

Trestleboard

VOLUME 8 ISSUE 4

December 2010

NJ Lodge of Masonic Research and Education's purpose is to foster the education of the Craft at large through prepared research and open discussion of the topics concerning Masonic history, symbolism, philosophy, and current events.

Next Communication

New Jersey Lodge of Masonic Research and Education meets on the second Saturday in March, June, September and December. Our next communication will be held on **Saturday, December 11, 2010 at 9:30 a.m. at:**

**Trenton Masonic Temple
100 Barrack Street
Trenton, New Jersey**

All Master Masons are Welcome!



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From the East

Bro. Ben Hoff, Worshipful Master

That time of year is upon us when we install new Master's of lodges. The ceremony of installation itself, unlike all other Masonic ceremonies, has changed little since it was first documented. An outline of the ceremonies is found in Anderson's Constitutions of 1723, as the constitution of new lodges *'after the ancient manner'*.

First, the Grand Master (or designated installing officer) asks his deputy if the prospective master and wardens have been examined for proficiency and moral suitability. The deputy answers and retrieves the new master and wardens from among the other fellow-crafts and presents them to the GM with a recommendation including that they are *'lovers of the whole fraternity, wheresoever dispersed over the face of the earth'*. The GM asks if it is the unanimous consent of the brethren to have the candidate be master; declares the lodge constituted; appoints the candidate master of it; and makes some remarks including *'some other expressions that are proper and useful on that occasion, but not proper to be written'*.

The deputy then rehearses the *Charges of a Master*, and the GM asks the candidate *'Do you submit to these charges, as Masons have done in all ages?'* Then the *'Grand Master shall, by certain significant ceremonies and ancient usages, install him, and present him with the constitutions; the Lodge Book; and the instruments of his office, not altogether, but one after another; and after each of them, the Grand Master, or his Deputy, shall rehearse the short and pithy charge that is suitable to the thing presented.'* Notice it is not 'A' short and pithy charge, but 'THE', indicating that these were already somewhat standardized.

The members then do homage to the new master *'by the usual congratulation'* (probably the grand honors). The GM, the deputy, and visiting brethren offer their congratulations to the new master, which he returns with a becoming acknowledgement of his own. The GM invites him to exercise his new office by choosing his wardens, who are called, presented and confirmed by the lodge. One of the Grand Wardens then rehearses the charges of Wardens, after which the new master asks them their submission thereunto. The new master presents them with the instruments of their offices and, in due form, installs them in their proper places.

Much of my research on Masonic ritual has uncovered how different our present ceremonies are from those of earlier times. So it is actually

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somewhat gratifying to report on an antique ceremony that is so similar. The fact that it was written at an early date probably accounts for its stability of form. And there are still differences. Notice that only masters and wardens are installed, since these were the only officers that lodges had in those days. Also notice that the master does not take an obligation, merely affirms his consent to obey the charges – which is something we still do. Also there is no qualification in the sense of imparting esoteric signs, tokens and words. These did not exist at that time. Also notice that the master and wardens are Fellowcrafts, since the Master Mason was an office rather than a degree at that time. But for all of this, it is comforting to note that the basics of installation were already in place so long ago.



LODGE HAPPENINGS...

NJ LORE No. 1786's next meeting will be held at the Trenton Temple on Saturday December 11, at 9:30 a.m.

On the Agenda:

- Election of Officers
- Installation of Officers
- WM Inaugural Paper—Certain Non-Canonic Literature's Influence On Masonic Ritual

Coffee and danish will be served prior to our meeting and Lunch will be

From the West

Bro. Raymond C. Thorne, Senior Warden

Recently I heard the statement that everyone is on a personal pilgrimage, whether they know it or not. Perhaps on some level this is what attracts men to Masonry. Ultimately, many don't know how-or don't bother --to fit the teachings of the degrees into their journey. For some, Masonry does fit into their personal journey enough to be a part of it.

If people are on personal pilgrimages perhaps organizations are, too. In attempting to explain Freemasonry to some of its members, LORE attempts to help in some way to assist the individual Mason on his Masonic journey and, in turn, to assist the fraternity in helping make good men better. And, of course, as its members progress Masonically, hopefully so does this lodge.

It doesn't just happen. We need papers. Hopefully two, perhaps three, presentations somehow relating to Masonry per meeting. Original, researched works of lodge members. Written (with footnotes), if possible. A talk organized notes if you can pull it off. Multi-media is also acceptable.

If you do have a paper or other presentation for an upcoming meeting, let me know so that it can be put on the program and announced in the trestleboard.

You can also contribute by writing something for the trestleboard. Your observations on some aspect of Masonry. Not merely an inspirational poem or a quick quote or a "fun fact" unless it serves as a springboard for your thoughts. The article should be no longer than about 500 words. Send your articles to me at rct21880@yahoo.com by the first of the month the month before the meeting. (For example, the deadline for the March 12 meeting is February 1.) Be forewarned that your submission might be edited, although I will work with you on this.

However, if you do come across something (more substantial than a one or two line quote or a stand-alone datum) in another publication you



I WANT YOU

To Be A NJ LORE Officer

feel is of interest to the Fraternity in general or LORE in particular, submit it.

One thing we have been working on the past few meetings which hopefully will bear fruit next year is taking LORE on the road. It looks promising that we will be visiting another temple in March.

Of course, I welcome your thoughts and suggestions on how we can improve LORE. Especially on how we can get old--and new--members to travel to our meetings. Perhaps not a pilgrimage in itself, but a stop along the way.

Brethren,

You are cordially and fraternally invited to a Regular Communication of NJ Lodge of Masonic Research and Education No. 1786 to meet on Saturday, December 11, 2010 at the Trenton Masonic Temple, 100 Barrack St., Trenton, NJ at 9:30 a.m.

Order of Business

- Continental Breakfast (served 9:00 a.m.)
- Opening Lodge (9:30 a.m.)
- Short Business Meeting
- Election of Officers
- Installation of Officers
- Presentations by members
- Closing

NJ LORE Takes to the Road!

NJ Lodge of Masonic Research and Education is looking to visit other Masonic districts in New Jersey. This is a great opportunity for a Lodge to host a meeting of NJ LORE as an event in its District. You set up the visit and provide refreshments and we do all the work!

We are looking for visitation dates for June or September 2011. If you have interest in NJ LORE visiting your district, let your DDGM know of this program and contact our Worshipful Master or Secretary.



It Came from the Internet

Submitted by Bro. Matt Korang, Secretary

Various article of Masonic interest from the Internet in recent Months...

Library Card Protest Over Masonic Witchcraft

A Christian minister in Carterton is objecting to a Masonic Lodge being used for a temporary library because he considers it connected to witchcraft.

John Cromarty and his wife Marilyn, of St David's Church, are handing in their library cards

and are asking all their friends not to visit the lodge, which is housing the town's books while the \$6 million events centre is built.

In a letter to Carterton Mayor Gary McPhee, which was distributed at yesterday's Carterton council meeting, Mr. Cromarty warns that any decision to enter the premises is "not wise".

"Freemasonry, while it does good works in the community, is based upon the worship of pagan gods," Mr. Cromarty wrote.

"While it portrays a facade as being compatible to Christianity in its teaching, it has its foundation rooted in witchcraft and pre-Christian teachings and practice."

Mr. Cromarty suggested alternatives, such as an empty building on High St, Carterton, or the Wai Art Centre.

The couple are leaving at the end of the year but have taken the decision to hand their library cards in now to make a stand.

Called by the Times-Age, Mr. Cromarty said he had "no comment" but objected to his letter being published, believing it to be private correspondence.

Mr. McPhee said the letter showed a few people in the community were "stuck in the wrong century".

"We are now in the 21st century but clearly some people didn't move along with us," he said.

Warwick Cashmore, a past master and a Freemason of the lodge, said he was saddened by Mr. Cromarty's comments.

"I'm extremely disappointed he's taken this attitude.



"The basic tenants of freemasonry are brotherly love, relief, and truth."

He said freemasons, like Christians, believed in a god and, perhaps most importantly, had shared connections to paganism.

"He should examine his own religion and see there are some very big connections to paganism there.

Christmas and Easter both derive from pagan rituals," Mr. Cashmore said.

He believed the comments to be further evidence there were grave misunderstandings about freemasonry in the community after a recent court case in Wellington debating whether the society is a charity or not.

Carterton's Masonic Lodge has 52 members.

From Wairarapa Times-Age a New Zealand Newspaper.

'Ugly Betty' Actor Killed Mother With Ornate Sword, Cops Say

A bit actor who appeared on the show "Ugly Betty" stabbed his mother to death with a 3-foot-long ceremonial sword, while shouting references to the Bible and Freemasonry, police and witnesses said on Wednesday.

Cops were called early Tuesday morning to the Brooklyn home of Michael Brea, 31, and his mother, Yannick Brea, after neighbors awoke to the woman's shrill cries as, they believe, she was being slashed to death. Police arrived to find a bloodbath and the actor raving and barricaded in a bedroom.

"What woke me up was a shriek of his mother. That's what woke me up," neighbor Vernal Bent told ABC News affiliate WABC.

Bent said he heard the man yelling references to the Bible and Freemasonry.

"Like Jerusalem, Jesus, Aaron. ... Then the last like line I caught from him was the greatest architect of the universe," Bent said.

Freemasons sometimes refer to God as the "great architect of the universe." Some local media have reported that the sword was an ornate saber



used in Masonic ceremonies.

But police would only confirm its length to ABCNews.com, declining to comment on whether Brea had any connections to the secret fraternal organization.

Other neighbors heard Brea yelling "repent, repent, sinner, sinner" and "you never accepted Jesus."

Police said they entered the home and found Brea clutching the blood-covered sword and still rambling. Cops Tased him and called a special unit that handles the arrests of people believed to be psychologically disturbed.

Brea was removed from the house on a stretcher and taken to the psychiatric ward at Kings County Hospital in Brooklyn. He has been charged with murder and weapons possession.

Brea shared the his apartment in Prospect Heights, Brooklyn, with his mother and his twin brother, Marcel, according to the New York Daily News.

From ABCNews

Masons lose bid over charity status

Freemasonry's national executive is conceding defeat in its battle to maintain the charitable status it has held for decades.

Last year, the secretive society's highest body in New Zealand, the Grand Union, lost the tax-exempt status it had held since 1933.

Responsibility for determining charitable status was passed from the Inland Revenue Department to the Charities Commission in 2008, forcing thousands of organisations to reapply for tax exemptions.

High-profile organisations including Greenpeace and the Sensible Sentencing Trust have had their applications rejected.

Freemasons New Zealand appealed to the High Court last month, arguing that the Grand Lodge's primary activities were "beneficial to the community" and therefore charitable.

As well as directly charitable activities such as university scholarships (which the commission conceded were charitable), the lodge also teaches public speaking and lessons on ethics to its members, which it argued should also be considered charitable.

Acting for the Crown, Tania Warburton argued that many of the activities of the Grand Lodge were primarily for the benefit of its members, not the entire community. She said its membership, limited to men over the age of 21 who reached the rank of master mason, was too exclusive for a charity.

Judge Simon France rejected the Freemasons' appeal. He concluded that the activities of the Grand Lodge, and freemasonry in general, "do not benefit the public other than indirectly and intangibly by seeking to produce members who are better citizens".

Laurence Milton, the grand secretary for Freemasons New Zealand, said

the decision meant the Grand Lodge would have to apply for separate charitable status for its Fund of Benevolence, which did most of its charitable work.

The administration and other activities of the Grand Lodge would now be subject to tax.

"We'd have liked the decision to have been in our favour, but it really won't affect our charitable activity all that much at all. It just means a bit more work for me and my office," Mr Milton said.

The organisation spent \$3 million to \$4m on charity in New Zealand each year.

From Stuff.co.nz

Jose Rizal monument in Spain vandalized

The imposing monument of Philippine national hero Dr. Jose Rizal in Madrid, Spain, has been vandalized.

Brother Jaazeal Jakosalem, property administrator of the University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos in Bacolod, said that he visited Rizal's monument in Madrid on Tuesday and saw the words "Mason de mierda!"

Jakosalem is attending the 54th General Chapter of the Order of Augustinian Recollects in Spain.

The monument located along the Avenida de Las Islas Filipinas was inaugurated December 5, 1996 to commemorate the 100th year of Rizal's death (1896-1996) and as part of the Centennial celebration of the Philippine Independence from Spain (1898-1998) in the presence of then President Fidel V. Ramos, Jakosalem said.

The statue was made by the late Filipino sculptor Florante "Boy" Caedo.

"Being in Spain, I visited the monument as a proud Filipino. And as a faithful disciple of the sculptor, I was shocked to discover that the monument is defaced with those dirty words," Jakosalem said.

"Yes, Jose Rizal was a former Mason. But he was born a faithful and devoted Catholic, embracing masonry as a consequence of liberating his people, and only to embrace back the Catholic faith before his death—in the end, being forgiven and forgiving his executioners for the sake of freedom," he added.

Rizal was said to be a mason belonging to the Free Masonry, a secret fraternal order.

From Inquirer.net



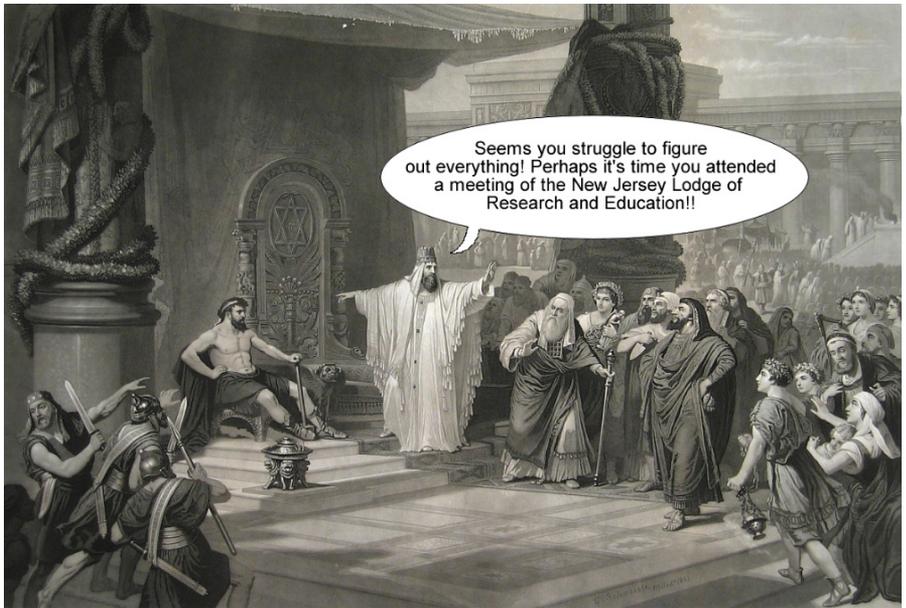
MASONIC TRIVIA AND FACTS

Giacomo Girolamo Casanova de Seingalt (April 2, 1725 – June 4, 1798), know by the name Casanova, was a Venetian adventurer and author. He was so famous as a womanizer that his name remains synonymous with the art of seduction.

In Lyon, around 1750, he entered the society of Freemasonry, which appealed to his interest in secret rites and which, for the most part, attracted men of intellect and influence who proved useful in his life, providing valuable contacts and uncensored knowledge. Casanova was also attracted to Rosicrucianism.

Casanova was tried and found guilty in part for his association with Freemasonry.

Gathered from Wikipedia



Finding it tough to figure out the meaning of all those symbols and allegories?

Hit a wall in your search for Masonic Knowledge??

Just frustrated with the same-ole, same-ole boring meetings???

Then it's time you gave NJ LORE No. 1786 a try!!!

Come out to our next meeting on Saturday December 11, 2010 at 9:30 a.m.

We guarantee you will not leave a meeting without learning something new.

Stop being frustrated and start enjoying Freemasonry again!!!

Officers for 2009-2010

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From the Editor's Desk.....

Next Trestleboard will be published on or about March 1, 2011. We are always looking for articles. All articles must be submitted by February 15, 2011.

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New Jersey Lodge of Masonic
Research and Education No. 1786

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*Bringing Light to New
Jersey Freemasonry!*

**We're On the
Web!!
njlore1786.org**