



Work & Lectures

A Metropolitan Atlanta Masonic Newsletter



david @ morelight . org

September, 2008
Why Freemasonry?

http://news.morelight.org

DeKalb County Masonic Association Report

In This Issue

- 1- District Announcements & DCMA Report
- 2- Old Tyler Talks: *The Greatest Work*
- 3- List of Special Events & Trophy Roundup
- 4- Calendar of Regular Atlanta Communications
- 5- Masonic Ed.: *What is the Next Gen. of Mason Looking for?*
- 6- More Ed.: *Next Gen., pt 2; New Masons Drawn by...*

District Announcements

District Conventions Approach -

The 5th District Convention will be held on Saturday, 13 September, at 9:00 am at the Atlanta Masonic Center (hosted by Palmetto Daylight 755).

The 9th District Convention will be held on Saturday, 27 September, at 9:00 at Peachtree Ridge High School in Suwanee (hosted by Duluth 480).

Brethren, your Masonic District is run entirely by brethren who donate their time. Why don't you participate in supporting the Masons and Lodges of your district by volunteering for a district committee? Many hands do, after all, make light work - and when brethren from your lodge serve the district, the district serves your lodge better. Contact your District Deputy or District Secretary for more information.

And contact your District Deputy or District Secretary for more information about Masonic Education, Leadership Development, GACHIP, Ritual Proficiency, Lodge Mentor, Children's Home, George Washington Masonic National Memorial, DeMolay, Appendant Body, and a number of other programs to educate the brethren and maybe add something unexpected to those meetings when there is no scheduled ritual work. Your district committeemen represent a team of willing and experienced brethren who are eager to share their knowledge with you.

While we're on the topic, 5th District Directors of Work should be marking their calendars for DoW recertification sessions, which will be held at the Atlanta Masonic Center, beginning at 7:00 pm on four consecutive Wednesdays: 17 and 24 September, and 1 and 8 October. Sessions usually end promptly at 9:00. Sessions will be facilitated by WBro. Greg Smith, Assistant Custodian of the Uniform Work for the 5th District.



DCMA This Month

Join us at Tucker 42 on Monday, 22 Sep; 6:30 meal and 7:30 meeting. Located on Main Street in Tucker, just north of the tracks. I, um, enhanced the image below, because the emblem and doors didn't stand out enough in the image - but they do in real life.



Tucker always puts on a good program, and has a great turnout - join us!

DCMA Next Month

Next month's meeting will be hosted by Stone Mountain 449, but will be on Saturday, 4 Oct, when we will be hosting the Children's Home. Please join Stone Mountain Lodge for their fundraiser breakfast, and then stay to help feed lunch to the Children's Home kids and staff before they go for their annual outing. This is your DCMA's most important meeting of the year, so call a friend and come on out!

DCMA Last Month

If you missed our last meeting, you missed both pickin' and grinnin' as we were treated to some music and comedy at Panthersville 543's very well-kept building and grounds.

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
david @ 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.*

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

The Greatest Work

Old Tiler, what is the greatest work of Masonry?" The New Brother sat by the guardian of the door and pulled out his cigar case.

Old Tiler, what is the greatest work of Masonry?" The New Brother sat by the guardian of the door and pulled out his cigar case.

"Persuading new brethren that Old Tilers need something to smoke!" returned the Old Tiler promptly.

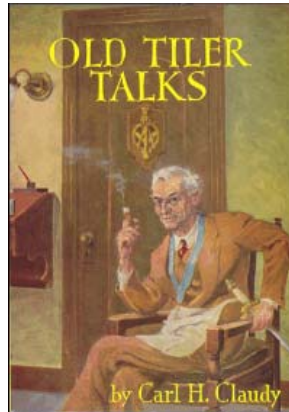
The New Brother laughed as he handed over a cigar. "I hope you will smoke with me," he said, "But that wasn't just what I had in mind. Masonry has so many different jobs to do -- I was wondering which is the greatest." "Suppose you tell me what you think these jobs are," suggested the Old Tiler. "I can answer more intelligently if I know what you have in mind."

"Masonry teaches and practices charity," began the New Brother. "I suppose the brotherly love and relief she teaches are among the greatest of her works. She teaches men to agree to disagree, and to avoid dissension while meeting on a common level. She teaches brotherly love, which makes society run more smoothly and makes us all happier. One of Masonry's works is education, since she admonishes us to learn and to study. But I don't know that I could say that any one of them is the most important."

"That is rather difficult," answered the Old Tiler. "Besides, you have left out a number of things. Masonry helps us to make friends-and surely in the struggle for happiness, friends add much to the joy and take away much from the burden."

"Masonry helps men to come closer to their Maker-she does not ape the church in teaching men how to worship God, but only that God is, and that one can commune with the Great Architect without sect or creed. She teaches sympathy and understanding. She teaches toleration of the other fellow's views. Democrat and Republican, saint and sinner, meet on the level in a lodge and forget their differences in their sameness, lose sight of the quarrels in their oneness. All this Masonry does for those who accept her gentle ministrations."

"But that doesn't tell me which is the greatest thing she does," objected the New Brother as the Old Tiler paused.



"I don't think there is a greatest thing, except for the individual," answered the Old Tiler. "The greatest thing Masonry may do for me may not be your greatest thing. To one man her brotherly love may be the greatest; to another, the friends; to a third, the charity. Doesn't it depend on the man?"

"You wouldn't say, then, that you think relief is Masonry's greatest accomplishment?" asked the New Brother.

"For those it relieves, yes; and it often is for those who have contributed to it. But suppose a man is engaged all day as a charity visitor or a doctor or a Red Cross official. Relief by Masonry won't be anything new to him. He must look elsewhere for the greatest thing."

"Well, what is Masonry's greatest accomplishment for you, as an Old Tiler?"

"Opportunity for service!" answered the Old Tiler, promptly. "It gives me a chance to do things for my fellowman I wouldn't otherwise have. I am an old man. I am not very active, and I have always been poor. But in Masonry I can be active, even if not very spry. Not having much means doesn't seem to count. Now let me ask you, what is Masonry's greatest accomplishment for you?"

The New Brother laughed. "I knew that was coming. It's sort of hazy when I try to put it into words. But it is clear in my mind. The greatest thing which I get out of Masonry, save one thing only, is my kinship with the past. My sense that I am part of a living chain which goes back into the years which are gone, for no one knows how many centuries. I do what George Washington did in a lodge. I see the same things Elias Ashmole saw. As I do, so did Bobby Burns. I am mentally akin with the Comacine builders and the Guild craftsmen of the Middle Ages."

"Back to Solomon and beyond," agreed the Old Tiler. "I understand."

"Perhaps you do, but I can't make it clear when I try to put it into words." The New Brother looked off into the distance, frowning. "I feel a mystic sense of strength and inspiration from this oneness with so many millions of brethren who have gone this way before me-it seems to me that I have an added strength for my daily life because I am a part of so great a chain. -

"All who love the Craft have that feeling," smiled the Old Tiler. "But you said there was one other benefit which Masonry conferred on you, and which you thought was the greatest of all. What is that?"

The New Brother looked at the Old Tiler, without smiling. "The privilege of talking to a man as wise as you," he answered.

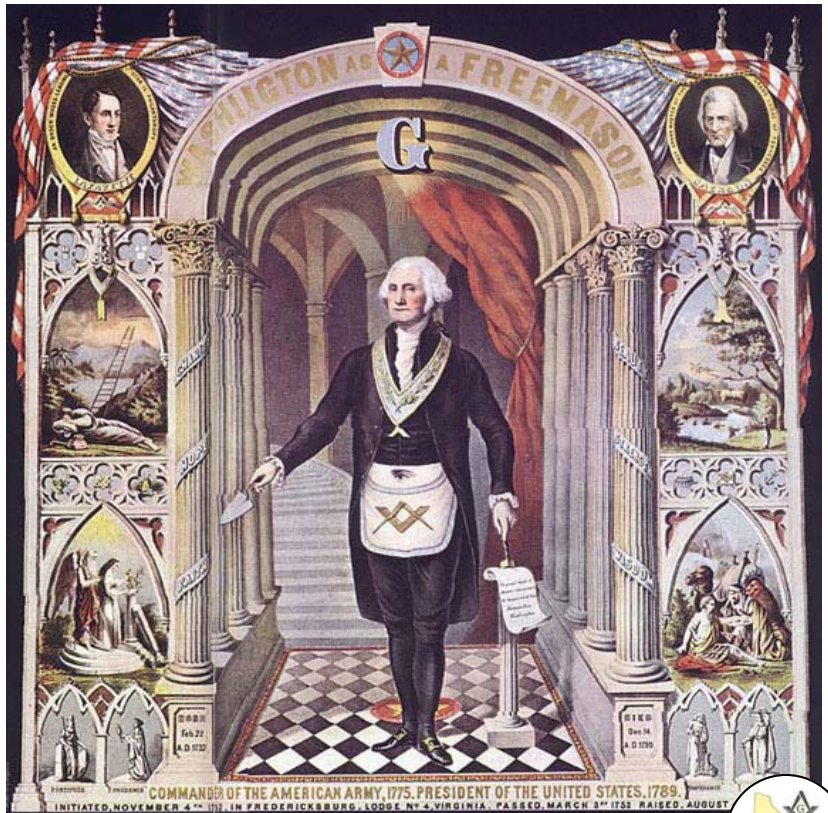


List of Special Events - September, 2008

- 1 Sep, Mon - GACHIP Event - at Hunter Park, Douglasville, 9:00 - 5:00. Hosted by Douglasville 289.
- 6 Sep, Sat - Breakfast Fundraiser - at Stone Mountain 449, Stone Mountain. 7:00 - 10:00
- 6 Sep, Sat - GACHIP Event - at the new Courthouse, Douglasville, 9:00 - 5:00. Hosted by Douglasville 289.
- 7 Sep, Sun - Lunch Fundraiser - at Lithonia 84, Lithonia. 11:00 - 2:00.
- 9 Sep, Tue - GM Visit - at Jonesboro 87, Jonesboro. 6:30 meal, 7:30 meeting.
- 10 (or 15) Sep, Wed (or Mon) - Golf Fundraiser - at Collins Hill Country Club - *conflicting dates shown on Buford Lodge website*. Hosted by Buford 292 .
- 13 Sep, Sat - 5th Masonic District Convention - at the Atlanta Masonic Center (hosted by Palmetto Daylight 755). 9:00 am start. District Lodge and Mason of the Year to be announced.
- 13 Sep, Sat - GACHIP Event & GM Visit - at Rock Springs Presbyterian Church, Atlanta, 10:00 - 5:00. Hosted by Gate City 2.
- 13 Sep, Sat - GACHIP Event - at the new Courthouse, Douglasville, 9:00 - 5:00. Hosted by Douglasville 289.
- 13 Sep, Sat - GACHIP Event & BBQ Fundraiser - at Lawrenceville 131, Lawrenceville. 11:00 - 7:00, all you can eat.
- 13 Sep, Sat - The Traitor - 20th Anniversary presentation, at the Atlanta Masonic Center, \$10.00 per seat (fees go to help fund the restoration and preservation of the Scottish Rite backdrops).
- 15 Sep, Mon - Gwinnett County Masonic Association - at Snellville 99, Snellville. 6:30 meal, 7:30 open meeting.
- 20 Sep, Sat - GACHIP Event - at Flint Hill Lodge, Douglasville, 10:00 - 2:00. Hosted by Flint Hill 371.
- 20 Sep, Sat - GACHIP Event - at the new Courthouse, Douglasville, 9:00 - 5:00. Hosted by Douglasville 289.
- 20-21 Sep, Sat-Sun - GACHIP Event - at the William Payne House, Sandy Springs. Hosted by Sandy Springs 124.
- 20 Sep, Sat - 11th Masonic District Convention - at Adel 310 (hosted by Duncan 234). 9:00 am start.
- 22 Sep, Mon - DeKalb County Masonic Association - at Tucker 42, Tucker. 6:30 meal, 7:30 open meeting.
- 27 Sep, Sat - 9th Masonic District Convention - at Peachtree Ridge High School in Suwanee (hosted by Palmetto Daylight 755). 9:00 am start.
- 27 Sep, Sat - Guest Speaker - Gary Leazer at Nelms 232. 6:30 meal, 7:30 open meeting.
- 20 Oct, Mon - GL Committees Meet - at various locations in Macon. Details should be coming to attendees soon.
- 21-22 Oct, Sat - Grand Lodge Session - at the Macon Centreplex, Macon. All day both days; Picnic Tuesday evening at the Farmer's Market.

Watch This Space

The Traveling Trophy status that has been in this area in the past doesn't seem to have prompted as much inter-lodge visitation as I'd hoped. So I'm asking you brethren to send in pictures and histories of your lodges, so that I can spotlight a different lodge each issue. Please send interior and exterior images if possible. We'll see how it goes over.



Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

| | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|---|---|--|
| <p>5th District Lodges</p> <p>DCMA Lodges (part of the 5th District)</p> <p>Nearby Lodges, 6th, 7th and 9th Districts</p> | <p>Snellville 99 Stone Mountain 449 Union City 600</p> | <p>1 Latham 12 Kennesaw 33 Palmetto 74 Georgia 96 Norcross 228 East Point 288 Masters 295 Forest Park 399 Panthersville 543 Capitol City 642 North DeKalb 714 Metro Daylight 743, 10:30 am</p> | <p>2 Fulton 216 DeKalb Masonic Memorial Club at Clarkston 492, 2 pm Gwinnett Daylight 742, noon</p> | <p>3 Pythagoras 41 Roswell 165 Mountain Park 729</p> | <p>4</p> | <p>5 Samuel S. Lawrence 721</p> |
| <p>7</p> | <p>Tucker 42 Philologia 178 Flint Hill 371 Piedmont 447 College Park 454 Hapeville 590</p> | <p>8 Gate City 2 Sandy Springs 124 Springville 153 Fairburn 180, 7:00 pm Alpharetta 235 Clarkston 492 E. A. Minor 603 Ben Hill 674</p> | <p>9 James E. Sledge Daylight 742, 11:00 am</p> | <p>10 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</p> | <p>11 Rex 251 Leroy Duncan 262 Glenwood Hills 703</p> | <p>12 Campbellton 76, 8:00 pm Nelms 323 Palmetto Daylight 755, 8:00 am</p> |
| <p>14</p> | <p>Snellville 99 Stone Mountain 449 Union City 600</p> | <p>15 Latham 12 Kennesaw 33 Palmetto 74 Georgia 96 Norcross 228 Masters 295 Forest Park 399 Panthersville 543 Capitol City 642</p> | <p>16 Fulton 216</p> | <p>17 Pythagoras 41 Roswell 165 Mountain Park 729 Charity Daylight 754, 10:30 am</p> | <p>18</p> | <p>19 Samuel S. Lawrence 721</p> |
| <p>21</p> | <p>Tucker 42 Philologia 178 Flint Hill 371 Piedmont 447 College Park 454 Hapeville 590</p> | <p>22 Gate City 2 Sandy Springs 124 Springville 153 Fairburn 180, 7:00 pm Alpharetta 235 Clarkston 492 - DeKalb CMA E. A. Minor 603 Ben Hill 674</p> | <p>23 Southside Memorial Assn. (location varies), 6:30 pm</p> | <p>24 Lithonia 84 Mableton 171 Bolton 416 Douglasville 289 C-S 444 Sweetwater 421 Zingara 519 Palestine 486, 7:00 pm Capitol View 640</p> | <p>25</p> | <p>26 Campbellton 76, 8:00 pm Nelms 323 Palmetto Daylight 755, 8:00 am</p> |

28

29

30

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

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



What is the Next Generation of Mason Looking For?

by Bro. Stephen Brash, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

For those of you whom I have not have the opportunity to speak to, my name is Stephen Brash. I am a 'younger' generation of Mason, being 37 yrs old and have been in the Craft for a little less than 5 years now. My Mother Lodge is Caledonia no.637, located in Toronto, chartered by the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario. I have the privilege of sitting on our Grand Lodge's Long Range Planning Committee in addition to the Long Range Planning Committee of Toronto East District and also act as the webmaster for our District (TorontoEastDistrict.com). The Craft has become an increasingly critical component in my life and I believe it has helped me to become a better husband and father to my family. I am also proud to share with my brethren that I am a member of Internet Lodge No. 9659, chartered by the United Grand Lodge of England.

It is very interesting to me that most of the issues raised in recent discussions are very closely related to the question of Lodge "vitality" and relevancy. Lodge Vitality is a topic which much work has been done on here in Ontario and I recently had the privilege of speaking about this at the Grand Lodge Communication in Ontario just last month.

Generational Shifts in the Craft

Looking at our three key Masonic virtues, namely: Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth, I firmly hold to the opinion that the Craft has manifested itself differently (or "shifted") for each of these virtues at different times and for different generations of Brethren over the last 300 years, while always retaining its core values.

During times of broad social change (e.g. Enlightenment, American Revolution, French Revolution) the aspects of the Craft which emphasized "truth" were frequently most relevant to many of our earliest brethren, but Brotherly Love and Relief played a key role.

During other periods of global expansion and associated social challenges (e.g. Industrial Revolution, pioneering of North America, 1930's Depression) the aspects of the Craft which emphasized "relief" became most relevant for that generation of brethren, but Brotherly Love and Truth were still active.

And at yet other times, often following war, (e.g. WWI, WWII) the aspects of the Craft which emphasized "Brotherly love" were most appealing to many men who were looking for a continuation of the camaraderie they experienced following the call-to-arms, all the while that Relief and Truth continued to play key functions in the Craft.

This is not to say that such a shift has only occurred three times during the history of the Craft. In fact it is conceivable that it may have occurred for each subsequent generation which was having to deal with living during periods of massive geo/political/social change which the world has struggled with over the last 300 years and is showing no sign of decline.

And interestingly enough, I believe that at each time there may have been shift in the Craft's most relevant virtue (Truth to Relief to Brotherly

Love) we also experienced a temporary decline in the popularity of Freemasonry. Could the decline that the Craft has experienced in the West (UK, Canada, USA) over the last 25 years be a sign of just such a shift taking place? I tend to think so.

Brother Newton provides the Answer

The issue is really one of Momentum, and as our wise brother Sir Isaac Newton kindly explained for us, our momentum ($p=mv$) as an institution is a simple relationship between the current mass and the velocity of the Craft.

As the Craft's prominent virtue at any given point in time (Brotherly Love, Relief or Truth) begins to become less relevant to a new generation of potential candidates, the Craft begins to lose mass (membership). As the 'mass' of the Craft further diminishes, it becomes more challenging to maintain the current velocity (vitality). Thus mass shrinks, velocity declines and Craft momentum slows.

But all is not lost..

Bro. Newton also had the foresight to identify the reason why the Craft at times loses momentum and he gave it a name: Inertia ($F=ma$). Inertia explains why at times the Craft may appear to be slow to make the 'relevance' shift from one generation of brethren to the next. Inertia is described as "the resistance an object has to a change in its current state of motion", and is directly related to the concept of momentum.

Freemasonry tends to stir up great passion and commitment in its members, so much so that brethren at times may unconsciously feel that the reason why "they" joined Freemasonry must summarize the true value of the craft and is the reason why "everyone" joined Freemasonry. And yet, as we have examined, the Craft has shown itself to be different things for different generations at different times. The risk may be that a more tenured generation of brethren who could have joined the Craft 10,20 or 30 years ago looking for 'Brotherly Love' and who may be in a position to influence the Craft's current direction, may not entirely appreciate what the next generation of candidates queuing up at the West Gate are predominantly seeking. Could it be they seek 'Truth'?

(continued on page 6)



(continued from page 5)

What is the Next Generation of Mason Looking For?

This is a broad topic, and there is no way I can do it justice in this space, however I will try to summarize two key points on this topic in less than 250 words.

Manhood - There is likely never been a time in history when the definition of what it means to be a man has been more hazy. The meaning and manifestation of healthy masculinity and the definition of manhood has been overshadowed by the first and second-wave feminist movements over the last 100 years. In the postmodern world most values which have been traditionally associated with manhood have been deconstructed which is infinitely problematic for the next generation of male who is trying to determine what it means to be a good man, husband and father. For many a postmodern man, the qualities of masculinity are not let go of or transgressed, they are simply oppressed, watered down, or pushed out beyond the boundaries of awareness. Freemasonry's capacity to take "good men and make them better"

has never been more in need. For those that would advocate the introduction of the fairer sex into the lodge rooms they broadly miss the point - Freemasonry is an organization of men, for men with the stated intent of helping good men become better men through a beautiful system of morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbol.

Reality - We for the most part live in an increasingly virtual world. As the world further shrinks and becomes more 'virtual', traditions, institutions and legacies find themselves under threat. We send virtual messages to virtual friends across virtual networks. Even this newsletter (unless printed out) is decomposed into a series of electrons, sent as a packet across virtual networks and shows up on computer somewhere else in the world in a matter of mere seconds - and is just as easily erased with the stroke of a 'delete' key. Living virtual is apparently in such vogue that evidently millions of people, unsatisfied with the reality outside their front door, have even take up new personas in Second Life in an attempt to find virtually what they cannot find in their first life.

Freemasonry is about real men (many of whom have been real heroes), as members of a real 300 yr old institution, engaged in trying to become really good men. Let's not dilute that.

The Vitality of the Craft

It is my opinion that the future vitality of the Craft will be in direct proportion to our ability to help real men find real truth in the wisdom of the past which is contained in our rituals. These men and future brethren will find comfort and strength in our institution and they will experience real change in their lives because they chose to become a Freemason. Let's not dilute our real legacy with present web novelties. We may be speculative but we're not virtual. IL9659 has a tremendous opportunity to demonstrate to our global brethren how we can take advantage of current technologies, provide true relevance to the next generation of Master Mason while honouring the real traditions of a 300 year old institution. Let's embrace the opportunity.

Thanks for indulging me, those are my thoughts for now.

Sincerely & Fraternally,

Bro. Stephen Brash



Read the full article at
<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=9981492>

New Masons Drawn by Brotherhood, Not Myths

Excerpt from article on NPR.org by Rachel Martin

In its glory days in the 1940s and '50s, the Masons had 4 million members in the United States, and 50,000 lodges. Now, they have about 1.8 million members. But many lodges — including the Naval Lodge in D.C. — say their average age is going down. Why?

Mark Tabbert, 43, is the director of collections at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria, Va. Tabbert is the former grand master of his lodge in Massachusetts; he's also a Masonic history buff. In his office, a plastic action figure is propped on a bookshelf with a little piece of paper stuck to him; it reads "Masonic superhero."

Tabbert says that when membership plummeted during the counterculture movement of the 1960s and '70s, the Masons accepted virtually anyone who knocked on the door.

"In the quest to be larger and to do more good and to have more fun," he says, "they let in a lot more people, and it dropped the standards of the fraternity."

He says the current renewed interest in Freemasonry has brought in men who take a more serious approach to the ritual than older generations did, and who want to tighten initiation standards and raise dues. But he says the fraternity must watch out for men who sign up because of misguided theories linking Freemasonry to "divine secrets."

"Once you get through the romanticism of a quest that doesn't exist, or foolishness about the Knights Templar or the Arc of the Covenant or the Holy Grail, you find out that there actually is a quest," Tabbert says. "And the quest is the inner journey, the self improvement, to be useful in society and improve yourself."

... for many new, younger members, Masonry's attraction lies less in historical icons and artifacts than in its sense of fraternity. Johnson, the junior warden of Naval Lodge 4, says what bonds Masons together is oral tradition: passing knowledge, experience and wisdom from generation to generation.

"It takes another brother to show you the way and take you down the path to get to the enlightenment that we offer," he says.

