

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

September 07, 2009

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

Vol. 2 No. 9

District Calendar

Sep 10	Wayfarers' Meeting	Prospect Lodge (6:15 pm)
Sep 10	District School of Instruction	Prospect Lodge (7:30 pm)
Sep 12	Constituting Lehigh Valley Day Lodge No. 813	Macungie, PA 12 N
Sep 17	District School of Instruction	Prospect Lodge (7:30 pm)
Sep 19	District Picnic	Newlin Grist Mill
Sep 20	CHIP Event	Bethel Springs Elementary School (1:00 pm)
Sep 24	District School of Instruction	Prospect Lodge (7:30 pm)
Oct 03	Region One School of Instruction	Springfield Lodge (8:30 registration)

Academy of Masonic Knowledge Masonic Cultural Center; Elizabethtown, PA

Saturday, October 24, 2009



The Fall session of the Academy of Masonic Knowledge will be held on Saturday, October 24th, in the Deike Auditorium of the Masonic Cultural Center on the campus of Masonic Village in Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania. Registration will open at 8:30 AM with the program beginning at 9:30 AM. A lunch (voluntary contribution) will be served at noon and the program will be completed by 3:00 PM. All Masons are welcome to attend. Dress is coat and tie.

The speakers for the October meeting of the Academy will be: Brother General (Ret.) Robert D. Springer who will speak on what Freemasonry means to him. A biographical summary of Brother General Springer is attached and Brother Glen Cook, Most Worshipful Past Grand Master (2008) of the Grand Lodge of Utah will speak on being a Freemason and a Mormon. A biographical summary of Brother Cook is also attached.

The great objective in Freemasonry is to gain useful knowledge, and the Academy provides a great opportunity for the Brethren to learn and to understand more about the significance of the Craft. Plan to attend and bring a Brother or two along with you.

Pre-registration is required. To pre-register simply reply to Brother Jim Standish at standish@comcast.net with your name, address, Lodge number, telephone number, and email address. Or, send this same information to Brother Jim Standish at: 1 Pierce Court, Glen Mills, PA 19342-1787.

If you pre-register and subsequently determine that you will be unable to attend, please notify Brother Standish so that he can adjust the luncheon count. We look forward to seeing you on the 24th.



“Strange is our situation here upon earth. Each of us comes for a short visit, not knowing why, yet sometimes seeming to a divine purpose. From the standpoint of daily life, however, there is one thing we do know: That we are here for the sake of others...for the countless unknown souls with whose fate we are connected by a bond of sympathy. Many times a day, I realize how much my outer and inner life is built upon the labors of people, both living and dead, and how earnestly I must exert myself in order to give in return as much as I have received.”

..... Albert Einstein

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Labor Day . . .

As the Industrial Revolution took hold of the nation, the average American in the late 1800s worked 12-hour days, seven days a week in order to make a basic living. Children were also working, as they provided cheap labor to employers and laws against child labor were not strongly enforced.



With the long hours and terrible working conditions, American unions became more prominent and voiced their demands for a better way of life. On Tuesday September 5, 1882, 10,000 workers marched from city hall to Union Square in New York City, holding the first-ever Labor Day parade.

Participants took an unpaid day-off to honor the workers of America, as well as vocalize issues they had with employers. As years passed, more states began to hold these parades, but Congress would not legalize the holiday until 12 years later.

On May 11, 1894, workers of the Pullman Palace Car Company in Chicago struck to protest wage cuts and the firing of union representatives. They sought support from their union led by Eugene V. Debs and on June 26 the American Railroad Union called a boycott of all Pullman railway cars. Within days, 50,000 rail workers complied and railroad traffic out of Chicago came to a halt. On July 4, President Grover Cleveland dispatched troops to Chicago. Much rioting and bloodshed ensued, but the government's actions broke the strike and the boycott soon collapsed. Debs and three other union officials were jailed for disobeying the injunction. The strike brought worker's rights to the public eye and Congress declared, in 1894, that the first Monday in September would be the holiday for workers, known as Labor Day.

The founder of Labor Day remains unclear, but some credit either Peter McGuire, co-founder of the American Federation of Labor, or Matthew Maguire, a secretary of the Central Labor Union, for proposing the holiday.

Although Labor Day is meant as a celebration of the labor movement and its achievements, it has come to be celebrated as the last, long summer weekend before Autumn. The holiday is often regarded as a day of rest and parades. Speeches or political demonstrations are more low-key than May 1 Labour Day celebrations in most countries, although events held by labor organizations often feature political themes and appearances by candidates for office, especially in election years. Forms of celebration include picnics, barbecues, fireworks displays, water sports, and public art events. Families with school-age children take it as the last chance to travel before summer recess ends. Similarly, some teenagers and young adults view it as the last weekend for parties before returning to school. In addition, Labor Day marks the beginning of the NFL and college football seasons. The NCAA usually plays their first games the week before Labor Day, with the NFL traditionally playing their first game the Thursday following Labor Day. (History.com)



“We should so live and labor in our times that what came to us as seed may go to the next generation as blossom, and what came to us as blossom may go to them as fruit. This expresses the true spirit in the love of mankind.”

..... Henry Ward Beecher

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CHIP Program



Bro. Rich Caruth, (rmc911@rcn.com) has put together a busy Identification schedule to help us protect our children. If you are able to help out, drop Bro. Caruth a note. The Chip program benefits the children of our area and affords the possibility of saving a life.

Sunday, September 20, 2009

1 PM to 5 PM (Noon set-up)

Bethel Springs Elementary School

3280 Foulk Road

Boothwyn, PA 19061

Coming in October

1. Marcus Hook

2. Senator Peleggi's Kids Fun

More info to follow

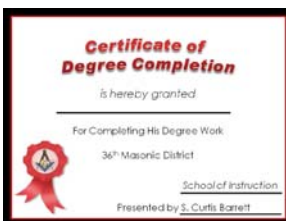
Masonic Cookbook



If you love good food and want to indulge that passion while at the same time support the Grand Lodge initiative, then look no further. The Grand Master's lady, Pat along with numerous other Grand Lodge associates contributed family recipes and that collection is available for you in *Tasty Temple Treats*. Within its pages are appetizers, beverages, soups, salads, vegetables, side dishes, main dishes, breads and rolls, desserts, cookies, candies, and assorted other entries certain to please your pallet. It is never too early to buy your wife that special stocking stuffer that will also prove reciprocal in so many ways. If you are interested in purchasing a cookbook, contact your DDGM or the Grand Lodge. Cost is \$12 + \$3 ship.

School of Instruction

As we prepare to call back onto Labor all brethren looking to assume a station within their lodges need to pull out their calendars and circle November 19 for that is the drop dead date for certification. We started out the year seeing several brethren certify in their work but it slowed down as summer approached. Don't let time become your enemy. Remember that you must get certified on the floor at the District School on Thursday nights.



In order to be eligible for election to a station, you must have completed the following work: (a) JW: EA & Business, (b) SW: FC, and (c) WM: MM. Brethren, our District School is as busy and active as any in the State so I trust you will spare our instructors

any last minute angst and step right up and "Git-R-Done".

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Masonic Education

The Masonic Teaching

Masonry teaches man to practice charity and benevolence, to protect chastity, to respect the ties of blood and friendship, to adopt the principles and revere the ordinances of religion, to assist the feeble, guide the blind, raise up the downtrodden, shelter the orphan, guard the altar, support the government, inculcate morality, promote learning, love man, fear God, implore His mercy and hope for happiness."

Some authorities have differentiated between Freemasonry as a system and Freemasonry as an organization. While this is essential in understanding its historical background, one must take the logical position that today the two are inseparable. This being so, the following seems to be an acceptable descriptive conclusion: Freemasonry is a system of moral philosophy structured on the principle of the Brotherhood of Man and on a belief in God and immortality, imparted symbolically and allegorically through a coordinated complex of Masonic lodges.

An allegory is a narrative, frequently illustrating a moral truth, in which the true meaning is concealed, thereby requiring interpretation and permitting the meaning to be deduced from the story which is told. That Freemasonry teaches by allegory is neither new nor unique. Allegory creates interest in abstract subjects by presenting them in an attractive form; it stimulates independent thinking to discover the veiled context. The use of allegory is common in Greek and Roman mythology, in the Bible, and in early as well as contemporary literature.

In discussing the use of allegory in Freemasonry, J. O. Ball asserts that "In seeking why Masonry is taught in allegories, instead of by logical statements of truth in direct form, we may answer that in many ages truth has been taught by allegories and parables, in order that the mind may conceive great and fundamental truths by comparison with simple things. Some think that Masonry is taught by types, emblems, and allegorical figures in order to conceal the thought . . . On the contrary, the parable or allegory makes the thought clear to the thinking mind, but only after a certain effort in thinking the thing through."

The use of symbols is of ancient origin, being particularly evident among the religions of antiquity as a method of communication. Symbols are signs, usually objects which instantaneously bring to the mind of the observer an idea or concept which would otherwise take thousands of words to express. Thus, the triangle, a familiar religious symbol, represents the Trinity, or the three attributes of the Deity. In law, a common symbol is the balanced scales, representing the idea of justice and impartiality.

The symbols used in Freemasonry are those taken from the craft of the early masons, each having its own meaning and each conveying a moral precept when perceived. Hence, the square and compasses, the traditional emblem of Freemasonry, have a particular significance for the Master Mason, as do the other working tools of the Craft, such as the plumb, level, common gavel, and trowel. Incidentally, there is no "secret" concerning the symbols of Freemasonry, their meanings having been described in numerous publications, like A Pocket Encyclopedia of Masonic Symbols published by The Masonic Service Association of the United States.

- - - *What IS Freemasonry?* (Masonic Service Association of North America)



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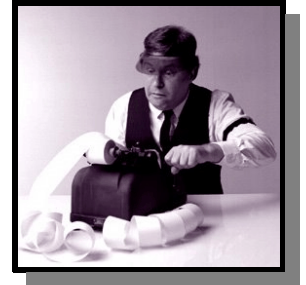
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Grand Lodge Dues Increase

Brethren, this past quarterly communication in June, a resolution was presented to amend Article 10.01 to increase the Grand Lodge dues by \$5.00 such that it could be voted upon at the December quarterly. It is critical that we get behind this resolution in order to strengthen our great fraternity and to stave off the not so slow decline in Grand Lodge finances. I realize no one likes to talk about increased dues but the Grand Lodge is in no better shape in this economy than the rest of us. As a matter of fact, let me try to put this situation into some perspective.



The last dues increase was back in 2003. Since that time, membership has declined by 12,562; 50 year members have increased by 1,183, and 1,837 members had their dues remitted. In addition, the cost of living has gone up by 5.8%. What does all this mean in real money? The cost of living change equates to a negative \$4.41 per member difference between monies collected and monies spent or for each member's \$20.00 Grand Lodge dues that member receives \$24.41 cents in membership benefits. The decline in membership has cost the Grand Lodge \$251,240. Fifty year members, remitted members, and life members collectively account for \$397,246 in uncollected dues. In addition, operating costs such as printing, postage, stationary/supplies, electricity, fuel, and insurance have all taken their collective toll on our cost side.

The Grand Lodge has two sources of operating funds: investments and dues. As you can see, the dues have not been able to keep pace with expenses. In addition, over the past three years, Grand Lodge investments have gone down \$1,827,073.

Brethren, I hope you can see how this all sort of dictates that it is time we slow down the bleeding. I look forward to discussing this issue at our upcoming wayfarer's meeting on September 10th. In the mean time let's try to be supportive and realistic with regards to what is needed to sustain our fraternity.

One last thing that lodges may want to get out ahead of and that is that if this increase gets affirmed in December, this will go into effect for 2010 which means that the dues you collect this year, which are actually for next year's assessment, will be \$5 short if you do not include it with this year's dues notice. I highly recommend that you consider this possible shortfall before sending out your 2010 dues notices. Again, we will discuss all this on September 10th.

Fraternally yours,
Rick Swalm, DDGM36

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Academy of Masonic Knowledge Speaker Biographies

Brother Robert D. Springer, Lt. General USAF (Ret.)

Brother General Springer was born in 1933 in Millhelm, PA. He graduated from the Patton Masonic School at Elizabethtown, PA in 1950. He received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Social Sciences in 1964 and a Master's Degree in International Affairs in 1965, both from The George Washington University, Washington, D.C. He is a graduate of Squadron Officer School, Maxwell Air Force Base, AL; Industrial College of the Armed Forces, Fort Lesley J. McNair, Washington, D.C.; and a distinguished graduate of the Air Command and Staff College, and the Air War College, both located in Maxwell.

Brother General Springer entered the Air Force in 1952 and retired as a Lieutenant General following a distinguished career of 35 years of service to his country. During his service in the Air Force, Brother General Springer served in many capacities - he has flown . . . instructed . . . served as a staff officer . . . been to combat . . . and commanded. He and his family have traveled and lived throughout the United States as well as Germany and Japan. He served in the Republic of Vietnam and has traveled to over 40 countries. His military service citations and awards are too many to elaborate.

Brother General Springer was a Mason-at-sight in September, 1987 an extra communication of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. This extra communication was called at the request of Brother Carl Stenberg, Right Worshipful Grand Master who was so impressed with the story and background of Lt. General Springer that he felt making him a Mason-at-sight at the celebration of the Bicentennial of the Constitution of the United States would be a fitting acknowledgment of Lt. General Springer's life of service and contribution to our nation, Brother General Springer affiliated with Abraham C. Treichler Lodge #682 in Elizabethtown, PA.

Brother General Springer received the Richard Caswell Medal for Distinguished Military Service and the Knight Commander, Order of St. John of Jerusalem, for Distinguished Service to Freemasonry from the Grand Lodge of North Carolina in 2000 and the Distinguished Service Award from the Grand Lodge of New York in 2003. He has also been listed in Who's Who in America annually since 1987. Brother General Springer is married to the former Bonnie Brubaker of Elizabethtown. They have five children.

Brother Glen Cook, MWPGM

Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Utah 2008

Brother Cook grew up in the Tulsa, Oklahoma area. He attended the University of Oklahoma and the University of Aberdeen in Scotland. He graduated from the J. Reuben Clark Law School at Brigham Young University in 1982. He then entered active service in the U.S. Navy JAG Corps. He subsequently served as a Reserve officer, including over six years as a military judge, attaining the rank of Captain. Brother Cook is qualified as an attorney both in the United States and England and has a private law practice in Salt Lake City.

He received the degrees in Freemasonry in Acacia Lodge No. 17, where he served as Worshipful Master in 2001. He was the founding Master of St. Andrew's Lodge No. 34. He has had the unique opportunity to serve as the Worshipful Master of Sentinel Lodge and Sentinel Royal Arch Chapter in Stockport England in 2006-2007 and 2008-2009, respectively. He is a member of a number of Masonic appendant bodies and has been the presiding officer in many of them. He was coroneted a 33rd degree Inspector General Honorary in October 2003 and installed as the Grand Master of Masons in Utah in February 2008.

The family also have a home in Scotland. A member of various British cultural organizations, including the Society of Scottish Armigers of which he is a Past Chairman and Fellow, he is also a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, a Freeman of the City of London, and a liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Scriveners in London. In July, 2009, the Queen was graciously pleased to sanction his promotion to the rank of Commander in the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem.

Married for 29 years, he has four children, with two sons on active duty in the U.S. Navy and two daughters attending universities.

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GRAND LODGE OF FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS OF PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia, PA, March 24, A.D. 2009, A.L. 6009

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE GRAND LODGE:

You are hereby requested to attend a Special Communication of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania to be held at 12:00 o'clock, noon, on Saturday, September 12, 2009 at 2120 State Highway 100, Macungie, PA, for the purpose of Constituting Lehigh Valley Day Lodge No. 813.

Any member who is interested in becoming a Warrant Member of this Lodge may do so by applying for plural membership no later than May 19, 2009. Requests should be made directly to Brother Robert H. Hoffman, Secretary of Greenleaf Lodge No. 561.

By Order of the R.W. Grand Master.

