

# Trestleboard

VOLUME 11 ISSUE 4

December 2013

*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 14, 2013 at 9:30 a.m. at:**

**Hightstown/Apollo Lodge #41  
535 North Main Street  
Hightstown, NJ 08520**

*All Master Masons are Welcome!*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

From the East	2
From the West	3
Masonic Youth Movement	4
It Came from the Internet	7



## From the East

**J.R. Avanti, Worshipful Master**

As a Knight Templar, the Grand Architect of the Universe created our world and allows His descendants to flourish in His universe. He has guided us towards discoveries of fire, the wheel and to the invention of tools to be utilized for the developing of our civilizations.

The Grand Architect of the Universe, as the First Grand Commander Knights Templar, directs us in our pilgrimages to nirvana and to many places and lands for the search of knowledge and light to better mankind in this ever struggling path of existence.

As the Grand Master of All Grand Masters of Freemasons, He has, for approximately Ten Thousands years of oral and written history, presented HIS LOVE and COMPASSION, so we might understand all He has, will and continuously does for us. It is almost impossible to view mankind from childhood to elderly people and NOT see the face of the Grand Architect of the Universe .

He guides us onward in our daily needs but allows us the gift of free choice.

Knowing we have that free choice, He is all forgiving and expresses His LOVE when we know not what we have done to Him or to our fellow humans. Hopefully when we are in His presence in that Grand Lodge on High, we will receive His Grace and Blessings when He praises us, "Well done, Oh Good and Faithful Servant"!

### LODGE HAPPENINGS...

NJ LORE No. 1786's next meeting will be held at the Hightstown-Apollo Lodge #41 on Saturday, December 14, at 9:30 a.m.

On the Agenda:

- Short Business Meeting
- From the Square to the Compasses — Bro. David L. Tucker
- Knights Templar— WB J.R. Avanti

Coffee and Pastries will be served prior to Lodge and Lunch will be provided following. Hope to see you there!

## From The West

Bro. David Tucker, Senior Warden

When our Masonic eyes are brought to light, our attention is first directed to the Three Great Lights of Masonry. Why? An intelligent man, desirous of being initiated and enlightened by freemasonry deserves an explanation. What is so special about a Bible, a Square and a Compasses that it deserves the first, prime billing of our attention in a journey toward wisdom? What is meant by light?

Why are these Great Lights altered in their representation as we progress in the three degrees of our ancient craft masonry? A Master Mason, having passed through the three degrees and proved himself worthy of advancement should know this basic lesson. Yet, how many of our Brethren can answer this question?

Why is the square the emblem of the Master's office? Why do Masons part upon the square? Why was the square applied to our naked left breast during our progress? Why was the square used as a weapon against the Grand Master? Is there any connection between these two events? How is the square a light?

At our next communication, I will offer a paper that will offer an answer to these questions...

Tired of getting your Trestleboard too late? Have you received it looking like this? ↓

You can help NJ LORE save trees and dollars by electing to receive your Trestleboard via e-mail!

To do this send an e-mail to **[mkorang@comcast.net](mailto:mkorang@comcast.net)** indicating you would like to receive Electronic Trestleboards in the future.



## **Freemasons See Young Blood As Key To Survival**

**Submitted by Bro. Matt Korang, Secretary-Editor**

It's out with the old at the Freemasons as the international society looks to boost the numbers of young people joining its ranks as it works to survive in the modern world.

Founded in the 19th century in Europe before being exported to the U.S. and worldwide, freemasonry is also known as "the craft," in homage to its roots in stonemasonry.

It portrays itself as a "fraternal society" where its members support one another, providing a space for like-minded people to socialize at "lodges" and carry out charitable works, while enabling its six million members worldwide to improve themselves on a moral level.

The group also has strong links to the British royal family, with the Queen's cousin, the Duke of Kent, the current patron, or "Grand Master," of the U.K.'s Freemasons.

However, the society is not without its detractors who accuse it of being a secret society, where its predominantly male-only lodges use "funny handshakes" and "secret symbols" to recognize one another. Furthermore, it has been accused frequently of being an "old boys network" where members use their connections for personal gain.

In a bid to quash what it calls the "myths" surrounding it as it heads towards its tercentenary in 2017, the United Grand Lodge of England and Wales (UGLE) – the governing body of the U.K. Freemasons which oversees around 8,000 lodges – has undergone something of a re-branding exercise.

"We want to be seen as a more relevant society," said Nigel Brown, Grand Secretary (or chief executive) of UGLE told CNBC.

"There's no doubt that the majority of our members are older but young people have a huge amount to offer to the mix within lodges - the older members might have more life experience but the younger ones have new ideas and it's the combination of that that's important."

The organisation has tried to raise awareness of its existence and activities among young people as its existing membership ages. In 2005, it set up a "universities scheme" to "establish and/or enhance arrangements and opportunities for undergraduates and other university members to enjoy Freemasonry," as the scheme's website says.

At its post war peak, there were in excess of 500,000 Freemasons in the U.K.. By November this year, there are 214,000 – which had fallen from 228,000 in 2011. But the latest figures give some promising reading for the society.

Although in November 2013, the 21-30 age group represented only 2.07 percent of the total membership of U.K. Freemasons while all other age

groups have declined in numbers, the range of younger members has increased.

Membership among the 21 to 30 age group has increased 7.65 percent over the last two years while membership in all other age groups decreased; The 40 – 50 age group has declined just over 10 percent, around 7 percent among 50 to 60 year olds and is down almost 10 percent between 60 to 70 year olds.

### **University Lodges**

Since the launch of the universities scheme, forty lodges that either operate in university towns or are attached to universities to cater mainly for students or alumni have become involved. Masons that CNBC spoke to insisted that the scheme was to "raise awareness" about the group and not to actively recruit more members – which is against the group's ethos.

Alistair Townsend has been a Freemason for 22 years and is the Secretary of Isaac Newton University Lodge (INUL), a lodge attached to Cambridge University principally made up of past and present students.

He told CNBC that there had definitely been an increase in younger members within his lodge of 200 members. "Older members within INUL are definitely aware of the importance of recruiting and retaining younger members," he said.

"Young people bring new ideas. We can get all the 60 year olds that we want but it's important to bring in people with new ideas. Unless we get that, the way we interact with the outside world, freemasonry is not going to change."

Membership costs around £100 a year for a regular member but students pay around a quarter of that figure. Asked what the organisation actually offered young people, Townsend said it enabled young people to feel connected to the past, a sense of tradition and formality which was "now missing from life and the world."

"We've got to find a way to show young people that we are inclusive, without losing those qualities," he added.

Claims of inclusivity and openness have been countered by accusations that the group is male-dominated, however. Women can become Freemasons, but can only join "orders" which are separate from the mainstream male-only lodges.

Interestingly, female members call each other "brother" and the head of the lodge is called the "Worshipful Master" like their male-only counterparts. The "International Order of Co-Freemasonry" – also known as "Le Droit Humain" - is open to men and women but is not widely approved of among many masons.

### **Secrets and Symbols**

With the organisation's main entrance requirement hardly taxing -- the

only pre-requisite for joining being that applicants have some belief in a higher being – there could be concerns that younger members don't take the group seriously.

Furthermore, the Freemasons have been dogged with an accusation that they operate as an "old boys network" in which members give each other an unfair advantage in the world of business or politics – something else that could attract some young people looking to get ahead in a more hostile world where the competition for jobs is rife.

INUL's Secretary Alistair Townsend said it was important to meet younger applicants before they were accepted into his – or any lodge – to make sure they were suitable for membership and were joining for the right reasons. UGLE's Nigel Brown, meanwhile, said that "if a member came to me expecting some kind of leg-up he'd be struck off immediately."

With thousands of other university societies operating in the U.K. that offer students the chance to socialise, practice a hobby or learn a new skill, joining the Freemasons might not be the obvious choice to engage in such activities – unless they did see some kind of personal advantage.

One active young Freemason conceded that some people did join for the wrong reason. "Some people make the fundamental mistake of believing that the freemasons are essentially a networking club," Sanjay Mody, a doctor who counts himself among the 21 to 35 age group of Freemasons, told CNBC on Monday. "But it's not all, it's about fellowship and camaraderie."

Mody joined the group in 2001 when he was a medical student in Scotland. Having lived and worked in the U.S. and Cayman islands, he's attended not only his "mother lodge" in Scotland ("Lodge Ancient No.49") but many abroad.

"As corny as it sounds, for me joining the masons was like a "calling". The masonic values matched what I was looking for and I found that a lot of my friends at university were in it already."

The latest event to harness the influx of younger members is the forthcoming "University Lodges Ball," a 150-year-old society event that has been resurrected by the "Apollo University Lodge" of Oxford and Townsend's Cambridge lodge to be held this weekend in London.

One of the organisers of the ball, which is open to members and non-members alike and being held to make money for a veterans' charity, said that it was a way for the organisation to promote itself among a wide range of young people.

"I think what's happened with freemasonry, like a lot of large companies or organisations, is that the world has changed around us and it's just taken us slightly longer to adapt and change with it," Freemason Daryn Hufton-Rees told CNBC.

<http://www.cnbc.com>

# **It Came From The Internet**

Submitted by Bro. Matt Korang, Secretary-Editor

## **Who Is Dianne Reidy?**

After nearly 17 days -- and as the deadline for defaulting on the nation's debt neared -- the U.S. government shutdown ended Wednesday night. Congress approved a bill in favor of ending the shutdown and resuming funding the federal government through Jan. 17, and it voted to raise the debt ceiling until Feb. 7 as well.

But while tensions have eased up and a resolution was passed, there was a moment during Wednesday night's vote that's caused quite a ruckus inside the House chamber and beyond.

Dianne Reidy, a longtime House stenographer, was yanked out of the House by security after interrupting the vote and shouting, "the House is divided" and "this is not one nation under God!"

A video captured by C-SPAN shows Reidy walking up to the podium and starting to shout as Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-Fla.) banged her gavel, screaming "Order!" repeatedly. House security officials carried Reidy away as she was still yelling.

Audio recording of the outburst from Public Radio International reporter Todd Zwillich quoted Reidy as saying:

"He will not be mocked! This is not one nation under God. It never was. The greatest deception here is this is not one nation under god! It never was. Had it been, it would not have been! The Constitution would not have been written by Freemasons! You cannot serve two masters! You cannot serve two masters! Praise be to God, Lord Jesus Christ."

Ros-Lehtinen told Fox News that Reidy "came up to the podium area beneath where I was standing and asked me if the microphones were on. I said that I didn't know. I assumed that perhaps I was chatting too much to the helpful parliamentarians around me. Then she suddenly faced the front and said words like 'Thus spoke the Lord.' And, 'This is not the Lord's work.'

"I hammered to get control and hush her up. She said something about the devil. It was sudden, confusing and heartbreaking. She is normally a gentle soul."

CNN reported that Officer Shennell S. Antrobus of Capitol Police took Reidy to a local hospital for evaluation.

So far, it is unclear what prompted Reidy's meltdown on the House floor. Despite her outburst, though, the vote was completed and the House passed the bill, which was signed by the president shortly after midnight. Still, questions remain as to why Reidy, a woman whom "many officers knew...personally," CNN reported, would have acted this way.

"She's a well-known person, she's a perfectly nice person, a good colleague, somebody who's respectable and dependable, and this is very surprising to

everybody who works with her," CNN reported. "I don't know, she just snapped," said a GOP aide.

Not everyone in Congress was dismissive of Reidy's outburst, though. According to the Washington Post, Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-Va.) expressed "sympathy" for the stenographer "because something clearly happened there." <http://www.ibtimes.com>

---

## House Stenographer Outburst Recalls Masonic Conspiracy Theories Past And Present

Dianne Reidy, a stenographer at the House of Representatives, managed to wrest attention away from Wednesday evening's political drama for a moment after she grabbed a microphone and yelled about God and freemasonry, moments after Congress passed a bill in favor of ending the government shutdown. While we might look at Reidy's outburst as bizarre and batty, conspiracy theories about Freemasons have been around in America for as long as... well, Freemasons.

"The greatest deception here is this is not one nation under god!" Reidy shouted, according to audio recorded by Public Radio International. "It never was. Had it been, it would not have been! The Constitution would not have been written by Freemasons! You cannot serve two masters!"

Modern representations of Masonic conspiracy theories have permeated pop culture, from the books of novelist Dan Brown to Alan Moore's intricate Jack the Ripper graphic novel, "From Hell." One of the seminal early texts of Masonic conspiracy theories is "Proofs of a Conspiracy," a 1797 tome by Scottish physicist John Robison, which links Freemasonry to the Illuminati – a real organization founded in Bavaria by the Jesuit Weishaupt in 1776 and blamed for instigating the French Revolution and any number of other historical events.

"It was then discovered that this and several associated [Masonic] lodges were the nursery or preparation school for another Order of Masons, who called themselves the ILLUMINATED, and that the express aim of this Order was to abolish Christianity, and overturn all civil government," Robison wrote.

One of the most common charges levied against Freemasonry throughout the ages is that it is an occult religion masquerading as a social network. All Masons must believe in some form of Supreme Being to become members, but the organization doesn't discriminate between self-proclaimed Christians, Muslims, Jews or otherwise.

Modern Masons emphasize that their organization is more like a fraternity than anything else, but the organization has been dogged by accusations of occult affiliation for centuries. Many of the group's symbols draw from Babylonian and Egyptian imagery, and Masonic lore leans heavily on symbols: the square and the compass, the hourglass, Solomon's Temple, and the

pentagram (which, Masons hasten to explain, has not always had Satanic connotations).

According to various theories, Freemasons had a hand in America's foundation from the very beginning. English philosopher and Mason Sir Francis Bacon supposedly outlined a plan for colonizing North America in the 1590s. Several of the Founding Fathers were Masons, including George Washington and Ben Franklin, and numerous signers of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence were too. Consequently, conspiracy theorists think that the American War of Independence was orchestrated as part of a Masonic plot (despite that fact that several British generals who fought to keep the colonies English were reportedly also Masons and that America is party to an ongoing conspiracy to establish a New World Order. (Several modern American presidents -- Warren Harding, Dwight Eisenhower, Jimmy Carter and George H.W. Bush -- have taken their oath of office on George Washington's Masonic Bible.)

In fact, America's first political third party was the Anti-Masonic Party, notable for starting the practice of platforms and nominating conventions for presidential elections -- but more widely remembered for its primary political issue of opposing Freemasonry. Ironically, the Anti-Masonic Party's first presidential candidate, William Wirt, was himself a former Freemason who lost interest in the organization.

In his 1831 letter accepting the party's nomination, Wirt said his decision to leave the Freemasons "proceeded from no suspicion on my part that there was anything criminal in the institution, or anything that placed its members in the slightest degree in collision with their allegiance to their country and its laws."

<http://www.ibtimes.com>

---

## **Hillsborough: Freemason cops banned from working on criminal probe into cover-up**

The revelation adds weight to the theory that members of the secretive organisation suppressed the truth after 96 Liverpool fans died in 1989.

Police officers who are Freemasons have been banned from working on the criminal investigation into the Hillsborough cover-up.

The revelation adds weight to the theory that members of the secretive organisation suppressed the truth after 96 Liverpool fans died in 1989.

The Independent Police Complaints Commission took the unusual move after families of the football fans who died in the disaster demanded that no members of a lodge be involved.

All of the employees in the IPCC investigation have also been told they cannot be from South Yorkshire or Merseyside, where the tragedy occurred.

Former West Midlands Police officers have also been banned after their force carried out a review that led to the flawed inquest verdicts being quashed

last year.

Officers from the force have also been accused of changing witness statements.

The probe into the police's role on the day of the disaster – codenamed Operation Resolve – employs 170 people, including 70 officers. The latest review, led by former Durham chief constable Jon Stoddart, was expected to report soon but the team has been swamped with evidence and has to interview 237 officers who were on duty at the match.

A source close to the probe said: "We have been told that no Freemasons are allowed on the investigation.

"One theory at the time was that the whole conspiracy was covered up by the group's members as there are so many Masons in the police.

"The families have raised concerns... so we have prohibited them from being part of the investigation team. The deadline that officers were working towards is impossible and the review's findings will be delayed."

An IPCC source confirmed that Freemasons and former officers from the three forces had been banned from the probe.

The investigation team, while independent from the fresh inquests into the deaths, is helping coroner Lord Justice Goldring to prepare for and carry out the inquests, set to start by March 3, 2014.

Hillsborough was Britain's worst-ever sporting disaster. Thousands of fans were crushed on the Sheffield Wednesday ground's Leppings Lane terrace during Liverpool's 1989 FA Cup semi-final against Nottingham Forest.

Last December verdicts of accidental death from the original Hillsborough inquest in March 1991 were quashed.

The action was taken after the Hillsborough Independent Panel reported that there had been a huge cover-up.

The IPCC has previously revealed that statements given by witnesses could have been changed by police.

The Freemasons is a "fraternal brotherhood" dating back to the 14th century. It started as an organisation to monitor the qualifications of stonemasons.

But in modern times the organisation is seen as an elitist group that has been dogged by allegations of corruption.

The all-male group, governed by the United Grand Lodge of England, has 250,000 members. Many figures in authority are Freemasons. The first US president, George Washington, and another leading American revolutionary, Benjamin Franklin, were Masons. Today a significant proportion of the Royal household are members, and the Duke of Kent is grand master of the UGLE.

Despite royal patronage, and their presence in the judiciary and the higher reaches of the City, the Masons deny being an underground arm of the Establishment.

<http://www.mirror.co.uk>

## Officers for 2013-2014

<b>J.R. Avanti</b> P.O. Box 196 New Gretna NJ 08224 Belcher Lodge # 180	<b>Worshipful Master</b> 609-296-0238 avantijr@verizon.net
<b>David Tucker</b> 218 Lincoln Street Hammonton, NJ 08037 Atlantic #221	<b>Senior Warden</b> 609.277.1158 davidtuckerpm@comcast.net
<b>Robert H. Morris</b> Princeton #38	<b>Junior Warden</b> 609-924-6178 validude2001@yahoo.com
<b>Val Korsniak</b> 5 E. Wood Ln. Mount Laurel, NJ 08054 Mt. Holly #14	<b>Treasurer</b> mhl14librarian@yahoo.com
<b>Matthew Korang</b> 106 Wayland Rd. Delran, NJ 08075 Beverly-Riverside #107	<b>Secretary</b> 856-461-0932 mkorang@comcast.net matthew.korang@lmco.com
<b>Dennis Huey</b> Keystone #153	<b>Senior Deacon</b> 609-927-0688 profhuey@earthlink.net
<b>Robert Howard</b> Hawthorne Fortitude Lodge #200	<b>Junior Deacon</b> 201-251-9151 rwhoward@optonline.net
<b>Jeffrey Alexander</b> Mt. Holly #14	<b>Chaplain</b> jeffalexander007@verizon.net
<b>Mike Stein</b> Hawthorne Fortitude Lodge #200	<b>Tyler</b> masrpac@yahoo.com

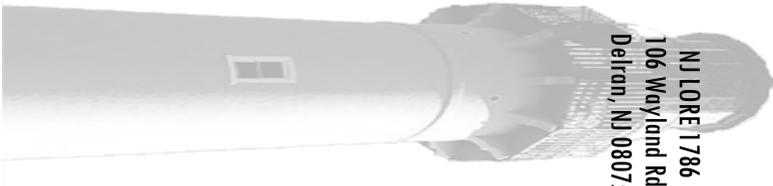
### *From the Editor's Desk.....*

*The next Trestleboard will be published on or about March 1, 2014. We are always looking for articles. All articles must be submitted by February 15, 2014.*

*Matthew Korang, Secretary  
 mkorang@comcast.net*

New Jersey Lodge of Masonic  
Research and Education No. 1786

NJ LORE 1786  
106 Wayland Rd.  
Delran, NJ 08075



*Bringing Light to New  
Jersey Freemasonry!*

**We're On the  
Web!!  
[njlore1786.org](http://njlore1786.org)**