system into the program. For more information about this program visit their web-site at www.nychip.org.

The Community Service Program is hard at work revising the DeWitt Clinton Award requirements so that those submitting a nomination will have a much better understanding as to what is and is not required when recommending a person or organization for this award. Similarly Jordan Kaplan, the program chairman and his committee, are developing an award to replace the existing Heart in Hands Award for non Masons and non Masonic organizations.

MSAT is an intensive three-day training workshop for educators. Over the course of the three days the school team learns to identify at-risk behaviors, design interventions that have a high probability of success, and create appropriate referrals for students who may be at -risk for substance abuse, depression, suicide or violence. Program Chairman, Tim McMullin has promulgated the training sessions for the 2006-2007 school year. Have you spoken to the schools in your area about this FREE program? Tim is always available to receive your questions either by telephone or E-mail.

For more information about any of these programs go to www.nymasons.org, look on the left side of the home page and go to "GRAND LODGE@" then select "COMMITTEES and DEPARTMENTS@" then click on the desired committee.

Look for the Winter Issue of the EMPIRE STATE MASON Magazine in the mail about December 1st!



The software upgrade for the new Child ID Systems is available. The upgrade provides for easier CD burning, protects from multiple subjects being burned to a single CD, and allows for the system operator to proceed to the next subject while burning is taking place. The upgrade also reduces the time required to process a subject from 4 minutes to 3 minutes.

The CCI Child ID System is the most comprehensive tool available on the market to assist law enforcement officials in safely locating missing or abducted children. It provides for a digital photograph, along with a complete set of fingerprints and critical statistical data, burned to a mini CD. In the case a subject is reported missing, the data on the CD can easily be uploaded to the Department of Criminal Services database and the Center for Exploited & Missing Children reporting system. The information can then be broadcast through the normal channels and the search for the missing subject can commence earlier and with more accurate data.

Your Grand Lodge has purchased 18 complete units - 4 for each region and 2 for training. In addition, at least 10 Districts have purchased their own units. The 4 Regional Chairmen that have equipment to loan to District / Lodge Child ID Teams are: Metro - Joe Keeler (keeler533@msn.com); Hudson-Champlain - Gary Bolster (glbolster@nychip.org); Mid-State - Ken Bates (kbates@twcny.rr.com); and, Western - John Dwyer (dwyjo3@aol.com).

Training on the new systems has been held all over the state. To schedule additional training or informational presentation, contact the State Chairman, Charles Uhle (cpuhle@aol.com), or Vice Chairman, Al Bryant (ambryant@nychip.org). For the current Child ID Manual and forms, visit the New York CHIP website at www.nychip.org

Fraternally,
Charles Uhle
State Child ID Chairman
cpuhle@aol.com





New Video Available Tells About MSAT

Tim McMullin, Chairman, New York Masonic Student Assistance Training (MSAT) Program
Sponsored by the Grand Lodge of New York



“CCER=M” You have heard this formula. “Communication”, the first ‘C’ and “Community Service” is the second ‘C’, and ‘Education’ is the ‘E’. MSAT impacts all three! To see how, read on!

In the past five years, more than one thousand NY educators have taken the three day training in Utica, and all expenses were paid by the New York Masonic Fraternity. A new video is available about this exciting program, and it is just a click away.

To learn more about young people at risk and this great Grand Lodge program go to http://www.johnsonrauhoff.com/msap/mmsap_video.html and view the six minute video.

Brother Masons, If you would like to have a copy of this video to show to a school group or to your Lodge, email Tim at MSAT@NYMASONS.org

To register a team, Email Tim at MSAT@nymasons.org or call 1 888 694 0511

Reminder: Workshop dates for 2006-2007 are Oct 24-26, 2006; Dec 5-7, 2006; Jan 30-Feb 1, 2007; and March 27-29, 2007.

For more information, including a downloadable registration form, visit www.nymasons.org/cms/msat

Thanks for all that you do for this great fraternity of ours!

Memorial Lodge No.648 Joins with Infinity Lodge No.00 for a Lodge Meeting at the Masonic Care Community



On the evening of September 14, 2006, a very special Lodge meeting was held in the Auditorium of the Administration Building of the Masonic Care Community of New York. More than 30 members of **Memorial Lodge No.648** traveled several miles from North Syracuse to put on a Lodge Meeting of Rededication for the members of **Infinity Lodge No.00** who are residents of Wiley Hall and the skilled nursing care Health Pavilion. **RW Manfred Liehs**, Master of Memorial Lodge (who also is a Trustee of the Chancellor Robert R. Livingston Masonic Library and Museum), and **W Ray Roche**, Master of Infinity Lodge, arranged this special meeting, which was enjoyed by over a dozen residents of the Masonic Care Community (two of whom are pictured here sitting in their wheelchairs, with **W Ray Roche** and **RW Manfred Liehs**, L to R, standing behind them). Congratulations to the Brothers of Memorial Lodge for their compassionate care for their fellow Brothers!

Dutchess District does it Again: A Gift-giving Visit to the Residents of the Masonic Care Community

Every year a bus-load of Brothers and their ladies from the Lodges in **Dutchess District** visit the Masonic Care Community to give gifts to every one of the residents of Wiley Hall and the skilled nursing care Health Pavilion. It is an all-day event that the residents look forward to. Once again this year, on Saturday, October 7, almost 40 individuals, led by **RW Frederick Grieve**, the trip coordinator, traveled over 100 miles to present gifts with a Halloween theme to each resident. (One such presentation is pictured here.) Another example of Brotherly love -- which is greatly appreciated by the residents and staff of the Masonic Care Community!



Masonic Family Day at West Point

Masons, their families and friends gathered in the bright sunshine on Saturday morning, Sept. 30, 2006, at the General Douglas MacArthur Monument at West Point. Members of the Grand Line conducted a Service of Remembrance and Wreath Laying Ceremony at the monument in recognition of the service given by our Masonic Brother, General MacArthur.



The ceremony began with an invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance led by RW James E. Sullivan, Grand Lecturer. He then presented Cadet Cook, a West Point Cadet and member of a Delaware Masonic Lodge, with a Grand Lodge 225th Anniversary Flag Set to be given to the Corps of Cadets on behalf of Grand Lodge.

RW Alfred Dais, our Sr. Grand Deacon, shared his remembrances of seeing General MacArthur in the Philippines as a young boy. MacArthur, a Philippine National Hero, was making his farewell tour when Brother Dais saw him. He recounted that MacArthur's return to his country and the ouster of the Japanese saved many lives and helped his family to regain their freedom.

Our Grand Master, Most Worshipful Neal Bidnick, reminded those present about MacArthur's famous speech, containing these words, "Duty, Honor, Country - those three hallowed words reverently dictate what you ought to be, what you can be, what you will be." He recalled the imposing history of West Point and that during the 225 years of our Grand Lodge, countless leaders had been trained there. He spoke about the challenges today's cadets would face in the future and asked us to always remember those brave men and women who are now serving our country throughout the world. Grand Master Bidnick and Deputy Grand Master, RW Edward Gilbert, then placed a wreath at the base of the statue. The ceremony concluded with those present joining in the singing of God Bless America led by RW Edward Gilbert.

Following the ceremony the 4000 member of the Corps of Cadets passed in review on The Plain parade field. As the last of the cadets departed six cadets, members of the West Point Black Knights Parachute Team, made an impressive demonstration jump. Following a chicken barbecue luncheon we gathered at Michie Stadium for the football game where Rice beat Army. The energy and enthusiasm of the West Point cadets, even in defeat, was impressive.

Besides our Masonic contingent, several thousand Boy Scout were in attendance with their families. The entire day's activities showcased the values of duty, honor, and country. Values that help form the foundations of patriotism found in our Masonic Compact and carried out in life by dedicated leaders like our Brother - General Douglas MacArthur.





Camp Turk The Masonic Youth Camp

Is looking for a

CAMP DIRECTOR

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's Degree
- Minimum of 30 years of age
- Minimum of 5 years Administrative or supervising experience in camping.

Duties include:

Contract period January 1, 2007 – September 1, 2007, advertise, interview and hire staff, attend Camp Turk Committee meetings (as requested), inventory, attend vendor fairs (as requested), help prepare budget, stay within budget, notify Camp Turk Chairman of emergencies, staff evaluations, 24/7 residence at camp during the camping season, etc.

Dates for 2007 season:

<i>Staff Orientation</i>	<i>July 1, 2007 – July 8, 2007</i>
<i>Boy's Encampment</i>	<i>July 8, 2007 – July 28, 2007</i>
Girl's Encampment	July 29, 2007 – August 18, 2007

Camp Turk is located in Woodgate, New York on over 1,500 acres of land including a private lake in the Adirondack Park Preserve.

Camp Turk offers a variety of camper activities including field sports, water sports, computers, arts & crafts, hiking, biking, drama, music, etc...

Interviews will begin on October 27, 2006.

**If you are interested in finding out more information
or to set up an interview time,
please give us a call at (315) 392-2081.**

Check out our website at nymasons.us



Camp Turk The Masonic Youth Camp

Is looking for a

General Counselors

Qualifications:

Minimum of 19 years of age plus one year of college.

**Starting pay is \$2,100.00 plus room, board & food.
(One day off per week after the first week)**

Dates for 2007 season:

<i>Staff Orientation</i>	<i>July 1, 2007 – July 8, 2007</i>
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**If you are interested in finding out more information,
please give us a call at (315) 392-2081.**

Check out our website at nymasons.us



Camp Turk The Masonic Youth Camp

Is looking for a

ARC Certified Lifeguards / Counselors

Qualifications:

**Minimum of 19 years of age plus one year of college.
American Red Cross Certification**

**Starting pay is \$2,300.00 plus room, board & food.
(One day off per week after the first week)**

Dates for 2007 season:

<i>Staff Orientation</i>	<i>July 1, 2007 – July 8, 2007</i>
<i>Boy's Encampment</i>	<i>July 8, 2007 – July 28, 2007</i>
Girl's Encampment	July 29, 2007 – August 18, 2007

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**If you are interested in finding out more information,
please give us a call at (315) 392-2081.**

Check out our website at nymasons.us



Camp Turk The Masonic Youth Camp

Is looking for a

Registered Nurse or LPN

Qualifications:

Health Director

Minimum of 25 years of age plus NYS license

Minimum of 5 years experience & training in nursing and Admin.

Assistant Health Director

Minimum of 21 years of age plus NYS license (Asst. Health Director)

Minimum of one year experience & training in nursing and Admin.

Starting pay is \$7,000.00 for an RN and
\$5,000.00 for an LPN plus room, board & food.
(One day off per week after the first week)

Dates for 2007 season:

<i>Staff Orientation</i>	<i>July 1, 2007 – July 8, 2007</i>
<i>Boy's Encampment</i>	<i>July 8, 2007 – July 28, 2007</i>
Girl's Encampment	July 29, 2007 – August 18, 2007

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If you are interested in finding out more information,
please give us a call at (315) 392-2081.

Check out our website at nymasons.us

During the summer the following request was made to Youth Committee regarding the Eagle Boy-Scout Recognition Award from a Brother who resides in the United Kingdom

I am a third generation Mason and my son Simon has already expressed a strong desire to follow the craft when he becomes of age. As background, my father was a Mason, Shriner and 32nd degree in the Scottish Rite. With my military career taking me all over the world, I did not become a Mason until I retired from the USAF 5 years ago and am a member of FT Royal Lodge no. 4565 under the United Grand Lodge of England.

My son, Simon Killam has completed his Eagle Scout Award while a Lone Scout attending a boarding school in Western England, while registered with the Transatlantic Council, Boy Scouts of America. As a Lone Scout, without an American community nearby, I would like to make his Court of Honor something special. I believe that your Eagle Scout Award package from the Grand Lodge would add greatly to his ceremony.

Tim Killam, Lt Colonel, USAF(Ret) US Propositions - Development Manager

Simon Killam is a Lone Scout in Transatlantic Council, Boy Scouts of America. While he has been attending an English Boarding School (Malvern College) in Malvern, Worcestershire, he has worked with the British Scouts and the local community away from any other US presence. As a Lone Scout for his entire Boy Scout career, he has not been part of a Troop and has been self motivated in his pursuit of the Eagle award. The Eagle Scout award requires leadership and community service. Simon was befriended by the UK Scouts in the area and worked with them to pursue much of his goals. Hence this became a truly international effort.

From 2003-2006, Simon has been active helping the 1st Leigh Scout Group (UK) as a Den Chief and volunteer leader, even though he has never been enrolled in the British scout program. For his Eagle Scout Project, Simon planned, organized, and led a multinational conservation service project on the Malvern Hills with UK Scouts, UK Sea Scouts, Troop 220 (US) from RAF Croughton and Troop 301(U.S.) from the American School in Egham.

Simon has earned 40 merit badges, is a Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow. At his English Boarding school, Simon is : Captain of the Shooting team, Captain of the Chess team, a Corporal and Company Commander in the Combined Cadet Force and has completed the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award. He is currently pursuing the International Baccalaureate and plans to attend Cambridge University.



Mr. Dan Adams Scout Executive Transatlantic Council, BSA Mannheim Germany and Mr. Eddie Grover, District Commissioner, The Malvernes District, UK Scout Association were present and Keynote speakers for the occasion.

The Boy-Scout Transatlantic Council is spread across 26 countries on 3 continents. Not every Scout District has a District Executive. Brother Killam is their field representative, a 20 hour per week position in the "Mayflower" District.

The Chancellor Robert R Livingston Masonic Library of Grand Lodge will host a book signing by W. Kirk MacNulty, author of The Way of the Craftsman and Freemasonry: A Journey Through Ritual and Symbol. The signing will take place on Wednesday, December 6, 2006 at 6:00 PM at the Library's Manhattan branch in Masonic Hall, 71 West 23rd Street, 14th floor. Mr. MacNulty's newest book, Freemasonry: Symbols, Secrets, Significance (2006, Thames & Hudson) will be available for purchase in cloth and paper editions at the signing. MW Neal I. Bidnick, Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York, will be in attendance.

Brother Kirk MacNulty received the Degrees of Masonry in Gardenerville, Nevada 1961 and has been active in the Order ever since, as a Craft Mason, as a member of the Chapter, of the Scottish Rite and of the Shrine. He has been a member of Lodges in England, the District of Columbia, Nevada, Tennessee, and Virginia. He is the Past Master of the Lodge of Living Stones, No. 4957 in Leeds, England and of the Lodge of the Nine Muses, No. 1776 in the District of Columbia and a Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden in the Provincial Grand Lodge of Yorkshire, West Riding. He has written three books on the subject of Freemasonry and its mystical teachings. Since 1981 he has pursued the study of Kabbalah with the Toledano School in London, and in that connection he has traveled to Southern France, Spain, Morocco and Israel.

Brother MacNulty followed a career as a manager and consultant in the field of Information Technology. Since 1984 he has studied the processes of social change and has worked to develop and enhance a model of the Western societies based on analysis of periodic surveys of UK and European populations. He has also conducted research into the subject of Paradigm Shifts and the evolution of the contemporary Industrial Paradigm and is the author of several papers on the subject of renaissance thought and its impact on social change.

He has a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Stanford University and a Masters Degree in Business Administration from the University of Tennessee. He is the Senior Vice President and Company Secretary of Applied Futures Inc. (Arlington, Virginia) and Applied Futures Ltd. (London, UK). He served as an Infantry Officer in the United States Marine Corps.

The Library is pleased to host this event, where Brother MacNulty will share his thoughts and insights on Freemasonry. The signing is open to the public. If planning to attend, please call the Livingston Masonic Library at 212-337-6620, or email us at info@nymasoniclibrary.org. If you're planning to purchase the new book at the event, please indicate a preference for the cloth (\$45.00) or paper (\$20.00) edition.



The Chancellor Robert R Livingston Masonic Library Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of the State of New York



collecting, studying and preserving
the Masonic heritage



Visit our web site to browse our electronic card cataog and view artifacts in our online collection

www.NYMasonicLibrary.org

Grand Lodge, Lodge Renewal Task Force

Our mission is to help you revitalize your Lodge to encourage new growth by working along side you and your members as you seek to make this a successful endeavor!

The program was first introduced at the April 1, 2006 training sessions; to date we have started working with one Lodge and we stand ready to assist as many Lodges as we can. The following explains our procedures and how to reach us.

We believe that every Lodge has the ability to survive and prosper. In fact every Lodge has the duty to spread its Light to its present and its future membership and its community.

The Task Force consists of eleven Brothers all of whom have firsthand experience in turning a Lodge around. As a team we are prepared to help as many Lodges that requests our help as our resources allow. The Task Force is practice, not theory!

This is not a free ride. It is very hard work to turn a Lodge around and in the end only the Lodge members themselves can renew and sustain their Lodge.

We will not go into a Lodge if we are not requested and we will not go into a Lodge without the full support of a Lodges leadership and membership. Also we will not get involved in the internal politics of a Lodge!

The requirements are as follows:

- 1. We must be invited.**
2. The Lodge needs to demonstrate the viability of its meeting place and finances; or be prepared to create and follow a plan to this end.
3. We need the support of at least two active leaders of a Lodge.
4. These two Brothers need to be able and willing to work hard to renew their Lodge. Hard and consistent Labor is essential.
5. We expect any Lodges we help to commit to helping us help other Lodges in return.

The members of this team have been selected from all areas of the state and will have the knowledge of the problems you face in your geographic region. We are not miracle workers but we have the experience through past successes to assist in revitalizing your lodge.

Why are we doing this? It is what Brothers do who care!

Our core philosophy is that a Lodge needs to be place Brothers want to be. Excellent Ritual is essential. Programs are indispensable but the critical factor is that the Brothers of the Lodge value the time they spend with one and other. That they consider their time spent in Masonry and in particular the time spent in their Lodge and with the Brothers of their Lodge as the most rewarding time in their busy lives.

We can help you build this Brother to Brother bond, this Mystic Tie that is the foundation of every successful Lodge!

Please contact me at mlkglny@gmail.com or phone me at 908. 208. 5261.

R[W] Martin L. Kanter, co-chairman



Supreme Council of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction

Supreme Council
Scottish Rite Freemasonry
PO Box 519, Lexington, MA 02420
718 – 465-3320 – Dick Curtis
dcurtis@supremecouncil.org

John William McNaughton was elected to the position of Sovereign Grand Commander for the Scottish Rite Supreme Council of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction at the recent annual meeting in Chicago. He has been serving in that capacity since April following the death of Sovereign Grand Commander Walter E. Webber. Brother McNaughton has been active in Masonic organizations in the Fort Wayne, IN, area for a number of years. He became an Active Member of the Supreme Council in 1998 and was named Grand Lieutenant Commander at last year's annual meeting in Grand Rapids, MI.

Attendees also elected new Grand officers and new state Deputies. Six new representatives were elected Active Members of the governing board of the Supreme Council. Officials announced the names of 175 nominees to receive the 33rd Degree at next year's meeting in Washington. The week-long meeting concluded with the conferral of the 33rd Degree upon 233 members, who were selected for dedicated service to Scottish Rite Freemasonry or service reflecting credit upon the Fraternity.



The 2006 recipients were chosen from the fifteen northeastern and midwestern states that comprise the 230,000-member Northern Jurisdiction of the United States.

Honorees from New York are

(l-r, front row):

Gerald T. Coleman, 34 Brentwood Drive, Cheektowaga;
Neal I. Bidnick, 11 Mark Lane, New City, Grand Master of Masons in New York;

(back row):

David E. Barnes, 211 Darrow Road, Duanesburg;
Clarence Langley Jr., 124 Horstman Drive, Scotia;
Edmund D. Harrison, 92-31 - 57th Avenue, Elmhurst



Holy Ark Chapter #304 will host a gala evening of merriment and entertainment on Wednesday, October 18, 2006 at Lackawanna Masonic Hall, 692 Ridge Road, Lackawanna, NY.

The evening will begin at 6 pm with a delicious Country Style dinner featuring grilled chicken breast, potato salad, green salad, corn bread and baked beans, with dessert.

Immediately following dinner, there will be a brief convocation to attend to Holy Ark Chapter business.

Live dance music, and a plethora of other fun filled activity will follow the dinner. The cost is \$15 per person or \$25 per couple. The dress code is a sportcoat for the men and a coordinating ensemble for the ladies.

After dinner, there will be a special Chili Cook Off Competition. Come and partake in the hottest show on Earth! Masonic Chili chefs from throughout North America are invited to bring a crock pot of their best chili and enter in the competition. First prize for the best chili is \$100 which is graciously donated by Keith Poppendeck. A special commemorative Holy Ark Chapter #304 Chili Bowl has been commissioned as an additional prize! This one of a kind decorative bowl will be a desirable keepsake for years to come! Please contact Keith Poppendeck if you wish to enter the Chili Cook Off Competition, at justaskkeith@aol.com

Each person attending this fun filled event will receive a free ticket for the Treasure Chest of gifts. Everyone in attendance will receive a prize from this Treasure Chest! Yes, the Treasure Chest Prize is included in the price of Admission!

The evening will also be highlighted with a Chinese Auction, in which you have the option to participate.

But wait, there's MORE! Bring your dancing shoes because there's going to be a live band and you can dance to your heart's delight!

Come out, partake in the Fellowship, dance to the music, taste the chili, feast on the Country Style Dinner and participate in the Chinese Auction. You can't take your lady out on the town for such a modest price anywhere else!

Please RSVP before October 15, 2006 to:

John L. Leszak at 822-4519 coverconnection@aol.com, Jim Kintzel at 652-0501 jkintzel@adelphia.net, or Keith Poppendeck at 602-1545 justaskkeith@aol.com

What a great September. Data is still being collected but it looks like 6,000 – 7,000 participated in Interfaith Church Service / Breakfast programs on September 10. Our communities and their organizations, youth groups, and schools have thanked our Lodges for our service to them and are appreciative for the American Flags that we presented. We let our communities know and see what we believe in: Religious Freedom, Patriotism and Community Service. Individual Lodges also have held rededication ceremonies. Brothers made a special effort to take part in rededicating themselves to the principles of Freemasonry that we hold so dear. The committee thanks all who participated and made this part of our 225th Anniversary celebration such a success.



Bronx District Flag Presentation
September 10, 2006



Anniversary Plaque Grand Lodge Lobby
September 9, 2006



Bro. Joseph Lang with Grand Master
at Rosslyn Chapel Presentation
September 9, 2006



Troy Flag Presentation
September 10, 2006



One of the classroom flags donated to
every NYC school by Grand Lodge
September 2006

Editor's note ...

Want to encourage attendance at a Lodge meeting? Project your enthusiasm. Read what one Brother had to say after attending the 225th Anniversary Rededication in his Lodge this past month. Taken from the Lodge's Trestleboard...

A Night To Remember

What a night! If you missed the Lodge's Rededication meeting marking the 225th Anniversary of Freemasonry in New York State, you missed out in a big way. Let me tell you a little about it.

The weather was perfect. That's starts the day off right. As I went to dinner, my expectation was the same - good seeing my Brothers, good conversation, a nice bite to eat and a touch of the grape.

I have to tell you that dinner did not go exactly as planned. I was flabbergasted at what I saw. The scene that played out before me was one that I haven't seen in the longest of times. I can't explain to you how taken back I was at the scene that awaited me.

At the pre-meeting dinner were Brothers I did not know! Lodge Brothers from different generations were intermingling while eating, drinking, joking and on top of it LAUGHING with each other.

Now, I'm the first one who enjoys a good meal and laugh, but all 20 men at that table were interacting with each other as if we'd known each other for years and years! Amazing.

Also, men traveled from all different parts and corners of the tri-state region. Brothers came from Orange and Rockland Counties, Stamford CT, Florida. It did not matter that they were from far off regions, it didn't matter that they "didn't know each other", it mattered that here, at this dinner table, my Brothers, nay, our Brothers were basking in fraternity and camaraderie. Not one bone of contention, not one bad word was uttered, not one "stink eye" was given. It was a communal atmosphere filled with friendship and good time.

I assumed that dinner would be the high point of the evening. That would have made it a successful night to me. Even though we had an agenda for the evening, I figured dinner would be pretty hard to top. Once again, Brothers raised the bar for the evening.

As I walked into our Lodge Room, there were more Brothers who appeared and came straight from their offices. They wanted to be there at the start of Lodge, which they didn't show up for dinner for fear of being late! Yes, you heard me correctly. They bypassed a meal so that they could be at Lodge on time! I guess the era of the Belly Mason may be dwindling as a function of good health habits!

My head spun and I sat down in my chair. There was a palpable buzz in the air and an anticipation and excitement. That evening, the Master never once banged the gavel to "shush" any outside conversations. All eyes were on him as he led us through the Rededication Service. The solemnity, depth and meaning of the evening were only enhanced by the eloquence of the Brothers conducting the ceremonies of rededication. To say that the service was felt to the core of every Brother Mason in that room would be an understatement. But, you would expect that this would be the cherry on the sundae; the hot sauce on the chicken wing. Oh no, it only gets better! When I say better, I'm not kidding around.

Here's were the rubber meets the road, my Brothers. Our Lodge has undertaken a brave new direction. We have planned a membership drive. Let me paraphrase Mark Twain "Reports about my death were truly exaggerated". This ole Fraternity still has a lot of life, zest and vigor. We presented "The best kept secret" and

we found that men respond favorably. These men want to get involved. They want to volunteer. These men between the ages of 25 and 45 have taken us by the hand and said lead me! Tell me how I can get involved. These are not just any men. These are accomplished men. Not just in their careers, not just in financial matters, but in their personal lives. These men are winners in whatever they do. They want to leave the world a better place. They want to improve their lives through the tenets of Masonry. They want to be US!! They want to add to our Fraternity in a positive and exciting way! They want to join us to accomplish those goals. I find that to be energizing and exciting. Whoever was getting ready to ring our death knell, please take a seat because it's going to be a while.

My Brothers, as Speculative Masons, we are builders. We are looking to build a better Lodge than the one we entered. Here is your opportunity. The Secretary has received a number of completed petitions (all with check in hand) and more petitions coming in. These men can't wait to get their Degrees started! I receive call after call asking me not to forget to contact them for the Degree. One gentleman was ready and willing to postpone his annual vacation! That's how excited these guys are! That's how motivated these guys are! That's how committed these men will be when they join the ranks of Master Mason and carry the dues card from our Blue Lodge.

Once the Brothers heard this report and information from the Secretary and Membership Chairman, a request was made. We need Brothers to help us investigate, and Mentor. The Brothers at the meeting became energized. The men in the Lodge room that evening all agreed that they want to help. They want to further build the Lodge into what it should continue to be - A vibrant and leading example of Masons and what Masonry should be.

Call a Brother who was at the meeting and ask them. They will rave the same way. Plan on coming to the next meeting. How hard is that going to be? Need a ride? We'll arrange it. Want a bite to eat before the meeting? I'm not offering you a hot dog or bologna sandwich. We'll have a nice dinner waiting for you. Come on, how much easier can it get? The catch? You'll remember how much you can enjoy the company, how comfortable you'll feel after 5 minutes, and how much you'll kick yourself in the butt by denying yourself the pleasure of your Brother's company and them getting to know you.

Take the first step. Call our Secretary, and come to one meeting. I'll guarantee that you'll be back. Hands down.

Fraternally,

W.: Charles Epstein, Past Master
Joseph Warren Gothic Lodge No 934 F & AM



Some Thoughts on 225th Anniversary In-Lodge Rededication Services

by RW Joe Leo, DDGM O-R District jleo@hvc.rr.com

I would like to congratulate our Lodges who have participated in the 225th Anniversary In-Lodge Rededication Services. Those which I have attended have been moving affairs; an opportunity to not only recite our obligations but to reflect on them. Some Brothers have commented that this is the first time they have really done so. Let's face it, when we knelt at the altar and took our Degrees, we were more focused on repeating the words correctly than their meaning. For those of us who have conferred Degrees, standing at the altar, we were more focused on the next line even as we provided the former to the candidates.

In our Obligations, we discuss our duty to God, our neighbors, and ourselves. In our Third Degree Charge, we are reminded that it is our duty to make the most and best of ourselves, to identify true manhood and exemplify it. This shouldn't come easy for us, it's a lifetime's work, but our Obligations lay the foundation and offer us the blueprints. The Masonic Compact codifies it for us, specifically reminding us that, because we are Freemasons, we believe in freedom of religion and religious tolerance, the importance of education, our traditions and the importance of our ritual, charity and personal community service, patriotism, friendship, family, fidelity to each other, the importance of personal integrity, and the sanctity of one's word.

My Brothers, this is what Freemasonry is about; we're not in politics or the real estate business. While a physical location is required to meet, a building is not a Lodge; there is not a word in our obligations about roofs, boilers, or replacing screen doors. There is not a word about seeking rank or title or the privilege of position, in fact our Charge reminds us not to measure our worth by money or titles but by the texture of our character. At this time of rededication, I ask that you leave your buildings to Trustee meetings and consider basing your trestleboards on the true work of Masonry set out in our ritual as succinctly defined in our Masonic Compact.

For 225 years in New York, and centuries before that around the world, Freemasonry has provided Leaders in every profession and circumstance. In the Individual Development Course, we discuss the four traits of a Leader: Cultivating Trust, Setting Priorities, Self-Discipline, and Casting Your Vision. We also teach that each of these is based on establishing your personal core values. If setting priorities is based on determining what is most important to us, that importance must be based on not only material and practical values but also those which led us to Freemasonry. Self Discipline is based on maintaining our priorities and showing that we can conduct ourselves ethically and morally. Understanding our own core values will enable us to formulate a vision to share with our families, friends, coworkers, Lodges, and communities. With these values established in our hearts and practices, we will cultivate trust in those who surround us, enabling us to Lead and become the new George Washingtons and Benjamin Franklins. This is how Masonry makes good men better, and better men build a better world.

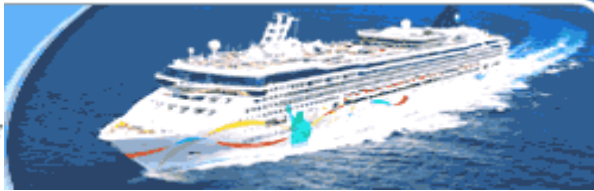
I hope that the warmth that you felt or will feel at your Rededications will carry over into your Masonry and your lives in the months and years to come. Consider which of our values are most important to you and how you can implement them in setting your daily priorities. Consider which you do not find relevant to yourself and ask yourself why; can you honestly say that any of the values we have outlined is not important? If YOU'RE not sure, get a dictionary and look it up, then speak with your Brothers about it.

A veterans group visiting our Grand Lodge recently asked permission to reprint the Masonic Compact substituting the words 'Because I am a Freemason' with 'Because I am an American'. We are not alone in recognizing the principles and tenets that not only made men great but have built a great nation. We are each privileged to have those plans imprinted on our hearts and I urge each of you to achieve your own personal greatness through the lessons of our Craft.

New 225th Anniversary Cruise Set

Due to the many e-mails and postings to our WebSite & NetNews, about the 225th Anniversary Cruise, we have reserved more cabins on the Noweigian Dawn and extended the booking date.

My Brothers, I believe that we have put together a great cruise. The Grand Lodge Cruise will be taking us from Manhattan to the Western Caribbean and back again from Sunday, January 28 thru Thursday, February 8th, 2007. We do not have to worry about airfare or shuttles to get us to and from the ship. And where else can you go away for \$100.00 per person for a room, meals and entertainment? And this is what we are offering...



Sun	Jan 28	New York (Manhattan), NY		4:00pm
Mon	Jan 29	At Sea		
Tue	Jan 30	Great Stirrup Cay, Bahamas	Noon	6:00pm
Wed	Jan 31	At Sea		
Thu	Feb 1	Cozumel, Mexico	8:00am	5:00pm
Fri	Feb 2	Belize City, Belize	8:00am	5:00pm
Sat	Feb 3	Roatan, Honduras	8:00am	4:00pm
Sun	Feb 4	Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands	10:00am	6:00pm
Mon	Feb 5	Ocho Rios, Jamaica	8:00am	4:00pm
Tue	Feb 6	At Sea		
Wed	Feb 7	At Sea		
Thu	Feb 8	New York (Manhattan), NY	10:00am	

Prices start at:

Cat KK inside	Cat E oceanview	Cat BC balcony	Suites
\$1119.64	\$1289.64	\$ 1499.64	1799.64

All prices are per person and include port charges and taxes. Trip insurance is extra.
Passports are required for all passengers

Deposit is \$250.00 per person due by 11/1/06

Final Payment will be due 11/3/06

I can assure you that there will be a lot of activities planned for all of the attendees to have a good time together. We have a Grand Master that likes to have fun and enjoy the fellowship of the Brothers and there Ladies. We are planning to organize a shore excursion early in the cruise that all interested can go on as a group and get to know each other better. We also have a few cocktail parties planned, along with a few meals that we can all attend together as a group.

Want to come and join us and have a great time? Then give Sherri at Cruises-Cruises a call to reserve your cabin now. And don't forget to pass this on to other Brothers that may be interested. The Grand Master would like to see every District, Committee and Trustees Group represented on this upcoming cruise. If you have any questions please feel free to call me at 631-754-8467 or Sherri at Cruises 1-800-245-9806.

Like I said earlier we have had a good response as to date and have secured another block of cabins. We have also extended the booking date, but I do not know how long we can hold these new cabins. Please don't wait any longer, call Sherri at Cruises @ 1-800-245-9806

We look forward to seeing you on the ship and enjoying a terrific adventure together!
Fraternally, R W Roy Puckhaber, Cruise Chairman



Our Legacy thanks to you

By Dr. Charles Antzelevitch - Executive Director -- Masonic Medical Research Laboratory

A half century of discovery and innovation is certainly a cause for celebration. As we approach the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory's 50th Anniversary, our Board of Directors has launched a ***Campaign for Discovery*** aimed at celebrating five decades of dedicated service to humanity in which the contributions of our scientists have translated into renewed hope and a better quality of life for millions of individuals worldwide. As we celebrate our accomplishments of the past, it behooves us to begin to chart our course for the future with an eye at accelerating discovery and building on the momentum that we have been so fortunate to enjoy. With this aspiration in mind, it is our goal to increase our endowments by \$15 million by 2008 and expand our base of support so as to be able to further fuel the fires of innovation.

Founded in 1958, the MMRL has undergone several transformations geared at keeping our Laboratory at the cutting edge of discovery. Our institute, the vision of GM Raymond C. Ellis, has been uniquely successful in fulfilling its mission to provide a healthier tomorrow for all of us and our loved ones. Our legacy of scientific breakthroughs has helped to provide physicians the means to better diagnose disease as well as novel treatments and cures. These advances have helped to identify and design new heart medications and have provided fundamental knowledge that has aided in the development of life-saving technologies such as pacemakers, implantable cardioverter defibrillators (ICD), and automatic external defibrillators (AED).

Initially dedicated exclusively to basic medical research focused on fundamental mechanism of cell function needed to sustain life, our Laboratory today is dedicated to translating basic knowledge into therapies and cures of human disease. With the recent introduction of a Molecular Genetics program, the MMRL is now integrally involved in clinical research specifically designed to identify the genetic basis for human disease responsible for abnormal rhythms of the heart, including ventricular tachycardia and fibrillation, which can lead to sudden cardiac death, as well as atrial fibrillation, which can reduce quality of life and dramatically increase the risk of stroke.

We take pride in having one of the most complete and coordinated teams working in an environment that fosters tight integration of highly sophisticated techniques. The MMRL is currently one of a handful of medical research centers worldwide capable of studying the genetic causes of the lethal cardiac arrhythmias responsible for sudden cardiac death in young adults, children and infants and in designing gene-specific therapies. Although MMRL investigators do not interact with patients directly, through collaborations with physicians worldwide, we are provided blood from patients suffering from abnormal rhythms of the heart. Following extraction of the DNA, genetic sequencing is performed to identify errors in the genetic code, known as mutations. The mutant gene is then cloned and expressed in a human cell line so as to identify the nature of the cellular defect. The characteristics of the defect provide us specific direction for the design of novel drugs and other innovative approaches to therapy. Thus, starting and ending with patients in the clinic, we are able to bring the research full circle by delving into the cause of disease at the genetic level, its root basis.

Over the past year, we have identified genetic defects that are responsible for sudden death of infants (including sudden infant death syndrome), sudden death in young children, and adults. Working together with colleagues in Italy, our scientists were the first to link Sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) to an abnormal rhythm of the heart associated with the long QT syndrome. We discovered the first cardiac gene defect responsible for SIDS as well as the first gene defect responsible for sudden death in your adults. Several months ago we identified a genetic defect that determines whether individuals are susceptible to sudden death after a heart attack. Finally, we have discovered a couple of genes that predispose individuals to atrial fibrillation. As a consequence of these findings, we have been to identify and develop several new treatments for these problems.

The MMRL is also leading the way in the development of innovative and effective pharmacologic treatment for atrial fibrillation, one of the greatest unmet medical needs in our society today. We recently announced this new strategy for the treatment of atrial fibrillation at the Heart Rhythm Society annual scientific sessions and look forward to the start of clinical trials.

We are deeply indebted to all who have supported us in these efforts in the past and invite you to join our growing family of friends and to partner with us in future research. Exciting discoveries lie just beyond the horizon and it is my hope that together we can bring them within reach.

It is with deep sorrow that we report the untimely passing of **Brother Charles Hansen, Jr.**, the brother of Mrs. Joyce Bidnick, the wife of our Grand Master. After a difficult battle with cancer Brother Charles Hansen was "Called from Labor" at the young age of 60 near his residence in South Carolina. He was a member for over 30 plus years in good standing of Bredablick Lodge No. 880 in the 6th Manhattan District.

The entire Grand Line and the Permanent Members of Grand Lodge extend heartfelt condolences and sympathies to the Bidnick and Hansen Families. We ask the G.A.O.T.U. to comfort and to keep our Grand Master, MW Brother Neal I Bidnick, his wife Joyce and son, Brian under His protective care during this difficult period. Sympathy cards may be sent to the Grand Master and Joyce in care of this office at 71 West 23rd Street, New York, NY 10010-4149.

I am sad to announce the passing of **Brother George Kiouttis**. Brother Kiouttis was 95 years old and a member of Beacon Lodge. There was a Masonic Funeral Service.

The New York Times reported in the October 4th Obituaries that **RW Brother George Edward Steinhardt** died this past summer on August 21, 2006 at the age of 87 years. RW Bro. Steinhardt was a Past Master of St. Cecile Lodge No. 568 in New York City and he served as the Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky near the Grand Lodge of New York from 1989 until 1991. He had been a Master Mason in good standing for 53 years, having been Raised on April 9, 1953, in Tenakill Lodge No. 266 in New Jersey (known today as Alpine-Tilden-Tenakill Lodge No. 77). RW Bro. Steinhardt was the Classical Music Radio Show Host known as George Edwards for some 40-years on the WQXR program titled "Bright & Early". After retiring, he worked to support energy conservation and he led classical music tours of Europe in support of the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra.

It is my sad duty to inform you that **R W Raymond Woolston** has laid down the working tools of life. A Masonic funeral was at Dougherty's Funeral home in Livonia, on Thursday Oct.5, 2006. He will be sadly missed by all!!

RW L. Edwin Saunders, long time resident of Lake Katonah, died at his home, Sunday, September 24. He was 86. Born in The Bronx on May 14, 1920, he is survived by his wife of 60 years, Ella; his son, Robert Saunders, of Telluride, Colorado, daughter Kathryn Rothfeld and son-in-law Robert Rothfeld of South Salem, and grandsons Michael and Adam Rothfeld.

"Ed" was a 25 year member of the Katonah Rotary Club, and fulfilled his lifelong love of music as a founder of the Master Singers of Westchester, Founder and Director of the Youth Choir of Peekskill Presbyterian Church, and a member of the Adult Choir of Katonah Presbyterian Church. He served as a Captain in the Army in Europe during WWII and served for 20 years in the Army Reserves. He was a three-time Master of Park Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York, and was District Deputy Grand Master of the 4th Manhattan Masonic District, a 32nd degree Scottish Rite Mason and a Third Degree Royal Arch Mason.

He retired from a long railroad career, in 1980, as a Power Dispatcher for Conrail, after working for both the New York Central and Penn Central railroads.

A memorial service was held on Sunday, October 1, at the Katonah Presbyterian Church, 31 Bedford Road, Katonah. The family requests that in lieu of flowers, a donation be made in Ed's name to the Deacons Fund of the church.

It is our very sad duty to inform you that **RW Eugene D. Schmidt**, passed away Tuesday, October 10th with family and friends at his bedside. He is survived by his wife Marion, son Eric, daughter in law Monica and grandson Spencer. Gene became a Mason in 1959, a Past Master of Granite Lodge #1011 in 1966, District Deputy Grand Master of Second Queens District in 1976.

Gene was a devoted member of The Board of Directors of the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory (MMRL) since 1984 and served as President from 2000 to 2003. His love of the Laboratory and of our Fraternity was boundless, as was our love of him. We will miss his always positive "can do" approach to difficult problems and his always cogent advice, not to mention his smile and constant encouragement.

It is with regret that we notify you of a Brother of Winter Haven Lodge No. 186, located in Florida; **Brother Matt Williams**, a police canine Deputy, has been killed in the line of duty with the Polk County Sheriff's Department 28 September 2006. He and his canine were killed by the suspect after a routine traffic stop in Lakeland, Florida. He is survived by his Wife and three children.

Please ask the Brothers to keep this Brother and his family in their prayers.

We regret to announce the passing of **W William Both**, Past Master of Bay Shore Lodge 1043. Bill was also High Priest of Penatiquit Chapter Royal Arch, Illustrious Master Suffolk Council and Past Commander of Patchogue Commandry. He was a veteran of WWII Bill had a very dry sense of humor and reminded us not to take ourselves seriously but take what we do seriously.

Sickness and Distress

Word has been received by the Lodge that **RW Bro. Jack Penman** of Eggertsville-Grand Island Lodge and Grand Representative of New Zealand has been hospitalized for treatment of a brain tumor. Please pray for our brother and his family as they navigate these difficult times. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

RW Brother Mel Levy, the Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge Honduras and a dual member of Perfect Square Lodge No. 204 (7th Manhattan) and South Shore-Long Beach Lodge 1126 (1st Nassau); has been hospitalized at New York Presbyterian Hospital (East 68th Street & York Avenue, NYC) with a serious bladder problem. Please keep Bro. Levy in your prayers.

Glad Tidings

We are pleased to announce the birth of our third grandson, Jacob Alexander, who weighed in at a healthy 8 pounds and 7 ounces on Friday, September 15th. We are expecting another grandchild due on or about January 17th.

Richard & Eleanor Bateman



Dear Brethren:

It was indeed a great honor, a privilege and a feast for the eyes and senses for those fortunate to attend and mix with the celebrities and bon vivant at the festivities of the Ninth Annual Military Ball hosted by the Soldiers', Sailors', Marines' & Airmen's Club at the prestigious Pierre Hotel on Fifth Avenue in New York City this past Wednesday evening, October 4, 2006. The Grand Lodge of New York was well represented by the Grand Secretary, RW Gilbert Savitzky, PGT and his wife Barbara; RW Richard W. Bateman, Grand Pursuivant and his wife Eleanor; RW (& Lt. Col.) John Chang, Director of the MMRL and his wife Priscilla; RW Douglas Adams, PDDGM - 2nd Westchester-Putnam District and his wife Debbie; RW Marcel Akselrod, PDDGM - 10th Manhattan District and his wife Barbara; RW Thomas Wilder, Grand Rep. GrandGrand Lodge of Hungary; and Miss Catherine Walter, Curator Livingston Masonic Library.



The coveted Golden Eagle Awards were presented by our own Past Grand Treasurer, the Chairman of the SSMA Club, RW Ivan S. Obolensky to the well-known, deserving and esteemed Admiral Thad W. Allen, Commandant of the United States Coast Guard and to Vice Admiral Herb Browne, United States Navy (Retired), President and CEO of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association.

The SSMA Club was founded in 1919 with the support of Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., Mrs. Cornelia Barnes Rogers and General John J. Pershing for the expressed purpose and mission "to promote the general welfare of men and women of the Armed Forces of the United States and its Allies, and their families, by maintaining and offering club and lodging rooms." The SSMA Club is solely funded by donations from patriotic Citizens and serves as a safe haven and "home away from home" to our servicemen and women and their families.



To quote the words spoken on that special evening by RW Ivan Obolensky, "...now in 2006 our warriors of the

United States Coast Guard are charged with a new and ever-more-demanding duty. They are today's ultimate defenders of the United States within -- Homeland Security that flies in the face of a new and most insidious enemy... It is for this and many other reasons that tonight our 87-year old organization [has a new name]... The Soldiers', Sailors', Marines', Coast Guards' and Airmen's Club is this very evening on October 4th, 2006 officially including the hallowed name 'Coast Guard' in our scutcheon. It's long overdue!"

In receiving the Golden Eagle Award on behalf of Admiral Thad Allen, who's arduous duties precluded his attendance, Vice Admiral Robert J. Papp, Jr., Chief of Staff of the United States Coast Guard, brought our focus to concentrate squarely on the many heroes within the Coast Guard to whom the Golden Eagle Award is most deserving.

Vice Admiral Papp spoke movingly about one such 23-year old Coast Guardsman who during Hurricane Katrina leaped from a hovering helicopter in high winds and pelting rain to a rooftop and proceeded to chop through the roof to rescue an elderly woman trapped below who had suffered a paralyzing stroke. This same Coast Guardsman went on over the course of two days to rescue some 183 civilians. He was not alone, as there are many other Coast Guardsmen with similar stories of their heroics.



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One of the many highlights of the evening included a performance of the anthems of the five military branches represented at this event by the Leatherneck Pipes & Drums Contingent in full military highland dress. As the Honorary Master of Ceremonies, Chuck Scarborough of NBC TV News aptly remarked, "The Leatherneck Pipes & Drums always brings an emotional tear to his eye."

In closing and on behalf of the officers and members of the Grand Lodge of New York, our Grand Master Most Worshipful Neal I. Bidnick, joins in this Salute to the United States Coast Guard and extends a most hearty congratulations to the two recipients of the Golden Eagle Awards. Semper Paratus! Always Ready!

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Richard W. Bateman, GP, AGS (former SGT USAF - 95th Strategic AC)
Grand Lodge F. & A.M. State of New York

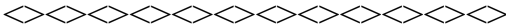


Found Masons Ring

Found on Mayport Naval Base in Jacksonville, Florida:

One (1) Masons Ring with inscription of "R Roberts NY 1946".

Looking to find owner or family.



Please reply to ghp2006@twcny.rr.com

QUEENS DISTRICT TO HOLD ROAD TO THE EAST COURSE

Starting on Saturday November 4th at 8:00 AM, the Queens District will hold a Road to the East Course. If anyone is interested in taking the course they should contact RW Paul Gibbon, Grand Steward, to register for the course and to get all the information pertaining to the cost and location. RW Gibbon can be reached at (631) 261-1496 or e-mail him at pgibbon981@aol.com. Registration must be completed by October 10th to ensure that all the material can be distributed a few weeks prior to the start of the course.



JOHN P. CLEARY/Star-Gazette
State Sen. George H. Winner Jr., right, presents Joachim Varga, left, and his son, Erik Varga, with state military service medals Wednesday in Elmira.

Father, son honored for military service

Joachim Varga said he couldn't have hoped for a better sendoff than standing beside his son as their military service was recognized by New York state.

"It's fantastic," he said, beaming as he looked over at his son.

Joachim is moving to Augusta, Ga., to take a new job with the Veterans Administration. On Wednesday morning, Joachim, a former Catlin Town Supervisor, and his son, Marine Staff Sgt. Erik Varga, were presented with military service awards by state Sen. George H. Winner Jr., R-Elmira, at Winner's Elmira office.

Joachim was honored with the New York State Conspicuous Service Cross. Erik, a Marine recruiter with an office at the Arnot Mall in Big Flats, received the New York State Conspicuous Service Star and a New York State Medal for Merit.

Joachim served 24 years with the Navy. He was recognized for four years of work in the 1980s as a chief career counselor and manager of a retention program involving 10,000 sailors.

The Conspicuous Service Cross may be awarded to a state citizen or veteran who lived in New York during active duty with the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps or Coast Guard and who has received a qualifying personal decoration.

Erik was recognized for his service in Iraq,

for which he received a Unit Commendation Medal and other awards.

The Conspicuous Service Star honors state citizens who received unit commendations for combat service. The Medal for Merit is given to recipients of qualifying awards or to those who served in direct support of combat operations, according to information provided by Winner's office.

Erik said he was proud to be honored alongside his father.

"It feels good," he said. "I'm real proud of where I've come from, proud to represent my home area. ... Awards are great, but I'm just doing my job, serving my country."

■ **WIN A PRIUS:** To help pay for its renovation project, St. Mary's Catholic Church in Elmira is raffling off a Toyota Prius hybrid car. If a car that gets about 55 miles to the gallon of gas isn't up your alley, the winner may select a Toyota Camry or Toyota RAV 4.

Tickets are \$10 or three for \$25 and are available online at www.stmaryssouthside.org. You may get them also at Cappy's, Charlie's Cafe, the Classic Cafe, Mandell's Restaurant, all in Elmira, or from Kent Brown Toyota in Big Flats. The winning ticket will be drawn around Nov. 18, depending on ticket sales, according to a note from St. Mary's pastor, the Rev. Rick Farrell.

■ **CELEBRATIONS:** Happy birthday to Bob Lagonegro and to Phyllis Moffett, both of Elmira.

John P. Cleary is a staff writer for the Star-Gazette. Neighbors runs daily on this page.

Neighbors



John P. Cleary

Carroll Lodge No. 1147, Frewsburg, NY Assists in hunt for Fugitive

by RW P. Michael Nielsen, PGDC, retired Zone Sgt. New York State Police

In April, 2006 Ralph "Bucky" Phillips, age 44, escaped from the Erie County (NY) Jail in Wende, NY. He was within four days of being released on parole but instead he managed to pry a hole in a ceiling and escaped via the roof of the facility.

After his escape a large contingent of Erie County Deputy Sheriffs, led by Sheriff Timothy B. Howard (who is a retired New York State Police command officer) combed the area, including the local Indian Reservations to no avail. State and local police manned roadblocks in an attempt to find Phillips. Several weeks later Phillips allegedly shot a New York State Trooper in Chemung County after being stopped in a stolen car. He again escaped the area in another stolen vehicle.

In August two New York State Troopers were ambushed and shot while conducting a surveillance of the home occupied by a former girlfriend of Phillips. It is suspected that Phillips is responsible for the shootings. One Trooper, Joseph Longobardo died several days later as a result of his injuries.

Phillips was spotted in several locations over the next weeks. Twenty two constantly operating roadblocks were manned in the Chautauqua County area during that period. On September 5, 2006 he was spotted just south of the Town of Kiantone in Pennsylvania. He again slipped by officers and apparently headed into the Warren, PA area.

On September 8, 2006 Phillips, again in another stolen car, was stopped in Pennsylvania and escaped by running away from officers. He stole another vehicle and was next seen in New York State in the middle of the night just north of the state line. A pursuit ensued and after a few miles Phillips jumped out of the stolen vehicle and again began to run. Available state and local police immediately began to seal off the area to keep Phillips contained. K-9 units were called in to the area.

About 6:30 AM the news media was broadcasting the events. Carroll Lodge No. 1147 is located one mile north of the Pennsylvania state line, south of Frewsburg, New York. W William R. Nelson (Lieutenant, Chautauqua Co. Sheriff's Dept.), RW P. Michael Nielsen (retired Zone Sergeant, New York State Police) and RW Ronald L. Pigman (PDDGM Chautauqua District) all Past Masters of the Lodge realized that the Carroll Lodge building would be a perfect place to offer some refreshments for the police that were converging on the area. W Brother Nelson was on duty at the time so RW Brothers Nielsen and Pigman opened the Lodge and started to make coffee to offer to the incoming officers.



Soon several command officers in the New York State Police arrived on the scene and noted that the Lodge would be the perfect place for a Command Post for the search. Soon tables were set up in the Lodge foyer and more telephone equipment was brought in. The Chautauqua County Sheriff's Dept. Technical Services Division set up a command communications center in the Lodge room, complete with radio equipment able to contact all agencies, including the Pennsylvania State Police who were operating just one mile south, fax and copy machines, several computers, satellite views and road maps projected on screens and

portable radio charging equipment.

The dining room area of the building served as a check-in point for incoming officers, a rest and rehabilitation area including several hundred submarine sandwiches, hot dogs, pizza and water, Gatorade, and soda pop. Members of the Kiantone Fire Dept., (of which Bro. Nielsen is a past chief) Kiantone Fire Dept. Ladies Auxiliary and the Frewsburg Fire Dept. prepared many sandwiches and maintained the food service area during the entire event. By evening there were over three hundred police officers from all jurisdictions, local, county, state and federal working the area.

Shortly after 8:00 PM Phillips was spotted in Pennsylvania, surrounded by many officers and helicopters, and soon emerged from a corn field and surrendered. US Marshals immediately took him to Buffalo, NY for arraignment. The incident ended without any further bloodshed.



The history of "Bucky" Phillips goes back to when he was a little more than ten years old. He thought it was fun to steal bicycles at an early age, and soon graduated to stealing cars and committing burglaries. He was being arrested regularly by local and state police. By the time he was sixteen years old he had stolen one hundred vehicles. Hopefully Phillips will never again see clear sky without looking through bars. Numerous charges are being filed against him and the investigation into the shooting of the two State Troopers is continuing.

The Masonic fraternity is all about helping mankind. September 8, 2006 is a day when Carroll Lodge No. 1147 was able to do just that.



On Tuesday October 31, (Halloween), **New YorkCity Knickerbocker Chapter** of the **Philaethes Society** will convene at a Festive Board when the focus of the meeting will be the Cornerstone Ceremony. This event begins with Cocktails at 6pm and is for Masons only (EA and FC included). Dinner is at 7pm. The cost is \$60 to be paid at the door and includes a commemorative firing glass. Black tie is required for officers, all other Business attire. Join us at La Petite Auberge, 116 Lexington, at 28th Street (212-689-5003) <http://www.lapetiteaubergenyc.com/> Only 30 seats are available so please reserve early. RSVP directly to Jon Bubba Barral at JONJBARRAL@aol.com or call (917) 952-8090

Bill Thomas - Chapter President

DINNER MENU

Appetizers: Onion Soup; Asparagus Vinaigrette; Patè du Chef

Entrees: Beef Bourguignon; Le Filet de Sole Meunièr;
Le Poulete du Chef; L'Escalope de Veau Chasseur;
Vegetarian Special

Desserts: La Mousse au Chocolat; La Crème Caramè;
Pèche Melba

Beverages: House Wine, Soda, Tea or Coffee

