

Trestleboard

VOLUME 10 ISSUE 3

September 2012

NJ Lodge of Masonic Research and Education

Celebrating 10 Years of Educating and Enlightening New Jersey Freemasons!

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 8, 2012 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. Raymond Thorne, Worshipful Master

Dear Brother,

NJ LORE 1786's next meeting will be held at the Trenton Temple, our present home.

There will be no papers at this meeting, by order of the Worshipful Master. There will be the long awaited discussion and vote on where LORE's home will be.

Following the meeting will be lunch, on the lodge, at Mastoris Diner (144 US Hwy 130, Bordentown, NJ 08505),. Here a less formal, but no less important, discussion on the future of our lodge will be held.

Past Masters will then proceed south to be at Fellowship Center, 1114 Oxmead Road, Burlington by 1:00 p.m. to attend the Emergent Communication of Grand Lodge.

Members should make every effort to attend.

Fraternally,

Raymond Thorne, WM

LODGE HAPPENINGS...

NJ LORE No. 1786's next meeting will be held at the Trenton Masonic Temple on Saturday September 8th, at 9:30 a.m.

On the Agenda:

- Short Business Meeting
- Discussion on the future home of NJ LORE.

After the meeting, the Lodge will adjourn to Mastoris Diner in Bordentown for Fellowship and discussion.

Dear Brother,

Each one of us as an Entered Apprentice stood in the northeast corner of the lodge. The East is the place of light. The North is the place of darkness. Almost at the start of your Masonic journey you were placed at the juncture of knowledge and ignorance and not really told it.

Many Masons--too many Masons--pay good money to be enlightened, spend as little effort as possible on learning a superficial education and then when they are raised head North. Heading North is lonely. Heading East is rewarding. Heading East is difficult. Heading North is easy. There is a saying, "Give a man a fish and he eats for a day; teach a man how to fish and he eats for a lifetime." Masonry teaches its members how to fish for knowledge; too many members are starving by choice.

Of course, there are instructors and mentors who try to instill Masonic wonder and curiosity into their candidate. And lodges have programs, periodic or occasional, as part of a lodge meeting or otherwise, to give candidates and members more light.

And there are many associations and organizations open to Master Masons that encourage research into and dissemination of Masonic knowledge.

LORE, of course, exists to provide brain food. Assembling papers for presentation at LORE meetings has provided me (and I hope those who have heard or read those papers) with many aha! moments.

There is an ever-growing banquet, buffet, smorgasbord of Masonic knowledge awaiting ravenous seekers of knowledge. Yet very few, proportionately, even approach the table. They half-listen to the lectures, memorize a string of words and then pay their dues but don't attend meetings. This is like treating the preview of a coming attraction like it is the whole movie.

Of course, there are instructors, mentors and even lodge officers who are ignorant of the intellectual festive board so a potential light-seeking candidate would have no guidance as to what is available.

But, we press on. A number of LORE members, as such, have

made presentations in various lodges or other Masonic groups. Masons, knowing I am Worshipful Master, have approached me expressing interest in LORE and even becoming a member. (Unfortunately, more inquiries than new members.)

Our emblem is a lighthouse. A lighthouse beam cuts through the darkness, it does not eliminate it. It guides traveling men and warns them of approaching dangers. But a lighthouse and its light has to be constantly tended.

Our meeting this month will be *sans* papers due to time constraints. We will have a formal discussion during our meeting about where we want the lodge to meet. Then, over lunch, we will have an informal discussion about where we want the lodge to go. Your input matters.

Raymond C. Thorne, Worshipful Master

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 for March 2013. If you have interest in NJ LORE visiting your district, let your DDGM know of this program and contact our Worshipful Master or Secretary.



**The Transactions of New Jersey Lodge of Masonic Research
and Education No. 1786**

Volumes III & IV

2007-2010

Will be arriving in your mailbox sometime soon! Keep an All-Seeing Eye out for it!

It Came from the Internet

Submitted by Bro. Matt Korang, Secretary

Freemasonry to find ways to curb drug abuse in Punjab

Considering the high rate of drug abuse in Punjab, Freemasonry has taken up the cause to eradicate drug addiction and plans to hold awareness camps and various initiatives to address the issue.

The Grand Master of Freemasons, B Biswakumar, said, "Around 74 per cent students in Punjab have taken to drugs at one stage or the other. This figure was quoted by the Punjab government in an affidavit filed in the Punjab and Haryana high court in a public interest litigation."

Regional Grand Master KK Gautam said, "Punjab is a prosperous state. When people get surplus money, they channelise it in an undesirable manner. Besides, students become an easy prey for kingpins of drug dealers. After getting addicted to drugs they indulge in criminal activities like snatching."

"The impact of drug abuse is even worse at college hostels since there is nobody to keep a check on students. Taking this into consideration, Freemasons will hold awareness camps, organise interactive sessions for students with medical experts," Gautam added.

While speaking about the other social activities of Freemasons, Biswakumar said, "On July 15, we will donate artificial limbs in Ludhiana to differently-abled people. In the first week of August, ladies from Masonic Association will run a mobile kitchen outside Government Medical College and Hospital, Sector 32. We have also been running a polyclinic in Chandigarh where people can avail the facility of free X-ray, CT scan, blood tests and other medical tests. Last year we provided solar electricity to around 100 rural villages across the country".

<http://www.indianexpress.com>

Paranormal research team investigates 'haunted' Masonic Lodge in Cleveland

CLEVELAND - The members of the West Side Masonic Lodge in Cleveland have reported many strange, possibly paranormal, activities in their building.

(Continued on page 8)



Our esteemed Brother Treasurer has reported that
NO ONE provided the correct answer to his
MASONIC CONTEST
that ran in the Summer edition of the
Freemason Magazine.

Since no one proved their Masonic knowledge among the
masses, it is time for NJ LORE members to prove
their metal!

The Prize is still to be had. Bro. Val is ready to
present his Masonic prize (\$30+ value) to anyone who
comes up with the correct answer at the September
Meeting of NJ LORE!

The Question—Where in the wide, wide world
of Freemasonry is this monument to
Brother George Washington located?

Brother Val has provided the following hints:

1. It is not on our side of the Mississippi
2. It is in the Continental U.S.
3. It is East of California.
4. It is near corn.... lots of corn.....
5. Bro. Val mentioned the location of this object
at a past NJ LORE meeting!

Bring your best guess to the September Meeting
of NJ LORE and win BIG prizes!

So who you going to call? ORBS, or Ohio Researches of Banded Spirits, Ohio's top paranormal team.

They came with high-end sophisticated scientific tools for recording and sensing energy, like night vision cameras, digital voice reporters and thermal imaging equipment.

This group, which has been featured on Animal Planet's "The Haunted" is honored to be invited to investigation the claims of the very private and secretive masons. Members claim to see shadow people in the balconies, hear the organ mysteriously playing and report women have been attacked, with doors slammed on them in a hallway.

"The building actually comes alive at night when nobody's in here, except for a few people. So we just kind of want to check out the reports and see if we can validate it for them," said Chris Page, founder of ORBS.

The thought is that the old freemasons are still haunting the hall. The team said that 90 percent of the time voices and images appear when they play back and analyze their recordings.

<http://www.newsnet5.com>

Freemasons should leave

[A Letter to the editor]

"SOME of us have long suspected that there is a cabal of Freemason councillors who exert undue influence on the decisions of the district council.

Councillor Kathy Murdoch is to be admired and thanked for her honesty in confirming those suspicions.

Councillor Barry Parsons gives the impression that freemasons are a sociable, jolly bunch of chaps with whom it is a pleasure to associate.

If he thinks that is all there is to Freemasonry he is incredibly naïve.

He should ask himself why they foster an aura of secrecy. Freemasonry is all about using influence to the advantage of the brotherhood, who also vow to help each other.

Because such vows raise the possibility of conflicts of interest it is questionable whether freemasons should serve on district councils.

Perhaps Mr Parsons should also reflect on why he was invited to join the brotherhood. Could it have anything to do with the fact that he is leader of the council?

Secret societies inevitably arouse suspicion.

After Mrs Murdoch's revelation, every controversial decision of the

council will be thought to be the sinister work of Masons. That may, or may not, be true.

Local government must be fair, honest, transparent and democratic. That will not be achieved if local councils contain members who have secretly vowed loyalty to some other organisation. It is time for Freemasons to withdraw from councils.

If they decline, the electorate has the power to remedy the situation at a future date."

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

Guernsey Freemason list criticised by Grand Master

The head of the Freemason movement in Guernsey has hit out the publication of a list of lodge members in the island.

The list was posted on an internet forum and includes the names of a number of former and present politicians, jurats and bailiffs.

Provincial Grand Master David Hodgetts said the publication of the list raised issues regarding data protection laws.

He said: "It shouldn't be published and if somebody has published something, maybe they'll be prosecuted."

He added that he felt disclosure of membership should be optional.

The list of members was circulated on Twitter shortly after the general election in April.

Jurat Hodgetts said public perception of the group was misinformed, and stated: "I know there's nothing evil about Freemasonry."

He added: "We are in danger of being accused of trying to advance ourselves by saying we're a Mason, and if we don't say we're a Mason then we're secret and we've got something to hide."

He said: "The thing about Freemasonry that people aren't concentrating on is the fact that the only organisation that gives more money to charity is the National Lottery in the United Kingdom."

He said: "We're about trying to make ourselves better citizens, in fact we promise to do so.

"We raise money from our own pockets for charity - that's what Freemasons are about."

Guernsey's politicians are currently not required to declare membership of the Freemasons.

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

Mystery Bible returned: Holy book saved from shredder in Wisconsin

A 75-year-old Masonic Bible with mysterious connections to the Mother Lode has returned home after narrowly avoiding an industrial paper shredder in Wisconsin.

The Bible was discovered in Wausau, at a recycling company that employs handicapped workers to sort through old papers and derelict books, which are either resold or shredded for pulp.

A sharp-eyed worker noticed the heavy brown book wasn't just any old piece of scrap paper.

"It was an ornate book in perfect condition," said Cory Tomczyk, owner of IROW shredding and recycling services. "We don't see things very often that aren't damaged in some way."

The rather large leather-bound book has gilded pages and is embossed with the familiar Mason square-and-compass symbol. Inside, the book is filled with ornate prints and etchings depicting Bible scenes like Moses and Aaron before the Pharaoh, and Jesus' sermon on the mount.

Tomczyk passed the Bible off to the Masonic chapter in Wausau when he ran into a group of Freemasons during the Midwestern town's annual Memorial Day Parade. They, in turn, used the documents stashed inside to trace the book back to Tuolumne County.

Members of the Masonic Lodge in downtown Sonora were ecstatic when a special package from Wisconsin arrived in the mail in June. They immediately set out to decipher the book's rightful owners.

He said Bibles are commonly given as a rite of passage to Masons when they reach "third degree" status.

Pages in the Bible from Tuolumne County that would normally bear the names of those presenting and receiving the book were left blank. The documents inside the book, however, indicate that it belonged to families with deep roots in the Mother Lode, the Carters and Bakers.

Part of what is now Tuolumne was originally the town of Carters, named for a prominent family in the area.

Webb said the book was likely issued to Ross Woodward Baker or Perry Frank Baker. "The Baker Boys," as they were called, were both Masons in Tuolumne County during the time the Bible would have been issued and both attained third-degree ranking.

"I'm sure glad someone had the sense not to shred it," he said.

<http://www.uniondemocrat.com>

Officers for 2011-2012

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From the Editor's Desk.....

Next Trestleboard will be published on or about December 1, 2012. We are always looking for articles. All articles must be submitted by November 15, 2012.

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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**