



8th Masonic District

The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania



Lodge No. 9, Bristol Lodge No. 25, Hermann-Humboldt Lodge No. 125,
Houseman Lodge No. 211, Doylestown Lodge No. 245,
W.K. Bray-Southampton Lodge No. 410, Newtown Lodge No. 427, Pilgrim Lodge No. 712

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

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

March 2023

8th Masonic District School of Instruction

Lower Bucks Masonic Hall
Edgewood & Heacock Roads, Woodside, PA 19067

Stated Monthly Meeting - 3rd Monday at 7:30 pm
Extra Meeting – If Needed, called with due and timely notice.
(No Stated Meetings in July and August)

MARCH CALENDAR

- 2 Pilgrim Lodge Stated Meeting
Program: Traveling Around the World
- 3 Lodge 9 Stated Meeting
Program: How to Conduct a Visitor Examination
- 4 **Region 1 Officer Training Workshop, Norristown Lodge**
- 4 Bristol Lodge Stated Meeting
Program: The Square and Compasses & Funeral Service
- 8 Hermann-Humboldt Stated Meeting
Program: TBD
- 8 Newtown Lodge Stated Meeting
Program: Reflections of a Newly Made Mason
- 9 Houseman Lodge Stated Meeting
Program: Senior Warden's Night
- 10 Doylestown Lodge Stated Meeting
Program: TBD
- 15 W.K. Bray-Southampton Lodge Stated
Program: Community Night-History of Southampton Radiant Star Lodge
- 18 Academy of Masonic Knowledge, Masonic Temple, Philadelphia
- 18 **Masonic Temple 150th Anniversary Gala, Masonic Temple, Philadelphia**
- 20 **8th Masonic District School of Instruction**
- 25 **One-Day Class** (Location to be Determined)

SAVE THE DATE

The Region 1 School of Instruction will be held on April 15, 2023 from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Masonic Temple, Philadelphia. Registration begins at 7:00 am. All Lodge Officers and Lodge Ritual Instructors are expected to attend. Master Masons are always welcome. More details will follow.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWEST MASTER BUILDER AWARD RECIPIENTS

Congratulations to the latest 8th Masonic District recipients of the Grand Master's Achievement Recognition Award for completing the Master Builder Program. Both brothers received their award from R.W. Grand Master Jeffrey M. Wonderling. Brother Mason Smith, Newtown Lodge No. 427 received his award during the Quarterly Communication on December 7, 2022 while Brother Kyle Coppola, Doylestown Lodge No. 245 received his at the District Deputy Grand Master Presentation for Masonic District B on January 20, 2023.

To attain the Master Builders Award a newly made Master Mason must satisfactorily complete some online learning programs provided through the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania and fulfill mandatory and voluntary requirements within one year of being raised. These requirements help the new brother to better understand and appreciate what Freemasonry is all about. The majority of past recipients in this district have gone on to fill chairs and become the Worshipful Master of their respective lodge. All newly made Master Masons are strongly encouraged to pursue this award; it will be well worth their time and effort!

If you are a Master Mason who has been in the Fraternity for a period of time longer than one year, you would be eligible to participate in the Master Craftsman Award and receive recognition from the R. W. Grand Master. This program mirrors the Master Builder online education module but in this, the brother must complete all of the other items that were electives for the Master Builder Award. If you are interested, contact the Lodge Secretary for the forms.

MASONIC TEMPLE 150TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

You are invited to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Grand Lodge Masonic Temple, Philadelphia on Saturday, March 18th, 7:00-11:00 pm. Attendees will enjoy delicious food, captivating entertainment and exciting auctions. Proceeds benefit the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, dedicated stewards of our building and the premier fraternal organization in PA for nearly more than 250 years. Tickets are \$250.00 pp. Information on ordering tickets can be found on the Grand Lodge website under the drop down tab "Events".

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

February 26, 1846

At Scott County, IA, Bro. William Frederick (Buffalo Bill) Cody was born. A frontiersman, he claimed to have killed more than 4,000 buffalo to feed the railroad workers pushing west. Subject to many heroic Wild West yarns, Bro. Cody became successful first as a Pony Express rider and Indian scout, then as a showman, bringing his acts across the US to Europe. He died January 10, 1917, at Denver, Co. Bro. Cody was raised in Platte Valley Lodge No. 15, Platte Valley, NE, and remained an active Mason all his life.

February 26, 1934

Bro. and then US President Franklin Delano Roosevelt ordered the creation of the Federal Communications Commission, which was created by Congress on June 19 of that year to oversee communications by radio, wire, or cable. TV and satellite communications later became part of its charge.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Mystery of a Missing Masonic Cornerstone

Pedro Casanave (1766-1796) was chosen to place the cornerstone of the "President's House" on 12th October 1792. He also gave an oration at the stone laying ceremony. President George Washington had selected this specific date to pay homage to Spain on the 300th anniversary of Christopher Columbus's arrival to this hemisphere. Pedro Casanave was Worshipful Master of Georgetown Lodge No. 9, Maryland. The cornerstone went missing the day after it had been laid and no one has seen it since; even when President Harry Truman had the building totally renovated in the 1940's there was no sign of the cornerstone. In 1893, on the one hundredth anniversary of the laying of the Capitol's cornerstone, a plaque as placed near the spot where the original stone was believed to have originally been installed. *Masonic Philatelic Club Magazine*, January 2023

Editor's Note: It took eight years to complete the building of the "President's House" after the cornerstone was laid. In 1800, President John Adams became the first president to occupy the house. The earliest evidence of the public calling it the "White House" was recorded in 1811. /RHB

709TH ANNIVERSARY OF MARTYRDOM

March 11, 2023 marks the 709th Anniversary of the martyrdom of Jacques DeMolay, the namesake of the Order of DeMolay, the Masonic-related group for young men.

According to DeMolay International: "We celebrate the lore and ideas born out of Jacques DeMolay and the values he represents...709 years ago, this March, Jacques DeMolay was burned at the stake. The legend that marks his peril gave birth to an everlasting idea. This idea has turned into an organization that has influenced more than 4 million individuals."

Though it became a worldwide organization in 1919, this year marks the 100th Anniversary of DeMolay in Pennsylvania when the first induction ceremony was held in Pittsburgh on February 12, 1923.

'GRAND POOBAH'

The term 'Grand Poobah' has its origins closer to Freemasonry than many may think.

Most people recognize the term 'Grand Poobah' from the popular cartoon series from Hanna-Barbara's *The Flintstones*. In the cartoon, the two main characters Fred Flintstone and Barney Rubble regularly appear at their lodge meeting. In the cartoon it is the Loyal Order of Water Buffalo, not a masonic lodge. The Loyal Order of Water Buffalo is a send up though of Freemasonry and other fraternal organizations.

In the 70's people also recognized it from the show *Happy Days*. In the show the patriarch of the family is a member of a leopard lodge. Often he is seen heading off to his meeting wearing a fez with leopard spots. Again the head of the leopard lodge is the 'Grand Poobah.'

It is easy to assume the origin of the title 'Grand Poobah' came from a pop culture reference such as the ones mentioned above or in some of the other ways it has been used. Especially over the last few decades.

Instead the origin of the term Grand Poobah comes to us from March 1885. It also comes to us from two masonic brothers, Gilbert and Sullivan in their comedic opera *The Mikado*. In the opera one of the character's name is Pooh-Bah and he holds a variety of titles which include First Lord of the Treasury, Lord Chief Justice, Commander-in-Chief, Lord High Admiral, Archbishop, Lord Mayor and Lord High Everything Else. This was the result of a series of circumstances whereby all of the town leaders resign their positions and Pooh-Bah ends up with all of their titles. The *Mikado* uses Japan as a back drop to satirize British politics of the time.

In modern times the term Grand Poobah is generally meant to be a mocking term. Either to describe someone who has an inflated self-regard or someone who has a grandiose title with little true power behind it.

Today in Masonic History at <http://www.masonrytoday.com>.

THE FOUR DISCIPLES?

Who are the four best-known disciples? Maybe Matthew, Mark, Luke and John? At a recent communication of Friendship Tuscan Lodge in Manchester, Connecticut, four Brothers were raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason. Ironically, their names were Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

Fraternal Review, So. Calif., Research Lodge, *Emessay Notes*

THE NATURE OF FREEMASONRY

We must ask ourselves what our young people are seeking and how we can provide it. We must also ask how attractive have we made our Freemasonry to the young men of DeMolay by our precept and example. Imagery is an important tool in teaching those who are observing us and our actions. Our young people represent a valuable addition to our Fraternity. While we may be the present, our youth are the future of Freemasonry and salvation of our country.

Trestleboard Tidbits, Compiled by Alphonse Cerza, MSA, 1962