Use Your Will Power

It has often been said, "If there's a Will, there's a Way.

One creative method of making a thoughtful charitable gift is through a Will or codicil to your existing Will. Make a new beneficiary, their spouse, or a friend. You can provide an opportunity to complete a gift that perhaps is not possible during their lifetime.

Making a Will is serious business! Anyone who has made a Will can recall a sense of accomplishment: "There's over and finished!" A perfectly natural reaction...but it leads to the most common mistake that an individual can make.

Not even the most careful written Will ring loud sound permanently. Years pass, families multiply and decline; circumstances change; your earned estate becomes ill and can no longer handle your affairs.

Because of these and many other reasons, it is a good practice to review your Will once a year. As a result, you will be reminded of previous decisions and perhaps be cognizant of needed changes.

With a Will, you have a great opportunity to make certain things possible. Regardless of your financial circumstances, you have the legal right to control the disposition of your affairs.

It is startling to think that over 90% of all adult Americans fail to take the time or the right to make a Will. If you die without a Will, your property will be distributed according to the laws of the state in which you reside at the time of death and not necessarily according to your wishes. You should consider all the options available to you and make the proper preparations for the distribution of what you have worked and saved for over the years.

After providing for your heirs, you may wish to make a gift to our Masonic Charities that pays special tribute to or memorializes an individual or family.

A charitable bequest can be made by designating a specific dollar amount, a fixed percentage, or the residual amount of the bequest after payment of expenses and bequests to other beneficiaries. Gifts may take the form of cash, real estate, securities or other properties.

If you have questions regarding charitable contributions to our Masonic Charities as listed below or if we can be of assistance in any part of your estate planning along with your attorney and financial advisors, please do not hesitate to contact us at: phone (215) 988-1919.

Masonic Charities
Development and Public Relations
Fred D. Rintzmaker
One Masonic Drive, Elizabethtown, PA 17022
Telephone: (717) 367-1241, ext. 33312

Masonic Charities of the R.W. Grand Lodge of F.A. & A.M. of Pennsylvania
- Masonic Homes
- Pennsylvania YWCA Foundation
- The Pennsylvania Masonic Foundations for the Prevention of Drug and Alcohol Abuse Among Children
- The Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania
- The Pennsylvania Masonic Foundation for Leadership and Management, Inc.
- Grand Lodge Masonic Charities

Trip to Alaska

The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania will be taking a trip to Alaska on August 3, 1997, Moons and their friends are welcome. A Meeting with the Grand Lodge of Alaska will be held upon docking.

For information on the Alaskan trip, please contact the Office of Masonic Education, Masonic Temple, One North Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107-2598.

MAKING MASONIC HISTORY

Leaders From 20 Grand Lodges Meet to Share in FRIEND TO FRIEND

During the week of the D-Day Anniversary, in historic Philadelphia, the birthplace of our nation and the City of Brotherly Love, Masonic leaders from twenty states "Crafted" a new chapter in the history of Freemasonry, uniting Friend to Friend, to establish a new beachhead in the battle for Membership Development.

Responding on a month’s notice to an invitation from R.W. Grand Master Bro. Otto H. Hohenshildt and the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, elected Officers from Grand Lodges in the continental United States and Hawaii attended a seminar in Gotham Hall to learn more about Pennsylvania’s Friend to Friend Membership Development Program. The desire to share the program with all jurisdictions was well received and our goal is to work together to assure its success for the good of Freemasonry. Grand Master Hohenshildt thanked those present for having arranged their schedules to be in Philadelphia on brief notice. He acknowledged cooperative responses from some other Grand Jurisdictions where prior commitments made attendance in Philadelphia impossible.

Continued on page 2
Brethren:

Friend to Friend: It is starting to work!

It is starting to work all over Pennsylvania. Some Lodges have not had a Petition in years now have multiple Petitions. Some Lodges have had Petitions regularly are now seeing a minor flood. The Friend to Friend Task Force now 98% in place is 100% effective. The entire Masonic Membership in Pennsylvania is aware of a renewed enthusiasm, of a renewed dedication, and of a renewed commitment to "Preserve and Enhance" our great Fraternity.

We started eight months ago to awaken this sleeping giant, to let everybody know "who are the Masons," and "what do Masons do?" We sent a copy of the Friend to Friend brochure to every Mason in Pennsylvania. We sent a copy of the Friend to Friend brochure to every Lodge building in Pennsylvania. We established a Friend to Friend Task Force, 12 Members from every Lodge, to serve as our offensive front line (football talk).

We requested the Lodges not to go dark in the months of July and August, so that we would not falter in our initial momentum of Freemasonry being a worthy Way of Life. It is an extreme joy and honor to be enabled to perpetuate the great history, tradition, and precepts of Freemasonry to future generations through Friend to Friend. Please give us your help NOW!

Sincerely and Fraternally,

George W. Hohenstil
R.W. Grand Master

Grand Master's Travels

August 1994

2 Grand Master's Executive Advisory Board Meeting, 9:00 a.m., Philadelphia.
3 Grand Master's Executive Advisory Board Meeting, 9:00 a.m., Philadelphia.
5 Line Officers Staff Meeting, 9:00 a.m., Philadelphia.
6 Grand Master's Executive Advisory Board Meeting, 9:00 a.m., Philadelphia.
6 Grand Master's Executive Advisory Board Meeting, 9:00 a.m., Philadelphia.
6 District Deputy Grand Masters Meeting, Regions 1 & 2.
10 District Deputy Grand Masters Meeting, Regions 1 & 2.
10 District Deputy Grand Masters Meeting, Regions 1 & 2.
14 7th Anniversary, Social Lodge No. 885, Harrisburg, 2nd District.
18 Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania 250th Anniversary, Mt. Pleasant Lodge No. 6, Harrisburg, 2nd District.
19 Grand District Deputy Grand Masters Meeting, Region 4 & 5.
22 The Pennsylvania Masonic Leadership and Management, Inc. Board Meeting, 10:00 a.m., Masonic Conference Center, Elizabethtown.
24 The Pennsylvania Masonic Foundation for the Promotion of Drug and Alcohol Among Children Board Meeting, 2:00 p.m., Masonic Conference Center, Elizabethtown.
26 The Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania Board Meeting, 5:00 p.m., Masonic Conference Center, Elizabethtown.
27 Pennsylvania Youth Foundation Advisory Board Meeting, 9:00 a.m., Masonic Conference Center, Elizabethtown.
30 Program in the February issue of "Freemasonry in Pennsylvania."

September 1994

1 20th Anniversary, Social Lodge No. 401, York, District 42.
1 Line Officers Staff Meeting, 9:00 a.m., Philadelphia.
1 Line Officers Staff Meeting, 9:00 a.m., Philadelphia.
1 Committee on Finance Meeting, 1:30 p.m., Philadelphia.
2 District Deputy Grand Masters Meeting, Region 4 & 5.
2 District Deputy Grand Masters Meeting, Region 4 & 5.
2 Committee on Masonic Homes Meeting, 1:15 p.m., Elizabethtown.
5 Supreme Council, A.A.S.R., Cleveland, Ohio.

Making Masonic History continued from page 3

The atmosphere was one of great interest and determination while addressing the picture of more than three decades of declining Fraternal Membership. R.W. Grand Master Hohenstil asserted that the Masonic Leaders cannot stand back and say, "Masons are Masons...words of Membership Enhancement and Membership Maintenance are the words of Masonic Leadership.

"This Fraternity has to let people know who the Masons are, what Masons do, and what it means to be a Mason. Friend to Friend is a program of education." Grand Master Hohenstil emphasized.

Each Lodge has created a twelve-member Task Force to carry the educational message to non-Masons. A replica of the Grand Master's Medalion provides all those "travelers" on the Task Force with key educational messages: "Freemasons are: The Square and Compasses. "Help to a Brother," and "Help to Mankind," plus the words, "Freedom, Education, Community, Family, Leadership, Participation and Membership.

"The window of opportunity (to turn the tide in Membership Development) is NOW," Grand Master Hohenstil emphasized.

He then presented Bro. Dean E. Vaughn, P.M., the founder of the Friend to Friend Program.

Bro. Vaughn defined the Friend to Friend Program. He described graphically the program and the potential for the Friend to Friend program, showing that in the 1960's there were 4.2 million Freemasons in the United States. Now there are 2.2 million. He showed, too, that in the 1960's the population of the United States was 170 million; now it's 260 million. There are millions of qualified men...who do not know we are, who are we and what we do," he re-emphasized.

Saying that we cannot pretend the problem doesn't exist, Bro. Vaughn recalled several words from a 19th century song of war:

"How many times can a man turn his head, pretending he just doesn't see...take home again the song of war."

"So far as I am acquainted with the principles of Freemasonry, I perceive them to be founded upon benevolence and to be exercised only for the good of mankind, I do not, therefore, upon this ground, withdraw my approval from it."
Masons Promoting Public Television

Members of the Valley of Bloomsburg, led by their Commander-in-Chief, Bro. Robert D. Dugger, Jr., 33°, R.W. Junior Grand Warden, answered the phones for Public Television Station WVIA, Channel 44, during a recent membership drive. Public television is a member-funded network only; they have no paid advertisers as reproduction, twice a year groups such as civic groups, church groups, scout troops, etc., answer phones during pledge breaks and receive viewer coverage during this time. This is the first time any Masonic group helped in a membership campaign at this public television station. Dressed in Masonically traditional tuxedo or dark suit to convey the dignity which we ascribe to our Fraternity, a very favorable impression was created, not only to the staff at the television station but also to the viewing public. Grand Lodge and Scottish Rite banners, along with the Friend to Friend pictorial reproduction, were displayed on camera. Each of these symbols of our Fraternity appeared prominently every time a “Pledge Break” occurred. As this station has a viewer audience of about four million, the publicity our Fraternity received is inestimable.

Observing 200th Anniversary

Bro. George H. Hohenshildt, R.W. Grand Master (center) is joined by Bro. Richard H. Disque, II, D.D.G.M. (left) and Bro. Kevin M. Miller, W.M. in observing the 200th Anniversary of Lodge No. 6, Wilkes Barre. Lodge Past Masters are shown below (left to right):

Row Two; Bro. George Hanlan, Jr., Brian J. Gallagher, John H. Michael, Norman Darling, Sr., David P.Audit, Treasurer, Roger R. Kline, Rulheph H. Tokel, and Marvin W. Boote.


Mr. Thomas W. Jackson
Grand Secretary, Grand Lodge F. & A.M

Masonic Temple
One North Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Miss Maridel A. Warner
Sister of Bro. Thomas A. Warner

Friend to Friend:
Help to a Brother; Help to Mankind

Mr. Thomas W. Jackson
Grand Secretary, Grand Lodge F. & A.M

Masonic Temple
One North Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107

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Sister of Bro. Thomas A. Warner

Getting the Family Involved


Drug & Alcohol Foundation

Masonic Temple, One North Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107
(215) 988-1978

Second Annual Freedom Walk/Run


(Lef t to right): Bros. Anthony J. Garvey, Director, Drug and Alcohol Foundation; George H. Hohenshildt, R.W. Grand Master; Roweland K. Lee, M.W. Grand Master, Prince Hall; Thomas J. Jackson, R.W. Deputy Grand Master, Prince Hall; Edward O. Weisser, R.W. Deputy Grand Master.

Bro. George H. Hohenshildt, R.W. Grand Master, crossing the finish line.

Participates start the walk/run.

(Left to right): Bros. James L. Ernette, R.W. Senior Grand Warden and President of Drug and Alcohol Foundation; George H. Hohenshildt, R.W. Grand Master; Anthony J. Garvey, Director of Drug and Alcohol Foundation; and Thomas W. Jackson, R.W. Grand Secretary.
SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

The Educational Endowment Fund Committee of the Pennsylvania Youth Foundation reviewed 190 applications this year. Statistically, 123 came from females, and 67 from males. No Masonic youth group affiliation was reported by 114 applicants, with 32 DeMolays, 12 Job’s Daughters and 549 Rainbows making application. Scholarships were awarded on the basis of a competitive review of academic achievement, financial need, Fraternal involvement and other activities. Scholarship awards have been made to the following:

$2,500 Grand Master’s Scholarship
Christina Izumi Smith, Rheimms, PA. She is a member of John D. Traister Chapter No. 15, in Elizabethtown and the granddaughter of our bro. Hugh Smith, who was a member of Abraham C. Troschel Lodge No. 682. She will attend the University of Pittsburgh to study nursing.

Dr. N. Singleton Croumer, Elizabethtown, PA. He is a member of Elizabethtown Chapter, Order of DeMolay, and the son of Bro. Adam C. Croumer, a member of Abraham C. Troschel Lodge No. 682. He will attend Franklin and Marshall University to study psychology.

Lori K. Bergtresser, Bethlehem, PA. She is the daughter of Bro. Donald J. Bergtresser, a member of H. Stanley Goodwin Lodge No. 648. She will attend the University of Pennsylvania to study politics.

Richard W. Craft, Freeport, PA. He is the grandchild of Bro. Warren E. Greene, a member of Muncy Lodge No. 249 and Member of Armstrong Lodge No. 239. He will attend Georgia College to study civil engineering.

Rainbow Girls Bowl for Muscular Dystrophy
Bloomsburg Assembly No. 5 International Order of Rainbow for Girls recently bowed to raise money for muscular dystrophy. They bowed at Caldwell Consistory, had lunch and combined this with a rehearsal for the upcoming initiation of two new members.

The girls were led by their Mother Advisor, Mrs. Sylvia Hileman, Grand Deputy, Mrs. Kathleen Black, and Past Grand Worshipful Advisor, Mrs. Pat Ditty. Ashley Ditty is the present Worshipful Advisor; she and the other girls are young in age but have a Rainbow background and are working very hard on Rutiladistic Work and Membership.

With the help of a very active advisory board, the girls are growing in the true spirit of Rainbow. When interests and activities work with young people, especially young ladies with Rainbow experiences, Assemblies will grow and the girls and advisors will profit.

DEMOLAY CELEBRATES DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY


The program included a special Pennsylvania dinner at the Kansas City Club, a tour of the Masonic facilities where the Order of DeMolay was founded, Ritual and athletic competitions, and a pilgrimage to the grave-site of “Dad” Frank S. Land, the Founder of the Order, for a memorial rededication ceremony. Land was the life-long Secretary-General of the Order he created, and served as Imperial Potentate of the Shriner of North America in 1954.

The Order of DeMolay came to Pennsylvania in 1923 with the institution of Temple Chapter, in Philadelphia. There are currently 1432 Members in thirty-seven Chapters. The newest group is Chis-More Chapter, instituted on May 21, 1994, in Norristown.

SCHOLARSHIPS LISTED

The seventh edition of the Masonic Scholarship Guide, published by the Pennsylvania Youth Foundation, will be available in September. It includes a summary of more than 400 scholarship or grant programs provided by various Masonic Bodies for Masons, their families, and Members of the Masonically-related youth groups. Over 4,000 copies of the guidebook will be distributed, free of charge, to youth group leaders, Lodges, Community Centers, and over 800 guidance counselors at high school in Pennsylvania. Additional copies will be available upon request. To request a copy, send a postcard with your name and address to the PLYF offices at the above address.

We receive letters almost daily from residents or families expressing their appreciation for the Masonic Homes and the Fraternity’s support.

I offer this letter to all Masons when considering the value of their Membership and if Freemasonry makes a difference.

Joseph E. Murphy, N.H.A.
Executive Director
Children's Day 1994

The Masonic Children's Home celebrated its 71st Annual Children's Day Awards Banquet on Friday, May 27, at the Masonic Conference Center in Memorial Hall. Attending the event were the Right Worshipful Grand Master George H. Hohenshilt, Grand Lodge Officers and members of the Committee on Masonic Homes and their wives; Bro. Joseph E. Murphy, the Executive Director of Masonic Homes, and other Masonic Homes Administrative staff; Elizabethtown Area School Administration representatives; the Masonic Homes Children's Services staff, children, and their families.

Tracee Evans, Tella Mercado, and Kristen Muldoon, residents of the Children's Home, along with a piano teacher, Ed Smith, provided the musical entertainment for the group.

The four seniors, Mark Mellen, Rich Mampe, Charles Donald Barbush, and Kristen Mercado, served as Masters and Mistresses of Ceremonies and award presenters for the program.

The children received awards for their achievements in academics, citizenship, creativity, vocation, and athletics. All 27 children were recognized for their participation and accomplishments in various activities including: school activities, music, art, sports, Masonic organizations, youth groups, and volunteer work.

The graduates were presented with Bibles from the Seniors to the grandchildren.

After the awards ceremony, Grand Master Hohenshilt addressed the group. The seniors planted a tree next to the Children's Home Office to leave a lasting symbol of their ties to the Children's Home. They graduated from Elizabethtown Area High School on June 15, 1994.

The seniors will pursue post-secondary studies. Mark Mellen will study business at the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford. Rich Mampe will attend Pennsylvania State University at Ogontz Campus for a major in marine biology. Sam Bruno has plans to seek an accounting degree at Shippensburg University. Stacey VanBuskirk was accepted at Pennsylvania College of Technology in Mass Communications.

IndePendeNT LithVIG SIGN UP NOW – FOR LATER!!!

"I'm thinking about moving into Retirement Living sometime, but not now... maybe later. I'm still too active." Does this sound familiar?

ISSUES ...

... by the time you're ready to move, you won't be able to, because there are no apartments or cottages available.

... You may be active this year, but each year the snow gets deeper, the yard gets bigger, and the repairs to your home get more costly.

SOLUTIONS ...

... SIGN UP NOW for the priority list so you'll be able to have the choice later.

... If you're not ready when we call, you still have the opportunity to say, "No, not this time, but keep me on the list and call again." You have two opportunities to reject the offer before moving to the bottom of the list.

... Your priority list deposit is credited to the entrance fee payment or the monthly rental fee depending on which accommodation you select, or will be refunded if you decide not to join us for any reason.

Call the Marketing Office at our toll-free number 800-676-6452 or return the coupon for additional information on how you can SIGN UP NOW FOR LATER!!!
Achieving Fellowship

In the rapid, often unpredictable world in which we live, predicting the forces which will influence Freemasonry next year may be difficult. The combination of rough economic times, changing social values, and a host of other forces makes those who would forecast the future very uneasy.

As Freemasonry moves into this uncertain future of opportunity, we must strengthen our covenant of friendship and fellowship within.

It's only natural to go where you feel most welcome. This includes attending a Meeting at Lodge. Making a Brother feel at home and appreciated in Lodge should be the first duty we as Masons honor.

Here are a few suggestions we might use to promote and enhance fellowship:

- The Committee should discover as much as it can about a new Member during the home visit and make this information available to the other Members. If the Brethren know what a new Member does, his interests and hobbies, and his reason for joining, they will have something to discuss with him.
- Encourage those who attend regularly to share their ideas about fellowship. Stress the importance of good fellowship, and get their suggestions on how to make improvements.
- Give someone or several Brethren the job of greeting all Members as they enter the Lodge. Make sure they know it is their job to make the Brethren feel welcome when they enter and to steer any new Member or guest to another Member so that he is not left alone. New Members and visitors should be given name badges. It is also a good idea for each Member to have a name badge. One very successful method of getting your new Members known rapidly is to have an Officer, the Junior Warden for example, and the newest Master Mason(s) as the greeters.
- The Worshipful Master and his Officers should circulate among the Members before Lodge is opened. This is not the time for Officers to meet and finalize the plans for the evening. This should be done before arriving for the Meeting. The Worshipful Master should never allow a new Mason to sit alone in the Lodge room or to fend for himself.
- Make all introductions during Lodge warm and personal. All the Brethren in Lodge should be reminded to welcome warmly new Members and guests. Everyone feels good when he is greeted with gracious sincerity.
- Lodge Officers, both elected and appointed, should use the time after closing Lodge to reinforce the fellowship that was present before opening Lodge. Thank the Members for attending.
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Leadership & Management

Masonic Temple, One North Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107-2520
(215) 988-1966

Follow up with a personal note to the new Member or guest, thanking him for being with you in Lodge. Your Fellowship Committee could handle this important task.

Consider including the names of new Members in Lodge communications with a brief summary of their interests and the names of their wives and children.

Let the Members know you are working to improve fellowship and why. Inform Members of the important role they can play.

Keep Member satisfaction as the number one priority. Remember fellowship is an important reason why a man becomes a Mason. It's something we can all provide—free of charge.

New Idea Book helps Lodge Leaders

We recommend that all Lodges interested in making real progress in renewing the Lodge for the future, obtain the book 101+ Ways to Improve Interest and Attendance in Your Masonic Lodge for their leaders.

Copies are available for $10.00 (plus $4.00 shipping and handling) from the Masonic Renewal Committee of North America, Lake Falls Professional Building, 6115 Falls Road, Baltimore, MD 21208. Their number is (410) 377-0688.
Masonic Education
Masonic Temple, One North Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107-2594
(215) 988-1909

1994 Senior Scholarships Awarded

Seven scholarships were awarded to senior high school students from the seven Masonic Regions of Pennsylvania at a ceremony on May 20, at the Independent Living Community, Masonic Homes, Elizabethtown. The seven regional winners and their parents or family members were invited to attend the awards ceremony.

The Senior Essay Contest required each entrant to prepare a 1,500 word essay on the topic “What Does Friend to Friend Mean to Me?” The state winner and recipient of a $2,500.00 Grand Scholarship was Michael D. Lott, Elizabethtown, Region 2. Six regional winners, who received a $1,000.00 Grand Scholarship were: Kim E. Goldstein, Wynnewood, Region 1; Meg Frye, Johnstown, Region 3; Jill Hartley, Pittsburgh, Region 4; Marcus F. Heller, Knox, Region 5; Rachel J. Thomas, Mansfield, Region 6; and Jennifer O’Boyle, Avoca, Region 7.

Bro. Edward O. Weisser, the R.W. Deputy Grand Master and Chairman of the Masonic Education Committee, conducted the awards ceremony and presented the scholarships to the winners. The Senior Essay Contest is open to all senior students in the public, parochial, and private high schools of Pennsylvania. Announcements and applications will be sent to all of the schools in the state. Essays must be received in the Office of Masonic Education, Masonic Temple, Philadelphia by February 1, 1995.

Masons of Pennsylvania proudly continue to support the youth of our jurisdiction in their educational programs and career goals. Once again this outstanding group of seniors has shown us the youth of today are sincere, empathetic and hard working in their “Friend to Friend” relationships.

State winner Michael D. Lott, Region 2, is shown accepting the plaque and $2,500 check from Bro. Edward O. Weisser, R.W.D.G.M.

1995 Senior Essay Competition

The fifth annual Senior Essay Competition for 1995 has been announced by the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Education. The R.W. Grand Master Bro. George H. Hohenshildt, has selected a topic for the competition related to the Friend to Friend brochure. Each student will be asked to select one of the famous American Masons depicted on the brochure and to write a 1,500 word essay on “What Contributions Has This Famous Mason Made to American Society?”

The senior essay contest is open to all senior students in the Masonic Homes and Masonic Education Lodge. The winners will be awarded scholarships to aid in their education.

Concordia Lodge Awards First Bro. Ronald Clarkson Scholarship

At the November 18, 1989, Stated Meeting of Concordia Lodge No. 67, Bro. Roger J. Hanisco, Worshipful Master, awarded the first eleven $950.00 scholarship grants from the Bro. Ronald Clarkson Scholarship Fund of Concordia Lodge No. 67.

The recipients for 1993 are as follows:


Shown in the photograph is Worshipful Master Bro. Roger J. Hanisco awarding the grants to some of the eleven eligible recipients during the open portion of the November 18 Stated Meeting. Both the parents and sponsors were present.

Following the awards, the recipients and their families joined the Brethren for dinner where they were entertained by the Concert Orchestra and the Klovz of Lu Lu Temple Shrine, and heard a most interesting address by Lu Lu Temple Potentate Bro. James J. Education Committee, conducted the awards ceremony.

Bro. Ronald Clarkson, a Member of Concordia Lodge No. 67 for many years, died on Christmas Day of 1991. He believed that the best way in which he could support the future of Freemasonry and his Lodge, was to make an investment in the youth of our Masonic families. He bequeathed a substantial portion of the estate to Concordia Lodge with the stipulation that it was to be used to establish a scholarship fund. The income from the investments of this fund is to be used to grant scholarships to Members of Concordia Lodge, their wives, children, and grandchildren who are enrolled in a college or university matriculating to a baccalaureate degree or higher.

"Sharing with the Needy" is a rewarding and worthy program.

Pine Grove Lodge No. 409 is striving to collect 400 pounds of non-perishable canned foods to be distributed to needy families in this area at Thanksgiving and Christmas time. The Members on the Charity Committee of the Lodge will see that the food is given to those less fortunate during the holiday season of giving and sharing.

Members are asked to bring canned goods when attending a Stated Meeting of the Lodge. The food will then be placed in a food bank at the Lodge. A donations box is available for those who would like to make cash contributions. These funds will be used to purchase turkeys for the Lodge food bank.
My Brethren:

Freemasonry has been linked historically with a concern for youth for many years. We have developed and supported our youth organizations - the Order of DeMolay, the Order of Rainbow for Girls and the Order of Job's Daughters. Long before their creation, however, probably back to the inception of the Craft, we have expressed a concern for young people. In studying the history of Freemasonry, we note that one of the great concerns has always been the care of widows and orphans. This concern has been expressed in our operation of homes and schools for the orphaned and the socially disadvantaged youth. We have in more recent years become supportive of their goals of higher education.

I quote part of a letter I received from a young lady who received one of our Higher Education Loans:

"Dear Mr. Jackson,

As of December 15, 1991, we graduated from Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania with a bachelor's degree...I say "we" because without the support and generosity of you and your fellow brothers I may not have received the finances to continue my education. I would like to thank you on behalf of all the students you have supported and the students who will seek your help in the future. Sometimes we forget to thank those who deserve it the most."

I have received many similar letters in the past, and they are heartening, to say the least, since I receive many letters and telephone calls criticizing our program because we require repayment of the loans even though no loan interest is required. At the direction of our R.W. Grand Master, I wrote a brief paper on youth development to be presented to the Executive Committee of the Grand Lodge. In it, I expressed a concern that perhaps we require too little from the youth of today. A considerable portion of my life was dedicated to working with young people as a professional in the teaching field and as a volunteer leader in the Boy Scouts of America and the Order of DeMolay. During those years I observed a growing trend of stagnation in the teaching field. For too long, we have been complacent in our work. I feel that this decline is at least in part due to what we as adults required or rather did not require.

Most of the leaders of Freemasonry today acknowledge the lack of interest of at least two generations of young people reflected by the decline in Membership in those age brackets. We fail, however, at times to consider deeply enough the cause of the lack of interest.

I noted in my last years in the teaching profession the continuing loss of interest in others by young people. Self-centeredness became a way of life in our society, and it has only been in recent years that I have been able to detect a reawakening of that interest. Any organization dedicated to helping others would suffer in this type of climate.

I would suggest that much of our problem today has been a result of our continuing attitude that each generation continues to make life easier for each succeeding generation. In the process, we have unfortunately forgotten the necessity of teaching responsibility. The result has been many young people today have developed an attitude that what they receive is owed to them. Defaults in the guaranteed loan program of the federal government are unfortunately classic, and now amount to hundreds of millions of dollars which the taxpayer must pick up.

Most evidence indicates that the general trend of thought regarding the direction of the youth of our country as has been practiced in recent years has been incorrect. Our continuing to give requiring little in return has not only not benefited our youth but has also proven detrimental. As long as we as a nation have the attitude that we can buy the admiration and respect of our youth by giving more while requiring less, we have little or no hope of recapturing that admiration or respect.

This is the reason I feel so pleased when I receive a letter such as the one quoted in this article. It shows me that, in what may have become a general attitude, there continue to exist the islands of hope. I am thoroughly convinced that one of the great contributions Freemasonry can make is to teach the young people with whom we come in contact responsibility. We must seek for and strive to develop the highest quality of performance in the youth of the world. It is no less true in teaching the young than it is in dealing with the adult - that the less we require the less we receive. If we direct our youth toward a concept of quality, we give them a reason for pride and accomplishment. We must continue to provide the help, but we must also emphasize the need to instill responsibility. Therein we build the leaders of tomorrow.

Brother Nelson E. Buechner, Organist Extraordinaire

Our jovial Grand Lodge Organist, Brother Nelson Buechner, was born on May 1, 1931. Brother Buechner was one of the few born with a smile on his face and music in his fingers and feet. He had, as his obituary in the Philadelphia Daily News of May 3 aptly puts it, "...what he considered the best job in the world and heated it to the end." Brother Buechner spent a career of forty years developing one of the largest organs in the world, the great John Wanamaker Organ (in the center city Philadelphia store), of which he became curator. His association with this organ began in 1949, when the Olney (Philadelphia) high school had become assistant to Mary E. Vogt, one of the original members of the Wanamaker Organ staff, who had been playing the organ since the first recital on June 22, 1911. After his service in the Army during the Korean War, Brother Nelson returned in 1952 to become assistant to William F. Ruff, the last of the original organ staff members. Upon Ruff's death in 1973, Brother Nelson became curator, which means, in addition to playing the instrument, he cared for and promoted it. In 1990, Brother Nelson's dream was realized, when he oversaw the restoration of the organ.

Brother Nelson E. Buechner, born in 1931, was a Member of Washington Lodge No. 59, in which he was Entered, Passed, and Raised in late 1953 and early 1954. On December 27, 1985, Brother Buechner became Grand Lodge Organist.

For those of the Brethren who knew Brother Nelson personally, there never was any "down time" for him - even facing some major health problems Nelson was always "upbeat." His life was one of optimism and one in which God and Freemasonry played a positive and vital part. Not busy enough in just being the Curator of the Wanamaker Organ, active in the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, organist for our Grand Lodge, organist in his Blue Lodge and organist and choir master of Emmanuel Episcopal Church, he had just recently accepted the position as Organist of the Scottish Rite Valley of Southern New Jersey in West Collingswood, N.J. Perhaps if we listen very carefully during the next thunder storm, those deep and heavy sounds might not be thunder bursts, butBrother Nelson using many of the thirty-two foot stops on the "Grande" organ of them all.