

Trestleboard

VOLUME 14 ISSUE 2

September 2016

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 10, 2016 at 9:30 a.m. at:**

**Hightstown/Apollo Lodge No. 41
535 North Main Street
Hightstown, NJ 08520**

All Master Masons are Welcome!



From the Secretary's Desk

Submitted by Bro. Matthew Korang, Secretary

“Regular Communication – January 25, 2003 - The lodge was opened in due and ancient form on the Master Mason Degree by Worshipful Brother George A. Olsen at 10:00 am followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of our Country.”

Those words were the first words that I wrote down as protemp secretary of New Jersey Lodge of Masonic Research and Education No. 1786 thirteen and a half years ago. I was one year removed from the East and sitting Treasurer of my Blue Lodge.

A month before we were notified that RWB Steven Speirs, then secretary of NJ LORE, had passed suddenly leaving our fledgling research lodge without a secretary going into its first full year. The lodge was at a critical time figuring how to be a research lodge, trying to attract new members, and managing its meetings and accompanying content. The lodge needed a new secretary and I stepped forward to fill this void.

I have sat at the left hand of many Worshipful Masters of LORE since that day. Seven in all. Some of these fine men were top notch researchers, some excellent leaders, and all had a love in their heart for what LORE is and a vision of what they wanted it to be.

The number of members had grown steadily over the first several years of existence. We lost what I like to refer to as the Grand Lodge dead wood, those Masons that joined because it was the thing to do to support the Grand Line. In their place, we have around 80 members that are truly dedicated masonic knowledge seekers. Masons who love the “craft” and its history in addition to the fellowship it provides.

I have learned much during my years as Secretary. I coined the recruitment phrase “You will learn something new at every meeting of NJ LORE.” I still believe that to be true. Our slate of amazing scholars including RWB Ben Hoff, RWB Howard Kanowitz, RWB Ray Thorne, Bro. Jay Hochberg, and Bro. Martin Bogardus have taught us much over the years. We owe them great deal of thanks for their work. I owe them much for their leadership.

Sadly I must say, my days as Secretary of this fine organization are coming to an end. The last two years have been very hard for me personally as I try to make a new life for myself. Because of this, my dedication to NJ LORE has suffered. Every lodge needs a focused secretary that can give it all the attention it requires.

I have decided to step out of from behind the Secretary's desk this December after thirteen years.

I have always told anyone who had concerns that I am not a very good secretary. I am not attentive to dues and checks the brethren sent in. I am not responsive to phone calls about dues owed, etc. most of it is tedious work I found quite boring.

My favorite part of the job is assembling the NJ LORE trestleboard. I still think our trestleboard is one of the most intelligent masonic publications put out there on a regular basis. I try to make it as entertaining and informative as possible. It has aggravated some members and delighted others. My argument was if you didn't like what was in it, that means you read it and it caused you to consider what was presented. Mission accomplished.

Thanks to all those regular contributors to our quarterly publication. If not for some of you, there would have been some pretty empty issues.

For all those of you I disappointed over the years with my inattention to detail, my failure to “get you your Dues Card” or cash your dues check, I apologize. As I stated earlier, I am a really bad Secretary.

But I do have what all those Past Masters (and Current Master) have, a fond love of NJ LORE and what it represents—the Mason truly seeking Masonic Light through research and writing. Writing? Yes, not all the answers are in the books. I have found that some of the answers are right there in our heads. Answers that you figure out while banging away at a keyboard assembling thoughts into a document. I encourage everyone to give it a try. Pick a Masonic topic. Do a little research. Then sit down at a computer and start typing. You will be surprised what out of that noodle if you let it..

With only four months left in our Masonic term, I wanted to inform everyone that I was stepping aside so a dedicated LORE member can step up and take the reins. NJ LORE needs a good secretary to run the show. Just like a Blue Lodge Secretary keeps his Lodge going straight, so does a NJ LORE secretary. I hope one of you will step up and give it your all for the next several years.

If you are interested in being the right-hand man on the Worshipful Master’s left-hand side, please let WB David Tucker know. I have plenty of time to get you up to speed on the inner machinations of this thing we call NJ LORE.

Is it complicated? Hardly. Does it take dedication and patience? It certainly does. Are you the right person? I hope so. Thanks Everyone!

Bro Matt Korang
Secretary
NJ LORE No.1786

The Masonic Society Announces New Curriculum

On-Line Classes to Begin Next Month



The Masonic Society, an independent educational foundation established in 2008, will launch an on-line school in October for which the pilot course will be “The History and Philosophy of Freemasonry.” The studies will be available to members in good standing of The Masonic Society, and will consist of historical readings, video commentaries on the readings, and a discussion forum. The on-line sessions will be held October 17 through December 19.

For Masonic Society membership information, visit themasonicsociety.com

The readings and nine video commentaries will include:

- Overview of the early operative masons
- Formation of the Grand Lodge of England and its constitutions
- Masonic jurisprudence
- Practice and nature of Masonic initiation
- Freemasons at the time of the American Revolution
- Anti-Masonic movements
- Women in Masonry
- Rosicrucian and Egyptian influences in Masonry
- Spiritual nature of Masonry

Students and the instructor will have a private forum for discussing the readings and commentaries.

A video introduction and registration form are available on the society’s website.

The instructor of the course will be Michael R. Poll, owner of Cornerstone Book Publishers. and a New York Times bestselling writer and publisher. He is a Fellow and Past President of The Masonic Society, and a Fellow of the Philalethes Society.

Any questions? Please see W. Jay Hochberg, a Past Master of our research lodge and the Second Vice President of The Masonic Society, or e-mail him at jhochberg@themasonicsociety.com

"The Devil and the Mason"

Submitted by Bro. Martin Bogardus

*There is a story told in hush-filled tones, among Freemason's chosen few,
and if you are wise you will now listen, unless a similar fate befall you, too!
It happened at my lodge one night, just before Allhallows Eve,
I knew the man and tell the tale, just how it was told to me.*

*It was right before the winter snows at lodge, after parting company
with several disgruntled Freemasons, who were rehearsing our degree.
One group said we practice too much, another not enough,
another said let's grab a beer and quit this ritual stuff.*

*We really don't need to practice, the lodge is doing fine,
all this circumambulation, and it's nearly half past nine!
I have to get up early to take the kids to church.
My wife was supposed to take them there but left me in the lurch.*

*We'll have to cancel next rehearsal, since I doubt I'll be around,
my mother's brother's cousin is driving in from out-of-town.
And while we're on the subject, if it's all the same to you.
I can't make all of these darn meetings! Can't you find somebody new?*

*You know I'd love to help and be there, but have you heard about Bob Wainwright?
The guys say he's quite the scoundrel - I overheard at Clancy's bar last night."
My brother's character being now traduced, this was quite beyond the pale,
conspiring to murder a good man's reputation over a pint-sized glass of ale.*

*I sat in angry silence, at once too stunned to speak.
Where was our lodge commitment? Was our cable-tow so weak?
What had happened to our sacred-tie, the Craft our true lodestone?
I summarily dismissed them, then sat down to brood alone.*

*My mind was full of nagging doubt that brothers should speak so cruel,
to hear such a poverty of mind coming from the idle tongue of fools.
I cursed and swore and then implored that I'd gladly toss it all away
to the devil if he'd have it, on checkered floor no more to stay.*

To quit this sacred retreat of friendship and mix once more within the world,

LODGE HAPPENINGS...

NJ LORE No. 1786's next meeting will be held at the
Hightstown/Apollo Lodge No. 41 on Saturday, September 10th, at
9:30 a.m.

On the Agenda:

- Short Business Meeting
- That House Made With Hands - Bro. Howard Kanowitz

Coffee and pastries will be served prior to lodge and lunch will be
provided following. Hope to see you there!

*indignation flared my passions, and with it my temper unchecked, unfurled;
a foolish challenge I then made which proved quite detrimental,
for just two bits, I'd call it quits, from lodge meeting's temperamental.*

*I heard a cacophonous clap of thunder and the clicking sound of cloven hooves,
smelled the acrid stench of brimstone, as I choked on sulphurous fumes.
Then a figure tossed to me a quarter, gently rolling it across the floor,
to my feet it finally landed, then it stopped and rolled no more.*

*Your bargain's struck, and it's my good luck to seal the deal you proffer.
A payment made for your lodge in trade? Why, I'll gladly take that offer!
It's been nigh unto ten score years now, back in Eighteen-twenty-six
Since Bill Morgan made me such an offer - So pick it up now, let's be quick!"*

*Not since I bartered William Morgan, have I met a man like you
to so lightly esteem the blessings of fraternal ties and friendship true.
For a mere two bits, you'd call it quits? isn't that what I heard you say?
Rehearsals and all that goes with it? That's the best deal I've had all day!"*

*I stared numbly toward the figure confused by what the man had said,
with his fancy imported New English clothes sporting black horns upon his head.
I don't know who you think you are, but you can't come in here uninvited.
The costume party's further down the street, vacate the premises or be indicted."*

*Jonathan Snow, it pains me so, to hear you say I come now unrequited.
Your knowledge of me and of Craft Masonry seems so woefully benighted.
I never come where I'm not called; it was you who summoned me.
For just two bits, you would forfeit and forsake Freemasonry?*

*Most times I must work harder to get a Widow's Son'to yield,
although you've made it fairly easy with your lack of Mason's zeal.
You think me a costumed intruder? Be assured that's not the case,
but represent all things infernal meant to enslave the human race.*

*I'm used to getting what I want without the formality of purchase,
going to and fro from down below'to lodges, towns and churches.
When brother Mason's fight and quarrel, you'll always find me there,
hardening hearts toward one another, although they're not aware.*

*I've been here since the beginning, concerning famed Freemasonry,
sowing dissension among the workers, on that I'm sure we both agree.
While attending King Solomon's Temple, conspired three fellow craftsmen to partake
in an ill-planned plot for Master's wages, leaving a broken corpse to mourn and wake.*

*Yes, I've been here such a long, long time and have gained quite the reputation
for pitting brother's against each other like during the Protestant Reformation.
In seventeen-hundred and thirty-eight, inspiring Pope Clement by Papal Bull
to pen the In eminenti apostolatus, a most impiously expressed mouthful!*

*But alas! My work is never finished, it is now only half begun,
to finish the work that I started with Jubela and Jubelum.
Oh course, I've had my setbacks, back in seventeen-seventy-Six,
By Brother Masons duly guarded against my carnival of tricks.*

For God, the Craft and liberty, there conceived a brand new nation

*to rule the land without demands of royal English approbation.
And were inclined with thoughts sublime to share Freemasonic allegory
regarding that peculiar system of instruction - But, that's another story!*

*You've struck a deal which has appealed to my dark infernal nature.
The time is right Allhallows night for a Masonic misadventure!
Come meet damnation's denizens, rejected refuse of human race,
and hasten your journey to perdition there to lay your soul to waste.*

*Hell's cauldron merrily bubbles over now with such hotheaded fools like you.
that so lightly esteemed the blessings of fraternal ties and friendship true.
Neither Moses nor Mohammad, or some jewel-encrusted crucifix
can redeem your soul, 'the devil gloated, seeing John's countenance transfixed.*

*Is there none to help the Widow's son? The devil taunted - then John prayed
to the Great Architect to forgive him for the rash oath he had made.
Three times he held his hands up high shouting The grand hailing sign of distress."
And the Lord answered John's prayer for mercy with celestial help for his defense.*

*Championed by the Supreme Architect of Mason's the devil withdrew in full defeat,
remembering his prior falling out'in heaven, cast down for vainglorious conceit.
Know this John Snow that before I go, I'll be keeping my infernal eye on you,
waiting the next time you forswear Freemasonry, and I'll come back here when you do!"*

*But Jonathan Snow had learned his lesson like the great alchemists of old,
strove to make himself with good men better by turning leaden thoughts to gold.
As to the moral of my story, if there is any lesson to impart:
The battle for Freemasonry is not decided, except - when weighed in human heart."*

2016 Masonic Restoration Foundation Symposium

Submitted by Bro. Val Korsniak

A New Jersey Masonic contingent comprised primarily of NJ LORE No. 1786 regulars and Inspiriatous Lodge No. 357 members came together to attended the 2016 Masonic Restoration Foundation Symposium in Asheville, North Carolina on August 19th & 20th. The event was held at the beautifully restored Asheville Masonic Temple. The quality of the venue set the tone for the event.

The Masonic Restoration Foundation Symposium is the largest gathering of Masons in North America who are expressly committed to observing the highest standards of excellence in the Craft.

The event began with an energetic Harmony [Festive Board] held in the Temple Dining Hall with many traditional toasts and lively singing on Friday evening while featuring commentary from our Keynote Speaker, Robert L. D. Cooper, Curator of the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

During the symposium, a lineup of interesting speakers providing Masonic Light, instruction and tutorials were provide. Brothers also had

the opportunity to see an Observant style, Master Mason degree conferred by our two hosting Observant Lodges, Veritas Lodge No. 769, and Sophia Lodge No. 767. One interesting lodge room novelty was that the floor opened up to reveal Hiram Abiff's shallow grave, which lent a exciting dimension to the degree proceedings.

Since 2001, the Masonic Restoration Foundation (MRF) has been examining the issues facing North American Masonry, identifying successful current and historical practices and offering realistic solutions aimed at improving the experience of Masonic labor. They have examined and understand modern perceptions of Masonry, and targeted what newer Masons may seek in the lodge experience. They are aware that many men who are joining the fraternity today have generally already done a lot of reading and web surfing and have formulated an opinion about the fraternity.

Many of these men come into Masonry knowing more than those who have been members for some time. Young men tend to perceive Freemasonry as a venue for truth seeking, a vehicle for self-improvement and philosophical development; the discovery of one's inner potential. Our new brothers know what they want from a fraternity and have high expectations that their lodge will meet their needs as men.

As North American Freemasonry faces some of the most important challenges in its history, the MRF stands to ensure a sense of purpose and identity for the Craft.

More information on Observant Freemasonry and the MRF's Organization, Mission and Goals, are available on their website at: <http://masonicrestorationfoundation.org/index.html>



It Came from the Internet

Submitted by Bro. Matthew Korang, Secretary

Older freemasons told to smile and stop criticising in bid to attract millennials

Senior brethren told to look like they are enjoying themselves as recruiting younger members is hailed as the new hope for halting the decline of freemasonry.

Older freemasons are being told to smile, look like they are enjoying themselves, and avoid criticising as the movement seeks to keep millennial masons happy and halt a decline in membership that has seen lodges closing at a rate of nearly 100 a year for the past decade.

Pro Grand Master Peter Lowndes, second only to the Grand Master the Duke of Kent, the Queen's cousin, told senior brethren gathered in the Grand Temple, wearing white gloves, aprons and, if suitably qualified, the Royal Arch Breast Jewel: "I am not for one minute suggesting we try to turn our meetings into a pantomime, but most certainly I am saying there is no harm in being seen to enjoy ourselves."

Mr Lowndes, 68, an Old Etonian chartered surveyor, issued his plea as English and Welsh freemasonry takes the extraordinary step of welcoming in a documentary film crew while preparing to celebrate its 300th anniversary against a backdrop of steadily declining membership numbers.

Figures seen by The Independent show that the number of lodges on the register of the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE), the governing body of English and Welsh freemasonry, has gone down from 8,389 in 2006 to 7,401 today – equivalent to a loss of almost 99 lodges a year.

UGLE documents show that in the second quarter of this year alone, 37 lodges closed while only two new lodges opened, a net loss of 35.

While the UGLE reported 270,000 individual masons in 2007, the current membership is 204,775 – a drop of 24 per cent to well below half the peak of more than 500,000 masons that freemasonry experienced in the immediate post-war years.

But while membership has declined among all other age groups, among millennials aged 21 to 30 it has increased by 7.65 per cent in the past two years.

Although still only 2 per cent of the total membership, 21- to 30-year-olds have now been described by Freemasonry Today, the official journal of the UGLE, as "a significant reprieve from a death knell for us all".

Already efforts to attract the younger age group, and to resolve at

least one worshipful brother's complaint that "some lodges look like God's waiting room", have included creating 55 new university lodges since 2005.

There was also the consecration last year, in a Novotel in Southampton, of the Lodge of Brevity, where younger, time-poor working masons can enjoy meetings that are kept short by dispensing with items like reading the minutes, which are instead scrutinised online.

Membership fees have been reduced for under-25s and millennial masons have themselves suggested freemasonry could benefit from "an advance in the use of social media".

The recruitment drive has not yet gone as far as the UGLE admitting women members, but Pro Grand Master Lowndes now seems to have used his most recent Quarterly Communication speech to throw his full weight behind attempts at attracting millennial men into freemasonry.

And in a further effort to promote freemasonry, it is thought that Mr Lowndes gave his speech while cameras were present in London's Freemasons' Hall for a fly-on-the wall Sky documentary to be shown ahead of next year's 300th anniversary of the formation of the Grand Lodge in 1717.

After telling the assembled Grand Officers and Worshipful Masters that he was wearing a "particularly attractive" new breast jewel to mark the approaching 300th anniversary – and that a new Tercentenary Craft tie

with redesigned square and compasses logo would soon be available – he said: "We have come a long way since the time that I was initiated 44 years ago. I enjoyed my early meetings, but possibly despite some of the more elderly members rather than because of them. In those days it was nearly a capital offence to smile in lodge.

"We can probably all cite instances when a more senior member of a lodge is less than sympathetic to a newer member who has, perhaps, had a few lapses during the ritual. In my view exactly the opposite reaction has the right effect.

"I am in absolutely no doubt, brethren, that, if we encourage and congratulate, rather than routinely castigate our new members we will go a long way to retaining them as members and finally turn around our drop in numbers, which, incidentally, is already happening in some provinces and districts."

The Pro Grand Master also told the brethren inside the Grand Temple in Freemasons' Hall that lodges with dwindling numbers could learn from the jollity of members in affiliated districts abroad.

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From the Editor's Desk.....

The next Trestleboard will be published on or about December 1, 2016. We are always looking for articles. All articles must be submitted by November 15, 2016.

Matthew Korang, Secretary

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**