

Trestleboard

VOLUME 8 ISSUE 3

September 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, September 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

The Junior Warden's Duties

As I was sitting in a Grand Lodge of Instruction for my district the other evening, listening to the exemplification of the officers duties, I was struck again by how the traditional verbiage of the Junior Warden's duties did not correspond with his actual function in the lodge, at least the way we run lodges in New Jersey. When does the Junior Warden ever call the craft from labor to refreshment, or call them on again in due season? There is a point in the Master Mason degree where he goes through the motions of doing it, but the Wardens' columns are not adjusted, and the Master puts the lodge on a real refreshment immediately afterwards. Aside from this fossilized relic of antique procedure preserved in a degree like a fly in amber, the Junior Warden does not actually perform his professed duty.

Masonic ritual is funny that way. We keep some things and change others so that the pieces do not always fit anymore. Then we go through fits of rationalization to try and fit them together again while denying that the ritual changes. Each officer mentioned in the opening has his own particular relic of duties no longer performed. Deacons don't carry messages. The Senior Warden does not pay wages or see that none go away dissatisfied. And when was the last time you saw the Master give good and wholesome instruction? It is interesting to speculate what our meetings would look like if the officers actually did those duties.

Fortunately we don't have to look very far to find some examples. In New York, the Junior Warden actually does call the craft from labor to refreshment and back again when instructed to do so by the Master. In Pennsylvania, the Master whispers instructions to the Senior Deacon who whispers them to the Senior Warden, who likewise sends them onwards by the Junior Deacon to the Junior Warden, who (finally) announces the Master's instructions to the lodge. In some forms of English ritual, the Senior Warden takes greater charge of the opening procedures, issuing orders directly to the lodge, and when all is ready, reports back to the Master who then

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declares the lodge open.

In New Jersey, we have tended to collapse the ceremonial chain of command so that the Master himself issues his orders directly to the lodge. The only relic of that chain of command is the repetition of the opening declaration where the Junior Warden is reduced to saying that we have already heard the order. On the one hand, our current procedures where the Master directs every action in the lodge may be more time efficient. But it sets the precedent that the Master is a micro-manager rather than a delegator. It does reinforce the authority of the Master, but it detracts from the dignity he would have if all his orders were executed through his Wardens. But as with anything else in Masonry, there is no single 'right' way of doing anything.

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, September 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
- Presentations by members
- Closing

Officer's Dress – Business Attire

LODGE HAPPENINGS...

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

On the Agenda:

- "The Emblem of a Pure Heart: The Pot of Incense as a Masonic Symbol (an Aromatic Editorial)" by W. Jay Hochberg
- Photo Essay of St Andrews Lodge/Springfield Temple Ohio

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

From the West

Bro. Raymond C. Thorne, Senior Warden

It's been said that New Jersey Masonry doesn't have 26,000 members; we have 1,000 members each doing 26 jobs.

The by-laws of the Masonic Secretary's Association say they have to meet on a Saturday in September. As President of the Association, I set the date of the September meeting with the assistance of those present before the end of the last meeting. Looking at the calendar, the first Saturday in September was out for obvious reasons. "Anyone have a problem with the second Saturday?" I asked. No one did. It was suggested to me not to go any farther, so I didn't.

It was weeks later that I realized that the second Saturday in September that I had scheduled the Masonic Secretary's Association meeting is the same second Saturday in September that LORE meets.

It's one thing when two of your 26 events occur at the same time--it's probably inevitable sometime during the year--but when you have a position of responsibility in two meetings scheduled concurrently, it's really crummy. Of course, for me it isn't just routine crummy.

Making this LORE meeting is important to me, and not because every meeting of our beloved lodge is a pearl of great price. This meeting is the last one before our Annual. As presumptive Worshipful Master come December, I wanted to nail down certain details that can be easily done networking members at my penultimate meeting as Senior Warden.

I figured with a little luck and my judicious use of the gavel, the Secretary's Association meeting could go quickly and I could make at least some of the LORE meeting. But it turns out that this particular Secretary's meeting is going to be mega important. No leaving early. In all probability no possibility of showing my bright, shiny face in the Trenton Masonic Temple at all.

I realize that asking in print isn't as effective as slamming a person



I WANT YOU
To Be A NJ LORE Officer

against the wall and shoving an arm under his jaw--not that I've ever done that--but let me ask anyway: If you are interested in being an officer in the premier research lodge in the state, please let me know. My email address is at the end of this article, as well as in the list of officers. The term of office is two years. We meet four times a year, total of eight meetings per term.

Now, a different subject. A good chunk of Masonic history is a cipher. Some intentionally so, but a good chunk of it is because many things just never got documented.

As a member of the Library and Museum Committee (and as I'm sure other members of LORE also on the Committee can attest) I've discovered that over the years there have been a great many photos and objects donated to Grand Lodge that today have no known meaning.

No doubt the donors felt these items had a purpose that might have proved of interest to the Craft. However, they have no documentation whatsoever and other than obviously being something Masonic (a photo of men in aprons marching in a parade, a china plate with the square and compasses and letter G) there is no context, no meaning.

It is probably too late to document these items. But perhaps we can do something about preventing the growth of undocumented artifacts. Look around your temple. Do the other lodges to which you belong have unlabeled photos or artifacts on display? Do you know the story behind them? Does anyone in your lodge? Perhaps you could talk to your Worshipful Master and maybe even offer to find out the secrets of these artifacts. I can assure you your labors will not go unrewarded.

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!

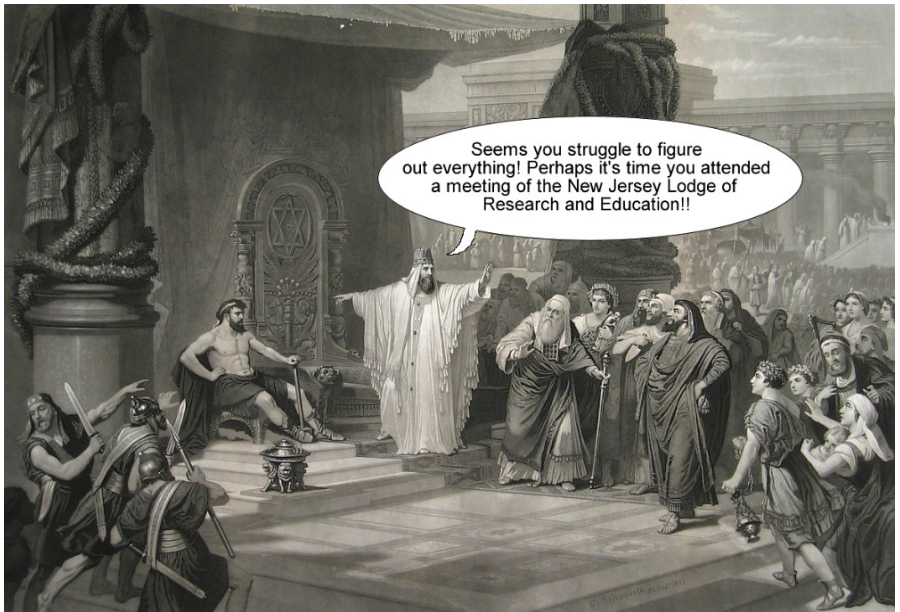
We are looking for visitation dates in September 2010 and March 2011. If you have interest in NJ LORE visiting your district, let your DDGM know of this program and contact our Worshipful Master or Secretary.



MASONIC TRIVIA AND FACTS

The earliest known appearance of the letter “G” inside the interlaced square and compasses is on a photo of an etching in "Freemasonry A Journey Through Ritual and Symbol" by Kirk MacNulty. The date shown on the etching is “5776” which we Masons know to be 1776 in standard dating form. Another very early appearance is on a cast bronze plate made by Paul Revere in 1796. By the year 1800 the combined symbol had appeared in England on embroidered aprons and upon a “Master's Tracing Board”. In the language of some countries, the letter “G” does not stand for either “God” or “Geometry” so it is not a part of their basic symbol of Freemasonry.

"Fraternal Review," Southern California Research Lodge F&AM.



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 September 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 December 1, 2010. We are always looking for articles. All articles must be submitted by November 11, 2010.

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

Trenton Masonic Temple
100 Barrack St.
Trenton, NJ 08608



*Bringing Light to New
Jersey Freemasonry!*

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