

The Sideliner

Master
Leo Synakowski

Wadsworth Lodge No. 417, F. & A.M.

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Under the Master's Hat

Worshipful Master

Well my brothers we have a start to another year and for myself it was a new start. Due to everyones prayers and some excellent doctors my battle with cancer seems to be over. I will continue to be monitored but my oncologist has guaranteed me that my tumor will continue to shrink.



My Masonic year as Master continues to be going well. We had a great toy drive over the holidays and so far we are in the process of conferring the degrees on one candidate. I am still hoping the process of having officers who need to have parts in the degrees will contact me or our secretary if they cannot be in attendance. Filling spaces in the line at the last minute hurts the ritual work which we pride ourselves upon.

Coming up on February 10 will be our annual "Brother Bring A

Friend Pool Tournament". Since I am the defending champion I hope we will get a good turnout and some potential candidates. February 20 will be a Saturday 3rd Degree. This will allow us to have some great work done and a good attendance without worrying about going late into the night.

As always our secretary may be sending out changes regarding the Trestle Board. It is only set in print and could change due problems that may arise the rest of my year. All the officers should be planning for April 13 for "Move up Night". It is important that you learn the ritual and duties for the office you will be taking the next year.

Lastly I hope to finalize everything that will be needed for redoing our Masonic move night and setting up table lodge. My

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UNDER THE MASTER’S HAT (CONT’D)

work schedule has been very tight but I am sure they will they will come off as planned.

Thank you and let’s keep the Masonic Brotherhood and Wadsworth Lodge moving forward successfully.

Leo Synakowski/Master

Wadsworth Lodge 2015 – 2016 Trestle Board

August 9, 2015 SUNDAY	Lodge Picnic- Hendrick Hudson Park
September 9, 2015	Welcome Back Brothers Night, Discussion of plans for this year, read any petitions and business meeting
September 23, 2015	Business Meeting
September 26, 2015-SAT	Family Masonic Trip – Northeast Exposition and Fair, West Springfield Mass., \$20.00 per person includes bus admission and dinner.
October 14, 2015*	Years of Service Awards Night-Open meeting
October 21, 2015	Degree Rehearsal, general discussion of floor work and duties Casual dress
October 28, 2015*	DDGM Visit
November 11, 2015*	1 st Degree, Past Masters in charge
November 25, 2015	No meeting due to Holiday Observance
December 9 2015	Annual Holiday Party – Holiday toy drive, Family get together
December 23, 2015	No meeting due to Holiday Observance
January 13, 2016	2 nd Degree
January 27, 2016	Masonic Movie Night, “The Freemason” Pizza and Wing Night Come and watch a never released masonic mystery movie.
February 10,2016	Annual Brother Bring a Friend Night and Pool Tournament, Light Dinner and proceeds from pool tournament benefit the Brotherhood Fund
February 20, 2016*-SAT	Special Communication for 3 rd Degree. Day time weekend degree due to winter time
February 24, 2016	Education Night- “Masonic Etiquette” short talk by Bro. Michael A. Hernandez, St. George’s Lodge #6, and Annual Reports Night for Treasurer, Secretary and Trustees’ safety deposit box audit
March 9, 2016*	1 st Degree
March 19, 2016 SAT	Wadsworth Table Lodge-Dinner and Program-“In Defense of the Ruffians”
March 23, 2016*	Business Meeting
April 13, 2016	Move up Night, all officers elected and appointed and business meeting
April 27, 2015	2 nd Degree
May 11, 2016	3 rd Degree & Master’s Annual Report
May 25, 2016*	Annual Communications, Elections, Appointments and Installation of Officers
June 8	TBA

“*” Indicated Tuxedos to be worn

Sickness and Distress:

Bro. Kenneth Brown sadly reported the recent deaths of two uncles.

On November 17th Ben Froggett suffered a heart attack and was rushed to Albany Medical center for open heart surgery, to install a bypass. What a way to celebrate your birthday. After a lengthy stay and

extensive rehabilitation he reports that he is recovering. He says that the site in his leg where they harvested the blood vessel felt worse than his chest.

After many years of snowbirding he and Linda have finally decided to sell the house and move to Florida permanently.

Glad Tidings:

After hearing about the two tornado episodes that hit Sarasota County Florida in the past couple of weeks, I decided to check in on the Moore Brothers.

Ken says they experienced some high winds but no tornados or damage. He and Don are doing fine.

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.

Grand Lodge:

From R.: W.: **Gary Cohn, Chairman of the Grand Lodge Committee on Youth.** Thank you letter to Lodges which participate in various Grand Lodge programs and especially what Lodges can do with youths in their communities, and in particular his announcement of the **2016 Frank M. Totton Essay Contest** entitled “**Civility: What is it and why is it important in our lives?**” The application and 350 word essay must be postmarked no later than January 20, 2016 and is open to high school students entering college for the first time in 2016. R.: W.: **Gary Cohn**

*talks about the importance of Lodge sponsored youth programs and their importance as a recruitment tool after these youngsters grow into mature community members. Also included are **application forms** from Grand Lodge for the various Committees on Youth- **The General Douglas MacArthur Youth Award, Eagle Scout Commendation, Daniel Carter Beard Masonic Scouter Award, DeMolay, International Order for the Rainbow of Girls, etc.** (Contact the secretary for specifics)*

2016 Education Assistance Program, Grand Lodge F&AM of the State of New York, Masonic Hall - 17th Floor, 71 West 23rd Street, New York, NY 10010-4149
ELIGIBILITY OUTLINE

The Grand Lodge of New York through its Trustees of the Masonic Hall and Home established An Educational Grant Program in 1996. The Education Assistance Committee of Grand Lodge administers this Grant program for post high school level students. The effort is directed at the sons, daughters, grandsons and granddaughters of Master Masons in good standing, belonging to Lodges within the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York. Awards are

made annually based upon academic achievement, community involvement and financial need.

Applications for Grant assistance are available directly online at: eapapplication.nymasons.org or www.nymasons.org

IMPORTANT: Download and Print Application then get Master & Sec’y Signature
The Applicant (Student) is to complete the Application Online and obtain the signature of the Master and Secretary of the Lodge and be embossed with the Lodge seal, and the completed form is to be mailed to:

**Education Assistance Program
11 Dolphin Green - C2G
Port Washington, New York 11050**

Must be postmarked by April 1
To complete the Application, the Student must create a Student Account and read the Rules & Eligibility. Applications that are incomplete, i.e. no name, address, etc. will be rejected without further notice. Selections are made in May and Presentations are held between June and August. Award presentations to the

recipients are made at central locations throughout New York State during these months. All recipients and their families are cordially invited to attend the Presentation Ceremonies. The Grand Master and or the Deputy Grand Master, and Grand Lodge Representatives are always in attendance to make the Grant Award presentations. If you would like more information pertaining to the Program, you should contact the Education Assistance Program Committee at shipmanship@yahoo.com

Around the District:

District Deputy Grand Master Visits

Berne	09/17/15	Wadsworth	10/28/15
Mt. Vernon	09/21/15	Van Rensselaer	11/12/15
Guttenburg	10/01/15	Bethlehem	11/17/15
Ancient Temple	10/06/15	Masters	11/23/15
Noah	10/13/15		

Masters and Wardens Schedule

Van Rensselaer	09/16/15	Masters	02/17/15
Mount Vernon	02/17/16	Ancient Temple	03/16/16
Noah	11/18/15	Guttenburg	04/20/16
Wadsworth	01/20/16	Bethlehem	06/15/16

From the desk of AGL:

Be Cautious Over Your Words...

As EA we are admonished to be careful over our words and actions, but do we even know what words we are to be cautious over? Recently Grand Master Thomas has been encouraging a very old idea: Tikkun Olam, the healing of the world. In doing this, he is recommending a path of civility. His program has as one of its main points “Be Inclusive. Civility knows no ethnicity, no level of leadership, no forum, no religion, no generation, and no bounds. Being inclusive includes everyone. It is about leading and serving for the betterment of mankind.”

The language of Freemasonry can sound old fashioned, complicated and (in many cases) confusing. To add to this we have words and phrases that are “secret,” but we have already promised not to reveal those.

@And then there are the myths and legends. Do we even know enough about those to be cautious? Let’s prod in a few places, and see what we find.

The English Emulation ritual tells us that a Mason is “Brother to a Prince and fellow to a beggar, if he be found worthy.” We must remember that the English class system was very rigid, so this by itself is a VERY bold statement. This is clearly exemplified in our ritual, where even our mode of dress upon initiation reflects the removal of external class in exchange for the contemplative symbolism of equality. How many times have we told candidates waiting for their degrees, “Don’t worry, we’ve all been through this.”

Our ritual takes us one step further, when in the “Lecture of Reasons”, known as the “Whys and Wherefores,” that we are told that “Masonry regards no man on account of his worldly wealth or honors.” In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, "I have a

dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.” In this, Dr. King was speaking to a Masonic ideal. Although never a Freemason in life, Dr. King was made a Mason on sight posthumously by the Prince Hall Grand Master of Georgia as he “lived and espoused the Masonic ideal of meeting on the level.”

In the second degree we once again encounter this theme, although the words are now addressed to the brother in terms of how masonry views life in terms of attained wealth. As FC we can now afford some of life’s superfluities, but even then, “Although it may be given for some to possess more of the world’s goods than others, a man who has his health, strength, and ambition has indeed his plenty.” Again these words are a clear rejection of the differentiation of class within the bounds of Freemasonry.

In the second degree charge we are told once again, as we were in the apron presentation, that there is no higher rank or honor that that of being called, “Brother!” It is the rank from which we all derive, and the rank that we return to, even when we lay down our working tools. That name also speaks to our responsibility to one another. We must never forget, that when the Holy One, Blessed Be He, asked Cain, “Where is your brother Abel?” and he responded “Am I my brother’s keeper?” that the correct answer to the second question was, and still remains, “Yes!” It is this principle that we are reminded of when we are obligated to see to the relief of distressed masons, their widows and orphans.

When we reach the third degree there are things even more hidden, yet more wonderful, in that it reflects masonry’s utter rejection of class within its membership. It is here that we see how death, the leveler of all, does not distinguish position, class, or title. It is here that we are introduced to the Great Grandson of Cain, the great artificer in metal. His name means Leader in Hebrew. In a way, he demonstrates how one can rise from the depth of cursed

past, to be a leader amongst his people. It is an interesting coincidence that his half-brother Jubal son of Lamech, was said to be the father of all musicians. This theme can be found in the masonic play “In Defense of the Ruffians”, where the brothers are (amongst other things) musicians pressed into the service of the Temple.

But there is a still deeper message hidden in the third degree, and as with all good secrets, it is hidden in plain sight. In a way, it reflects the greatest rejection of social distinction of all, that of parentage.

In the ancient world, much of your life, your social status, and even your name, were tied up in your parentage. For example: My Hebrew name is Michael ben Svi. That is Michael, the son of Harold. Therein is contained my name, my parentage, and some of my social status. One’s parentage was of great importance! In fact, there was no social class lower than the Mumzar, the bastard, where the father was not known. While tribal and religious ancestry was determined by one’s mother; all inheritance and social standing was transmitted via the father. In our portrayal of the legend of the third degree, we encounter three main characters: Solomon the son of David, King of Israel; Hiram the son of Abibaal, King of Tyre; and Hiram Abif. The appellation “Abif” is Hebrew for “(of) His Father.” This is another way of saying that Hiram’s paternal ancestry was unknown. Further he is referred to as “The Widow’s Son.” This again is an indication that his father was not the husband of his mother, but was unknown. He was, in other words, a bastard child. In Freemasonry, we elevate this lowest of social stations to stand in honor in the presence of kings.

This should be a lesson to all of us as Freemasons, that no distinction of class, prejudice on the basis of any physical characteristic, or any division within our ranks should ever be permitted. This brings us back to the message of the Trowel. Where, in a united mass, no contention should exist, except that noble contention, or rather emulation of who can best work, and best agree!

Poet's Corner:

This is a new poem by our Poet Laureate. He hopes it will be an inspiration for the Brothers coming through the line. Especially the first timers.

The Chairs

Our craft's endured for many years, How many? No one knows.
With the ritual as our credo, we take pride in how it flows.

We Masons share an ancient rite, that's bonded us together.
That bond is passed to every brother; the cable tow's a tether.

I joined the craft in Wadsworth Lodge some forty years ago.
I was active from the start, and many brothers helped me grow.

Before long I was the Master, and was facing quite a task.
When I needed help or reassurance, I just had to ask.

When you first received your apron, was a very special day.
It was truly something special you are really on your way.

You'll be wearing many aprons when going through the line.
Every chair has special duties. Do not worry; you'll do fine.

The lessons you will learn while traveling through each chair,
Are ingrained in you forever; you'll proudly keep them there.

A brother passing through the chairs will feel a sense of pride.
Never feel that you're alone, you have brothers at your side.

When you travel to the East you must strive to do your best.
Each time you move up higher you've passed another test.

When you become the Master standing proudly in the East,
You won't forget the brothers, whose assistance never ceased.

R. : W. : William E. Ogren
December 4, 2015



Tales of the Ring

A Brother was on his way home to Albany on the Thruway. He was more interested in getting home than how fast he was going. A check of his rear view mirror showed a trooper telling him to pull over.

The trooper came up to the car and the Brother handed him his registration and license with his right hand prominently displaying his ring. The trooper stood there talking to the Brother as if he were writing a ticket. He let him off with a warning and an admonition to watch his speed for the rest of the journey.

The Brother started out again and watched his speed for a while. But later on the speedometer crept back up and there was another trooper pulling him over.

And a similar scene transpired with a sterner warning to keep his speed down to the limit.

Once again the Brother starts out and once again his concentration fades and sure enough there was another trooper. The Brother again handed out his documentation blatantly displaying his ring. The trooper took the information and walked back to the cruiser to write up the ticket. He returned to the car to find the Brother with his hand on the door drumming his finger to display the ring. Finally, he asked if the trooper had seen the ring. The trooper replied, "I hrd your cvlg wh J-a & J-o frm thm u hv escapd. Fm m u cntnt!"

The trooper obviously remembered "H t b, tt w sh b ev rd t st fr a h t spt a flg Br."



Granted this tale has not been seen for six years, however I would rather print new tales rather than going back through the library to find one we have not used recently.

It would be great if we could have some new material. It is not necessary to write it down. Just

talking to me after dinner or after the meeting is all that is necessary. All I need is the five "W"; who, what, where, when and why. I can flesh out the tale and make readable. Once it is ready I will let you review and edit it as needed.

Holiday Gathering

On December 9th Wadsworth held their annual Holiday Gathering. A great time was had by all. As has been our tradition a bin was placed in the foyer for collecting toys for the Boys and Girls Club of *Southern*

Rensselaer County. This year the bin was overflowing. We estimate at least fifty toys were gathered. And a thank you to Ken White for the photography.



Parting Shots:

Brothers with Birthdays from November to January			
Marvin Wesley Antenucci	December 1, 1954	John S. Luther	December 15, 1941
Paul Baum	December 28, 1958	Bernard Maskell Jr.	December 4, 1950
Nicholas J. Blais	January 5, 1990	John L. Miller	January 27, 1959
Fred W. Briggs	December 7, 1940	Drew Millier	December 27, 1981
Kyle Dain Buckingham	December 25, 1982	Donald R. Morrell	November 20, 1960
Jeremy Clauser	November 12, 1974	Roger Alan Murphy	January 21, 1966
Micael Angelo Cruz	December 11, 1991	William Murray	November 14, 1952
Luther H. Dyer Jr.	November 23, 1922	Donald G. Nagel Jr.	November 25, 1975
Louis J. Emory	November 25, 1984	Ronald H. Noll	January 17, 1934
Ben Froggett	November 12, 1938	Paul J. Pfeiffer	November 8, 1983
Roy E. Gilbert	December 18, 1916	Walter E. Rawlings	November 25, 1925
William R. Godell	December 13, 1959	Anthony Rodolakis PhD.	November 23, 1964
John E. Haight	December 19, 1955	Osiris Rodriguez	November 12, 1985
Harry D. Henry Jr.	January 22, 1936	Joseph Gary Rymski, Sr.	January 8, 1949
Brett E. Ingersoll	November 18, 1988	Brandon W. Salo	November 8, 1985
B. Robert Joel III	January 23, 1956	Steven B. Silverman	January 17, 1950
Carl N. Jurgensen	January 21, 1953	Bruce Susser	December 29, 1956
Edward S. Kosinski	January 19, 1945	Leo Synakowski	December 19, 1954
Alfred Krueger Jr.	December 11, 1933	Kenneth M. White	January 26, 1955
		Daniel T. Whitwell	November 20, 1938

If your birthday does not appear in the list we apologize, but it is because we do not have the information in our records. Please contact Tim with your birth date.