FROM THE GRAND EAST
Article by MW Kenneth A. Clay, Jr.

Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth

We had just completed the eighth and final Lodge of Instruction of the 2019 Lodge of Instruction season and I was on my way home from Horace Chase Lodge in Boscawen. The feedback that the Grand Lodge Line Officers, District Officers and I had received on this year’s program was very positive and although I was certainly tired, I was elated at our team’s accomplishment. And then it happened.

First, I received a text message. “Morrison Lodge in Northwood is on fire.” No way! It surely is a false alarm. Yet, as I completed my ride home, I was concerned. As soon as I walked in the door, I got the call – the one I was dreading. It was Right Worshipful Dennis Tuttle Jr, District Deputy Grand Master of the 5th District calling me. Morrison Lodge is Dennis’ home away from home – his Mother Lodge. Dennis had left the Deerfield Fair where he was supporting a fundraiser for the Order of the Eastern Star. He was at the Lodge and reported to me that in fact, the building where Morrison Lodge and Crescent Chapter, OES meet was on fire. He was highly emotional and so was I. I gave him what advice I could muster under these extraordinary circumstances and asked to be updated in the morning.

That night my phone and email lit up. By morning it was all over the news. Sadly, the building was a total loss. A building which had stood as a landmark in the Town of Northwood since 1885 was now gone. It is a devastating loss. The one bright spot is that, except for a first responder who was treated for heat exhaustion, no one was seriously hurt.

Throughout the years, the building had served many purposes. Countless Freemasons were raised there and many Eastern Star members were initiated. The building included a dining room with a stage where entertainment was held. Four generations of Tuttle men have called this place their home away from home. When I was Worshipful Master of Horace Chase Lodge, I always enjoyed my travels to Morrison Lodge– Brotherly Love and Affection

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were always on full display in that building.

In the days following the devastating loss of Morrison Lodge’s building, Masons throughout this Grand Jurisdiction began calling to offer their assistance:

“Morrison Lodge can meet at our Lodge building whenever they want.”

“Is financial assistance needed?”

“How can we help?”

The outpouring of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth has been awe-inspiring.

Since that fateful night, a plan of action has been put in place. For the time being, Morrison Lodge will meet at the home of Corinthian Lodge in Pittsfield. Crescent Chapter will meet at the home of James Farrington-Pleiades Chapter in Rochester. Right Worshipful Chris Busby, member of the Grand Lodge Communications Committee is doing a great job responding to media inquiries. Right Worshipful David Collins is leveraging his expertise by working with the Lodge on an insurance claim.

While the pain that comes from the loss of a home is intense, Morrison Lodge, through Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth, champions on.

Freemasonry not withstanding has still survived.

Regrettably, Morrison Lodge is not the only Lodge to suffer such pain. Not that long ago, the building that was home to Fraternal Lodge in Farmington also fell prey to fire. Yet repairs were made, the building was sold, and through another demonstration of Brotherly Love and Affection, the members of Unity Lodge in Union extended Fraternal Relief by offering their Lodge as a meeting place for both Unity Lodge and Fraternal Lodge. Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

To relieve the distressed is a duty incumbent upon all Brother Masons.

We have a Brother in the North Country who’s facing a personal challenge as he has been diagnosed with a vicious disease. He’s married and working hard to raise a family, however, because of his health challenge, his job is at risk and he has a difficult road ahead.

Brethren from his district and his Lodge are conducting fundraisers to help relieve his distresses. Because of your generous donations to the Annual Charity Fund Drive, Grand Lodge was recently able to present this Brother with badly needed funds to help alleviate some of his financial burden. In addition, the Scottish Rite, through the Scottish Rite Almoner’s Fund, has been able to provide an additional contribution to this Brother. No one knows what the Grand Architect of the Universe has planned for this Brother and his family, but through Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth, Freemasonry is doing what it can to help to relieve his family’s distresses.
FROM THE GRAND EAST (CONT.)

It's not always money that is needed for relief. Sometimes a Brother simply needs a shoulder to lean on; a gentle voice to offer comfort and support; someone to run some errands or provide trips to the doctor. If the need is there, Freemasons are there to lend a helping hand. It is a tenet our profession.

Life has a way of throwing “speed bumps” in our way from time to time. Sometimes those bumps feel more like mountains. But while the sun sets in the West to close the day, we can always look forward to it rising in the East, shining in all its glory. Throughout the ages, when faced with the lowest of the lows, Freemasons have lent a helping hand to help, aid and assist a fallen Brother. We’ve done it before, we continue to do it today and we’ll do it until time shall be no more.

So, my brethren, “What came you here to do?” To constantly strive to improve yourself in Masonry? Certainly! To relieve the distressed is a duty incumbent upon all Masons. Practice the Tenants of your Profession. You’ll be a better man and a better Mason for it.

To view complete article, click here

GOING “OVER THE EDGE” TO BENEFIT CHILDREN
Article by Bro. Richard Thompson

A question Masons often ask themselves is, “How long is my cable-tow?” Since the length of a cable-tow changes each day, the more proper question is, “How long is my cable-tow — today?”

In most cases, when we talk about the length of our cable-tows, it is a figurative expression — there is no length in a real sense. But for three New Hampshire Masons, on this last June 28, their cable-tows had an exact length — 259 feet. Actually, it is more proper to say their cable-tows had an exact height — 259 feet.

Right Worshipful Robert Porter and Brother Roland Petersen of Rising Sun Lodge No. 39 in Nashua and Worshipful Brother Jerry Becker, our Grand Marshal and a member of Rockingham Lodge No. 76 in Candia, stood at the top, on the edge, of the Brady Sullivan Plaza building in Manchester, a full 20 floors above the ground. They were ready to rappel down the face of the building to raise money for the Children’s Dyslexia Center in Nashua.

The three were part of the Greater Nashua, United Way “Over the Edge” event. Each participant raised a small amount of money for the United Way and a larger share for a charity designated by the participants. The three Masons raised more than $5000 for their charity.

To view the rest of the article, click here
WHY MASONIC EDUCATION
Article by RW Paul C. Smith
Grand Education Officer

We saw a video last month from our Grand Master in which he stated the reason why Masonic Education is one of his pillars: “A knowledgeable Mason is a respected Mason...an informed Mason is an impactful Mason.” How true indeed.

Masonic education goes hand in hand with the ritual. One is useless without the other. An expert orator can deliver the most well-rehearsed, flowery, and emphasized ritual during a degree, but if he doesn’t understand what is he saying, is it as impactful? How many times has a candidate heard a great performance and then asked, “what does that part mean?” I’ve only seen it a handful of times in recent memory, but we should be able to answer and answer well.

That is why, in great part, your Grand Lodge Education Committee has spent the past many years working on programs for your lodges to get into some of the meanings and histories of the words we use, and WHY we use them.

Beyond that, the Mason who knows some of our histories and mysteries will be better enabled to answer questions from the profane about the why’s, what’s, when’s, where’s, who’s, and how’s of Freemasonry. You’ve heard it said that many approaching the Craft these days are doing their homework and have many questions prepared for when they start to ask. We do them and ourselves a great disservice if we are unable to answer.

From a broader sense, let’s mention briefly what Masonic Education IS: Masonic education is a discussion on the ritual; it’s a discussion on what lessons or meanings are conveyed; it’s a discussion on the use of the Holy Bible and the scriptures therein (NOT religion in specific terms); it’s reading books and talking about them; it’s writing our thoughts down; it’s seeking LIGHT. As you see, education can be a broad thing in the Craft. Education should be a fundamental focus of every lodge, just as performing ritual is. We are fortunate to have wonderful men serving you as District Deputy Grand Education Officers whose chief focus is to deliver and assist you in delivering education at your meetings.

To view the rest of the article, click here
THE CHALLENGES OF A COUNTRY LODGE
Article by RW Brother Larry Sprague, Senior Grand Deacon

I became a member of Cheshire-Mt Vernon Lodge No. 23 (then Cheshire Lodge) in 1995, at the time there were 38 members. It’s small Lodge in a small town, we had no running water, a 160-year old building in need of major repairs and our restroom facility was an outhouse. Like all Lodges today we’ve faced many challenges over the years. Declining membership, involvement and dedication of the members and the effort and cost it takes to maintain and improve an old building took its toll.

Things started to change with the efforts of just a few members. We got involved with the community by having a booth at the local Cornish Fair each year. One of our Past Masters contacted the town and asked if there was anything the Lodge could do as a service to the community. They said a cemetery fence needed to be painted. The town provided the paint and the pizza, the Lodge provided the manpower. We got it done in one day. The town was very appreciative, and it was great publicity for us. About a year ago we started having monthly community breakfasts at the Lodge. The cost is by donation, there’s no required fee. We’ve now had hundreds of people come into our building who never would...

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SOCIAL HOUR NOTICES
By R:. W:. Mark E. Langis, Grand Secretary

There’s an assumption that a Dispensation is required when planning to serve alcohol on Masonic property. No, a Dispensation is not needed on those occasions. Table Lodge is the exception, due to the Lodge being tyed for the event. The granting of a Dispensation for the Table Lodge, takes the place of the Social Hour Notice!

Any other occasions at which alcohol will be served, a ‘Notice of Social Hour’ form must be filled out and a copy sent electronically to:

Grand Master  mwgm@nhgrandlodge.org
Grand Secretary  office@nhgrandlodge.org

An additional copy must be kept on file by the Lodge.

If unable to send an electronic copy, forward a copy to the Office at: GLNH, PO Box 486, Milford, NH 03055-0486. We will forward a copy to the Grand Master on your behalf.

Please look closely at the Liquor Policy-Social Hour Notice, article XVII, page GLR&R 16, in the Grand Lodge Constitution, Manual and Rules and Regulations. Particularly the parts regarding ten-day advance notice to the Grand Master and securing the beverages prior to the closing of the building at the end of the event.

The rules and regulations as well as the form being filled out pertain to both Masonic and non-Masonic events. The Lodge Secretary has access through Grand View to download the form and a copy of the rules and regulations. He, the Master of the Lodge or the custodian of all Masonic Halls must be sure that a copy of the rules and regulations are displayed in a prominent location within the hall.
RIGHT WORSHIPFUL BROTHER DENNIS SHERIDAN AND THE KNIGHTS OF THE YORK CROSS OF HONOUR

Article by RW Dennis Sheridan

The Order of Knights of the York Cross of Honour (KYCH) first met on March 13, 1930 and formed the Convent General of the USA on June 6, 1930 by some diligent brothers from Monroe, North Carolina. The requirements for membership are the strictest of any other Masonic Body. One must have served as the Presiding Officer of the Lodge (Blue), Chapter (Royal Arch Masons), Council (Cryptic), and Commandery (Knights Templar) and then must be invited to join. An invitation is not automatic. Your peers must have faith in you as they ballot on you before you are invited to join.

I was initiated in 1980; Master in 84; District Deputy Grand Lecturer in 1988 and District Deputy Grand Master in 1989-90. I served as a Presiding Officer in the three Scottish Rite Bodies in the 1990s. I became Valley Secretary in 1994 and still am to this day. I was coronated a 33rd Degree Mason in 1995.

At that time, I was just getting very active in York Rite, having served as Excellent High Priest in 1993-94 and as Eminent Commander in 1995-96. I had served all but the Council as they were the farthest from me. My good friend and Brother David Edwin Lewis, now of Colebrook, called me and asked to me to join the Line and informed me it would qualify me for the KYCH. After some discussion, I said yes and was elected as Illustrious Master of Evening Star Council in 2001-02.

WHY YOU SHOULD SUPPORT THE MASONIC YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

Article by RW Christopher J. Busby, District Deputy Grand Lecturer, District #2 and RW Dan Hotchkiss, Senior Grand Warden

In 1919, Frank Land, as Master Mason, visited with Louis Lower, the son of a Lodge member who had passed. Following their initial meeting, Frank Land invited Louis and eight of his friends to meet at the Masonic Temple in Kansas City, MO where they founded the Order of DeMolay for boys ages 13-21. In 1922, Reverend Mark Sexton, a Master Mason in McAlester, OK, having worked with the Order of DeMolay saw a similar need for young women and founded the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls ages 12-20. These two Masons led the way in establishing the greatest youth organizations for young men and women in the world. Reverend Mark Sexton, in particular, began Rainbow recognizing the strength, intelligence and leadership capability of young ladies during an era in which women had, only three years prior, won the right to vote.

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IMPORTANT DATES

MASTER MASON SEMINAR
Saturday, October 26th, 2019
[Click here for more information]

SCOTTISH RITE TESTIMONIAL
Saturday, November 3, 2019
[Click here for more information]

GRAND LODGE SEMI-ANNUAL COMMUNICATION
Saturday, November 16, 2019 -
[Click here for more information]

FEZTIVAL OF TREES
Saturday, November 23 through Sunday, December 1st
[Click here for more information]

MASONIC FAMILY LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
Saturday, January 25th - Sunday, January 26th 2020
More information coming soon

Brother Alex Newbury (left), State Senior Councilor of NH DeMolay, member of Union Chapter, and son of Right Worshipful District Deputy Grand Master of District 2, Scot Newbury. Alex became a 5th-Generation Mason in St. Mark's Lodge No. 44 on 9/23. Worshipful Brother Jeremy Ledoux's son Dan (right), also a member of Union Chapter, was initiated in June.

Several members of our Masonic family received scholarships through the Grand Lodge Scholarship Fund in September including Jessica Hart, granddaughter of Mark and Roberta Langis; Sarah Putnam, Daughter of Bruce Putnam Past Master of Faithful Lodge No. 12; Hannah Vincent, Daughter of Right Worshipful Brother Roger Gaskill, Past Master of Rising Sun Lodge No. 39; and Cynthia Sprince and Amanda Thompson, Majority Rainbow Girls and former members of Derry Assembly No. 15.
On September 21 and 22, Rising Sun Lodge No. 39 in Nashua began a weekend celebration of their annual exchange with John Albro Lodge No. 122 from Bedford, Nova Scotia with a Ladies at the Table with the Grand Master in attendance. It culminated in a Master Mason Degree on the 2nd day with the Raising of three Nova Scotia Fellow Crafts. These meetings began in 2005 and have grown into something truly special. So special, in fact, that Brother Andrew Grainger chose this event to propose to his girlfriend Andrea. She said yes!

On October 5, The Grand Master was joined by our Senior Grand Warden at the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts building in Boston. They were pleased to be in the presence of 5 brethren who were Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason by Jerusalem Lodge No. 104 of Keene.

On October 13, Our Grand Master attended the annual Grand Officers Day celebration with New Hampshire Rainbow. There he witnessed an outstanding display of ritual. The Grand Officers performed a near perfect initiation for a young lady from Nashua Assembly No. 9. Their hard work, dedication, and love for Rainbow was fully on display! MW Ken Clay is pictured with Grand Worthy Advisor Nykola Isaia during which they took the opportunity to exchange headwear.