

36th Masonic District

The R.W. Grand Lodge of the Most Ancient & Honorable Fraternity of Free & Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania and Masonic Jurisdiction Thereunto Belonging

February 17, 2008

Chester | George Bartram - Paul Sands | Prospect | Concord | Penn | Lansdowne | Springfield - Hanby

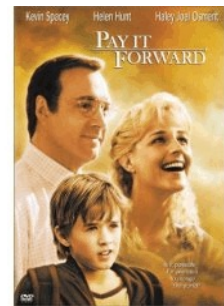
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District Calendar

Feb 19.	Fellow Craft & Master Mason Degrees.	Concord Lodge (7:00 pm)
Feb 20.	DDGM Official Visitation.	Penn Lodge (7:30 pm)
Feb 21.	School of Instruction.	Prospect Lodge (7:00 pm)
Feb 26.	2 Master Mason Degrees.	Penn Lodge (7:00 pm)
Mar 06.	DDGM Official Visitation.	Prospect Lodge (7:30 pm)
Mar 08.	CHIP Program (details inside).	Hilltop Elementary (10 am to 2 pm)
Mar 15.	Academy of Masonic Knowledge.	Masonic Villages (9 am - 3:30 pm)
Mar 16.	Night at the Phantoms.	Wachovia Spectrum (5:05 pm)
Mar 27.	John Rose, Regional Instructor.	Prospect Lodge (7:30 pm)
Apr 12.	Blood Drive.	Concord Lodge (8 am to 2 pm)
Apr 26.	Regional School of Instruction.	Grand Lodge (7:45 am)
Apr 26.	Lodge Banquet.	Concord Lodge (TBA)

Earn it Again - - - Paying it forward . . .

Brethren . . . do you remember the Warner Brothers' Movie, Pay it Forward, released in October of 2000? It was about a simple idea: instead of expecting someone to repay you for a good deed, you ask them to do a good deed for someone else (and keep the chain of goodness going). The RWGM challenged us this year to think about our role in helping to make Freemasonry as significant for the next generation as our forefathers did for us. As we live our lives we need to remember our obligations, "... every human being has a claim upon our kind offices so we enjoin it upon you, do good unto all ...". Every time I hear this at the end of our meetings, I cannot help but think about our role in helping others without expectations of repayment; paying it forward. This is one simple way we show the world the essence of Freemasonry and "Earn it Again".



CHIP Program



Bro. Rich Caruth, (rmc911@rcn.com) could use our help brethren. There are two upcoming Child Identification Programs scheduled for this Spring: New Hilltop Elementary School; 401 Cherry Tree Drive, Chichester (3/8/08 - 10 am to 3 pm); and Middletown Twp Pride Day; Williamson Free School of Mech Trades; 106 S

New Middletown Rd, Media (5/10/08 - 11 am to 4 pm). If you are able to help out, drop Bro. Caruth a note. The Chip program benefits the children of our area and offers the possibility of saving a life. There is no greater calling than that of helping a child.

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School of Instruction



The District School of Instruction meets every Thursday evening (except the first Thursday) at Prospect Lodge beginning at 7:30 pm. Each lodge is responsible to make sure its officers are schooled in the ritualistic work. It is through the ritual that Freemasonry differentiates itself from other organizations as well as teaches its lessons and helps define the path toward improvement. In a lot of ways, the ritualistic work is the pageantry that captures the candidate's attention and welcomes him in to our fraternity. When done with pride there is nothing more majestic than a well done degree. Now is the time to start that part of your journey that will differentiate you from all others. Contact Bro. S. Curtis Barrett (cbdoornwin@verizon.net) to find out how you can begin this journey.

NIGHT AT THE PHANTOMS

Brethren, Bro. Doug Rickards has made arrangements for tickets for a Philadelphia Phantom's game, March 16, 2008: 5:05 pm. Cost \$10.00 per person. The deadline to get in on this family affair is March 1 so don't hesitate. Give Bro. Doug a call and reserve your seat today. Food packages are also available:



- South Philly Combo (cheese steak, fries, soda) \$7.25
- Hat Trick Combo (pizza, pretzel, soda) \$5.50
- Phlex Combo (hot dog, popcorn, soda) \$4.25

For more information contact: Doug Rickards, PM, WM - Lansdowne Lodge No. 711 - 610-259-0427



The Masonic Service Association of North America (MSANA) was formed in 1919 to provide services to its member Grand Lodges. Thus the national voice that the MSA has is dedicated to Service to the Masonic community. The primary functions and activities of the MSANA are: (a) disaster relief - since 1923 the MSA has collected and forwarded funds for disasters around the world, (b) education/information publications - the MSA has a free catalog of publications, bulletins and other materials available, (c) masonic information center - to provide information on Freemasonry to Masons and non-Masons alike and to respond to critics of Freemasonry, (d) hospital visitation program - provides assistance and service to our sick or wounded veterans, (e) service - the Masonic Service Association of North America is a servant of Freemasonry. Formed of and supported by Grand Lodges, it is a voice that they can move to action, that the great heart of the Fraternity be made manifest and that the will of a united Craft may be done. Check them out: <http://www.msana.com/>

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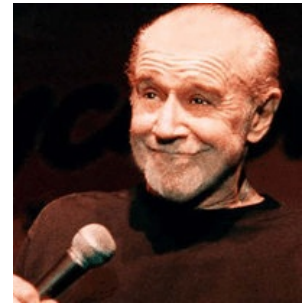
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Thoughts to Ponder according to George Carlin:

- I believe everyone has a right to pray to his or her God when and where they want to.
- My heroes are John Wayne, Babe Ruth, Roy Rogers, and whoever canceled Jerry Springer.
- I think owning a gun doesn't make you a killer, it makes you a smart American.
- I've never owned a slave, or was a slave, I haven't burned any witches or been persecuted by the Turks and neither have you! So, shut up already.
- And, no, I don't mind having my face shown on my drivers license. I think it's good..... and I'm proud that 'God' is written on my money.
- I think if you are too stupid to know how a ballot works, I don't want you deciding who should be running the most powerful nation in the world for the next four years.



Masonic Education

No One Person Speaks for Freemasonry!!

Frankly, this single phrase cannot be emphasized enough. A Grand Master - by virtue of his office - can speak for Masonry but only for his jurisdiction and only during the term of his office! Attempts to make this person or that a "Spokesman" fail.

Books and other writings about Freemasonry, while perhaps interesting, are simply one person's opinion. Some are researched far better than others and some are more accurate - but just like every other book today (excepting, of course, inspired religious texts) they are no more or no less "true" than the facts the author has provided.

It's also important to note that Freemasonry is over 300 years old. During this time LOTS of books have been written about it. In the earliest days, many such writings were the fanciful imagination of the author and were published without peer review of any kind. Some have passed down to us today because the copyright protections are long gone and a printer has found a way to make a few dollars on the reprinting of material that was probably laughed at even in its own time.

It is important to note as well that because no single book constitutes 'dogma' for Freemasonry - even if its title contains that word - that no writing should be taken as 'gospel'. While many will agree on certain points, there are always those who will dissent. Furthermore, Freemasonry in one country is not identical to that of any other and thus the author's viewpoints can easily be clouded by xenophobia or lack of knowledge.

It's frustrating, then, for someone who wants "just the facts" on Freemasonry: there are precious few. If you enjoy arguing about the number of angels that can sit on the head of a pin, then you are enjoined to become a Masonic researcher: there are precious few areas of research that will yield as many different opportunities for divergent opinion as this organization!