



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, Southampton Radiant Star Lodge No. 806

Website: www.pa8thmasonic.com; Facebook: PA 8th Masonic District

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

March 2020

8th Masonic District School of Instruction

Frey Masonic Center at Masonic Village-Warminster
850 Norristown Road, Warminster, PA

Meets Monthly on the 1st Monday at 7:30 pm
Extra Meeting on the 3rd Friday – If Needed/Called with due
and timely notice.
(No Meetings in July and August)

MARCH CALENDAR

- 02 8th Masonic District School of Instruction**
- 07 Officer Training Seminar-Region 1**
Masonic Village – Lafayette Hill
- 07 Bristol Lodge Stated Meeting
Program: Exemplification of a Visitor
- 11 Hermann-Humboldt Lodge Stated Meeting
Program: Bannack Lodge
- 11 Newtown Lodge Stated Meeting
Program: Who Wants To Be a Masonic Millionaire?
- 13 Doylestown Lodge Stated Meeting
Program: The Golden Fleece
- 16 DDGM Visitation - Southampton Radiant Star Lodge**
Program: Freemasonry in Germany/Shadow Lodge
- 18 W.K. Bray Lodge Stated Meeting
Program: Bro. Benjamin Franklin: Applying Teachings of Freemasonry
- 20 8th Masonic District-Extra Mtg. (if needed)**
- 21 Academy of Masonic Knowledge**, Masonic Village-Elizabethtown
- 28 Leadership Seminar**, Allentown, PA

NEWSLETTERS ONLINE

It has been reported that some lodges may be having issues in uploading the District Newsletter for publication, primarily when sent digitally. As a result, it is emailed out with the formatting askew. Should you find that to be the case, the current newsletter is posted on the 8th Masonic District webpage along with archived copies dating to their inception in 2015. You are encouraged to go to the website and read or download it from there.

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

Do Good Unto All

How many times have you receives a skeptical, quizzical or even surprised look when you told someone you're a Mason? Our fraternity is often shrouded with mystery, misrepresented by Hollywood, dismissed by uninformed naysayers and misunderstood by the masses. But it doesn't have to be that way.

The best way to prove our value to society is by educating others through our actions. Freemasons are good men and their word who benefit society in countless, quiet ways that are often conducted outside of the public eye. That's why Grand Master Tom Gamon is challenging every Pennsylvania Mason to demonstrate goodwill by performing Random Acts of Kindness. These small, thoughtful gestures will give others a glimpse into what it means to be a Pennsylvania Freemason.

Opportunities to make a difference in another's life present themselves daily; we just need to be willing to take a moment to observe our surroundings. It may be as simple as helping a stranded motorist jump start his car, buying coffee for the lady behind you at Starbucks, carrying someone's groceries, mowing an elderly neighbor's lawn, picking up trash in a park, making a meal for a shut-in or donating food or clothing to a family in need.

When you answer the challenge to assist someone, simply give the individual one of the business cards being supplied by the Grand Lodge. The Grand Lodge website and social media channels are listed for those wishing to learn more. Make sure to get some business cards from you lodge secretary and keep them in a convenient place such as in your wallet or your glove box.

Let's challenge ourselves to live the values of Freemasonry by showing concern for the wellbeing of others.

The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania

The business card states, "You were just helped by a Freemason. The only compensation requested is for you to pay it forward by helping someone else in need. Do Good Unto All." On the reverse, "A Way of Life. Freemasonry is kindness in the home, honesty in business, courtesy in society, pity and concern for the unfortunate, resistance of the wicked, help for the weak, trust in the strong, forgiveness for the penitent, love for one another, and above all, reverence and love for God. www.pagrاندlodge.org"

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

March 8, 1855

A train called "London" made the first worldwide crossing over a railway suspension bridge at Niagara Falls on the U.S.-Canadian border. The suspension bridge was designed by Bro. John A. Roebling, who later became famous for his bridge designs with his building of the Brooklyn Bridge in New York City. Roebling died during its construction and never saw its completion. One of the piers for it is still standing in Niagara Falls, NY. Few in the Niagara Falls is aware that it is there. There is a newer bridge standing there now, still with railroad and vehicles service on it. That part of Niagara Falls was called the Port of Niagara Falls, and Grand Master Benjamin Flagler use to work the customs post there. The area was also known as Suspension Bridge and was so until it merged with Niagara Falls, in 1893. Niagara River Lodge was the local Lodge for that area, and had its Charter handed to it by Grand Master Flagler in 1882 who was the Installing Master for the new Lodge. Bro. Flagler was a Past Master of Niagara Frontier 132, in Niagara Falls proper.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TWO PILLARS

The two pillars in the second section of the Fellowcraft Degree are complex and powerful symbols. First, they were made either of brass or bronze (the Hebrew texts are not clear on this point). In either case, they were a mixture of a "sun" metal (copper) and a "moon" metal (either tin or zinc). This gives us the same combination symbol we find in the Entered Apprentice Degree with the sun, the moon and the Master of the Lodge. So the pillars themselves, are by virtue of the combination of metals, represent harmony or balance.

Passing the two pillars also represents a chance for a new beginning. The tradition that the pillars were hollow and were used for storing the records of the past symbolizes the fact that the Fellowcraft has a new opportunity to begin afresh. The Lodge does not regard or remember any faults he may have had before joining. He now has a chance to build a life without the 'baggage' of the past.

In addition, the two pillars may be seen as representing two of the three pillars of the Tree of Life – the Jewish mystical symbol for the creation of the universe. The names of the three pillars of the Tree of Life are often translated as Strength and Wisdom, with the pillar of Harmony – Beauty – Balance placed between them. Thus, when the candidate for the Degree stands of passes between the pillars, he represents the third pillar (harmony). Passing them thus represents an entry into a new sense of life in which the spiritual dominates over the physical.

The pillars represent, of course, those placed on the porch of Solomon's Temple, and thus they mark the candidate's entry into this new life as a Mason. The globes with which they are topped represent earth and the universe. They also represent change and transformation and *transformation* is the dominant theme of the Fellowcraft Degree.

Further Light... by Jim Tresner

If you haven't paid your dues yet...please save your lodge brothers the effort of contacting you and send it in today.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Thomson Masonic Fraud

Matthew McBain Thomson was born Scotland. In 1881 he settled in Montpelier, Idaho.

He returned to Scotland but in 1898 returned to Montpelier with a patent from the "Scottish Grand College of Rites".

He used this document to create his "American Masonic Federation", later changed to "International Masonic Federation".

He promoted the sale of all sorts of "Masonic" degrees by mail and worked through paid solicitors.

Reduced rates were given when groups were large and many joined at the same time. He and two other were eventually prosecuted for using the mails to defraud and in 1922 they were sent to jail.

INITIATION

Long years ago, I climbed a stair
And rapped at an ancient door.

I passed within a temple fair
And trod the checkered floor.

I passed between the pillars two;
I climbed the winding stair;
The letter "G" then met my view;
I earned my wages there.

I knelt beside the altar fair
I counted not the cost.
I searched afar with earnest care,
But still the Word was lost.

Though some may think my search absurd,
When time shall ebb and fail,
I hope to learn the final Word
Beyond life's mystic veil.

The Texas Freemason, August 1967
D.C.Tidwell, P.M., Texas

MASONICALLY WHAT ARE FOOL, DOTAGE, LIBERTINE, PROFANE?

Masonically, a fool is a mature man without good common sense. Legally, he is of age, mentally, he is retarded. Dotage begins at no special year; it is that time in a man's life when his mental powers deteriorate. The fool never has much mental power; the greatest mentality may decline in dotage to complete lack of responsibility and judgement. Some men enter dotage in early life; others never enter it at all. Libertine, Masonically, refers to a freethinker, a nonconformist, one who subscribes to no higher authority in his thinking. It does not denote what is meant by the word in modern days, a man who is promiscuous sexually. Profane, Masonically, means "not a Mason"—it comes from the Latin *pro* meaning before and *fanum*, a temple; Masonically, a profane is one "outside of the temple," uninitiated. The word has no reference to "profanity" in the modern sense of taking the name of God in vain.

One Hundred One Questions About Freemasonry
The Masonic Service Association