Welcome Back!

It took a while but we finally were able to say that after having the first meeting of the year cancelled due to a winter storm. I hope you all had a great holiday season! Our last meeting of 2010 was the conferral of the Master Mason degree for our newly raise brothers, Anthony Rodolakis and John Rhoades. We welcome them and look forward to both being long standing members of Wadsworth Lodge. In the mean time, Wadsworth won its fifth straight "Traveling Gavel" by having the most in attendance at R.: W.: John Scott's District Deputy's visit to Guttenberg Lodge on January 6th.

Our first meeting on Jan 26th was unique in many ways. I always wanted to take advantage of the pool tables just off the Kermani room at the temple. So since that meeting day was also my birthday, it was appropriate that we do something fun and different. Eighteen brothers faced off in a double elimination nine ball pool tournament. The resulting action was created a lot of buzz, laughter, and great fellowship. The beauty of nine ball is that it is a great equalizer of abilities and we did have a mix. Sometimes you can run the table only to set up your opponent with a one shot victory after you missed the nine ball. It can also produce the ultimate thrill of victory or agony of defeat of winning/losing with a sinking of the nine ball on the break which we had one with Steve Conant slam dunking Paul Pfeiffer.

There was also a lot of underlining banter as the brackets got smaller as we marched to the ultimate finale. Our W.:M.: wouldn't win his own tournament would he? After all he got to choose the menu for the evening and the game, he bought the trophy, he set the brackets and it...
UNDER THE MASTER’S HAT (CONT’D)

Was his birthday..... Well the stars were aligned and just like my football team, the Steelers, I made the finals against V · W ·. Ray Gaul who had an excellent tournament. Ray did most of the shot making and the equalizer came into play as I was left with decent shot to win much to the hoots and laughter of remaining "fans".

How do I tie this into a lesson about the fraternity? Since it is Super Bowl week, I go back to the Steelers. They go to another Super Bowl on the teachings of an old line family ownership of playing fundamental simple football both on offense and defense. They win ugly and are very selfless. There is nothing flashy in those uniforms. When one celebrated star went off the path earlier in the year he was reminded of those family values and got back in line and success followed. The pool tournament was simple idea to create fun and brotherhood. It too wasn’t fancy and was a reminder that sometimes lessons of Freemasonry can be passed on in such ways. It was a great success.

I want to thank brothers Bob Joel, Steve King and Drew Millier for a very delicious spaghetti birthday dinner and all the brothers that participated in the tournament. Lets do it again!

I call your attention to the revised trestleboard of the Lodge's activities for the coming months and look forward to seeing you soon.

Fraternally

Ken White

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Trestle Board for Communications
Wadsworth Lodge F&AM No. 417

- 2/9/11 Annual Reports and Ballot on two candidates
- 2/23/11 Open Meeting-George Washington Presentation (Bros Aaron and Denis)
- 3/9/11 Entered Apprentice Degree*
- 3/23/11 Open Meeting
- 4/13/11 Fellowcraft Degree*
- 4/27/11 DDGM*
- 5/11/11 Master Mason Degree*
- 5/25/11 Master's Report, Election and Installation of Officers*
- 6/8/11 To Be Announced

* Tuxedos for these events all others Business Attire.

Open Meetings Presentations
George Washington - Bros Aaron and Denis

---

Sickness and Distress:

We would ask that you think of Ron Noll, he has been inflicted with a stomach virus. Bill Ogren is still in a neck collar and destine to be so until the middle of February. He is having ultrasound therapy for the muscles in his back and shoulders that were strained in his fall. After the brace comes off he has been promised another painful time as the physical therapists begin to rehabilitate his neck muscles. He is mending well, but keep him in your thoughts and prayers.
We have a couple of brothers who have laid down their working tools:

**IN MEMORIAM**

*W.: Donald F. Hillmann.*

Became a Mason March 27, 1951
Passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft on April 10, 1951
Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on April 24, 1951
raised to the **Supreme Lodge on High January 8, 2011**

Camp Turk recently lost one of its greatest ambassadors. *R.:. W.: Albert R. Washburn of Ancient Temple Lodge took his place in that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens, on January 3, 2011.*

**Glad Tidings:**

On the other side of the ledger, Ron Noll is recovering nicely from his hip replacement. He needs only physical therapy, which can be done at home. Not bad for a man entering his 78th year.

Joe Pozefsky is up and about after his surgery and recuperating.

And now, a message of thanks from the Ogrens:

“Carol and I greatly appreciate the beautiful roses that I just received from Wadsworth Lodge. I have also received cards and emails from many of the Brothers. I have always been proud to belong to "The Lodge". It has been very good to me over the years and I have always enjoyed giving it my best. I have a long road ahead of me and I will try to get back to lodge, as soon as I get the kinks out of my cable tow. Thanks again, and may God bless all of you.”

Please communicate sickness and distress and/or glad tidings. Brothers, we will never have knowledge to give support to our Brothers, their Widows or Orphans unless we communicate. Harmony is the support of all institutions, especially this of Our Great Masonic Lodge, Wadsworth #417.

**Reminder of 2011 Lodge Dues:**

For Brothers who have met their obligation – Thank you. For others please remit your dues as soon as possible. Remember that your dues are the life blood of our Lodge. When you send in your check, please update your address, phone number and internet address for our Secretary.

In the By-laws of Wadsworth Lodge revised November 2000, Article V, Section 1 states The Annual Lodge Dues for **Regular members** shall be $67.50 (this includes $30 to Grand Lodge) while **Life members** annual dues shall be $30. The annual dues are payable in advance by the first Stated Communication in December of each year.”

If there is a hardship for which a Brother is unable to pay his dues, Article VI, 1b states “Should reasonable cause be established because of poor health or financial problems the member may have his due remitted by vote of the Lodge.” Please, Brethren, let the Worshipful Master or Secretary know of your hardship instead of becoming unaffiliated for nonpayment of dues. Your lodge is required to pay the Grand Lodge dues as long as you are carried on books.

In keeping with the practice established by the Grand Lodge of New York, Wadsworth Lodge will continue to remit the Lodge Dues on behalf of those Brothers who are shown to be on **Active Military Duty** as of January 1, 2011. Without documentation please pay dues in full. There is a procedure for applying for this remittance, and any brother who is on active duty who wants to apply...
for remittance of their dues must communicate with:

Brother Tim Martin, Secretary,
7 Burtonwood Place,
Delmar, NY, 12054.
Telephone number: 518-439-7998
E-mail: tmarti8@nycap.rr.com

Each Lodge Secretary must obtain from the qualifying member who is on Active Military Duty as of JANUARY 1, 2011, ONE of the following: a) a photocopy of the Brother's Military Orders; or b) a photocopy of his Military Identification Card; or c) a letter on Official Military Stationary from the CO or other military authority attesting to the fact that the Brother is on active military duty. All documentation can be e-mailed as “attachment”, or sent regular “US Postal Service.”

Around the District:

DD Visits

On December 7th, R:. W:. John Scott presented the fourth talk in The Art of Apprenticeship series at “Richly-Gifted People Giving Richly”. This talk had to do with our various gifts. He admonished us not to act as his grandmother. She stowed away the many wedding and birthday gifts she had been given, afraid that they would become broken or damaged. He implored us to use the gifts or talents we have been given. He went on to talk about giving not just money but our time and talents, “not out of obligation, but out of cheerful obedience to the craft”.

On January 6th, he presented the fifth talk in the series entitled “Sons of the Father”. He likened the Fraternity in New York State to father and sons, the father being the Grand Lodge and the various lodges the sons. He reminded us of the work that the Grand Lodge does: The Masonic Care facility, The Empire State Mason, Camp Turk, the George Washington Shrine, the Education Assistance Program, the Lodge and commercial buildings in New York, and the Livingston Library and Museum. These are noble efforts that require our support, not from large endowments but from donations large and small from the Brotherhood.

As he stated at Ancient Temple he tries to adhere from the advice of his grandfather that “No souls are saved after fifteen minutes.” To this end he keeps his talks very close to an interesting fifteen minutes. They are worth coming out for and supporting our brother.

Masonic Safety Program

There have been two programs. One occurred on December 4th at Red Hill School in Rensselaer. There were thirty children ID’ed: a new record. Another event was held at the Bone and Joint Center in conjunction with the Shrine Hospital screening on January 7. Out of the twenty children present only five were ID’d.

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<tr>
<th>District Deputy Grand Master Visits</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mt. Vernon</td>
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<td>Van Rensselaer</td>
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<td>Masters</td>
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<td>Wadsworth</td>
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<th>Masters and Wardens Schedule</th>
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<tr>
<td>Masters</td>
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<td>Ancient Temple</td>
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<td>Guttenberg</td>
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<td>Memorial Service</td>
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<td>Annual Meeting at Bethlehem</td>
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Poet’s Corner:

"WHAT MAKES A MASON?"

What makes a man a Mason, O brother of mine?  
It isn't the due guard, nor is it the sign,  
It isn't the jewel which hangs on your breast  
It isn't the apron in which you are dressed  
It isn't the step, nor the token, nor the grip,  
Nor lectures that fluently flow from the lip,  
Nor yet the possession of that mystic word  
On five points of fellowship duly conferred.  
Though these are essential, desirable, fine,  
They don't make a Mason, O brother of mine.

That you to your sworn obligation are true --  
Tis that, brother mine, makes a Mason of you.  
Secure in your heart you must safeguard and trust,  
With lodge and with brother be honest and just,  
Assist the deserving who cry in their need,  
Be chaste in your thought, in your word and your deed,  
Support he who falters, with hope banish fear,  
And whisper advice in an erring one's ear.  
Then will the Great Lights on your path brightly shine,  
And you'll be a Mason, O brother of mine.

AUTHOR: George M. Free

Tales of the Ring

The tale for this edition is from John Scott. It is a story many of you have probably heard before, but is worth repeating. The tale takes place during a vacation to the island of St. Maarten. I will let John take over from here.

“My Grandfather’s Masonic ring was taken from our rental car while it was parked at a beach. To my knowledge, the ring was never recovered. However, the police were very cooperative and the investigating officer told his father-in-law, who was a Mason, about the theft. The local Masons tried to contact me before I returned to the hotel with offers of help and financial assistance. The loss of my Masonic ring showed me the true meaning of fraternity and introduced me to some very fine men. That experience almost made up for the loss. The ring I wear now is very similar to my Grandfather's ring.”
Brotherhood Fund

Friends and Brothers,

The new year is well on its way, and though hindered by the weather, our Craft persists, grows and flowers. Likewise, so do our contributions to the Masonic Brotherhood Fund. Our Masonic Heart Research receives recognition and funding to pursue its groundbreaking work. Our Military Outreach Programs bring our service men and women the comfort of friends and family, whether in danger abroad or recovery at home. And our Youth Programs ward our children from dangerous behavior, and provide an outlet for their goodness, charity and community spirit.

Do not forget that though this time of year keeps us in our homes, our contributions never cease their labor. I want to extend a personal gratitude to all those that have given a part of their hard-earned wages to these great causes. Those that donated have done so exceedingly generously; but that in itself is no qualifier for Wadsworth. Some of our sister lodges have had as many as forty brothers donate! We, friends and brothers, do lag a ways in the quantity of our contributions - a curiosity for a lodge that doesn't fail to distinguish itself every other way. The Travelling Gavel, for instance, is a distinction we claim time and time again. Why let the Brotherhood Fund be an exception?

Any donation, from a single dollar to the length of your cable-tow, makes a real difference. If you've misplaced your donation envelope, do not worry - another probably fell out when you opened this Sideliner. And if that one should slip away as well, you can always donate in person. I will happily reciprocate with a receipt and ensure your aid goes where it should. But regardless of how and when you donate, be proud of the Fund's work on your behalf. Take time to visit the Grand Lodge website, or ask me if you're curious! Until the next time we meet.

With peace and harmony,
Brother Denis Serdiouk

In Support of the Troops

An E-mail from Bill Baumann:

**Army/Navy Game 2006: The Rest of the Story**

It started last Christmas, when Bennett and Vivian Levin were overwhelmed by sadness while listening to radio reports of injured American troops. "We have to let them know we care," Vivian told Bennett. So they organized a trip to bring soldiers from Walter Reed Army Medical Center and Bethesda Naval Hospital to the annual Army-Navy football game in Philly, on Dec. 3.

The cool part is, they created their own train line to do it. Yes, there are people in this country who actually own real trains. Bennett Levin - native Philly guy, self-made millionaire and irascible former L&I commish - is one of them.

He has three luxury rail cars. Think mahogany paneling, plush seating and white-linen dining areas. He also has two locomotives, which he stores at his Juniata Park train yard. One car, the elegant Pennsylvania, carried John F. Kennedy to the Army-Navy game in 1961 and 1962. Later, it carried his brother Bobby's body to D.C. for burial. "That's a lot of history for one car," says Bennett.

He and Vivian wanted to revive a tradition that endured from 1936 to 1975, during which trains carried Army-Navy spectators from around the country directly to the stadium where the annual game is played. The Levins could think of no better passengers to reinstate the ceremonial ride than the wounded men and women recovering at Walter Reed in D.C. and Bethesda, in Maryland. "We wanted to give them a first-class experience," says Bennett. "Gourmet meals on board, private transportation from the train to the stadium, perfect seats - real hero treatment."

PAGE 6
Through the Army War College Foundation, of which he is a trustee, Bennett met with Walter Reed's commanding general, who loved the idea. But Bennett had some ground rules first, all designed to keep the focus on the troops alone:

No press on the trip, lest the soldiers' day of pampering devolve into a media circus. No politicians either, because, says Bennett, "I didn't want some idiot making this trip into a campaign photo op." And no Pentagon suits on board, otherwise the soldiers would be too busy saluting superiors to relax.

The general agreed to the conditions, and Bennett realized he had a problem on his hands. "I had to actually make this thing happen," he laughs.

Over the next months, he recruited owners of 15 other sumptuous rail cars from around the country - these people tend to know each other - into lending their vehicles for the day. The name of their temporary train? The Liberty Limited.

Amtrak volunteered to transport the cars to D. C. - where they'd be coupled together for the round-trip ride to Philly - then back to their owners later. Conrail offered to service the Liberty while it was in Philly. And SEPTA drivers would bus the disabled soldiers 200 yards from the train to Lincoln Financial Field, for the game.

A benefactor from the War College ponied up 100 seats to the game - on the 50-yard line - and lunch in a hospitality suite.

And corporate donors filled, for free and without asking for publicity, goodie bags for attendees:

From Woolrich, stadium blankets. From Wal-Mart, digital cameras. From Nikon, field glasses. From GEAR, down jackets.

There was booty not just for the soldiers, but for their guests, too, since each was allowed to bring a friend or family member.

The Marines, though, declined the offer. "They voted not to take guests with them, so they could take more Marines," says Levin, choking up at the memory.

Bennett's an emotional guy, so he was worried about how he'd react to meeting the 88 troops and guests at D. C.'s Union Station, where the trip originated. Some GIs were missing limbs. Others were wheelchair-bound or accompanied by medical personnel for the day. "They made it easy to be with them," he says. "They were all smiles on the ride to Philly. Not an ounce of self-pity from any of them. They're so full of life and determination."

At the stadium, the troops reveled in the game, recalls Bennett. Not even Army's lopsided loss to Navy could deflate the group's rollicking mood.

Afterward, it was back to the train and yet another gourmet meal - heroes get hungry, says Levin - before returning to Walter Reed and Bethesda. "The day was spectacular," says Levin. "It was all about these kids. It was awesome to be part of it."

The most poignant moment for the Levins was when 11 Marines hugged them goodbye, then sang them the Marine Hymn on the platform at Union Station. "One of the guys was blind, but he said, 'I can't see you, but man, you must be beautiful!' " says Bennett. "I got a lump so big in my throat, I couldn't even answer him."

It's been three weeks, but the Levins and their guests are still feeling the day's love. "My Christmas came early," says Levin, who is Jewish and who loves the Christmas season. "I can't describe the feeling in the air." Maybe it was hope.

As one guest wrote in a thank-you note to Bennett and Vivian, "The fond memories generated last Saturday will sustain us all - whatever the future may bring."

God bless the Levins.

And bless the troops, everyone.
Master’s Pool Tournament

Last Wednesday’s meeting was the Masters birthday and he chose to celebrate with a double elimination Nine Ball Pool Tournament. He chose Nine Ball for its quickness but with the amateurs assembled it was anything but quick. However, everyone had a wonderful time.

Paul Pfeiffer won one of the games on the break by sinking the nine ball. The Master showed his pool aCUEmen by sinking a Marseille shot. The photo below is the winning bracket. We direct your attention to the smile on Jerry “Chicago Slim”
Meet the New Brothers

**Anthony Rodolakis** was born in Athens, Greece. He has lived in Selkirk, Troy and Tampa. He currently resides in Rensselaer with his wife Laura. He is an economist and has worked both for the NYS Assembly and Price Waterhouse - Cooper. He enjoys reading and the music particularly the piano.

**John G. Rhodes** was born in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, which is not far from Kitty Hawk. He recently finished his service with the Navy, which of course moved him around quite a bit. He now works at Knoll Atomic Power Lab in Niskayuna. He lives in Colonie with his wife Molly and their son. He enjoys reading and getting back to the coast for some fishing.

Upcoming Events

On February 23 come and join us for The First Annual George Washington Masonic Trivia Night. This will be an open meeting an opportunity to bring your lady or to bring a friend and even have him bring his lady.

Festivities begin at 6:30 with dinner. This will be followed at 7:30 by a series of trivia quizzes, with prizes. The quizzes will be interspersed with vignettes by Aaron’s Actors concerning the life and times of our first president.
Washington's Birthday Celebration

This is the program that Steve King talked about at the Guttenburg DD Visit.

This year’s program will feature a living history play, The Enemy within: Arnold Returns Home, featuring Gary Petagine (Benedict Arnold) and Sean Grady (Captured Soldier) who were featured last year in their much acclaimed production of RENDEZVOUS WITH TREASON ... the events leading up to the infamous Benedict Arnold/ Major Andre collaboration to surrender the plans for West Point. A standing room only gathering at the Carriage House Museum last year tremendously enjoyed that production.

In this year's production, after committing treason against the American cause, Benedict Arnold is made a Brigadier General in the British Army. In this performance Arnold has invaded New London, Connecticut (his home state). He debates with a captured American Continental soldier as a massacre unfolds at nearby Fort Griswold. Don't miss this event.

Here are details:

Dutch Treat Buffet Luncheon sponsored by Knickerbocker Chapter #13, National Sojourners, Inc., at...

The Old '76 House Restaurant,
110 Main Street Tappan, NY
Starting at 11:30 AM
Sunday, February 27, 2011

Special pricing of only $25 per person including tax and gratuity for the “Champaign/Mimosa Brunch/Luncheon payable at the door

Program at the Carriage House Museum,
DeWint House National Historic Site in Tappan
2:00 PM, Sharp

Hosted by the Grand Lodge Committee,
George Washington Historic Site at Tappan, NY
and the Trustees of the Masonic Hall and Home

For further information:
Program details:
RW Norman Moon: (570) 296-6339 or normanm33@verizon.net.

DeWint House information:
RW Harold Jones: (845) 359-1359 or hbjones3@juno.com

Luncheon information:
RW Ronald J. Steiner (845) 354-4192 or nysmason@aol.com

About the featured producers, writers and players:

Gary Petagine (Benedict Arnold):

A teacher for over 30 years, Gary has been a master teacher for the Living History Education Foundation for 8 years. He is a Colonial/ Revolutionary War re-enactor with the 5th New York and has portrayed Patrick Henry, Gen. Richard Montgomery, and Sam Adams. Gary co-founded A Living History: The Revolutionary War at Carmel High School and has been featured in Putnam-Westchester County’s Journal News.

Sean Grady (Captured Soldier):

A teacher for over ten years in Westchester County, Sean's "Living History" approach to teaching has been highlighted in The New York Teacher Magazine and other regional publications. Sean has been a master teacher for Living History Foundation for 8 years. He and Gary created Flight of the Dark Eagle - a course that allows teachers to walk in the footsteps of Andre and Arnold as their plot of treason unfolded throughout the Hudson Valley. A veteran of the stage, Sean has performed in over 50 theatrical productions across New York State.
Parting Shots:

**BIRTHDAYS THAT WILL OCCUR OVER THESE TWO MONTHS**

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<td>Stephen M. Pampinella</td>
<td>February 1, 1984</td>
<td>Thomas P. Fuller</td>
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<td>February 4, 1925</td>
<td>Charles A. Poltenson</td>
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<td>Mark B. Monroe</td>
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<td>February 10, 1937</td>
<td>Clayton E. Simons</td>
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<td>Robert D. Leitch Jr</td>
<td>February 25, 1934</td>
<td>Stanley J. Adams III</td>
<td>March 16, 1982</td>
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<td>February 25, 1937</td>
<td>Harold J. Clark</td>
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<td>Clair J. Miller</td>
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<td>Kenneth H. Rouse</td>
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<td>Ralph Edgell</td>
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<td>Paul J. Pfeiffer</td>
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<td>Willard D. Thomas</td>
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<td>John G. Gule</td>
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<td>Joseph J. Olbrych</td>
<td>March 5, 1952</td>
<td>Robert H. Fickies</td>
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<td>Edward P. Minerley</td>
<td>March 6, 1922</td>
<td>Kevin L. Hubbley</td>
<td>March 24, 1961</td>
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<td>Peter J. Baldes</td>
<td>March 6, 1922</td>
<td>Jerome A. McCall</td>
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<td>Donald D. Kingston</td>
<td>March 6, 1943</td>
<td>James J. VanDeWal</td>
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