



Work & Lectures

A Metropolitan Atlanta Masonic Newsletter



news @ morelight.org

February, 2008
Community

http://news.morelight.org

DeKalb County Masonic Association Report

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DCMA This Month

Join us at Chamblee-Sardis 444 on Thu, 14 Feb, 6:30 meal, 7:30 meeting. Our program will be Rick Conn, the Masonic Service Association Coordinator for GA will speak

To us about the Hospital Visitation Program.



We will also be presenting last year's generous donations to designated representatives from the Georgia Masonic Children's Home, the Scottish Rite Foundation, and the Knights Templar Eye Fund.

Chamblee-Sardis was formed in 2000 by the merger of Sardis 107 (chartered in 1870, sponsored by Pythagoras 41) and Chamblee 444 (chartered in 1903, sponsored by Sardis 107). The two lodges had a long history together, and some say the merger was a natural evolution. You might say that gives the lodge 235 years of Masonic tradition and history!

DCMA Next Month

Our following meeting will be hosted by North DeKalb 714 on Tue, 5 March, 6:30 meal and 7:30 meeting.

DCMA Last Month

If you missed our January meeting, you missed Jerry "Jughead" Rogers delivering some interesting Masonic related Civil War information, as well as a mournful ballad of a Confederate Soldier in a Union prison camp. Clarkston won the Banner (16); Tucker the Gavel (10).

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 678-313-0802
- 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.

The Grand Master's Program

January saw the Grand Master communicating his programs across the state. To paraphrase:

The motto for the 2008 Grand Lodge year will be "Demonstrate Freemasonry". I have selected this simple motto because now as never before, we must demonstrate in our daily lives that Masons are men who live by the highest moral and social standards. We must also, through community service, demonstrate our commitment to making our state and nation a better place to live and raise our families.

During the 2007-2008 Grand Lodge year we will place special emphasis on three specific programs:

Georgia Child Identification Program (GACHIP) - A comprehensive program is desperately needed in Georgia to assist parents and law enforcement agencies in the critical early moments of a child abduction or loss. The National Masonic Chip program was developed for this purpose and has become the most comprehensive child identification program in the United States.

Perpetual Membership - Planting the seeds of financial security for our Fraternity is a very worthwhile goal for us as leaders of Georgia Masonry. An effort will be made to make every Mason in Georgia aware of the Perpetual Membership Program, and new materials with an emphasis on helping endow your local Lodge and the future of Masonry will be provided.

Masonic Home Endowment - If we are to ensure the future of the Georgia Masonic Children's Home, we must become fully endowed. A new long term emphasis will better utilize the Endowment Fund Committee and refocus our attention on wills and bequests.

So - what will you and your lodge do to step up to the challenge the Grand Master has set before you?

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

Meanest Master

"WE HAVE the meanest Master in captivity!" stormed the New Brother to the Old Tiler.

"Softly, softly!" cautioned the Old Tiler. "What has the poor man done now?"

"Refused to help me out of trouble!" answered the New Brother. "And he could have done it, just as easy. . . ."

"Tell me about it," suggested the Old Tiler. "Maybe there are extenuating circumstances!"

"That's just what I told him!" replied the New Brother, hotly. "At the funeral of Brother Picus, two weeks ago, I was a pallbearer. I was late, and didn't go to the temple to see the lodge opened, but drove my car directly to the church. There was a big crowd, of course; Brother Picus was much beloved. I couldn't find a parking space. I drove around the block and finally found one and backed in. When I came out of the church a cop was standing by my car and I had a hard time to keep him from taking me to the police station! I finally convinced him that I had to act as a pallbearer, but I got a summons to go to court the next day.

"I took it up with the Master. He knows the Captain of that precinct. All he needed to do was to see him, but he wouldn't move in the matter. I think that was mean and maybe un-Masonic."

"Sounds very bad, to me," answered the Old Tiler, noncommittally. "What did the cop say you did?"

"Parked in the wrong place," answered the New Brother. "I didn't see any sign!"

"That all?" asked the Old Tiler.

"No -- he said I had left my engine running and he had stopped it."

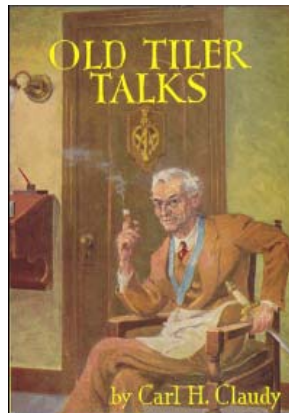
"Well, did you?"

"Why, yes, I did. I knew I'd only be a minute in the church. The old car starts so hard so I just let her run."

"Oh, you did. Well, now, that makes it look even worse!" grinned the Old Tiler.

"I don't think I understand . . ."

"You will in a minute!" answered the Old Tiler, grimly. "The Master has a right to complain to me that you are a mean Master Mason! You go to a funeral and break two regulations; one of no, one of great importance. Then you ask the Master to intercede, ask that the police Captain elude his duty, all because you are a Mason! You try to make Masonry the father of special privilege and hide behind your apron, while a profane would have to



pay the penalty of lawlessness! It looks very bad, my brother, but not for the Master."

"Oh, I say, Old Tiler! You are rough!"

"I haven't started yet," answered the Old Tiler. "Let me tell you . . ."

"But they were such little violations!" interrupted the New Brother.

"They were not!" answered the Old Tiler sharply. "You were a menace to society. Parking wrong is no crime; it is merely an inconvenience to others. But leaving your engine running is a serious offense because of the possibility of damage. Gear shift levers have been known to engage themselves. Small boys who want to drive a car like Dad have been known to get in cars with engines running and damage themselves and other people. I'm glad the Master had sense to let well enough alone. What did the judge say?"

"Well, he said pretty much what you said!" answered the New Brother, shamefacedly. "He only fined me ten dollars, although he might have plastered fifty on me. Said he would have turned me loose for the wrong parking, considering the reason for my haste, but that there was no excuse for leaving the engine running."

"Sensible judge!" remarked the Old Tiler. "Masonry is no mother of special privilege. There is no reason why a Mason should be permitted to get away with anything his profane brother can't do. Masons are supposed to be the pick of the community. They are taught to revere their country and its laws. Oh, I know this is a mere police requirement. But police regulations are as necessary for comfort and safety as amendments to the Constitution. Of all people, Masons ought to observe them. When a Mason breaks a regulation, he should take his medicine. Your Master showed good judgment not to interfere. Had he done so successfully, he would have taught you that you could break the law with impunity, because Masonry would 'square' it for you. Instead of being the 'meanest' Master, I am inclined to think we have the most intelligent Master in captivity."

"I suppose you are right. Somehow, I never see the things the same way after I talk with you. I guess I'll have to speak to him, after all."

"Speak to who?" asked the Old Tiler.

"I had about made up my mind I wouldn't speak to the Master any more!"

"We sure did make a mistake!" answered the Old Tiler.

"Who did?"

"We did. We took in a child, and the Masonic law requires us only to accept grown up men. grinned the Old Tiler. "Next you'll be sticking your tongue out at me, or slapping me on the wrist, or refusing to play in my anteroom!"

To his credit be it said, the New Brother blushed.



List of Special Events - February, 2008

- 3 Feb, Sun - GACHIP Training - Meridian Sun 26, Griffin. 2:00 - 4:30.
- 4 Feb, Mon - Fellow Craft Conferral - Tucker 42, Tucker. 6:30 meal, 7:30 meeting..
- 9 Feb, Sat - Georgia Masonic Secretary's Association - Scottish Rite Center, Macon. 9:00 meeting.
- 9 Feb, Sat - DDGM & MELD meetings - Children's Home, Macon. 10:00.
- 9 Feb, Sat - Home Trustee meeting - Children's Home, Macon. 1:00.
- 9 Feb, Sat - Gwinnett County Masonic Association - Sweetwater 421, Lilburn. 6:30 meal, 7:30 meeting.
- 14 Feb, Thu - DeKalb County Masonic Association - at Chamblee-Sardis 444, Chamblee. 6:30 meal, 7:30 meeting.
- 19 Feb, Tue - MELD Presentation - Kennesaw 33, Marietta. 6:30 meal, 7:30 meeting.
- 23 Feb, Sat - Masonic Home Ambassador Workshop - at the Home, 8:00 registration, 9:00 meeting.
- 28 Feb, Thu - Fellow Craft Conferral - at Chamblee-Sardis 444, Chamblee (pending exam). 6:30 meal, 7:30 meeting.
- 6 Mar, Thu - Grand Master's Visitation - Mountain Park 729, Stone Mountain. 6:30 mail, 7:30 meeting.
- 8 Mar, Sat - Shellman's Bluff Workday - 8:00 registration, 9:00 meeting.
- 8 Mar, Sat - Master Mason Conferral - Kennesaw 33, Marietta. 8:00 meal, 9:00 meeting. Knights of Mecca to confer.
- 8 Mar, Sat - Gwinnett County Masonic Association - Lawrenceville 131, Lawrenceville. 6:30 meal, 7:30 meeting.

Masonic Graveside Services

We owe proficient Masonic Graveside Services to those who request them. There are groups in the metro area which can perform these services if your lodge needs assistance.

I have been asked to collect the following information from any Memorial Club, so that Secretaries can consult the 5th District website to find a group to reach out to for help.

If you are involved in such a group, please email news @ morelight.org with the following:

Club Name, area of coverage, and contact person's name and phone number (and email).

Let's ensure that no Brother has to do without. Please pass this request along. Thank you.



Traveling Trophy Roundup

4 th District SW of Atlanta	Carroll 69 Traveling Gavel : Carroll 69, Carrollton
	Bowdon 206 Traveling Gavel : Temple 322, Temple
	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
9 th District NE of Atlanta	Gwinnett County Donkey : Mountain Park 729, Stone Mtn.

If you know of any other Metro Atlanta area traveling trophies or any published trophy acquisition rules, please let us know.

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.

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

3

Snellville 99
Stone Mountain 449
Union City 600

4

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

5

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

6

Pythagoras 41
Mountain Park 729

7

Leroy Duncan 262

8

Campbellton 76
Nelms 323
Gwinnett County Masonic Assn. at Sweetwater 421

9

10

Tucker 42
Piedmont 447
College Park 454
Hapeville 590

11

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

12

Cobb County Daylight 742, 10:00 am

13

Atlanta-Peachtree 59
Lithonia 84
Chamblee-Sardis 444
Palestine 486, 7:00 pm
Grant Park 604
DeKalb County Masonic Assn. at Chamblee-Sardis 444

14

Glenwood Hills 703

15

Samuel S. Lawrence 721

16

17

Snellville 99
Stone Mountain 449
Union City 600

18

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

19

Fulton 216

20

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

21

22

23

24

Tucker 42
Piedmont 447
College Park 454
Hapeville 590

25

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

26

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

27

Lithonia 84
Chamblee-Sardis 444
Palestine 486, 7:00 pm

28



What is the desired image of Freemasonry?

From our difficult discussions of the current environment in which Freemasonry finds itself, we turned to consider Masonry's identity under ideal circumstances. The model Masonic fraternity would be one that defines itself in terms of *thought, energy, and action*. Under perfect circumstances, the public would know Masons according to the following observable accomplishments:

- Building community based on shared Masonic values
- Constructing a positive environment for personal growth
- Encouraging education, idea sharing, and open discussion
- Welcoming diversity across religious denominations, ethnicity and age
- Growing leadership ability
- Establishing the relevance of Masonic values to contemporary life
- Advocating concern for the well being of other Masons and their families

Ideally, Masons would be defined as members of a fraternity, that fits the following descriptions:

- Masonry is a serious men's organization, dedicated to self-improvement coupled with community involvement.
- Masonry is a provider of camaraderie, trust in each other, instant fellowship, and brotherhood.
- Masonry brings together a group of people who emphasize individual excellence.
- Masonry is a provider of an atmosphere of inclusiveness.
- Masonry *is* an organization that makes good men better.

Summary: The model Masonic fraternity member would be easy to identify in the community by his actions and words. Public awareness of Masonry begins at a grassroots level. Masons must be visible in the community to demonstrate Masonic values in many aspects of their lives.

Take action now!

Beginning at the lodge level, plan meaningful activities that put Masonic values into action. Consider how you and your lodge can make each and every activity uniquely Masonic. Listed below are just a few suggestions that place a focus on using your time to its greatest Masonic advantage:

1. Apply concepts of education and self-improvement to current print and non-print communications tools of individual lodges, Grand Lodges, and national Masonic organizations and societies.
2. Improve the environment of lodge-based fellowship; refresh the look of the lodge; welcome new members; improve presentation skills; provide mentoring to study degrees; and strengthen communications skills.
3. Organize group activities based on education and self-improvement that can enrich lodge-centered fellowship such as: welcoming committees, lodge renovation and clean-up campaigns, leadership development conferences, mentor meetings, workshops on such things as Masonic ritual, history, symbolism, architectural works, arts and cultural works.
4. Initiate workshops on personal growth topics. Learn more about Masonry.
5. Call on local educational faculty: expert lecturers on topics of unique interest to the lodge members that enrich the body, mind, and spirit of the brothers.
6. Tap the talents of individual members and build a community of experts to help Masons to help themselves and their communities.
7. Improve community accessibility to Masonry through public outreach and program hosting.
8. Offer Masonic recognition and incentive programs for educational initiatives, visitor programs and Chambers of Commerce presentations.
9. Honor the Mason within yourself.
10. Share success stories with other lodges.



Dave Digresses: Community

David Herman, PM, Chamblee-Sardis 444
5th District MELD Director

Community Service. For some of us, individuals and lodges, it has been a regular part of our lives. For others, not so much. This year, the GM wants it to be part of every lodge and every mason. But what community does he mean?

Years ago, that was an easy question. People in general tended to grow up, go to school, get a job, get married, buy a house, and raise their own children all in the same town or neighborhood. Their community really was a community - with the same names and faces at work, church, little league, scouts, 4-H, the supermarket, school, the bowling alley, the diner or restaurant, and even the corner pub.

Many sources today will tell you that the average American family relocates about every six years. That may not sound like a lot, but it really is. When families move that often, the children don't form life-long friendships and the adults don't become more than peripheral members of work, church and social groups, and "hey neighbors", who get waved to at the mail box and little else. They don't get to know the personalities of the community with any depth, and they don't get to realize that the men they would like to emulate are mostly Masons.

So what is our community today? Is it the area where I live? Where I work? Where I go to lodge? Because these are all different areas.

Since I became a Mason 15 years ago, I've had two apartments (thankfully, in a house for 12+ years now), and changed jobs three times. But even though I have to drive within a couple of miles of a couple of lodges to get from my home to my lodge, that remains my lodge. And even though those who were the most active when I joined used to all live fairly close by, very few of them do any longer.

There's something about a lodge - more especially a friendly, active lodge - that makes its members want to remain members, even if they move across town, or retire way up north.

So, even if a lodge's members all live and work miles away, they still (hopefully) care enough about that lodge to come together once or twice a month and help make good men into Masons, and work on their own self improvement. I think this is the appropriate "community" for the lodge's public efforts.

This is the community where we have been giving away scholarships to graduating seniors. This is the community that comes to our fund raisers. This is the community of which so many of the "old pillars" were also members of our lodge. This is the community where we are turning an empty lot into a garden. And this is the community we are partnering with for GACHIP and other public-oriented programs.

What does *your* community know about Masons?

Richard Reflects: The Dash

J. Richard Sims, SW, Masters 295
5th District GACHIP Director

Brethren,

Over the last couple of months I have had to attend a few funerals. Standing at some of the grave sites I looked around and saw so many names and dates, they were all different of course but I noticed one common thing on each of the stones. Each person's life was represented by a dash in between their birth and their death. Some times were long and others were short, but still there was that dash that represented an entire life. There were some meaningful statements about the person, but the dash was their time on this earth.

Most of you that may be reading this have more of that dash behind you than in front, as I have. What should that dash say about you if it could talk? I feel that most Masons would think they have lead a good life, as I feel most have. When was the last time you did something wonderful for another person? Has it been a few months or has it been years? I am not talking about doing a good deed that took a few minutes, I asking when you were part of something that truly changed the life of another person?

We as modern day Masons, do not see where Masons get together and raise a home for a family in need. We seem to barely have time to attend lodge and take care of our families. We seem to dash around from soccer field to baseball fields and then life is in overdrive. Times were so much simpler a few years ago. I looked at my own life and found that I could make more time to help, simply by missing a few TV shows. Those few hours of missed TV could not enrich my life as much as helping out my community.

I hope that the work I try to do will some day help someone and maybe if I'm lucky change a life. I would like to take that dash that will someday adorn my headstone and turn it into an underline, under the word "Mason". What about you, do you wish to change a life and show someone by your

actions and deeds that being a Mason is still one of life's best achievements?

Do not go through your Masonic life and not leave any other mark than the dash between your birth and your death. Be the Mason you always wanted to be.

And be a Mason that left more than a dash in your community.

