



Work & Lectures

A Metropolitan Atlanta Masonic Newsletter



Formerly the DCMA Crier

July, 2007
Proficiency

<http://morelight.org>

DeKalb County Masonic Association Report

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DCMA This Month



The July meeting will be held at Clarkston 492 (4162 East Ponce de Leon Avenue, Clarkston, 30021) on Tuesday, 24 July, where our speaker will be... a surprise, apparently - I blame Worshipful Brother Bobby "Keys" Jones. Supper at 6:30, meeting follows.

Sandy Springs 124 hosts "The Traitor"

This Masonic based play, sponsored by the Scottish Rite Valley of Atlanta, is open to the public and you are cordially invited to attend this event. Please invite your family and friends.

The Traitor is a play set in a Masonic Lodge after the Revolutionary war, and is based on American History and Patriotism. We look forward to seeing you in Sandy Springs Masonic Lodge on Tuesday July 17th at 7:30 pm.

DCMA Last Month

The June meeting was held at Grant Park 604 in Lithonia, where we were treated to a delightful meal of salad, spaghetti, meat sauce, garlic bread, and banana pudding.

After the meal we went to the lodge room, where WBro. Jerry Moss, PM of Mountain Park 729 and our Junior Grand Deacon, spoke to us about things changing and things staying the same.

EA Minor 603 won the Banner; Stone Mountain 449 won the Gavel. We had a total of 28 present, including one 50-Year Mason, two DDGMs, and four members of the Memorial Club. Around \$80 (I forgot to write it down) was collected for distribution among our three charities.

Independence Day Activities at Fulton 216

1. Fulton Lodge No. 216 is seeking volunteers to work the water table in front of the Atlanta Masonic Center on the morning of Wednesday, July 4th. Meet us in front of the Masonic Center by 5:30am (park in back). Keep in mind that Peachtree Road will be closed to traffic by 6:15am, so plan to arrive early. If your Lodge has distinctive shirts, wear them. We usually wrap up by 10:00am.

2. Please make your plans to attend Fulton Lodge's July 4th cookout, which will be held at the Atlanta Masonic Center with hamburgers and Kosher hot dogs being served at 6 pm. We will eat in the air conditioned comfort of the dining room so don't worry about the weather. PGM Joe Suttles will speak on a patriotic topic, a Fulton Lodge July 4th tradition. Dessert will follow. Friends and family welcome.

DCMA Next Month

The August meeting will be held at Panthersville 543 on Tuesday, 21 August, where our speaker will also be a surprise... Wow, that ol' surprise sure gets around a lot, especially lately.

DCMA This Year

- President: Bobby Jones, Clarkston 492
dcma.pres@morelight.org or 404-966-8050
- 1st VP: Mike Wilson, Lithonia 84 & EA Minor 603
dcma.1vp@morelight.org or 770-482-3338
- 2nd VP: David Herman, Chamblee-Sardis 444 & Internet 9659, EC
dcma.2vp@morelight.org or 404-310-8541
- Sec/Treas: Bill Eleazer, Glenwood Hills 703
dcma.sec@morelight.org or 770-922-5412

Where's YOUR News?

We'd be honored to support the community by publishing your news and events - all you have to do is let us know by emailing news@morelight.org - how easy is that?

Corrections (or: what I got wrong last time)

Come on, people - I know I got something wrong... Please let me know what, so that I can correct it for next time. ☺

The DCMA... Determined to Cover Masonry in Atlanta!

We'd like for your lodge to join us - ask one of us how.

Standard Disclaimer

This publication is created to inform the brethren. Any views or opinions that manage to sneak in are solely those of the editor, who does *NOT* speak for any organization whatsoever. Really.

Time for a Theme

I've decided to give each issue a theme; this month's theme is Proficiency - in Catechism, Lecture, and Ritual. Please let me know if you like the idea.

Old Tiler Talks

by Carl H. Claudy
PGM, District of Columbia

Learning the Work

"It seems to me," began the New Brother, offering a cigar to the Old Tiler, "that we make unnecessary demands on a candidate."

"Thanks," answered the Old Tiler. "Such as what, for instance?"

"A candidate who has received the Entered Apprentice degree must perfect himself in it before he gets his Fellowcraft. After he is a Fellowcraft he must learn that ritual before he can become a Master Mason. I can see the reason why all brethren must understand them and be able to tell about degrees, but I don't see why we must learn word for word and letter for letter. Last meeting we turned back a young fellow because he had not learned his Entered Apprentice degree. If he didn't learn it because he didn't want to he wasn't worth having, but it seems he just couldn't. Refusing him was an injustice. He's only one-third a Mason, and not likely to get any farther."

"You sure think of a lot of things Masonic to find fault with!" countered the Old Tiler. "But we would get along faster if you didn't mix your questions."

"How do you mean, mix them?"

"In one breath you want to know why Masonry requires learning degrees by heart, and don't I think it was an injustice to a certain young fellow because we wouldn't admit him to full membership when he couldn't or didn't, only you don't think it an injustice but a righteousness if he could and didn't. You agree that one of the safeguards of Masonry which keep it pure is what we call the ancient landmarks?"

"I agree."

"And you know one of the landmarks is that Masonry is secret?"

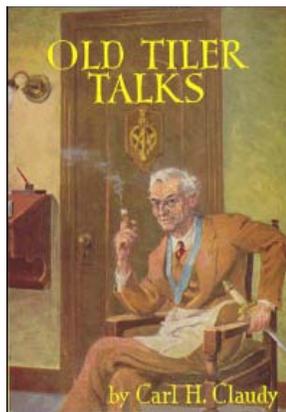
"Of course."

"If we printed the work would it be secret?"

"Certainly not. But you don't have to print it."

"No? But if we can't print it and won't learn it, how are we to give it to our sons?"

"Oh!" The New Brother saw a great light. "We all learn the work and so know when mistakes are



made and correct them in the workers, and our sons hear the same work we did and learn it and transmit it. But wouldn't it be enough if only a few men learned the work—those well qualified and with good memories? How would that do?"

"It is good Masonry and good Americanism that the majority rules. Masonry is not a despotism but a democracy. If a favored few were the custodians of the work would not the favored few soon become the rulers of Masonry, just as the favored few have always ruled the lazy, the ignorant, and the stupid?"

"If that happened we'd just put them out of office."

"And put in men who didn't know the work? Then what becomes of your landmark?"

"You are too many for me," laughed the New Brother. "I guess there is a reason why we have to learn the work. But I still think we might make an occasional exception when a man just can't memorize."

"If you read the Bible, you know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump. One bad egg will spoil an omelette. The man who won't learn is not fit to be a Mason, since he is not willing to tread the path all his brethren have trod. The man who can't learn the work hasn't control enough of his brain to enable him to appreciate Masonic blessings. This is no question of education. A brother of this lodge has had so little education that he barely reads and write. His grammar is fearful and his knowledge of science so full of things that are not so that it is funny when it isn't pathetic. But he is a good Mason for all that, and bright as a dollar at learning the work. It's only the stupid, the lazy, the indifferent and dull-witted, the selfish and foolish man who can't learn or won't learn Masonry. They add nothing to it; it is better they are kept out. To make an exception merely would be to leaven our lump with sour leaven."

"But, Old Tiler, many who learned it once have forgotten it now."

"Of course they have! You can't do a quadratic equation or tell me the principle cities in Greenland, or bound Poland, or do a Latin declination. You learned it and forgot it. But you had the mental training. If I told you a quadratic was worked with an adding machine, that Poland was in china, or that hocus-pocus meant Caesar's lives, you'd know I was wrong. Same way with ritual; leaning it is Masonic training, and though we often forget it we never lose it entirely, and through the whole of us it is preserved to posterity."

"Oh, all right! I learned mine, any way. Have another cigar, won't you?"

"Thanks," answered the Old Tiler. "You have learned rather well, I'll admit, that I like your cigars!"



List of Special Events - July, 2007

4 Jul, Wed - Public Service - For the fourth year, Fulton 216 will provide water to runners and walkers of the Peachtree Road Race. Volunteers should arrive around 5:30 am. Contact WBro. Frank Vexler for more details.

4 Jul, Wed - Public Service - Jonesboro 87 will have it's annual BBQ and participate in the local parade. 11:00 am to 5:00 pm; contact John Hallman for more information.

4 Jul, Wed - Lodge Program - Hamburgers and Kosher hot dogs will be served before Fulton 216's meeting, at which PGM Joe Suttles will speak about patriotism. Dessert to follow; open to guests.

7 Jul, Sat - Mentor Program - Alpharetta 235 will be hosting a Mentor Certification program. Breakfast at 8:00, Instruction starts at 9:00. WBros. Wayne Glass and David Herman will be the facilitators. Attendees must have read the four-part Lodge System of Masonic Education and the Mentor's Manual prior to the class.

17 Jul, Tue - Lodge Program - The Traitor will be performed at Sandy Springs Lodge at 7:30 PM on Tuesday July 17. The Traitor is a play set in a Masonic Lodge after the Revolutionary war and is based on American History and Patriotism. This highly acclaimed program should be a wonderful and entertaining evening for you and your friends and family. We look forward to seeing you in Sandy Springs Masonic Lodge on Tuesday July 17th.

21 Jul, Sat - Family Event - Lakewood 443's Annual Family Day; contact the lodge for details.

24 Jul, Tue - DeKalb County Masonic Association - Meeting at Clarkston 492. Dinner at 6:30, open meeting at 7:30; lodge meeting follows.

28 Jul, Sat - Public Service - Gate City 2 is sponsoring a "Bowling for the Cure" fundraiser, proceeds to go to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. First frame at noon at the Midtown Bowl on Piedmont Circle; \$25 per person.

28 Jul, Sat - Exchange Night - Annual AL/FL/GA Exchange in Panama City, FL.

11 Aug, Sat - Children's Home Worday - Annual workday for districts 5, 8, 10 and 11. 9:00 start, lunch at noon.

25 Aug, Sat - Family Event - The members of Chamblee-Sardis Lodge put on their Carl Cavendar Mountain Trip picnic lunch for the Grand Lodge and guests at Meeks Park, Pavilion No. 1 in Blairsville at noon.

25 Aug, Sat - Rock Quarry Degree - This annual event features an open-air Master Mason conferral with full dramatization of the Hiram Legend on a secluded mountain top in Morganton, in the North Georgia Mountains. No admission; qualified visitors always welcome. Public Safety provided by volunteer Law Enforcement, Emergency Medical, and Firefighting personnel - all Freemasons.

26 Aug, Sun - Family Event - The 5th Masonic District Family Day will be at Wills Park in Alpharetta, 11:00 am to 5:00 pm. Food and entertainment for \$10.00 (children under 12 are free). If you want tickets to sell (honor system), print them from <http://5dist.morelight.org>

Traveling Trophy Roundup

4th District Southwest of Atlanta	Carroll 69 Traveling Gavel : Carroll 69, Carrollton Bowdon 206 Traveling Gavel : Sand Hill 350, Sand Hill
5th District Includes Atlanta	5 th District Traveling Gavel : Tucker 42, Tucker Clarkston 492 Traveling Gavel : Tucker 42, Tucker
6th District South of Atlanta	Jonesboro 87 Traveling Gavel : Hampton 70, Hampton Rex 251 Traveling Gavel : Meridian Sun 26, Griffin East Point 288 Traveling Gavel : East Point 288, Peachtree City Traveling Hat : Griffin 413, Griffin

If you know of any other traveling trophies, or any current trophy locations, or any published trophy acquisition rules, please let us know.



Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

1 Stone Mountain 449
Union City 600

2 Kennesaw 33
Georgia 96
Norcross 228
Masters 295
Panthersville 543
Capitol City 642
North DeKalb 714
Metro Daylight 743, 10:30 am

3 Fulton 216
DeKalb Masonic Memorial Club at Clarkston 492, 2 pm

4 Pythagoras 41
Mountain Park 729

5

6 Samuel S. Lawrence 721

7

8 Tucker 42
Piedmont 447
College Park 454
Hapeville 590

9 Gate City 2
Sandy Springs 124
Clarkston 492
EA Minor 603
Ben Hill 674

10 Cobb County Daylight 742, 10:00 am

11 Atlanta-Peachtree 59
Lithonia 84
Chamblee-Sardis 444
Palestine 486, 7:00 pm

12 Leroy Duncan 262

13 Campbellton 76
Nelms 323

14

15 Stone Mountain 449
Union City 600

16 Kennesaw 33
Georgia 96
Norcross 228
Masters 295
Panthersville 543
Capitol City 642
North DeKalb 714

17

18 Pythagoras 41
Mountain Park 729
Charity Daylight 754, 10:30 am

19 Glenwood Hills 703

20 Samuel S. Lawrence 721

21

22 Tucker 42
Piedmont 447
College Park 454
Hapeville 590

23 Gate City 2
Sandy Springs 124
Clarkston 492
EA Minor 603
Ben Hill 674
DeKalb County Masonic Assn. at Clarkston 492

24 Southside Memorial Assn. (location varies), 6:30 pm

25 Atlanta-Peachtree 59
Lithonia 84
Chamblee-Sardis 444
Palestine 486, 7:00 pm

26

27

28

29 Past Masters Club at Chamblee-Sardis 444; 6pm dinner, 7pm meeting

30

31

Schedule of Regular Communications for Lodges meeting within 10 miles of I-285 and/or in DeKalb County.

All meetings start at 7:30 pm unless noted otherwise.



Masonic Education: Teaching Masonic Catechisms

By WBro. Tim Bryce. Article reprinted with permission of the author and FreemasonInformation.com.

I have had the pleasure of teaching several Brothers their Masonic catechisms over the years. I find it to be good practice for me and keeps me sharp when I'm called upon to provide assistance in degree work. More importantly, it has offered me an opportunity to get to know some very fine men. Very rarely will I instruct more than one person at a time. I find it is better to teach one-on-one since people tend to learn the memory work at their own unique pace. It also allows me to concentrate on the nuances of each person's ability to absorb the material.

Although I try to teach at a regularly scheduled time and place, I recognize our professional lives make it difficult to do so. Consequently, I am willing to meet the Brother as needs require, be it at the Lodge, his office or mine, my house or his. (Frankly, I prefer the latter as it affords me the opportunity to smoke a cigar as we sit outside.)

When teaching a new Brother the catechism, I am looking for the fire in him to learn the work and, if I see it, I'll bend over backwards to help him master it. But I have had a couple of occasions where the student really didn't want to learn the material. In this situation I have offered to help him find another instructor who could possibly help him. Inevitably, it is not the instructor but the individual who simply lacks interest and eventually drops out.

In the past, you have probably heard me say that the only reason we learn catechisms is to perpetuate our degree work. This is why I think it is vital to not only teach the catechism, but to also describe how Freemasonry works, the history of both the fraternity and the Lodge, and the customs to be observed. In addition, I take the student to a Masonic degree so they can observe it from the sidelines (thereby more clearly assimilating the degree). Again, I think it is important to develop a rapport with the student and express your commitment to the person. In turn, the student expresses his commitment to you. I learned this from my own instructor, and we remain fast friends and trusted Brothers to this day.

Sometimes, Lodges appoint a Lodge Instructor to teach the work. Such dedicated people are becoming increasingly hard to find. When a Lodge Instructor is not available, it is wise to get the junior officers to teach the work, particularly the Wardens and Deacons. This does two things: it forces the Lodge officers to sharpen their memorization work, and it provides the means to get to know the new Brothers who may play a vital role for the officer should he ever reach the East.

After a Brother has been raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason, I am often thanked by the student for my efforts. But as I tell them, they did all of the hard work, not me. I expect nothing in return other than the Brother does a good job and perhaps teaches someone else down the road. Being an instructor is a big responsibility and should not be taken lightly; you have to be one part teacher, one part coach, and one part Brother. You shouldn't simply teach the student his catechism, you need to teach them to be a Mason and to seek further light. A little investment of time in the Brother early on will inevitably pay dividends later on for Freemasonry and the Lodge.

Keep the Faith.

Know Your Georgia Code

44-104. Examination Necessary.—An applicant for advancement must show suitable proficiency in catechism of the preceding degree up to and including the obligation, upon examination in open Lodge. The maximum number of candidates to be examined in the Catechism of any one Degree of Masonry at any one particular time shall not exceed seven (7), including courtesy candidates. All persons receiving the Master Mason's Degree shall be required, within 45 days after being raised, to commit to memory the Catechism of the Master's Degree up to and including the obligation, and to demonstrate his proficiency therein in open Lodge to the satisfaction of his Brethren. The Worshipful Master may extend in writing said time upon proper showing. Masonic Charges should be filed after ninety (90) days if the Grand Master does not extend in writing said time, or at the end of the extended time allowed in writing by the Grand Master. (See 86-102)



77-126. Minimal Time of Masonic Membership Before Eligible to Apply for Membership in Concordant or Appendant Organizations.—No Mason in Georgia may petition for membership in any organization predicated its membership requirements on the petitioner being a Master Mason: (1) until six months have elapsed since he became a Master Mason, *unless in the meantime he has stood examination in open Lodge on the Master Mason's catechism and is entitled to a certificate from his Lodge:* and (2) unless the organization (a) requires all of its male members to maintain active membership status in a Masonic lodge while a member of such organization and (b) recognizes the law of the Grand Lodge of Georgia as supreme in all matters within Georgia and with respect to all Masons who are members of a Georgia lodge, including (without limitation) matters of discipline. Signing a petition for membership in any such organization, either as petitioner or as recommender, prior to meeting either of the two optional requirements stated herein in subpart (1), or knowing that the organization does not conform to the requirements of subpart (2) constitutes unMasonic conduct. See Sec. 44-104.



Davo Digresses: On Proficiency

I can already hear the groans: *not another diatribe on the importance of Ritual Proficiency* - but please hear me out. As I explain to the men I coach, I find that there are four distinct target audiences to consider when Masonic Ritual is worked, and each one is very important.

1. The Candidates - First and foremost in everyone's mind are the actual candidates on whom the degree is being conferred, or to whom the instruction is being given. The candidates are generally overwhelmed with the sheer volume of information they are exposed to on degree night, and are likely to spend some of the "down time" during a long piece of ritual reviewing what went on earlier, or theorizing about what is yet to come. Ritual which is presented well will keep their attention better and have a greater impact. They deserve good ritual.

2. The Sideliners - Next, let us consider the brethren on the sides, who have probably seen this same ritual dozens of times. Still, they are here to experience it once again, demonstrating (perhaps unintentionally) to the candidates how important it actually is. Some of them may know this piece of the ritual better than you do - yet, they have returned for *your* presentation. They also deserve good ritual.

3. The Officers - Let us not forget those who are doing the majority of the work on this evening. The officers (maybe they are your fellow officers) have put in, truly, countless hours learning the ritual and lectures used in the lodge. Each one is probably his own worst critic; each one wants to do the best work possible, so that the entire team can be well satisfied with the work. They, too, deserve good ritual.

4. The Ritualist - Yes, *YOU!* You have been a Mason for some time now - be it months, years, or decades. You have taken the lessons of Freemasonry to heart, and you want to help pass them along to the men coming after you. The better you learn the ritual, the more proficient you become, the better your understanding will be. Please don't forget that you, perhaps most of all, deserve good ritual.

The ritual is not the be-all and end-all of Freemasonry; however, it is the foundation of our Noble Craft; it naturally leads to introspection and self improvement; and it deserves our very best efforts.

Feedback, Please!

Hopefully this third issue was an improvement over the first two; if so, it was largely due to the feedback I received from you all. Please keep it (and submissions) coming to me at news@morelight.org.

Sincerely & Fraternaly,

David Herman



Spotlight: Learning Ritual

By WBro. Mark Waks, consolidated from his flyer; see footnote.

One of the problems that most often plagues Masonry is poor ritual. By this, I don't just mean getting the words wrong -- I mean ritual that is drab and uninspiring, which fails to actually teach a candidate. Ritual is often mediocre, and it doesn't have to be; anyone can do ritual well.

Below is an excerpt from instruction on how to do Good Ritual. It doesn't demand a lot of time, or any particular talent, just a little drive to do well. With some practice, these techniques will improve your delivery.

1. Figure out the Words. The first step of learning any ritual is to know what you're saying!

2. Understand the Speech. Don't just know the words -- know what it's talking about.

3a. Small-Scale Memorization. Now, start trying to learn sentences. Recite each sentence out loud, for pacing and practice.

3b. Large-Scale Memorization. Once you've got most of the sentences, try to move on to paragraphs. Then, make sure you have some clue why each paragraph follows the one before.

4. Smoothing It Out. Now, start saying it. When you're driving in the car; when you're alone at home; pretty much any time you have some privacy, try saying it all out loud, at full voice. Trust me, it sounds very different when you actually say it aloud.

5a. Mindset. By now, you're not thinking about it so much; your mouth is doing almost all the work, with the conscious mind simply making a few connections between paragraphs.

5b. Acting. Now that you're able to let your mouth do all the talking, start listening to yourself. Think about what the lecture means. Try talking *to* the person in front of you, not just *at* them -- look them in the eyes and make them get the point. *You are teaching important lessons here.*

Conclusion. Don't expect to get all this down instantly; it takes most people a few years to really get good at it.

Eventually, you will find that you start doing the kind of ritual that Masonry is meant to have -- both moving and interesting, enough so that the candidate (who is, remember, the whole point) actually learns what you're saying, and what it actually means. And if you really do it well, you'll find that you come to understand the meaning of the ritual a good deal better yourself.

This was an excerpt. Please do download and share WBro. Waks' instruction flyer from <http://masonrypage.org> or <http://news.morelight.org/pdfs/mem-ritual.pdf>