



Work & Lectures

A Metropolitan Atlanta Masonic Newsletter

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January 2009
Lodge Programs

http://news.morelight.org



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DeKalb County Masonic Association Report

DCMA This Month

With January, another year's journey begins. We thank Glenwood Hills 703 for hosting our first meeting of the year. Please join us at 5310 Rocksprings Road, Lithonia, GA 30038-2332 for dinner at 6:30 and our January meeting, normally lasting from 7:30 to 8:45. While I didn't know what program we had in store for us as this issue went to press, I have no doubt that it will be worthwhile.



January in the Fifth District

January is always a very busy month in the Fifth District. Full listings are detailed on page 3, but everyone should be prepared for the Grand Master's Forum and the Lodge Officer Education Workshops on the 17th and the District School of Instruction on four consecutive Wednesdays, starting on the 14th.

I'd also like to bring everyone's attention to Gate City 2's Religion and Culture Series for 2009, kicking off in January, where a series of guest speakers will explain their culture and/or religion, which may be something that some of us have little experience with. More detail about this series can be found on page 5, with the schedule for the next couple of months on page 3.

DCMA Next Month

Thursday, 12 February will find us at Chamblee-Sardis 444, where we will be presenting 2008's charity donations to representatives of our three charities: the Georgia Masonic Children's Home, the Scottish Rite Foundation, and the Knight Templar Eye Fund. Every bit of money we collect at our meetings is evenly divided among them.

DCMA Last Month

Due to the full plate of Annual Communications, Elections and Installations to be fit into an often short December calendar, the DCMA does not meet in December. We hope that you and yours had a joyous holiday season.

DCMA This Year

- Pres: David Herman, Chamblee-Sardis 444 & Internet 9659, EC
david @ morelight . org, 404 421 5279
- 1st VP: James Tyroff, Philologia 178 & Metro Daylight 743
770 378 9531
- 2nd VP: Jim Cline, Clarkston 492
jclinejdcpa @ mindspring . com
- Sec/Treas: Bill Eleazer, Glenwood Hills 703
billjoane256 @ aol . com 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

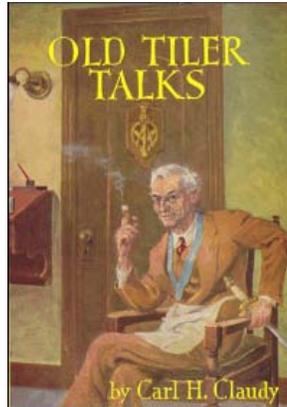
This publication is created to inform the brethren. Any views or opinions that manage to sneak in are solely those of the editor, who does **NOT** speak for any organization whatsoever. Really.

Where's 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
Mostly written in the 1920s



Masonic Speeches

"Old Tiler, I am in a jam!" The New Brother smiled, so the Old Tiler did not feel too worried. "If you don't help me out, I will be up against it."

"What's the trouble now?" The Old Tiler put down his sword to take the cigar the New Brother held out. "Must be something very bad or you wouldn't start me off with so good a cigar."

"I have to make a Masonic address."

"That has been done, and the addresser - yes, even the addressees - lived to tell the tale," countered the Old Tiler.

"I don't want just to get by. I want to make 'em remember it. I want to talk about something they haven't heard before. I've listened to many Masonic speeches, and most of them bored me to tears."

"There are rules for making a good address," mused the Old Tiler. "The three great rules are, have something to say- say it- sit down. Sometimes they are stated 'stand up, speak up, shut up.' Terminal facilities of adequate proportions are needed by railroads and Masonic speakers."

"That's just it!" cried the new Brother. "I want to know what to say and how to say it."

"Meaning you want me to make your speech for you, or to you, before you make it in there?"

"Well, er, no. Not exactly. But can't you, er, suggest something?"

"I could, but I won't. I'll suggest a method of handling your subject, however. Most Masonic speeches suffer from lack of preparation, and of clear thinking about what the speaker wants to say."

"I can't prepare you. I can't make you think clearly. But I can tell you the essence of appeal. It is drama. If you want your hearers to hang on your words, dramatize your subject. If you talk about the Rough and Perfect Ashlars, bring your workman before your hearer; let them hear the strokes of the mallet on the chisel, let them feel the chips of stone as they fall to the ground. If you talk of the plumb line, make them see the Lord on His wall, watch the Children of Israel gather around, wondering at his putting a plumb 'in the midst' of

them, that He would not pass by them any more. When you tell of brotherhood, don't have it an abstraction, a theory, a hope; make it concrete. Tell some stories about it. Show one brother helping another; if you don't know any stories, make them up. But bring the living thought, alive, into the lodge room; men are nothing but children grown up. We all like stories.

"A most entertaining speaker made a talk on Masonic charity. One by one he brought vividly before the lodge a child in a Masonic home, an old blind Mason who was helped to be self-supporting by a lodge, an old mother of a Master Mason who kept her home, thinking it was supported by what her son had left her; he hadn't left a cent. The lodge pretended he had, and paid it during her life time. He made us see these people; we lived and grew up with the child; we shut our eyes to see how the blind man felt; from a window we saw the world go by, happy that our sons had kept us from want, as his simple words brought these things before us.

"The speaker spoke quietly, restrained, calmly. He didn't make the eagle scream; there was almost no applause during his address. But he made us visualize the sweetness of Masonic charity, as distinct from the cool impersonality of mere giving. He made us proud that we belonged to an organization which worked. He dramatized charity, and made us see its living human aspects, not its economic importance, or its religious duty angle.

"That's the answer of 'how shall I make any Masonic speech interesting,' my brother. Make it simple. Make it human. Make it dramatic. There is drama in all the Fraternity; any symbol, any tenet, any part of Masonry has a dramatic angle.

"I do not mean melodramatic. I don't tell you to put battle, murder, sudden death, in your speech. Melodrama is action without character; drama is action with character. A railroad accident is melodrama. The mother who saves for a vacation and gives her son the money to buy a set of golf clubs is dramatic.

"Find the character behind the symbols; get the human side of the Craft into its teachings; tell them in terms of people and action, of the things they know only as theories, and your audience won't walk out on you. Talk without ideas, and you'll speak to empty benches."

"I think," began the New Mason, "I think-"

"That's all that's necessary," smiled the Old Tiler.

"I think you'd better make this speech for me,"

"You think in melodrama," laughed the Old Tiler. "It's your trouble, not mine."



Sacred Geometry - Clarification

by Bro. Bill Branch, the Junior Deacon of Flagstaff AZ Lodge No. 7, and a Geometry Lecturer for the GL of Arizona.
Paraphrased with his permission from email sent to me about the last issue.
I apologize for having put out inaccurate information. -David

Bro. David, I am reading your newsletter, and I have a few comments to share if you like.

First, I just want you to know that I am just one of many, and my comments are just that... comments. However, I am also a presenter at the AZ Masonic Education Conference annually teaching aspects of Geometry and Gematria. I am also a member of MSRICF of AZ.

The Old Tiler Talks "Geometric Bull"... I agree completely with it; it is spiritual geometry which you should study. While the ritual says Geometry is "law and order", it does not mention that there is yet another underlying function of Geometry created by God. You see, Geometry is independent of numbers yet it can be represented or translated by any number system: for example Current day Decimal, Computer Binary, Hexadecimal, Babylonian sexagesimal in cuneiform. Each culture, no matter its evolutionary pace or method had its own way to interpret Geometry into numbers.

Anthropology proves that the earliest humans were creative, sought answers and/or gave mystical/spiritual/religious associations, starting from unexplained/unanswered [mystical] and finishing to complex theology. I have pictures of Platonic stones from Northern England that pre-date Plato by 2000+ years (some are thousands of years older). I believe that the great gift is the simplicity and universality of Geometry that transcends language, time and territory. It is a lot like the language of laughter - it knows no boundaries and it transcends language and time. The underlying great gift of Geometry is this: it is a simple mechanism by which we are drawn to "discover" the capacities of our mind and our world.

The article "Sacred Geometry" from Freemasons-Freemasonry.com... First things first, everything is suspect... even me and my words. Thus, go to credible and reliable sources to validate every claim. Or recreate the experiment. The article is very, very basic, and in some cases misleading. There needs to be corrections, and they need to be passed along. The terms "golden" and "PHI" do not appear in Euclid's works (they appear centuries 1500+years later), nor do any math related numbers; lengths are expressed in segment units, rays, and so forth. Ratios are expressed in a/b format, no numbers are used, just letters.

The Golden ration IS NOT a basis for logarithmic spiral patterns. I have proved this myself and there are growing numbers of Mathematicians who are stating this fact. While there are several Golden Spirals, none of them are exact logarithms. They are contrived, which is different from any spiral from Nature. Moreover, the spiral of a Nautilus shell is NOT close to 1.618 or 0.618... but much more closer to 1.414. Yes, the Golden Ratio is the only one that has its self-replicating ratio and we do see variants, *but not exactness*, of it in nature. Because of this self-replicating nature and its ability to be discovered with the bisecting square and the Pentagon, it has been assigned mystical and symbolic attributes, some worthy and many unnecessary and unworthy.

The truth: The Fibonacci series is MOST seen in nature, but is has NO more relation to 1.618... than ANY other number series. Try it: take ANY two number and add them together, take the result (just like the Fibonacci numbers) and add it to the last number...do this up to 20+ rounds and then divide the numbers (just like the Fibonacci numbers) the smaller into the larger...you will see the EXACT same results as progressing towards 1.618...

Try the Fibonacci series: $1+1=2$, $1+2=3$, $2+3=5$, $3+5=8$, $5+8=13$, $8+13=21$, and so forth divide the smaller into the larger and it progressively moves toward 1.618...

Now, try ANY number series: $2.5+3.1=5.6$, $3.1+5.6=8.7$, $5.6+8.7=14.3$, and so forth... do the same division and you will see the same results progressing toward 1.618...

A very nice website: <http://maven.smith.edu/~phylllo/About/index.html>

An educated view of the Fibonacci Series: <http://www.lhup.edu/~dsimanek/pseudo/fibonacc.htm>

The Geometry of the circle and the unit one square is most amazing: 3.14... and 1.414... The search for these has been the seeds of our intellect. The Triangle, the Circle and the Square are the most basic and easiest geometric forms to create. Next, the Geometry of the Pentagon, Pentagon and Dodecahedron is our reward. This is what the Pythagoreans understood - they found the self-replicating Golden Ratio in these structures. Again, no other ratio has this property... of course it became special and, moreover because Geometry is about law and order (we cannot change its principles), it was given mystical and symbolic attributes.



Gate City's Programs: The Religion and Culture Series, 2009

Presented at the Atlanta Masonic Center at 7:30pm, following a \$7.00 dinner at 6:30pm, various dates.

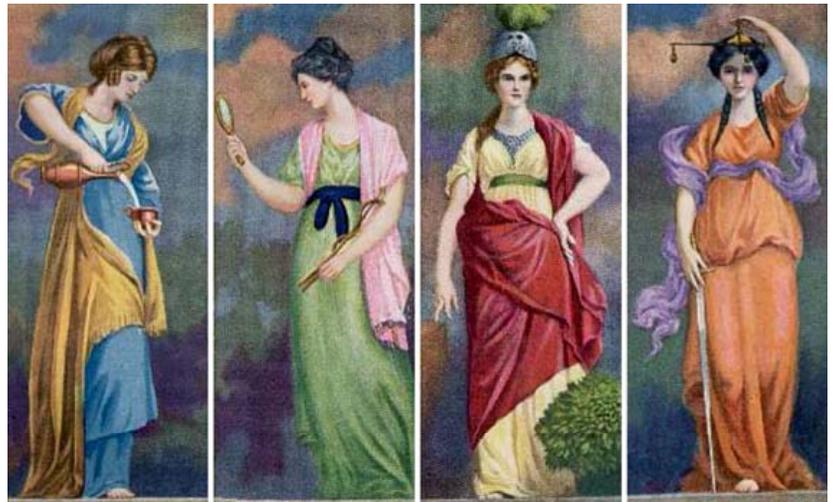
Gate City No. 2 is taking a bold step forward this year by inviting all brethren, their families, and the general public to hear a series of speakers on a variety of religions and cultures. For meal planning purposes, attendees are asked to RSVP to rsvp@gatecity2.org.

On Tuesday, January 27, the topic will be Saivite Hinduism. Representatives from the Kashi Atlanta Ashram will give a presentation on the Hindu religion, culture and history, and will speak about some of the Ashram's Interfaith work. Dinner will be Chicken Tikka Masala and Palak Panner (both traditional Indian dishes) and is \$7.00.

On Tuesday, February 24, the topic will be Classic Islamic Poetry. J.D. Jordan, an educator who recently completed a graduate degree in US-Middle Eastern History, will present a program which looks at the Classical period of Islamic Poetry. The most common themes of the genre will be explored from Middle Eastern Devotional Works to familiar romantic styles, tavern poems and satires. The purpose of the program is to demystify an often-adversarial culture through verse and historical perspective. The meal will be Shish Kabob and is \$7.00.

Future topics and bookings will include eclectic Shamanism, the Catholic Church, and more. Expect dates to be on the fourth Tuesdays; the information will be announced here when released.

The Three Graces



The Four Cardinal Virtues

The Fifth District Speakers Directory

Brethren, at the direction of the District Master, Frank Vexler, we are reviving the Speakers Directory. When completed, this information will be made available to lodges for planning programs and degrees throughout the year.

The last compilation, made in 2000, included lecturers willing to give the Staircase, Letter G, Northeast Corner, Charity and other lectures, as well as teams (like the Wool Hat Boys, Knights of Mecca, and Fifth District Officers) ready to come confer degrees at your lodge. It also included a variety of topics, such as the general and Georgia-specific history of Masonry and any Masonic orders (as well as programs on their present situation and who may join and how), talks on Masonic Etiquette, Charity, Leadership, Planning, Community Programs, Finance, and a variety of other programs.

No Masonic meeting should be a "mere" case of eating, opening, reading the minutes, paying the bills, closing and going home. The order of business called "Work and Lectures", whence this newsletter is named, is our primary reason for existing; for, if we are neither making new brothers (work) nor educating existing ones (lectures), why do we gather?

If you have any particular lecture or short program that you would be willing to give at another lodge, please email District Secretary/Treasurer Ross Laver rosslaver@masonicmessenger.com the details, including your contact information.



Lodge Programs - Ask your MELD Directors

Your Grand Lodge has a committee of Directors of Masonic Education and Leadership Development who are ready, willing and able to come make presentations at your lodge on a variety of topics - but it's not up to them to decide to visit your lodge; it's up to the Worshipful Master to reach out to his district resources, including the District Deputies, the appointed Committeemen, and even the District Officers.

And speaking of MELD, WBro. Dennis Gueth, the Assistant State Director for Districts 8 and 10, has a veritable Steward's Jewel of programs which he will come and present at the Master's request (schedule permitting). Below is a list of many of the programs which he already has prepared:

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| Secret Ballot and the Masonic Code | Lodge Business Cards: A Great Handout |
| Improving Lodge Curb Appeal | Basic Outlines of the MELD Courses |
| Thoughts on Chair Appointments | Communicating with Lodge Members |
| What are your Lodge Goals? | Lodge Budgets |
| Shared Leadership | Building Strong Lodge Committees |
| Improving Attendance | Setting Goals |
| Creating Community Partnerships | Start a Lodge Publicity Program |
| Planning A Public Installation of Officers | Masonic Etiquette-Setting the Example |
| SMART | Grand Masters Program: A Way of Life |
| TEAM: People, Plans, Perspiration | Be Enthusiastic about Freemasonry |
| Reclaiming our Lost Members | Getting Organized |
| Drive your Lodge with an Active Calendar | Why Are You an Active Member? |
| Everyone Needs to Feel Important | Art of Listening |
| Investigation Committee Basics | Why are you a Mason? |
| Why Fundraisers? | Make Lodge Reports a part of every Lodge Meeting |
| We Meet Prospective Members Everyday | Your Year: Keys to Success |
| Starting a Mentors Plan | Lodge Newsletters |
| Members, Money and Motivation | Written Lodge Reports |
| Masonic Parliamentary Procedure | Bosses vs. Leaders |
| Value of Officer Meetings | Creating a Lodge History |
| What are your Lodge Resources? | Do you have a Lodge Program? |
| Learn to Delegate | Why Meet Only Once a Month? |
| Lodge Attitude and Action | Organize the Lodge for Maximum Efficiency |
| Keeping Up with Lodge Members | Worshipful Master's Responsibilities |
| New Mason Basic Training | Orienting New Lodge Members |
| Event Checklist | A Lodge Website: Your Best Resource |
| Being a Good Leader is a Great Habit | Needed: Attitude Adjustment |
| "Yes You Can" Plan a Lodge Meeting | Why Publish a Lodge Newsletter? |
| Lodge Secretary: The Man of the Hour | Family Night at the Lodge |
| Masonic Code 101 | Masonic Trivia |
| Get Involved in Community Activities | Motivating Your Lodge Officers |
| What to do with a Newly Raised Mason | Every Lodge Officer Needs Goals |
| Lessons Learned Notebook | Masonic Etiquette |
| Does your Lodge Bylaws need Updating? | Planning a Lodge Charter Celebration |
| Starting a Lodge Degree Team | The Lodge Education Officer |
| Lodge Business Cards: A Great Handout | The Best Time of your Life |

WBro. Gueth can be contacted by email at dgueth@alltel.net or by phone at 706-783-3321.

You can also find contact information for the MELD Committeemen for your district by visiting the Grand Lodge website at <http://glofga.org/meld.html> .

So, what are you waiting for?

