

Trestleboard

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2006

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.

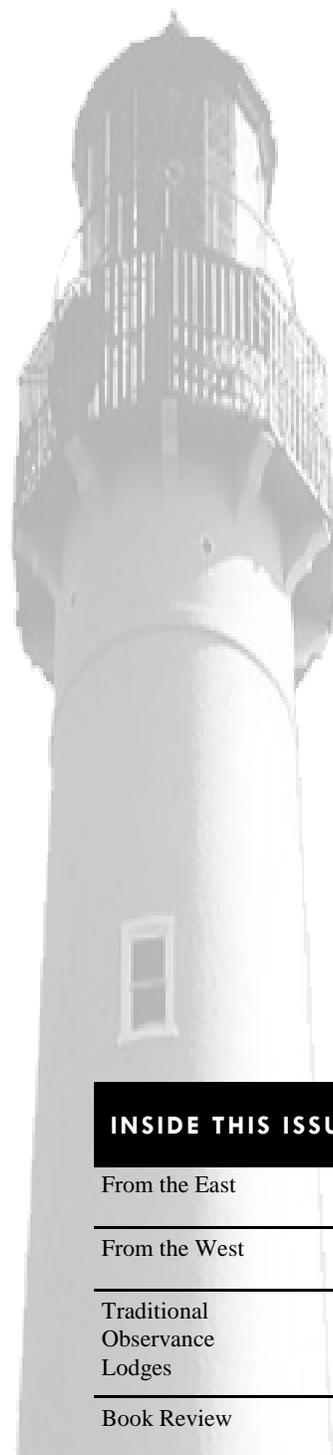
Our next communication will be held on
Saturday, January 28, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. at:

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,

Knowing my term is fast coming to a close I asked our trusty Secretary, WB Korang, if there was anything else I should do. His reply was, the real question should be - did I get everything done I had hoped.

So, our January meeting will be the presentation of the remaining items I think are important in Masonry today and tomorrow.

I have an outline on the "Symbols of Masonry". Those who have looked realize detailing our symbols would be at least a month's full-time course. The best I can do is an outline and a copy of Coil's list of all the Blue Lodge Symbols.

The other piece I have discovered, again in Coil's, is a time line of Masonic items from first known to current. Again, a long heavy subject, but at least I have an eight page copy of it should any be interested.

As some of you are already aware, I have been working (along with Bro. Val Kornsziak and WB Matt Korang) on making PowerPoint presentations intended for private use on a person's home computer. Bro. Val will set up in a darkened room so he can project to a screen the samples of the work we have been doing.

In addition, and time permitting, Bro. Val has photos of the Masonic Temple in Fort Wayne which he will show. Bro. Val also has local lodge photos. Time permitting we will show those also.

Keeping with the new stuff, I will be demonstrating the use of a device called a Music Pad which lets me carry 350 pieces of music to the 7 Lodges, 1 OES and two Rest Homes where I play. I'll be inviting all Masonic organists who might like to look and discuss the device to come, see, and evaluate.

The last project which I don't expect to complete, is a condensed list of Lodge and Grand Lodge activity over the last 20 years. I titled it "My Era". I will continue to collect ideas and items until the well runs dry and I'll release it.

The "200 On-Line Questions" is complete in Database form, thanks to WB Korang. I still don't know how to release it, though. It could form the gut of a mail correspondence course but, I think somehow it should be done on-line. So the questions are done but, the presentation is still in the planning department.

You'll note I'm giving our two main speakers, WB Ben Hoff and RW Howard Kanowitz, a well deserved rest break.

To assist in our getting to know each other, the on-going photos of members will continue. Bro. Korszniak will photograph those who were not there at the last session. He will have prints of the photos we have to date.

So that's the plan for January 28th. I hope to see you there and I sure hope we don't have the snow we had for our last Jan meeting. Going home was one wild and scary ride!

Fraternally,

Tom Thornton

Worshipful Master

From The West

Bro. Jay Hochberg, Senior Warden

Brethren, the two Masons who will square off in the debate scheduled for September will be W. Bro. John Corrigan of St. Stephen's Lodge, No. 63 and myself of Peninsula Lodge, No. 99. We will present opposing points of view of the question on the floor:

RESOLVED, that the Ancient and Honorable Society of Free and Accepted Masons is a descendant of the Poor Soldiers of Christ and the Temple of Solomon, also known as the medieval Knights Templar.

W. Bro. Corrigan will advocate adoption of this proposed resolution; I will argue against. The debate will take place during NJ LORE's Regular Communication of Saturday, Sept. 23. (Do anticipate meeting on this date, Rosh Hashana and Ramadan notwithstanding.)

W. Corrigan was initiated, passed and raised in 1989 at St. Stephen's Lodge, No. 63 in South Amboy, where he later served as Worshipful Master. He is an avid Scottish Rite Mason, being very active at the Valley of Central Jersey. He is a Past Sovereign Prince of Mercer Council Princes of Jerusalem and now serves as Color Bearer of Trenton Consistory. Along the way he earned the Meritorious Service Award (MSA) for outstanding dedication to the AASR.

He is equally dedicated to the York Rite of Freemasonry. In Royal Arch Masonry he is a Past High Priest of Scott Chapter, No. 4 in South River and is presently District Deputy Grand High Priest of the 4th Capitular District. In Cryptic Masonry, he is a Past Thrice Illustrious Master of Scott Council, No. 1. In the Chivalric Orders of Masonry, W. Corrigan is a highly active Sir Knight of Trinity Commandery, No. 17, stationed in Westfield, where he is a Past Eminent Commander. In addition, he is the Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of New Jersey, and is a Past District Inspector General.

In the honorary bodies of the York Rite, W. Corrigan is a Past Venerable Master of J. William Gronning Council, No. 83 of Allied Masonic Degrees. He is Junior Warden of Northern NJ Council, No. 10 of Knight Masons, and also is an enthusiastic member of the New Jersey College of Masonic Rosicrucians.

I've known John for nearly as long as I've been a Mason, so I'll be very happy to see a friendly face across the room as we have a fun discussion of this interesting historical question, but more importantly I know he is a well read student of the subject, guaranteeing that at least one of us will be very persuasive.

I'm hoping this event will put our research lodge on the "radar screens" of more brethren as they visit us that day and see for themselves the fraternal bond we enjoy here. I believe what we offer will appeal to many Masons who perhaps do not even realize we exist.





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.org>

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 / 106 Wayland Rd. / Delran, NJ 08075

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 _____

“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.”



Signature of Lodge Secretary _____

Your Signature _____

The Traditional Observance Lodge

Dennis V. Chornenky – President, Masonic Restoration Foundation

While many Masons may have heard about European Concept lodges, which are themselves a relatively new concept in American Freemasonry, few have heard of the Traditional Observance lodge. Traditional Observance lodges are similar to European Concept lodges in that they also incorporate higher dues, festive boards, a strict dress code and higher standards of ritual, but differ in that they choose to follow a close observance of the traditional initiatic elements of Continental European and South American Freemasonry.

This observance is characterized by a solemn approach to holding stated communications and conferring degrees, the use of the Chamber of Reflection as part of the initiation ceremony, forming the Chain of Union after the meetings, longer time between degrees and the requirement for candidates to present a paper before the lodge on the lessons of each degree prior to advancement. Traditional Observance lodges are also more likely to use the term Agape rather than Festive Board to describe the meal which follows the meetings. Agape is the ancient Greek word for “love,” and in Freemasonry the term signifies a meal eaten in common by a congregation of Masons in token of Brotherly Love.

A non-profit organization working to promote the study and understanding of traditional Freemasonry called the Masonic Restoration Foundation (MRF) provides education and support for Traditional Observance lodges in recognized jurisdictions. The MRF seeks to foster a network of lodges and individuals of strong spiritual and intellectual character that will help preserve the initiatic tradition within American Freemasonry for future generations.

Members of Traditional Observance lodges believe very strongly that the foremost purpose of Freemasonry is to provide an atmosphere where good men can unite together in a common pursuit of virtue in service to God. The “work” of a Traditional Observance lodge is not to review minutes or bills, or plan social or philanthropic activities, but rather to create an atmosphere where the members can learn the lessons of Freemasonry and how they can be inculcated into their daily lives.

This is referred to as Masonic Formation, which is the ever continuing process of spiritual and intellectual formation that all Freemasons must undergo in order to improve themselves in Masonry. This term differs from Masonic Education in that it refers to a process of growth concerned with much more than intellectual faculties. Masonic Formation is the process of fitting the rough ashlar of the imperfect being into the perfect ashlar fit for the divine temple. It is a constant transformation through the use of Masonic symbols, rituals, and teachings.

Everything that occurs in a Traditional Observance lodge is undertaken within this context. Success is viewed as effectively imparting the traditional teachings hidden within Masonic symbols and the spiritual unification of the brethren in such a pursuit. Successful Traditional Observance lodges, though usually maintaining a small membership of less than 50 brothers, retain and engage their members with meaningful human fellowship, stimulating discourse and enriching programs.

Traditional Observance lodges endeavor to make Masonic teachings and philosophy accessible and interesting to the members and do not shy away from dealing with the spiritual issues and questions that many men begin to find more meaningful as they mature. The Traditional Observance lodge seeks to create an ambience where true learning can occur by taking the members inward to the core of their being rather than outward toward the profane elements of life.

A typical meeting of such a lodge may go as follows. The brethren, all properly dressed according to the dress code (at minimum black suit, white shirt and black tie), will arrive at the lodge hall, which will be dimly lit by candlelight, with classical music softly playing in the background. If there is a degree the brethren will maintain complete silence prior to the ceremony. Otherwise they will converse quietly over some light refreshments before entering the lodge room and being properly seated.

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

Once the lodge officers have ceremoniously marched in and the lodge formally opened, the Worshipful Master will call for a period of silence, usually lasting several minutes. Following this the Master will call for the scheduled papers and pieces of music to be presented in an arranged order. During the meeting there will be no reading of the minutes or any administrative business of any sort (if allowed in the jurisdiction).

The music that is presented is usually of a contemplative nature and is viewed as an important component of every meeting as it contributes to the overall beauty and solemnity of the atmosphere. The music is also intended to acquaint the brethren with the spectrum of Masonic music composed during the 18th Century and to educate them on the profound history of the classical musical tradition and its relationship to the Masonic Mysteries.

The presentation of papers is viewed as an essential aspect of the life of the lodge and promotes the continued study of Masonic lessons by the brethren. The topic of the papers must be relevant to the interests of the lodge and papers of a strictly historical or biographic nature are rarely entertained in the lodge room, though they may be presented during the Agape. Topics considered appropriate for the lodge room are symbolism, initiation, ritual, metaphysics, philosophy and art. These topics and their relationship to Masonry can be found in the context of the major world religions, esoteric movements such as Gnosticism, Hermeticism, Neoplatonism, Rosicrucianism, Kabbalah and many other Western and Eastern traditions.

Before closing the lodge the Worshipful Master will call for another period of silence. Once the lodge has been formally closed the brethren will gather around the altar for a ceremony known as the Chain of Union, which is meant to symbolize the common commitment to Masonic ideals and connection with other Masons from all over the world. The brethren will then retire to the Agape, which is usually a catered meal with formal toasts and where a discussion of the main paper presented earlier will take place.

In conclusion, Traditional Observance lodges give their members the opportunity to partake in a ritual and sociability that they cannot find anywhere else. Traditional Masonry allows brothers to move their minds from the mundane to the mystical, away from life's petty particulars to attention on its transcendent meaning. While Traditional Freemasonry may not appeal to everyone, it is proving to be a success in more and more jurisdictions around the United States.

Attention brethren!

The Senior Warden would like to hear from LORE members who are interested in serving as officers for the coming two-year term. Please contact Bro. Jay Hochberg at euclid47@earthlink.net or see him at either our Jan. 28th or March 25th Communications. LORE's Annual Meeting, with its election and installation of officers, will be May 27th.



I WANT YOU
To Be A Line Officer

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, January 28, 2006 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 Robert J. Sheridan
403 Breaker Drive
Galloway, NJ 08205
609-652-5390

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

Thomas W. Thornton 11 Adelphia Rd. Parsippany, NJ 07054 Cincinnati #3	Worshipful Master 973-887-8772 tomthornton@nac.net
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Jay Hochberg P.O. Box 264 Caldwell, NJ 07006 Little Falls #263	Senior Warden 973-256-0374 euclid47@earthlink.net
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Ira P. Drucks 64 Oakwood Ave. Livingston, NJ 07039 Germana C. Union #11	Junior Warden 973-994-2963 bikerira@aol.com
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Leonard M. March 1059 Davistown Rd. Blackwood, NJ 08012 Laurel #237	Treasurer 856-228-4408 lenthkid@aol.com
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Matthew Korang 106 Wayland Rd. Delran, NJ 08075 Beverly-Riverside #107	Secretary 856-461-0932 mkorang@comcast.net matthew.korang@lmco.com
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Stewart D. Thomas 96 Sheridan St. Irvington, NJ 07111 Alpha #116	Senior Deacon 973-372-5233 epps@bellatlantic.net
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Marcus Carroll 606 8th Street Riverside, NJ 08075 Beverly-Riverside #107	Junior Deacon 856-764-7020 mncarroll@comcast.net
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George A. Olsen 25 Gail Dr. East Hanover, NJ 07936 Genesis #88	Chaplain 973-887-2515 (H) kenmike167@aol.com
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Scott Simmins 62 Lochatong Rd. Ewing, NJ 08628 Mercer #50	Tyler 609-882-5983 rdsxfn09@yahoo.com
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From the Editor's Desk.....

Next Trestleboard will be published by March 1, 2006. We are always looking for articles. All articles must be submitted by February 15, 2006.

Matthew Korang, PM, Secretary
mkorang@comcast.net



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

"Freemasons for Dummies" by Christopher Hodapp
Wiley Publishing, 2005, 368 pages.

The title offends some, but this is after all another publication in the "For Dummies" series that includes hundreds of titles delivering plain language explanations of all manner of complicated and elusive subjects. If you consider Freemasonry's history, size, structure of organizations, plethora of degrees, tons of titles and the misconceptions and confusions surrounding them all, you can appreciate what a good idea it is to have it all explained sufficiently in a single easy-to-read volume that is appropriate for curious non-Mason and bejeweled officer alike. Sounds improbable, but this book delivers.

If you're familiar with "Dummies" books, you know they serve up their subjects in brief chapters apportioned into easily digestible sections. Furthermore, these sections employ dozens of sidebars, icons, graphics, notes and asides to supplement the main information in the book. That's true in this book also, and a good thing too because it serves as a "one size fits all" source of Masonic information.

Consequently it is difficult to review such a book other than to endorse its accuracy (I do, minus a few typos and glitches) and offer a rundown of some of what it covers: appendant bodies, anti-masonry, ceremonies & degrees, charities, clandestine Masons, famous Masons, history, hoaxes & myths, how to become a Mason, Internet Masons, lodge & grand lodge organization, officers, philosophy, places to visit, Prince Hall, symbols, vocabulary, and a lot more... and in detail too. The appendices provide contact info for 106 grand jurisdictions, a copy of the Regius poem and the salient parts of the first edition of Anderson's Constitutions.

And finally, good manners and ethics demand I disclose the author is a long-time penpal of mine. For five years we've discussed all kinds of Masonic subjects on-line, so I can attest to his comprehensive knowledge and ability to communicate it to a dummy like me.

