



Work & Lectures

A Metropolitan Atlanta Masonic Newsletter

news @ morelight . org

http://news.morelight.org



June, 2008
Memorial Services

DeKalb County Masonic Association Report

In This Issue

- 1- Metro News & DCMA Report
- 2- Old Tyler Talks: *Substitutions at Funerals*
- 3- List of Special Events & Trophy Roundup
- 4- Calendar of Regular Atlanta Communications
- 5- Masonic Ed.: *Masonic Funerals & Contact Info*
- 6- Davo: *Diary of a DDGM* & Richard: *A Life Worth Living*

DCMA This Month



Join us at Grant Park 604 on Thursday, 12 June; 6:30 meal, 7:30 meeting. Grant Park's membership includes Past Deputy Grand Master Oliver Grantham and District Deputy Robert Young. *This month's program has not yet been announced.*

The site of last year's 5th District Convention, Grant Park Lodge meets at 5843 Redan Rd, Lithonia, 30058-5494.

DCMA Next Month

Next month's meeting will be hosted by Clarkston 492 on Tuesday, 22 July; 6:30 meal and 7:30 meeting. *Next month's program has not yet been announced.* Located barely outside of I-285 on East Ponce de Leon Ave., Clarkston Lodge is just across the tracks from Clarkston City Hall.

DCMA Last Month

If you missed our last meeting, you missed an evening in downtown Lithonia, where the brethren of Lithonia Lodge hosted us in their historic building with a meal featuring an apparently endless supply of ham sandwiches - and we really tried to get to the bottom, too!

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.*

Directions & Maps

Brethren: directions, maps and meeting information for all DCMA member lodges can be found from the DCMA website at <http://dcma.morelight.org>

GACHIP Report

On Saturday, May 17, in the parking lot of the GBI, your GACHIP Team prepared packages for 330 children. Food and beverages were provided by the GBI.

There were entertainment and education groups from all over the state, including air rides, Star Wars characters, the Batmobile, Fire, Police, Rescue, Canine Bomb and Aquatic units of various Public Safety departments showing off their toys... I mean, tools. A big thanks to the program coordinators and all the volunteers who showed up to support this excellent event.



Visit GACHIP.org for a calendar and further information about GACHIP and upcoming programs.

Around the District

May saw Bro. Ted Collins, the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Georgia, make three visits to the Fifth District - Clarkston 492, Roswell 165, and Sandy Springs 124.

I don't see any June visits to the 5th on his calendar, but on 16 June the MWGM will be at Snellville 99, in Gwinnett County.

The GACHIP program for 14 June at Fulton 216 has been postponed; please check GACHIP.org for updates. A visit there shows nine events in June, but none in the 5th.

We have Master Mason conferrals on 24 June at Kennesaw 33; 26 June at Chamblee-Sardis 444; and one on 28 June at Douglasville 289 by the Knights of Mecca.

Standard Disclaimer

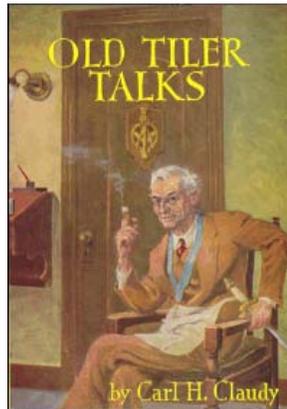
This publication is created to inform the brethren. Any views or opinions that manage to sneak in are solely those of the editor, who does **NOT** speak for any organization whatsoever. Really.

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](mailto:news@morelight.org) with all the information you'd like listed.

Old Tiler Talks

by Carl H. Claudy
PGM, District of Columbia



Substitutes at Funerals

"It's too bad!" complained the New Brother, "I've got drawn on a funeral committee on the very day I want to play golf. I wonder if I can find a substitute?"

"Very likely," answered the Old Tiler. "The world is full of substitutes who perform the duties of people too lazy, inefficient, and careless of the rights of others to do it themselves."

"Oh, come now, don't be so rough!" The New Brother winced. "Going to funerals is all form. Why, I never even saw this deceased brother! What difference will it make to him or his family if I go to his funeral myself or get someone else to go for me?"

"No difference at all," agreed the Old Tiler. The only person to whom it will make any difference will be you."

"The difference it will make to me will be the difference between being bored and having a good game of golf!" asserted the New Brother.

"It will make other difference." The Old Tiler was very emphatic. "One of them is that the only importance Masonry has is what it does to a man's heart. Objectively, it is of less importance than the necktie he wears. The important part of Masonry is its leavening power on that part of a man which is the ego, the person, the individual.

"The effect Masonry has on a man's heart is aided by the mechanics of Masonry; temple, lodge room, dignity of the order, its public appearances, the respect it shows to its dead, its educational work, appeal to the general public, its secrecy, its reputation of being above party and politics, its alliance with all religion and its participation in none. These make Masonry objective, but they are the outward semblance of the inward and spiritual Masonry. These you ought to know for yourself: charity, relief, brotherly love, truth, knowledge, self-sacrifice, tolerance.

"But how can you separate the inward and spiritual from the outward and objective? We build beautiful temples and meet in handsome lodge rooms, to express our love for our belief. We make lodge work dignified, well done, impressive, to express to ourselves our sense of the dignity of the truths we teach. We conduct the funeral of a deceased brother, not to make a show before the world, but to express to ourselves our regret that a brother has departed and our conviction that he has but traveled upward to that Temple Not Made With Hands, where the Supreme Architect waits for all who have been builders upon earth.

"The world does judge by externals. As we make an impressive appearance at a funeral, so do the profane judge us. If we make a poor and straggling appearance at a funeral, we are judged by those who do not know Masonry from the inside. Therefore it is important to those who care for the good name of Masonry that our funerals are well attended and that we conform to these outward marks of grief which custom has made essential at a funeral.

"It is usual to have a funeral committee. In large lodges it is more essential than in small, because in small lodges everyone knows everyone else and goes to a funeral because he wants to. In large lodges we don't know everyone, and unless we have a committee we don't put up the right kind of 'front' at a funeral. The more obscure and unknown the brother, the less the size of the lodge turnout. Hence the committee, chosen by lot or alphabetical order.

"In this lodge we have many members and we chose fifty brethren by the alphabet. Once in twenty funerals your name will be drawn. If we have five funerals a year, which is average, you will be called upon once in four years to aid your lodge to show its respect for the grief of the family of a departed brother, and show the profane that Masonry honors its own.

"You can get a substitute. I will substitute for you if you wish. I have no golf game to attract me. I substitute for a many good men. Sometimes I substitute because of a real reason; business, absence, illness. Sometimes I substitute because a man is too careless and too lazy to do his own work. But then, nothing I can do will help him. For the sake of the lodge I go in his place. For his own sake I try to show him what a mistake he makes in delegating to another the duty he owes his fraternity.

"Masonry means something in my heart. It means more as its reputation grows. If anything I can do aids that reputation, I am glad. When is this funeral you want me to attend for you?"

"I don't want you to," answered the New Brother. "I've got to go now..."



"What's your hurry?" asked the Old Tiler.

"I want to see the Secretary and tell him to put me down as a possible substitute next time, when someone does what I was going to do- miss my chance to do my last duty to one of my brethren."



List of Special Events - June, 2008

- 1 Jun, Sun - BBQ Lunch - Lithonia 84, Lithonia. 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.
- 6-7 Jun, Fri-Sat - Shady Dale Rodeo & GACHIP - Rodeo Fairgrounds, Shady Dale, 8:00 pm; parade at 3:00 pm Sat. Sponsored by Jasper 50 and Walton 200.
- 7 Jun, Sat - Pancake Breakfast - Stone Mountain 449, Stone Mountain. 7:30 to 10:30 am.
- 7 Jun, Sat - Chicken Fry - Mountain Park 729, Stone Mountain.
- 10 Jun, Tue - Entered Apprentice Conferral - Jonesboro 87, Jonesboro. 6:30 meal, 7:30 meeting.
- 12 Jun, Thu - DeKalb County Masonic Association - Grant Park 604, Lithonia. 6:30 meal, 7:30 meeting. Open meeting.
- 14 Jun, Sat - Gwinnett County Masonic Association - Norcross 228, Norcross. Open meeting.
- 20 Jun, Fri - Annual Georgia - South Carolina Exchange Night - Greenville Masonic Temple, 222 Howe St, Greenville, SC. 6:00 dinner, meeting follows. Tyled.
- 24 Jun, Tue - Master Mason Conferral - Kennesaw 33, Marietta. 6:30 meal, 7:30 meeting.
- 25 Jun, Wed - Southside Memorial Assn. & Instruction - Tyrone 644, Tyrone. 6:30 Memorial Assn., 7:30 Lodge of Instruction, 9:00 meal.
- 26 Jun, Thu - Master Mason Conferral - Chamblee-Sardis 444 by Past Masters. 6:30 meal, 7:30 meeting.
- 28 Jun, Sat - Master Mason Conferral - Douglasville 289 by Knights of Mecca. ~8:00 breakfast, then meeting.
- 28 Jun, Sat - Annual Georgia - Alabama - Tennessee Tri-State Meeting - Coosa 622, west of Rome. Starting at 7:00 am, come see each degree conferred by a different state. Breakfast and lunch served.
- 2 Jul, Wed - Patriotic Meeting - Fulton 216, Atlanta. 6:30 meal, 7:30 meeting. PGM Joe Suttles, guest speaker.
- 4 Jul, Fri - Jonesboro Parade and BBQ - Jonesboro 87, Jonesboro. 11:00 am to 6:00 pm
- 5 Jul, Sat - Pancake Breakfast - Stone Mountain 449, Stone Mountain. 7:30 to 10:30 am.
- 6 Jul, Sun - BBQ Lunch - Lithonia 84, Lithonia. 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.
- 19 Jul, Sat - Annual Car Show - Lawrenceville 131, Lawrenceville. 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.
- 22 Jul, Tue - DeKalb County Masonic Association - Clarkston 492, Clarkston. 6:30 meal, 7:30 meeting. Open meeting.

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 : Gate City 2, Atlanta Clarkston 492 Traveling Gavel : Gate City 2, Atlanta Roswell 165 Traveling Gavel: Roswell 165, Roswell
6 th District South of Atlanta	Jonesboro 87 Traveling Gavel : Fraternal 37, McDonough Rex 251 Traveling Gavel : Rex 251, Ellenwood East Point 288 Traveling Gavel : Mickey Fuller 720, Bryon Lakewood 443 Traveling Hat : Hapeville 590, Hapeville
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/>
Clarkston 492 Gavel rules at <http://www.clarkston492.com/>



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Snellville 99 Stone Mountain 449 Union City 600	2 Latham 12 Kennesaw 33 Palmetto 74 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 Philologia 178 Flint Hill 371 Piedmont 447 College Park 454 Hapeville 590	9 Gate City 2 Sandy Springs 124 Springville 153 Fairburn 180, 7:00 pm Alpharetta 235 Clarkston 492 E. A. Minor 603 Ben Hill 674	10 James E. Sledge Daylight 742, 11:00 am	11 Atlanta-Peachtree 59 Lithonia 84 Mableton 171 Douglasville 289 Bolton 416 Sweetwater 421 Chamblee-Sardis 444 Zingara 519 Palestine 486, 7:00 pm Grant Park 604 Capitol View 640	12 Rex 251 Leroy Duncan 262 Glenwood Hills 703	13 Campbellton 76, 8:00 pm Nelms 323 Palmetto Daylight 755, 8:00 am Gwinnett CMA, Grayson 549	14
15 Snellville 99 Stone Mountain 449 Union City 600	16 Latham 12 Kennesaw 33 Georgia 96 Norcross 228 Masters 295 Forest Park 399 Panthersville 543 Capitol City 642	17 Fulton 216	18 Pythagoras 41 Roswell 165 Mountain Park 729 Charity Daylight 754, 10:30 am	19	20 Samuel S. Lawrence 721 GACHIP at GBI	21
22 Tucker 42 Philologia 178 Flint Hill 371 Piedmont 447 College Park 454 Hapeville 590	23 Sandy Springs 124 Springville 153 Fairburn 180, 7:00 pm Alpharetta 235 Clarkston 492 E. A. Minor 603 Ben Hill 674	24 Southside Memorial Assn. (location varies), 6:30 pm	25 Lithonia 84 - DeKalb CMA Mableton 171 Douglasville 289 Bolton 416 Sweetwater 421 Chamblee-Sardis 444 Zingara 519 Palestine 486, 7:00 pm Capitol View 640	26	27 Campbellton 76, 8:00 pm Nelms 323 Palmetto Daylight 755, 8:00 am	28
29	30	<p>Schedule of Regular Communications for Lodges meeting within about 10 miles of I-285 and/or in DeKalb County.</p>		<p>All meetings start at 7:30 pm unless otherwise noted.</p>		



Masonic Funerals: Understanding our Duty

WBro. Tim Bryce, PM, MPS

Early last year I lost my father, a 57 year Mason. I had the pleasure of calling him "Brother," as he raised me to the sublime degree of Master Mason many years ago. He was a loyal Mason and we gave him a Masonic Memorial Service that was well attended by Brothers from Florida's Districts 20 & 21. His home lodge, Lodge of the Ancient Landmarks No. 441 F.& A.M. of Buffalo, New York was also represented. This was certainly appreciated by my family and I know my father would have liked it.

Having said this, my thoughts turn to Masonic funeral services in general. I have attended many such services over the years and I have found them to be greatly appreciated by the families of the deceased. Many are overwhelmed by the love and support the Masons express during the service. As far as I'm concerned, attending a Masonic service is the very least we can do for a Brother, regardless if he is a local member or from a distant jurisdiction. I am always amazed how some Brothers are unwilling to attend such a service. Many mistakenly believe they have to belong to an Acacia/funeral committee in order to participate. In reality, it is our duty as a Mason to attend such a service whether we know the Brother or not. I realize some services are performed during the day when many of us are working and unable to attend. But aside from this, if there is a Masonic service to be performed, and our cable-tow permits us, we should be in attendance.

Many claim they simply are unaware of the passing of Brothers. All you need to do is browse the obituaries of the local newspapers, either the printed form or on the Internet. As for me, I have bookmarked the obituary sections of the local newspapers and regularly scan them using keywords such as "Mason" and "Lodge." When I come upon a Brother from a northern jurisdiction, I e-mail the obit to his Grand Lodge and, if I can find it, his home Lodge. As a past Secretary myself, I know this is very much appreciated.

Regardless if you scan the obits on the Internet or in the printed version, there should be at least one person in your Lodge charged with monitoring the passing of Masons. Although the Worshipful Master should be made aware of the passing of a Brother, the responsibility is typically delegated to the Secretary, the Chaplain, or the chairman of your funeral committee.

Also Brothers, please dress properly for a funeral. In Florida, for example, it is customary to wear a dark suit and tie; a tuxedo is not considered appropriate, nor are dungarees and shorts. Plain white aprons are the norm, not Lodge officer or Past Master aprons. Funeral committees usually make aprons available to Masons attending the service, but you may also want to bring your own in case they run short of aprons.

Prior to the funeral, the Brother's Masonic background should be verified by his home jurisdiction, so that we might know more about the Brother and assure he is in good standing with his Lodge.

If you become involved with a committee charged with performing a Masonic funeral service, be sure you know your responsibilities, your lines (if any) and how to deport yourself during the service. Rehearsals are invaluable to assure the service comes off polished and dignified. Further, talk with the clergy or funeral directors involved prior to the service to assure the ceremony is well organized and runs like clockwork.

Attending or performing a Masonic service is not complicated, nor is it time consuming. And I can tell you this, a little dignity, a little polish, and a little sympathy is very much appreciated by the family of our departed Brother.

Keep the Faith.

Article excerpted and reprinted with permission of the author and FreemasonInformation.com

Metro Atlanta Masonic Memorial Groups

Cobb County Masonic Memorial Club
Greater Atlanta, North of I-20, West of GA-400
Contact: Bro. Dana Schwarz
dschwarz @ demolay . net
770-926-5838

GA - 400

Brethren, WBro. Collinsworth, DDGM (5-D) and District Master of the 5th District, requested information about any Masonic Memorial groups operating in or near the Metro Atlanta area. Here is the information I have compiled.

I - 20

Southside Memorial Association
Greater Atlanta, South of I-20, Southwest of I-75
Contact: WBro. A. H. Betts II
ahbetts @ bigfoot . com

I - 75

DeKalb Masonic Memorial Club
Greater Atlanta, East of GA-400, Northeast of I-75
Contact: Bro. Gerald Whited
fgwhited @ bellsouth . net
770-921-9672



Davo Digresses: Diary of a DDGM

David Herman, PM, Chamblee-Sardis 444
District Deputy to the Grand Master

So, the MWGM asked me if I would be willing to serve as District Deputy. It seems WBro. Vexler was increasingly involved in the GACHIP program, and was not able to continue to do justice to both positions. I have known and worked with several DDGMs over the years, and I love visiting lodges, so the decision was an easy one.

Of course, as is usually the case with positions of responsibility, one doesn't get to see the whole picture from the outside. The appointment wasn't official for a week before requests started coming in from some of the seven lodges I was assigned to support - and even from the Grand Secretary. I am glad to say, though, that there is a world of difference between the attitudes of *I have to do this* and *I get to do this* - and while I have high expectations, I have yet to be let down by the graciousness and hospitality of the lodges I have visited.

It is my duty to be of service to seven lodges in Rockdale and DeKalb Counties, and while my travels with the DCMA have taken me to most of them, this spring brought my first ever visits to Philologia 178 and Zingara 519. What a pleasure to sit in these lodges, meet the brethren, share their meals, learn of their rich customs and histories, and see the memorabilia of public projects and lodge service preserved on the walls and in the display cases of their Temples.

Brethren, I can't possibly recommend the value of visiting other lodges to you highly enough - if you are not doing so, you are truly missing out on a world of fellowship.

Richard Reflects: A Life Worth Living

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

From the time immemorial Freemasons have given special attention to the interment of their dead, and the proper burial of a Brother mason is regarded as a sacred and binding duty. Solemn, beautiful, and profoundly meaningful, burial rites and ceremonies are provided for deceased brothers where such are requested by the Brother himself, or by members of his family.

It is the duty of every Mason to see that a Brother is given the ultimate respect upon his, or his families' request. We are amiss of our duty, if we do not attempt to attend the ceremony. We would wish to have the same honor and respect of our Brethren when our time has been called on this earth. I have my pure white lamb skin in safe keeping, so that when it is my time to kneel in front of the Great Architect of the Universe, it is my hope that he will be pleased with the life I have tried to live and the Mason I have become. It is not the duty of Masonry to make me a better man; it is my duty alone, with the help and guidance of my Brothers, hopefully.

What is the current condition of your Apron? Is it clean or worn, mine is a bit worn now but has much substance left in it. My work is far from over, as I am only now learning about what makes us Masons. I hope to wear holes in my everyday apron and maybe even wear out two before my time is called. I will ask my Brothers to pull out that lamb skin that I received the day I was raised and place it on me as I answer that last summons.

5th District Website Update

In case you haven't been to the 5th District website (or haven't been there lately), we now have a Google Maps page, with locations and meeting information for all of the 5th District lodges (colored by sub-district), as well as nearby lodges of the 6th, 7th and 9th Districts (in violet).

I would like to personally encourage every Mason to find the half-dozen or so lodges closest to your normal stomping grounds, and visit as many as possible. Not only is it refreshing to see how some of the customs can vary from lodge to lodge, and great to meet and get to know brothers who may live or work just down the road from where you do, but it is especially nice to be able to bring a new Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, or Master Mason to a sister lodge, to see an actual conferral while he's learning the catechism himself.

If you have recommendations for additions or changes to the 5th District website, please let us know.



Contact our Secretary, Ross Laver, at 5dist . secretary @ morelight . org

