Have you ever considered a form of permanent recognition for that special someone?

The Masonic Charities offer a variety of naming opportunities at each of the Masonic Villages and the Masonic Library and Museums of Pennsylvania. You can choose from a plaque on our Mission of Love Donor Wall, a leaf on the Masonic Tree of Life or even name a unique fountain, room or other special architectural feature. The Office of Gift Planning has hundreds of choices available beginning at $1,000. Gifts can be made in your own name or in honor or in memory of someone.

For further information, in absolute confidentiality and at no cost or obligation, complete and return the response coupon below to the Office of Gift Planning, or call to speak with one of our Office of Gift Planning staff members in the geographic region nearest you:

Central Pennsylvania
(717) 367-1121, ext. 1346, or (800) 599-6454

Eastern Pennsylvania
(610) 825-6100, ext. 1348

Western Pennsylvania
(412) 741-1400, ext. 3011 or (866) 872-0664

Out-of-State
(599) 6454

Please contact me to discuss permanent naming opportunities.

We have remembered the following Masonic Charity(ies) in my/our will and/or estate plan:

Please contact me about special naming opportunities.

Name:
Address:
City: State: Zip:
Telephone ( )
E-mail Address:

The official endorsement and financial information for any of the Masonic Charities may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling ref. 0, 000: 317-9925.
Remember that charity begins at home. All contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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

Like Mrs. McFerrin, you, too, can perpetuate the legacy of your loved one through an honorary or memorial naming opportunity with the Masonic Charity of your choice.

The Pennsylvania
November 2007
Vol. LIV, No. 4

Masonic Temple
Renovations Begin!

Highlights from Autumn Day 2007 & Dedication of the New Veterans Grove
A Message from the Grand Master

Brethren:

What a honor it is to ask the responsibility of the Grand Lodge's 3rd Grand Master, Rev. Benjamin Franklin, a Masonic Funeral Service he never had, celebrate our Grand Lodge's 275th Anniversary, beginning with the opening of the doors to a magnificent, state-of-the-art Masonic Temple in Philadelphia! Our National Masonic Jurisdiction, which houses our Masonic Temple and our Masonic Library and Museum, has begun to play an integral role in the arts and cultural community, as evidenced by the increasing number of tourists and educational programs. Who would have believed it, but we are able to tour the Grand Lodge's Traditional Observation Room and our Library with a group of students from Temple University! The temple of philosophy has truly been a golden privilege to serve our Grand Master over the past two years.

Your remarks to appear for support and preserve our Masonic Temple has been overwhelmingly successful. Because of it, our Masonic Temple will return the same emphasis that we all strive to create in the years leading up to its dedication in 1973. It continues to be our responsibility to ensure that its grandeur inspires the spirit of Masonic Healing in future generations.

Besides the experience of a lifetime, Freemasonry has affected my family, Norma, and me throughout our lives, as well as in the personal relationships that we have formed and their families throughout our jurisdiction and many Grand Jurisdictions throughout the United States. I have appreciated members inviting me to open doors, telling us that they are facing programs, which are challenging or that they have experienced. While I wish I could make every perfect, realistic changes and improvements that we all want to take responsibility, if we truly desire to strengthen and grow our great fraternity, I believe we have had numerous programs which have challenged us to remember the words we joined Freemasonry in the first place to care for and about one another within our Masonic family.

One major objective I wished to accomplish during my tenure was to create a stronger bond among the family of Grand Lodge Officers by building relationships based on trust. Next to my own family, they have been the most supported throughout my term, and for that, I am extremely grateful. On Dec. 31, I will be relinquishing the position of your Grand Master, placing the authority in the capable, devoted and trusted hands of Rev. Stephen Gardner. I will faithfully support him and the other Grand Lodge Officers, and look forward to each of their successful terms.

I am fortunate to have had a great lineage of Freemasons in my family to emulate, beginning with my big brother, who served as my big brother; the late Ralph Aungst, a very special person, the late Ralph Aungst. I was able to learn from his example. His passing, brought much sadness and comfort to us. We have been privileged to have him also been blessed with. Marna said, "You are our family." It just doesn't get any better than that, and we are.

My parents sacrificed for what I was afforded in life as a professional, as a father, as a Mason and now, as a Mason. In return, I have striven to give back to my profession, the members of my community and my B-U fraternity.

Sincerely and frankly,

Ronald A. Aungst, Sr.
R.W. Grand Master
Masonic Temple Restoration & Preservation Project

The Masonic Temple in Philadelphia, home of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania and the Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania, has embarked on an extensive and monumentally restoration and preservation project, with an expected completion date of October 2008. Originally constructed over a five-year period (1869-1873), at a then-staggering cost of $1.6 million, the Masonic Temple was designed by the prominent architect, Bro. James H. Windrim. Another 35 years were required by dedicated and respected artisans to perfect the grandeur of the interior features.

Located at the cultural and physical heart of Philadelphia, the Masonic Temple has undergone regular maintenance over the years. The restoration and preservation of such a wonderful structure, however, is an enormous project requiring careful planning and skillful work. To return the exterior of the Masonic Temple to its original 19th century grandeur, The Masonic Library and Museum has commissioned an $8 million project which will:

- Repair the roof, the most integral part of the project, as it protects the rest of the building and structures within.
- Re-point, thoroughly clean and return exterior granite to its pristine 19th century luster.
- Restore the existing entrance ways and the doors to their original condition.
- Restore the original cast iron fence and gates.
- Make the Masonic Temple the centerpiece of the Masonic Temple Restoration & Preservation Project Kick-off Ceremony to be held on Aug. 24, 2007, at 10 a.m.

The event included opening remarks from Andrew A. Zellen-Frederick, Executive Director, The Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania, prayer offered by Bro. and Rev. William D. Harmon, Grand Chaplain; the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Bro. Mark A. Hatton, R.W. Grand Secretary; the performance of “America” and “America the Beautiful” by Bro. William Melnych, bagpiper, member of Springfield-Horsham Lodge No. 767; and a project fiscal update by Bro. Jeffrey W. Coy, R.W. Grand Treasurer.

Ronald A. Aungst, Sr., R.W. Grand Master, said, “The Grand Lodge is grateful for the dedication of its membership to the goals of this endeavor. As Freemasons, it is our inherent responsibility to maintain and glorify what our forefathers built and entrusted to us. It is our legacy to future generations.”

Remarks also were offered by Randall Baron, Assistant City Historic Preservation Officer, Philadelphia Historical Commission; John A. Gallery, Executive Director, Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia; Darla Staller, Acting Superintendent, Independence National Historical Park; and Nancy A. Goldberg, Vice President of Planning, Center City District.

Immediately following the program, guests were invited to the Grand Banquet Hall for light refreshments and for a tour of the Masonic Temple.

“A number of us have dreamed the dream of initiating and following through on this vital project,” said Grand Master Aungst. “It’s wonderful to see it come about through our brethren not only sharing the dream, but turning it into reality.”

Zellen-Frederick.

President and Publisher

The Pennsylvania Freemason

ANNUAL GRAND COMMUNICATION
OF THE GRAND LODGE OF PENNSYLVANIA

Thursday, Dec. 27, 2007 • Philadelphia Marriott Hotel

Join us as we welcome

Brother

Stephen Gardner

as our

117th Grand Master

This will mark the Installation of Brother Stephen Gardner as the 117th Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania!

The Grand Master’s Banquet will begin with a social reception at 5:00 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:00 p.m., and concluding with entertainment by John Bessler.

John Bessler is a contemporary troubadour, a high energy dedicated musical artist whose grand passion is entertaining and motivating audiences. Known for his unique presentation including a rotating “Phantom Grand Piano,” this singer-songwriter/comedienne/musician has been entertained throughout the United States, the Caribbean, and all over North America. Famous for his unique presentation including a rotating “Phantom Grand Piano,” this singer-songwriter/comedienne/musician has been entertaining audiences for over 30 years.

Reservations and Table Order Form

Grand Master’s Banquet & John Bessler Performance

Enclosed is a check for $ per reservation for the banquet and show at the Philadelphia Marriott on Dec. 27. The dinner will be at 6:00 p.m., followed by the show. A social hour will precede the banquet.

Name ____________________________
Address __________________________
City ____________________________
State ____________________________
ZIP code __________________________
Phone ____________________________

Check Here if you wish to be placed on the Grand Lodge mailing list.

Signature __________________________

Reservations will be accepted on a "first-come-first-served" basis. Deadline for reservations by mail is Dec. 15.

The Pennsylvania Freemason

The Masonic Temple

One North Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107-2598

Nov 2007 • Vol. LIV • No. 4

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5
A Journey to Ireland
August 9 - 18, 2007

Tour Ireland with the Grand Master and an exceptional journey including
ventures through Shannon, Galway, Cork, Killarney and Dingle. Travelers
enjoyed sightseeing by


The Honorable

Masonic Temple Gala

Grand Master Angust

congratulates the Honorable Bro. Michael Natter

Saturday, December 1, 2007
at the Masonic Temple in Philadelphia

Cost: $350 per person.
Benefits the Masonic Temple Initiative.
Includes cocktails, dinner, music and a silent auction.
Please make your reservation on or before Nov. 16.
Black tie optional.

Honored Guests

The Honorable Bro. Michael Nutter, Light of Elmwood Lodge
#45, will be recognized with the “Future of Philadelphia Award.”
Bro. & Mrs. Jay G. Brittain of Prince, Colonnads, will be
honored with the “Second Annual Preserving Masonic Temple
Heritage Award.”

If you can donate any items for the silent auction, or for more
information, contact Joyce Michelekider or (610) 825-6100 ext. 1348, or e-mail jmichlee@masontemple.org.

Reservation Form
Masonic Temple Gala

Yes! I would like to attend the gala. I have included a check
made payable to Masonic Charities and designated for the
Masonic Temple Gala.

Please mail the reservation form to: Joyce Michelekider
Masonic Charities, 8th Fledge Pkwy, Lafayette Hill, PA 19444.
A Monumental Memorial

Mrs. George C. McFarland speaks very highly of her deceased father, Bro. Elbridge McFarland, Fritz Lodge No. 420, Conshohocken. Her praise and admiration have extended to a permanent memorial at the Masonic Temple in honor of Bro. Elbridge.

"He was a fine gentleman," she said. "He loved being a Mason and gave his family a great deal of his life serving the fraternity. He certainly followed through on Masonic values."

Her impressions are all second-hand since Bro. Elbridge passed away in 1918, years before she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in 1928 at what is now Temple University in Philadelphia. She discovered the McFarlands when she went to the Temple to worship and found out that Bro. Elbridge was a very respected member of the family. She has continued to explore the family's history, especially as a very successful businessman and leader of the Masonic Order.

Mrs. McFarland was so moved, it inspired her to take on a naming opportunity in honor of Bro. Elbridge at the Masonic Temple. She wanted to select something that would have been important to him when Bro. Elbridge was alive, so she chose a fountain nameplate Renovate Temple. A plaque will be added to the fountain at a ceremony in which Mrs. McFarland, her son and three grandchildren will be in attendance.

"He was such a wonderful person and I wanted to leave a memorial for him that was meaningful for his life," she said. "I'm just thrilled and I hope (Bro. Elbridge) is thinking, 'Oh, I have a pretty nice memorial.'"

Mrs. McFarland recently gave another gift to Fritz Lodge No. 420 (Fritz Lodge No. 420 merged with Fort Washington Lodge No. 108). Bro. Elbridge's Past Master jewels, the sterling silver emblem engraved with his name and given to him for his service as Past Master, have been displayed on the stage of the lodge.

Beyond her love of history, Mrs. McFarland and her husband, George, traveled the world, exploring the seven continents and the oceans between.

Among her favorite memories is a fabulous safari in Kenya, exploring the Holy Land, building a penguin snowman about an Antarctic cruise, observing the burning sun on the glorious Easter Island, being a passenger on the first cruise ship allowed in China in 1978 and seeing the Great Wall of China, attending a Russian opera in Moscow, viewing the beautiful glaciers in Chile and experiencing the union of land and religion found in the great Taj Mahal.

Her husband passed away 17 years ago, but Mrs. McFarland continues to travel, making friends all over the world. When she finds herself at home, she enjoys attending churches and belongs to several historical groups: the Masonic Order.

Recognizing the rich history of Freemasonry, she visited the Masonic Temple in Philadelphia.

"I loved it. It's a fabulous place," she said. "It's part of our heritage. It's just as important today as when the Temple was built. It represents everything the Masonic order stands for. I've always had great admiration for it."

The Pennsylvania Freemason
Strengthen Your Bonds

Masons have formed many groups, combining the time-honored camaraderie of Freemasonry with everyday interests, hobbies and activities. Some clubs are organized nationally or locally, others are exclusive to specific districts.

Read on for more information on some examples of clubs already flourishing throughout the fraternity, some of which might interest or inspire you.

National Organizations

The National League of Masonic Clubs, Inc.

More than 100 years ago, Masons who wished to expand the sphere of Masonic influence by uniting as a national group to do the things that will bring the most good to the most people, formed this organization of clubs. They are carrying the study of the fundamental principles and ideals of Freemasonry to ensure that the ideals of inspiring others to promote and defend the community. The group, which meets three times a year, sponsors scholarships to six graduating seniors who are related to a member of the fraternity (child or grandchild and have participated in charity, religious and educational events to contribute to the relief of Masonic widows and orphans. For more information, visit www.masonicmorgoncycleclub.org.

Masonic Motorcycle Club International

The Masonic Motorcycle Club International is a group with a common interest in motorcycle riding. It encourages good fellowship and encourages membership in the fraternity. There are several chapters throughout Pennsylvania, including Chapter 198 in Pittsburgh, the first chapter to join the International Masonic Motorcycle Club. The club is affiliated with the National Motorcycle Club, which sponsors motorcycle events for members and non-members alike. The club hosts events throughout the year, including rides, social gatherings and charity events.

Masonic Motorcycle Club International

Since 1975, Master Masons have joined this club to play chess by postal mail, and now it's a social activity, with members across the country. All levels of play are encouraged, and participants may have as many opponents as they desire. Weekly games are $20 Contact Secretary: Dennis Petrikk at dennispetrikk@yahoo.com or 304 Longmeadow St., Mechanicsburg, PA 17055.

International Law Enforcement Officers’ Square Club

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looking to receive their licenses. A license enables an operator to receive call letters and communicate over the airwaves. The club is in the process of being organized, and Bro. Doug Rickards, W.M., Lansdowne Lodge No. 711, expects to start meetings in January. He hopes to include non-members as well, increasing community involvement and spreading Masonic awareness. For more information, contact Bro. Rickards at (610) 259-4472.

**Breakfast Club**

Every Tuesday, this group informally gathers for breakfast as a way to discuss Masonic matters and introduce the fraternity to new members. Masons, widows and non-Masons are invited. The meetings consist of an opening devotion or prayer, discussion of Masonic activities and updates on any members who are ill or may have been placed in a nursing home. The group started in Lancaster, but several split-offs have started throughout the state. For more information, contact Tom Reimennrster at treimennrster@comcast.net or (717) 866-2865.

**BROMAS Club**

The BROMAS, or Brethren Masons Club was formed in 1958 by members of Shillie Lodge No. 601, Irish, looking to socialize through events and sporting activities. A bowling and golf league were formed. Social events have included a Queen for a Night in honor of Masonic ladies, square dances, bar trips, holiday parties and visits to other lodges, the Masonic Temple and the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown. For more information, contact Bros. Russ McCallaugh or (717) 860-2210 or secy0312@pa.pinnacle.org.

**COMAS Club**

A group of Masons from King Solomon's Lodge No. 346, Connelville, formed the COMAS (Connelville Masonic Club) in 1924, meeting during the summer months for practice and in February for a George Washington Banquet. The banquets ended a few years ago, but thanks to the tireless efforts and talent of King's Solomon's Lodge No. 346, Martin Lodge No. 562, Scottsdale and James Cochran Lodge No. 614, Dawson, a new Masonic Center has been brought the banquet again this year. The banquets, open to brethren and their ladies, will feature entertainment and fellowship opportunities. For more information, contact Bro. Rich Bledsoe at (724) 577-4279, or secy562@pinnacle.org.

**Spanish Club**

Bro. Basil Vega, New London Lodge No. 345, would like to form a Spanish Club. Interested members may contact him at (610) 255-3734.

**Two Family Traditions in One Lodge**

Skerrit Lodge No. 343, Cochrinville, has a distinct honor of having three blood brothers Masonic brothers who are past Masters: Brothers David L. Tennant Jr., three-time Past Master; William H. Tennant, Jr., three-time Past Master; and Donald E. Tennant, Past Master (shown left to right in the back row of the photo below).

On Feb. 17, members of Skerrit Lodge No. 343 were pleased and honored to confer the degree of Freemasonry on Charles B. Luttig, by special dispensation granted by Ronald A. Augste, Sr., Bros. Luttrell is the 12th generation of the Luttrell family to become a member of Skerrit Lodge No. 343 and to be raised in the same building as his ancestors. He is shown in the front row of the photo above with his father, Bro. John C. Luttig II, E.M., who gave all three charges. Each of the Tennent brothers confederated one of his degrees.

The brethren are shown in the newly renovated lodge room, where Skerrit Lodge No. 343 has met continuously since being constituted in July 1862.

The Pennsylvania Freemason

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Helping Hands

Bro. Fred Richards, Sr., P.M., Moscow Lodge No. 504, and his wife, Karen, were out of town visiting their daughter last January when they received a devastating phone call that their house had caught fire. A short circuit in their kitchen range sparked the flame, and their home and its contents were a total loss.

"It was shocking," Bro. Fred Richards, Jr., Moscow Lodge No. 504, said. "Back to my roots as a Mason.

It took just a few days for the word to travel to Bro. Richards, Sr.'s Lodge. In the tradition of Masons Helping Masons, they wanted no time giving assistance however they could. His Masonic Lodge was a non-profit organization for food and supplies. One brother donated a dump truck to demolish the remains of the old home. Several others helped with pouring the foundation.

Bro. Timothy Carrico, Moscow Lodge No. 504, went above and beyond and assisted the Richards with the purchase of a prefabricated house at a discounted rate. By the second week in June, the house was near completion, and Bro. Richards, Sr., and his wife were settling in.

"He's really the type of person who wouldn't ask you for anything," Bro. Robert Hawk, Worshipful Master, Moscow Lodge No. 504, said. "They didn't expect it." Bro. Richards, Jr. said, "A lot of people really stepped up. They are very appreciative."

The fact that Masons are such benevolent men is one of the reasons Bro. Richards, Sr., joined the fraternity. His father was also involved and now, his three sons and several sons-in-law have become Masons. He recently received his 5th Year Service Award.

Bro. Robert Hawk was also named the 5th Year Service Award.

When being handed his check, he was not aware the lodge was organizing a fund raiser for him, although the gesture did come as a complete shock.

"It was not a surprise," he said. "[Masonic] are such good people and they do this type of thing all the time. I was impressed with the whole aspect of people coming together to do something for me."

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**Ossear Lodge Restores Masonic Monument**

Discolored, covered with moss and rusting, the Masonic Monument in Wellboro Cemetery was in desperate need of restoration. brethren from Ossear Lodge No. 317, Wellboro, cleaned the monument, needed, matched, and repainted the background. Bro. Gary Cooper, E.M., of Tioga Lodge No. 373 and owner of Wellboro Monument Company, restored the monument, which is a new footer 4 deep, poured it with concrete and reset the stone.

The monument was originally dedicated on Dec. 28, 1923.

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Racing to a Clean Finish

Masonic District 24 sponsored the All American Soap Box Derby for the 14th time on Saturday, June 16 in Erie. Lodges within the district provided funding and manpower to run the race for young boys and girls in the area. This year there were 37 young people registered to race. A pre-race banquet was held the night before at St. Matt's Episcopal Church, Erie.
The Members of the Grand Lodge are requested to attend:

The Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania

in the Masonic Temple, One North Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA.
on Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. For more information, call (215) 988-1901.

Come and experience the many wonderful upgrades our brethren have made possible in our Masonic Temple!

Garfield Lodge No. 559 Celebrates 125 Years

Garfield Lodge No. 559, DuBois, celebrated its 125th anniversary with a banquet on May 4 at the Brady Township Community Center in Luthersburg.

The evening began with a social hour and refreshments, a display of 655 Masonic roses from all walks of life. The banquet began with the head table procession led by the Grand Marshall and piped in by Bro. Donald Rustich, an accomplished piper.

Bro. John S. Yang, W.G.M., welcomed all 279 guests, which included Grand Lodge Officers, as well as officers from five visiting lodges: York Rite, Scottish Rite, and Allentown. He then asked Bro. William E. Landis, Grand Master of Allegheny, and one of the national guests, for his remarks by the invitation by Bro. Jerry D. Bellino, Grand Chaplain.

After further remarks, Bro. Yang gave recognition to the following elected officials who sent special acknowledgments to commemorate the 125th anniversary celebration: President Donald L. Miller, Connecticut's Governor; Bro. Edward G. Reinell; Althaman Lodge No. 444; Philadelphia; State Sernipor E. B. Szaanick, State Representative Dan A. Sarro, Chairman of the Pennsylvania Board of Commissioners, Mark M. Cracken; Chairman of Sandy Township Superintendents, Bro. Edwina Balls, and Mayor of DuBois John Hergi Suffitt. In addition to sending a special acknowledgment, Congressman Peterson agreed to have and it was granted that the Garfield Lodge's 125th Anniversary will be noted in the Congressional Record of the First Session of the 110th Congress.

One of the highlights of this memorable celebration was the presentation of the 50-year Service Emblem to Bro. Robert DuBois by Bro. Ronald A. Aungst, Sr., R.W. Grand Master, which was pinned, in his name by his wife, Madline. Everyone then rose to observe a minute of silence for deceased brethren and a verse of "Amazing Grace" was played by Bro. Ronich.

Bro. Yang then returned the dedication of the lodge's first World War II Memorial to Bro. W. B. Buchsfield, P.M., and Bro. William D. Menic, P.M., who were among 18 Masons in DuBois to serve in WWII. He also gave special recognition to Bro. Charles W. Buchsfield, great-grandson of the late Bro. Buchsfield and Bro. J. Menic, Sr., grandson of the late Bro. Menic.

Bro. Donald L. Miller, District Deputy Grand Master for District 32, remarked on the growth of Garfield Lodge and its activities.

Bro. Ronald A. Aungst, Sr., R.W. Grand Master, presented a brief history of Garfield Lodge, followed by some pertinent and interesting remarks by Bro. Yang presented Grand Master Aungst with a $1,500 check for the Masonic Temple.

Following the dedication, the official celebration was followed by musical entertainment provided by "Precious Seed.

On April 13, the Pennsylvania House of Representatives unanimously adopted a resolution offered by State Representative Dan Sarro that designates May 1-May 5, 2007 as Pennsylvania Masonic Week in Pennsylvania. Sarro also made a presentation honoring Garfield Lodge No. 559, F. & A.M., in DuBois, by designating May 4, as its honor in the city. Shown from left to right are: David Starke, W.G.M., John Aungst, W.G.M., Rep. Sarro, presenting the resolution on behalf of the House of Representatives, and Donald Stone, J.W. Rep. Sarro said, "Pennsylvania is the largest and most widely established fraternal order in the world. Communities across Pennsylvania, across the United States, and around the world continue to benefit from the virtues of charity, benevolence and brotherly values that are instilled in its members."

The Pennsylvania Freemason

District 12

On July 21, 50 widows attended a luncheon hosted by District 12, 18 of whom are shown in the photograph below. Each widow was presented with a long-stemmed red rose and a pin that was also complicated on the cake. Bro. Joseph Kooschar, Clearfield Lodge No. 474, Sugar Notch, is the district chairman.

During the evening of April 4, members of Bradford Masonic Lodge No. 749, held at the Masonic Village at Sewickley, honored the widows of Freemasons living at the Masonic Village and those from Doric Lodge. Approximately 120 brothers attended to chair with each other and members of Doric Lodge No. 630, Bro. Jim Lusky, and Bro. Arnie Steinberg, S.W., presented the ladies with Wives pins.

Widows Recognition Events

District 12


Third Row: Dorothy Blackeart, Ruth Mason, Lorraine Richards, Pat Laff

District 24

The 24th District's Masonic Widows Recognition Dinner was held on May 30 at the new Scottish Rite Building in Erie. More than 50 were in attendance at the dinner, which was hosted by Tyrone Commonwealh Lodge No. 362, Erie, and coordinated by its Worshipful Master, Bros. J.R. Saltier, and the 24th District's Widow's Program Chairman, Bros. Jesse E. Ferraro, P.M., and Lawrence Lodge No. 708.


District 749

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Doric Lodge No. 630

What goes with tea and cookies? Fellowship and a chance to meet and greet new people!

That's what happened on July 16 during a tea party hosted by Doric Lodge No. 630, Seawickley, and the Masonic Village at Sewickley to honor the widows of Freemasons living at the Masonic Village and those from Doric Lodge. Approximately 40 brothers attended to chair with each other and members of Doric Lodge No. 630, Bro. Jim Lusky, and Bro. Arnie Steinberg, S.W., presented the ladies with Wives pins.

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Bro. Carl V. Dreisbach Receives Scouter Award

On April 5, with the consent of Ronald A. Augst, Sr., R.W. Grand Master, and with the assistance of Teddy D. Stivers, District Deputy Grand Master for District 42, 11 Master Masons from the Grand Jurisdiction of Delaware, including four Past Grand Masters, appeared at Zendelphia Lodge No. 491, York, to present to Bro. Carl V. Dreisbach, the Daniel Carter Beard Masonic Scout Award.

Bro. Dreisbach was unable to attend the award presentation in his lodge that evening, however, so the brethren traveled on to the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown and made the presentation there in his presence, with his wife, Frances.

Bro. Dreisbach, in his role as a teacher, service man, Scout Leader and noble Freemason, has enriched the lives of thousands of young men through his thoughtfulness, caring dedication and devotion. Carl’s nickname is “Mr. Nice Guy,” which is ironic, because one cannot look upon Bro. Dreisbach and call him “Miserable” without having a smile come to his face.

Bro. Peterman Celebrates His 100th Birthday

On June 2, members of Mason Lodge No. 299, traveled to the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown to celebrate Bro. Howard M. Peterman’s 100th birthday (his actual birthday is June 4). The celebration was attended by many of his family members and friends. Brothers Ronald A. Augst, Sr., R.W. Grand Master; Stephen Gardner, R.W. Deputy Grand Master; and Jay W. Smith, R.W. Junior Grand Warden, were honored to be part of the celebration. Earlier this year, Bro. Peterman received his 70 Year Service Emblem from the Grand Master. He is a 74-year member of the fraternity.

Bro. Peterman is believed to be the first member of Mason Lodge to have attained the age of 102. Cake and refreshments were served and a great day of fellowship was enjoyed by all in attendance.

100 Years Young, 60 Years a Mason

Bro. Clayton F. Kilpatrick, of Whirlfield Lodge No. 672, Tamaqua, was honored with a surprise 100th birthday party on June 19, when 24 brethren gathered in the Lodgeette Dining Hall at Mountview Hall Square, Nazareth, Bro. Kilpatrick entered the evening reminiscing and being presented with his 60-year Masonic Service Award by Bro. Michael J. Fedko, District Deputy Grand Master for District 42.

The Lodge then honored Bro. Kilpatrick with a presentation of the 100 Year Club badge, which was presented to him by Bro. Peterman, who is 102 years young and 74 years a Mason.

“The Biggest Small Lodge You’ve Ever Seen”

Ronald A. Augst, Sr., R.W. Grand Master, in his address to the members, noted, “This lodge has worked with the Albion Symmes Club to sponsor a local fishing derby for kids under 12, which exposes them to fishing by providing the rods, bait, tackle box and future.” The lodge has also been the site of the annual Masonic Blood Drive program, which is the largest沈hupe blood drive in the area, with over 100 members participating.

“In 2007, the lodge was honored with the Albion Symmes Club’s Community Service Award. We have been a part of the community since 1876, and we will continue to be so long as there is a need for us.”

Brotherhood, the spirit that was present at the lodge, is the spirit that we must continue to keep alive.”

The lodge is always looking for new members, and they are always welcome. For more information, please contact Bro. Augst at 570-618-9382.

The Pennsylvania Freemason

From left to right: Brothers Lee A. Bruneau, WM; Michael J. Fedko, D.D.G.M; for District 42; Clayton F. Kilpatrick, Master; Dennis Komor, PM; Jason T. Brinton, S/J; and Richard W. Shernoff, III, IW.

On May 16 at Prospect Lodge 578, Warren Kenneth Welsh “Barney,” age 82, was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason.

Barney is very enthusiastic about being a Freemason, and the lodge is pleased to have this energetic, energetic young member among its membership. He has shown an interest in family tradition, as both his son have recently been in their petitions as well.

From left to right: Brothers Lee A. Bruneau, WM; Michael J. Fedko, D.D.G.M; for District 42; Ron E. D.C. Freeman, D.D.G.M; and Kenneth W. McClurkin, D.D.G.M for District 48.

This year, on September 11, the lodge hosted a Patriotic Blood Drive, with the proceeds going to the American Red Cross. The lodge also hosted a Masonic Blood Drive, with the proceeds going to the local hospital.

The lodge has been active in the community, and we are always looking for new members. Please contact Bro. Augst at 570-618-9382 for more information.

The lodge is always looking for new members, and they are always welcome. For more information, please contact Bro. Augst at 570-618-9382.
How One Brother Helped to Shape History

It is a dry the United States, and the world will not soon forget. Aug. 6, 1945, on this day the United States dropped an atomic bomb, the first of its kind, on Hiroshima, Japan. For one Pennsylvania Mason, this day is remembered through his first-hand account about the Enola Gay, the B-29 Superfortress bomber responsible for dropping the bomb on Japan.

Norman Kriss and his twin, Ted "Dutch" Van Kirk, Enola Gay, Northumberland, joined the U.S. Air Force in 1939, at age 19, knowing the country would be in a war soon or later. To make the best of a bad situation, he decided held "rather fly than walk in the mud."

His primary job was guiding the plane to the target and returning to base, but Bro. Van Kirk also faced situations in which he had to use the B-17's machine gun. It was always a thrilling experience to see the sights of attacking planes light up as they fired. He recels this scene was last forever.

"We were the luckiest damn men you ever saw," he said of himself and brother-in-law Lt. Tom Feerbee. "We were credited with using the most ammunition without hitting anything."

Throughout his career as a navigator, he flew on 38 missions in Europe and one in the Pacific. He was a member of the first B-17 bomber group out of England to fly over occupied Europe. Another one of his missions was to lead a group of six planes transporting Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower and his staff across from England to Gibraltar, in the southern tip of the British Peninsula. All insignia identifying the planes and the crew as American were removed.

A higher authority tells you what you're going to do and when, and as the lead aphro, you're your feet not to (feel it up). Bro. Van Kirk said. "If you do, everyone will follow."

Once in Gibraltar, an important travel base for the British, Bro. Van Kirk saw an image he'll never forget. "To watch the invasion fleet stream through the Strait of Gibraltar was a sight to see," he said. "It was small compared to the invasion at Normandy, but to this time I made my blood shudder."

His most famous mission, at the age of 24, was to drop the atomic bomb on Japan.

"At the time, we didn't realize we were making history," Bro. Van Kirk said. "Our objective was to shorten the war and the war to stop the killing. We didn't realize then the press brought it up at what a big deal it was."

He crew included Lt. Forebee and pilot Col. Paul Tibbets, with whom he had flown many missions. They were told about the mission in early 1945, and were given full knowledge on the purpose and significance of it. After months of training and briefings, the only detail left understood was the weather.

"We didn't know how much money had been spent on atomic energy," he said. "They built cities just to develop its capturability. The amount of scientific personnel, payed out of it, was vast beyond our shoulders. If we were not successful, we didn't have much other chances to exit the war."

We would have to invade Japan and many lives would be lost."

Typically, a bomb explodes with the delivery plane still in the air above it, so the pilot immediately sees if the target was hit. With the atomic bomb, according to scientists, the plane had to be two miles away before the bomb detonated or they "wouldn't make it," Bro. Van Kirk said. "We stripped the airplane of any weights we needed to make it lighter. After releasing the bomb, we had to make an immediate 150 degree turn to get the maximum distance from the explosion. There were 43 seconds from the time the bomb was dropped to its explosion."

"All we saw was a bright flash, like a photographer's flash in a darkroom. The first shock wave, with a magnitude of 2.8, hit us and it sounded like sheet metal snapping. We turned around to take a look and saw the huge white cloud above our altitude. It was thick and huge. People on top and white around the base. The entire city was covered with thick black smoke, so we couldn't make any sound or light."

After that unforgettable flight, the next time, debates surfaced about the use of nuclear weapons. Immediately after the war, people seemed to favor dropping the bombs, but in time has passed, opinion has changed and today the argument still rages.

"It caused a lot of casualties, but overall saved many lives. The Japanese would not have surrendered on Aug. 6. They had heavy losses and thousands of people were being killed throughout China and other countries they had invaded," Bro. Van Kirk said. "Now that we understand the danger of using one, I hope atomic weapons are never again used in warfare."

His military service earned him a Silver Star and other medals and ribbons. He went on to receive a bachelor's and master's degree in chemical engineering and moved all over the world as an employee of DuPont. He has four children and seven grandchildren, and enjoys taking vacations with his family. "I'm really happy with a wonderful family," he said. "We practice togetherness, when we have the time."

His father, uncle and many other relatives were Masons, so it was an easy decision for him to join the fraternity. He has made many friends in the process. Members of his lodge presented him with his 50-year Masonic Service Award in the spring.

Bro. Van Kirk was featured in the HBO documentaries "White Light/Black Night: The Destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki," which were first aired in August. He also speaks at many schools and other events, including a recent occasion at his lodge. The interview requests have slowed over the years, although close to the anniversary of the bombing, he receives requests from talk shows and radio shows.

A modern-day hero, painter and Mason, Bro. Van Kirk's brave and noble service helped to change the course of history and preserve the freedom we enjoy today.

Grand Master's Charity Golf Tournaments

Eastern Region

The Grand Master's Eastern Pennsylvania Charity Golf Tournament was held on Oct. 29 at Le Lu Country Club in North Hills. The event featured a full day of golf, music, cocktails, dinner and an after auction.

Credit for the successful event goes to Tournament Committee members, Brother Dale H. Fers, Sr., William J. Greet and LeRoy O. McClelland, as well as Masonic Village staff Joyce E. Micheldiek and Carol Wolfgren. In addition, Bro. Bill Molusk kept his professional skills as a DJopsetter, to the enjoyment of the crowds. More than a dozen residents from the Masonic Village at Lafayette Hill also volunteered their time to assist with the setup of the auction, act as "tole monitors" and help to stuff the goodie bags.

Although it's early, it is estimated that the net proceeds will be in excess of $20,000 to benefit special projects at the Masonic Villages at Lafayette Hill and Warmnintor.

Western Region

The Grand Master's Western Pennsylvania Golf Tournament hosted 70 golfers and a group of 25 Masonic Village at Sewickley retirement living resident volunteers. The sight for this small tournament for the second year in a row was Shannopin Country Club in Ben Avon Heights.

The day's events began with registration, and then a shotgun start for the golfers at noon. After completing their round of golf, the men and women golfers enjoyed Shannopin's beautiful patio for holes foursomes and then proceeded into the clubhouse for a fabulous buffet dinner. This year the tournament committee coordinated a Chinese auction, silent auction and a reverse club auction, which added to the competitive fun of the day's events.

Due to the overwhelming support of sponsors, golfers and volunteers, this year's proceeds, over $15,000, will benefit the Masonic Village at Sewickley's Valley Care "Give a Gift" campaign.

Mark your calendar for next year's event to be held on Sept. 22, 2008.
Letter From Most Worshipful Jerry Carver to Baptistic Courier Paper

Below are excerpts from a letter written by Bro. Gerald L. Carver, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free Masons of South Carolina, to Don Kirkland, Editor and Publisher of the Baptist Courier newspaper, and printed on May 20, 2007. Grand Master Carver was responding to an article that appeared in the Courier written by an individual who was offended at pictures published in the newspaper showing Freemasons attending church in their aprons during a Masonic Recognition Service. His answers and explanations are very similar to and brothers in attempting to explain various aspects of Freemasonry which are misunderstood and misinterpreted by others in our communities.

As a member and leader in a Southern Baptist Church for over 47 years, I was deeply saddened to see the May 11th issue of our Baptist Courier used a vehicle to bash and try to discredit such an old and honorable institution as Freemasonry. In Columbia, on April 27, I was installed in a public ceremony as Grand Master at the 27th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free Masons of South Carolina. The Grand Lodge of Ancient Free Masons of South Carolina consists of 43,115 Masons, of which over 20,000 are conservative members in Southern Baptist Churches in South Carolina and many of them serve as leaders and pastors.

Below, I would like to respond to several misrepresentations made by the offended writer.

Freemasonry is not a religion, and therefore does not teach any form of salvation. Freemasonry directs its membership to seek those teachings in the house of worship of their choice. Freemasonry teaches men to be men of their word, to be of good and moral character and to aid and assist their fellow man in need. In today’s society, these teachings are needed now as ever before.

Freemasonry never refers to God in a blasphemous manner. Freemasons always refer to God in the most reverent manner as a creator to his creation. We refer to God as God, and as the Great Architect of the Universe, the Creator of all things.

There are oaths and promises made in Freemasonry just as there are oaths of office, oaths for citizenship and oaths taken in many organizations. My pastor and I both agree that the Bible verse quoted as precluding oaths is actually dealing with those who take oaths for them and then break those oaths. In Freemasonry, oaths are taken seriously Freemasonry teaches its members to be men of their word and to keep their commitments made to God and men.

Graetitude from the Grand Lodge of the Netherlands

Masonic Village at Dallas Celebrates First Phase

The Masonic Village at Dallas celebrated the construction of the first phase of its retirement community on July 29 when Ronald A. Aungst, Sr., R.W. Grand Master and the Grand Lodge Officers performed a dedication ceremony at the site of the Whitley Apartments, named in memory of Capt. E. W. Walther, USN Ret.

The late Frederick W. Walther was a well-known career Navy officer and a frequent member of Mitchell Lodge No. 198, Jacksonville. He had planned to move to the Masonic Village at Dallas, and gifted a charitable bequest through his will to benefit the retirement community. His son, Anthony Brod, Bernard Walther, George M. Dallas Lodge No. 51, unveiled a naming plaque for the building following the dedication ceremony. Dignitaries from Orange County and Dallas Township, from Shrine members, representatives from local Masonic lodges and other community leaders also attended the ceremony.

"My father treated the traditional values of the founding fathers of our country, my ancestors, with honor," Brod said.

"He wanted to surround himself with a like-minded fellowship. When we learned about the coming Masonic Village of Dallas, we were overwhelmed. It offered everything he wanted, including a comfortable and attractive living environment, compatible companionship, access to medical facilities, proximity to family and substantial personal independence."

A tour of the apartment building followed the ceremony. The first residents of the new apartment building are expected to move into their new homes in November.

Sycamore Square Datestone

A Datestone Ceremony was held for the Sycamore Apartments at the Masonic Village in Elizabethown on Friday, Sept. 14. Music was provided by the Masonic Village Men's Chorus and Bro. John E. Goodman, Grand Lodge Organist. Special recognition was given to the future residents of the apartments in attendance.

The Sycamore Apartments have been provided in memory of Bro. Arthur T. Ridenour, Pennsylvania Masonic San Lodge No. 2, Philadelphia. Move-ins are scheduled for the beginning of 2008.

Gratitude from the Grand Lodge of the Netherlands

Dear Bro. Mark A. Heines,

Attached, please find a photo taken during our visit to your magnificent edifice.

The group from Arabia and others would like to thank you for the wonderful way we were received and the excellent tour we were given. Please express our gratitude to your guest guide.

The envelope presented to us for the collection of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, was issued in celebration of its 250th anniversary of the Grand Lodge of the Netherlands, Arabia as part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, also present in this celebration, as did Starmount and the Netherlands Antilles.

Hope this small gesture will be received as a token of good fraternal relations between the Freemasons of Arabia and Pennsylvania.

Once more, thank you so very much for the fraternal welcome you gave us.

Simon Q. "Joni" Odhner

Photo by Bro. William Rine

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The Pennsylvania Freemason

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Those Men Who Wear Those Mason Rings

Reprinted with permission by Computer Michael B. Strange, P.M., Lake Lodge No. 189, F&A.M., Milwaukee, WI.


My Dad, He Hurt His Back. You Know, One Cold and Wintry Day. He Stopped and Fell Upon the Ice. The Insurance Would Not Pay.


They Even Built a House for Me. Amid Our Backyard Trees. Where All the Neighborhood Kids Would Play. With Laughter Full of Glee.

My Mom the Cried from Happiness. Each Time the Masons Came. To Ask Our Family in Distress Without a Thought of Gain. And When I'm Big Just Like My Dad. Of This It Must Be Told. I Want to Wear a Ring Like His. A Square and Compass Gold.

Bro. Strange is a member and published contributor to The Pennsylvania Society and to the Wisconsin Masonic Journal. He serves as the Editor of the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin and holds the Grand Lodge Ritual Proficiency Certification. He is also a member of the Masonic Societies Reunited in Cauterets. Free and Accepted Masons of the United States of America.

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Just read the article, "My Father's Ring" and I have to write and tell you the story about my husband's ring. My husband, John and I always had a little vegetable garden in our backyard. We spent quite a bit of time planting and weeding and just sitting in the backyard. At 25 or more years ago, John lost his gold Masonic Ring. We just couldn't find it, so I suggested getting another one, which he did.

This spring, I was making a row to put some tomato plants and I pulled something shining in the morning sun. I picked up a clump of soil and started to break the soil away and inside was his gold barrel. I took it into the house and washed it, put it on my finger and have been wearing it ever since.

I tell my children it is something of kind of a family story and they say, "Yes, Dad wants wax to keep planting tomatoes." John and I had a beautiful life together for almost 60 years. He passed away last year at 95. He was always proud to be a Mason and was a wonderful husband and father.

May 20, 2007

Dear Brother Ronald August, Sr., W.G. Grand Master

I truly never expected to receive help from the Masonic Fraternity, not because I didn't think you wouldn't consider it, but because I didn't think there was any way that you could help me. Well, that certainly doesn't hold true and I was so overwhelmed, emotionally, when I found out there may be a chance of receiving help from you, my wife cried at what happened and if I was all right.

As I stated in my previous letter to you, I had been in touch with the VA and they turned me down twice and ultimately the third time for help in getting a bath and shower lift for our car. They did give me a fancy wall hand brush, etc, but it does not help when out on long excursions with my wife. I just get a lot of back and leg pain when I'm jellying on them.

I do not wish to bore you with a lot of details, however, I wanted to say, Thank You, so very much for the help in securing a bath and lift for my 95 year old wife. It is installed and I have used it already and it works just great. They also installed no step bathe in the shower. A very special thanks to you and to Bob Brookes with Masonic Village for his help and involvement in my situation. We are in Pennsylvania for a few months to visit our daughter and grandchildren. Thanks to your acts, we are able to stay here, however, a long drive would be detrimental to my health.

Our heartfelt thanks to all who participated in my financial situation, and to my Lodge No. 106, Williamston, for their help and concern. May God Bless you all.

Sincerely,

Louis J. Piatnick Jr.

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Introducing the Commemorative Masonic Temple Throw... available just in time for the holidays!

The proceeds from the purchase of this soft, over-sized woven throw will go toward the restoration of Philadelphia's 1873 National Historic Landmark Masonic Temple. It is available exclusively through the Temple Treasures Gift Shop in the Masonic Temple. It is made entirely in the USA by Loon Craft in Bolton, S.C. The size is approx. 52" x 88" including 4 fringed sides, a tapestry style weave. Colors of natural, navy and burgundy, matte/gold medallion, and gray and black for the building.

Cost: $59

Plus S&H $4.75

Please call to place your order with the Temple Treasures Gift Shop.
1-800-356-7317

Three Generations Raised Together

On Saturday, June 16, three generations of the Barchesky family were united in the symbolic degree of a Master Mason at LaMonte Lodge No. 588, Derry.

Brethren Recognized for Long-term Service as Past Masters

At the April 3rd meeting of the Grand Lodge No. 916, C. Donald Nelson, District Deputy Grand Master of District 56, presented Bro. Howard E. Ross, P.M., a 68-year member of Corry Lodge, with the Grand Lodge 60-year Masonic Service Emblem and a Grand Lodge certificate for 60 years as a Past Master. He also presented Brothers John M. Mohr and John W. Richner with the Grand Lodge 60-year Masonic Service Emblem. Bro. Howard E. Ross, P.M., was presented a Grand Lodge certificate for 50 years as a Past Master.

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KABBALAH for Health and Wellness
by Mark Stavish
Reviewed by Bro. Charles S. Canning, Academy of Masonic Knowledge

Initially, I was hesitant to submit this text for review in The Pennsylvania Freemason, as it appeared removed from the study of Freemasonry. However, there is a growing body of published works on the esoteric philosophy underlying Freemasonry, and Stavish's tome is both a brief, formal and physical presentation for the seasoned Freemason in understanding those hidden roots of ritual and allegory that escape notice. Freemasonry does not prescribe or teach Hermeticism or the Kabbalah, yet there are magical symbols that hint at a background of esoteric influence.

Stavish provides a clear picture of a subject that seems to flash in our Masonic lexicon. Though many of these ideas are meaningful, they are not always easily comprehended. The book helps to simplify these complex ideas so that they may be understood and applied. Stavish is the author of the "priesthood" that gives birth to speculative Freemasonry.

Stavish examines various aspects and schools of the Kabbalah and provides auggested means of understanding the overall focus of a rather complex subject. The first half of the text is a preparation for applying the principles of Kabbalah and includes various exercises for meditation. There are references in the text to Masonic symbols that point to an esoteric origin. The theme is York Rite Masonry is the "word," which is lost, recovered, preserved, and given new meaning in the Christian Orders of Knights Templar. Kabbalah is also about the "word," and is studied in the context of Jewish mysticism. The second portion of the book familiarizes the reader with the practices found in Kabbalah and provides wonder how this fundamental became so global.

The text may allow one to conclude that Freemasonry is an excellent text to study the basics of meditation and the use of pathways. As the degrees of Freemasonry provide pathways that reflect back upon themselves to give us new understanding of the ritual, so the pathways of the Tree of Life provide a stronger and better balanced understanding of self. The text offers a new approach to understanding and self-improvement.

In reflecting, I have always found new meaning in the Masonic ritual. I would recommend the book for the Mason who wishes to add a new dimension to his Masonic journey by exploring the ritual roots in a deeper meditative and reflective manner.

Priceless Treasures Adorn the Masonic Temple in Philadelphia
By Andrew A. Zellers-Frederick, Executive Director
The Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania

Philadelphia's National Historic Landmark Masonic Temple is world-renowned for its architectural splendor and wondrous artifacts. One of its priceless possessions, that is sometimes overlooked, is William Rush's "Aeneid," a single 19th century painting of Thomas Kittura, the Right, Washington, and Master of Pennsylvania from 1816-1828. The painting shows Thomas Kittura in a reverent and thoughtful pose, his head bowed in prayer. The painting is attributed to George Henry's finely detailed froiss, is the epitome of an artist of the highest calibre. It is a work of art that deserves to be preserved and enjoyed by generations to come.

Philadelphia's Masonic Temple is a testament to the artistry and craftsmanship of the 19th century. The building itself is a work of art, with its intricate design and beautiful architecture. The paintings within the temple are equally stunning, each one telling a story of its own. The "Aeneid" is just one of these paintings, and it is a true representation of the talent and skill of its creator.

Thomas Kittura was a member of the Masonic Lodge in Philadelphia and a respected member of the local community. His painting is a testament to his talent and dedication to his craft. It is a true representation of the respect and admiration that he held by his peers. The painting is a true representation of the artistry and craftsmanship of the 19th century, and it is a true representation of the talent and skill of its creator.

Builders of Empire: Freemasonry and British Imperialism, 1717-1927
by Jessica L. Harland-Jacobs
Reviewed by Cathy Giannio, Assistant Librarian

Freemasons pride themselves on their universal following with their brother Masons around the world. Did you ever wonder where or how this fraternity of freemasons spread itself throughout the world, demanding that this glimpse of the history of the Ancient and Modern Freemasonry, then truly and the effectiveness of the Ancients in spreading Freemasonry beyond the shores of Great Britain. By approaching this history chronologically, the reader gets a good picture of how Freemasonry spread itself throughout the world (much like the proverbial pebble thrown into a lake), the traditions it brought with it, the challenges they encountered and the interactions of empire building and Freemasonry.

Jessica L. Harland-Jacobs also references other authors, such as Margaret Jacob and Steven Balliff, whose books can be found in the Circulating Library. For those authors' books, check out the Circulating Library. www.pennsylvaniafreemason.org or call the librarian at 800-462-0349, ext. 3193 for specific titles.

The Pennsylvania Freemason.
Life Just Keeps Getting Better

Big Ten isn’t always, but in the case of the 2011 LifeSkills LifeChangers Conference, we really think it was. Since the conference’s beginning in 2003, the staff and volunteers of LifeSkills have been molding the values of respect, responsibility, and relationships.

“Something really special is the LifeChangers for the last time this year—and joined by seven LifeChangers, other youth graduates who are training in how to grab for the first time, the LifeSkills graduates who are taking in how to grab for the first time in 2008. They were prepared for what they experienced, but it turned out to be the highlight of the trip.”

The conference included the experience of lifeSkills four Councilors in Tuning; young adults who have completed the LifeChangers program and have been invited to assist in conference leadership; and 20 volunteers and professional adult staff.

Although the conference has gotten better and better every year, there’s one complaint we just can’t seem to get past: “What? We have to go HOME?” It’s tough to put after such a meaningful week, but conferences take up the challenge to take LifeSkills home with them, bringing the positive messages of respect, responsibility, and relationships into their daily lives in school, family, and community.

Many of our conferences joined us through the generous scholarship assistance of local Pennsylvania lodges. To all of the generous Pennsylvania lodges and members who continue to support the program of the Pennsylvania Masonic Youth Foundation, we say thank you for making this happen. Thank you for another life changing week of LifeSkills, July 28-25, 2008.

DeMolays Pay Tribute to Flight 93

The Flight 93 National Memorial, in Shanksville, Pa., was the site of a moving experience for the members and adult leaders of the DeMolay Order of DeMolay on Sunday, July 22. They were on their way home from an exciting weekend of fun, competition, and excitement at the Annual DeMolay Convention in Greensboro, and thought it would be an interesting place to visit on the way home. They were not prepared for what they experienced, but it turned out to be the highlight of the trip.

They knew that they were going there to pay respects to those who died on that unforgettable day in September of 2001. It is said that each generation is defined by the events of their childhood. Perhaps young men, who were in grade school at the time of this attacks six years ago, remembered the news and entertainment media that influenced them daily, and colors their view of our country’s place in this world.

When they arrived, they were surprised to see the large group of people who were there from all over the country and had also stopped to remember the spontaneous courage of the passengers and crew of United Flight 93. As they looked at what first appeared to be a wall, they realized it was a 70’ long, 9 high chain-linked fence overlooking the crash site. Completely surrounded by flags, trees, trees, flowers, memories, and plaques, religious symbols from many traditions and many other important gifts. They were overwhelmed by what they saw, and at a loss for words.

Then they noticed people beginning to gather around a woman who held a photo album. At this, they didn’t realize that this was one of 40 volunteer “Ambassadors” from the Shanksville area who make time for this opportunity to present to visitors and to tell the story of Flight 93. The young men joined the crowd and formed to give a time line of events that took place on Sept. 11, 2001. The ceremony of remembrance, sacrifice, and honor made by the men and women who were on Flight 93 and who chose to prevent the deaths of hundreds or thousands of others by overpowering the hijackers. After her heartfelt presentation, one of the DeMolay members asked out loud, “Why did they have to happen?” Another member was heard to respond, “probably didn’t have to happen, but things happen for a reason. What that reason is, will it always obvious right away, but eventually well be understood.”

Then the young men remembered the new Memorial Service they had just witnessed at the DeMolay Convention. The service was adapted this year by DeMolay Internationals for chapters to use to remember “Masons, Advisors, and Friends of DeMolay,” who were significant to the chapter. Deciding that the heroes of Flight 93 were indeed significant to them, Past Master Counselor Tom Moyers and the top three elected Councilors of the chapter performed the ceremony and named all of those who were aboard the plane. Some of the visitors to the site paused to watch the brief ceremony, which was performed with great solemnity by the DeMolays. Inspired to leave a piece of themselves behind, as a tribute to the fallen heroes, they placed a DeMolay logo magnet on the bench before they left, assured that they had done a very worthwhile service to themselves and to others by simply taking the time to remember.

Prince Hall Grand Lodge Embraces CHIP

Twice this summer, the Masonic Child Identification Program (CHIP) was conducted in cooperation with members of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. Both events were successful, and provide valuable opportunities for cooperative efforts to provide CHIP to parents seeking good identification materials.

On June 16, the Light of Elmwood Lodge No. 45, Philadelphia, held a family day and requested a CHIP program for the children in attendance. The District CHIP team provided the program, led by Charity Lankert, CHIP Coordinator for Pennsylvania, and supported by Freedom Chapter, Order of DeMolay.

The July 28 Children’s Festival at the Prince Hall Grand Lodge Building, 4301 N. Broad Street, Phila., found Brad Lankert with the CHIP Team from Concordia Lodge No. 67, Jenkintown, and Freedom DeMolays, teaching and assisting our Prince Hall Youth Brothetrs to provide CHIP packets to 174 children and familes. At this event, 20 Prince Hall Masons and members of their youth group, the Knights of Pythias, participated in the program, gaining the experience to conduct more CHIP events in the future.

The Pennsylvania Freemason
Turning It over to the Youth

Turning the four-day Annual DeMolay Convention and the week-long Key Man Leadership Training Conference over to Pen-Pennsylvania DeMolay leaders was not an easy pill for Pennsylvania DeMolay leaders to swallow. But for the Order of DeMolay in Pennsylvania to live up to its potential, it was essential to make this transition and prove that the program is entirely youth-driven. With adults serving as mentors, the two biggest programs of PA DeMolay are now in the hands of its youthful members.

W. Thomas Moyer, a 15-year-old Past Master Councillor of Pilgrim Chapter to be his Assistant Youth Director.

Along with several improvements made to the schedule and program elements, Mike also developed a comprehensive marketing plan to increase the participation by Pennsylvania DeMolay in the Key Man Conference. A priority was placed on acquiring sponsors to help provide scholarships for deserving Pennsylvania DeMolay who could not afford the $200.00 registration fee. The response was overwhelming, and a total of 23 scholarships were offered, thanks to the generous donations from the Masonic organizations and 23 Master Masters and Senior DeMolays.

The next step was to better promote the program to the DeMolay members. Ben Brown developed a special Key Man brochure that was sent to all James and Senior Councilors—the future chapter leaders who would most benefit from attending the program. The week paid off; the Pennsylvania DeMolay participated nearly doubled in 2007.

With the planning and preparation done under the watchful eyes of adult director; "Dad" Dave Berry, Mike and Tom settled into their supervisory roles for the conference by running the pre-conference staff meeting; daily meetings with the Chapter Advisors and Chairman for the week; assisting with the instruction of daily classes; and managing the many details that are a part of a conference for 136 youth and adult "students" and 23 volunteer staff members. Imagine two young men giving advice and direction to a staff that included three DeMolay Executive Officers; several Past State Master Councillors a Past Grand Master of DeMolay, International; and R.W. Past Grand Master Samuel C. Williamson, who conceived the concept of the first Key Man Conference 22 years ago.

They were outstanding leaders, and were accorded the respect they earned by their thorough preparation. When given the opportunity, they took charge and proved to all the skeptics that DeMolay can raise its standards of excellence by allowing youth to lead.

Mike Brown (right) and Tom Meyer (left) served as Youth Director and Assistant Director of the PA DeMolay Key Man Conference this year.

This transition took place over the past 18 months, beginning with the appointment of a Convention Youth Coordinator in 2006. The coordinator took care of all hotel, meal and logistical arrangements for on-site and off-site events. After the great experience at the 2006 Convention, it seemed natural to do the same thing for the 2007 Key Man Conference, resulting in the selection of a Youth Director for this complicated leadership training program. Not only was the Youth Director responsible for all logistical arrangements at the Masonic Conference Center—Peters Campus in Elizabeth-town, he was also involved in all staffing, scheduling and curriculum decisions made for the program this year.

Michael L. Brown, an 18-year-old Past Master Councillor of Elizabethtown DeMolay and a recently raised Master Mason of Abraham G. Treichler Lodge No. 692, Elizabeth-town, was appointed to the position of Youth Director for the Key Man Conference in the Spring of 2007, after submitting a two-page letter of interest in which he detailed his goals for improving the conference while improving his own organizational and leadership abilities. Mike, in turn, interviewed and chose the Pennsylvania Freemason

The Pennsylvania Freemason

CHIP in District 12

Hiram Lodge Shows Support for DeMolay

The 11th Masonic District, under the direction of Bro. William H. Brandt, Sr. District Deputy Grand Master, recently held a CHIP event at Trinity Learning Center, Dallas. Twenty-six children were photographed, videotaped and fingerprinted, and their parents received a safety kit. Shown with some of the children participating in CHIP are the following program volunteers:

From Left: Marina L. Brzez, P.M., Lindbergh Lodge No. 440; Wilkes-Barre, and Chairman, CHIP for the 11th Masonic District; Ray Rom, Robert R. Roe, O.E.S.; Donald Miller, P.M., Lindbergh Lodge No. 442, and Charles W. Brandt, W.M., Lodge No. 81, Wilkes-Barre.

Pittsburgh Pirates Beat Philadelphia Phillies at Lincoln DeMolay’s 2nd Annual Cookout

PNC Park, Pittsburgh, Pa., Saturday, Aug. 18, 2007 - Three hours after the baseball season the Pittsburgh Pirates have their annual Starlight evening. The evening includes the baseball game with a live band and the largest fireworks display in Pittsburgh.

Lincoln Chapter Order of DeMolay, sponsored by Vincennes Lodge No. 548 and Homeland/Mequonville Lodge No. 799, Pittsburgh, hosted their annual tailgate cookout in a parking lot near the baseball park. The chapter sold 200 tickets to their members, families, friends, other DeMolay chapters and members from the local Masonic lodges. The day included an all-you-can-eat dinner. Each participate also received a patriotic backpack cover and was able to receive auction items. The day started off by the chapter organizing and preparing for the cookout, arriving at 3 p.m. when the parking lot opened to secure a cookout location and setting up to entertain their guests. Food, fellowship, and fun from 3 p.m. until 6:30 p.m., filled the entire end of the parking lot. Then everyone headed into the park for the 2:45 p.m. start of the game.

With the Pirates in last place in their division, they won Thursday night against the NY Mets, lost Friday to the Phillies and won Saturday night 11 to 6. The 38,112 sell-out crowd, including the friends of Lincoln chapter enjoyed a great game and fireworks accompanied by country music by the Poverty Neck Hillbillies.
Grand Master Hosts Picnic at Masonic Village at Sewickley

Ronald A. Augst, Sr., R.W. Grand Master, hosted a picnic for the entire Masonic Village at Sewickley campus on Saturday, July 28. Residents, staff, families and volunteers were invited to attend the event, held outside the Star Points assisted living building. Guests were treated to picnic fare, popcorn and ice cream. Entertainment included an accordion player and a tug-of-war band, which kept people clapping. Shrine clowns made their way around the crowd, tickling smiles all around. The Grand Master spent time greeting and talking with attendees.

Make a Change... Make a Difference!

If you are a Registered Nurse, Licensed Practical Nurse or a Certified Nursing Assistant, or know somebody who is, consider making a change in your career path to a place where you can really make a difference. Our Masonic Villages are wonderful places to work because our Mission of Love includes caring for Masons, their family members and others in need of your expertise, care and compassion.

So if you are looking for rewarding employment opportunities with an established, growing organisation, or if you know someone who is, contact the Masonic Village nearest you for more information.

Masonic Villages Retirement Living Update

As the Masonic Villages continue to look for ways to serve our members, their families and others in providing quality retirement living services, we are pleased to announce some significant changes recently approved by the Committee on Masonic Homes.

In the past, you may be aware the minimum age to become a resident in one of our active adult Masonic retirement communities has been 65. (In the case of two spouses, at least one spouse had to meet the age criteria.) As more individuals continue to look to earlier retirements, it has become evident a change to this policy is now warranted.

The required age to move into Retirement Living at all campuses has now been reduced from age 65 to 60. (In the case of two spouses, one needs to be 60 and the other not less than 55 years old.) This enhancement will provide an opportunity for more individuals to continue to lead an active, adult lifestyle in a secure environment whereby quality health care services would be available should they ever need them.

Construction continues at the Masonic Village at Dallas, where there are still some apartment homes and a few cottages available for immediate reservations. These apartment and cottage homes, located on the grounds of the beautiful Prestea Country Club, are five-star quality, one-level homes for those desiring a full lifestyle in living accommodations. Currently, this means that parents taking advantage of this exciting opportunity would not need to be placed on a waiting list.

At the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown, a 90 percent refundable entrance fee is now available in addition to the 6-year declining balance option, which has always been available. What that means is, in essence, that if you pay a higher entrance fee than the traditional eight-year declining balance option for the home of your preference, then you, your estate, etc., would be entitled to a 90 percent refund of your specific entrance fee in the future. This option also is available at Dallas, Lafayette Hill and Sewickley.

As a result of our latest construction initiative in Elizabethtown, there are a few deluxe apartment homes still available for immediate reservations. These one, two, and three-bedroom apartment homes, to be located adjacent to the Scavone Marketplace, will feature a variety of floor plans in order to allow you a choice in living accommodations. Currently, this means that persons taking advantage of these exciting opportunities would not have to be placed on a waiting list.

After nine months of pre-marketing a potential Masonic Village at Erie on the grounds of the Zem Zem Shrine, the Committee on Masonic Homes in September determined that there is not sufficient interest to support building a new community on that site.

At the Masonic Village at Lafayette Hill, a few of our 21 newly renovated deluxe apartments are available for immediate reservations. Currently, we are pre-marketing 35 new deluxe apartments connected to the existing building, and based upon interest levels, construction could begin sometime in 2006. These new apartment homes feature a variety of floor plans and if you reserve one now, you would not need to be placed on a waiting list. If you haven't been to a tour recently, we invite you to visit our new dining room, bar and complete remodeling on the campus.

The beautiful Masonic Village at Sewickley is nearly fully reserved and always occupied at this time. As a result, a waiting list will begin in the near future, which means that anyone who may be interested in making a move to this state-of-the-art community should consider reserving their accommodation of preference now. If you have not visited the Masonic Village at Sewickley, it's time to experience the tranquility surroundings, active lifestyle and the fun that a community can offer. Call today to schedule a personal tour or to make a reservation for our upcoming open house on Nov. 29.

Should you have questions regarding these changes and an interest in potentially reserving a new apartment or cottage at this time, we encourage you to call the Masonic Village of your choice at your earliest convenience.

Masonic Village at Dallas (610) 851-4243
Masonic Village at Elizabethtown (609) 676-6452
Masonic Village at Lafayette Hill (610) 388-5760
Masonic Village at Sewickley (412) 927-0664

The Pennsylvania Freemason

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Autumn Day

Veterans Grove Dedication

The Veterans Grove Dedication was the focal event during Autumn Day at the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown on Sept. 15. While the sun dried away the morning rain in plenty of time for the ceremony, it wasn’t long before there was not a dry eye in the crowd. Following a musical prelude by the Bandsbridge Band, a flyover of 19th Special Operations Wing C-130 Hercules signaled the start of the dedication. Following introductions by Bro. Joseph B. Murphy, GEO for the Masonic Villages, the service branch flags were presented by the following veterans: Army flag by Bro. Tom M. Werner, Corporal, World War II, Prospect Lodge No. 578, Prospect Park, Masonic Village resident; Navy flag by Bro. Russell W. Baken, Master Chief Petty Officer, Howell Lodge No. 405, Honey Brook, Masonic Village resident; Marine flag by Jeffrey L. Kasold, Marine, Masonic Village employee; Air Force flag by Bro. William G. Adkinson, Staff Sergeant, World War II, Abington C. Terichler Lodge No. 682, Elizabethtown, Masonic Village resident, and the Coast Guard flag by Bro. Raymond A. Vaughr, Chief Warrant Officer Grade, Eureka Lodge No. 302, Mechanicsburg, Masonic Village resident. The leader for the Presentation of the Service Flags was Bro. Charles W. Brown, Master Sergeant, U.S. Air Force. Air Weather Services, World War II, Jean Heister Lodge No. 660, West Reading, Masonic Village resident.

Elizabethtown, provided the invocation.

All veterans were invited to stand or raise their hand and be recognized during the playing of their service branch song. The guest speaker was Bro. and Superior Court of Pennsylvania Judge Seamus McCaffrey, Richmond, Virginia. Masonic Lodge No. 139, Philadelphia. Once an Irish immigrant of meager means, Bro. McCaffrey said, “I live the American dream every single day. I am a living example of what this country is all about. You are American by birth - I am American by choice.”

Following the invocation, the Masonic Village residents in the audience, said, “I am humbled by you, the greatest of all generations. When the call came, none of you backed down, you proudly served. You are my heroes, my history books. The young troops serving today, they are our future.”

“One have been blessed by the opportunity to serve with World War II veterans, veterans from Vietnam, Korea, up to the current War for Iraqi Freedom,” Bro. McCaffrey said. He described the young men and women proudly wearing their uniforms in our armed forces as strong, tough and dedicated professionals “willing to give their lives without hesitation, just as you were willing, 20, 30, 40 or more years ago.”

“When the call came, none of you backed down... you proudly served. You are my heroes, my history books. The young troops serving today, they are our future.”

Bro. and Superior Court Judge Seamus McCaffrey

Following the singing of “God Bless America,” Bro. and Rev. A. Preston Van Deusen, Director of Pastoral Care for the Masonic Villages, read Psalm 27:1-3 and Psalm 67:1-7 and provided the benediction.

Following a rendition of “Stars and Stripes Forever,” written by Bro. John Philip Sousa, the ceremony concluded with a flyover by the 225th Helicopter from the Mid Atlantic Air Museum, Reading. Grand Master Augstat thanked all veterans present and summed up the feelings of the audience: “It is my greatest honor to be here today among all who served for us to have the freedom we enjoy today.” The Grand Lodge Officers then invited the attendees to view the Veterans Grove Monument.

The Pennsylvania Freemason
Heckman Named Gift Planning Director for Central Pennsylvania Region

James R. Heckman has been named Director of Gift Planning Central Region for the Masonic Charities of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. His office is located at the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown.

Heckman's responsibilities include developing and implementing a planned giving program to Central Pennsylvania, including the oversight of the legacy society program, with the aim of fostering and securing deferred and outright gifts. He also assists with the implementation of an endowment campaign.

Heckman brings 20 years of experience in fund raising to Masonic Village. He was most recently employed in Director of Gift Planning for the American Red Cross in the Susquehanna Valley region.

Heckman earned his bachelor's degree in political science from Villanova University and his master's degree in international administration from the University for International Training.

He is the president of the Estate Planning Council of Central Pennsylvania, serves on the Board of Directors for the Central Pennsylvania Association of Fundraising Professionals and is a member of the Susquehanna Valley Planned Giving Council.

Heckman is a former Peace Corps volunteer in Ethiopia, whose efforts included education and job development. He also worked in rural development in Indonesia for a nonprofit aid organization, Save the Children. He resides in Halifax.

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The new Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania Visa credit card is the only card that supports the Grand Lodge and our Masonic Charities. U.S. Bank offers a rewards program that benefits members and allows you to support our Masonic Charities every time you use it. In addition to great benefits, which include no annual fee, your choice of rewards and 1.2X bonus points with your first purchase, U.S. Bank is pleased to provide a special introductory offer of 0% APR for 6 months on all purchases and balance transfers.

Apply today using the Visa applications that are available at your lodge, or call U.S. Bank at (800) 853-8576, ext. 8876.

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Masonic Village

FARM MARKET

Great Holiday Gift Items, Shipped Anywhere in the U.S.!

Our popular Gift Boxes come in a variety of sizes and prices to make great holiday presents. You can also customize your gift with items such as fresh apples, homemade fruit butters and preserves.

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Closed Sundays.
Call for directions.

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The Pennsylvania Freemason

Autumn Day 2007

8,000 Visitors Attend the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown's Annual Open House