



Work & Lectures

A Metropolitan Atlanta Masonic Newsletter



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January, 2008

DeKalb County Masonic Association Report

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DCMA This Month

1. Planning meeting, Sun, 13 Jan, EA Minor 603, 2:30pm. Open to all; a representative from each member lodge is requested to be in attendance and to speak for his lodge.



2. January meeting, Fri, 18 Jan, Glenwood Hills 703, 6:30 meal, 7:30 meeting. Come join us as we kick off 2008 in the DCMA! Remember that Glenwood Hills is meeting at the Temple of EA Minor 603, at 5310 Rocksprings Rd, Lithonia, 30038-2332

Georgia Child ID Program

At GACHIP (GA CHild Identification Program) events, the Masons provide the equipment, volunteers and materials necessary to generate identifying items of your child in "completed packs" (not kits to be filled out by you at home) for you to take home for safe keeping. In the event your child is missing, you then provide the GACHIP PACK to law enforcement as an aid in recovery and identification. GACHIP is a part of MASONICHIP which is recognized by the NCMEC as one of the most comprehensive child ID services available and all the identifying items in the pack are provided at NO COST to the general public.

No information nor data is retained by anyone involved with GACHIP. Only the permission slip is retained to document the number of children served. No copies of any ID materials are kept on file by any of the organizers; the parents receive all ID materials and health information produced.

GACHIP is part of MASONICHIP, an initiative of North American Freemason's Grand Lodges, that generates "completed packs" of various identifying items of children for parents or guardians.

MASONICHIP is recognized by the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) and has recieved a SPECIAL AWARD OF COMMENDATION from the NCMEC in February 2007.

Georgia Freemasonry is proud to bring the families of our state this comprehensive program for the protection of all of our children! For more information, visit us at GACHIP.org or contact your Masonic District Deputy.



DCMA Next Month

Join us at Chamblee-Sardis 444 on Thu, 14 Feb, 6:30 meal, 7:30 meeting, where we will be presenting last year's charity donations to representatives of our three charities.

Our charities are the Georgia Masonic Children's Home, the Scottish Rite Foundation, and the Knight Templar Eye Fund, and every bit of money we collect at our meetings is evenly divided among these three.

We also encourage support of the DeKalb Masonic Memorial Club, and will forward to them any money specifically donated to support their funeral activities - but general charity donations will *ONLY* go to the three described above.

DCMA This Year

- President: Mike Wilson, Lithonia 84 & EA Minor 603
mikew @ morelight.org or 770-482-3338
- 1st VP: David Herman, Chamblee-Sardis 444 & Internet 9659, EC
davidh @ morelight.org or 404-310-8541
- 2nd VP: Ray Skiles, Glenwood Hills 703
rays @ morelight.org or 404-310-8541
- Sec/Treas: Bill Eleazer, Glenwood Hills 703
bille @ morelight.org or 770-922-5412

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.

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 with all the information you'd like listed.

Old Tiler Talks

by Carl H. Claudy
PGM, District of Columbia

Could Be

"I am much disappointed," announced the New Brother, sadly, sitting down beside the Old Tiler during refreshment.

"Disappointed in what?" asked the wielder of the sword.

"Why, Masonry in general, and this lodge in particular," answered the New Brother. "Neither are what I thought they were."

"That's too bad," sympathized the Old Tiler. "Tell me about it."

"My dad was a Mason. He told me how helpful Masonry was and how a lodge stood back of a fellow, and how one brother would go out of his way to help another, and if you were in trouble, a brother would help you out of it. I believed it. But I have been a member here now for some time and I have seen none of that."

"Been in trouble, son?" asked the Old Tiler.

"I suppose everyone has some troubles."

"Have you been in any real trouble, in which you could have been aided by the lodge had the lodge known of it?"

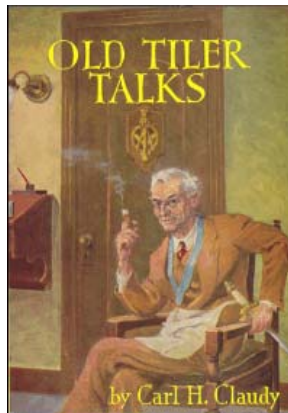
"That isn't the question," answered the New Brother.

"No, I'll agree it isn't. So I will ask you the real question" said the Old Tiler, and his lips lost their smile. "How many brothers have you helped since you have been a member? How many shoulders have you slapped? How many men have you gone to and said, 'Jim, I know you are in trouble, count me in to help because we both belong to the same lodge?'"

"Why, how you talk!" replied the New Brother. "I hardly know anyone in the lodge, yet. How would I know whether they were in trouble?"

"The same way they would know if you were in trouble, of course!" answered the Old Tiler. "I am an old man and I have had a lot of trouble, most of which never happened. You complain that Masonry is a failure because you have not personally experienced its helping hand. You admit you haven't needed it. And you also admit you haven't held it out. Brotherhood means the relation between two brothers, not the relation of one brother to another and no comeback. If you can't be a brother, how do you expect a man to be a brother to you? You ask me how you would know if a brother is in trouble. How does anyone know?"

"Here are some stories I heard last week. Brother A, of this lodge, lost his wife two weeks ago. It was in the papers. Two brothers of this lodge sent their wives to his house to look after his children until he could make arrangements for a nurse. Another brother of this



lodge failed in business. Lodge action wasn't necessary, but two bankers and a businessman went to the poor failure and staked him, and put him on his feet. A brother of this lodge has a boy who is wild. Last week the boy went joy riding with too much hooch in him and smashed up a car which didn't belong to him. The owner wanted to put the boy in jail, where he belonged, but a brother of this lodge took the responsibility on himself, sent the boy to a farm during good behavior, saved a father from a broken heart and maybe society from a criminal. The home of a brother of this lodge burned down last month. It wasn't insured. He had just paid for it. Ten brothers of this lodge financed his new house; he will pay a dollar a week for life, or something, but he had fraternal help. Three brothers in the lodge tonight are out of work, and with little money. Before they go away someone will see that they, get a chance."

"But how do brothers know other brothers are in trouble? They don't get up in lodge and tell it!"

"How did you expect people were going to come and help you if you didn't let them know you needed help?" countered the Old Tiler.

"Why, I just thought maybe Someone would have enough interest in me to know . . ."

"Have you had enough interest in your brethren to know when they were in trouble?"

"I . . . er . . . why. . ."

"You needn't answer. In every lodge are the 'gimmies' and the 'lemme's.' The 'gimmies' are those who want things done, and the 'lemmie's' do them. In every lodge are the 'haves' and the 'haven'ts.' It's up to the 'haves' to share with the 'haven'ts.' I take it you are naturally a 'have.' You have money, clothes, a good position. You are not in need of help from your brother. But some brethren are in need of help from *you*. It may be a dollar, advice, a word to an influential friend, a loan, it may be some of the things I have told you about. If brotherhood is to mean what you hoped it won't be because you get it, but because you give it. A Masonic lodge should never be in organization from which a man expects to get something. If everyone was disappointed because no one did anything, it would be a failure. It isn't a failure because most real Masons look for the chance to do something for some brother who needs help."

"Some brethren do a lot for idiotic new members, just by talking to them!" responded the New Brother remorsefully. "Do you suppose you could slip a dollar to each of those three who haven't any and tell 'em you found it on the floor?"

"Could be," answered the Old Tiler.

"And please believe I don't think it's a failure and the only thing about it which is disappointing to me is myself."

"Could be," answered the Old Tiler.



List of Special Events - January, 2008

- 7 Jan, Mon - GACHIP Training - at Stephens 586, Manchester (no time listed; meal at 6:30).
- 8 Jan, Tue - GM Official Visit to Dist. 8 - at Mt. Vernon 22, Athens. 6:30 meal (Dutch Treat), 7:30 meeting.
- 8 Jan, Tue - Public Installation - at Mabel 255, Macon. 6:30 meal (\$5 donation), 7:30 meeting.
- 9 Jan, Wed - School of Instruction, Dist. 5 - at Atlanta Masonic Center, 7:00; first of four sessions.
- 9 Jan, Wed - School of Instruction, Dist. 6 - at Morrow 734, Morrow, 7:30; first of five sessions; meal follows.
- 12 Jan, Sat - GM Workshop & GACHIP Training - at Flint Hill 731, Winston. 8:00 Registration, Morning Workshops, Dutch Treat lunch, GACHIP in the afternoon.
- 13 Jan, Sun - DCMA Planning Meeting - at EA Minor 603, Lithonia. 2:30 start.
- 14 Jan, Mon - GM Official Visit to Dist. 5 - at Hapeville 590, Hapeville. 6:30 meal (Dutch Treat), 7:30 meeting.
- 16 Jan, Wed - School of Instruction, Dist. 5 - at Atlanta Masonic Center, 7:00; second of four sessions.
- 16 Jan, Wed - School of Instruction, Dist. 6 - at Morrow 734, Morrow, 7:30; second of five sessions; meal follows.
- 18 Jan, Fri - DeKalb County Masonic Association - at Glenwood Hills 703, Lithonia. 6:30 meal, 7:30 meeting.
- 18 Jan, Fri - GM Official Visit to Dist. 9 - at Gainesville 219, Gainesville. 6:30 meal (Dutch Treat), 7:30 meeting.
- 19 Jan, Sat - GM Workshop & GACHIP Training - at Kennesaw 33, Marietta. 8:00 Registration, Morning Workshops, Dutch Treat lunch, GACHIP in the afternoon.
- 21 Jan, Mon - GM Official Visit to Dist. 6 - at St. John's 45, Jackson. 6:30 meal (Dutch Treat), 7:30 meeting.
- 23 Jan, Wed - School of Instruction, Dist. 5 - at Atlanta Masonic Center, 7:00; third of four sessions.
- 23 Jan, Wed - School of Instruction, Dist. 6 - at Morrow 734, Morrow, 7:30; third of five sessions; meal follows.
- 24 Jan, Thu - Gwinnett County Masonic Association - at Buford 292, Buford. 6:30 meal, 7:30 meeting.
- 28 Jan, Mon - National Sojourners - at Snellville 99, Snellville, 7:00 meal, 8:00 meeting. Open to Masons who are present or prior service military Veterans.
- 29 Jan, Tue - 5th District Meeting - at Atlanta Masonic Center, 7:00, Officers & Committeemen expected; all brethren are welcome to participate and help shape your District's future.
- 30 Jan, Wed - School of Instruction, Dist. 5 - at Atlanta Masonic Center, 7:00; last of four sessions.
- 30 Jan, Wed - School of Instruction, Dist. 6 - at Morrow 734, Morrow, 7:30; fourth of five sessions; meal follows.

Traveling Trophy Roundup

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

Where is the 7th District Gavel?

Where is the Gwinnett County Donkey!?

4 th District SW of Atlanta	Carroll 69 Traveling Gavel : Carroll 69, Carrollton Bowdon 206 Traveling Gavel : Sand Hill 350, Sand Hill Buck Creek 639 Traveling Gavel : Buck Creek 639, Carrollton Tyus 671 Traveling Gavel : Tyus 671, Tyus
5 th District Includes Atlanta	5 th District Traveling Gavel : Tucker 42, Tucker Clarkston 492 Traveling Gavel : Tucker 42, Tucker
6 th District South of Atlanta	Jonesboro 87 Traveling Gavel : Riverdale 709, Riverdale Rex 251 Traveling Gavel : Rex 251, Ellenwood East Point 288 Traveling Gavel : East Point 288, Peachtree City Lakewood 443 Traveling Hat : Lakewood 443, Lovejoy

Please let us know of any other Traveling Trophies!

5th District Gavel rules at <http://5dist.morelight.org/gavel.html>

Clarkston 492 Gavel rules at http://www.clarkston492.com/traveling_gavel.htm



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

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

6

Snellville 99
Stone Mountain 449
Union City 600

7

Kennesaw 33
Georgia 96
Norcross 228
East Point 288
Masters 295
Panthersville 543
Capitol City 642
North DeKalb 714
Metro Daylight 743, 10:30 am

8

Cobb County Daylight 742, 10:00 am

9

Atlanta-Peachtree 59
Lithonia 84
Chamblee-Sardis 444
Palestine 486, 7:00 pm
Grant Park 604

10

Leroy Duncan 262

11

Campbellton 76
Nelms 323

12

13

Tucker 42
Piedmont 447
College Park 454
Hapeville 590

14

Gate City 2
Sandy Springs 124
Clarkston 492
E. A. Minor 603
Ben Hill 674

15

Fulton 216

16

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

17

Glenwood Hills 703

18

Samuel S. Lawrence 721

19

20

Snellville 99
Stone Mountain 449
Union City 600

21

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

22

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

23

Lithonia 84
Chamblee-Sardis 444
Palestine 486, 7:00 pm
DeKalb County Masonic Assn. at Lithonia 84

24

25

26

27

Tucker 42
Piedmont 447
College Park 454
Hapeville 590

28

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

29

30

31

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



Masonic Education: What is Freemasonry and What are our Roots?

Reprinted from crystallinks.com

Freemasonry is a worldwide fraternal organization. Its members are joined together by shared ideals of both a moral and metaphysical nature, and, in most of its branches, by a common belief in a Supreme Being. Freemasonry is an esoteric art, in that certain aspects of its internal work are not generally revealed to the public. Masons give numerous reasons for this, one of which is that Freemasonry uses an initiatory system of degrees to explore ethical and philosophical issues, and this system is less effective if the observer knows beforehand what will happen. It often calls itself "a peculiar system of morality veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols."

- History of Freemasonry -

Freemasonry has been said to be an institutional outgrowth of the medieval guilds of stonemasons (1), a direct descendant of the "Poor Fellow-Soldiers of Christ and the Temple of Solomon in Jerusalem" (the Knights Templar) (2), an offshoot of the ancient Mystery schools (1), an administrative arm of the Priory of Sion (3), the Roman Collegia (1), the Comacine masters (1), intellectual descendants of Noah (1), and to have many other various and sundry origins. Others will claim that it dates back only to the late 17th century, and has no real connections at all to earlier organizations.

Much of this is highly speculative, and the precise origins of Freemasonry may be lost in history. It is thought by many that Freemasonry cannot be a straightforward outgrowth of medieval guilds of stonemasons. Amongst the reasons given for this conclusion, well documented in *Born in Blood*, are the fact that stonemasons' guilds do not appear to predate reasonable estimates for the time of Freemasonry's origin, that stonemasons lived near their worksite and thus had no need for secret signs to identify themselves, and that the "Ancient Charges" of Freemasonry are nonsensical when thought of as being rules for a stonemasons' guild.

Freemasonry is said by some, especially amongst Masons practising the York Rite, to have existed even at the time of King Athelstan of England, in the 10th century C.E. Athelstan is said by some to have been converted to Christianity in York, and to have issued the first Charter to the Masonic Lodges there. This story is not currently substantiated (the dynasty had already been Christian for centuries).

Some members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints note similarities between the church's sacred "Endowments" performed in LDS temples, and masonic rituals. Some Mormons have said this similarity may be

because the Masonic rituals are descended from those given by God at the Temple of Solomon, and still contain many of the original truths. It may also be that early Mormon leaders (including Smith) were members of Freemasonry and incorporated its liturgy into the new religion.

Historically reliable (although still not unassailable) source asserting the antiquity of Freemasonry is the Halliwell Manuscript, or Regius Poem, which is believed to date from ca. 1390, and which makes reference to several concepts and phrases similar to those found in Freemasonry. The manuscript itself refers to an earlier document, of which it seems to be an elaboration.

It seems reasonable to suppose that, whatever its precise origins, Freemasonry provided a haven for the unorthodox and their sympathizers during a time when such activity could result in one's death, and that this has something to do with the tradition of secret meetings and handshakes. As the Middle Ages gave way to the Modern Age, the need for secrecy subsided, and Freemasons began to openly declare their association with the fraternity, which began to organize itself more formally.

In 1717, four Lodges which met at the "Apple-Tree Tavern, the Crown Ale-House near Drury Lane, the Goose and Gridiron in St. Paul's Churchyard, and the Rummer and Grapes Tavern in Westminster" in London, England combined together and formed the first public Grand Lodge, the Grand Lodge of England (GLE). The years following saw Grand Lodges open throughout Europe, as the new Freemasonry spread rapidly. How much of this was the spreading of Freemasonry itself, and how much was the public organization of pre-existing secret Lodges, is not possible to say with certainty. The GLE in the beginning did not have the current three degrees, but only the first two. The third degree appeared, so far as we know, around 1725.

Opinions about the origins, objectives and future of Freemasonry remain controversial from the times of its inception to our times. For example, Shoko Asahara, founder of the controversial Japanese religious group Aum Shinrikyo, has prophesied in some of his sermons that "in the future, Freemasonry will merge into united stream" with Aum Shinrikyo.

According to Sir Richard Burton, "Sufi-ism [was] the Eastern parent of Freemasonry." (See, F. Hitchman, Burton, Volume 1, p. 286) The possibility that Burton was correct is examined in detail by Idries Shah in his book entitled *The Sufis*, beginning on page 205.

THE REAL SECRET OF FREEMASONRY

MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER



Work & Lectures



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Dave Digresses: Balancing your Year

David Herman, Chamblee-Sardis 444

First, let me apologize for not getting this out at the end of December. I took a much needed break from many of my... hobbies, I guess you'd call them, over the Holy Days.

So, balancing your year - you are probably thinking that it's a bit late, and the year has already begun - and you are right. I'm not talking about the year for your lodge as a whole; I'm talking about you, individually, setting some balance among all of the Masonic demands on your time. I know that for me, January is flat out the busiest month of the year: two meetings, two practices, four school of instruction sessions, GM's Visit, GM's Forum & GACHIP, District and County meetings and the PM's Club, I have 14 nights out. Thankfully, my wife knows that it's only like that in January. Some things to keep in balance:

1. Established Lodge Programs - this will include not only your lodge's schedule of meetings and practices, and any activities which are normally conducted during called communications, but also those awards, fellowship, practice, planning, and fund raising events which you traditionally hold each year.

2. County and District Programs - while some lodges are very active in their Masonic Districts, some merely go through the motions... or don't even do that. If there are initiatives you'd like to see happen which are bigger than just your own lodge, don't wait for other lodges to ask you for ideas; bring your ideas to your District Officers, who are elected by the member lodges to support the member lodges. Likewise, there are County and Tri-County Masonic Associations, which exist to provide a more locally focused forum for communication and cooperation among (relatively) nearby lodges. By participating with your sister lodges, you will find many opportunities to both learn, teach, and further develop bonds of fellowship with similarly active Masons from nearby lodges. Don't forget to coordinate with your District Deputy to get your district's Masonic Education and Leadership Development (MELD) Committee to give a Deacons and Stewards Workshop in your sub-district.

3. Grand Lodge Events - for some lodges, this may just mean having the WM or his proxy go to represent the lodge at Grand Lodge; for others, GL is an opportunity for a few days of fellowship, to see and learn a bit about the workings of GL, and to socialize with Masons from, quite literally, all over the state. Yet, there is more to it than just the GL sessions. There are the GM's Official Visitations to each District; the GM's Forums and the GACHIP Programs; the MELD self-study courses (which can be taken as a group); White and Blue card certification; and even attending the Georgia Lodge of Research when it comes to your area of the state.

4. Fun! Make sure, somewhere mixed in among all the "must have" items in your schedule, that you leave opportunities for fun. Because, when it's all said and done, after everything you put into your year, what you will remember most is not if you conducted Masonic business properly, or always wore the right tie; you will remember how much you enjoyed it!

Richard Rants: The Sun is Rising

J. Richard Sims, Masters 295

A new Sun is rising in the East that will take a year to close. As the New Year in the Fraternity starts, the new Worshipful Master, occupying the Oriental Chair in the East, will begin the task of setting the Craft at labor. I am glad to see that a requirement this year for the WM is to explain his intentions to the MW Grand Master. The plans for the upcoming year for the most part should already be written out; most were started this time last year, in hopes of a successful year. Those that are just beginning the task may find the first few months lacking in the proper instruction.

I was honored by my lodge this year and elected to the West. I am humbled by their vote of confidence and will do my best to serve my Lodge and assist the East.

It is the Duty of the WM to instruct the Craft and set them at labor for the Masonic undertakings of the lodge. It is the Duty of Senior Warden to pay the Craft their wages, for the performance of those labors. Wages? What are they really, from our perspective?

The Masonic Bible's biblical index states; "It is certain that the operative Masons who labored in the construction of K.S.T. were paid wages, but we have no information as to the daily wage paid. Free and Accepted Masons perform certain labors which are moral and spiritual, and their wages, or rewards, are spiritual. The true and enlightened Mason finds his rewards in the gratifying and beneficial results of his studies and in the fruitful products of his Masonic deeds".

In the past few years those lines in most Lodges have been very short for the SW Very few are due wages these days. Most Masons today, stand in the unemployed line of Masonry and are paid NO Masonic wage! As a voluntary society we can never force a Mason to work. How long has it been since we called on these Brothers and asked for their help? Some can no longer help due to many reasons; is your lodge knowledgeable of these Brothers. Not a single Mason in Georgia should go this coming year without hearing at least one voice, at least one time, from his lodge. That job pays tremendous wages to the Mason that hears that thankful voice of his Brother Mason.

As 2007 closes and we are caught up in the Holidays, when on bended knee, remember those who came before us and those that need us now. Also, ask for guidance for those who will lead us into the coming year. After you have given thanks to the Almighty, before you rise, search your heart, ask yourself is there just one thing I can do this coming year to receive a Masonic Wage. If each of us does this just once, there will have been almost 50,000 good deeds accomplished.

Of the 8,760 hours the Masonic Sun will shine in 2008, as a personal request, Brother to Brother, I ask for just 1 hour of your time committed to Masonry. So you may move from the Masonic unemployment line and receive the wages due you.

