

Trestleboard

VOLUME 12 ISSUE 4

December 2014

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 13, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. at:**

**Trenton Masonic Temple
100 Barrack Street
Trenton, NJ**

All Master Masons are Welcome!



From the East

JR Avanti, Worshipful Master

Brethren, All the research one person could accomplish will probably enlighten his life.

Being a friend and sharing a Masonic meeting or event can change one Brother's view of Masonry.

Life is short, encourage Fellowship, Masonic Learning and Brotherly Love!

*Respectfully,
J. R. Avanti, PM - NJ LORE
Presiding Master - 2012 to 2014*

P.S. Many Thanks to all our members, especially Brother Matthew Korang - Secretary for me being able to serve NJ LORE!

LODGE HAPPENINGS...

NJ LORE No. 1786's next meeting will be held at the Trenton Masonic Temple on Saturday, December 13, at 9:30 a.m.

On the Agenda:

- Short Business Meeting
- Nomination and Election of Officers for 2015-2016
- Installation of Officers by MWGM Gerald Sharpe
- Inaugural Paper by WM David Tucker

Due to numerous events on this date, lunch will not be severed after the communication.

Join NJ LORE Officers for Breakfast at Mastori's Diner 144 U.S. 130, Bordentown Township, NJ at 7:00 A.M. Please RSVP for Breakfast only to mkorang@comcast.net so we can provide a number of attendees to the restaurant.

From the West

Submitted by Bro. David Tucker, SW

I hope all are enjoying the Holiday Season! At the end of our calendar year we have several holidays to gather with our families and reflect upon another year, our losses and our blessings. January quickly brings our thoughts to the future. Our New Year's Resolutions bring our focus from the past to our desires of the future. I am writing to ask you to give some attention to your Masonic future.

What do you want the future of your New Jersey LORE to be? What do you think about when you think of LORE? Is it filling your expectation? What can you do to help LORE reach its goal?

The New Jersey Lodge of Masonic Research and Education has a future to think about too. LORE is intended to provide a forum for presenting Masonic Research and Masonic Education. It is the only Lodge of Research in New Jersey. We, as Members and/or active participants have a responsibility to do our part to make our organization successful. Writing is not for everyone. But, learning is. Masons who do not desire to research or write a paper have a home at LORE too. Our meetings need a bit of setup and cleanup. We like to have refreshments and need help with that. Everyone can contribute to the success of our meetings. Everyone can play a part in making our future better.

In the new year I will try to move us forward, in a positive and proactive direction. We will have light and we will learn. I hope you will participate in our efforts. Andrew Hammer, the author of *Observing the Craft* and I were chatting recently and I lamented the fact that, despite advertising events, attendance always seems less than expected. He told me that, having traveled all across this country and several other countries speaking about Masonic topics, he has learned that only about 5% of Masons truly care about further light enough to travel for it. I can accept that – and if it is true, we have about a thousand Masons in NJ who should be attending our meetings! I sincerely encourage you to invite your Masonic friends to our meetings. They are relatively short and are centrally located. We have an audience my Brothers, we are just not reaching them and getting their interest. We should.

I look forward to seeing you at LORE in 2015. We will have a good year. I hope we come together to make it a great year. We must try a little harder to fulfill our mission as New Jersey LORE. Our fraternity needs our efforts. If you are reading this, you are one of the 5% that cares – and it is up to us! Let's get to work.

It Came From The Internet

Submitted by Bro. Matthew Korang, Secretary

A Not-So-Secret Society Meeting in Costa Rica

At a recent gathering that took place in the capital city of Costa Rica, men wearing ceremonial garb over their business suits conferred about topics such as apprenticeships, fellowcraft, medallions, seals, rituals, and the famous Scottish poet Robert Burns. This special meeting was presided by a special guest from a faraway land who bore gifts, including a medallion that was placed in a museum dedicated to holding artifacts belonging to a fraternal order that people often associate with mysticism.

Freemasonry in Costa Rica dates back to 1865. By 1871, a handful of Fraternal Orders had been established around the country, and they adopted abstract names such as Charity, Hope, Fatih, Progress, Wonder, Concord, Providence, etc. As with other Freemasonry organizations around the world, the Fraternal Orders in Costa Rica are thick with symbolism, allegory and ritual, but they share similar goals with regard to promoting fraternity between members and undertaking business, educational and charitable undertakings.

The “secret society” sophism of the Freemason movement in Costa Rica is intrinsic to the Roman Catholic constitutionality of our country. In the past, the Vatican has condemned Freemasonry (perhaps fearing a power struggle), and thus at one point Freemasonry was not particularly welcome and was ignorantly associated with heresy. It is interesting to note, however, that Freemasonry was introduced in our country by a Roman Catholic priest.

Grand Lodge of Illinois Grand Representative, R.W.B. Joseph F. Loayza made an official visit to Lodge La Luz No. 3 in San Jose, Costa Rica. This lodge was chartered in the late 19th Century, before the Grand Lodge of Costa Rica was organized in 1899. He was a special guest in the East for the evening. His visit coincided with the conferral of an Entered Apprentice Degree, and a Grand Lodge of Costa Rica visit.

R.W.B. Loayza presented the Illinois Grand Master’s Recognition of Unity Medallion to a PGM of the Grand Lodge of Costa Rica who was representing Grand Master Hirish that evening. There was a formal exchange of greetings on behalf of both Grand Lodges and assurance that the medallion would be placed in the Museum of the Grand Lodge of Costa Rica recognizing the fraternal bond between both Grand Lodges.

The Costa Rica Star (<http://news.co.cr>)

ISIS Denounces “Crusader Obama, Slave of Washington” for Aiding Freemasons

Sure this sounds like a bad joke, but so did most Nazi and Soviet propaganda. Just because our enemies seem to be living on their own

planet doesn't mean they're not dangerous.

People operating in their own consensual reality are a lot more dangerous.

ISIS accuses the Kurds (?) of being agents of the Freemasons turning to the Black of Washington or the Slave of Washington.

"So the dog of the Romans thrust his air force into a new dilemma; and entered into a military pact with the agents of yesterday, the Kurds, to commit the same stupidity that he has not awakened to, even until now!" ISIS rants.

Apparently Obama is the dog of the Romans. Also a Freemason? And a Crusader. Lots of hats for a guy who mostly plays golf.

ISIS denies what the "satellite channels of lies" say that it was forced to retreat. Then it concedes that it carried out some "tactical withdrawals" which is proper milprop speak for retreat.

Then it claims credit for turning back the Kurds with assorted suicide bombings. It also claims credit for shooting down an aid chopper sent to the Yazidi refugees in Sinjar.

Finally there's a promise to fight to the very last man. Which historically is a promise to fight to the last idiot who doesn't notice that his side is boarding planes to somewhere else.

Oddly ISIS manages to get through that entire rant without once mentioning the Jews. They must have been too distracted by all those tactical withdrawals

Frontpage Mag (<http://www.frontpagemag.com>)

Freemasons make a lucrative Little deal

Two years since hosting a luncheon event with "special guest speaker" Paul Little, Freemasons Victoria has formalised a deal with the millionaire to co-develop two historic eastern suburb sites.

The former Masonic Centres in Box Hill and Kew East will make way for villages carrying an end value of more than \$50 million. In Box Hill, a circa 1923 hall which was extended in the 1950s will be razed for an 11-level, 100-unit apartment building, while in Kew East an imposing church and smaller outbuilding, neither of which are heritage protected, will be replaced with two rows of luxury townhouses and a new lane off Strathalbyn Street.

Little Property Group, the burgeoning building company owned by the Essendon Football Club chairman and former Toll executive, has just launched the projects on sites still owned by Freemasons Victoria, a silent partner.

The Little deal comes two years after Freemasons Victoria publicly announced it would team with Mirvac to replace its prominent East Melbourne Masonic Lodge and Dallas Brooks Centre with a 10-storey, 250-unit high-end residential building.

Freemasons previously told Fairfax Media dwindling membership of less

than 13,000 (from a peak of over 110,000) had forced it to consider site redevelopment. Its portfolio includes prime blocks, often near transport and activity centres, which suit high-density reuse.

Last month Freemasons Victoria sold a former Masonic Hall at 3 Rochester Road, Canterbury, for about \$1.5 million.

The Sydney Morning Herald (<http://www.smh.com.au>)

Freemasonry Still Alive And Well, And (Mostly) Men-Only

The members of the Queen Anne Masonic Lodge near downtown Seattle are on the young side. The guy in charge is 26.

Danny Done, the lodge's worshipful master, is lounging on his designated chair in the room reserved for private ceremonies.

His title comes with a top hat, though he avoids putting it on — he says it makes him look dorky. But he does like other aspects of Masonic regalia, like his Templar sword. Done uses it to point to a diagram on the wall that charts out the different kinds of Masonry.

Yes, one of America's oldest fraternities, the Masons, is still around. And in a conversation with Done, you quickly find they aren't nearly as secretive as you'd hoped — particularly in Washington state. Rules in each state are set by a "Grand Lodge," and Washington's claims to be relatively liberal in the rules governing what can be shared about the organization's ceremonies.

There's so much information on the Internet about those rituals, many Masons say, that there's little point in being mysterious about them. For Done, the appeal of Freemasonry is pretty basic. "A lot of my best friends are here, and all of their friends typically come around, too, and it just becomes a really interesting social network that's not online," he says.

A generation ago, Freemasonry began to decline, and many of the fraternity's buildings around the country were being turned into movie theaters. Membership in the U.S. fell from almost 4.1 million in 1960 to about 1.3 million in 2012. While membership is still falling, those declines have been less steep in recent years.

"Twenty years ago, I would not have been optimistic," says William Moore, a scholar of American Freemasonry who teaches American studies at Boston University. "I would have said, 'Yes, they were relics of a time that's left behind.' "

But historically, he says, the fraternity does well during times of economic instability for men. The U.S. is in that kind of time right now.

And some millennials, Moore says, are looking for the kind of long-lasting commitment available in a lodge.

"They know that those men will be their brothers no matter what their economic structure is," Moore says.

National Public Radio NPR.com (<http://www.npr.org>)

Officers for 2013-2014

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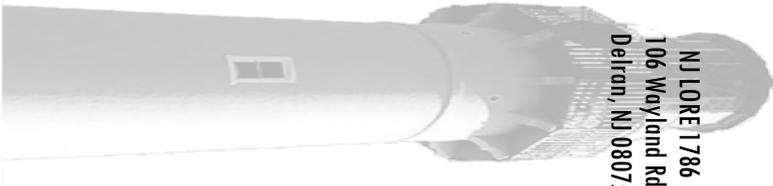
From the Editor's Desk.....

The next Trestleboard will be published on or about March 1, 2015. We are always looking for articles. All articles must be submitted by February 15, 2015.

*Matthew Korang, Secretary
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New Jersey Lodge of Masonic
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*Bringing Light to New
Jersey Freemasonry!*

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