



8th Masonic District

The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania



Bristol Lodge No. 25, Hermann-Humboldt Lodge No. 125,
Doylestown Lodge No. 245, W.K. Bray Lodge No. 410,
Newtown Lodge No. 427, Fairless Hills Lodge No. 776, Southampton Radiant Star Lodge No. 806

www.pa8thmasonic.com

Richard H. Bradbury, Sr. – District Deputy Grand Master

December 2015

8th Masonic District School of Instruction

Frey Masonic Center
Norristown Road, Warminster, PA

Meets Monthly at 7:30 pm
1st Monday and 3rd Friday (Except July and August)

DECEMBER CALENDAR

- 02** **Grand Lodge Quarterly Communication,**
Philadelphia, PA
- 07** **8th Masonic District School of Instruction**
- 09 Hermann-Humboldt Lodge Stated Mtg.
- 09 Newtown Lodge Stated Meeting
 Program: Election and Installation
- 11 Doylestown Lodge Stated Meeting
 Program: Elections and Installation
- 14 Southampton Radiant Star Lodge Stated Mtg.
 Program: Elections and Installation
- 15 Fairless Hills Lodge Stated Meeting
- 16 W.K. Bray Lodge Stated Meeting
 Program: Elections and Installation
- 18** **8th Masonic District School of Instruction**
- 19 Bristol Lodge December Stated Meeting
 Program: Election and Installation
- 28** **Grand Lodge Annual Communication**
Pittsburgh, PA
 Installation of Grand Lodge Officers

Due to meeting times changing for Elections and Installations, please visit our District Website for details.
www.pa8thmasonic.com

GIFTS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

With the holiday season upon us, many family members are looking for “the right gift” to give you. I would recommend the gift giver check out the Gift Shop link of the Grand Lodge on their website: www.pagrandlodge.org. There are books, clothing and assorted other items available in all price ranges. *The Masonic Temple in Philadelphia* is an excellent book containing pictures and the history of our Grand Lodge Temple and is a must for any PA Mason’s library.

ONE DAY JOURNEY A SUCCESS

Thank you to the officers and members of the lodges in the 8th Masonic District for your support and involvement at our One-Day Journey on November 14th and Newtown Lodge for hosting. Congratulation also to the conferring Masters: Bros. Louis Emanuele, Doylestown Lodge; Ronald Ranjo, W.K. Bray Lodge; and Roger Weiss, P.M., Southampton Radiant Star Lodge. The 8th Masonic District Junior Wardens took most of the stations and places for the Entered Apprentice Degree; the Senior Wardens for the Fellowcraft Degree and Worshipful Masters/Past Masters for the Master Mason Degree. It was reminiscent of the JW and SW Nights we had in the past. All presented excellent degrees for our candidates.

It was a great day of Masonic fellowship when we raised twelve candidates from three districts. Seven candidates were from our district, one from District C and four from District D. Bro. Leonard A, Juliani, Jr., DDGM-District D was present and stated, “The degree teams were excellent which provided the candidates with a great experience and hopefully seeds their interest in further participation in our great Fraternity.” We look forward to our newly made Master Masons meeting with Lodge Mentors and becoming involved in our lodges and district.

JOEL POINSETT (1779-1851)

South Carolinian Joel Poinsett was the first US Minister to Mexico under President John Quincy Adams. On his return from Mexico in 1825, he brought back a beautiful flowering shrub that was able to further develop and improve on his plantation. It had been called a “painted leaf” and the “Mexican fire plant,” but later became known as the poinsettia.

Today, it is the most popular flowering plant grown and sold in the United States. Poinsett was a Past Master for both Recovery Lodge # 31, Greenville, SC, and Solomons Lodge #1, Charleston, SC. He was elected Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of South Carolina but was unable to serve as Grand Master because of his appointment as Secretary of War under President Van Buren. He did serve as Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of South Carolina.

DID YOU KNOW?

A Lodge in Two Countries

At one time Golden Rule Lodge No. 5 of Stanstead, Canada, occupied a lodge room which was bisected by the boundary between Canada and the United States.

It had entrances from the Vermont and Canadian sides; the membership of the lodge consisted of men from both sides of the border.

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

December 1, 1891

A teacher of physical education at the YMCA Training School a Springfield, MA wanted to create an indoor sport that could be played during the winter months Canadian-born Bro. James Naismith nailed up peach baskets at opposite ends of the gym and gave students soccer balls to toss into them. Thus was born the game we know as basketball

December 20, 1803

The French tricolor was lowered in New Orleans and the stars and Stripes raised in its place, thus symbolizing the transfer of the Louisiana Territory from France to the United States. Bro. James Monroe negotiated the purchase for \$15-million after President Thomas Jefferson had sent him to France to see if Bro. Napoleon Bonaparte, then Emperor of France, would be willing to deal. He was - and did, in a deal that doubled the territorial size of the United States for a miniscule sum, even for the time.

Quote of the Month

"Be always at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let each New Year find you a better man."
Bro. Benjamin Franklin

A Little Masonic Humor

A recently raised Master Mason applied for a job and knowing his prospective boss to be a prominent Mason he made sure to wear his square and compass cuff links. When he arrived at the interview he approached his interviewer in the regular manner and proceeded to shake hands (yes with THAT handshake).

After an hour or so (with the candidate dropping numerous Masonic references) the prospective boss asked if he were to be offered the job, what package would he expect. Our candidate, now feeling very confident said that he would like \$200,000 and five weeks of annual leave.

His interviewer replied, "We'll halve it and you begin."

To all...Have a Safe and Happy Holiday Season!

The Letter "G"

He entered the Lodge and filled each chair,
Was sent to the East and presided there.
He could give the lecture of each degree,
But fell way down on the letter "G."

Tho' he said each head must "in honor bow"
Yet out of the Lodge he forgot, somehow,
For from his careless and prayerless lips,
The name of Jehovah would oft times slip.

He recited the Lecture with solemn tone,
When the letter "G" to the Lodge was shown,
But we knew at once why the world did scoff,
When we heard this man with his apron off.

The Fellowcraft, too, when the lodge was thru'
Listened as you and I would do.
But the work tho' finely exemplified
Was spoiled by his talk in the room outside.

For no one did as the Master said,
Not a humble bow from a single head.
So the Fellowcraft tho't as he said good night
I will talk as before and 'twill be all right.

If Masonry does what we claim for it
We should guard our tongues lest we forget
To use that great high Name with care
While employed at work or engaged in prayer.

For the world is watching both you and me,
To see if we honor the letter "G"
And our lives and teachings they compare
To see if we're plumb and on the Square.

Worshipful Brother David Barker (deceased 1874)
Indiana Freemason, April 2008

Why are Square and Compasses more important than other working tools?

Without compasses no accurate square can be made; without a square no building can be erected. Square and compasses are universally the symbol of a Master Mason; of Freemasonry. Symbolists have read many meanings into both these tools of a Mason. Both symbols are much older than Freemasonry; Chinese manuscripts give them a Masonic significance (although there was no Freemasonry in that country) two thousand years ago. No symbols in Freemasonry offer so many possible interpretations. But many symbols mean different things to different men; each interprets according to his best light.

In modern Masonic rituals, the compasses are "dedicated to the Craft" and are emblematic of the restraint of violent passions. Here "passions" refers to any over-emotional lack of control. It is passions in the larger sense; intemperance, temper, unjust judgment, intolerance, selfishness, that the spiritual compasses circumscribe. The positions of the square and compasses in the three degrees are universally symbols of light, further light, more light.

One Hundred One Questions About Freemasonry, MSANA