

# THE FLORIDA MASON

FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE GRAND LODGE OF FLORIDA

VOLUME 102 ISSUE 6 MAY 2004

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*"Today's Basics provide  
Tomorrow's Light"*



**THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES**

SEE STORY ON PAGE 5

**M.:W.:JOHN R. GIVENS  
GRAND MASTER (2003-2004)**

# THE FLORIDA MASON

VOLUME 102 ISSUE 6

MAY 2004

<http://www.phmainstreet.com/flmason/>

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## Grand Lodge Elected Officers for 2003-2004

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Deputy GM - R.:W.: Elmer Coffman, PDDGM  
SGW - R.:W.: John F. Kavanaugh  
JGW - R.:W.: Robert Trump  
Grand Treasurer - M.:W.: J. Roy Crowther  
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## GRAND MASTER'S THEME

"Today's Basics provide Tomorrow's Light"

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*THE FLORIDA MASON* encourages submission of articles and pictures, but the editor reserves the right to edit or reject any article for any reason, and to use only as needs and policies dictate and space permits. Articles and pictures should be sent to the Editor.

Articles can be submitted through *THE FLORIDA MASON's* web site; also, copies of the publication can be downloaded from there as well:

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1/2 page (4+3/4" X 7+5/8")	\$ 675.00
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CLASSIFIEDS: A lodge may like to post their location and meeting times so that visiting Brothers will know when and where the lodge will meet. These classified ads would be inexpensive and would have statewide coverage. Even District Deputy Grand Masters might list their official visits so all members could make plans to attend. The list of possibilities for classified advertising is endless.

**Call W.: Bro. Tim Bryce to place an order:  
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- Bro.Dan Hall  
danmando@comcast.net  
<http://www.danhall.com/>

**FLORIDA MASONIC WEB SITES**

Please note the following new or modified Masonic web sites.

Orlando Scottish Rite  
<http://www.srorlando.org/>

Tropical Lodge No. 56 F.& A.M. - Fort Myers, FL  
<http://www.phmainstreet.com/fl56/>

Please update your bookmarks and web links accordingly.

**FM**

# EDITOR'S MESSAGE

## *"The Problem of Patchogue"*

Two newsworthy articles regarding Freemasonry sprung to our attention in the press in March. The first dealt with the accidental shooting of a Medford, Long Island Brother on March 8th inside the basement of South Side Lodge No. 493 F.& A.M. in Patchogue, New York. Police report that William James, 47, was killed in what appears to be an accident involving a club initiation (not a Masonic degree). Why guns were even in a Masonic lodge, let alone used in some initiation, is baffling, and it may be some time before we know all of the details. As an aside, the Grand Master of New York, M.:W.:Carl J. Fitje, has suspended the charter of the Lodge and its members pending an investigation.

Two days later, on March 10th, a Masonic Lodge in Istanbul, Turkey was targeted by two suicide bombers from an Al-Qaida Group. In trying to force their way into the ground floor of the Masonic Hall which is used as a restaurant, they detonated a device at the entrance killing one of themselves and a waiter, as well as injuring six people in the restaurant, one seriously. It is believed the terrorists attacked the Masons because they were believed to be linked to the Jews.

Although these two events are unrelated, they tell us a lot about how we, as Freemasons, are perceived by the public. The latter incident is based on an age-old false perception that Masons are an offshoot of Judaism, the sworn enemy of many in the middle-East. We may never be able to overcome this perception by such zealots, but we should at least try. The former incident is perhaps the most damaging to us here in North America for it affects not just our Brothers in New York, but virtually every Lodge in the English-speaking world. Currently, the anti-Masons describe us as devil worshipers and blame us for everything from the overthrow of just about every country in the world, to the assassination of the Kennedys. Now we throw in a careless killing in one of our Lodges and we have a publicity and public relations nightmare affecting all of us. I am sure that this will have an adverse affect on those contemplating membership in our great order, or to their families. And I am sure other governmental and non-profit organizations will look at us suspiciously.

We simply don't need this type of press as we try to rebuild the public's confidence in us. Consequently, it will be necessary for us to double our efforts to show that we are not the evil-empire that our critics accuse us of being. Forget about the millions of dollars and hours we have unselfishly volunteered to help the less

fortunate. Forget about the hospitals we build, the schools we help, and the charities we support. It is now time to re-shape public opinion through publicity and public relations. I implore all Masons to send me their stories on how they are helping their communities, be it an "Adopt a Class" project, a "Child ID" program, a donation to a charity, helping the elderly, or whatever. The best defense is a strong offense. If we can demonstratively show how we are helping the world, the public will take notice and realize that accidents, such as the one in Patchogue, is just that, an accident.

*Keep the faith!*

**W.:Tim Bryce, PM**  
**timb001@attglobal.net**  
**Editor**

P.S. Don't forget to add me to your Trestleboard mailing list:

Tim Bryce  
P.O. Box 1637  
Palm Harbor, FL 34682-1637

For a list of other Grand Lodge e-zines and Florida Trestleboards, please see our web site at:

<http://www.phmainstreet.com/flmason/>



# DOWN THE ROAD CALENDAR OF EVENTS



For the Grand Master's Itinerary, see:

[http://www.gflmason.org/  
Grand\\_masters\\_itinerary1.htm](http://www.gflmason.org/Grand_masters_itinerary1.htm)

For other Grand Lodge activities, please see:

<http://plus.calendars.net/gloffla/>  
or <http://www.gflmason.org/>

## **Wednesday, May 5th, 7:30pm**

Zone 6 Legislation Review Meeting @ Zendah Grotto,  
Tampa

## **Saturday, May 8th, 12:00pm-6:00pm**

Barbecue @ Community Lodge No. 292, Tampa.  
Fundraiser for A/C repair in Lodge. Pork, Chicken and  
all the trimings. For info: 813/932-5945,  
[clodge292@aol.com](mailto:clodge292@aol.com)

## **Saturday, May 15th, 8:00a-10:00a**

Breakfast @ Fellowship Lodge No. 265, Tampa. For info:  
813/876-9179, [Secretary@fellowship265.org](mailto:Secretary@fellowship265.org)

## **Sunday, May 16th, 11:00am**

Grand Lodge Board of Trustees Meeting at the Masonic  
Home, St. Petersburg.

## **Monday, May 17th, 7:00pm**

Masonic Information Night @ Dunedin Lodge No. 192.  
All Lodges are invited to bring a potential candidate to  
this open session which will describe the purpose and  
benefits of joining Freemasonry. For info, 727/733-2597,  
[dunedin192@solomon.ij.net](mailto:dunedin192@solomon.ij.net)

## **Wednesday, May 19th, 8:00pm**

SunCoast Masters & Wardens Association meeting  
(Dists, 20 & 21) at Sutherland Lodge No. 174, Largo.  
For info, call the Secretary, R.:W.:Ron McMillan, 727/  
539-1645. Dinner: 7:00pm, Meeting: 8:00pm. Open to  
all Master Masons.

## **Friday, May 28th, 7:30pm**

Dist. 22 & 23 Masters & Wardens Association meeting  
@ Fellowship Lodge No. 265, Tampa.

## **May 30th - June 2nd**

175th Annual Grand Communications in Jacksonville  
Adam's Mark Hotel  
Tel: 904/633-9095  
Reservations: 800/444-2326

## **Friday, June 18th**

Deadline for the July issue of *THE FLORIDA MASON*.

## **Friday, June 25th, 7:30pm**

Dist. 22 & 23 Masters & Wardens Association meeting  
@ Fellowship Lodge No. 265, Tampa.

*Got an important date you want listed here? Send your an-  
nouncements to THE FLORIDA MASON either through our  
web site at:*

<http://www.phmainstreet.com/flmason/>  
Or e-mail it to [timb001@attglobal.net](mailto:timb001@attglobal.net)

**FM**

# THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

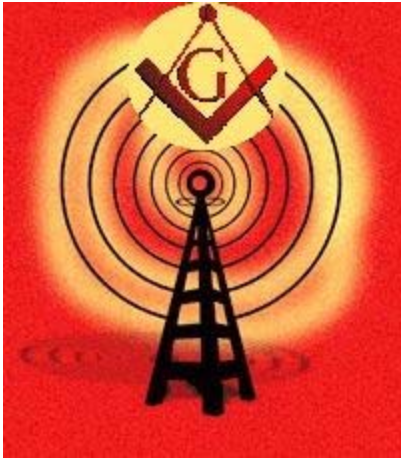
Thanks go out to M.:W.:John R. Givens and his Lady, Claudia, on a fine year as Grand Master.



## FREEMASONRY "ON THE AIR"

*Bryce on Technology*

by W.:Tim Bryce, PM  
Editor, *THE FLORIDA MASON*



I have been surfing the 'Net for some time now (over ten years) and enjoy learning new techniques to disseminate information over it. I particularly enjoy "streaming" technology used to broadcast multimedia broadcasts (Radio-TV) over the Internet. I figured, "*If they can do it, why can't I?*" Consequently, a couple of years ago I put together a weekly broadcast entitled "Masonic Update" to report on Masonic news and scheduled events. At first, I reported on local events in the Tampa Bay area but it slowly evolved into stories pertaining to Freemasonry from around the world. Occasionally I include interviews with prominent Masons in the broadcast. It has been very gratifying to hear comments from my listeners who enjoy the show. Some think it is a technological wonder. Frankly, I hate to burst their bubble but its not exactly rocket science and takes me just a few minutes to put together. Here is how I do it.

### STEP 1 - WRITE SCRIPT

The hardest part of putting together "Masonic Update" is assembling the script, which I work on throughout the week as I hear of news and announcements. At the end of the week, I clean up my notes and finalize the script as a simple text file (.TXT). Any word processor or text editor can be used for this purpose.

As an aside, if you have any Masonic news or announcements you want mentioned on "Masonic Update" please e-mail them to me at: [timb001@attglobal.net](mailto:timb001@attglobal.net)

### CONVERTING TO AUDIO

To create an audio file, you must first have a sound card

in your computer and a simple microphone (I use a headset myself). To create a multimedia program, there is a wide variety of file formats available, including: .WAV, .RM, .WMA, .MP3, .MPG, .AIF, .MOV, .MID, .VID, .AVI, etc. But which one to use? Each has their own specific application. As for me, I need something that:

1. Clearly records audio; specifically tailored for speech. (Video was not a prerequisite for me).
2. Can edit the audio broadcast; e.g., delete and insert sections, amplify, and add special effects if necessary.
3. Provides efficient file sizes for uploading and downloading and lends itself to "streaming" technology.

Let me explain this last concept, "streaming". Normally on the Internet you must wait for a file to be transferred from one computer to another before you can use it. This could mean an inordinate amount of time waiting for a file to be downloaded. To overcome this problem, someone clever invented "streaming" which means that you no longer have to wait on a whole file to be transferred before you can use it. Instead, packets of data from the file are transmitted which can be used immediately by the end user. In other words, no waiting. Not only is "streaming" technology useful for pre-recorded programs such as "Masonic Update" but it is also used by thousands of radio stations worldwide to transmit live broadcasts (see the *General News* section of *THE FLORIDA MASON's* web site for some examples).

"Streaming" technology requires special software on the host computer (the server) as well as software on the end-user's computer (the client). For the end-user's computer, there are basically two choices:



Real Player from RealNetworks, Inc.  
<http://www.real.com/>



Windows Media Player from Microsoft  
<http://www.microsoft.com/windows/windowsmedia/download/default.asp>

*(continued on page 7)*

## **FREEMASONRY "ON THE AIR"**

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Both are available free of charge but as far as I'm concerned the products from RealNetworks are vastly superior technologically, not only due to programming efficiency, but it represents a cross-platform approach (its operational on the Mac, Linux, as well as Windows). Regardless, since we live in Bill's world, consideration must be given to Microsoft's offering. These products allow you to tune into radio stations, play your favorite songs, view videos, and burn CDs.

To accommodate my requirements (and the industry), I settled on the following approach for creating audio files:

- A. Create a .WAV file which can be digitally edited.
- B. Convert the .WAV file into a RealMedia format (.RM) for use by Real Player.
- C. Convert the .WAV file into a Windows Media Audio file (.WMA) for use by the MS Media Player.

### **STEP 2 - CREATE WAV FILE**

I record my "Masonic Update" program as a .WAV file because there is an abundance of editing tools available on the web (most are free). So much so, that I don't want to recommend a specific product. I have probably used five or six different products over the last couple of years and they all basically work the same; they provide the means to view and edit the audio track (using common "select", "cut", "copy" and "paste" functions). They also provide a means to adjust amplification and add effects (such as "echo"), none of which I use in my own broadcast.

Some might ask, "Why not just use the WAV file for your broadcast?" Good question. The answer is that a WAV file is extremely inefficient (they can become huge in size) and they do not lend themselves to "streaming" technology. I simply use it as a base of operations to edit and produce my broadcast. If there were comparable editing tools for other file formats, I would probably use them and abandon the WAV format.

Another benefit of the WAV format is that it is one of the oldest and just about all of the other multimedia products can convert it to another format, which is what I do.

### **STEP 3 - CREATE REALMEDIA (RM) FILE**

After I have produced the WAV version of the broadcast, I then convert it into a RM version for use with Real Player. The folks at RealNetworks, Inc. pretty much have the only game in town when it comes to this file format and so, to create the RM version, I use Real Producer

(<http://www.realnetworks.com/products/producer10/index.html>)

from them (a modest expenditure). Real Producer allows you to create multimedia programs (both audio and video) either by converting a file (as in my case) or by direct audio/video input (microphone and camera - assuming you have a video card). The result is a very efficient RM file that is about one-tenth the size of the WAV file and one-half the size of a WMA file.

*(continued on page 8)*



## FREEMASONRY "ON THE AIR"

(continued from page 7)



Real Producer

### STEP 4 - CREATE WINDOWS MEDIA AUDIO (WMA) FILE

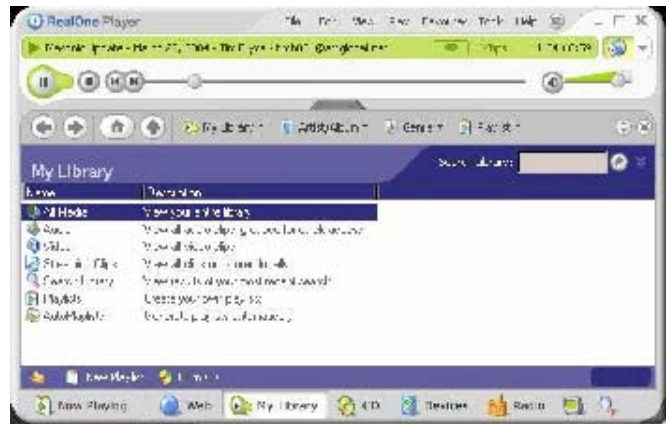
Again, after the WAV file has been created, it can be converted into a WMA file using a wide variety of tools that are freely available on the web or through a modest outlay of cash. Do I have to convert the WAV file to RM before creating the WMA file? No. Its just the sequence I follow.



Converting WAV to WMA

### STEP 5 - REVIEW THE FINISHED PRODUCT

After the RM and WMA files have been produced I normally run a test on them using Real Player and MS Media Player.



Testing the Real Player version.



Testing the MS Media Player version

If there are any problems (there usually aren't any), I am then ready to release them for general consumption.

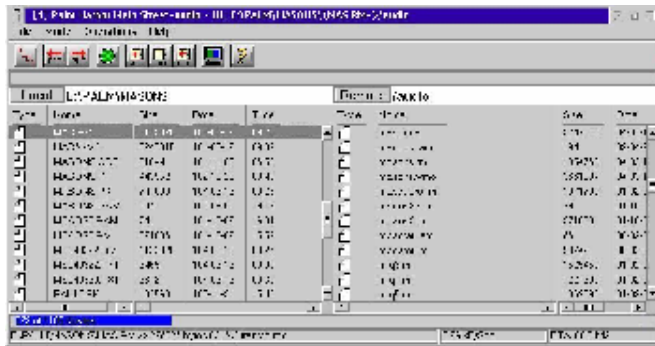
### STEP 6 - UPLOAD THE FILES TO THE INTERNET

When I'm ready to release the broadcast, I use a common FTP (File Transfer Protocol) program to transfer the RM and WMA files to my Internet site (a variety of such products are available on the web). It is very important that your Internet Service Provider (ISP) supports "streaming" technology. Most of the major ISPs these days do, including mine, Media3 Technologies (<http://www.media3.com/>).

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## FREEMASONRY "ON THE AIR"

(continued from page 8)



Uploading files via FTP

After the upload I do some basic housekeeping, such as archiving the RM and WMA files, and deleting the original WAV file to conserve space on my computer. I then create a script for next week's broadcast by using the current week's script as a template.

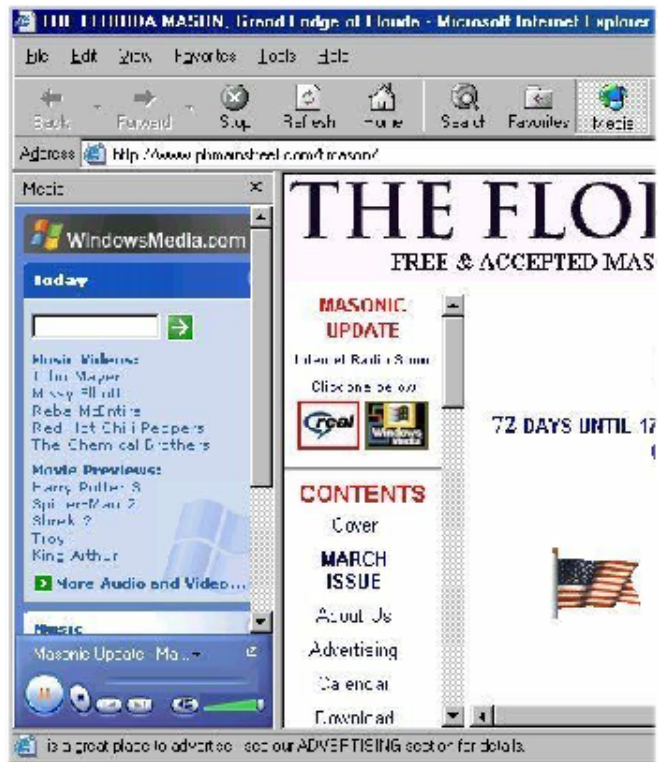
### SO WHERE CAN I FIND "MASONIC UPDATE"?

On a lot of Masonic web pages, including *THE FLORIDA MASON*. You can find it at the top of our Table of Contents section of the web page. Two icons are provided, one for the Real Player version and one for the MS Media Player version.



If you are a Real Player user, when you click on the Real Player icon, Real Player is automatically launched and the RM file accessed from the site. If you are an MS Media Player user and you click on the Media Player icon, the MS Media Player will automatically be launched either as a stand alone program or as part of the Microsoft Internet Explorer (depending on how your computer is configured).

MAY 2004



To access the files directly over the Internet, go to:

Real Player Version

<http://www.phmainstreet.com/audio/masons.ram>

- (the RAM file is a simple text/command file allowing you to stack one or more RM files in your broadcast).

MS Windows Media Player Version

<http://www.phmainstreet.com/audio/masons.wma>

### SUMMARY

Let me again review the steps I follow to produce "Masonic Update":

1. Create a script using a favorite word processor or text editor (in my case, it was a simple TXT file).
2. Create a WAV file and edit the audio clip as desired.
3. Convert the WAV file into a RealMedia file (RM).
4. Convert the WAV file into a Windows Media Audio file (WMA).
5. Test both the RM and WMA versions and modify as required.
6. Upload the RM and WMA files to the Internet using a FTP program.

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**FREEMASONRY "ON THE AIR"**

*(continued from page 9)*

7. Archive the files and prepare the script for next week.

Preparing "Masonic Update" has been a labor of love and I am gratified by the comments I have received from the broadcast, both from Masons and potential Brothers in and out of Florida. I have found this to be an excellent means to communicate to the Brethren and I believe represents the "wave" of the future (pun intentional). Perhaps you can put such technology to work for you as well.

**WANT TO ADD "MASONIC UPDATE" TO YOUR WEB PAGE?**

There is no charge for using or linking to "Masonic Update." If you would like to link to it, either use the links mentioned above or "select", "copy" and "paste" the HTML code found at the bottom of the following web page of the May issue:

<http://www.phmainstreet.com/flmason/html/page3.htm>

*Tim Bryce is a consultant located in the Tampa Bay area of Florida and is available to discuss subjects related to the Internet at Lodge and District/Zone meetings.*

**FM**

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publication.

**NEWS FROM HILLSBOROUGH LODGE 25**



The photo at above is of Bro. Connor Reed, born 2/9/1916. He was Hillsborough Lodge's Tyler for 16 years and was voted Tyler Emeritus status. W.:W. Harry Cumber, Worshipful Master of Hillsborough Lodge, is shown presenting Bro. Reed with a Tyler Emeritus Apron and case.



The photo at above is the District Deputy Grand Master of the 22nd Masonic District, R.:W.:Ed Martin ([emartin6@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:emartin6@tampabay.rr.com)) and W.:Cumber at the staircase of Hillsborough Lodge. R.:W.:Martin is a Past Master of the Lodge which is very proud and pleased with his accomplishments.

*- courtesy of R.:W.:Fred W. Hueting, PDDGM  
Secretary, Hillsborough Lodge No. 25 F.& A.M.  
<http://www.25.MasonFL.com/>  
Tampa*

**FM**

# NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

## MASONS PLAY BALL FOR GRAND MASTER'S CHARITY



*Both teams paused for a group photo afterwards.  
Clearwater Lodge is in the front row,  
Sutherland Lodge in the back row.*

**PALM HARBOR, FL (MARCH 7, 2004)** - Two Lodges from District 20 came together for a softball game with proceeds benefitting the Grand Master's Charity (the Masonic Home of Florida). Clearwater Lodge No. 127 F. & A.M. challenged Sutherland Lodge No. 174 F. & A.M. of Palm Harbor, who has twice before won similar games for the Grand Master's Charity. Sutherland won the game in seven innings 16-13 after a strong come-back by a determined Clearwater squad. *"The real winner here was the Grand Master's Charity,"* said W.:Jarvis Wood, Master of Sutherland Lodge.

*"This was a win-win situation all the way around,"* said Clearwater's Master, W.:Joe Duhamel, *"Nobody was out there for guts or glory, just a friendly game of softball, enjoy some Brotherhood, and collect money for charity. In all, we collected \$270 for the Grand Master's Charity."*

Following the game, the Brothers and their families and friends enjoyed a good old-fashioned cookout of hamburgers and hot dogs, with Sutherland's Junior Warden Bro. Steve Pelicos as head chef.

Representing the Grand Master was R.:W.:Sam Lampson, District Deputy Grand Master of the 20th Masonic District, who threw out the first pitch of the game and presented the winning trophy afterwards. Also in attendance was the District 20 Instructor R.:W.:Ed Phero, PM, PDDGM, who gave the invocation prior to the start of the game.



*R.:W.:Sam Lampson (right) presents  
"The Chico" to W.:Jarvis Wood,  
Master of Sutherland Lodge*

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# NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

**MASON'S PLAY BALL FOR G.M.'s CHARITY**  
(continued from page 11)



## THE "CHICO"

One by-product of the game was the creation of a new "traveling" trophy dubbed "The Chico" by its creators. Any Lodge under the Grand Lodge of Florida can challenge the Lodge in possession of the trophy to a game of softball at a mutually agreed upon time and place. Games are to be played using normal adult ASA softball rules with league approved umpires (see W.: Tim Bryce, PM for details). Each Lodge must put up a minimum of \$100 for the Grand Master's Charity and each player must pay a minimum of \$5 to offset expenses (e.g., field/umpire fees, food, etc.). In addition to Lodge members playing in the game, each Lodge is allowed to have a maximum of three "ringers" who have a sincere interest in joining the Fraternity. This last rule has been very effective in getting new members. For example, one petition for the three symbolic degrees was signed and received at this particular game.

For more information in participating in this program, and to challenge Sutherland Lodge to a softball game, contact:

- W.: Tim Bryce, PM  
timb001@attglobal.net  
Editor, THE FLORIDA MASON

Photos courtesy of Bro. Paul Ergler of Dunedin Lodge No. 192 F& AM

FM

## DISTRICT 19 GETS NEW WEB SITE



The 19th Masonic District of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of F.& A.M. of Florida with Lodges in Citrus, Sumter, Hernando, and Pasco Counties.

Located at  
<http://FloridaLodges.com/>

Greetings Brothers, and Welcome to "Web Sites For Florida Masonic Lodges of The 19th Masonic District"

It is with honor and a great pleasure to present a web site to the Florida Lodges of District 19. This has been a labor of love. In talking with officers and members of most of the lodges in District 19, all wished their lodge had a web site, saying however, they had no one in their lodge to do this.

So I created a home page for each of the eleven lodges, the Masters and Wardens Association, District 19 Officers News, and Calendars for District 19 under a Mother Page called: "Web Sites For Florida Masonic Lodges of The 19th Masonic District."

This was done with the cooperation of Grand Lodge District 19 Officers, and the Worshipful Masters and Secretaries of most of the lodges. With a special thanks to the Secretary at Grand Lodge, the Web Master at Grand Lodge, and Tim Bryce of THE FLORIDA MASON.

I will be working throughout the upcoming year on expanding our Web Site and making it more useful and informative to Visiting Brothers, so that Masonry in Florida will continue to thrive.

Please feel free to contact me with your ideas, comments, and suggestions and yes even criticisms for the Florida Masonic Lodges Website so that we can all work together to move Masonry forward.

Fraternally  
Bro. Danny Hammers  
dhammers@tampabay.rr.com  
Web Master

FM

# NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

## **NEW BROTHER STEPS IN TO HELP MASONIC WIDOWS**



**TITUSVILLE, FL (March 1, 2004)** - Harold Yount has been a Mason for one year. Soon after giving his Master Mason Proficiency, he realized that Indian River Lodge No. 90 F.& A.M. was falling down in its duty to the Widows of our former members.

He sent out letters to our members who reside locally, asking if they would be willing to do minor repair things around the house of our Widows. He also composed a list of the Widows and sent them letters asking if they would like one of our members to be assigned to them to do small repairs around the house and to assist them in making recommendations when the repairs were beyond the scope of the programs objectives.

Brother Yount thought of Light bulbs that needed changing or a loose door knob or other small projects that these ladies might not be able to do. And much to his surprise, 39 ladies came forward and wanted to be included in this program.

Although that was a great response, the lodge Brothers were initially not as willing to step forward to help, but with time enough volunteers signed up to make it work. Brother Yount was a former Doctor in West Palm Beach before relocating to Titusville. We think he realized not only that we had not been living up to our obligation, but also just how much older folks might be in need of help.

The kickoff of the program happened at a Friday Night regularly held for the families of the lodge, where the Widows were asked to be our guest for a Valentine Dinner on February 13th.

We applaud our Brother Harold and hope some of the other Lodges in other Districts will pick up this concept and run with it.

We in the 26th Masonic District tip our hats to Brother Yount.

For more information on this announcement, please contact Harold Yount at 321/385-3484; E-Mail: hayount@aol.com

*- courtesy of Bro. David M. Hardesty  
davethemason@cs.com*

*Public Relations Chairman, 26th Masonic District*

**FM**



[www.phmainstreet.com/mashome](http://www.phmainstreet.com/mashome)

# NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

## **JOPPA LODGE NO. 4 HOLDS FIRST OUTDOOR DEGREE**

**OLD TOWN, FL (March 6, 2004)** - Joppa Lodge No. 4 F.& A.M. of Fletcher, Florida, hosted its first outdoor Master Mason degree that was attended by 175 Masons from 67 Lodges representing three States. Among those attending included the Junior Grand Warden, R.:W.:Bob Trump and several past appointed Florida Grand Lodge Officers and numerous District Deputies. The degree was held on the Swiston Family Farm in Old Town. Prior to the degree, attendees dined on an outstanding chicken and pork barbecue dinner that was simply fabulous.

The second section was done entirely in full costume and three new Brothers were raised! I want to take this time to thank all of the Brothers that helped me put this event together. Without the help of everyone, it would have been an impossible task to perform.

Joppa Lodge is planning on having another outdoor degree next year and will advise you on the date as soon as they start planning it.

*- courtesy of W.:Eric Daniels, PM  
District Instructor, District Eight  
dixielee@inetw2.net*

**FM**



# NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

## HIBISCUS LODGE NABS TRAVELING GAVEL



Hibiscus Lodge No. 275 F.& A.M., located in Coral Gables-the 35th District, is proud to announce that on March 15th, 2004 it sent seven Master Masons to Walter S. Graham's DDGM Official Visit to Coconut Grove Lodge No. 258 F.& A.M. to take the District's Traveling Gavel. Some members of Coconut Grove took some pride in that we only managed to bring seven rather than our more customary dozen. Pictured Above: (W.:Anthony A. D'Ascoli joyfully passes the Traveling gavel to W.:Gregory Conterio). Pictured Below, Front to Back (W.:Carlos E. Cespedes, PM, Sec.; W.:Gregory Conterio; Bro.Ainslee Ferdie; W.:Roger M. Dunetz, PM, Treas.; David Richardson, JW; Steve Singer, Chaplin; and Bro. Gil Kaufman.)

- courtesy of W.:Roger M. Dunetz, PM  
Dunetz@BellSouth.net

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## ENSLEY LODGE TAKES DISTRICT 1 RITUAL HONOR



The Ritual Team of Ensley Lodge No. 278 F.& A.M. of Pensacola won the District 1 Ritual Competition on April 10th. Pictured are: (Front Row) R.:W.:Ken Boswell (Lodge Instructor), R.:W.:Ed Kritzmire (Secretary), W.:Joe King, PM (Back Row) Bro.Dick Robb (Marshall), Bro.Al Glass (SD), Bro.Bill Hall (SW), Bro.Ron Williams (Chp), Bro. Don Sparks (WM), Bro.Mark Leonard (SS), Bro.Mike Sebaugh(JS), and Bro.Don Smith (JW).

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to R.:W.:Ken Boswell, the Ensley Lodge Instructor; R.:W.:Norman Lowndes, DDGM/1; W.:Adrian Lowndes, District 1 Instructor; W.:Michael Raines of Naval Lodge No. 24, and; Bro.David Walker, Junior Warden of Naval Lodge No. 24 for their instruction and support.

- W.:John Mick PM  
getaway3@bellsouth.net

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# NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

## ORTEGA MASONS GATHER IN JACKSONVILLE



**JACKSONVILLE, FL (March 14, 2004)** - Masons from the Ortega area of Florida (northeast) held a second reunion at the Florida Yacht Club in Jacksonville. 75 Brothers were in attendance this year (up from 68 last year) for a friendly get-together. There were no speeches, no tyler at the door, and no proficiency card required. It was strictly an informal social occasion for Brother Masons who live in or have ties with the Ortega area.

Thanks go out to Bro. H. Joe Tull, 32, KCCH, who took the photos. The terrace of the Florida Yacht Club (Florida's oldest) with the St. Johns River in the background, provided an ideal setting for Bro. Tull's work.

- Dr. William H. Wood, 32, KCCH  
Docwoodroj90@aol.com  
Arlington Lodge No. 309 F.& A.M.  
Jacksonville



EA Bro. Preston Moses, EA Bro. Malachi Haughton, IV  
Bro. Henderson "Peck" Boree, 32 and Bro. Bill Wood, 33

**FM**



Bro. Harry Doddenberry, Bro. Charles P. Towers, 32,  
Bro. Fitzhugh K. Powell, 33, G.C.



Bro. Bill Hudson, 32 KCCH, Bro. Bill Adams, 32, and Bro. Bill Gay, 32

## **BOYNTON LODGE NO. 236 GOES TO SCOTLAND**

September 1st to September 9th, 2004



*Round trip air from West Palm Beach via Glasgow and Edinburgh on Continental Airlines.*



Chauffeur driven private coaches at our disposal for the entire trip, including airport pick-up and drop-off.

B & B accommodations including full Scottish breakfast in the beautiful little town of Strathkinness, ten minutes from downtown St. Andrews. Chauffeur driven private coaches at our disposal for the entire trip, including airport pick-up and drop-off.

### **Itinerary**

1. Depart West Palm Beach Sept. 1st 12:53PM on Continental Air via Newark, arrive Glasgow Scotland Sept. 2nd 8:00AM. Travel to St. Andrews via private motor coach. Check into B&B.

2. Depart St. Andrews Sept. 9th early AM for Edinburgh on private motor coach. Depart Edinburgh 10:00 AM via Newark, arrive West Palm Beach 6:07PM.

### **During our stay**

- I. Masons will attend Lodge at least 2 times. Those who wish, will be afforded an opportunity to affiliate with Lodge St. Andrew # 25. "The Knights of Malta Degree" will be offered to those that are qualified and wish to participate.
- II. A day trip to Edinburgh and the Scottish Grand Lodge and Edinburgh Castle.
- III. A trip to world famous Rosslyn Chapel and visit to Edinburgh Crystal factory,
- IV. A trip to Sterling Castle and the William Wallace monument.
- V. Opportunities to shop in the beautiful town of St. Andrews and sight seeing to fishing villages along the spectacular coastline.
- VI. Typical Scottish dinner party at the world famous St. Andrews Golf Club with local musical entertainment and sing along.
- VII. Open time to enjoy your B&B hosts and enjoy some of the local color.

Cost \$ 1425 per person

For additional information, see:

<http://www.boyntonlodge236.com/Boynton%20Scotland%20trip-1.pdf>

**FM**

# NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

## SUNCOAST MASONS SHOOT TRAP FOR SCHOLARSHIP FUND



**ODESSA, FL (April 17, 2004)** - The SunCoast Masters & Wardens Association hosted its 4th Annual Trap-Shoot Tournament at the Silver Dollar Shooters Club in Odessa. The purpose of the tournament was to raise money for the Association's Scholarship Fund. The Association represents Masonic Blue Lodges in the 20th & 21st Masonic Districts of Florida (Pinellas and West Pasco Counties).

Brothers from five Florida Lodges participated in the tournament including:

- \* Elmer O. Smith Lodge No. 307 F.& A.M. (PinellasPark)
- \* Nitram Lodge No. 188 F.& A.M. (St. Petersburg)
- \* Star Lodge No. 78 F.& A.M. (Largo)
- \* Sutherland Lodge No. 174 F.& A.M. (Palm Harbor)
- \* Tarpon Lodge No. 112 F.& A.M. (Tarpon Springs)

The competition for the event was broken into three divisions based on age:

- \* Ages 10-15 (Juniors)
- \* Ages 16-50 (Adult)
- \* Over 50 (Seniors)

Winners included:

- \* Juniors Division - (no entry this year)
- \* R.:W.:J. Paul Stellrecht, PDDGM/21 of Star Lodge won the Adult Division (Ages 16-50) and with a score of

40 (out of 50).

\* Bro.Dale Thomas was the Seniors Division Champ (Over 50) and was "Top Gun" of the tournament (48 out of 50). Bro. Dale is the Senior Warden of Elmer O. Smith Lodge.

The event generated \$120 for the Association's Scholarship Fund which is awarded to a graduating High School senior in Pinellas/West Pasco Counties who demonstrated academic achievement and volunteer work in the community. This year's prize is \$1,000.

The SunCoast Masters & Wardens Association wants to thank the fine people at the Silver Dollar Shooters Club for their assistance in conducting the shoot.

- W.: Tim Bryce, PM  
Editor, THE FLORIDA MASON

FM



Adult Champ RW Paul Stellrecht (left) and Seniors Champ Bro.Dale Thomas ("Top Gun")

# MASONIC EDUCATION, OPINIONS & POETRY

## SOME RITUAL ORIGINS

by Wallace McLeod

*Bro. Wallace McLeod is a member and Past Master of Mizpah Lodge No. 572 A.F. & A.M., Toronto, Canada, and of Quatuor Coronati Lodge No. 2076, London, England; he is the Grand Historian of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario.*

The ritual is, as has often been observed, fundamental to Freemasonry, and it gives form to our proceedings. We like to think of it as one of the landmarks, but it does change, though only slowly. Let me remind you of how far back in Masonry we can trace certain words and episodes.

We begin with the familiar phrase “*So mote it be*”, which sometimes baffles new Masons. That is because it is extremely old, and includes an obsolete form of the verb. Actually these very words are found in the earliest extant copy of the Old Charges of the operative Masons, the Regius Poem, which was written in England about the year 1390. Almost as old, it turns out, is Masonic emphasis on the seven liberal sciences, and on the building of King Solomon’s Temple; both are essential parts of the Cooke Manuscript, which goes back to about 1410. Indeed they continued to be a regular part of the standard versions of the Old Charges that served to govern the Craft for the next three hundred years.

There is a marvelous collection of early ritual documents covering the years 1696-1730, called The Early Masonic Catechisms. In this work we find that the phrases “*hele and conceal*” and “*Five points of fellowship*” both occur in the Edinburgh Register House Manuscript of 1696. “*The square, the compass, and the Bible*” are mentioned together in the Dumfries Manuscript No. 4, of about 1710.

A London newspaper of 1723 published what purported to be an exposure of the Masonic ceremonies, and there we find the five orders of architecture duly listed. The well-known trio “*Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth*,” comes from another exposure, a pamphlet printed in London in 1724.

Anderson’s Book of Constitutions of 1723 mentions the toast to “*The King and the Craft*.” It also refers to God as the Great Architect of the Universe (a phrase first used by John Calvin), and alludes in passing to Hiram Abif (a name which comes from 2 Chronicles 4:16, in Coverdale’s Bible of 1535).

The most popular of the early exposures was Samuel Prichard’s *Masonry Dissected*, first published in 1730. And there we find such familiar phrases as “*Neither naked nor clothed, bare-foot nor shod*,” “*Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty*,” “*Square, Level, and Plumb-Rule*,” and “*a Sprig of Cassia at the Head of his Grave*.”

The earliest version of the Charge to the Newly Initiated Candidate, the one with the words “*Antient, as having subsisted from Times immemorial*,” that outlines our duty “*to God, our Neighbours, and Ourselves*,” appears in William Smith’s *Pocket Companion* (Dublin, 1735).

The story of Ephraimites at the passage of the River Jordan turns up in a French exposure of 1747. Whether it had been borrowed from English sources is not clear; at any rate, it soon appears in printed English rituals.

The next great landmark in the evolution of our ceremonies is the advent of the three great expounders of the ritual, who were the first ones to provide more substantial lectures. Wellins Calcott lived from 1726 until after 1779; in his book *A Candid Disquisition* (1769), he speaks of Pythagoras and the Egyptian philosophers, who concealed their principles under the cover of hieroglyphics. He also offers some familiar words of advice: “*Right Worshipful Sir, by the unanimous voice of the members of this lodge, you are elected to the mastership thereof for the ensuing half-year... You have been of too long standing, and are too good a member of our community, to require now any information in the duty of your office. What you have seen praiseworthy in others, we doubt not you will imitate; and what you have seen defective, you will in yourself amend... For a pattern of imitation, consider the great luminary of nature, which, rising in the east, regularly diffuses light and lustre to all within its circle. In like manner it is your province, with due decorum, to spread and communicate light and instruction to the brethren in the lodge.*”

To be sure, the sentiments expressed here have now been assigned to two different charges. But their original source is unmistakable. William Hutchinson (1732-1814), in his *Spirit of Masonry* (1775), offers a series of Moral Observations on the Instruments of Masonry. They interpret the significance of the working tools.

“The Level should advise us that...we are all descended from the same common stock, partake of the like nature, have...the same hope; and though distinctions necessarily make a subordination among mankind, yet

*(continued on page 20)*

# MASONIC EDUCATION, OPINIONS & POETRY

## SOME MASONIC ORIGINS

(continued from page 19)

*eminence of station should not make us forget that we are men, nor cause us to treat our brethren, because placed on the lowest spoke of the wheel of fortune, with contempt; because a time will come, and the wisest of men know not how soon, when all distinctions, except in goodness, will cease, and when death—that grand leveller of all human greatness—will bring us to a level at the last.”* Once again, beyond any question our present wording is derived from this text.

And the great William Preston (1742-1818), in his *Illustrations of Masonry* (2nd edition, 1775), offers a familiar prayer: *“Vouchsafe thine aid, Almighty Father and supreme Governor of the world, to this our present convention; and grant that this candidate for Masonry may dedicate and devote his life to thy service, and become a true and faithful brother among us. Endue him with a competence of thy divine wisdom, that, by the secrets of this Art, he may be better enabled to unfold the mysteries of godliness, to the honour of thy holy name. Amen.”*

Virtually all of our present wording, we now see, is derived from Britain. But, as we have noted on previous occasions, there is one major piece of ritual that was “made in Canada”—the General Charge at the Ceremony of Installation. The late M.:W.:Bro. William Kirk Bailey (1904-1992) succeeded in tracing the various sources from which Otto Klotz was able to put it together in 1876. One part, for example, comes from the Grand Master’s address delivered by M.:W.:Bro. William Mercer Wilson at the Annual Communication in Ottawa in 1860: *“It comforts the mourner; it speaks peace and consolation to the troubled spirit; it carries relief and gladness to the habitations of want and destitution; it dries the tears of the widow and orphan; it opens the source of knowledge; it widens the sphere of human happiness; it even seeks to light up the darkness and gloom of the grave, by pointing to the hopes and promises of a better life to come. All this Masonry has done and is still doing. Such is Masonry and such its mission; and we should never forget, while enjoying its benefits and appreciating its value, the duties we owe to the Order; for there is no right without a parallel duty, no liberty without the supremacy of the law, no high destiny without earnest perseverance, and no real greatness without self denial.”*

The General Charge is the latest major addition to our work. Since that date various smaller adjustments have been made under due authority. Let us just look at one. Up until 1964, the traditional wording for the penalties of

the obligations in much of the English-speaking world had been, *“Under no less a penalty..”* But in 1964, the United Grand Lodge of England gave its lodges the option of either retaining the traditional wording, or else saying, *“Ever bearing in mind the traditional penalty...”*

Three years later, in 1967, our Grand Lodge prescribed that this newer wording was to be used by all lodges. Wisely, it permitted no deviation, and by this means it avoided certain problems that subsequently developed in England.

Even on the basis of the evidence presented here, we can see that the Masonic ritual is part of our precious heritage from the past. It has stood the test of time, no doubt because it expresses eternal verities. It is still meaningful to the brethren of today!

- Edited by W.:Gil Weisman, PM  
BCC1953@aol.com  
High Twelve Lodge No. 317 F.& A.M.  
<http://home1.gte.net/kwdean/index.html>  
Tampa

FM



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## WHEN IS A MAN A MASON?

(continued from page 21)

Note: This wonderful piece has circulated before, but in reality, it’s message is ageless.

- courtesy of W.:Gil Weisman, PM  
High Twelve Lodge No. 317 F.& A.M.  
Tampa

FM

# MASONIC EDUCATION, OPINIONS & POETRY

## WHEN IS A MAN A MASON?

*From "The Builders"  
Joseph Ford Newton, Litt. D.*

When he can look out over the rivers, the hills and the far horizon with a profound sense of his own smallness in the vast scheme of things, and yet have faith, hope and courage - which are the root of every virtue.

When he knows that down in his heart every man is a noble, as vile, as divine, as diabolic and as lonely as himself, and seeks to know, to forgive, and to love his fellow man.

When he knows how to sympathize with men in their sorrows, yea, even in their sins - knowing that each man fights a hard fight against many odds.

When he has learned how to make friends and to keep them, and above all be friends with himself. When he loves flowers, can hunt the birds without a gun, and feels the thrill of an old forgotten joy when he hears the laugh of a little child.

When he can be happy and high-minded amid the meaner drudgeries of life.

When star-crowned trees and the glint of sunlight on flowing waters subdue him like the thought of one much loved and long dead.

When no voice of distress reaches his ears in vain, and no hand seeks his aid without response.

When he finds good in every faith that helps any man to lay hold of divine things and see majestic meanings in life, whatever the name of that faith may be.

When he can look into the wayside puddle and see something beyond mud, and into the face of the most forlorn fellow and see something beyond sin.

When he knows how to pray, how to love, how to hope.

When he has faith with himself, with his fellow man, with his god; in his hand a sword for evil, in his heart a bit of song - glad to live but not afraid to die.

Such a man has found the only real secret of Masonry, and the one, which it is trying to give to the entire world.

*(continued on page 20)*

## MATTIE

*by W.:Hardy W. Bryan, III, PM  
Hbryan1@aol.com  
Past Master, Northside Lodge No. 283 F.& A.M.  
St. Petersburg*

Her life follows a bumpy road. Life is not fair for her. Her world consists of few friends, a husband in prison, two children and some regular customers whom she waits on. She works the Monday through Friday shift, serving lunch, so she can be home for her son and daughter. She lives in a dilapidated rental house near a major shopping center in northeast St. Petersburg. She is always a few dollars away from financial disaster. She hopes neither she nor her children ever need to see a doctor because she has no health care coverage. She prays nothing major goes wrong with her old car because she could not afford repairs and a newer car is out of the realm of possibility. Life is tough but she is tougher.

Yet she is a strong and very pleasant woman just past the mid-thirties. Those who get to know her in the restaurant love her. Regular customers seek her tables and she usually knows what they will order before they do! She keeps a positive attitude and displays an award-winning smile. Everyone deserves to be greeted with a smile.

That is how I got to know her. When I sat at one of her tables, arriving early to hold a table for a friend, sometimes business was slow and we conversed. I had lunch there about three times a month and I always looked forward to seeing Mattie and eating the outstanding seafood.

She told me of a pain in her abdomen that would not go away. She took every over the counter pain medication she could find, but nothing seemed to help. As time passed, the pain grew worse and worse. I told her to go to the doctor but she had no doctor and no way to pay for medical services. I encouraged her to seek government help but she was reluctant to do that.

Then she told me she thinks she may have ovarian cancer because her mother died of this disease at a young age and she already lost a sister. Upon hearing this and knowing her well enough to get stern with her, I said for her to go to the Emergency Room and worry about the finances later. She went when she could no longer bear the pain.

*(continued on page 22)*

# MASONIC EDUCATION, OPINIONS & POETRY

## **MATTIE**

*(continued from page 21)*

She did have ovarian cancer on one ovary and was rushed into the operating room. She no longer wanted children, so the removal of both ovaries would have been the sensible thing to do. However, since this was on the taxpayers tab, they operated and removed only what was absolutely necessary. She was released quickly after surgery, with no medicine, no follow up appointments and no therapy. When I heard this, I told her I would call her Representative in Tallahassee, and for her to try again with whoever refused her continued medical assistance. I talked to the Representative's aide, who said he would look into this matter personally. Somehow, it got cleared up and she received medical care through her recovery period.

I kept track of her progress through Regina, the cashier where Mattie worked. She placed a large plastic bottle near the register marked "Mattie's Fund." Regina told me the restaurant sent food to Mattie's house when they could, but it was nothing like three meals a day. Mattie was home, being tended to by a sister and her daughter, with no food in the house for any of them. No income for the electric bill, water bill, telephone bill or for the children's needs at school. When you are a waitress and rely on tips, when you don't work, you have no money. And Christmas was fast approaching. Others and I encouraged her to get Medicaid, and she did.

All the time she was telling me of her plight, there was never a request for any type of assistance. She never expected anyone to come to her relief even though she was in great need. She did the best she could with what she had.

She was worried about the holidays because she wanted her children to have something for Christmas and she wanted pictures of her and the kids together. She wanted a nice tree, but she knew it would be a miracle just to have something to eat. I asked her to give me a list of what the children wanted and on the next visit, she gave me two lists.

I purposely did not say I would try to fill the lists because I was afraid what they may contain. They probably wanted a computer, CD player, etc and I wasn't ready to promise something too expensive. But when I read the lists, I could have cried. Her 15-year-old daughter wanted four things: a bra, a pair of panties, hairpins and plastic hair clips. Her son, 11, asked for two board games, a baseball and a football. I took the lists and said I'd see

what I could do, knowing full well the lists would be filled.

In early December, in my Masonic Lodge, when the members were deciding what and who to donate for Christmas, and were talking about a request from a halfway house in a town none of us ever heard of, I took the floor and said that charity begins at home. Then I told of Mattie's plight, read the Christmas wish lists, and asked if the Lodge could help. I was given \$300 from the treasury to buy presents and food. After the meeting, several Brothers dug into their own pockets and gave more money.

One Brother called me at work the next day, and asked the size of Mattie's son and who was his favorite Buccaneer football player. He and his wife talked over the situation and were going to buy these children their best Christmas ever. I told him I was filling the list, but a jersey with that player's number and name would probably never come off his back! They provided three bags of clothing.

My wife, Donna, and I went shopping and bought everything on the list, plus wrapping paper and Christmas decorations. These gifts were taken to a meeting of young daughters of Masons who wrapped them, marking them for the children from Santa. Seemed like every week before Christmas I went to the restaurant bearing bags and bags of gifts.

At the time, I was on the Board of Directors of the Northeast Exchange Club. At the December meeting of that body, I made a plea for more help and was granted \$500. With that money added to other funds, I purchased \$1000 worth of Publix Supermarket gift certificates, \$150 worth of Stein-Mart, a clothing store, gift certificates, \$50 each for the children and one for Mattie, and several disposable cameras.

At the real estate office where I worked, when the agents were seeking a cause to donate towards Christmas, I asked if we could provide a tree and decorations. It was agreed upon, but before I could get a tree, Mattie told me her sister had given her one. She said it would be bare but would be nice for the pictures. The office produced nearly \$100, which was used to buy decorations. One member of the office bought a honey-baked ham and as did another donor who heard the story. One member of the Exchange Club wanted to meet Mattie, so I took her to lunch and she wrote Mattie a \$100 check, saying that she was a cancer survivor.

*(continued on page 23)*

# MASONIC EDUCATION, OPINIONS & POETRY

## MATTIE

(continued from page 22)

Mattie could not believe how the community contributed to her well being. She had the children write notes to the Lodge and the Northeast Exchange Club. As she began to get back on her feet, and things returned to normal, I was happy to see her happy. Too bad this story doesn't end here.

She had another pain, which wouldn't go away. But she was covered under Medicaid for six months and that issue was resolved. One day I asked her if she had her affairs in order, and she replied, *"I know I am dying. I want my sister to take my kids."*

I encouraged her to get everything in writing and even asked a lawyer, who agreed to prepare guardianship papers and everything else needed on a pro bono basis, but Mattie never made the appointment. And then I understood why she wanted such a nice Christmas and she wanted pictures. She wanted her children to have a memory of her. She insisted on cooking the meal herself. She wanted a memory of that too.

The following Spring on a visit to the restaurant for lunch, Regina saw me and came over to me, saying Mattie collapsed at work and was taken by paramedics to the Emergency Room. She had blood clots just above her knee and was to be operated on that afternoon. Her adult family members were told she would probably lose her leg in surgery since the leg had been without blood circulation and numb for some time. Mattie thought it would go away. The report I got later was that they did manage to save the leg. All veins had collapsed below the knee but surgeons were able to open up two of three main arteries. And she would have to stay off her feet for a month. Another crisis.

There she was again, no income, no food. I was worried about going to the same well too many times, but again approached the Exchange Club, which quickly provided \$250. At the next Selema Grotto meeting, I asked for help and \$100 was given. One member wrote a personal check for \$100. I had already given Mattie an emergency \$50 in gift certificates, and later bought her \$530 more. When I took the gift certificates to her, she was lying on a couch. When she opened the envelope, she looked to the ceiling and shouted, *"Thank you, Jesus!"* At least they had food.

A couple of weeks later, when Donna and I were running early to go to a friend's high school graduation party, we were nearing Mattie's house when I asked Donna if we

had a few minutes to stop and see how Mattie was doing. I had tried to contact Mattie but no one answered the phone, which led to my concern. We went up to the door and knocked. Her daughter answered the knock. She was a cute 15-year-old, a little shy with strangers. She said her mother was back in the hospital in severe pain. I told the daughter how her mother had bragged on how good she had been and how helpful she was to her mother and brother. She was surprised to learn that her mother had such thoughts and it made her humble and proud. We asked if there was anything we could do, and she said no. I asked her if I could give her a hug and both Donna and I gave her a nice, warm hug. We went on to the party, but straight to the hospital when it was over.

Mattie was in pain similar to that of childbirth, with her body becoming rigid and she cried out. Between spasms, she was OK. There were many medical tests, but she was released a few days later without the doctors offering an explanation of what was the problem. Then Mattie went back to work, but she always went back to her job weeks before the doctors advised. She needs the money.

On July 19th, at noon, Donna and I went to Crisp Park where a birthday party was being held for her, now 16 year old, daughter. There was a lot of food, fried chicken, potato salad, salad and cake. Mattie looked healthy and full of her usual energy and spunk. Her daughter flashed her learner's permit much like new parents show pictures of their first born. Mattie surprised us with something we did not know - she is a grandmother. Her older daughter was at the party too, along with the grandchild.

At least we know the community cared enough to get her and her children through two periods when she had no income. Mattie was lucky that her case became known and help was forthcoming. Every group I approached was more than happy, if not elated, to know of a need they could materially contribute to the relief of Mattie and her children. Many members of each group thanked me for bring this situation to their attention. I am proud of each and every group and their membership.

What is sad is to realize that there are thousands of Mattie's out there who are living and raising a family with little or no help from anybody, just a few dollars away from being homeless, unable to obtain medical care until the condition gets so bad they get rushed to the emergency room, which means it may be too late to fix. Many of them die young. They drop out of school before learning job skills. They will always work for little

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# MASONIC EDUCATION, OPINIONS & POETRY

## MATTIE

(continued from page 23)

money and never have savings to carry them through hard times. Coming from difficult childhoods, they don't have the necessary parenting tools to encourage their children to improve their way of life through education, and these children get on illegal drugs, get pregnant in their early teens, or end up in trouble with the law. The cycle continues from one generation to the next. It is a problem society must address and correct or the ranks of the underclass will continue to swell.

In mid-August, I went to the restaurant on two different days. Mattie was not there. Regina said she had further problems with her legs.

*Hardy W. Bryan III was the Senior Warden of Northside Lodge No. 283, Free and Accepted Masons (vice president in other organizations), and in January 2003, the Worshipful Master (president in other organizations); he was a member of the Board of Directors of the Exchange Club of Northeast St. Petersburg, and a member of Selema Grotto, a Masonic body similar to the Shriners. Hardy and Donna are real estate consultants for Hofacker and Associates in St. Petersburg. The presents were wrapped by Job's Daughters, an organization of young girls related to Masons. Mattie works at the Fourth Street Shrimp Store. This was written August 18th, 2003.*

FM



[www.phmainstreet.com/mashome](http://www.phmainstreet.com/mashome)

## SHOES

by W.:Hardy W. Bryan, III, PM

Hbryan1@aol.com

Past Master, Northside Lodge No. 283 F.& A.M.  
St. Petersburg



One day, alone in the Lodge Room, I sat at my station in the East. The only light on was above the Altar. What an inspirational sight it was! As my eyes adjusted to the darkness, the room became brighter and the scene was truly awesome.

I was mesmerized by my thoughts as I realized this was the heart of every Lodge Room Masons ever attended. It was as if all Lodge Rooms were together in this one. Then my eyes, focused on the Bible, looked into the light, and I imagined the Celestial Lodge on High was at the other end. Then I felt myself being raised into the light, which got brighter and brighter as I neared its glow. Soon I felt I was in a familiar place. No wonder! It was King Solomon's Temple, just as it appears on the wall of our Lodge with Fellowcrafts in the fields. There was an altar in the middle of the room with an open Bible and the square and compasses. There was a broken column, the open book, and Father Time braiding a young girl's hair. I wondered if she was a Daughter of Job. And Jacob's ladder too.

Look! Hiram, King of Tyre. And standing next to him was St. John and Hiram Abiff. I also recognized them from the murals on the wall. Strange, they were barefooted. Where were their sandals? There is Jimmy Doolittle wearing his flight jacket. And there's Davy Crockett with his flintlock rifle and coonskin cap. Look over there! Teddy and Franklin Roosevelt discussing politics. Winston Churchill with his cigar. At the Secretary's Desk is Benjamin Franklin reviewing a draft of the U.S. Constitution and smoking his pipe. There is

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# MASONIC EDUCATION, OPINIONS & POETRY

## SHOES

(continued from page 24)

George Washington in the East while presiding over the Lodge and the Young Republic. So many men in uniform! There is Douglas MacArthur, George C. Marshall, Omar Bradley, Charles Lindbergh and even John Wayne and Clark Gable making wartime movies in uniform. Funny, none of them have their boots on. The laughter is coming from the corner where Will Rogers, Danny Thomas and Red Skelton are cracking jokes. Andy Jackson looks so majestic on his horse as he rallies troops to defend New Orleans. There is Paul Burrell talking to Tom Isler and Robert Benson but none are wearing shoes. What a sight! All these Masons and millions more fill this Lodge Room and none have anything on their feet.

Then my eyes followed the light beam back to this earthly Lodge, and as my attention focused around the Lodge Room, all I could see were empty sandals, boots and shoes, empty footwear that millions of Brothers counted on us to fill. Have we let them down? Sons and grandsons of Masons are not joining the Craft in sufficient numbers. Lodges are closing or merging. Some are struggling to remain viable, as are many Grand Lodges.

No one will recruit for us. I pray that some day we will have enough good men knocking at our outer door, but until then, we must act. Each of us needs to recognize that we are recruiters, and if we do not recruit, these shoes will remain empty. Our Brothers who went before us left their mark on mankind. They established and defended the freedoms and rights we enjoy today. What would our nation be like if Masonry never existed? Masonry is not about looking back, but in looking ahead. Our future was built and based on the hard work and dedication of those Brothers who left their shoes to be filled. No Mason wants a world without Masonry. We need to make recruiting our Number One Priority. Will you help fill the empty shoes?

*This article was present dramatically to Northside Lodge No. 283 F.& A.M., during a stated meeting on August 18th, 2003, and it was the Worshipful Master's lead message in the September-October issue of the Trestleboard. The murals alluded to in the article grace the wall of the Lodge Room and were painted by Brother George Clark, Chaplain.*

FM



# MASONIC EDUCATION, OPINIONS & POETRY

## DANIELLE

by W.:Hardy W. Bryan, III, PM  
Hbryan1@aol.com  
Past Master, Northside Lodge No. 283 F.& A.M.  
St. Petersburg



She ran up to me, with her short locks springing up and down, crawled into my lap, put her arms around my neck, looked into my eyes with her baby browns, kissed me softly and sweetly on the cheek and I kissed her on hers, and she said directly into my ear, in halting English, “*love you.*” She was beautifully dressed in her Sunday finest. This was Danielle. I had never seen her before. And that was to be the last time ever again.

Yes, there is a lot more to tell about this relationship. Let’s backtrack to the day it began for me. I was in the Army, assigned to Italy as the Chief of the Storage Division, Leghorn Army Depot. I was in charge of eleven huge warehouses and thousands of square feet of outdoor storage space. Two hundred six Italian Civilian Employees, a dozen US soldiers and five US civilians worked with me to receive, store, pull and ship the stocks we were responsible for. This was the summer of 1970.

The ICEs (pronounced eye-sea-eee), as we called the local national workforce, were in a state of unrest because the rumors were strong that the mission of the Depot was changing from a working depot to one of storage of materiel to support various war plans, especially plans for the Mediterranean area and the Middle East. The workload would require a much smaller workforce to accomplish.

The primary concern of the ICEs was their ability to find other employment. Many of them were in their forties

and fifties and had worked for the Americans since World War II ended. They petitioned the Italian government to grant them status as government employees and receive credit for the years they worked in Leghorn. While this issue was being debated, some of them drew attention to their cause by stopping trains, rioting, and stoning US operated vehicles. This created work stoppages, use of excessive sick time off and work slow downs. The truth was the rumors were correct and many would be laid off permanently, and this was to be done a few hundred at a time. What we did not know was the extent of the layoffs. It was a very tense time for all.

My deputy was Fernando Porciani, the highest-ranking ICE under my supervision. He spoke flawless English and had traveled to the States several times to take courses at Fort Lee, Virginia, home of the Quartermaster Corps. He came into my office with a request from one of the forklift operators for three weeks-advanced vacation. This request was highly unusual and highly suspect that may be time to seek employment elsewhere. This employee began the year with the maximum accrued vacation time he could carry over from one year to the next, but he used it up and had already been granted one week advanced vacation time from his immediate supervisor. This would, if approved, place him one month in the hole.

I told Mr. Porciani I need to know why this man wants three weeks more. He guessed I’d say “no” to the request and was surprised I asked for details. He went to his phone and a few minutes later, returned with the information that this employee had a sick child. I told him to bring this man to my office.

A few minutes later entered a short, forty-something, balding forklift operator named Roberto Lami. Using Mr. Porciani as a translator, I asked about the sick child. He seemed reluctant to reveal the details and I said, “*Look, I will have to explain to my boss why I approved this request, and I need to have an answer that will hold up, or I will have to deny the request.*” With that, Mr. Lami, standing in front of my desk, began to cry. I quickly seated him and pulled up chairs for Mr. Porciani and myself.

His daughter was two and a half and she developed perfectly normally the first two years of her life. She could do all the things expected of her age, but after her second birthday, progress not only abated but functions she previously mastered were no longer within her ability. At one time she could feed herself; now she had to be

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# MASONIC EDUCATION, OPINIONS & POETRY

## **DANIELLE**

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fed. She could no longer talk. She walked unbalanced and frequently fell. She lost control of her bodily functions, often soiling herself.

Italy has socialized medicine. For medical problems, other than those requiring emergency room care, one starts the healing process with the neighborhood clinic, usually staffed by a nurse. The nurse will do everything within his or her power to resolve the problem before referring the case to the next higher level. Thus, a patient goes through a long process of diagnosis, ruling out the simple explanations, cures and various tries at fixing. When all else fails, the nurse concludes it cannot be handled and refers upward. During this time, Mr. Lami was using his vacation time to be with his wife and daughter, spending much of it in the waiting room.

After a couple of months at the local clinic, doctors who conducted many tests and tried various remedies, without any success, saw her. It appeared she had a brain tumor, and she was sent to Milano. She was examined by a prominent neurosurgeon. The diagnosis was that she had an inoperable brain tumor and she had three weeks to live. She was home and this is why the ICE asked for three weeks off.

Sometimes you realize a story is true and you do not ask for a letter from a doctor. I told Mr. Lami I would approve his request and expressed my sadness and concern for his daughter Danielle. Lami was dying, and she was but two and a half years old.

I asked Mr. Lami if he felt that everything that could be done had been done, and he replied that he felt it had. He and his wife accepted what was happening and he wanted to be with Danielle until the end.

I recalled reading about cases whereby sick children were flown to the States for operations they could not get in their native land, so I asked Mr. Lami's permission to look into the possibility of obtaining medical help. He seemed resigned to Danielle's fate, but agreed that he would welcome any possible solution. With his request signed, he went back to his warehouse to finish the day's work.

I telephoned the commander of the US Army Hospital, Leghorn, and told him what I knew about the girl and asked if there was anything he could do. I was taken back by his non-interest in the case and his unwillingness to get the US involved. With that being the only idea I

had to get help for Danielle, my heart sunk. My only possible solution just went down the drain.

Then I reminded myself that I am a Mason and Masons are famous for their children's hospitals. I was actually in the process of becoming a member of the Craft, as I was awaiting the second degree. Thinking this will get nowhere but willing to try anything, I telephoned the Worshipful Master of Benjamin Franklin Lodge No. 591, Free and Accepted Masons. He asked for details I did not have, such as the names of the places the child had been examined and doctor's names and phone numbers. Since Mr. Lami was still at work, I sent for him. I asked him if he would be receptive to receive help from the Masons, and he was. He then gave me the information needed. I relayed this to the Master.

The Master called me about an hour later and asked if I could bring Mr. Lami to his office the next day. I said it would be his first day of his advanced time off (vacation seems to be the wrong word), but I'd check. Yes, he would come in and we would go to Camp Darby together.

The next morning, Mr. Lami and I went to see the Master, who was at his regular job in Personnel. He greeted us warmly but with a sadness I sensed immediately. He had contacted three neurosurgical clinics, one in Switzerland, one in Sweden, and one in Canada, all headed by Masons. All three agreed to take the child, at no cost, provided one doctor who had examined the child would say there is some hope an operation would be successful. A lot of phone calls had been made between doctors, but the answer from the Italian doctors was that Danielle's condition was indeed hopeless.

The ride back to the Depot was quiet. I had allowed my hopes to get ahead of the reality of the situation, and now a few precious hours were taken away from the father to be with his daughter. These were the best hours she had left because it was downhill all the way. I felt I had heard the final appeal of a death sentence get turned down, and I even thought, there will be no reprieve, no last minute telephone call from a governor.

We went into my office and were saying our goodbyes and trying to express our feelings when I was notified I had a call that I had better take. A little annoyed as I answered, it was the last Italian doctor in Milano who examined Danielle and who sent her home for the final three weeks. He was shocked at all the calls he received from very famous doctors, all asking about, in his words, "*This insignificant Italian child.*" The doctors asked him

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# MASONIC EDUCATION, OPINIONS & POETRY

## **DANIELLE**

*(continued from page 27)*

why he is not operating. Was it because he did not know the procedure, did not have the facilities, did not have the staff to assist, or any other reason?

These Masonic doctors expressed such a concern for Danielle, that he literally could not believe there was such interest in this case. He said he studied textbooks written by these doctors and never thought he would ever speak to any of them, and ended up talking to all of them late into the night about Danielle. He never learned of the Masonic involvement.

The Italian doctor replied that yes, he knew how to perform the operation, yes, he had the facilities and yes, and he had the staff. What he did not have was time. He sees many such cases, and he has the duty to decide which ones are operable and which ones are hopeless. Still convinced this case was hopeless, but because of the international interest in Danielle, he said that he would perform the surgery. However, he wanted the parents to fully and clearly understand that he did not expect the child to survive on the operating table.

All this was translated to Mr. Lami, who then said he had to go home and speak with his wife. Having no phone at his home, he said he would come back the next day with the answer. The question really was: Operate now and lose her now, or watch her die over three horrible weeks? He came back the next day and said one word, "*Operate!*"

The Italian doctor said to bring her immediately, but now she needed an ambulance. No problem, I thought; I'll call the Army Hospital. Again, the commander refused to get involved, citing all sorts of concerns, not the least of which was liability issues should she die en route. The other option was the use of an Italian ambulance, and for this, I turned to my workforce. In short order, they located an ambulance that belonged to a funeral home we could use if we provided drivers and gas.

The second problem was money. The operation was free, but the parents had to stay in a hotel, had to be fed, and gasoline had to be bought. I quickly decided to raise some funds from all the workers, both in the Depot and at Camp Darby. Hand crafted posters, telephone calls, and support from the Commander's office occurred with a high level of interest and priority. This fund raising effort took place at a time the ICEs were more concerned about their future than anything

else. But with a lot of help from the US soldiers, US civilians and ICEs, we managed to raise enough funds to cover the expenses. I had two drivers in my ICE workforce licensed to drive ambulances. When they volunteered, I placed them on official vacation. I assured them I would not process the paperwork if they returned safely and they would receive pay as if they were working.

Off to Milano Danielle and her family went. This all in one incredibly hectic day.

Danielle went into surgery upon arrival. Her little heart stopped many times but was restarted every time. The tumor was larger than expected, and cancerous growth extended down her spinal column. The tumor was removed and the unexpected spinal tissue was "cleaned out." She was alive when taken to the ICU, but not expected to make it through the night.

In fact, she coded that night but was revived. The doctors began immediate radiation treatment with doses that would be considered lethal for an adult, seemingly because "there was nothing to lose." So it went for several days: Hopeful news followed bad news; crisis after crisis, but she hung in there. My office was a beehive of activity as so many people were calling to learn the news and progress of this child. There were a lot of prayers too.

We had to collect more money for the parents, and when the doctors said there was nothing further that could be done for her, and there was no hope she could ever survive, Danielle was sent home. We needed the ambulance again, and with the same arrangements, returned her to her house in Livorno.

While our attention was drawn to Danielle, the reduction of staff issue was still on the front burner for the workforce. Many, many were fired and there was anger. The ICEs wanted us to delay the firings to give the Italian government time to address their wants, but we did not delay. Workers were fired in the reverse order they were hired, meaning the youngest workers left first (and took whatever jobs were available), while the older workers hoped the firings would cease before their names were called.

Workers rioted. An airborne US Infantry battalion was placed on alert in Germany to come to our rescue and the Italian police positioned a riot battalion at Camp Darby to maintain order. With a heavy heart, I gave Mr. Lami his termination notification. I pleaded his case to my superiors but my words fell on deaf ears. He was let go.

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# MASONIC EDUCATION, OPINIONS & POETRY

## **DANIELLE**

*(continued from page 28)*

My ICE workforce was reduced to 18 from 206. I was left with a reduced workload, to be sure, but with the oldest ICEs, some of which were physically incapable of doing the jobs that had to be done, such as operating the materials handling equipment and lifting heavy hoses.

With Mr. Lami no longer present and with no phone, sporadic reports of Danielle's condition were incomplete and never verified, but it did seem she was still alive. Also, what few workers I had told they had not noticed any obituaries in the Livorno newspaper reporting her passing.

With Christmas nearing and no real word about Danielle except that she was believed to be alive, I went to the Worshipful Master and got Roberto Lami's home address. I then went to the Post Exchange and bought a doll and had it wrapped. The Sunday before Christmas, I went with a road map and an Italian translator to see for myself how she was.

I drove a Plymouth Fury III, a very large car by European standards. When we located the right street, it curved uphill and was too narrow for my car. So I parked at the base of the hill and we walked up. There were two and three story apartments lining the road on both sides, with balconies and clotheslines strung between the second floors across the street and the same for the third floors. There were many Italian women on the balconies talking with each other and most of the railing sported a familiar sight: red flags with the Communist's logo, the hammer and sickle. This was one of many hotbeds of red supporters. When I was noticed by the women, their attention was directed to me because my military style haircut and American-style clothing, leaving no doubt I was American.

Finding the right house number, I knocked on the door. A middle aged woman answered, and the translator told her who I was and that I would like to pay a short visit with Danielle. She was Danielle's mother. She graciously ushered us into the living room, where several people were sitting. I was told they had just finished Sunday dinner. These people were aunts, uncles and cousins. We were offered food and drink, all of which was declined. Mrs. Lami said she would prepare Danielle and for us to wait a few minutes.

Those few minutes seemed to take forever, and with the conversation in Italian, I got lost in my private thoughts.

I became scared at what I would see: a hollowed out child bedridden in a room that would look like a hospital setting. Had the right thing been done? Have these people endured more agony than was already there? What is right and wrong here? Yes, everything was done with the best of intentions, but the odds were so great against success that maybe it would have been better to have done nothing.

Then I heard little feet running down a hallway. Now please reread the first paragraph before reading on. One reason for the wait before she ran in was to teach her to say "I love you" in English.

Danielle had fully recovered and was again leading a normal life. Seemingly impossible prayers were answered. There were many tears that afternoon, tears of joy and gratitude. Sorry, but I have no words to describe the moment, the elation, and thankfulness. Frankly, I knew I gave her the doll, but I don't remember doing it!

We left after less than an hour, and as we walked back to my car, the translator pointed out to me that the red flags were gone, the women were not on the balconies, and on some, the Stars and Stripes were draped over the railings. She said word spread that was the US Army officer who helped Danielle. I could only guess that their communist leaning prevented them from expressing themselves from the balconies so they went inside. It was quiet and eerie, but I was so proud to have been involved. No Masonic doctor even touched her, no Masonic funds were spent and this was never discussed in a lodge meeting, but there is no doubt the involvement of Masons saved Danielle.

## **Epilogue**

I am often asked, years later, how Danielle is now. I have sent that question at various times through the years to people I still knew in Italy. While there is no completely reliable report, it does seem that Danielle experienced a relapse in her late teen years and died. If true, at least she had many good years before the end came. I even heard one report, sad as it is, when she was in severe pain, her mother saying, "Where is your Captain now?" While I pray the reports are inaccurate, they probably are true.

*Captain Bryan completed his tour in Italy with orders for Vietnam. Before leaving, he became a Master Mason.*

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# MASONIC EDUCATION, OPINIONS & POETRY

## **EVEN MORE MASONIC EDUCATION**

*I found these facts on a great web site:  
<http://home.att.net/~presidents/index.htm>*

The first assembly of the Continental Congress was presided over by a Master Mason: Peyton Randolph, Provincial Grand Master of Virginia.

The Revolutionary War was a distinctly Masonic enterprise.

The Boston Tea Party was organized in St. Andrews Lodge, at an adjourned meeting, and every "Indian" who threw tea into the harbor was a member of that Lodge.

Paul Revere, who made his immortal ride, was Junior Warden of St. Andrews Lodge.

More than fifty of the fifty-six signers of the Declaration of Independence were members of the Masonic Fraternity.

All but one of the five members of the Constitutional Convention were Masons.

Richard Henry Lee, who moved the Resolution of Independence in the Continental Congress, was a Mason.

Lee, and three of the five members of that committee: Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman and Robert R. Livingston - were Masons. Thomas Jefferson and John Adams were not.

The American Flag was made by the widow of John Ross, a Mason, and was placed in the hands of George Washington, who was elected Grand Master of Virginia, but did not accept because of his duties as Commander-in-Chief of the American Army, which absorbed all his attention and time.

Washington took the oath of office as President of the United States upon a Bible brought from St. Johns Lodge No. 1, of New York.

The oath of office for Washington was administered by Chancellor Livingston, Grand Master of the state of New York.

The Governors of every one of the original thirteen states at the time of Washington was inaugurated were Masons.

Washington demanded that LaFayette coming from France and General Von Steuben coming from Germany, be made Masons.

All of Washington's Brigadier Generals except one were Masons.

The Constitution of the United States was written by a Mason.

Free Speech, Free Religion, and Free Schools were the gifts of Freemasonry to America and these were opposed by anti-Masonic institutions.

The four Major Generals who almost ruined Washington and the cause of Freedom were the four who were not Masons.

HOWEVER, no part of the above facts are now taught in our free schools, which were made possible by the foresight of our Masonic forefathers.

*- courtesy of Bro. Gregory L. Vona  
gvona@verizon.net  
Webmaster, John Darling Lodge No. 154 F.& A.M.  
Tampa*

**FM**

### **DANIELLE**

*(continued from page 29)*

*He joined the Scottish Rite during a later assignment in Germany, and upon retirement to his hometown of St. Petersburg, Florida, he joined the Egypt Shrine and Selama Grotto. In 2003, he became the Worshipful Master of Northside Lodge No. 283 F.& A.M. He retired at the rank of Lt. Colonel with twenty years service, two of which were in Vietnam and eight in Europe.*

**FM**

# MASONIC EDUCATION, OPINIONS & POETRY

## **THE MASONIC RING**

*Author Unknown*

Those men who help my dad each day,  
They wear those mason rings.  
A Square and Compass set in gold,  
The praise of which I sing.

My dad, he hurt his back you know,  
One cold and wintery day.  
He slipped and fell upon the ice,  
The insurance would not pay.

And since that time those rings I see,  
On hands that help us much.  
With mowing lawns and hauling trash,  
Each day my heart they touch.

They even built a house for me,  
Amid our backyard tree.  
Where all the neighbor kids,  
Would play with laughter full of glee.

My Mom she cried from happiness,  
The time the Masons came.  
To aid our family in distress,  
Without a thought of gain.

And when I'm big, just like my dad,  
Of this it must be told.  
I want to wear a ring like his,  
A Square and Compass gold.

Long years have passed since when My dad was in  
that plaster cast.  
And since I swore that Solemn Oath, Which unites us  
to the last.

But more than that I'm proud to say,  
I wear his Mason ring.  
The one dad wore for many years,  
Until his death this spring.

And one last time his comrades came,  
To aid my weeping mother.  
They praised and bid a fond farewell,  
To our fallen Brother.

And after which MY son did ask,  
About their Aprons white.  
And of the rings upon their hands.  
Of gold so shiny bright.

With tearful eyes I said with pride,  
They're men of spirit pure.  
Those men who wear those Mason rings,  
Of that you can be sure.

And before he went to bed that night,  
The family he foretold.  
Someday I'll wear a ring like dad's,  
A Square and Compass gold.

- courtesy of R.:W.:George Benham, PDDGM  
GDBenham@aol.com  
Clearwater Lodge No. 127 F.& A.M.

**FM**

# MASONIC EDUCATION, OPINIONS & POETRY

## **FREEMASONRY AND TODAY'S MUSLIM WORLD**

by Bro. Tom Goeller, 32  
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Benjamin B. French Lodge No. 15 F.A.A.M of the  
District of Columbia  
<http://www.benjaminbfrench.org/>

*"It hides in plain sight and its reach is global. Powers lurk in its shadow. It is more global in its range, and more ruthless in its ideology, than all but its most dedicated students could have ever imagined."*

Doesn't this quote sound familiar to us who are acquainted with the prejudices against Freemasonry? They are actually taken from *TIME* Magazine (Nov. 12, 2001) which described in length Osama Bin Laden's terrorist organization, Al Qaeda.

While we know the ideology of Al Qaeda is based on religious bigotry, which doesn't tolerate any other belief, and Freemasonry stands for the opposite of the goals of Al Qaeda, it has nevertheless been described in the same manner as a terrorist organization.

It might sound like a paradox that Al Qaeda targets Freemasons as enemies, but a recent suicide bomb attack that killed three Turkish Freemasons at a Masonic lodge in Istanbul on March 10th, 2004 proves that Freemasons - who stand for tolerance, democracy and equality of mankind - are considered a threat to radical Muslims. Dozens of people were having dinner in the Lodge when two attackers opened fire from the door, then set off rudimentary explosives. Three people were killed, along with one of the bombers. Several people were also wounded.

Officials said the attack bore little resemblance to four suicide bombings in Istanbul in November killing dozens of people. Those attacks - targeting two synagogues, the British Consulate and a British-based bank - were attributed to Osama bin Laden's terror network.

According to the report of the Associated Press (AP), one of the bombers reportedly yelled "*Allahu Akbar!*" or "*God is great!*" The surviving attacker shouted "*Down with the Israeli lodge!*" as he was taken to the hospital,

A member of the Masons, who declined to be identified by name, told AP, several members had received threatening messages on their cell phones in recent weeks accusing them of being "*Zionist collaborators.*"

The surviving bomber, who lost his arm, a hand and suffered abdominal injuries, was in critical condition after surgery Wednesday. He gave his name as Abdullah Islam but officials said they are not certain that was his real name and could not confirm a report that he is from Afghanistan. Turkish terrorism expert Nihat Ali Ozcan said although Al Qaida probably didn't carry out this attack, it may have inspired it. Hezbollah, an Islamic group active in Turkey that is not linked to the Lebanon-based group with the same name, has carried out attacks in the past.

The military acknowledged Wednesday that it has ordered local officials to gather intelligence on various social and ethnic groups, including the Masonic lodges. The military said it was seeking information for security reasons, "*to take effective measures and make plans for events that could occur.*"

Masons have some 200 lodges and more than 13,000 members in predominantly Muslim but strictly secular Turkey. Here's now an in-depth analysis why Freemasons, especially the American Brethren, should pay more attention to Radical Islam as a threat to the Craft.

The calumination of Freemasonry first began in France: from the moment the first lodge opened in Paris in 1725, the Freemasons aroused great controversy. In 1737, King Louis XV demanded that his subjects have nothing to do with Freemasonry. The Church followed one year later. In 1738, the Vatican issued the first of fifteen bulls within two-hundred years condemning Freemasonry. The last Vatican bull, condemning Freemasonry, came in 1902.

The real anti-Mason madness developed in France. There, for the first time, the rumor was spread in 1747 that the top leaders of Freemasonry kept the lower grades ignorant and confused so that they wouldn't know their superior's intentions, permitting the latter to effect their will. In his book "*Freemasons Crushed*" (Les Francs-Maçon Ecrasés, Amsterdam 1747), the Catholic Abbot Larudan accused the leaders of Freemasonry that they secretly conspired to create a "*golden age of radical egalitarianism*" - which in that time was the worst you can think about!

Anti-Masons very often are anti-Semitic too. It is their belief that Freemasons and Jews are melded into a single unit. Jews are generally seen by those as too few in

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# MASONIC EDUCATION, OPINIONS & POETRY

## MUSLIM WORLD

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number to dominate by themselves, so they turn to Freemasons as their agents. No wonder that in 1778 a German Catholic monk in Aachen (see quoted in Arthur Singer: *“Der Kampf Roms gegen die Freimaurerei / Rome’s Battle against Freemasonry,”* Leipzig 1925) first time declared that *“the Jews who crucified the Savior were actually Freemasons”*. Pilate, he furthermore wrote, and Herod were the directors of a Masonic lodge. Although this is all nonsense and normally it would not be worth mentioning, these kinds of quotations are still repeated today. Especially in France in the 19th century, the Jewish-Freemason link became a veritable obsession, published in so many books that I will refer here just to one example: In 1880 a French priest (C.C. de Saint-Andr., pseud. of E.H. Chabauty: *Franc-Maçons et juifs, sixième fge de l’eglise d’après l’Apocalypse*, Paris 1880) asserted that Jews had taken over Freemasonry, for Jews *“have a natural instinct to dominate.”*

Doesn’t this sound familiar in today’s news?

On October 16, 2003 the so-called prime minister of Malaysia, Mahathir Mohamad, (actually a dictator), at a summit of Muslim leaders of 57 countries, representing more than a billion Muslims worldwide, in the Malaysian city of Putrajaya called in his opening speech for all Muslims to use brains as well as brawn to fight Jews who, he said, *“rule the world by proxy.”* He continued, *“This tiny (Jewish) community has become a world power.”*

Jews, said the Malaysian prime minister, had *“invented socialism, communism, human rights and democracy”* to avoid persecution and gain control of the most powerful countries. The speech received a standing ovation by all present Muslim leaders!

Today’s defamations and modern hatred of Israel are in a large part a surrogate for anti-Americanism in the Arab world as well as in Western Europe and they have at least partly their roots in the irrational rejection of Freemasonry in the European past. We are actually able to easily trace that: In 1893, a French archbishop (Leon Meurin: *La Franc-Maçonnerie, synagogue de satan*, Paris 1893) declared that *“everything in Freemasonry is basically Jewish, ... from the start to the end.”* By that time, (according to the historian Daniel Pipes: *“Conspiracy,”* The Free Press, NY 1997) it had become *“impossible”* for French anti-Semitic writers not to attack Freemasons as well - which led to the Dreyfus Affair of

1894-1899, where a Jewish-Masonic connection was emphasized. France in the time between 1880 and 1890 was the ideal place to fabricate another myth which lives on today in the minds of many people, especially in the Middle East, and which did and still does the greatest damage to Freemasonry - and today in the United States as a whole - all over the world: the so called *“Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion”*, increasingly exploited by today’s Muslim demagogues and Arab media. This is a fraudulent document, fabricated in the late 1890 in Paris by the Russian czar’s secret police. It turned out to become one of the major papers for anti-Semitism and for anti-Masonic propaganda in the first half of the 20th century, because the first edition which appeared in 1903 in Russia was entitled the *“Minutes of the Meeting of the World Union of Freemasons and Elders of Zion.”* Even the czar and his family didn’t know that those *“Protocols”* were fabricated by their own secret police, because we know from *czaritsa Alexandra’s diary in 1918 that the czar “read to us the protocols of the free masons”* (Pipes. P. 136).

The *“Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion”* as it later was called, purports to be the transactions of a series of 24 - in other versions 27 - meetings held in Basel, Switzerland, at the time of the first Zionist congress in 1897. At that meeting, Jews and Freemasons were said to have made plans to disrupt Christian civilization and create a world government under their joint rule.

The spurious character of the Protocols was first revealed in 1921 by the *“Times”* in London, who demonstrated their striking resemblance to a satire of 1864 on Napoleon III by the French lawyer Maurice Joly (*Dialogue aux Enfers entre Machiavel et Montesquieu / Dialogue in Hell between Machiavelli and Montesquieu*, 1864). Subsequent investigations, particularly by the Russian historian Vladimir Burtsev, revealed the Russian secret Police as authors of the Protocols who used not only the Joly satire but also a fantastic novel of a German author (Hermann G’dtsche: *Biarritz*, 1868).

This faked “document” about a joint conspiracy of Jews and Freemasons to gain world leadership still circles in American white supremacist groups, in militias of Montana and Colorado, in European Neo-Nazi organizations and - more damaging - in the Muslim world! Especially in the Middle East, not only Islamic fundamentalists keep those protocols reprinting and distributing it, as I have experienced myself 1999 in the Souk (Bazaar) of Jerusalem. When the American public after the Islamic terrorist strike on September 11 asked:

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"Why do they hate us?" I can say, those faked protocols are one puzzle which leads to the reasons why. It is still more important than the American or Western Press is aware of. Many American foreign affairs experts and Middle East analysts fell way too short in answering the question, "Why do they hate us?!" They did not and still do not consider the Arab fascination about conspiracies. Only a few American members of the media (for example the *Washington Post*, November 15, 2002, p. A32) took notice about Egypt's new satellite channel "Dream TV" that was produced at the end of 2002 a 41-part "historical drama" featuring nothing else but the "Protocols of the Elders of Zion"! The series was broadcast on state television during the most popular viewing time of the year, Ramadan evenings. What makes those "protocols" so attractive? They are not only about a Jewish conspiracy but about a Jewish-Masonic conspiracy. And Masonic - that means American! To Arab fundamentalists and TV producers in the Middle East, Freemasonry leads straight to the United States, were the largest group of Freemasons live; a state, founded partly by Freemasons, full of symbols of Freemasons - the all-seeing eye and the pyramid on the one dollar bill, etc. - you all know those allegations in length.

Unfortunately, you can't confront those fanatics that the truth is that we have proof that the "protocols" were forgeries. Because they simply want to believe that the Protocols are real. And believers are hard to convert. I for example asked them, "If Jews are so powerful, why were so many killed in pogroms and then in the Shoa (the Holocaust)? What sort of world-challenging power lets one-third of its people be murdered?" The answer came quicker than you imagine, they said, "Don't you see how they are? They are so evil that they did not hesitate to sacrifice this tremendous amount of their own people, just to get their own state. And it worked, especially because their Masonic ally, the USA, supported them since 1947."

Everyone who is not identified as American and who spends some relaxed days in an Arabian souk can easily hear those ideas while he is sipping a Turkish coffee with his Arabian host.

Furthermore it is obvious that dictatorships are in contradiction to Freemasonry. Everywhere, in whatever country you look, where Freemasonry is forbidden and persecuted, there is an intolerant regime in power, which hates democratic and humanistic values, which suppresses its own people and does not live in peace

with its neighbors. The Iranian mullahs eliminated Freemasonry in the early 1980, and in Afghanistan under Taliban rule there of course, also didn't exist any lodge for obvious reasons, as it is the case in almost all 22 Arab nations.

## Conclusion:

If one makes up his mind about Freemasonry and takes all the historic and modern examples into account, the conclusion should be: Freemasons should take the initiative to reach out more to the public and not leave the forming of public opinion to self proclaimed pundits who fall short in their analyses and are not aware of the real threats we as a free society face. The time to do so has rarely been more right and important than now. Otherwise, we as a craft will face not only an ongoing but even increasing amounts of prejudices, suspicions and threats of certain societies, in particular of the Muslim world. No one else will defend us if we don't stand up ourselves. And with an again rising anti-Semitism not only in the Muslim countries but also in Europe one has not to be a conjurer to predict - we are next, at least across the Atlantic as exemplified in Istanbul.

I am looking forward to discuss this concern with you, Brethren, wherever we'll meet.

*The author Tom Goeller is Junior Deacon of the Benjamin B. French Lodge No. 15 in Washington, D.C. and Washington Bureau Chief of the German Weekly "Das Parlament".*

FM

# MASONIC EDUCATION, OPINIONS & POETRY

## THEY SAID IT

*"We represent a fraternity which believes in justice and truth and honorable action in your community...men who are endeavoring to be better citizens...[and] to make a great country greater. This is the only institution in the world where we can meet on the level all sorts of people who want to live rightly."*

- Harry S. Truman  
President of the United States

*"Freemasonry embraces the highest moral laws and will bear the test of any system of ethics or philosophy ever promulgated for the uplift of man."*

- Douglas MacArthur  
General of the Army

*"There is no doubt in my mind that Masonry is the cornerstone of America."*

- Dave Thomas  
Founder of Wendy's International

*"Of all the institutions which have been established for the purpose of improving the condition of mankind, Freemasonry stands preeminent in usefulness as it is in age. Its origin is lost in the abyss of unexplored antiquity. No historical records, no traditionary accounts, can with certainty point out the precise time, the place, or the particular manner of its commencement. While some have endeavored to discover its footsteps amongst the master-builders and artists engaged in the construction of the first Jewish temple, others have attempted to trace it to the Eleusinian Mysteries, which are said to have taught the immortality of the soul and the other sublime truths of natural religion. Some again have ascribed its rise to the sainted heroes of the Crusades; while others have endeavored to penetrate the Mysteries of the Druids, and to discover its origin among the wise men of the institution."*

- De Witt Clinton  
Governor of New York and instigator of the Erie Canal

*"A Freemason, therefore, should be a man of honor and of conscience, preferring his duty to everything beside, even to his life; independent in his opinions, and of good morals, submissive to the laws, devoted to humanity, to his country, to his family; kind and indulgent to his brethren, friend of all virtuous men, and ready to assist his fellows by all means in his power."*

- Albert Pike

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# ALAS, MY BROTHERS

*Recently, the following Brothers joined the Grand Architect of the Universe in the Celestial Lodge above. Brothers listed here were members of Florida Lodges.*

**Bro. Lewis L. "Buddy" Alderman** of Tarpon Springs passed Monday, March 15th, at the Marriott Stratford Court in Palm Harbor. He was a member of Tarpon Lodge No. 112 F.& A.M. He was 84.

**Bro. & Dr. Luther G. Baker** passed Saturday, April 17th, at the Hospice House in Sun City. He was a member of Tampa Lodge No. 240 F.& A.M. and is a Past Grand Chaplain.

**Bro. Ronald F. Barber** of St. Petersburg passed Thursday, April 15th, at the Palms of Pasadena Hospital, South Pasadena, under the care of Hospice of the Florida Suncoast. He was a member of Northside Lodge No. 283 F.& A.M. He was 62.

**Bro. Dale F. Benadom** of Seminole passed Monday, March 22nd, at the Bay Pines VA Medical Center in St. Petersburg. He was a member of Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291 F.& A.M. in Madeira Beach. He was 83.

**Bro. Richard E. Buck** of Holiday passed Monday, March 29th, at the Gulfside Regional Hospice in New Port Richey. He was a member of Pearl of the West Lodge No. 146 F.& A.M. in New Port Richey. He was 92.

**Bro. Richard Woodley Coryell, Sr.** of Lakeland, formerly of Clearwater, passed Monday, March 22nd, at the Lakeland Regional Medical Center. He was a member of Clearwater Lodge No. 127 F.& A.M. He was 79.

**Bro. Nick G. Cretekos** of Tarpon Springs passed Thursday, April 15th, at Helen Ellis Memorial Hospital. He was a member of Tarpon Lodge No. 112 F.& A.M. He was 87.

**Bro. William Croft** passed Monday, April 12th. He was a member of Holyrood Lodge No. 257 F.& A.M. in Tampa.

**Bro. Troy William Dixon** of Homosassa passed Wednesday, April 14th, at the Seven Rivers Regional Medical Center in Crystal River. He was a member of Springs Lodge No. 378 F.& A.M. He was 66.

**Bro. George I. Edwards** of Hudson, formerly of Clearwater, passed Wednesday, March 3rd, at home. He was a member of Pearl of the West Lodge No. 146 F.& A.M. in New Port Richey. He was 66.

**Bro. Victor W. Hixson** of Largo passed Sunday, Feb. 29th, at the Sun Coast Hospital. He was a member of Star Lodge No. 78 F.& A.M. in Largo. He was 60.

**Bro. Robert William "Bob" Morton** of Inverness passed Tuesday, March 23rd, in Inverness. He was a member of Citrus Lodge No. 118 F.& A.M. He was 69.

**Bro. Howard C. Owens** of Clearwater passed Sunday, April 11th, at Morton Plant Hospital, Clearwater. He was a member of Clearwater Lodge No. 127 F.& A.M. He was 73.

**Right Worshipful J. Steven Reynolds**, passed Saturday, March 13th, in West Palm Beach. He was District Deputy Grand Master from District 32 in 2001-2002 and was a member of Bykota Lodge No. 333 which has since merged with another Lodge to form Unity Lodge.

**Bro. Harvey Yates, Jr.**, the Senior Warden of A.W. Windhorst Lodge No. 185 F.& A.M. in Tampa passed away on Sunday, April 11th.

**W.:William Robert Young**, passed Thursday, April 8th. He was a past master of Indian River Lodge No. 90.

*"Please look out for their widows and orphans."*

Please send notices to your Lodge Secretary, the Grand Secretary ([grandsec@glflamason.org](mailto:grandsec@glflamason.org)), and to [timb001@attglobal.net](mailto:timb001@attglobal.net)

FM

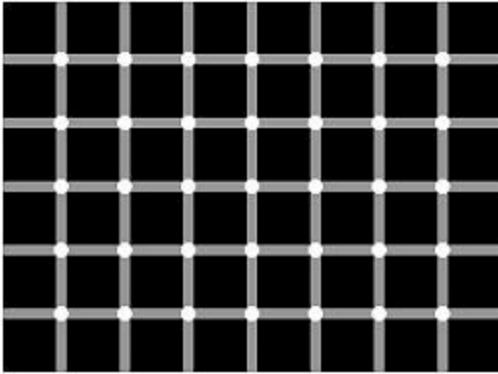


*A sprig of Acacia*

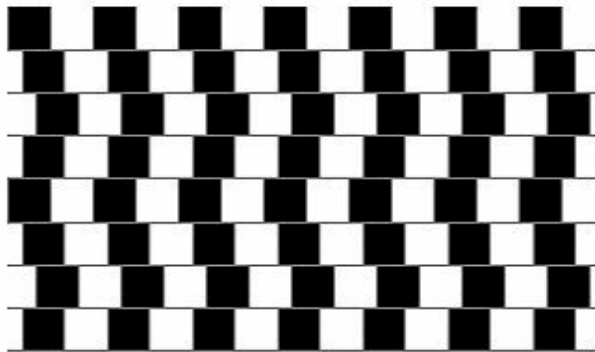
**AND FINALLY...**

**“Optical Illusions”**

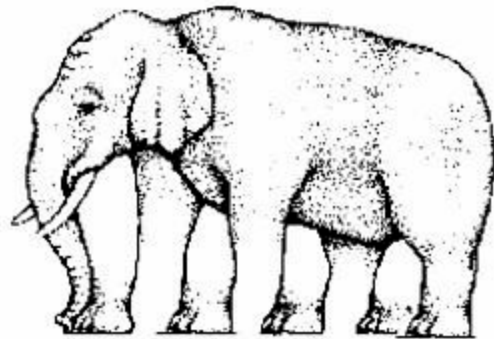
*Courtesy of R.: W. Richard G. Hoover, DDGM/21  
rhoover3@tampabay.rr.com*



Count the black dots! :o)



Are the horizontal lines parallel or do they slope?



How many legs does this elephant have?

# THE FLORIDA MASON



END