

Trestleboard

VOLUME 9 ISSUE 2

June 2011

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, June 11, 2011 at 9:30 a.m. at:

Trenton Masonic Temple

100 Barrack St.

Trenton, New Jersey

All Master Masons are Welcome!



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From the East

Bro. Raymond Thorne, Worshipful Master

Dear Brother,

There are two events taking place in the Historic Trenton Masonic Temple within a month of LORE's meeting that I feel worthy of our participation as individuals.

The first is a work party Sunday, June 26 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., helping prepare the lower ballroom for its renovation. Basically, it means removing wallpaper and rugs. If you think you can help, contact RW Glenn Trautmann, DGM, at gmnj2012@live.com and let him know you are a member of LORE.

The other even is Heritage Days, Saturday and Sunday July 9 & 10. Greeters and tour guides for both temples on Barrack Street are needed. Both day's events are scheduled to start at 10 a.m. so arrival by 9:30 a.m. would be good. (I don't know how late in the day the events are scheduled to run.) I'm sure volunteering even a few hours either day would be appreciated.

My Brother, the Historic Trenton Masonic Temple is our home base and I feel anything we do to help the Temple, however small and symbolic, would be to our advantage. There should be more information on both activities at our June meeting.

LODGE HAPPENINGS...

NJ LORE No. 1786's next meeting will be held at the Trenton Masonic Temple on Saturday, June 11, 2011 at 9:30 a.m.

On the Agenda:

- The Taxil Hoax—Bro. Richard Powell
- The Second Grand Master—WM Thorne
- Overview of the ICHF Conference—Bro. Jay Hochberg

Coffee and danish will be served prior to our meeting and Lunch will be served after. Members should make every effort to attend.

What's In A Date???

Bro. Raymond Thorne, Worshipful Master

I asked Allegorein,
“What are your plans for the
Fourth of July?”

Allegorein looked at me
like I had just asked him an
obviously stupid question.
“Why should I celebrate a
false and illegal origin of
the United States?”



“False? Illegal?”

“Look, the Second Continental Congress, like the First Continental Congress, wasn't authorized by the Crown either by direct consent or indirectly through approval of an act of Parliament. So, whatever legislation Congress passed had no legitimacy.”

“The colonists said it had legitimacy.”

“But the colonists didn't have the authority to make it legitimate. Second, King George declared the colonies in rebellion on August 23, 1775. Therefore, even if the Second Continental Congress had any authority up to that point, it lost it with the King's declaration.

“And, of course, even if the Second Continental Congress did have any legitimacy in the eyes of the Crown, it still wouldn't have the authority to declare the colonies independent from England.”

“But,” I countered, “we Americans saw the Second Continental Congress as legitimate and the Declaration of Independence as legitimate and have celebrated it as such as soon as it was publicly announced. Yes, that was an act of rebellion on our part, but when the United States and Great Britain signed the Treaty of Paris in 1783, didn't that make legitimate the Declaration of Independence not only in our eyes but in the eyes of the British--and therefore the world?”

Allegorein asked me, “If you were to make a list of things that make a country a country, wouldn't the first, or one of the first,



item be a head of government--a president or prime minister or king, some go-to person who sets policy, receives ambassadors, an individual who is the legally designated leader of the country?

“Of course you would. Having a leader is so important that the date of American independence that you want me to celebrate is not July 2, the date the Second Continental Congress ratified the Declaration of Independence--as John Adams predicted would be the celebration date--but July 4, the date the president of the Second Continental Congress put his John Hancock on the document.

“Of course, Brother Hancock’s presidential power was limited to ruling Congress. Same with the President of the United States in Congress Assembled, under the Articles of Confederation.

“Brother Thomas Paine boasted in 1778 that without a king, the United States knew ‘no master but Heaven and herself.’ A leaderless country might have been a point of pride during the Revolution, but as time went on it became a very real impediment to the running of the country and America’s foreign relations.

“The need for a one-person head of government--instead of Congress acting as such as a body, as under the Articles of Confederation--was a reason for the Constitutional Convention. And that’s why conventional citizens are accepting April 30, 1789 as the

true date of the birth of the United States as a nation.”

“What do you mean ‘conventional citizens?’”

Allegorein ignored the question. “April 30, 1789 was the day Worshipful Brother George Washington was inaugurated President of the United States, the first true head of state this country ever had.”

I told him, “I haven’t until this minute, heard of anyone who claimed that we should date the founding of this country from the first inauguration of George Washington.

“We have a history in this country that we have always recognized the birth of the United States as starting on July 4, 1776. In 1777, Americans celebrated the first anniversary of independence; no one said, ‘Let’s wait until we have a head of state before we consider ourselves independent.’ They would’ve been laughed out of town. There were big national blowouts celebrating the 50th, 100th, 150th and 200th anniversaries of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. What observations were there for the corresponding anniversaries of the first presidential inauguration? Maybe an article in the local paper.

“Without the recognition of the United States as a sovereign country, America could not have developed and prospered as it did. If the creation of the United States was irregular--as you claim--then even if we Americans considered it regular, other countries would have considered it irregular and would never have recognized us. But France recognized the United States even before we won the Revolutionary War. Other countries, such as Spain and Holland, recognized us before the Constitution was written.

“Either almost all Americans are wrong and have always been wrong to date the birth of this country from the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776 and all the countries that recognized us before April 30, 1789 were wrong to do so or you and your revisionist thinking is wrong.”

I think Allegorein was ignoring me. He was humming the Tom Petty song, ‘I Won’t Back Down.’



GL Library Update

Submitted by Bro. Jeff Alexander, GL Chairman Library & Museum Committee

Brethren,

Below is what I submitted on behalf of the GL Library & Museum Committee. It shows the progress of the committee on some of our most valuable historical treasures.

Library and Museum Committee: To the M.W. Grand Lodge F&AM of New Jersey

The progress of this committee, if I may humbly say, is making significant advancements towards re-establishing a functional Grand Lodge Library and Museum as once existed in the facilities of the Masonic Charity Foundation and the Grand Lodge offices at the farmhouse over a decade ago. We began our Masonic year in 2010 with a three phase plan as follows:

Phase I – prepare and implement for the July hosting of North East Conference of Grandmaster’s meeting [July 23/24 of 2010]

Phase II - Post-NE Conference of Grand Masters meeting - understand and design Library and Museum functionality with potential migration of Grand Lodge offices to Trenton Temple at year end

Phase III - prepare and implement a further functional Library and Museum to service the Brethren and visitors of New Jersey to the Trenton Temple.

The installation of the sliding glass doors with locking mechanisms enabled us to push forth with populating the Stokes Library room of the Trenton Temple with the first massive wave of books and a small portion of museum artifacts. Cataloging of books will continue in order to establish an improved research facility. Rotation of museum artifacts will also continue to keep visitors interested.

When the dust settled from the Grand Lodge migration from Burlington to Trenton the nomadic adventures of the Grand Lodge books and artifacts had found another oasis for resting – that being the Corinthian Lodge room on the second floor of the Trenton Temple. While the Stokes Library still exists for presentation and doubling as a rental room for the social hall, our massive storage and preparation area for the bulk of the year was reinstated as the new business offices for Grand Lodge. Strategy for the future revitalization of the Corinthian Lodge room and its

permitted use for the permanent museum will need to be addressed as we move forward.

Another milestone was that the museum and library of the Northern Valley Scottish Rite [Museum and Library of Masonic Culture] is being absorbed into the Grand Lodge collections. These are phenomenal collections of the Charles D. Visscher museum and the Thurman C. Pace library which will continue to migrate south to Trenton as accommodations and security permits over time.

Regularly, Brother Val Korsniak and I travel to New Jersey Blue lodges to make a presentation of "Secret Masonic Libraries." We do this presentation under the veil of the N.J. Lodge of Masonic Research and Education #1786 to remind Brothers about the importance of seeking Masonic light in their lives. To quote Brother Korsniak, the hook to our presentation is that Masonic libraries are actually everywhere and right under our nose; but, we overlook them and hence the 'secret.' The personal photo-essay presentation includes segments of our travels across the country and the "Pond." We have incorporated a chronological segment for the Trenton Temple & Grand Lodge Library/Museum in order to alert the Brethren of this gem in hopes of garnering additional volunteer power and donations of goods or funds to our efforts.

It should be known that our Committee meets regularly, frequently giving up weekend time with our families to work in Trenton. We also communicate extensively utilizing e-mail as our primary tool. The Masonic Library and Museum Association have also welcomed a new presence of our state of New Jersey. They are a source of reference and direction for us and permitted me to present an overview of our plans to them while on vacation in Washington DC in October. We have true "gem" in the materials still in storage which await cataloging of our committee and we anticipate Brethren from throughout the state to continue to donate materials for this cause.

As always, I would like to thank the Brethren of this committee for their interest and desire in safeguarding and preserving our New Jersey Masonic heritage.

NJ LORE Brethren, please see me at the meeting if you have any questions. We are always looking for volunteers to assist the committee in this effort. If you feel like chipping in, let me know and we will see how your assistance can be best put to use!

It Came from the Internet

Submitted by Bro. Matt Korang, Secretary

A drink with an extra twist: bizarre claims in Sydney Water legal case

The entrepreneur who plans to bottle and market Sydney water internationally attempted yesterday to have a Supreme Court trial judge disqualified, on the grounds the judge refused to say if he was Jewish or a Freemason.

Paul Makucha is being sued by Sydney Water Corporation for \$293,000 it says was incorrectly paid to him and his various companies in a scheme concocted by Mr Makucha and a former senior executive, Edward Harvey.



Paul Makucha ... "I'm terrified of the Freemasons." Photo: Dean Sewell

Mr Makucha claims he owns the intellectual property for the marketing and selling of bottled water under the name Sydney Water because the trademark did not extend that far. He told the court intellectual property was not recognised under Jewish law and requested "that any judge that is Jewish ... not hear this case because they may be influenced by religious beliefs regarding intellectual property".

He also said the NSW Treasurer, Eric Rozenaadal, one of the two shareholding ministers in Sydney Water, had used masonic code in a picture published in the *Herald* in January because his "eyes were looking up - that's an imitation of Jesus - it's a masonic code".

"I'm terrified of the Freemasons" because "they must conceal the crimes of their brother masons", Mr Makucha said.

Justice John Sackar refused to answer if he was Jewish or a Freemason and said he would not stand down from the case.

"No aspect of Jewish law applies in this case. I have no idea what relevance it has to this case," Justice Sackar said.

In its statement of claim, Sydney Water says Mr Harvey had no authority to deal with intellectual property belonging to it.

Mr Makucha said he will continue his application to register the trademark Sydney Water with IP Australia unless restrained by the court. The hearing continues.

The Sydney Morning Herald

'The Mozart Conspiracy' hits thrilling, suspenseful notes

Freemasons, the secret society that has inspired numerous novelists including Dan Brown and Brad Meltzer, take center stage in *The Mozart Conspiracy*, an internationally acclaimed novel — author Scott Mariani lives in Wales — that's finally storming America's shores.

Meet British Special Air Service officer Ben Hope. He's about to get caught up in a centuries-old conspiracy that will have him matching wits and trading gunfire with an ancient society that may have been responsible for the murder of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

The "official" cause of Mozart's death was determined to be acute rheumatic fever, but modern hypotheses include the possibility he was poisoned. That theory was at the center of the play and movie *Amadeus* and blames a rival composer. But it's another theory — that Mozart was murdered by the Freemasons as punishment for his weaving Freemason secrets into his opera *The Magic Flute*— that Mariani explores.

Yes, it's formulaic, taking its cues from the Bourne movies and the James Bond franchise. Hope is a stoic loner (think Matt Damon as Jason Bourne or Daniel Craig's interpretation of James Bond) who gets dragged into the novel's thriller-esque plot when he comes to the aid of a beautiful woman whose brother may have been murdered because he discovered who killed Mozart. Still, it's a rollickingly good way to pass some time in an easy chair.

USA TODAY

Suffolk DA: Boston Freemasons' treasurer embezzled \$1.25M

A Maine man pleaded not guilty Tuesday to charges he embezzled more than \$1.25 million from two Boston-based chapters of the Freemasons fraternal order.

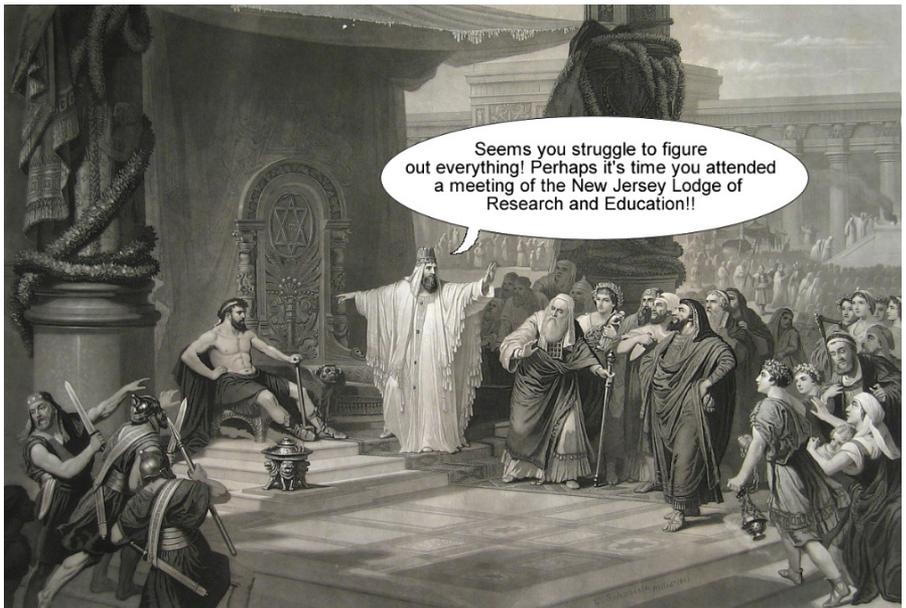
From 1999 until September, 2007, Vincent Paul Reed Jr. was the elected treasurer of two Masons chapters that meet at the Masons' lodge on Tremont Street in Boston's Theater District — the Boston Council of Royal Select Master Masons and the St. Paul's Chapter of the Royal Arch Masons — according to the Suffolk County district attorney's office.

Reed, of Shapleigh, Me., was arraigned today on charges he embezzled \$1.25 million from the two organizations during that time, spending the money on travel, utilities, pets, collectibles and personal credit cards.

According to Suffolk County District Attorney Dan Conley, Reed's embezzlement scheme siphoned money from investment accounts held by the two Freemason chapters with UBS Paine Webber into accounts at Bank of America, where both organizations held operating funds. Reed then allegedly spent the money illicitly via a debit card that the Masons did not know existed, and checks.

Reed's attorney, Joseph James Balliro Jr., of Boston, did not return a call seeking comment. The case is scheduled to go to trial next January.

Boston Business Journal



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, June 11, 2011 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!!!

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 future visitation dates. If you have interest in NJ LORE visiting your district, let your DDGM know of this program and contact our Worshipful Master or Secretary.



Officers for 2011-2012

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From the Editor's Desk.....

Next Trestleboard will be published on or about September 1, 2011. We are always looking for articles. All articles must be submitted by August 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**