

Trestleboard

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 2

MARCH 2005

The purpose of the NJ Lodge of Masonic Research and Education 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

The New Jersey Lodge of Masonic Research and Education meets on the fourth Saturday in January, March, May and September.

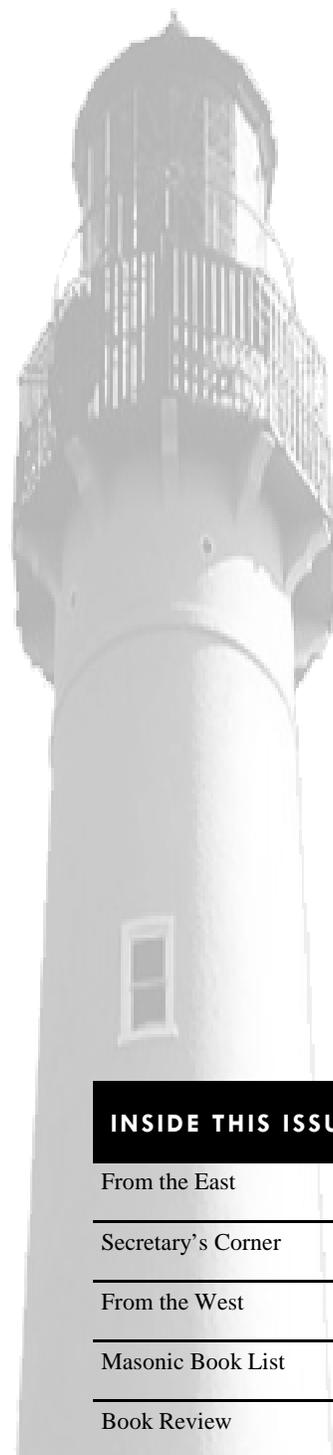
Our next communication will be held on
Saturday, March 26, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. at:

Trenton Masonic Temple
100 Barracks Street
Trenton, New Jersey

ALL MASTER MASONS ARE WELCOME!

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From the East

WB Tom Thornton, Worshipful Master

My Brothers,

Our next meeting is rapidly approaching, Saturday March 26th. Hopefully it will not present a spring storm and we can enjoy the entire morning doing our work. We have two speakers left over from last meeting, myself and our Secretary, Matt Korang. In addition, both Ben Hoff and Howard Kanozitz have things in the works. I'm also working on a full report on the Educational Meeting held Feb 13 at Burlington. It was very interesting for me. You will be proud to note all our required officers were there as well as several additional members. I noted Brother Kaputo, our Educational Committee Chairman, remarked he will only provide speakers for District Level Meetings. I agree, I think asking for a speaker for a small lodge meeting is not the best use of our speakers time. In addition, I noted the Deputy Grand Master was asked to do a Table Lodge and he danced. That tells me Table Lodges are becoming another substitute for a meeting.

Two important things will happen at our meeting, any members who cares to is invited to rise and read aloud anything that interests him, (five minute limit) to get 'reading aloud' practice. I think that is going to be a tool we can all use.

Prior to close we will have a general discussion. I'm concerned about what we should do, if anything for Grand Lodge. For the past years I have tended a card table dressed in cap and gown and handed out literature. Sadly, I don't think we gained one member from it and am not planning to repeat it this year. Members comments and thoughts about what else we might do are encouraged.

As usual the CDROM's of the EA and FM degrees will be available and I'll have a update on the documents which have been added to our LORE NOTEBOOK. Hope to see you there...

Fraternally,

Tom Thornton

Worshipful Master

Secretary's Corner

Brethren,

Many questions have arisen concerning the 2005 Dues Cards. Questions have come from all directions including the highest reaches of our Fraternity, yes the Grand Master. Although the GM's question involved something to do with prior approval of the new format, most questions revolved around the year posted on the card.

All this controversy is do to my mistake and the fact that our Masonic Year is from May to May. I placed a 2004 year on the cards thinking that everyone would understand that it was for 2004-2005. But, this was wrong and it just caused much confusion.

New cards are to be issued soon, and I will correctly mark them May 2005 – May 2006.

New dues Notices will be going out for 2005-2006. If you have not paid your 2004-2005 dues, you will see this reflected on your new dues notice. There will also be a blank space provided for any "extra change" you would like to give to the Lodges coffers. Any extra helps! See you on the 26th.

Matthew Korang, Secretary, NJ LORE No. 1786

From The West

Bro. Jay Hochberg, Senior Warden

By the time we meet again, the One-Day Class will be in the past. Now is the time to help each new brother find his place in our vast fraternity. For starters, he must learn the Master Mason Examination plus the grips, signs and words of Craft Masonry, but more than that, he must be taught what Freemasonry is lest he think we're a cuddly service club clinging to the letter of peculiar rituals for our identity.

The Masters, Wardens and Deacons of all lodges were invited to a leadership seminar last month to meet with the elected Grand Line. As Master of my mother lodge, I attended the discussion of dozens of Masters trading ideas on how to make lodges stronger. The consensus of all who spoke revealed that community involvement is the key to our future. Civic celebrations, parties, picnics, parades and all kinds of public displays of affection would be the order of the day. Blood drives and wine tastings, food banks and home repair service would compete with the actual needs of lodges for our brethren's precious time. Of course these worthy pursuits are already addressed by our distinguished neighbors in the Elks, 4-H, Jaycees, Kiwanis, Lions, PTA, Rotary and other fine (and shrinking) clubs. Of course Freemasonry is intended to offer a man something that cannot be had anywhere else: Masonic Light. Somehow we failed to discuss this. I'll take the blame because I didn't speak up. Frankly I felt like an outsider.

Bookstores bring traffic through their doors by capitalizing on the mysterious nature of Freemasonry, but we do not. Movie theaters bring traffic through their doors with colorful stories taken from Masonic mythology, but we do not. I don't know about you, but I can't believe 1,600 men have just come to Freemasonry to join in common activities that anyone can enjoy anywhere in public when not participating in secret ceremonies they don't comprehend.

Please understand that the context of the Masters' discussion concerned ways to bring in more members, and I do realize we can't share secrets revealing the hard labor of moral building in our introductions to the general public without sounding kooky. But can playing up the "funny hat service club" angle in promoting Masonry attract the thinking men we need?

I'd have to see it to believe it, and so I again ask all of you — and not for the last time either — to be Masonic Light's ambassadors in your mother lodges and in your travels. There are seekers of Light knocking on our doors, and Masonry's future demands that there be someone today to greet them not only with the grips, signs and words, but also with a knowing smile.

The Transactions of the New Jersey Lodge of Masonic Research & Education No. 1786 Volume I – 2002-2004

The Transactions of the NJ Lodge of Masonic Research & Education No 1786 are provided to every member of the NJ LORE. They can also be purchased directly from the Secretary.

Our first volume contains all of the papers presented to the Lodge in our first two years. It also contains all of the minutes from all of the meetings held during this period.

Our first Volume is available for purchase for \$15.00 per copy. It is a perfect gift for a friend you wish to introduce the Lodge of Research to or to your Lodge as an addition to its library.

For a copy send a check payable to NJ Lodge No. 1786
along with your return address to:

WB Matthew Korang / 344 East Union St. / Burlington, NJ 08016





Missed the last meeting??
 Lost your most recent NJ LORE Trestleboard?
 Want a copy of a paper presented at a meeting?

Take a look at the NJ LORE website at

<http://njlore1786.com>

At our website, you will find all of the latest information from copies of Trestleboards and papers to important contact information and meeting dates. Be sure to check it out!!

NJ LORE NO. 1786 — MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The Initial Membership Fee is \$ 25.00 and the Annual Dues are \$25.00. A personal check, bank check or money order made out to **“NJ Lodge No. 1786”** in the amount of \$50.00 must accompany this application.

Mail to our Secretary: WB Matthew Korang / 344 East Union St. / Burlington, NJ 08016

Please clearly print or type the following information

Brother Dist. Brother WB RWB MWB

Name _____

Address _____ Zip _____

Telephone (home) _____ (business) _____

Fax _____ E-mail _____

Lodge Affiliation (Mother Lodge or Lodge currently attending)

Your Lodge Secretary must sign and seal this section of the application indicating that you are in good standing.

Name _____ Number _____

Address _____

Grand Lodge of New Jersey _____ Grand Lodge of _____

Signature of Lodge Secretary _____

“I respectfully represent that I am a Master Mason in good standing in a Lodge of Master Masons in the State of New Jersey or in a Grand Jurisdiction with which New Jersey maintains fraternal relations and do hereby make application for membership.”



Your Signature _____

MEN AND MASONRY: DEVELOPMENT THROUGH MENTORING

by C. Victor Ramey MPS Submitted by Matthew Korang, Secretary

(Ed. Note – With the coming of the most participated One-Day Class (ODC) in the history of New Jersey Masonry, I present to you an article I found sitting on the web. It is an article about Mentoring and the need for new brothers to have a friend and guide into the Craft. Being “The Education Lodge” for our State, I would expect nearly 100% participation in the ODC by our members. If you agree or disagree with the idea of a ODC, I hope that you will represent our lodge and yourself as an upright and honorable Mason. The gentlemen coming into our society deserve our welcome and friendship.)

It is likely that in some stage of your Masonic life, you have encountered a Mason who has had a significant impact on your Masonic achievement and on your greater understanding of the tenets of Masonry. Perhaps it was a friend, a longtime Mason, or just a new acquaintance. This impact was indicative of the formative influence of others on your concepts about and interest in Masonry and the Masonic fraternity.

There are two general kinds of formative influence on learning the concepts of Masonry. They are role-model which is passive in nature and mentoring which is active in nature.

A role model's influence is basically passive in nature. A new Mason identifies with another Mason, a role model who possesses the qualities that he lacks and yet admires and wishes to emulate. By observing this role model's behavior and its consequences, the new Mason develops an image and mimics this behavior that evokes desired outcomes or accomplishments. Due to the individuality of the new Mason who is observing, the result of his imitation is likely to be only an approximation of the quality he thinks he desires. The process of observing can take place without direct interaction between the new Mason who is observing and the Mason whom he selected as the model. It is possible that the Mason selected as a role model by the new Mason may not be aware of his influence on this new Mason.

The second formative influence in achievement of the tenets of Masonry is that of a mentor. In contrast to the role model, the mentoring Mason has an active influence on the new Mason. A mentor is a person who leads, guides, and advises someone more junior in practice. A mentoring Mason can be viewed by the new Mason as a wise advisor, powerful sponsor, gracious host, careful guide, kind counselor, smart teacher, friend, and an exemplar. Masonic mentoring is the process by which the new Mason is guided, taught, and influenced. Mentoring Masons are those men who make a personal effort to foster and perpetuate Masonry to the highest levels possible by purposefully leading, guiding, and advising the new Mason.

DISCUSSION

For the purpose of this paper, Masonic mentoring and mentoring Masons will be the central focus. It will be assumed that the mentoring Mason's influence will be positive.

Mentoring Masons seem to come in all shapes, forms, and guises. However, Ramey (1990), identified four basic mentor types: (a) The Traditional Mentor; (b) The Step-Ahead Mentor; (c) The Co-Mentor; and (d) The Companion Mentor.

The Traditional Mentor is one who is sufficiently able to give wise counsel to the new Mason. As an example, the elder of a group of Masons. This mentor usually has ten or more years in Masonry than the new Mason.

The Step-Ahead Mentor is a Mason who is able to pave the way, teach, or give valuable guidance to the new Mason. For example, a Mason of about the same age but with more years of experience as a Mason. This Mason is usually ten or more years older than the new Mason.

The Co-Mentor is one who is engaged in reciprocal or mutual relationships. The two take turns providing guidance and assistance. They provide help to one another in specific areas of Masonry. The Co-Mentors are usually peers in both age and Masonic experience and are friends.

The Companion Mentor is a special form of Co-Mentor. Companion Mentoring can be either unilateral, i.e., with one new Mason giving to another, or it can be reciprocal with each providing guidance and assistance to the other.

Each of the above Masonic mentoring types can manifest itself in one or more of five distinctly different roles: as Educator, Sponsor, Coach, Counselor, and/or Confronter. Each role is used to facilitate learning and elicit contributions to the craft (Peters and Austin, 1985).

The mentoring Mason as an Educator shares knowledge about the lodge that can take years to acquire. This can include unwritten practices, idiosyncrasies, rules that can be loosely observed and rules that must be obeyed. The hallmarks of the Educator are identifying roles or conditions for the new Mason, introducing the new Mason to the group and teaching new skills/parts as needed. The tone of the mentoring Mason as an Educator is positive and supportive with an emphasis on the new Mason learning and applying specific new knowledge. The key skills of the Educator are the ability to articulate the philosophy/skills of the craft clearly and a willingness to reinforce the new Mason's learning. The consequences for the new Mason are the acquisition of a new philosophy for living and an increase in confidence, and broadened perspective of the craft.

The mentoring Mason as a Sponsor widens the exposure of the new Mason and reflects direct responsibility for guiding and developing the assets which the new Mason brings into the lodge. The new Mason is not just introduced to the other brothers of the lodge, he is made visible by serving on committees or working on projects that take advantage of his talents. The hallmark of this mentor is to inform significant others when the new Mason can make a special contribution that would result in letting his outstanding skill speak for itself. The tone of the Sponsor is positive and enthusiastic with an emphasis on long-term development of the tenets of Masonry in the new Mason. The focus of the Sponsor is polishing and fine-tuning the new Mason's ability so as result

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in significant contributions to the lodge. The key skills of the Sponsor are the ability to dismantle barriers to performance and develop Masonic relationships, with a willingness to let go of controls and willingness to provide access to information and people. The consequences for the new Mason of a mentoring Mason Sponsor are contributions to the craft, greater experience, and growth in the brotherhood of Masonry.

The mentoring Mason as a Coach experiences face-to-face leadership that observes the new Mason for cognitive, affective, and psychomotor skill development. The Coach mentor's observations provide data for constructive criticism in each realm of Masonry. Often the Coach will play the role of the devil's advocate by gently confronting and challenging the new Mason. The new Mason recognizes the mentor's role as such and trusts the mentor, which results in receptiveness to this form of Masonic mentoring. The hallmarks of the Coach are encouragement before or after a "first" and to make simple but brief corrections. The tone of the Coach mentor is encouraging, enthusiastic, preparatory, and explanatory. The key skills of the Coach mentor are his ability to express genuine appreciation and to listen effectively. The consequences for the new Mason are enhanced confidence, skills, and improved performance in the lodge.

The mentoring Mason as a Counselor advises, actively listens, provides empathetic support, and encourages problem solving. The Counselor provides a milieu conducive to the introduction of innovative ideas by the new Mason and renders clear feedback to him. The hallmarks of the Counselor are providing positive and caring support when problems alter the new Masons performance. The Counselor mentor can deter setbacks and disappointments, and speed his development. The tone of the Counselor puts emphasis on problem solving, positive feedback, supportive comments, encouraging remarks, and structuring dialogue with the new Mason. The key skills of the Counselor are the willingness to listen and the ability to give clear, useful feedback. The consequences for the new Mason are an enhanced sense of self as a Mason, an ability to problem solve, increased sense of accountability, and renewed commitment to Masonry.

The mentoring Mason as a Confronter clearly identifies alternatives and consequences to the new Mason. Confronters provide constructive, caring responses, and presents the consequences of unacceptable performance. The Confronter and the new Mason must recognize that change is imperative. The hallmark of the Confronter mentor is positive, calm, supportive, firm, with a clear focus on the need to study the craft. The hallmarks of the Confronter are resolution of aberrant beliefs or behavior. The tone of the Confronter is positive, calm, supportive, firm, with a clear focus on the need to comply with the tenets of Masonry. The key skills of the Confronter mentor are listening and ability to give direct and useful feedback while discussing sensitive issues without becoming too emotional. The consequences for the new Mason with a mentoring Mason as a Confronter are a chance to succeed in living the craft.

In general, the ideal mentoring Mason can assess the new Mason's needs for the specific mentoring role necessary to support the new Mason. The best mentors inspire continued learning about Masonry, and help the new Mason develop tolerance and coping for both the struggles and applause as the philosophy of the Masonic Order unfolds.

Masonic mentoring is not a simple rubric. Rather, it is a complex process which when done Positively, is the best a Mason can give and when done Negatively can be traumatic to the new Mason, the mentoring Mason, and the craft.

The Positive mentoring Mason is an Empowering Masonic brother who creates a learning environment for the new Mason. The Empowering mentor educates, Sponsors, Coaches, Counsels, and/or Comforts the new Mason according to an assessment of what is needed to maximize performance in the craft. Then, an Empowered new Mason is motivated with praise, challenges, visibility, recognition, and trust in his abilities. The underlying message of the Empowering mentor is "You are valuable a Mason," and "I respect, encourage, and promote your growth."

Mentoring Masons must be seen by the new Mason as trustworthy and men to be counted on. Inattentiveness, judgmental attitudes, and inconsistency of a mentor are characteristics of a Negative approach and will not build trust for a positive and successfully mentoring relationship.

The Pygmalion effect described by Rosenthal (1973) states that people sometimes become what we prophesy that they become. The power of expectation alone can influence the behavior of any Mason particularly new Masons. Through the mentoring process and with time as the needed catalyst, the most positive of behavior can be viable and therefore, enhance the whole fraternity.

SUMMARY

The basic Masonic mentoring types are Traditional, Step- Ahead, Co-Mentor, and Companion. Each of these types may be enhanced when the mentor accepts the role of Educator, Sponsor, Coach, Counselor, and/or Confronter.

At its very roots, Masonic mentoring is a brotherly transaction and interaction between the mentor and the new Mason. Mentoring in Masonry provides the vehicle for putting into context a personal value system: the teaching, practice, and philosophy of the Masonic order(s).

A successful way to acquire committed Masons, scholarly Masons, and esteemed Masons is to create them though planned mentoring. In order to elicit Masonic achievement from a new Mason, the mentor must be firmly committed to the components of positive mentoring and Masonic values. Fostering and perpetuating positive mentoring is the responsibility of every Mason, especially those of who have been around for a while. But more particularly, it is the responsibility of those who are in elected positions of leadership to provide the means and set the tone for annual, long term, and consistent programs. Desired achievement of Masons requires Masonic development through mentoring.

Perhaps one of the traits of a dedicated Mason could be the willingness to take the risk of actively mentoring a new Mason. If each Mason purposefully took on the roles of Educator, Sponsor, Coach, Counselor and Confronter to facilitate the teaching of a new brother, the contributions to the craft would be heroic. The contributions to human kind would be legendary. Maybe you can be the

Required Reading

Bro. Matthew Korang, Secretary

Below is a continuation of a list of recommended reading from the website – www.cornerstonesociety.com. This website contains some of the most prevalent authors in England at this time. Many of the writers of Freemasonry Today, an English Freemasonic Magazine, are regular contributors to the website. Noted author and editor of Freemasonry Today, Michael Baigent is a regular contributor.

Anyway, the website editor, Matthew Scanlon, posted his quite extensive listing of what he considers “required reading” for today’s Freemason. The website lists the books in three parts. I will reprint them for you with Bro. Scanlon’s commentary. If you get a chance take an Internet trip to this webpage, you will not be sorry. The rest of the list will be reprinted in future editions of the Trestleboard. Even though this is a list for English Freemasons, it is still interesting.

Recommended Reading

MacLeod, Wallace

The Grand Design

(Virgina, 1991)

Subtitled, Selected Memorandums and papers of Wallace McLeod, who is Professor at Victoria College, Toronto University, Canada and a Past Master of Quatour Coronati Lodge of Research, No.2076. (EC)

MacNulty, Kirk

Freemasonry - a journey through myth and symbol

(Thames and Hudson, 1991)

This is a fascinating and thought provoking personal view of the three craft degrees. Drawing on the work of Mircea Eliade, Joseph Campbell and Carl Gustav Jung among others, the author offers an interesting interpretation of the symbolism contained within the first three degrees and speculates on its psychological meaning and purpose.

Available in paperback.

Mandelberg, John

Ancient & Accepted: A chronicle of the proceedings 1845 - 1945 of the Supreme Council, established in England in 1845 (London, 1995)

Written to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the English Ancient and Accepted or 'Scottish Rite', this is a large and detailed tome for the serious Masonic collector or historian.

Masonic Book Club

Masonic Book Club Reproductions

(Bloomington Illinois, 1970)

Since 1970 it has reproduced many Masonic classics that have long since been out-of-print.

McArthur, J, E

The Lodge of Edinburgh (Mary's Chapel) No. 1

Quartercentenary of Minutes, 1599 - 1999

(The Lodge of Edinburgh, 1999)

An elegantly produced souvenir volume to mark the four- hundred year anniversary of the known existence of this famous Edinburgh lodge. Available from the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

Mellor, Alec

Our Separated Brethren the Freemasons

(George G. Harrap & Co., 1964)

Originally published in France in 1961, but was translated, and published in English in 1964. The author looks at Freemasonry mainly in the eighteenth century, and highlights why the Vatican chose to pass a Bull in 1738 prohibiting Catholics from joining. He argues that the prohibition was not based on any theological grounds, but due to the movements 'secrecy' and the prevailing political climate. Regrettably the English edition has no index, but it is generally a good tome, and second hand copies can be obtained at a reasonable price.

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Mola, Aldo

Storia della Massoneria italiana

(Milan, 1992)

Aldo Mola runs the Italian center for the study of Freemasonry, and is currently Professor at the University of Milan. This 1000 page work, concentrates predominantly on Freemasonry in Italy during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and includes detailed examinations of the period of Italian Unification and the Masonic persecution under the Fascist dictatorship of Benito Mussolini. In Italian.

Munn, Sheldon, A

Freemasons at Gettysburg

(Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, 1993)

ISBN - 0 - 939631 - 68 - 7

Murray-Lyon

History of the Lodge of Edinburgh, No. 1

(Edinburgh, 1873)

A large, fact-bound volume concerning Freemasonry in Scotland. Unfortunately it is not easily accessible, written as it was, in a rather confused nineteenth-century style. However for the information it contains it is certainly the best study of the subject before the publication of Professor David Stevenson's studies in the late 1980s. Second-hand copies can be found.

Nefontaine, Luc

La Franc-Maçonnerie, une fraternité révelee

(Gallimard, 1994)

Part of a beautifully produced and charming series, this tome is by a historian of religion at the Free University of Brussels. The study takes a general look at Freemasonry in both the Anglo-Saxon and Latin world, and is richly illustrated, with some fascinating images. Unfortunately there is no English translation. Available in paperback.

Ness, J. A.

History of the Ancient Mother Lodge of Scotland - Mother Kilwinning No.0.

(4th revised edition, Glasgow, 1995)

A succinct and interesting account of possibly the oldest known lodge in the world, Mother Kilwinning No.0, Grand Lodge of Scotland. Available in hard back and sold by the lodge.

Oates, Stephen B

A Woman of Valor: Clara Barton and the Civil War

(The Free Press, Macmillan, New York, 1994)

Ogilvie, E.E

Freemasons' Royal Arch Guide

(revised by H.A. Thompson)

A useful guide to the practical aspects of the Royal Arch.

Palmer Hall, Manly

An Encyclopedic Outline of Masonic, Qabbalistic, Rosicrucian and Symbolic Philosophy

Definitely not an academic approach to study of Freemasonry, and many assertions should be treated with caution. That said, definitely a good introduction to the subject if one is looking for a fun read.

Paine, Thomas

The Theological Works of Thomas Paine (1819)

Contains an essay on the origins of Freemasonry, which Paine believed had descended from the Druids via the Culdees or ancient Celtic Christian monks of the British Isles. This essay was originally published with The Age of Reason, but subsequent editors have seen fit to omit the work.

Continued in May 2005 Edition

NJ Lodge of Masonic Research and Education

Important Information

Brethren,

You are cordially and fraternally invited to the next Regular Communication of the NJ Lodge of Masonic Research and Education No. 1786 to meet on Saturday, March 26, 2004 at the Trenton Masonic Temple, 100 Barracks St. Trenton, NJ at 10:00 a.m.

Order of Business

- Continental Breakfast (served 9:00 a.m.)
- Opening Lodge (9:30 a.m.)
- Presentation of Papers
- Lunch Break
- Short Business meeting
- Closing

Officer's Dress – Business Attire

Grand Master of Masons of the State of New Jersey

Most Worshipful Daniel M. Wilson
16 Bemath Drive
Hamilton, NJ 08690
609-587-9092
dmwgmj2004@optonline.net

Like to Write?

Interested in Masonic History or Theory?

Why not consider submitting a paper to the NJ Lodge of Masonic Research and Education?

The NJ Lodge of Masonic Research and Education is looking for individuals interested in the history and activities of Freemasonry in both New Jersey and the world.

Only papers concerned directly with Freemasonry will be considered for presentation and publication: The history of Lodges, active or demised; biographies of Masons distinguished in the annals of Freemasonry; its ceremonies, usage, and practices; the speculative or philosophical aspects of Freemasonry; and any other Masonic subject of general interest to the Fraternity.

Interested? If you have a paper you would like to submit or would like more information concerning writing and submitting papers, please feel free to contact : **Bro. Jay Hochberg at 973-256-0374**

Officers for 2004-2006

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From the Editor's Desk.....

Next Trestleboard will be published by May 1, 2005. We are always looking for articles. All articles must be submitted by April 15, 2005.

Matthew Korang, PM, Secretary
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New Jersey Lodge of Masonic
Research and Education No. 1786

Trenton Masonic Temple
100 Barracks St.
Trenton, NJ 08608

*Bringing Light to New
Jersey Freemasonry!*

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

Back Page Book Review

Bro. Jay Hochberg, Peninsula Lodge No. 99

"The Little Book of Freemasonry," by Sangeet Duchane
Barnes & Noble Books, 2004, 152 pages.

Not necessarily a well informed perspective, but an affectionate view of the Craft nonetheless, "The Little Book of Freemasonry" is a brief, concise and wonderfully illustrated book. Our female author holds a Master's Degree in theology from Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, and is a student of religious, philosophical and esoteric traditions. Her education does not result in a scholarly book though. Absent are footnotes, other citations and even an index; present are a few mild factual errors and other confusions.

Indeed this is a little book, and the narrative reads almost breathlessly as the author zips from one topic to the next. The chapter "History of European Freemasonry" spans all of seven pages, half of which are illustrations. In the story of Freemasonry in America, Duchane dwells on listing famous Masons, seemingly attributing their historic deeds to Masonic inspiration, thus crediting the Craft with the Constitution and the Capitol building. On the subject of "American Freemasonry Today" we get two paragraphs, mostly about the Shriners.

With beautiful illustrations on nearly every other page, a review would be incomplete without mentioning them. Dozens of photos, lithos, paintings, tracing boards and aprons are reproduced here, taking us from medieval Christian art to a sappy headshot of John Glenn. If more trestleboards and lodge websites featured such images, we'd all look a lot more professional.

The flaws of this broad-based introduction to Masonry considered, it still would be worth presenting to a man considering whether to petition for our degrees, but not to a newly raised Master Mason who'll need sturdier stuff.

