Preserving Our Masonic Heritage

The Masonic Temple in Philadelphia stands as a significant symbol of Masonic heritage to Pennsylvania Freemasons and Freemasons around the world. Ours is the grandest Masonic Temple in the western hemisphere and unlike anything else in the nation, or the world, according to architects and artists, structural engineers and scholars.

More than 332 years old, the Temple is in need of significant funding to strengthen its permanent endowment fund and to complete essential interior and exterior restorations, refurbishments and renovations. Freemasons and friends interested in making a difference by helping to preserve this magnificent structure for future generations are invited to consider an outright or planned gift to the Masonic Temple's Gold Book Society Fund and/or its Philanthropic Endowment Society Fund.

Gifts to the Gold Book Society Fund are used, principal and interest, to maintain and preserve the Temple. Gifts to the Philanthropic Endowment Society Fund become a permanent part of the Temple's endowment fund where only the interest generated by the fund is used to preserve and protect the Temple. Many fitting opportunities currently exist to honor or remember loved family members or persons held in respect and esteem.

While outright gifts best enable the Temple's pressing physical needs to be addressed, planned gifts such as charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, pooled income funds and bequests help to build the Temple's endowment while at the same time affording donors opportunities to realize important personal goals and objectives. The donors of a gift annuity, for example, can choose to start receiving payments in the year their annuity is funded or to defer such payments until a future time...perhaps to increase income during their retirement years.

To learn more about the benefits you might realize from an outright or planned gift in support of the Masonic Temple, in complete confidence and at no cost or obligation, simply complete and return the accompanying response form or call to speak with one of our Office of Gift Planning staff members in the geographical region nearest you.

Central Pennsylvania
(717) 367-1121, ext. 33460
or (800) 599-6454

Western Pennsylvania
(412) 741-1400, ext. 3011
or (866) 872-0864

Eastern Pennsylvania
(610) 825-6100, ext. 1348
Out-of-State
(800) 599-6454

Sample Gift Annuity Payment Rates:

One-Life

Age Rate Rate
65 6.0% 60 & 65 5.5%
70 5.5% 65 & 70 5.7%
75 5.1% 70 & 75 6.1%
80 4.6% 75 & 80 6.8%
85 4.5% 80 & 85 7.3%
90 11.3% 85 & 90 8.4%

Two-Life

*Rates recommended by the American Council on Gift Annuities, effective July 1, 2004. Two-life rates are less due to added life expectancy.

This official registration and financial information for any of the Masonic Charities may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free within Pennsylvania, (800) 732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Attention Postmaster: Dated Material Enclosed

COMPLETE AND MAIL THIS FORM TO:
Office of Gift Planning, Masonic Charities,
One Masonic Drive, Elizabethtown, PA 17022

☐ Send me your brochure on the Gold Book Society Fund and the Philanthropic Endowment Society Fund.
☐ Send me your brochure on Gift Annuities.
☐ Send me a sample Gift Annuity illustration based on the following information:
  Age(s): ______ Amount: $ ____________

☐ Send me information about Memorial and Honorarium Gift opportunities available at the Masonic Temple.
☐ Send me your brochure on giving through my Will.
☐ Contact me to arrange a personal appointment to discuss a possible gift.
☐ We have already included a provision for the Masonic Temple in my Will and/or Estate plans.

Name: ________________________________
Address: ____________________________
City: ______ State: ____ Zip: __________
Telephone: __________________________
E-mail Address: ______________________

Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania
A Legacy of 275 Years

Benjamin Franklin
300th Birthday Celebration

Tun Tavern
Birthplace of American Freemasonry

Inaugural Issue for Ronald A. Aungst, Sr., R.W. Grand Master
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Ronald A. Aungst, Sr. was born in Jersey Shore, Pa., on Nov. 30, 1949, to the late Luther R. Aungst, Sr. and Dorothy K. Aungst-Carruthers. He has two brothers: Tom, of Ephrata, Pa., and the late Luther Aungst Jr., with whom he received his first degree in the Craft.

A graduate of California State College, California, Pa., with a bachelor's degree in Education, Bro. Ron continued his studies there and later at Penn State toward completing his master's in administration, as well as his Secondary Principal Certification, Elementary Principal Certification and Administration Certification.

Bro. Ron returned to the Jersey Shore Area School District where he was employed for 35 years, serving first as a technical education instructor and then rising to the position of principal in three of the four elementary schools in the district. He implemented numerous innovative and progressive programs during his career, such as the district's full-day kindergarten and visual communication programs, the high school's Environment Team and its national award-winning yearbook.

He utilized the skills he gained as a champion high school wrestler to motivate student athletes for 10 years—eight of the high school as an assistant to his former wrestling coach, and concluding his coaching career when the high school team won the PIAA - AAA Team Championship in 1980 with two individual state champions. He retired at the end of this past June to focus on his role as Grand Master.

As a member of Trinity United Methodist Church of Jersey Shore, Bro. Ron has served as Chairman of the Finance Committee, Trustee, member of the Pastor Parish Relations Committee and the church choir, and assisted in other fundraising activities. He also assisted in the Masonic Temple in Barkersville and the Masonic Lodge in Williamsport.

Masonic Record

La Belle Valley Lodge No. 232

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Meet the Aungst Family

"My father is a man of the highest integrity, has a love for life, and most of all is a family man. He is a natural leader and enjoys the opportunity to teach others about his love of Freemasonry."

Daughter Rachelle with her husband, Matt, and grandson, Rets

"My father is a hard working, encouraging and supportive role model. His ability to work at his full potential and go beyond what is expected of him has been instilled in us as well. He is a good listener, is fair and has a positive outlook on things."

With wife, Norma, at a Masonic function

"In many ways, I feel as though by meeting so many terrific friends, my family has expanded. I'm looking forward to meeting all the wonderful people involved in Freemasonry and getting to see different parts of the state I haven't visited yet."

Daughter Renee with her boyfriend, Jeff, and granddaughter, Kadence

"We're all very proud of him. He's a real caring and loving guy who is willing to help anybody out whenever and wherever possible."

Son Ryan and his fiancée, Jen

bro. Ron is married to the former Norma J. Edye; his high school sweetheart, to whom he has been married for 34 years. As a young girl, Norma followed in her family tradition by becoming a Rainbow Girl like her four sisters. Also like her mother, she became a member of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania, Order of the Eastern Star and the Order of the Amaranth, having served as Worthy Royal Matron of the Tidaghion Court and as a District Deputy. Her decision to become so involved also was greatly influenced by friend Barbie Wasser.

bro. Ron and Norma are the proud parents of four children: Ronald Jr., a senior research specialist for Albany Molecular Research, Inc., currently working in Singapore through December 2006. His wife, Dawn Dilige Aungst, daughter of R.W. P.G.M. Robert E. Dilige, Jr., is a Physician's Assistant. They have a daughter, Alexa, 3 1/2 months old.

Rachelle, a kindergarten teacher, resides in Loyalsock with her husband, Matt Salvatore, a social worker, and their 3 1/2-year-old son, Ron Jr.

Renee, a graphic designer, lives in Williamsport. She and her boyfriend, Jeff Daster, have a daughter, Kadence.

Ryan, a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America, is a chef in Williamsport. He is engaged to wed Jen Shoemaker in August.

Ron Jr. and Ryan continued their family traditions by joining their father's lodge. Having enjoyed being in fraternal organizations in college, Ron Jr. wanted to continue to serve the community. "What better way than to become a member of a fraternity that my father so loved and enjoyed," he said. Ryan also was inspired to join because of the altruistic aspect of Freemasonry. "Just seeing all of the help Masons do to help charities, to be able to participate in the activities they do, and the opportunity to meet other interesting people caused me to want to join," he said.

bro. Ron up to his elbows in Maine lobster during a summer vacation with Bro. Elvin and Janice Warfel

- Reading on the beach is Bro. Ron's and Norma's favorite way to relax.
- Teaching grandson Reis how to jump the ocean waves
- Presenting granddaughter Kadence with her yearly carved pumpkin
- Golfing in Myrtle Beach with friend Bro. Al Henninger is one of the Grand Master's favorite pastimes.
- Celebrating 25 years of marriage on a cruise ship
 value of membership and ensuring that we meet the needs of our Brethren. But neither the Grand Lodge, nor our Blue Lodges, can accomplish this without a grassroots effort on the part of our individual members. The success of this fraternity begins and ends with YOU! I believe that if we demonstrate to one another the many benefits of membership, our numbers will naturally increase; our existing members will remain and others will want to join so they, too, can experience how Freemasonry enriches a man’s life.

One way to reach out to your fellow Brethren is through the new Online Business Directory on our Grand Lodge Web site. Every Pennsylvania Mason who is able to use the Internet will have the opportunity to post their listing of commercial services he provides, businesses he is connected with, or perhaps, personal hobbies he is willing to share. This convenience network will assist men and women to locate a Mason from whom he may wish to obtain services. There is an inherent sense of trust between members of the Masonic fraternity, and while this service does not guarantee a satisfactory business transaction, it provides a means for Brethren to locate another Brother who may be able to provide a needed service. The concept for this came to me when my daughter, Renee, needed some work done on her car while she was away at school in York, Pa. She called me, wondering where she should take her car so that she would be taken care of fairly. I called a Brother in the area, who referred me to another Brother who was a mechanic. This gave me peace of mind, and I directed Renee to his shop to get her car fixed. It is my hope that this same type of experience will multiply itself many times over to the benefit of all of our members and their families.

I will also initiate a Widows Program, as I believe that it is our responsibility to care for the widows of our Brethren who have gone before us. We already do this for the many residents of our Masonic Villages; and there are some lodges that maintain contact with the widows of their deceased brethren in exemplary fashion. To facilitate this new initiative for all of our Brethren to demonstrate their commitment, each lodge will be given a guide with ideas for activities and other means to include our widows and to honor them regularly. We will also strengthen our commitment to our youth.

For many years, the Pennsylvania Youth Foundation and the Pennsylvania Masonic Foundation for Children have operated separately, but with a similar mission. To preserve resources and increase efficiency, the Grand Lodge has decided to consolidate the efforts and responsibilities of these two charities. Renamed the Pennsylvania Masonic Youth Foundation, this entity will continue to provide the same services and functions that the two separate foundations previously offered. The Masonic CHIP program has produced tremendous results, and we will continue our efforts to ID and protect the children of Pennsylvania by reaching out into our communities in these and in other ways. We will also continue to support our Masonic youth groups by exploring creative ways to increase participation and provide valuable educational and fun programs.

In the long run, I believe that making a few changes to enhance the services we provide to members and the community. We have restructured our staff and volunteers to better serve our members, and we will explore ways to invite community groups to enjoy and appreciate the magnificent Masonic treasure that is ours. Most importantly, we will persist with our ongoing vision to protect, maintain, and support our Masonic Temple. This, brethren, is my passion, and I will strongly encourage donations toward the enhancement of this historic monument for perpetuity.

Our bonds grow through shared experiences, and we have much to celebrate in 2006. The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania will commemorate our 275th Anniversary this year! If you have not had the opportunity to tour our breathtaking Masonic Temple, there is no better time than right now! Bring your family and your friends to share in the wonder of our Masonic and American heritage.

Around the world, Masons and non-Masons alike are observing the 300th Anniversary of the birth of Bro. Ben Franklin and acknowledging his countless achievements and contributions to society. Grand Lodge will participate and sponsor some entertaining and educational events throughout the year, and I encourage you to participate with your family and/or your lodge.

As your Grand Master, my goal and mission is to exceed the expectations of our members, and to do it with fraternalism, professionalism, service and sincerity. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible over the next two years. Even more importantly, I anticipate working hand-in-hand with you to strengthen our fraternity, one member at a time. I am here to serve you.

Those of you who know me, know that my family comes first and foremost in my life. The Bible I have used to take my obligations will be passed on through my family, hopefully for generations to come, just as I hope my love for Freemasonry will continue to emanate through future generations.

Our Masonic values are true and alive; it is our obligation to perpetuate them so that the spirit, pride and legacy of those original Freemasons lives on forever.

As I reflect upon my Masonic journey and the many reasons why Freemasonry has become so important to me, I see faces. Faces of those who have lent an ear, offered guidance and provided support—oftentimes without my having to ask for it. We each have a special and significant role to play and something we can contribute to our Family of Freemasonry. There are numerous ways to show our commitment to our fellow Brethren; simply by extending a helping hand or offering a shoulder to lean on. There are the personal things that remain significant in one's life. Going out of one's way to help another Brother should not be considered a hardship, but a privilege.

After all, we are a brotherhood of men under the fatherhood of God.

We are Masons Helping Masons.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Ronald A. Augst, 33°

President of the Pennsylvania Masonic Youth Foundation
Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Masonic Foundation
Past Grand Master Pennsylvania
Grand Master of the State of Pennsylvania
Grand Master of the State of Pennsylvania
Bro. Gardner is a Past Master of Porter Lodge No. 284 and served as District Deputy Grand Master of the 10th Masonic District. He served as Most Excellent High Priest of Catasauqua Royal Arch Chapter No. 278, is a member of Allen Council No. 23, Royal and Select Master Masons, and Allen Commandery No. 20. He is a member of the Valley of Allentown and is an Honorary Member of Supreme Council, 33°. He also belongs to York Rite College, William Allen No. 176, LaRita Shrine, Mary Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine, Pennsylvania Lodge of Research, Royal Order of Scotland, Excelsior Mark Lodge No. 216, Lehigh Valley High Twelve and is a Past President of Lehigh Valley Joshua Association. He is a recipient of the DeMolay Legion of Honor.

Bro. Gardner served as a Communication Technician in the U.S. Navy and graduated from East Stroudsburg State College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science. He is employed by Vello Information Technologies as an Information Technology Project Manager.

Bro. Gardner and his wife, Patricia, live in Catasauqua and have two sons. They attend Catasauqua Presbyterian Church, where he has served as Moderator of the Board of Deacons and on the Business Affairs and Nominating committees. He has coached various youth soccer teams and served as Treasurer of the Catasauqua High School Soccer Booster Club.

Bro. Sturgeon is a Past Master of Oakdale Lodge No. 669 and served as Junior Grand Deacon and District Deputy Grand Master of the 47th Masonic District. He served as Commander-in-Chief of the Valley of Pittsburgh and is an Honorary Member of Supreme Council, 33°. It was there that he was made an Active Member of the Supreme Council in PA in 1999. He also belongs to Zemubelah-Dupont Royal Arch Chapter No. 162, Washington Council No. 1 Royal and Select Master Masons and Duquesne Commandery No. 72. He is a member of York Rite College, William Allen No. 176, LaRita Shrine, Mary Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine, Pennsylvania Lodge of Research, Royal Order of Scotland, Excelsior Mark Lodge No. 216, Lehigh Valley High Twelve and is a Past President of Lehigh Valley Joshua Association. He is a recipient of the DeMolay Legion of Honor.

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Bro. Smith is a Past Master of Canaupia Lodge No. 551 and served as Junior Grand Deacon and District Deputy Grand Master of the 1st Masonic District. He is a member of Royal Arch Chapter No. 349, Bellevue Council No. 4 and Prior Lodge No. 2. He was a member of the Idaho-Tahoe Lodge of Research, Royal Arch Chapter No. 13, Idaho. He served as An Active Member of the Supreme Council in PA in 1999. He also belongs to Zemubelah-Dupont Royal Arch Chapter No. 162, Washington Council No. 1 Royal and Select Master Masons and Duquesne Commandery No. 72. He is a member of York Rite College, William Allen No. 176, LaRita Shrine, Mary Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine, Pennsylvania Lodge of Research, Royal Order of Scotland, Excelsior Mark Lodge No. 216, Lehigh Valley High Twelve and is a Past President of Lehigh Valley Joshua Association. He is a recipient of the DeMolay Legion of Honor.

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NEWLY APPOINTED OFFICERS

SENIOR GRAND DEACON
Alien J. Herrington, P.D.D.G.M.
Lodge No. 232, D-18, R-6

JUNIOR GRAND DEACON
Ronald R. Augst, Jr.
Lodge No. 232, D-18, R-6

GRAND STEWARD
Sam R. Augst, P.M.
Lodge No. 397, D-18, R-6

GRAND STEWARD
F. Rick Kneeyer, P.M.
Lodge No. 572, D-34, R-3

GRAND PURSUANT
John E. Herman
Lodge No. 232, D-18, R-6

NEWLY APPOINTED DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS

MASONIC DISTRICT 3
Eugene Horst
Lodge No. 316, Region 2
Presentation: Jan. 7, 2006

MASONIC DISTRICT 7
Edward R. Starz
Lodge No. 377, Region 2
Presentation: Jan. 18, 2006

MASONIC DISTRICT 10
Ralph H. Sidey, Sr.
Lodge No. 581, Region 7
Presentation: Jan. 14, 2006

MASONIC DISTRICT 12
William H. Brandt, Sr.
Lodge No. 763, Region 7
Presentation: Jan. 19, 2006

MASONIC DISTRICT 16
Raymond G. Bagley, Jr.
Lodge No. 416, Region 6
Presentation: Jan. 30, 2006

MASONIC DISTRICT 23
William R. Fielding
Lodge No. 754, Region 6
Presentation: Jan. 12, 2006

MASONIC DISTRICT 24
Richard N. Fitzsimmons
Lodge No. 392, Region 5
Presentation: Jan. 6, 2006

MASONIC DISTRICT 30
Rodney E. Boyce
Lodge No. 518, Region 4
Presentation: Feb. 4, 2006

MASONIC DISTRICT 35
Earl H. Mertan, Jr.
Lodge No. 791, Region 5
Presentation: Jan. 25, 2006

MASONIC DISTRICT 37
Glenn R. Krugle, Jr.
Lodge No. 546, Region 4
Presentation: Jan. 14, 2006

ROBERT D. FITZSIMMONS
Lodge No. 546, Region 4
Presentation: Jan. 16, 2006

MASONIC DISTRICT 38
Robert F. Duvalis
Lodge No. 598, Region 4
Presentation: Jan. 23, 2006

MASONIC DISTRICT 47
John H. Patiello, D.D.G.M.
Lodge No. 699, Region 4
Presentation: Jan. 23, 2006

AIDES TO THE GRAND MASTER

Nathan T. Meredith
Lodge No. 232, D-18, R-6

Michael L. Smith, P.M.
Lodge No. 381, D-18, R-3

W. Jack Yates
Lodge No. 428, D-25, R-5

NEWLY APPOINTED GRAND CHAPLAINS

Rev. Jerry D. Bellott
Lodge No. 156, D-23, R-6

Rabbi Bradley N. Bleekefeld
Lodge No. 19, D-3, R-1

Rev. Paul E. Mooral
Lodge No. 232, D-18, R-6

Rev. A. Preston Van Deursen
Lodge No. 551, D-1, R-2

All District Deputy Grand Master presentations will be open so that family members and friends may be included in this momentous honor in each Brother's Masonic life.
Upcoming Events

Throughout R.W. Grand Master Ronald A. August Sr.'s term, the fraternity will engage in various educational events and celebratory activities to acknowledge and commemorate the many accomplishments that Bro. Ben Franklin achieved on behalf of Freemasonry and the world. Your participation is encouraged.

Celebrate the New Year!

with Bros. Ben Franklin & Mozart during an Unforgettable New Year's Eve in the Historic Fulton Opera House!

Join the Grand Master and his wife, Norma, this New Year's Eve at the historic Fulton Opera House in downtown Lancaster, Pa., for the Pennsylvania Academy of Music's presentation of "Franklin Celebrates Mozart." This engaging program takes a fresh and innovative approach with its one-of-a-kind celebration of the 250th Birthday of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and the 300th birthday of Benjamin Franklin, coming up in 2006.

Beginning at 9:20 p.m., the program will celebrate the musical genius of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and the inventive genius of Benjamin Franklin. In true Masonic form, a special mystery guest will also be revealed during the evening!

A special ticket price for the Pennsylvania Academy of Music's New Year's Eve Gala is available to all Masons and their guests. Invitations have already been sent to all Masons in District 1, but all Pennsylvania Masons are welcome to enjoy the evening and start the New Year off right, alongside fellow Brothers and their loved ones. A cocktail and hors d'oeuvres reception at 8:30 p.m. is complimentary for all Masons and their guests attending the concert.

For tickets or more information, contact Ms. Cynthia Charles at (717) 399-2292.

Lecture & Book Signing with Author of The Origins of Freemasonry: Facts and Fictions Margaret C. Jacob, Ph.D.

On January 5, 2006 at 6 p.m., Margaret C. Jacob, Ph.D., distinguished professor of history at U.C.L.A. and author of many books, including Living the Enlightenment: Freemasonry and Politics in Eighteenth-Century Europe and The Radical Enlightenment: Pantheists, Freemasons, and Republicans, will give a lecture in the Masonic Temple's Oriental Hall, followed by an informal gathering in the Grand Banquet Hall, where she will be available to sign her new book, The Origins of Freemasonry: Facts and Fictions, which includes insight on Bro. Franklin. Space is limited. Anyone interested in attending may contact Catherine Gostlin at (215) 984-1993.

January 17, 2006 - 11 a.m.

To celebrate Bro. Ben Franklin's Birthday, the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania will join in a parade organized by the Philosophical Society and the Friends of Franklin. The Grand Master encourages all members who would like to be part of the celebration to meet, dressed in Masonic regalia, at 5th and Liberty streets in Philadelphia to represent the Masonic Order in the march, which will conclude with a wreath laying at Bro. Franklin's gravesite.

April 17, 2006 - Time TBA

The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania will hold a traditional march and perform a Masonic Funeral Service and wreath laying at Bro. Franklin's graveside in observance of the day he died (the man never buried with Masonic honors). The march will follow a similar parade route as the January 17 event. A luncheon at the Masonic Temple will follow the ceremony.

For more information on these events and how you can get involved, contact the Grand Secretary's Office at (215) 984-1991.

Changes to Masonic Temple Structure Provide Improved Member Services

Some changes have been made within the structure of the Masonic Temple in Philadelphia to improve services provided to our Family of Freemasonry and the community in general. This restructuring effort will increase efficiencies, improve communication, reduce expenses, provide continuity among the administrations of subsequent Grand Masters and prepare for the future of Grand Lodge services.

The first service area, "Membership Services," includes the staff and functions of the Grand Master's Office, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary's Office, Masonic Education, Masonic Blood and Organ Donor Club, Preservation of Monuments and Academy of Masonic Knowledge, Mark Hamlet, Right Worshipful Grand Secretary, is responsible for the leadership and supervision of the day-to-day operations of Membership Services.

The second service area, the "Masonic Library and Museum," includes the staff and functions of the Committee on Temple, Library and Museum and Gift Shop. A search is underway for an Executive Director to supervise the leadership and supervision of the day-to-day operations of the Masonic Library and Museum.

The Grand Master is the Chairman of both service areas, and is aided by two separate committees comprised of the Grand Lodge Officers and other Masonic leaders who will lend their expertise within the respective service areas.

The Masonic Library and Museum of PA seeks an Executive Director

The Grand Lodge of F.A.M. of Pennsylvania is seeking a qualified individual to lead our historic Masonic Temple, Library and Museum, and as it serves the fraternity and reaches out to educate the community. Qualified candidates should have experience leading and managing a non-profit organization, including knowledge in event planning, museum tours, marketing and the Philadelphia cultural community. For additional information, please contact hr@portfolioassociates.net. We are an equal opportunity employer.

Need Help? Outreach is Here.

Although the Outreach Program is located at the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown, we receive calls and assist individuals throughout the United States. Please take a minute to look at a sampling of some of the services we provide:

- Consumer Education and Advocacy
- Information and referral to appropriate agencies and services for a variety of issues and needs
- Assistance for eligible Pennsylvania Masons
- Information on how to reduce or subsidize the cost of medications
- Caregiver Support and Education Group
- Durable Medical Equipment Loan Closet
- Adult Daily Living Center - adult day care
- Bleiler Caring Cottage - a home for adults with mild to moderate mental retardation

The Outreach Program has a wealth of information to share. If you or someone you know may benefit from our program or would like more information, call toll-free (800) 462-7664 or in the Lancaster area at (717) 361-5080.

JANUARY 2006
The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania

Records of Freemasonry in America date back to 1730, when Bro. Benjamin Franklin made note of it in the Pennsylvania Gazette, writing, "there are several lodges of Free Masons erected in this province . . ."

From here, Freemasonry's origins can be traced to the formation of the first Grand Lodge of England in 1714. It was formed in London by four lodges which had been meeting in different taverns around the city. Its Constitution was compiled in 1723 by James Anderson, Grand Secretary. Eight years later, the Grand Lodge of Ireland began work and was immediately recognized by the Grand Lodge of England. During the years 1749 and 1750, a number of English and some Irish Masons could neither affiliate with nor visit Lodges under the Grand Lodge of 1714, because as a result of the Duke of Grafton's inordinately high dues, the Masons formed a second Grand Lodge of England, known as the "Most Ancient and Honorable Society of Free and Accepted Masons according to the old Constitution." This Masonic attitude was more progressive than the older Grand Lodge and more appealing to members interested in Freemasonry. The members of this organization, contending that their ritual alone preserved the ancient customs and usages of the Craft, styled themselves "Ancient York Masons" and dubbed the 1717 Grand Lodge "the Modern Grand Lodge," because they felt that the older body had modernized its ritual, thus straying from the ancient usages and landmarks. The Constitution of the 1751 or "Ancient" Grand Lodge is the "Ahiman Rezon" compiled by Bro. Lawrence Dermott, Grand Secretary, and printed in 1756. Both English Grand Lodges, "Moderns" and "Ancients," and their subordinate lodges continued their separate ways, as rivals and competitors. The lodges eventually united in 1813, but members from both groups were represented in the early American colonies.

When Masonry came to Pennsylvania, it was organically determined. In 1730, the Duke of Norfolk, then the Grand Master of the (1717) Grand Lodge of England (Moderns), deputized Colonel Daniel Coxe of New Jersey, a member of the Lodge at the Devil Tavern within Temple Bar, London, to be "the Provincial Grand Master of the Provinces of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania." His deputation took effect June 24, 1730 and extended to June 24, 1732. The deputation authorized Coxe to appoint Provincial Grand Lodge Officers for the two years he was the Grand Master. This explains a certain entry in "Liber B," which lists William Allen as Grand Master on June 24, 1731. "Liber B" was the account book (from 1751 to 1758) and only known record of St. John's Lodge in Philadelphia. It is now in the possession of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

Bro. Allen was then elected Grand Master on St. John the Baptist's Day in 1732, as recorded in the Pennsylvania Gazette, June 19 – 26 of that same year. As Grand Master, Bro. Allen appointed William Pringle, Deputy Grand Master, and Thomas Boude and Benjamin Franklin, Wardens. Bro. Franklin would become Grand Master in 1734, the same year he published "Anderson's Constitutions," the first Masonic book printed in America.

Philadelphia became the Mother City of Freemasonry in America for both the Ancients and the Moderns. According to records from 1732, the first meeting place of the Pennsylvania Masonic Lodges was Philadelphia's Tun Tavern. Built in 1685, Tun Tavern was one of the very first breweries in the country. Located on Philadelphia's thriving Delaware River waterfront, it quickly became a meeting place for several lodges, including the Masons in St. John's Lodge No. 1, which was constituted by Bro. Daniel Coxe in 1730.

By Sept. 5, 1749, discontent was stirring among some Brethren of the Pennsylvania Grand Lodge. They worried that their self-constituted Grand Lodge lacked the authority it formerly possessed and made an appeal to the Masonic authorities in London for the second appointment of a Provincial Grand Master of Pennsylvania. The Grand Master of England (Moderns), William Lord Hornsby of Roehampton, appointed William Allen, who had been Grand Master in Pennsylvania in 1731. This marked the end of the independent Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania and its inception as a Provincial Grand Lodge affiliated with and deriving its authority from the Grand Lodge of England (Moderns). It was composed of three Philadelphia Lodges: St. John's, No. 2 and No. 3. In 1755, the first American Masonic Lodge house was dedicated in Philadelphia by the Grand Lodge of Moderns.

On Feb. 13, 1766, the Members of Lodge No. 1 (Ancients) in Philadelphia, balloted for their own Provincial Grand Master. William Ball, a wealthy landowner, was elected. Following the election of Bro. Ball, an application was made by the Members of Lodge No. 1 to the Ancients in London for a Provincial Grand Warrant for Pennsylvania. They were successful in their efforts, and a warrant for the Provincial Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania (Ancients) was issued on July 15, 1761. This venerable document is in the archives of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

Whereas the original Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania (Moderns) had been very conservative and relatively inactive, the new Grand Lodge of the Ancients was progressive and alert to all opportunities. During its entire career, the Modern Grand Lodge never supported more than four constituent lodges, even in its most prosperous years. On the other hand, from the duc of its establishment up to the beginning of the Revolutionary War, the Ancients Grand Lodge granted warrants to 16 lodges and during the Revolution warranted seven more.

Indeed, the war only intensified the rivalry and considerable friction between Ancients and Moderns in Pennsylvania, because the Modern Lodges, to a great extent, were composed of conservatives who were inclined to be Loyalists. It was the Ancients who espoused the cause of independence. As the American Revolution stirred strong opposition to Great Britain's rule within the colonies, the liberality of the Ancients became contagious in America. The influence of the Moderns waned and was ultimately extinguished as the last record of these beliefs was written in 1793. By 1813, Modern and Ancients worldwide began to be reconciled and united. But no reconciliation was necessary in Pennsylvania where the Moderns ceased to exist. Therefore, the rivalistic changes and controversies resulting from the reconciliation of 1813 did not affect the ritual in this Commonwealth, and Pennsylvania Masonic Lodges continued to work in the pure "Ancient" way, as "Ancient York Masons."

This application was changed to "Free and Accepted Masons" in 1872. No written record of this change has been discovered, except that at this time, the general return forms issued by Grand Lodge for the use of the subordinate lodges began to be printed with the "P. & A.M." designation. During the 19th century, Grand Lodge concentrated on building stability and uniformity among the lodges in Pennsylvania, and during the 20th century continued to strengthen the membership. In the 21st century the lodges will be working on increasing outreach into their communities.

In 2006, Pennsylvania Masons across the Commonwealth will celebrate the 275th Anniversary of the Grand Lodge of England's recognition of Freemasonry in America, which marked the beginning of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania as it exists today.

Information and photographs were provided courtesy of The Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania, specifically through the efforts of Genery Waldman, Librarian, and Dennis Bottlemann, Curator.
Happy Birthday, Brother Ben!

Join in the Worldwide Celebration of the Many Accomplishments of Brother Benjamin Franklin

Jan. 17, 2006 marks the 300th Anniversary of Brother Benjamin Franklin’s birth, and while commemorations will take place worldwide, his adopted hometown of Philadelphia will be throwing a birthday celebration unlike any other. The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania is preparing to join in the Tercentennial observance to honor Brother Franklin’s countless achievements, from the invention of the swim fin to the publication of “The Constitutions of the Free-Masons,” the first Masonic book in America.

The campaign, organized by the federally-commissioned Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary group, will feature a multimillion dollar touring exhibition, “Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World.” It is extremely fitting that the exhibition debuted at The National Constitution Center in Philadelphia on December 15, 2005, where it will run until March 30, 2006. It was in the City of Brotherly Love that Brother Franklin lived, worked, studied, politicked, and became known as a Mason and Founding Father.


This is not the first time such an impressive collection has been assembled. In 1906, the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania launched the “Franklin Loan Exhibition,” which celebrated the Bicentennial Celebration of Brother Franklin’s birth. During the rather short duration of the exhibition (March 6, 1906 until April 23, 1906), an overwhelming 47,687 visitors viewed the exhibit at the Masonic Temple. Another special commemoration took place in 1981, the 250th Anniversary of Brother Franklin’s initiation into the Craft, as well as the formation of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

The five objects from The Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania (not yet acquired in 1906) included in the current “Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World” exhibit are two “Fugio” (time flows) tokens, designed by Brother Franklin; his calling card; a snuff box on which Brother Franklin is pictured with Brother Voltaiere; and a large Masonic sash, which is purported to have been Brother Franklin’s. Due to the fragility of the Franklin sash, it will return to The Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania sometime after March 30, 2006, where it will re-join the other Frankliniana in the Museum.

Other rare Franklin objects on display in the collection of The Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania include what is known as a Franklin jeton, or medal, dated 1783 and struck in honor of Brother Franklin’s Masonic career; several rare lithographs and engravings; Brother Franklin’s 1734 reprint of Anderson’s “The Constitutions of the Free-Masons,” as well as the original subscription list for the erection of Freemason’s Hall in 1735, the first Masonic Hall in America and also where Brother Franklin’s Lodge met.

Now is an excellent time to visit Philadelphia and retrace Brother Franklin’s footsteps in the city where he accomplished so much and influenced so many. A large variety of events will take place throughout the city during 2006 including free admission to museums, concerts, special offers and themed restaurant menus. The Franklin Institute Science Museum will feature a permanent exhibit called, “Franklin... He’s Electric!” It will explore Brother Franklin’s contributions to scientific history in America in the areas of meteorology, electricity, optics and aquatics. Walking tours will allow visitors to follow Franklin’s footsteps through the city where he lived, worked, socialized and was buried.

For other states will join Pennsylvania in honoring America’s favorite overachiever. At Adventure Aquarium in Camden, N.J., guests will trace the evolution of swim gear back to Brother Franklin’s 18th century invention of swim paddles and flippers. At the Hollis Branch of Queens Borough Public Library in Hollis, N.Y., an exhibition will detail Franklin’s efforts to integrate foreign cultural elements into American society and the influence it created. The Moderno Art Museum in Modesto, Calif., is hosting a Mail Art Event and has been accepting submissions of mail art commemorating the father of the U.S. Postal System to be a part of the exhibit, which will go on display Jan. 9. Americans aren’t the only ones who can claim ties to Brother Franklin. While the Founding Father was born in Boston and journeyed to Philadelphia, his family came to America from England, and Brother Franklin spent several years there on diplomatic business. Thus, the United Kingdom will also be celebrating the Tercentenary with, “The Medical World of Benjamin Franklin,” an exhibition illustrating Brother Franklin’s contributions in the areas of health and medicine at The Royal Society of Medicine in London. Visit www.benfranklin300.com for the latest information on the Ben Franklin Tercentenary and how Philadelphia’s cultural institutions are playing a role in honoring one of our most influential and accomplished brethren. For information on visiting the National Constitution Center and purchasing tickets to “Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World,” please visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

Bro. Franklin’s calling card

Bro. Franklin is pictured on this snuff box with Brother Voltaiere and Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Bro. Franklin’s 1734 reprint of Anderson’s “The Constitutions of the Free-Masons”

Bro. Franklin’s 1734 reprint of Anderson’s “The Constitutions of the Free-Masons”

Bro. Franklin’s 1734 reprint of Anderson’s “The Constitutions of the Free-Masons”

“A penny saved is a penny earned…”

The photographs of the items displayed on this page were taken by Peter Harrold.

For Upcoming Events

Celebrating the 300th Birthday of Brother Ben Franklin, see page 10.

Information and photographs were provided courtesy of The Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania, specifically through the efforts of Glens Wallsman, Librarian, and Donna Butfield, Curator.
Remember Our Widows
...and Our Brethren Whom They Loved and Supported

One of the significant programs K.W. Grand Master Ronald A. Augst, Sr., is planning for the lodges is a Widow's program.

"Our Brethren's widows are our responsibility," the Grand Master said. "Just as we would wish for our Brethren to care for our wives should anything happen to any of us, it is our obligation to extend the love of our Family of Freemasonry to the widows of our Brethren who have gone before us."

The Fraternity has always considered the Mason and his family a part of the lodge family, and some lodges continue to honor the widows of their deceased brethren in thoughtful and compassionate ways. In many cases, however, after her husband is deceased, his widow loses all contact with his lodge. The Widows Program is being developed to help lodges establish a program whereby this no longer occurs.

Initially, the focus will be on organizing the program. A printed guide is in the works and will include a list of 15-20 specific activities the lodge may want to do. From this list, the lodge should determine which of the activities are appropriate for the lodge and their particular dynamics, interests, resources, etc. Certain holidays like Easter, Passover, Mother's Day, Christmas and Hanukkah are particular times for the lodges to plan an activity that includes their widows.

The guide will also include direction on the volunteers needed to run the Widows Program and a detailed plan on how to create and implement a yearly program. Each lodge will receive a copy of the program very soon. The Grand Master will expect information from each lodge on what they are planning for their widows.

Now is the time to plan your lodge's event during the month of April, May or June in honor of Mother's Day. The Grand Master will personally host a Widows Program at each of the Masonic Villages.

Special Session for One-Day Class Members

to be Held by Academy of Masonic Knowledge

The Grand Lodge Academy of Masonic Knowledge will hold a Special Program for Master Masons who were initiated through the One-Day Classes, titled, "Understanding Freemasonry," on Saturday, March 18, 2006, at the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown.

The program is being held at the request of Ronald A. August, Sr., Right Worshipful Grand Master, to ensure that the newly-initiated members through the One-Day Classes have every opportunity to have a full understanding of the fraternity and what it means to be a Freemason. "Having received all three degrees in one day, there are many questions that may have gone unanswered," he said. Developed by the Academy Committee, this program will utilize local experts to answer these questions, rather than the usual format of inviting prominent Masonic scholars to present the material.

"Understanding Freemasonry" will address a number of basic issues concerning the Degrees, as well as a broader understanding of Freemasonry. Topics will be presented and discussion will be encouraged for such subjects as secrecy, Masonic Philosophy, why Freemasonry is not a religion, what is legitimate Masonic Information, Masonic publications, the Masonic Code of Conduct, and Masonic families. There will be a "Q & A" session where any questions might be addressed. Lunch will be served at noon.

The Grand Master will be sending One-Day Class members a personal invitation to attend this special session, especially designed with them in mind. However, each lodge is asked to also contact their members who were made Masons through the One-Day Classes, along with their mentors, to encourage their registration and travel together to the program.

How often have you wondered if there was a member of your lodge or district who is in particular business or service industry? Or perhaps you have said to yourself, "I wish I knew a brother in that line of work - I'd feel better if I was working with someone I could trust."

If so, you are not alone. Grand Master Ronald A. Augst, Sr., has initiated a brand new On-Line Business Directory as a special benefit, exclusively for Pennsylvania Masons. "I recognized the need for this service through first-hand experience and became determined to develop a resource for our Brethren to network and share information with one another that is helpful in times of need," he said. "Whether you're looking for someone who offers a specific product, or you're out of town and need to find a service provider you can trust, having a resource where you can identify fellow Brothers to assist you can be a great asset."

Every Pennsylvania Mason who is able to use the Internet will have the opportunity to post one listing of commercial services he provides, businesses he is connected with, or perhaps, personal hobbies he is willing to share. This directory will provide an opportunity for members to reach out to one another as Masons Helping Masons, just as the On-Line Masonic Employment Center has helped to connect Masons with prospective employers and employees. The potential is enormous, with 130,000 Pennsylvania Masons eligible to participate.

Initially, the directory listings will all be the same size, with each user having an equal opportunity for sharing information with others. Any member of a lodge working toward the completion of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, will have the chance to sign up as a user, with the option to post or view business listings. Those who choose to post a directory listing will have the opportunity to do this without cost; however, they may be asked to consider making a contribution to a Masonic charity at a later date. At the end of the first year, assuming successful growth of users and a record of satisfied participants, the program may expand to allow for larger listings, enhanced graphics and photos and other premium features, for a reasonable service fee. For now, this is an offering of equal service to all members and it will grow based on its acceptance and usage.

The directory is intended to be for business listings. It is encouraged that some members will take the opportunity to post personal listings of services offered or tangible items available for sale or lease, using this like a newspaper's classified ad section. This is acceptable, too. The most important feature is recognizing the will of our Brethren to network with those of their own kind.

To participate in the
Grand Lodge On-Line Masonic Business Directory, visit the Web site www.pagrandlodge.org

Pennsylvania Masons...and Our Brethren Whom They Loved and Supported

This is an Exclusively

Standard will be granted.

It is important to remember that the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania is merely providing the network through which its members may post and share information with others - it does not guarantee a satisfactory business transaction and does not endorse any individual listing. The members meet on the level of confirmed mutual fraternal membership, but any business relationship that ensues from the initial contact is between the customer and the business, the Grand Lodge, nor the local lodge, will arbitrate unsatisfactory transactions.

In essence, this tool is a business reference that says, "If a man has been accepted as a Pennsylvania Mason, he is indeed a Mason and will conduct himself accordingly." It provides a certain assurance that there is a better chance of satisfaction and fair dealing with a fellow Mason than in any other non-contracting agreement.

For Pennsylvania Masons

To participate in the
Grand Lodge On-Line
Masonic Business
Directory, visit the Web site
www.pagrandlodge.org

For Pennsylvania Masons...and Our Brethren Whom They Loved and Supported

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Grand Lodge On-Line
Masonic Business
Directory, visit the Web site
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**Lodge Anniversaries**

**2006**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Lodge (District)</th>
<th>Grand Master's Visit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 12</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>Lewistown Lodge No. 556 (17)</td>
<td>March 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 20</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>Chartiers Lodge No. 307 (29)</td>
<td>April 15</td>
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<td>May 24</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Tri-County Lodge No. 643 (31)</td>
<td>Oct. 21</td>
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<td>June 7</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Pocomas Lodge No. 780 (50)</td>
<td>May 27</td>
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<td>June 22</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Tyrone Lodge No. 644 (54)</td>
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<td>June 25</td>
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<td>Muncy Lodge No. 209 (15)</td>
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<td>July 20</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>Lodge No. 1061 (105)</td>
<td>May 6 &amp; 7</td>
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<td>July 9</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>Palaske Lodge No. 216 (11)</td>
<td>Sept. 9</td>
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<td>Sept. 4</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>G. W. Brinton-Paul Sand Lodge No. 298 (36)</td>
<td>Oct. 28</td>
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<td>Sept. 5</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>Wallerky Lodge No. 238 (39)</td>
<td>April 1</td>
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<td>Sept. 15</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>Olive Lodge No. 557 (56)</td>
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<td>Sept. 23</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>Eureka Lodge No. 302 (3)</td>
<td>Sept. 16</td>
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<td>Nov. 28</td>
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<td>H. Stanley Goodwin Lodge No. 548 (9)</td>
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<td>Dec. 20</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>Red Lion Lodge No. 649 (42)</td>
<td>July 15</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Other Notable Events in 2006**

- May 1: 225th Anniversary of the Grand Lodge of New York
- May 10: International Shriner's Day, 130th Anniversary
- June 10: 200th Anniversary of the Grand Lodge of Delaware
- Sept. 30: Autumn Day at Masonic Village at Elizabethtown

**2007**

<table>
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<th>Date</th>
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<td>Sheffield Lodge No. 556 (56)</td>
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<td>Lowater Master Lodge No. 781 (2)</td>
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<td>Union Lodge No. 108 (16)</td>
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<td>Garfield Lodge No. 559 (32)</td>
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<td>Tipton Lodge No. 312 (41)</td>
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<td>Nov. 5</td>
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<td>Nov. 10</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>Greenleaf Lodge No. 561 (10)</td>
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<td>Nov. 26</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>Mount Moriah Lodge No. 300 (34)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 20</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>Marion Lodge No. 562 (30)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Other Notable Events in 2007*

**A Recent Example of Masons Helping Masons...**

Bro. Benjamin Hanbicki, Worshipful Master of Doylestown Lodge No. 245, put his arm around Bro. Albert McDavitt Jr. and said, "After the door was closed, he got up and said a few words to him that he was still in the Grand Master's office. After he was up, he smiled and pointed to the square and compass on his coat and nodded his head. I held up my Masonic ring and we shook hands."

"The next morning at breakfast, we introduced ourselves and spoke like two old friends. We went to see Albert Jr., he received his Master Mason degree in Doylestown Lodge No. 245, but was not able to make the 100-mile trip. Hearing of this, the officers and several other members of the lodge assembled at Doylestown for a noble purpose, if the father could not get to the Lodge meeting, they would bring the Lodge to him. After receiving a speedy dispensation from their Grand Master William Slater Jr., they transported all of the necessary paraphernalia — aprons, collars, jewels and refreshments — and at 10 a.m., opened an extra meeting to confer the 3rd degree on Albert McDavitt Jr., in the Masonic Lodge Room in Elizabethtown.

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**Masons Helping Masons**

We want to hear how our Brother is going out of their way to exemplify the true spirit of Freemasonry. If you have any stories to share, please forward them to your District Deputy Grand Master, and you may read about them in future issues of The Pennsylvania Freemason.

---

**Bro. Albert McDavitt, a resident in the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown's retirement living area, dearly wanted to see his son, Albert Jr., receive his Master Mason degree in Doylestown Lodge No. 245, but was not able to make the 100-mile trip. Hearing of this, the officers and several other members of the lodge assembled at Doylestown for a noble purpose, if the father could not get to the Lodge meeting, they would bring the Lodge to him. After receiving a speedy dispensation from their Grand Master William Slater Jr., they transported all of the necessary paraphernalia — aprons, collars, jewels and refreshments — and at 10 a.m., opened an extra meeting to confer the 3rd degree on Albert McDavitt Jr., in the Masonic Lodge Room in Elizabethtown.

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**About four years ago, I got a surprise phone call from this same Brother, Lamar Sease, who I met in that elevator many years ago. He said, 'You never told me your son, John Gardner, was looking for an engineering position.' He had me send him John's resume, and the rest is, as they say, history. John has been on board Mack Trucks in Hagerstown now for over three years."

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**You might ask, 'How did Lamar even find out that your son was looking for work?'**

"After being laid off by his employer during a massive downsizing, John had moved to Chambersburg, Pa., started attending George Washington Lodge No. 149 and took up dual membership there. He also stepped down to one of the Chapter Advisors for George Washington Chapter of DeMolay.

"John asked if we could lay off from his son, who is also a DeMolay Chapter Advisor. The following Sunday, Bro. Slater was sitting with a friend at the coffee hour after church and remarked about what happened to my son. The person he was talking to at coffee hour, said, 'John Gardner, isn't he related to Steve Gardner?'"

"The next day, I got a phone call from Lamar Sease. "Our great friendship truly spans the miles and generations." - Stephen Gardner Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master"
Two Masons Helping Masons - See the Fruits of their Labors

Two Right Worshipful Past Grand Masters who led the Grand Lodge and our Masonic Villages through periods of great growth are now solidifying their commitment to the Mission of Love by becoming residents of one of the communities. Bro. Arthur L. and J. Kurtz moved into a retirement living apartment at the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown on Dec. 7, 2005, and Bro. Marvin and Rosalie Cunningham are looking forward to being among the first cottage residents at the Masonic Village at Dallas.

In his inaugural issue of The Pennsylvania Freemason dated February 1988, Bro. Arthur L. Kurtz stated, "...of the anticipated highlights of my two years to come, I wish to acquaint you with the most fervent and personally desired project of my administration. It is the independent retirement community to be constructed on the grounds of the Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown.

His vision is now a reality. On May 27, 1988, the Committee on Masonic Homes approved the master plan for the community, and at the June 1 Quarterly Communication, Grand Lodge approved construction for Phase I of the plans.

A groundbreaking ceremony was held at the site on March 9, 1989, and construction began in June. On Sept. 22, the Danestone Ceremony was held in the Dr. Aikin Auditorium and the first residents moved into their new homes in 1989. Since then, the Masonic Villages have served well over 1,400 retirement living residents in Elizabethtown, as well as hundreds more in Lafayette Hill, Sevickley and soon in Dallas.

In honor of their Past Master, members of Robert Burns Lodge No. 464 presented the Tree of Life sculpture to the Masonic Village. On display in the retirement living clubhouse lobby, the Tree of Life is a perpetual reminder of the man whose hard work and dedication allowed the community to grow and enhance the lives of so many. Carved from mahogany by sculptor Sanford Warfil, the Tree of Life permits a donor to make a contribution and add a leaf or base stone to the tree in honor or memory of someone or as an expression of gratitude. These funds are placed in an investment account and restricted for partial or full subsidized payment for the monthly Resident's Service Fee for those retirement living residents whose funds have been depleted.

Also in 1988, the Committee on Masonic Homes adopted a new standards policy that no longer required residents to turn over assets upon admission.

Although these significant strides were made during his term, Bro. Kurtz doesn't claim them as his own, instead, he gives the credit to those who served the fraternity before and with him. Yet he is proud of what they accomplished together.

Life-long Harrisburg residents, Bro. and Mrs. Kurtz relocated less than 30 miles to move into their two-bedroom apartment in Elizabethtown - in the same community that he endorsed 17 years ago. In addition to sharing the community with their friends and the apartments since we moved into the neighborhood, and I think it's wonderful that the Masonic Village is extending this locale. It also provides great relations with our members at the Shrine," he said.

Even so, when they first heard the good news, the Cunninghams thought it would be a great place for them to live - someday in the future. "Originally, we decided to wait a few years, but upon discovering how popular it was becoming, we thought we'd better get on the list or we might have to wait longer than we wanted to," Bro. Cunningham said. Now he and Rosalie agree that the timing will be just right - their cottage should be done just before the holidays.

Bro. Marvin A. Cunningham, Sr., also led the Fraternity through great change during his administration in 2002-2003. He was instrumental in implementing the union of the Masonic Homes of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania (now the Masonic Village) with the Masonic Home of Pennsylvania (now the Masonic Village at Lafayettt Hill). This significant event was the culmination of more than 100 years of discussions among members across the state and strengthened the communities and their missions to provide quality services to one Family of Freemasonry. Also during his term, the Committee on Masonic Homes approved the development of a master plan for the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown and constructed the master plan for the Masonic Village at Sevickley, which consists of retirement living apartments and cottages.

While discussions with the Shrine did not begin until after his term as Grand Master, Bro. Cunningham was excited to hear of the opportunity for the Masonic Village at Dallas. "I have watched the growth of the villages and the apartments since we moved into the neighborhood, and I think it's wonderful that the Mission of the Masonic Village is extending this locale. It also provides great relations with our members at the Village," he said.

Even so, when they first heard the good news, the Cunninghams thought it would be a great place for them to live - someday in the future. "Originally, we decided to wait a few years, but upon discovering how popular it was becoming, we thought we'd better get on the list or we might have to wait longer than we wanted to," Bro. Cunningham said. Now he and Rosalie agree that the timing will be just right - their cottage should be done just before the holidays.

They will downsize from two houses to one, leaving their maintenance woes behind. While they will miss their church family in Collegville and the beautiful scenery of the Poconos, they anticipate finding a new place to nourish their souls amid the beautiful mountains and landscape surrounding the Masonic Village at Dallas.

Outdoor enthusiasts, the Cunninghams enjoy walking and riding their bikes, something they will be able to do at nearby College Misericordia, which can be seen from the front Shrine Clubhouse. Harvey's Lake, the largest natural lake in the Commonwealth, is just three miles from the Masonic Village.

Instead of going away for enjoyment, they will travel just a few miles from their new home! The Cunninghams have chosen a two-bedroom, first-floor cottage and are particularly impressed with the excellent quality and low-maintenance designs of the cottage interiors. They plan to do a lot of reading, especially since Bro. Cunningham is now officially retired, although he still plans to stay busy with Masonic activities and, of course, the golf course in his backyard. Rosalie plans to get involved with a local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, which spark her interest in patriotism and quilting.

They also anticipate getting to know their neighbors. "I think it affords more of a social atmosphere with people in a small community," Rosalie said. "It will truly be like a little village." Bro. Cunningham sums up this like this: "We felt it was a good fit for us for future quality living. I think it will be a life of excellence. It seems like it's been a good marriage between the Masonic Villages and the Shrines at the Temple.

The Cunninghams - both Masons Helping Masons - have taken the necessary steps to plan for their future. If you would like more information on how you, too, can become part of the Masonic Villages family, contact the community of your choice listed on page 22.
### Florida Masonic Reunions

Grand Master Ronald A. August Jr. and his wife, Norma, will host three Masonic reunions scheduled for Pennsylvania Freemasons who now reside in Florida permanently or during the winter months.

The purpose of the reunions is to increase awareness about the expansion of services and opportunities provided through the Masonic Villages of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

Grander Master August will award 50-year Emblems of Gold to Brethren in Florida. Bro. Joseph E. Murphy will attend one of the reunions.

### GROWING...to Serve

**Dallas**

(570) 675-1666

More than 70 percent of the Phase I accommodations at the Masonic Village at Dallas have been reserved. Construction of the retirement living cottages and apartments will begin in spring 2006, with some of the units ready for occupancy as early as fall 2006. The first phase includes 38 cottages and 44 apartments.

The Dallas community is developing a master plan for future potential growth on the country club's premier golf course. Enhancements to the country club buildings and grounds are also planned as development of the community progresses.

**Elizabethtown**

(717) 367-1121

Just as the 102 newest cottages on the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown campus are completed, pre-marketing of up to 66 new apartments continues by the Marketing staff. The apartments will be located near the proposed marketplace - Sunnyview Square, which will be built at the entrance to the campus. The marketplace will provide opportunities for all residents to conveniently access retail shops, restaurants and medical specialty services, as well as other types of professional services.

**Lafayette Hill**

(610) 825-6100

At the Masonic Village at Lafayette Hill, pre-marketing continues on 21 new retirement living apartments that will be converted from existing assisting living accommodations.

In the Health Center, several double occupancy rooms will be converted into private rooms. The nursing area also will boast a new great room, country kitchen and private dining room for special events. In the assisted living area, the nurses' station will be relocated to the second floor. A new dining room and waiting room with a living room will be built throughout 2006.

**Sewickley**

(412) 741-1400

With 90 percent of the retirement living units reserved, the window of opportunity is closing quickly for those interested in the remaining available apartments at the Masonic Village at Sewickley. Pre-marketing continues for eight new villas to be located behind the existing villas on newly acquired land. Construction will begin in early 2006.

**Warminster**

(215) 672-2500

The Masonic Village at Warminster has continued at high occupancy rates, with additional activity generated through the use of the Fraternity-Southampton Masonic Center.

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### Dates & Locations

**Mark Your Calendar...**

**AUTUMN DAY 2006**

Saturday, Sept. 30

Masonic Village at Elizabethtown

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### Pennsylvania Masonic Youth Foundation

The Pennsylvania Masonic Youth Foundation is the new name signaling the merger of the Pennsylvania Youth Foundation and The Pennsylvania Masonic Foundation for Children. The result yields a focus on education, training and teaching of Masonic principles to young people with programs that combat substance abuse, bullying and the abduction of children.

In 2006, the foundation will continue programs of support for DeMolay, Rainbow Girls and Job's Daughters at the Masonic Conference Center-Pittsburgh Campus in Elizabethtown, where the foundation is headquartered. It will administer the major scholarship programs of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. It will also provide a variety of educational seminars and workshops, such as the LifeSkills and LifeChangers conferences, to help young people develop leadership and communication skills. Recognizing the unselfish efforts of quality adult volunteers, the foundation will continue to administer the Daniel Carter Beard Masonic Scout Award and the HODEGOS Award for outstanding leaders of the Masonic Youth groups.

A major goal continues to be the expansion of the Masonic youth groups into every Masonic district. This is the best way for Freemasonry to reach out to the young people in the community who need to learn from Masons and to benefit by learning to live by Masonic principles.

The foundation will continue to facilitate the Child Identification Program (CHIP) by lodges across the Commonwealth. It will also provide support for D.A.R.E. education, Student Assistance Training of Trainers and programs that combat bullying and in-school violence. Through the programs supported with Pennsylvania Masonic Youth Foundation's endowment, the fraternity continues its long-standing commitment of helping children grow to be healthy and responsible young leaders in their community.

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**Pennsylvania Masonic Youth Foundation**

1244 Bainbridge Road

Elizabethtown, PA 17022-9423

(717) 367-1536

Left: The Masonic Village at Elizabethtown has continued at high occupancy rates, with additional activity generated through the use of the Fraternity-Southampton Masonic Center.

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**JANUARY 2006**
Donor Profile: Jay G. Brosman
Leaving a Legacy

Hundreds of times each year, Bro. Jay G. Brosman stands atop a sparkling, snow-covered mountain, skis braced, ready to experience the thrill of launching down the rugged slope before skidding to a graceful stop at the bottom. But only once in a lifetime does one have the chance to reach the pinnacle of ski giving—the opportunity to feel the intense rush of satisfaction and pride that comes along with committing to a selfless sacrifice that will enrich the lives of countless others in need. Fortunately, those who commit to leaving a legacy that will serve as an example for future generations and enable a charity to continue its mission.

A native of Ephrata, Pa., Bro. Jay, age 75, currently resides in Frisco, Colo., with his wife, Sally. He has two daughters, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He is a member of Ephrata Lodge No. 656 F. & A.M., Valley of Reading Consistory and Reading Royal Arch Chapter 18 in Reading, Pa. He recently received his 50-Year Masonic Service Emblem from the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. Bro. Jay is also a member of Georgetown Lodge No. 12 A.F. & A.M. and Breckeridge Lodge No. 47 A.F. & A.M. in Colorado, where he served as Worshipful Master in 2002 and 2003. He and Sally also are members of the Order of Eastern Star, Chapter 42 in Georgetown, Colo. They were Worthy Patron and Worthy Matron from 2004 to 2005.

Bro. Jay and Sally ski every day during the ski season, October through June. In the past year, Bro. Jay has logged 255 days of skiing on the several ski mountains within 20 miles of their home. They also are active members of Colorado Summit Senior Center. Bro. Jay enjoys the company of good friends, a quality that naturally guided him toward Freemasonry.

Bro. Jay made his first significant gift to the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown at the end of 1998 to build a new swimming pool at the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown. The pool, which was named in memory of his late son, J. Glen Brosman, was opened in the 1999 summer season for use by the many residents, children and employees at the Elizabethtown campus.

In 2003, Bro. Jay was looking for a way to increase his current income level in retirement, when he purchased a charitable gift annuity from the Masonic Village, which provided him a fixed income for life.

Subsequently, in 2004, after inquiring with the Gift Planning Office on how he might further assist the Masonic Villages, Bro. Jay established a charitable remainder unitrust to benefit himself and his wife for their lives and then ultimately the Masonic Villages upon their deaths. Bro. Jay serves as trustee of his own trust and is receiving an income each year based on the value of the trust. He received a charitable deduction for part of the value of his appreciated stock fund this trust while avoiding capital gains taxes on the sale of the stock.

In reflecting upon his gifts, Bro. Jay shared, "I think there is a lot of good done through these charities. All the people I talk to here at the Masonic Village are very happy, and I've met a lot of nice people through the years." Even with the satisfaction of knowing that he had made a significant contribution to the future of the Masonic Villages, Bro. Jay was not finished giving.

Most recently, Bro. Jay made the ultimate gift—a major commitment through his estate plan to support the Masonic Villages for many years to come. Bro. Jay noted, "Making this legacy gift is important to me because it is my way of sharing the benefits I attained in my lifetime with my fellow Brethren and their families. To me, this is akin to reaching the true meaning of giving." In recognition of this and Bro. Jay's many other charitable gifts, the Committee on the Masonic Homes named the Brethren Ballroom in his honor, so that residents and visitors to the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown would remember the man who exemplifies the tenets of the Fraternity.

I am especially proud, as a Pennsylvania Mason, of the charity services our Masonic Villages have provided to our Brethren and Eastern Star members and their families," Bro. Jay said. "I am delighted to know that my legacy gift will continue making a significant impact on future generations assisted by the Masonic Villages."

Debbie's Place to Call “Home” Now Has a New Name... Her Own

It seems everybody knows Debbie Bleiler at the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown. She is the smiling face at the campus entrance, the one giving warm hugs to fellow parishioners at the Seth Chapel on Sunday mornings. Residents and staff describe her as compassionate, caring and always willing to help those in need.

Debbie moved to the Masonic Village six years ago, and became one of the very first permanent residents at the Residential/Respite Cottage—now home to eight adults with developmental challenges. Bro. Kenneth and wife Elaine Bleiler are proud of their daughter in many ways. But both agree that Debbie might not be the person she is today, had she not been given the opportunities provided by the Masonic Village.

As of November, Debbie has one more reason for being well-known around campus. That’s because, through ongoing support and generous donations, the Bleilers earned the honor of officially naming Debbie’s current home the “Bleiler Caring Cottage.”

Supporting the program comes as second nature to the Bleilers. It is simply a continuation of the care and guidance they provided their daughter for nearly 40 years before she came to the Masonic Village. Both are thankful for what the Masonic Village has offered their family.

“All eight caregivers welcomed [Debbie] with open arms and have guided the residents to adjust to living together, enriching their lives in so many ways,” Mrs. Bleiler said. “I know after a few months that Debbie was very happy.”

Both parents note that Debbie has become more independent and has grown emotionally since she moved to the cottage. The experience also has been positive for Bro. and Mrs. Bleiler.

"It was like a load had been lifted from our shoulders, knowing that she would be taken care of for the rest of her life,” Bro. Bleiler said.

The Bleilers moved to the Masonic Village in September 2001, a year after Debbie made the campus her new home. They immediately stirred up some attention by becoming the first family to have three generations living on campus. Elaine’s father, Bro. Hahn, had moved to the Masonic Village in 1997.

Over the years, the Bleilers have garnered more interest on campus for their dedication to the Bleiler Caring Cottage. Perhaps the most noted of their contributions is the Caribbean cruise the Bleilers financed for six cottage residents and the staff members. The trip was paid for by the profits earned from Elaine’s angel pin sales.

Bro. and Mrs. Bleiler have enjoyed seeing the cottage grow over the years, and hope that the program continues to touch the lives of families like theirs.

“Our hope is to see the program expand and provide opportunities and peace of mind which we now have knowing our loved one is in a caring environment,” Bro. Bleiler said.