Unfortunately, Money Doesn’t Grow on Trees
But there is a Way to Earn Income While Carving Your Legacy!

Make an irrevocable gift (minimum $5,000.00) to one of the Masonic Charities of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, including the Masonic Charities Fund, Masonic Villages, The Pennsylvania Masonic Youth Foundation and the Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania and receive...

INCOME FOR LIFE!
The Masonic Charities offer Charitable Gift Annuities at attractive rates.

Benefits Include:
- Fixed Income
- Dependable Payments
- Backed by the Assets of the Masonic Charity Issuing the Annuity
- Payments Partially Tax-Free for a Period of Years
- Federal Income Tax Charitable Deduction

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING SAMPLE PAYMENT RATES:

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<th>Age</th>
<th>Single Life</th>
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<td>85</td>
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For additional information about how a gift annuity might benefit you, in complete confidence and at no cost or obligation, simply complete and return the response coupon to the Office of Gift Planning, or telephone to speak with one of our Office of Gift Planning members in the geographical region nearest you.

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☐ Send me your brochure on Gift Annuities.
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  Age(s): ________  Amount*: __________
  *If you are considering a gift of appreciated stock, please estimate your cost basis: __________
☐ Contact me to discuss a possible Gift Annuity with a Masonic Charity.
☐ Send me information about the Franklin Legacy Society.
☐ I/we have remembered the following Masonic Charity(ies) in my/our estate plan:
  __________________________________________
  __________________________________________
  __________________________________________

Name: __________________________
Address: ________________________
City: ____________________________ State: ______ Zip: ______
Telephone ( ): __________________ E-mail Address: __________________
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Publication Schedule for The Pennsylvania Freemason

Issue May 2008: Submissions Due February 16, 2008

August 2008: August 15, 2008

November 2008: November 2, 2008

May 2009: February 13, 2009

August 2009: May 19, 2009

November 2009: August 17, 2009

The Pennsylvania Freemason

Statement of Ownership

Stephen Gardner, Editor

The Pennsylvania Freemason

Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania

January 2008

STEPHEN GARDNER

117th Right Worshipful Grand Master


Bro. Gardner, 56, the son of the late Harold and Mary Gardner, was born in Philadelphia and grew up in Darby. Three months before graduating from Darby-Carlen High School, Darby, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served during the Vietnam War. He served from 1968-1973 as a member of the Naval Security Group, Naval Intelligence, and then in the Naval Reserve until 1978.

"Since my Dad was in the Navy, I had always envisioned serving," he said. "For me, it was not a question of it, but when."

His military experience having sparked his interest in an up-and-coming profession, he went on to attend East Stroudsburg State College under the GI Bill, graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science. "I was stationed with an amazing number of teacher types, skilled particularly in arithmetic. I almost became a teacher, like my wife."

Employed by Mack Trucks/Volvo Information Technology since 1973, Bro. Gardner is a Project Manager, Under, providing support services for the Materials and Manufacturing areas of Mack Trucks and Volvo AB Trucks North America. His community service has included serving as his department’s Chairman for the United Fund Drive, as treasurer of the Catawauke High School Soccer Booster Club and coaching youth soccer teams in Catawauke and Whittall.

Bro. Gardner is a member of Catawauke Presbyterian Church, where he has served as a member and Past Moderator of the Board of Deacons, on the Business Affairs Committee and Nominating Committee and as a member of the Presbyterian Men of Catawauke.

He and Patricia (Lulas) Gardner were married on June 8, 1974. Patricia is a teacher at Saint Michael the Archangel School in Catawauke, and is a Sunday School teacher and a member of Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, Bethlehem. She served as a Junior Girl Scout Leader for 23 years, as Service Unit Director of the Catawauke Girl Scouts and as Archery Instructor, Craft Instructor and Assistant Camp Director for Girl Scout Day Camp. She also instructed crafts and was a Junior Girl Scout Day Camp. Her other interests include bowling, reading and crocheting. She is a past member of Parent Organizations in Catawauke area schools.

The Gardner are the proud parents of two sons, Bertram John Stephan Gardner (born 1972, recently married to Stephanie Gardner), who is an SMS employee of a major oil company, and Jordan John Gardner, who is a 2005 graduate of Temple University. Bertram John Gardner is an SMS employee of a major oil company and graduated from Temple University.

He is a Senior DeMolay and will also be serving as Worshipful Master of George Washington Lodge No. 143, Chambersburg, for the 2008 Masonic year. Bro. John is also a Past Master of Porter Lodge No. 284.

Bro. Peter is a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force. He recently graduated as an Electronic Weapons Officer at Randolph Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, and is currently stationed at Offutt Air Force Base in Omaha, Neb., serving on board an RC-135 aircraft. He is also a Senior DeMolay and a member of Porter Lodge No. 284.

Grand Master Gardner's recreational activities include hunting, fishing, bowling (he has been a member of a Masonic bowling league) and skiing. Yes, Bro. Gardner, he's skied during four of his five times at Freeport Adventures, Walton, Wisconsin, with his sons.
1. Naval Graduation
7. Wildwood Crest, N.J., 1964
8. Our favorite grand-daughter, Alexis Kristiane Gardner, the day she was born
9. Family vacation in Seven Falls, Colo., in September 2003
11. The wedding of Bro. John Gardner and Barbara Yoder on June 3, 2006
12. Stephen and Patricia’s wedding on June 6, 1974, with Bro. Stephen’s parents, the late Harold and Mary Gardner
13. December 2003
R.W. Grand Master Stephen Gardner’s Masonic Record

A Message from the Grand Master

Brethren:

It is my great privilege and honor to serve you as Grand Master for 2008-2009.

My theme for the next two years is twofold. You’ll notice the words on my medallion, “Protecting Our Heritage for Future Generations.” This is meaningful and important to me for a number of reasons. First, as a Mason, I believe that we owe it not only to our forefathers, but to our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren to pass along the values we stand for, as members of the oldest and largest fraternity in the world. Secondly, as an American and a veteran, I understand and appreciate the sacrifice our military men and women make to keep our country safe from harm and to maintain our freedom. In the same manner, we must prepare Pennsylvania Freemasonry for future generations by retooling our fraternal standards, increasing communications, reorganizing our lodges and therefore, coming together in unanimity to strengthen our brotherhood.

My personal pride in the selfless and courageous work of our military is clearly displayed on my medallion. The five men in World War II era uniforms depict enlisted servicemen in each of the five branches of our military. The Marine is a depiction of my grandfather, John Gardner, circa 1910. The soldier is likened to my father, Joe Harold R. Gardner. Representing the Coast Guard is Bro. Paul (Angie) Hirschl, a Past Master of Porter Lodge No. 284. The Airman portrays my youngest son, Bro. Peter Gardner, a 2nd Lieutenant U.S.A.F currently serving in Omaha, Neb., a member of Potter Lodge No. 284. The soldier depicts my father-in-law, Bro. Anthony J. Lollio, Lodge No. 9, in the center is a Master Mason, resembling my oldest son, John, a member of Potter Lodge No. 284 and George Washington Lodge No. 143. The American and Masonic flags crossed at the bottom symbolize the tie between Freemasonry, the founding of our country, and patriotism.

The medallion represents the guiding principles we abide by today...as Americans and Freemasons, we have inherited a strong legacy which we are responsible to uphold, augment and impart to future generations. I feel strongly that we must remember, honor and think those who have given us the freedom we have today, and that it is our responsibility to ensure that the sacrifices they have and continue to make for our liberty are not in vain.

Similarly, if we fail to enable our Masonic heritage to thrive well into the future, then we have not fulfilled our duty and obligation.

The logo you will see used throughout our term is a star formed by the word “Freemasonry.” It is symbolic, and underneath it is a quote from Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe (1749-1832), a German writer whose words convey the precise message we all need to embrace: “What you have inherited from your forefathers, earn over again for yourselves, or it will not remain yours.”

We must work to preserve, strengthen, grow and yes, re-earn our heritage the same way our military re-earn our freedom. We cannot take it for granted, as the future truly is in our hands. What the future holds for Pennsylvania Freemasonry is up to each and every one of us.

Are YOU willing to Earn it Again?

If so, I ask you to join me in efforts to improve communication, revitalize our lodges and continue to welcome good men into our brotherhood. I will encourage all lodges to utilize an efficient and effective voice broadcasting system to increase participation, and will offer a new tie, featuring the Earn It Again star, to first line signers of candidates’ applications. I will invite all of our brethren across the state to take part in the passing of our Unity Gavel throughout the Commonwealth, a reminder that our fraternity is more than 120,200 men strong...making a commitment that together, we will work toward Protecting our Heritage for Future Generations.

Each time you leave a lodge meeting, you will see a companion with an American flag graphic, and the words “Change for the Troops.” Take time to remember our troops in harm’s way by contributing your pocket change toward the purchase of calling cards, so they know Pennsylvania Masons appreciate their willingness to Earn it Again.

And at the same time, devote yourself to the same challenge.

Sincerely and fraternal,

Stephen Gardner
R.W. Grand Master

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Thomas K. Sturgeon and his wife, Joan

Bro. Sturgeon is a Past Master of Oakdale Lodge No. 669 and served as District Deputy Grand Master of the 47th Masonic District. He served as Commander-in-Chief of the Valley of Pennsylvania and is an Honorary Member of Supreme Council, 33°. He was made an Active Member of the Supreme Council in PA in 1999. He also belongs to Zerubbabel-Diago Royal Arch Chapter No. 102, Washington Lodge No. 1 Royal and Select Master Masons and Dauphin Commandery No. 72. He is a member of Syrian Shrine, Provoit Guard, Shrine Club-Searle, West Hills Caravan and served as Director of the Royal Order of Jesters Court No. 2. He is a member of the Law Enforcement Pin Club, PA Shield and Square Club, Masonic Veterans of Western PA, Tall Cedars of Lebanon, We-Chu-Gee Forest No. 149 and the Golden Triangle York Rite College. He was awarded the Order of the Purple Cross and is a recipient of the DeMolay Legion of Honor.

Bro. Sturgeon holds a Master of Science Degree in Police Management. He served as President of the PA Chiefs of Police, was inducted into the PA Police Hall of Fame and was awarded the first Award of Excellence in the PA Chiefs of Police Association. Currently, he is the Deputy Director of the Bureau of Investigations and Enforcement for the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board.

Bro. Sturgeon and his wife, Joan, have six children and seven grandchildren. They are members of Crossroads United Methodist Church.

Jay W. Smith and his wife, Nancy

Bro. Smith is a Past Master of Casaphia 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. 18, Good Templar Council No. 19 and Lancaster Commandery No. 13. He has served as Thrice Potent Master in the Valley of Lancaster, Judge of Perfection, as Most Wise Master in the Valley of Harrisburg and is an Honorary Member of the Supreme Council, 33°. He is a member of the Chapter of Rose Croix and is a Past President of the Lancaster Scottish Rite Club of Harrisburg Conclave. He is a member of Zembo Temple and the Lancaster County Shrine Club. He also belongs to Temple Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine and Appendant Orders and Constant Council No. 239, Allied Masonic Degrees. He was awarded the DeMolay Legion of Honor and DeMolay Cross of Honor.

Bro. Smith attended Stevenson State School of Technology and Pennsylvania State University. He retired from the PA Department of Transportation as Chief of the Highway Quality Assurance Division after 40 years of service. He is a professional engineer and land surveyor, self-employing part-time in the business of land surveying and related engineering.

Bro. Smith and his wife, Nancy, have three children and eight grandchildren. They are members of Chicago United Methodist Church, where he has served as a Sunday School Teacher and Youth Coordinator.

Robert J. Bateman and his wife, Joanne

Bro. Bateman will be presented as a Past Junior Grand Warden on Jan. 21. He is a Past Master of Springfield-Hanby Lodge No. 767 and served as District Deputy Grand Master of the 1st Masonic District. He has served as District Education Chairman, Representative in Grand Lodge and as an instructor in the School of Instruction. He is a member of Howard Royal Arch Chapter No. 201, Allen Council Royal and Select Master Masons No. 13, Allen-Beaumont Commandery No. 20, Valley of Philadelphia, Lu Lu Shriners and the Delaware County Shrine Club. He is also a member of the Masonic Veterans of Pennsylvania, Masonic Blood Donor Club and Pennsylvania Masonic Shield and Square Club.

Bro. Bateman served in the U.S. Army Reserve. He retired from the Upper Darby School District after 35 years, last serving as Coordinator for Curriculum Services.

Bro. Bateman became a volunteer fireman at the age of sixteen and is currently a life member of Upper Darby Fire Company Station 3. He is a member of American Legion Post 214 and the Chapel of the Four Chaplains. He was a coach of both Youth Football and Little League Baseball, and was Treasurer and later President of the Transportation Union Local 289 AFL-CIO.

Bro. Bateman and his wife, Joanne, live in Upper Darby, Pa. They have three children and one granddaughter. He is a member of Covenant United Methodist Church, where he serves as a consultant for counseling and chemical safety. Through his church, he is also a member of the Life Center Feeding Program Team, which helps feed the homeless and others in the community.

Jeffrey W. Coy and his wife, Jo Anne

Bro. Coy is a Past Master and past Trustee of Cumberland Valley Lodge No. 315. He has been the Choir Director for the Valley of Harrisburg A.A.S.R., and is an Active Member of the Supreme Council, 33° for Pennsylvania. He is a member of the Tall Cedars of Lebanon, George Washington Royal Arch Chapter No. 156, George Washington Council No. 66, Continental Commandery No. 56, the Royal Order of Scotland and Red Cross of Constantinie.

Bro. Coy is a recipient of the DeMolay Legion of Honor. He has also served the Grand Lodge as the Grand Organizer for the Central Pennsylvania area.

A graduate of Shippensburg University, Bro. Coy is a former Chairman of the Shippensburg University Board of Trustees. In 2004, Bro. Coy was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Public Service from Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania.

Bro. Coy served 11 terms as State Representative for the 89th Legislative District of Franklin and Cumberland counties, having been elected to his first two-year term in 1982. He is also Vice Chairman of the Centenarian Bank and is a member of many other community organizations.

Bro. Coy served nine years on the Chesapeake Bay Commission with representatives from Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia. Currently, he serves as a Commissioner of the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board.

He and his wife, Jo Anne, live in Shippensburg. They are members of Memorial Lutheran Church, where he has been the organist for over 30 years.

Mark A. Haines and his wife, Karen

Bro. Haines is a Past Master of Reading Lodge No. 349 and a dual member of Teutonia Lodge No. 367. He served as District Deputy Grand Master for the 7th Masonic District and is a member of the PA Lodge of Research. He served as Most Excellent High Priest of Reading Royal Arch Chapter No. 152 and is a member of Collegio Council No. 16, Royal and Select Masters; Reading Commandery No. 9; Constantinie Conclave; Red Cross of Constantinie; and Excelsior Mark Lodge No. 216. Bro. Haines is a Past Thrice Potent Master and Trustee of Reading Lodge of Perfection, a member of the Valley of Reading and is an Honorary Member of the Supreme Council, 33°. He is a Past President of the Director's Staff of Rahaj Shrine and is a member of Fellowship High Twelve Club No. 669.

An Advisor for the Reading Chapter of DeMolay, Bro. Haines was awarded the DeMolay Legion of Honor. He also served as an Advisor for Reading Assembly, International Order of The Rainbow for Girls.

Bro. Haines graduated from Penn State University with a degree in Business Administration.

He was installed as the R.W. Grand Secretary on Dec. 27, 2005. Previously, he employed as Deputy Grand Secretary and held various management positions within the insurance industry.

He and his wife, Karen, have five children. They live in West Lawn and attend Peace Lutheran Church.
Newly Appointed Floor Officers

SENIOR GRAND DEACON
Robert J. Bateman Jr.
Lodge No. 767, District 36

JUNIOR GRAND DEACON
Edwin T. Young
Lodge No. 284, District 10

GRAND STEWARD
Bryan K. Fritz
Lodge No. 284, District 10

GRAND STEWARD
George Nakonetschny
Lodge No. 826, District 8
Lodge No. 245, District 8

GRAND SWORD BEARER
John S. Gardner
Lodge No. 284, District 10
Lodge No. 143, District 3

GRAND PURSUIVANT
Kenneth Rinear
Lodge No. 512, District 10
Lodge No. 295, District E

Newly Appointed District Deputy Grand Masters

MASONIC DISTRICT B
Thomas Hopkins
Lodge No. 712
Presentation: Feb. 7, 2008

MASONIC DISTRICT D
David Tansey
Lodge No. 306
Presentation: Jan. 10, 2008

MASONIC DISTRICT 8
Carl L. Swope
Lodge No. 245
Presentation: Jan. 17, 2008

MASONIC DISTRICT 13
Darwin L. Shoenen, Jr.
Lodge No. 291
Presentation: Jan. 16, 2008

MASONIC DISTRICT 19
Gregory L. Latchford
Lodge No. 319
Presentation: Jan. 8, 2008

MASONIC DISTRICT 34
Robert C. Snyder II
Lodge No. 174
Presentation: Jan. 11, 2008

MASONIC DISTRICT 36
Ricky L. Swalm
Lodge No. 625
Presentation: Jan. 30, 2008

MASONIC DISTRICT 52
William Hazlet III
Lodge No. 521
Presentation: Nov. 12, 2007

MASONIC DISTRICT 53
Gordon Hensel
Lodge No. 375
Presentation: Feb. 8, 2008

MASONIC DISTRICT 57
Douglas L. Hein
Lodge No. 269
Presentation: Jan. 19, 2008

MASONIC DISTRICT 58
Robert C. Briggs
Lodge No. 737

Aides to the Grand Master

Donald E. Alrichter
Lodge No. 440, District 10

Peter S. Gardner
Lodge No. 284, District 10
Unity Box and Gavel

This box, the Unity Box, is built of wood from trees in each of our 58 Masonic Districts across the entire state of Pennsylvania, as well as from England, the home of our Mother Grand Lodge, symbolically reflecting our fraternal heritage and Masonic roots.

Each piece of wood is as unique as each of our districts, with its own individual character, strengths and weaknesses. On the top of the box, each district is individually depicted and readily identifiable by the wood from that district. Yet as part of a puzzle piece, each piece is integral to completing the overall picture of Pennsylvania Freemasonry.

This masterpiece is the work of Brothers Greg Miller and Nick Smith of Stantonville Lodge No. 460.

The box will house the Unity Gavel, shown to the right, identical to the gavel Stephen Gardner, R.W. Grand Master, will use during his term as Grand Master.

In the foundation of the box is where all individual districts in our great jurisdiction come together in unison. Symbolically, this is where one brother is bound to another, supporting every brother Masonic Lodge. Here, each individual serves to make the others stronger and to support the whole; their combined strength is greater than that of their individual selves. While each piece of wood retains its individuality, it unites to form one box to hold the gavel. Similarly, we are each an integral member of the oldest and largest fraternity in the world, bringing our own unique strengths to our brotherhood, sharing the responsibility for Protecting Our Heritage for Future Generations.

The Unity Box and Unity Gavel will travel on a journey throughout the entire state of Pennsylvania. The Unity Gavel was first used by Grand Master Gardner in Pittsburg in Grand Lodge on Dec. 27, 2007, and will conclude its travels in Grand Lodge on Dec. 28, 2009. While Masonic travelers will take it to every district, with a goal to be in every one of our 440 Blue Lodges in Pennsylvania during the 2008 and 2009 Masonic years. This is an extremely ambitious and challenging schedule, which Bro. Ralph Slider, Diputant Depuy Grand Master of District 10, has graciously volunteered to arrange.

The traveling schedule of the Unity Box and Gavel will be advertised both in The Pennsylvania Freemason magazine, as well as online on the Grand Lodge Web site, www.pagrandlodge.org. Grand Master Gardner also requests that lodges advertise the arrival of the Unity Gavel and Box in their lodge notice as well, so that the brethren may make a special effort to attend their lodge for the meeting when they will be visiting. The Unity Gavel is to be used as part of the regular business of the lodge, but more especially, to be passed around the lodge room, so that every brother at that meeting may have it in his possession, even if it is only for a moment. Each brother will therefore be handling the same gavel shared at every lodge across the Commonwealth, as a reminder of our connection and unity.

The physical travels of this gavel and box will symbolically serve to ever remind us that we, as individual Freemasons, Blue Lodges and Masonic Districts, have a direct connection with every lodge and every Masonic district across this great jurisdiction and throughout our world.

Physically, the gavel will only be in your

The Pennsylvania Freemason

A Gift from the Heart

When your lodge receives the Unity Box and Gavel, you may want to take a second glance at the wood used for District 10, for it was given from the heart.

Ralph H. Slider, Sr., District Deputy Grand Master for District 10, wasn’t sure where to get a nice piece of wood to represent his district on the Unity Box. Living in an apartment, he and his wife do not have access to a tree in their backyard from which he could cut a limb. Fortunately, Bro. Ralph’s daughter, Keith S. Dee, and grandson, Eric Michael, live nearby in a home with a large yard. One day, Bro. Ralph and Eric went walking through the yard looking for a nice piece of wood to cut off one of the trees for the Unity Box. Not having much success, Bro. Ralph said, “I don’t know what I’m going to do… I guess I’ll have to look elsewhere.”

Eric replied, “No, wait.” He soon returned with his birdhouse and said, “I’ll help you.” Ralph was happy to accept such a personal gift from the young boy, but Eric insisted, perhaps with a gavel in his hand.

Perhaps Eric was willing to give up his birdhouse for the fraternity in return for having been a member before passing away six years ago when Eric was just 4. Bro. Slider had given his son-in-law, Michael Janie Christopher Dee, all three degrees almost a year before he succumbed to cancer, making Keith a young Masonic widower.

Eric is already following in his dad’s, his grandfather’s and his uncle’s footsteps (Bro. Slider’s son, Ralph Jr., is also a member of Masonic Lodge No. 561). Also, on Nov. 5, Crowfield Lodge celebrated its 123rd anniversary during the lodge’s annual banquet, which is always held the Monday before Election Day. This year, it just so happened that the date of the annual banquet fell on the important date of the Washington Whipple Master Brian S. Timmons’ birthday, which is also Eric’s birthday! The brethren, including some of the Grand Lodge Officers, were happy to have both Bro. Timmons and Eric, who attended as a guest of Bro. Slider.

Jan wouldn’t his father be proud!

Schedule for the Travel of the Unity Box and Gavel

| January 4 | Open Box: Dist. 9 No. 283, Clare Dist. 39, N. E. 325 |
| January 5 | Open & Close: Dist. 125, 184 |
| January 7 | Open & Close: Dist. 66, 43 |
| January 8 | Open & Close: Dist. 40, 84, Clare Dist. 39, N. E. 350 |
| January 9 | Open & Close: Dist. 32, Clare Dist. 39, N. E. 350 |
| January 10 | Open & Close: Dist. 10, N. E. 311 |
| January 18 | Open & Close: Dist. 32, Clare Dist. 39, N. E. 352 |
| January 19 | Open & Close: Dist. 39, N. E. 405, Clare Dist. 39, N. E. 350 |
| January 20 | Open & Close: Dist. 39, N. E. 405, Clare Dist. 39, N. E. 440 |
| January 21 | Open & Close: Dist. 12, Clare Dist. 39, N. E. 688 |
| January 22 | Open & Close: Dist. 12, Clare Dist. 39, N. E. 357 |
| January 23 | Open & Close: Dist. 12, Clare Dist. 39, N. E. 514 |
| January 24 | Open & Close: Dist. 12, Clare Dist. 39, N. E. 429 |
| February 4 | Open & Close: Dist. 12, 45, Clare Dist. 39, N. E. 362 |
| February 5 | Open & Close: Dist. 39, N. E. 405, Clare Dist. 39, N. E. 350 |

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Grand Lodges of Pennsylvania
Why must we "Protect Our Heritage for Future Generations?" What does it mean to "Earn it Again?"

JEFFREY COY

All of the basic freedoms that we all cherish as Americans were purchased for us by our forefathers. The challenges and questions for our generation will be Are we willing to sacrifice so that these freedoms are in place and saved for future generations? Someone once reminded all of us of that, "To whom much is given, much will also be required."

In essence, that is our challenge. We have been given much as people, and our requirement, or even expectation is ... Will we keep it? Will we preserve it? Indeed, will we enhance what we have been given for the generations to come?

Freemasons must take the lead in this effort. Perhaps because we cherish our past, but more importantly because we understand that no 

written the historians will say of us. "Our republic was preserved because they held our heritage high and kept our ship of state calm as it sailed on even stormy seas."

BOB BATEMAN

We need to remember the sacrifice and the thrill we had when we experienced Freemasonry for the first time. As Freemasons, we must live and lead by example and live up to the values and principles that set us apart. We need to 

Tom Sargeant

Throughout my life and my professional career I have been extremely clear that I would achieve only what I could understand hard work. If our freemasonry is going to flourish, it will do so only through hard work. It is only in every Pennsylvania Mason to "Earn it Again."

It is also our responsibility to protect our heritage for future generations. Our predecessors in Freemasonry did what was necessary to preserve our heritage, and now it is our responsibility to continue. Join with your Grand Lodge officers in "Protecting Our Heritage for Future Generations" to some.

JAY SMITH

We cannot sit back and let someone else do our job, or sit on the benefits of our forefathers.

We must earn the respect of our brothers and our communities in which Freemasonry is located. Over 

the years we as Freemasons have become relaxed in our community activities. In attending our lodges and in our degree work... and now, we must step forward and work hard to earn the confidence and respect Freemasonry deserves.

In Pennsylvania, Freemasonry is deeply rooted in our history. We are fortunate in that our traditions are never written down. By passing the ritual from 

mouth to mouth and from one generation to the next, we will be able to preserve this tradition. There are other Masonic ceremonies, lodge histories, secretaries' records and memorabilia that are also important to Freemasonry. The task of preserving the above for future generations lies with each and every one of us. We must preserve what we have in order that Freemasonry may continue for future generations.

MARK HAINES

We, as Masons, have the distinct privilege and honor to belong to the oldest and most prestigious fraternity in the world.

Our fraternity has flourished as a result of our forefathers preserving, protecting and passing on to us our law (standards) of education and ritual. These are the critical components that separate us from all other organizations and it is imperative that we are able to preserve all three of them. While each of the three is as important as the others, the ritual is the one component that is only passed from one generation to the next via mouth to ear. This becomes critical to the success of each lodge's future.
New Statewide Minimum Ritualistic Standard

During the January 2007 DEG.M. Workshop at Bensalem, the Rev. W. Deputy Grand Master Stephen Gardner announced his intention to mitigate, during the next term of his tenure as Grand Master, a Statewide Ritualistic Minimum Standard for brethren desiring to serve as Worshipful Master of their lodge.

The announcement followed a move conducted in December 2006 asking all District Deputy Grand Masters to share what their lodges' requirements were for progressing through the officers line and whether or not there were sufficient numbers of brethren capable of conferring the degrees as needed for installation commitments.

Grand Master Gardner made the announcement to District Deputy Grand Masters a year in advance so they could begin to prepare their lodges' incoming Masters and upcoming officers to the line.

"I believe this step is essential, as in some areas, we have distinctively degree demands because individual lodges do not have enough brethren able to confer degrees on candidates," Grand Master Gardner said. "This places a large burden on those brethren who have disciplined themselves to confer degrees, as they are often called upon to serve whenever there is a need. We must step up to help share the burden of this significant work. My vision is that within five to 10 years down the road, this initiative will be an effective element in turning this predicament around."

For more than 15 percent of Pennsylvania lodges, this requirement presents a significant challenge. "Some of our brethren may be wondering, 'Why must I meet this requirement when the brother who served before me did not?'" Grand Master Gardner said. "But the reality is, our ritualistic work is unique and significant, and we must 'Earn it Again.' Just as a challenge that 15 percent to learn the ritual, I am also challenging the other 85 percent to support the 15 percent by the necessary time to be effective brethren. Together, we can Protect Our Heritage for Future Generations."

Grand Master Gardner has received overwhelming support for this policy initiative. "Brethren have stepped up to me in public. I've received phone calls and emails from a large number of brethren who are genuinely interested in and supportive of the establishment of a minimum ritualistic standard," he said. "Now we need these brethren, and others, who are willing to step up to the plate, put their arm around the shoulder of those needing to learn the work, and offer to work with them to get it accomplished."

Richard Fastinosimo, District Deputy Grand Master of District 24, took this directive to heart. He surveyed the lodges in his district and found that many did not have hard and fast requirements of Lodge Masters.
Revitalize Your Lodge!
Broadcast Messages To Your Members In Minutes!

The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania has initiated a contact with an auto dialer service which will allow lodge leaders to easily record a message and automatically send it to every brother's phone number in their database within minutes! It is a quick and easy way to improve communication and participation within a lodge or district.

Grand Lodge will fund this program at no expense to the lodges throughout 2009 and 2009, providing a virtually unlimited number of prerecorded calls to the membership. There is no obligation on the part of any lodge to participate; however, the benefits will be lost on those who choose not to utilize it.

What the Technology Can Do:
- Record a message in the sender's voice and send it en masse to a membership list to, for example:
  - Remind brethren to attend a lodge meeting, providing a preview of the program
  - Send out important/last minute announcements, i.e. if a brother is in ill health or needs assistance
  - Report schedule changes
  - Announce upcoming events, i.e. banquets, picnics, fundraisers, etc.
  - Inform brethren and/or invite them to an upcoming funeral service
  - Remind members when dues are due

This technology can save the time and effort previously spent on phone trees/calling chains.

How it Works:
- The lodge creates a list of the phone numbers of its members and logs them into a distribution list. An unlimited number of subgroups can also be created, for use with various committees within the lodge.
- The auto dialer software calls everyone on the phone list at the time the caller designates. Calls can be made anywhere in the continental U.S., Canada and Hawaii without long distance charges.
- Broadcasts can start seconds after the message is recorded, or the message can be recorded and scheduled for broadcast at a future date or time. All calls are placed and completed within minutes from where the broadcast begins.
- When a person answers the call, he/she is given the option to hear the message again at no additional cost.
- If a brother wishes not to receive calls, he can indicate this while listening to the message. This simple action will remove him from the phone call list, or he can simply let the lodge know he wishes not to receive these calls.
- When the call is answered by an answering machine, it leaves a message.

The Pennsylvania Freemason

Why Should Our Lodge Use It?
- When the service gets a busy signal or no answer, it takes the number three more times in 30 seconds.
- When the broadcast completes, the system sends a summary of the results, i.e. statistics regarding how many calls were picked up, how many were answered by a machine, how many went unanswered, etc. This helps the lodge determine its effectiveness.

So, considering the success this lodge has experienced...
Why would your lodge NOT want to use it?

The Lodge Challenge

Each and every lodge is challenged to double their lodge meeting attendance through the use of this powerful broadcast technology. But the technology can do it all... every brother in the lodge can double their lodge attendance in one phone call. Note, however, that there have been those who haven't been there in a while. Are there a number of Past Masters or new members who have lost interest recently and, if so, why? Make it your priority to find out and invite him to join you back at lodge. If each brother reaches out to one other brother, it wouldn't take long to revitalize an entire lodge!
Capital Campaign Successfully Completes First Phase

TOMORROWS Promise

"Yesterday's Legacy-Tomorrow's Promise," the $50 million Capital and Endowment Campaign currently underway, has achieved $28.7 million in contributions to date, it was announced by Bro. Joseph E. Murphy, NHtA, Chief Executive Officer of the Masonic Villages and campaign manager. The objective of the campaign is to build the endowment for all of our Masonic Charities of the R.W. Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, that in years to come there will be funds to support the needs of our youth, our seniors, our members and our Masonic Temple—those vital programs that ensure Yesterday's Legacy is Tomorrow's Promise.

This total has been pledged during the "quiet phase" of the campaign from 2004 to 2007, due to the generosity and caring of our Masonic leadership, current and past lodge leaders, employees and generous members and their families. Of special note in this total, is the commitment and dedication of the Masonic Village and Masonic Temple employees who have pledged more than $381,000.

Of the $50 million campaign goal, $15 million is intended to support the Masonic Temple and Library/Museum, and $35 million is slated for Caring Masonic Communities, including the Masonic Villages and the Pennsylvania Masonic Youth Foundation. Donors are free to designate their gifts to any of these beneficiaries, as well as to more specific charitable causes within the Caring Masonic Communities.

The public phase of the campaign will be launched in early 2008 with mailings and meetings with prospective donors. The campaign offers attractive naming opportunities for donors, starting at the $50,000 level, and for one donor. Additionally, for Masonic family members who have included one of the Masonic Charities for a bequest in their will or estate plan, a conservatively projected amount can be counted towards the campaign goal (again, not of legal obligation), with public recognition in the campaign's conclusion, and naming opportunity, if appropriate and desired.

An additional special feature of the campaign creates life income gifts, such as Charitable Gift Annuities, at their full face value. Gifts of appreciated stock are welcome, and provide an attractive double tax saving. For more information, please call the Office of Gift Planning at 800-399-6414. To view the capital campaign video, visit www.maconline.org and click on Masonic Charities Campaign Capital.

Pennsylvania Academy of Masonic Knowledge

JOIN YOUR BRETHREN!

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 your benefits, which include no annual fee, your choice of rewards and 1,000 bonus points with your first purchase, U.S. Bank is pleased to provide a special introductory offer of 0% APR for 4 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 800-853-5576, ext. 8878.

The card is also available with a picture of the Masonic Temple in Philadelphia, a group of famous Masons or a check of children.

Request for Financial Panel Members

Outreach Program Seeks Assistance to Provide Direction for those in need of Financial Guidance.

A substantial number of individuals who contact the Masonic Outreach Program are in need of basic budgeting advice and guidance that will provide them with the skills necessary to effectively manage their finances. Many of these individuals are not in the position to be able to afford such services. The Masonic Outreach Program is in the process of coordinating a panel of professionals who will be available to give direction to distressed Brethren, their spouses, widows and others who need assistance in the area of budgeting and or other related services at minimal or no cost.

Individuals wanting more extensive financial services, with the ability to afford such services, may also refer to the program for resources.

How Will it Work? Callers would contact the Outreach Office where they would be screened and, if determined appropriate, would be referred to a professional on the panel. The professional would decide if they want to work with individuals on a case by case basis.

What Can YOU Do? Initially, we need professionals who are members of the fraternity, Eastern Star or family and friends of the Masonic Villages to seriously consider becoming a charter member of this new and exciting venture to serve those in need of these services.

A committee will be formed of volunteers wanting to help shape the program, including creating guidelines and operating procedures.

Interested in learning more or volunteering to be part of this exciting new venture? Please return the completed coupon below to: Masonic Outreach Program, Masonic Village, One Masonic Drive, Elizabethtown, PA 17022 or call 1-855-464-7644.

Yes, I am willing to help the Masonic Outreach Program provide financial guidance to friends in need.

Name

Profession

Lodge or Chapter

Specialty

Address

Phone

Fax

E-mail

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Brothers In Arms

They are two men from different backgrounds, living in different parts of the world. They have never met, but are brothers who serve one another and share similar values. Both members of the Abraham C. Teischer Memorial Lodge No. 681, Elks Lodge, Brothers Gen. C. Robert "Bob" Kehler and PFC Ken "Kenny" Henry have dedicated themselves to defending our country's freedom, as well as belonging to a fraternity based on principles of truth, faith, good will and brotherhood.

Bob Kehler has served as a point man on Capitol Hill for the President's ICBM Modernization Program; formulated revolutionary changes to our war plans structure and targeting with input from the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Secretary of Defense. He managed the $45-billion Air Force space program through the corporate resources allocation process. In his most recent post, as Deputy Commander, U.S. Strategic Command, he helped provide the President and Secretary of Defense with a broad range of strategic capabilities and options for the joint warfighter through mission areas, including space operations, integrated missile defense, computer network operations and global strike.


Bob credits his father, Gen. Claude E. Kehler, Jr., a 38-year veteran of the US Air Force, for instilling in him the values that have guided his life in the military.

"The view on military service and community service really inspired me to believe in the noble thing to do," Bob said. "It wouldn't be where I am today without him.

Bob served four years in the U.S. Army, earning the rank of Captain. In World War II, he received orders from Gen. George S. Patton, Jr., to relocate German prisoners and, in return, they were given the opportunity to return to Germany.

"At his army's promotion ceremony, he pinned the fourth star on his father's hat," Bob said.

He earned his way; he always loved to study. Very, very, very proud of him," Gen. Claude said. "Sometimes when I see him, I whistle him. He always says, 'You don't have to do that, dad.'"

Bob also worked as a city councilman and public safety director. He was a member of the City Council for the City of E. Kehler Community Park in St. James. He was actively involved with the local fire company, serving as fire commissioner for 26 years, and was recently honored for 50 years of service to Rescue Fire Engine & Hose Co. #1.

He helped implement many changes and advances in firefighting and fire prevention, including organizing the first-ever mutual fire fighting agreements between St. James and surrounding communities and establishing the Regional Area Police Information System (RAPIDS) system, covering 65,000 residents. His work inspired Robert to join the fire department in the different cities he has called home, including Washington, D.C.

Bob, a resident of the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown for four years, has further influenced his son by encouraging him to join the Masonic fraternity. In 2004, Bob was raised, along with his brother-in-law, Steve Palmer, who is married to Bob's daughter, Carol Kaleb Palmer. Bob now resides in Colorado, so attending meetings is difficult, but he is nonetheless committed to the Craft.

"Observing Masonic activities, especially what I saw in Elizabethtown, immediately brought me to the Masons," he said. "It is remarkable the way [Masons] take care of one another and others. The care of my mother was first rate.

Bob, his wife, Marjorie, have two sons, Matt and Jared. Bob likes to play golf and the game, although he claims neither to be his forte, and ski when he finds the time.

PFC Ken Henry moved to the Masonic Children's Home in 2004 after his house fire grew uncontrollable and began affecting his school performance. After his arrival in Elizabethtown, Bob's grades went from Cs and D's to As and Bs. In 2006, he graduated from the Lancaster County Career and Technology Center with a plumbing certification and enlisted in the U.S. Army.

"I wanted to serve my country," Ken said. "I felt like I needed discipline, and I wasn't quite ready for college."

Deployed to Iraq last May, he is benefiting from the many advances of Bob's satellite communications, especially in remote parts of the country.

"Space systems are a critical piece of the joint war fighting team," Bob said. "I feel a direct connection to what [Bro. Ken] does everyday and spend a lot of time worrying about what he, his fellow soldiers, Armeyes and Marines need."

Ken's unit has been conducting air assault missions, which involve roping out of helicopters to the middle of fields in the dark of night; foot patrols; traffic controlled points; and various relief missions to deliver food, toys and medical supplies to citizens.

"Being in the Army has made me not take as many things for granted," he said. "It let me see that in countries such as Iraq, living isn't easy. I've learned to overcome things that I wouldn't have been able to handle, and build a great deal of stress and responsibility in such situations.

In 2005, he became a Mason to give back to the organization that has afforded him so many opportunities.

"It is my hope by being a Mason, I can re-give the kindness that I was given to someone else who needs it," Ken said. "It has shown me the bigger picture about life in general; that it is not always about one's self but about others and taking time out for these people who are less fortunate.

Residents and staff of the Masonic Village, as well as fellow brothers, have sent care packages and notes. Bob's wife, Ken, is very grateful for everyone who takes time and effort to support him. Time in the desert has allowed him a chance to reflect on many facets of his life.

"In many letters, people have started using the term 'buddy' to describe me due to what choice I made and the current job I hold," Ken said in one recent thank you letter. 'I am not a hero, I only do my job. The real heroes are the Masonic Children's Home, for they do so much with so little. They take in the unworthy, abused and uncared for, and give them a place to call home. They are raising tomorrow's leaders, artists, CEO's and presidents - all out of the kindness of their hearts, exhausting all their efforts to take care of these kids. I am very thankful to be a part of that family. It has shown me nothing but love and kindness, from my lodge brothers, to the Children's Home, to the staff. I would not be here today if it were not for those who took a chance on an 18-year-old with a chip on his shoulder and a lot of potential.'

Ken will tentatively return for a visit in January, and is expected to complete his current tour in Iraq in May. He has one year left in the Army, and is waiting to see what the future holds for him. College is in his plans, with the hopes of being an officer, following a similar path as Bro. Robert Kehler.

The commitment and dedication of a soldier and a brother requires them to "stay the course with unwavering devotion," Bob said. "There's a chance he and Bob. Robert will meet one day at a lodge meeting, and alter things, find they have other similar directions in life. Bob. Ken and Bro. Robert are both outstanding examples of selfless sacrifice and devotion to one another, their community and mankind.

They have dedicated their lives to protecting our heritage for future generations, which is only possible when we are willing to "Earn it Again.'"
Masonic Library and Museum Association Meets in the Masonic Temple, Philadelphia: Your Librarian Elected President

Your Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania proudly hosted the 50th annual meeting of the Masonic Library and Museum Association, Oct. 10-11, 2007. The last time The Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania hosted was the sixth annual meeting, Oct. 15-17, 1998. The Association is an international group of Masonic librarians, archivists, curators and directors who have as their mission “…to assist and support, through education, facilities of communication, coordination of effort, and other means, those individuals charged with the collection, management, and preservation of the Masonic heritage” (MLMA Bylaws, Art. 2).

On Oct. 11, Bro. President Dick E. Borden, RGM, of Arizona, opened the meeting. After welcoming remarks by R.W. Grand Secretary Mark A. Hauser, and Executive Director of the Masonic Library and Museum Andrew Zellens-Friederick, the meeting continued with sessions on shared cataloging, e-books and digitization of records. The group toured City Hall, the Masonic Temple and the National Constitution Center. MLMA also participated in a video-conference with the renowned Masonic scholar, Professor Margaret Jacob. Through the wonders of technology, MLMA used the facilities at the University of Pennsylvania, while Professor Jacob did the same at the University of California, Los Angeles. She spoke on “Eighteenth-Century Freemasons and the Cosmopolitan Ideal,” then happily accepted questions. An exuberant discussion ensued, and the session ended with MLMA and Prof. Jacob applauding each other’s work.

After serving six years as Secretary of the Masonic Library and Museum Association, your librarian, Glenn A. Waldman, was elected its President. For more information, please go to MLMA’s friendly site, www.mlmas.org.

Brother Lafayette’s 250th Birthday Commemorated

To honor the 250th anniversary of Brother Joseph Paul Yves Roch Gilbert Motie, the Marquis de Lafayette, a series of special events were held in the Masonic Temple on the weekend of Oct. 20. The Saturday program, co-sponsored by the Pennsylvania Humanities Council and the Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania, had two excellent lectures on different aspects of Br. Lafayette’s 1757-1834 life delivered by Dr. Stuart Leibiger, Chairperson of the History Department at Philadelphia’s La Salle University, and Dr. Robert Allison, the Chairman of the History and American Studies Department at Boston’s Suffolk University. A wonderful luncheon at the historic 1732 City Tavern, complete with a talk by Br. Lafayette, and a walking tour of sites related to the French aristocrat in Philadelphia’s Old City and Society Hill streets followed.

The festivities concluded on Sunday with an organ concert by renowned organist Marc E. Chaban, co-sponsored with St. Alban Lodge No. 529, Philadelphia, in the Masonic Temple’s beautiful Corinthian Hall. The program, entitled “The Music of Lafayette,” was a fitting way to honor a dedicated Mason who was truly a hero of both the Old and the New World. All who attended had a memorable and enjoyable experience.

Support Study for Masonic Temple’s Restoration

To assist the major renovations and restoration work currently underway on the Masonic Temple, the Philadelphia-based firm of DPK&A has been engaged to conduct a needed "Historic Structures Report" of this National Historic Landmark building. DPK&A is an award-winning firm of architects, restoration architects, historians and architectural conservators who specializes in the type of work required for a project of this magnitude and importance. They began study, in addition to the other work they are providing to guide the restoration project’s daily work, will provide a detailed account and documentation, including both the interior and exterior, of all aspects of the building from the top of its two towers down to its lower areas, over two stories beneath the surface. The study will guide this project, as well as provide invaluable data for all future endeavors for the Masonic Temple. Shown in the photograph are members of the DPK&A Project Team as they inspect the Masonic Temple’s massive stonework and important architectural features.
Former PSU Player
Inspires Masonic Youth

It was a touchdown followed by a two-point conversion at the final Annual Abraham C. Tretler Lodge No. 682 F & A.M. Banquet on Nov. 7, 2007, when Adam Taliaferro, former Penn State football player, shared his message of courage and perseverance.

As Worshipful Master Gerald J. Ferrin introduced Adam, he noted that prior to his injury, Adam was an outstanding NFL prospect as a corner back, was ranked the seventh best high school player in the nation and graduated as a National Honor Society member. Offered scholarships to numerous schools, Adam chose to play for Penn State. After his recovery, he stayed with the team as a cheerleader and also returned to college from his original enrollment. In spring 2008, he will graduate from Rutgers University Law School.

Following his presentation, Adam fielded questions and mingled with many well-wishers and Penn State fans who lined up to talk to him, get autographs and pose for pictures with him. Adam spent a lot of time talking to members of John's Daughter's Berthel No. 15 and Elizabethhaven DeMolay who had attended the evening, and who walked away with a greater appreciation for those things that are truly important in life: family, friends, education and faith.

DeMolays Visit at Masonic Village

Members of George Washington Chapter, Order of DeMolay recently visited Bro. Harold “Moose” Buhman at the Masonic Village Health Care Center in Elizabethtown. Bro. Buhman is a 46-year member of George Washington Lodge No. 143, Chamberview. Although not a Past Master, he was very regular in his attendance until he moved to Elizabethtown.

The DeMolays presented him with a lodge coin, and the Master Councilor, Matthew Maples, pinned a lodge lapel pin on his shirt. Matthew plays ninth grade football at Fairview Junior High School in Chamberview where Bro. Buhman’s son, Chris, is in the athletiics director.

Bro. Buhman turned off the football game he was watching on TV to visit with the DeMolays. He was surprised by the visit, and especially the large turnout. He wanted to know if the boys played football and what positions they played. The DeMolays were accompanied by Jess A. Leidig, III, Worshipful Master of Buhman’s Lodge.

Isn’t That A Cult?

Every so often, a member of a Masonic-sponsored youth group will invite a friend to join and be told that they can't, because "my parents say it's a cult." All Masonic-related youth groups MUST have parental permission before a youth may join, so it's important to us that parents understand what we're about, and why we're most definitely NOT a cult. We hope the information in this article will help you respond to such misunderstandings.

Why would someone think these groups are cults?

We’re not entirely sure. Different people probably have different reasons. Some that we have encountered are lack of knowledge, misunderstanding, mistreatment from fraternal organizations in general, a negative experience and perhaps most commonly... just because someone else told them they are.

What is a cult?

Cults may be religious, social, philosophical or political. In general, cults take everything to the extreme. Most experts agree that it takes more than just a different set of beliefs than the norm to make a cult. Most groups with new or different ideas, especially those with religious content, are apt to be labeled a cult. The most useful definitions of cults include the characteristic of excessive control over members and the existence of a charismatic and powerful leader. Groups with these characteristics often do terrible damage to their members and families associated with their members. A few that we have all seen in the news have resulted in mass members and/or victims among their members. Some cult leaders, like the infamous Charles Manson, "The Manson Family," Rev. Jim Jones, "The People's Temple," David Koresh, "The Branch Davidians," Marshall Applewhite, "Hare Krishna's Greek Islands," and others have drawn public attention to the cult leader "type." They tend to be "control-freaks," who rule by strength, fear and sometimes even violence. They use techniques designed to strip people of their normal powers or to have supernatural or supernormal powers. They require unquestionable loyalty, obedience and dependence from their members.

So are Masonic-related groups cults?

Masonic-related youth groups are NOT cults, because:

• They encourage members to be actively involved in their church, school and community.

• They place a tremendous emphasis on the importance of the family, and the authority of the young parent's parents. Cults claim top authority for themselves, and often try to replace or supplant a member's family.

• They make no claims to a unique or exclusive knowledge of truth.

We encourage our members to pursue and grow in their own family's faith tradition. We teach religious tolerance, not religious intolerance. Cults always point inside the group to look for truth, never out to other groups.

• They work cooperatively with other community groups toward common goals and worthwhile services. Cults operate on an "us versus them" mentality, and isolate members from the public.

• They emphasize service to others through giving of time, talents and energies. Cults demand that service and investment of resources be only for the benefit of the group.

• They encourage parents to be involved in all of their youth's activity with the group, whether as a guest, or even as a volunteer leader. Cults practice deceit and "blinding" of operations and welcoming.

• They encourage independent thinking initiative and leadership. Good team members are co-leaders, not mindless followers. Cults seek unquestioning obedience to a dominating leader, not democratic, cooperative leadership among their members.

What can we do?

We cannot change the minds of those who are rigidly, traditionally against Masonic youth groups and the Masonic fraternity. However, we can make sure that we know what we stand for, and that we are comfortable defending our Masonic family. We can encourage those with doubts to go see for themselves. We can suggest that they take some time to visit with a local group, and talk with the members and adult volunteers involved. We can urge them to ask honest questions, express their concerns and be ready to listen openly to the response. We can encourage them to visit with their own religious leaders to have drawn public attention to the cult leader "type." They tend to be "control-freaks," who rule by strength, fear and sometimes even violence. They use techniques designed to strip people of their normal powers or to have supernatural or supernormal powers. They require unquestionable loyalty, obedience and dependence from their members.

Scholarships Available

The Pennsylvania Masonic Youth Foundation annual scholarship program will select between 20 and 30 students to receive awards, averaging $1,300 each. The program runs through March 15, 2008, when applications may be submitted. The Masonic Scholarship Resource Guide for the 2008 program, and the 2008 application, are now available on the Internet at http://www.pagrandlodge.org/gmyf or may be obtained by writing to: PMYF Scholarships, 1244 Bainbridge Road, Elizabethtown, PA 17022 800-266-8424, or at www.pagrandlodge.org/gmyf.
Masonic Reunion

for Pennsylvania Masons, Wives and Widows who now reside permanently in Florida or who visit there during the winter months

Reunion Schedule
Thursday, February 21, 2008 Tampa Airport Marriott Hotel, Tampa
Friday, February 22, 2008 Saluda Shrine Center (Saluda Temple), Sarasota
Saturday, February 23, 2008 Palm Beach Garden Marriott, Palm Beach

Each reunion features a reception (11 - 11:45 a.m.) followed by lunch (11:45 a.m.) and a program (1 - 2 p.m.)

Highlights
- Information on services provided by the Masonic Villages of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania
- Exciting updates on current construction and the opening of the Masonic Village at Dallas; the Masonic Plan and renovations at the Masonic Village at Lafayette Hill; and the new Sycamore Apartments and Sycamore Square Marketplace at the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown
- Representatives from the Office of Aging to share information on local services / Free blood pressure screenings

Special Highlight
Grand Master Gardner will present 50-Year, 60-Year and 70-Year Masonic Service Emblems and 75-Year Diamond Jubilee Awards. He will also preview upcoming programs. (If you are eligible to receive a milestone Service Emblem in 2008, or if you did not receive it when you were eligible in a previous year, please indicate that when you respond to your invitation by Friday, Jan. 25, 2008.)

If you have any questions, please contact the Masonic Villages at (717) 367-1121, ext. 33849.

Autumn Day 2008
Mark Your Calendar Saturday, Sept. 20

Rain Date - August 3, 2008
at Masonic Village at Elizabethtown

To sign up, call 717-367-1121 ext. 33848
or e-mail howe@marriott.com by June 1, 2008

The Pennsylvania Freemason