



Work & Lectures

A Metropolitan Atlanta Masonic Newsletter

david @ morelight . org

August 2009
Ritual Work

http://news.morelight.org



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The DeKalb County Masonic Association Report

DCMA This Month

Tuesday, August 18th should find us at Panthersville 543, at 3605 Union Church Road, Stockbridge, 30281 (just north of Stockbridge Hwy). WBro. Dan Langford assures me that he'll be raising the bar for DCMA programs, but hasn't told me just what that program will be. Please join us at the DCMA lodge furthest from Atlanta. You won't be disappointed, I assure you.



DCMA Next Month

September brings us back to Tucker, a short drive for most of us. I hope to see you there.

DCMA Last Month

Tuesday, July 28th found us at Clarkston 492. Well, I say us, but as it happens, both WBro. James Tyroff and I had conflicts, so WBro. Jim Cline of Clarkston 492 handled the program. I haven't had a report yet, but I have no doubt that it went well, and a good time was had by those in attendance.

DCMA This Year

- Pres:** David Herman, Chamblee-Sardis 444 & Gate City 2
david @ morelight .org, 404 421 5279
- 1st VP:** James Tyroff, Philologia 178 & Metro Daylight 743
jtyroff @ hotmail .com or 770 378 9531
- 2nd VP:** Jim Cline, Clarkston 492 (*Jim needs a second lodge!*)
jclinejdcpa @ mindspring . com
- Sec/Treas:** Bill Eleazer, Glenwood Hills 703 & EA Minor 603
billjoane256 @ aol .com or 770 922 5412

Metro Area News

Brethren, I'm happy to report the Masonic Charges we've all been hearing and reading about have been dropped.

While there are plenty of activities coming up, there's really no other news to report. But since I am a little late getting this out, I will include a photo of the District 5, 8, 10 and 11 Workday at the Children's Home on Saturday, August 1st.



We can't always make our district's workday, but every workday is open to every volunteer.

If your lodge doesn't participate regularly, consider making it an annual outing - there's even a big ol' Bass Pro on the way home you can stop at...



Photos by WBro. Craig Knowlton, Clarkston 492.

Special thanks to Bill Marsh for proofreading this mess!

*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 david @ 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

Laughter

"If I had my way about it," began the New Brother, sitting beside the Old Tiler, "I'd make it a Masonic offense to laugh in a lodge room. We are not as serious about our Masonry as we should be."

Someone laughed at you, or you are taking yourself very seriously!" answered the Old Tiler.

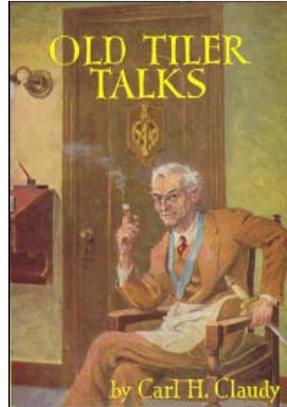
"I am not!" cried the New Brother. "I take Masonry seriously! What we do in tiled lodge room has the sacredness of a religious ceremony. I can see no difference between the sacredness of the Altar of Masonry and the altar of a church, and when I go and see the beautiful windows, and hear the music and watch the choir boys come up the aisle, and hear the minister give out the solemn text - well, you know how inspiring it is. I feel the same way in lodge sometimes, during the more solemn parts of the degrees. But we have a business meeting first and someone cracks a joke and everyone laughs, and some brethren misinterpret and giggle sometimes in the degrees, and there is some ritual which isn't awe-inspiring and - and I think it should be changed!"

"Well, go ahead and change it!" cried the Old Tiler. "I don't believe that absence of solemnity is a Masonic landmark which can't be changed."

"Of course it isn't, but how can I change it?"

"That's your problem!" smiled the Old Tiler. "You are the reformer, not I. But before I wasted much good gray matter, I'd ask myself a few questions. You seem to like things serious, so this should come easy to you. Then I'd talk to the Chaplain. David is young, but he has common sense.

"It would do you good to go to his church. You would find it as solemn and beautiful as any other during the service. But if you went to a vestry meeting you'd see David grin, and maybe someone would tell a ministerial joke. I can't imagine God being displeased about it. Seems to me if he hadn't wanted people to laugh he wouldn't have made so many brethren to laugh at!



"Brother David would tell you that there was a time to be reverent and a time to be happy, and that a church in which people couldn't be happy wasn't much of a church. Ever go to a wedding? Ever see people grin and kiss the bride when it was over? Ever go to a church social? Ever go to the boys' club in a red-blooded church?"

"It didn't hurt the church in your eyes, did it? Then why should it disconcert you to have a lodge room treated the same way? Get it out of your head that Masonry or religion is bound up in a room, or a building. It doesn't hurt so long as we don't laugh at the wrong time! It doesn't hurt the solemnity of the Masonic degree that our lodge room is first but a business meeting hall and afterwards maybe a dining room. It is the spirit in which we do our work which counts, not the letter; it is the temple in our hearts which must be kept sacred, not the mere physical confines of brick and stone in which we meet.

"There should be no cause for laughter during the degrees. But to say that we can't laugh in a lodge room is to get the dog by the wrong tail!"

"Masonry, my son, is joyful, not mournful. It should be filled with the laughter of little children, the happy smiles of contented women, the loveliness of faithful friendship, the joy of flowers and music and song. To make it too serious for smiles, too solemn for happiness, perverts it. If God made sunshine and children and flowers, don't you suppose He wanted the one to dance with the other in the third? If He made happiness and human hearts, don't you suppose He wanted the one in the other?"

"Masonry is an attempt to live the brotherhood of man under the Fatherhood of God. The best of all human fathers can but touch the skirts of the Being who is the All Father. But did you ever see a human father worth his salt who didn't want his children laughing and happy?"

"There is a time for work and a time for play. There is a time for degrees and a time for refreshment. There is a time for business meetings and a time for ritual. There is a time for laughter and for joy as well as a time of solemnity and reverence. The one is as important as the other."

"I wish just once," said the New Brother, "I could start something with you which I could finish!"

"Try offering me a cigar!" suggested the Old Tiler.



List of Special Events - August & September, 2009

Please see page 4 for Degree Conferrals - we ran out of room on this page!

The Grand Master's Calendar

- 01 Aug, Sat - Children's Home Workday, Dist. 5/8/10/11**
at the Home, Macon. 8:00 start, lunch at noon.
- 13 Aug, Thu - Official Visitation**
at Chamblee-Sardis 444, Chamblee. 6:30 meal, 7:30 start.
- 15 Aug, Sat - 4th District Convention**
at Long Cane 424, LaGrange - 9:00 / 10:00 registration/start.
- 25 Aug, Tue - Official Visitation**
at Samuel S. Lawrence 721, Marietta. 6:30 meal, 7:30 start.
- 12 Sep, Sat - 5th District Convention**
at the Atlanta Masonic Center (216), Atlanta - 8:00 / 9:00.
Lunch follows. (tyled)
- 19 Sep, Sat - 11th District Convention**
at Ocilla 134, Ocilla - 8:00 / 9:00.
- 26 Sep, Sat - 9th District Convention**
at the Gainesville 219, Gainesville 8:00 / 9:00. (open)

Special Programs

- 15 Aug, Sat - Tournament of Champions**
at the Atlanta Masonic Center; hosted by the Valley of Atlanta, A&ASR. More info on page 4, or <http://krollings.com/toc/>
- 22 Aug, Sat - Rock Quarry Degree**
at the Rock Quarry, Morganton; hosted by Blue Ridge 67.
Starts around dusk. (tyled)
- 23 Aug, Sun - 5th District Family Picnic and Talent Show**
at the Atlanta Masonic Center, Atlanta - 11:00 to 4:00, \$10.00 donation (12 and over). Meet our Masonic Home Children.

Motorcycle Events

- 22 Aug, Sat - Round Trip Ride**
Police escorted back roads round trip starting from Tom Pittman Field at 11:00am (8-10 registration). Coordinated by Davitte 513, Aragon. The \$20 per bike proceeds go to the GA Child ID Program. Awards for top bikes, peoples' choice.
- 12 Sep, Sat - 7th Annual Ride for the Children (One Way)**
Police escorted highway ride from Duluth 480 to the Children's Home, with a stop at Big Dog Motorcycles. Coordinated by Duluth 480. \$25 per bike (\$10 per passenger) donations cover breakfast, T-shirt, pin and BBQ lunch at the Home; proceeds go to the Children's Home Operating Fund. Unofficial, unescorted ride back via GA 11.

Awards, Honors & PM Nights

- 13 Aug, Thu - Past Masters Night**
at Mt. Vernon 22, Athens. 6:30 meal, 7:30 start. (tyled)
- 15 Aug, Sat - Dinner Honoring Widows, Emeritus & OES**
at Douglasville 289, Douglasville. 6:00 start.
- 22 Aug, Sat - 25, 50, 60 Year Awards**
at Jonesboro 87, Jonesboro. 2:00 start.

Associations, Clubs, Instruction

- 01 Aug, Sat - Masonic Home Workday for Dists. 5/8/10/11**
all districts & visitors welcome. 8:00 start. (open)
- 05 Aug, Wed - DeKalb Masonic Memorial Club**
at Clarkston 492, Clarkston. 2:00 meeting; coffee served.
- 08 Aug, Sat - Gwinnett County Masonic Association**
at Gwinnett Daylight 744, Lawrenceville. (details?)
- 18 Aug, Tue - DeKalb County Masonic Association**
at Panthersville 543, Stockbridge. 6:30 meal 7:30 start. (open)
- 21 Sep, Mon - Gwinnett County Masonic Association**
at Snellville 99, Snellville. 6:30 meal, 7:30 start. (open)
- 28 Sep, Mon - DeKalb County Masonic Association**
at Tucker 42, Tucker. 6:30 meal 7:30 start. (open)
- 02 Sep, Wed - DeKalb Masonic Memorial Club**
at Clarkston 492, Clarkston. 2:00 meeting; coffee served.

Fundraisers

- 15 Aug, Sat - Spaghetti Dinner**
at Lakewood 443, Lovejoy. 11:00 - 5:00; \$5 all you can eat.
- 05 Sep, Sat - Chicken BBQ**
at Rockmart 87, Rockmart. 11:00 - 2:00.
- 07 Sep, Mon - Annual Labor Day BBQ**
at Hunter Park, Douglasville (by Douglasville 289). 11:00 - 5:00.
- 19 Sep, Sat - Spaghetti Dinner**
at College Park 454, College Park. 11:00 - 5:00; \$5.
Proceeds go to Christian City Children's Care Center.
- 26 Sep, Sat - BBQ**
at Clarkston 492, Clarkston. 11:00 - 6:00; all you can eat.
- Firewood (Oak)**
by Al Sihah Shrine, Macon. \$50 per pickup load (full sized pickups hold 1/3 to 1/2 cord). Contact Bobby Simmons for details.
- Picnic Tables**
by Shannon Lodge 404, Comer. 6' tables, \$150.00. Contact the WM for details.

GACHIP Programs

- 07 Sep, Mon - Douglasville 289, Sponsors**
at Hunter Park, Douglasville, 9:00 - 5:00.
- 12 Sep, Sat - Flint Hill 371, Sponsors**
at Douglas Co. Court House, Douglasville, 12:00 - 6:00.
- 26/27 Sep, Sat/Sun - Sandy Springs 124, Sponsors**
at the Sandy Springs Festival, 9:00 - 5:00.
- 26/27 Sep, Sat/Sun - Duluth 480, Sponsors**
at the Duluth Fall Festival, 9:00 - 4:00.



6th Annual Blue Lodge Tournament of Champions

Sponsored by the Valley of Atlanta, A&ASR, and held at the Atlanta Masonic Center

Why Ritual Competition?

Brethren, the annual Tournament not only provides an opportunity to compare performances of the lodge opening ritual and the catechisms, but also brings excellent lecturers from far and wide, each with his own version of the various lectures. This is a great opportunity not only for those who compete or judge, but also for those who come to watch, to get a feel for how other lodges do the lectures, and possibly to customize their own versions.

This year's events include the following:

Solo Competition:

Entered Apprentice:

The Entered Apprentice Prayer
The Bible Lecture
The Apron Lecture
The Working Tools
The Northeast Corner Lecture
The Entered Apprentice Charge

Fellow Craft:

The Working Tools
The Staircase (or Senior Deacon's) Lecture
The Letter G Lecture
The Fellow Craft Charge

Master Mason:

The Working Tools
The Bible Presentation
The Master Mason Charge

Two-man Competition:

Entered Apprentice Catechism
Fellow Craft Catechism
Master Mason Catechism

Team Competition: Lodge Opening

- Team may be assembled from multiple lodges
- No Charge at Opening
- No Balloting
- No Purging
- No GM Reception



So plan to join us at the Atlanta Masonic Center on **Saturday, 15 August**.

Judging of Lodge Openings, Catechisms and Charges will begin at 10:00 am.

Judging of solo lectures will begin at 1:00 pm.

Visit <http://krollings.com/toc/> for more details, including submission requirements and contact information.



Degree Conferals

Conferal schedules are **TENTATIVE**.
Please confirm with host lodge.



05 Aug, Wed - Master Mason Conferal
at Fulton 216, Atlanta. 6:30 meal, 7:30 start.

08 Aug, Sat - Fellow Craft Conferal
at Douglasville 289, Douglasville. 9:30am start.

08 Aug, Sat - Master Mason Conferal
at Fayetteville 711, Fayetteville. 7:00am meal, 8:00am start.
Knights of Mecca to Confer.

08 Aug, Sat - Master Mason Conferal
at Bartlett 139, Hiram. 6:30 meal, 7:30 start.

13 Aug, Thu - Entered Apprentice Conferal
at Douglasville 289, Douglasville. 6:30 meal, 7:30 start.

17 Aug, Tue - Entered Apprentice Conferal
at Rockmart 97, Rockmart. 6:30 meal, 7:30 start.

22 Aug, Sat - Master Mason Conferal
at the Rock Quarry, Morganton. Starts around dusk.

27 Aug, Thu - Fellow Craft Conferal
at Chamblee-Sardis 444, Chamblee. 6:30 meal, 7:30 start.

19 Sep, Sat - Master Mason Conferal
at Master's 295, Decatur. 8:00am meal, 9:00am start.
Knights of Mecca to confer.



Ask the Custodian

with much appreciated help from WBro. Greg Foster, Custodian of the Uniform Work for the 5th Masonic District of Georgia

Brethren, I asked Bro. Greg if he thought it would be appropriate to start a column to clarify (to the extent we are able) some common misconceptions about the Uniform Work of Georgia. I'd like to start by clarifying when the Columns do what, exactly.

I expect that we all know that the Column is Up in the West whenever the lodge is **open** and **at labor** on the **Master's Degree**; and that at any other time, the Column is Up in the South. However, it has been my experience that not every brother actually follows this rule. Allow me to explain...

We have three principal conditions to be met in order for the Column to be Up in the West: the lodge must be **open** and **at labor** on the **Master's Degree**:

1. Let's start with "**open**": The lodge has only two states; either it is **open**, or it is closed. That's pretty straight-forward, so I think we're good on that one.
2. Let's skip ahead to "on the **Master's Degree**": When lodge is open and at labor, it is on one of three degrees; we're always at labor on the **Master's Degree** unless business requires another. Also pretty clear, so let's move on the the tricky one.
3. This leaves us with "**at labor**", and herein lies the confusion: The lodge, when open and on the Master's Degree, has the following two states:

A. At Labor: This is the normal condition of the lodge, when open and on the Master's Degree - in fact, when open on any degree. And when the lodge is open and at labor on the Master's Degree, it is also in one of two conditions:

(1) Order: For most of the goings on in lodge, we are in this state. We start here when lodge is opened or called on, and remain here unless or until the lodge is set at ease.

Column UP in the WEST when at ORDER.

(2) At Ease: often, the lodge is put at ease to allow brethren to stand, contribute to charity or what have you. This is a short recess from the formality of being in order, and brethren may come and go as they please; guests may enter the lodge room for a program; no business may be conducted. When this period of being at ease is over, lodge is called to order again. **Column UP in the WEST when at EASE.**

B. At Refreshment: This usually indicates a break for coffee and dessert or some such, and is not necessarily used at every meeting. After refreshment is over, the lodge is called back to labor before work may be resumed. **Column UP in the SOUTH when at REFRESHMENT.**

And so when the lodge is put at ease, the column in the West remains up. We hope that this will prove helpful.



Open on Degree:	Lodge at Labor (both Order & Ease)	Lodge at Refreshment
EA	South	South
FC	South	South
MM	West	South



Reality and Ritual

By Fred C. Klienkecht, Past Sovereign Grand Commander of the A&ASR, SJ.

"There just isn't time in the world today for Ritual." A Brother said recently, "I wish it were different, but we just don't use ritual in our lives any more. It just doesn't relate to reality."

He then shook my hand, picked up his coat and hat, and left my office. I glanced out the window as he left, and noticed him putting his hat on as soon as he left the building. Then he reached the sidewalk, pausing to let a woman pedestrian pass, waved his hand to hail a cab, and disappeared down the street.

Of course, shaking hands, not wearing a hat inside, giving the right of way to a woman, hailing a cab by waving, all are rituals. Four acts in less than a minute - not bad for someone who has no time for ritual in his life!

Ritual in some form is a central part of our lives. In our Order, as everywhere, ritual is the oldest and most powerful means of teaching. It is even more than teaching! It is a major source of identification with any group. Each family has ritual ways, or certain ways to celebrate certain days. All cultures have rituals. Ritual is a primary way of telling "us" from "them." Anthropologists inform us that when rituals break down, our civilization is in trouble. All important moments in our lives are marked by ritual - birth, coming of age, joining a community of faith, marriage, death -- they are all marked by rituals.

As Masons, the ritualistic experience binds us into a special community, and unites us with men who might be very different in income, education, social status, race, creed, language, occupation, or experience. Yet, however we may differ; the Ritual experience of becoming a Mason is a bond stronger than all those differences.

The performance of the Ritual, the conferring of Degrees, is the only real business of Masonry. All the rest, such as charities, educational programs, fun and fellowship, are outgrowths of the lessons taught in those Rituals.

If you haven't been to a Degree ritual for some time, make it a point to visit a lodge and experience it again. If you approach it with an open heart and mind, you will find new lessons and fresh insights every time. Reality and Ritual are closely related as the oak and the acorn. They are what we, as Masons, are all about.

What is a Freemason?

By WBro. Kevin Noel Olson, PM Butte Lodge No. 22, Butte, Montana

Two craftsmen in heated dispute, and one lay on his back extending an arm.
The wooden gavel raised with voice of rage from one angered and quite alarmed.
The howl challenged the lungs as the mallet plunged, through force it was stayed,
King Hiram of Tyre in working attire, grasped the gavel to douse such hateful fire.

"Craftsman!" the King to the angry worker, standing over the prostrate in stance,
"Why the dissention? Is there just cause for you to threaten a brother with violence?"
The anger faded as the worker prostrated, The King said, "Are you as a worm fated?"
"Stand to your feet! Distress not thusly your knees! It is agreed on the level we meet."

"Offer your hand to your brother, as if one from your mother, and abuse him no more.
"To me tell wherefore, you have thrown him to floor,, and why do you treat him so poor?"
The craftsmen offered his hand, told his brother to stand, and other was righted again.
"My name is Hattush, oh wise King of trust, and will explain my foe's dastardly plan."

"His name is Jabon. Early this morn, I found my hammer with him in his workings."
"Gone from my sight, as I rested last night, it was stolen from me in my sleeping."
Jabon shook his head. "It is not as said, I stole not the gavel, nor item, from Hattush.
"Outside my tent, I found it and a cent. I supposed it to be mine. I took it in my rush.

"Are not gavels provided?" asked King Hiram, exited. "Is it not like any other in use?"
"If I may describe," Hattush tried, "how I and Jabon know that this gavel is my tool.
"Grand Master Hiram said I could use mine, as my father, as a gift, gave this to me.
"It was used it to raise the Tabernacle, and on it's handle is the mark of my family."

Hiram, the King, took it to agree. "'Tis true, the mark is there, plain as a plumb.
"What answer you Jabon? How did you not discern, the mark of this widow's son?"
"The fact, I admit," Jabon's face lit, "and it is not worthy to take little notice.
"I now regret to carelessly forget, to examine the gavel, and return it forthwith."

The King nodded, "I have concluded. My judgment is clear, it is just, and is final.
"Jabon, my son, you should always be cautious to examine your work and gavel.
Your story rings true, I find no fault in you, aside from ignorance you failed to avoid.
This may be corrected, and I leave to your Grand Master your education to employ."

Hiram turned to Hattush. "For you, you should shush. To listen not, your greatest crime.
"Hear a brother's words, before he you curse. This practice is good and sublime.
"There is no metal heard in the temple for good reason; that our hearts find no treason.
"Silence, that our minds might hear. The Aleph's sound, and Brotherly love in its season.

"Leave, you two, as Brothers. Let neither mishap nor error comes between one the other.
"For relief and forgiveness is alike, and none, no, not one, is the less for the bother.
"So, take your gavel and sing. As your forefathers, let it ring. Raise the tabernacle again.
"Know creation is from love, and love is from liberty, and in hate there is no great thing."

