



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

May 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)

MAY CALENDAR

- 4 Pilgrim Lodge Stated Meeting
Program: Maxwell Somerville Presentation
- 5 Lodge 9 Stated Meeting
Program: Table Lodge
- 10 **Hermann-Humboldt-DDGM Visitation**
TBD
- 10 Newtown Lodge Stated Meeting
Program: Symbolism & Ritual Topics: Golden Fleece, Hiram Abiff, Shibboleth & Past Master Jewel
- 11 Houseman Lodge Stated Meeting
Program: Rainbow Night
- 12 **Doylestown Lodge-DDGM/District Visitation**
Program: History of Cigars
- 15 **8th Masonic District School of Instruction**
Lower Bucks Masonic Hall (Newtown Lodge)
- 17 W.K. Bray-Southampton Lodge Stated Mtg.
Program: Community Night-Hatboro Police Dept., Borough Council, Enterprise Fire Company
- 29 Doylestown Lodge Pancake Breakfast and
Doylestown Borough's Memorial Day Parade

LOOKING AHEAD...

The Grand Lodge Quarterly Communication will be held on Saturday, June 10, 2023 at 10:00 am at the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown, One Masonic Drive, Elizabethtown, PA. This will also be the election of Grand Lodge Officers for the ensuing Masonic years. All Representatives and Substitute Representatives in the Grand Lodge are expected to attend to cast the votes for their Lodge.

Save the Date...A Celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the Masonic Temple will be held on Saturday, June 24, 2023 at the Masonic Temple, Philadelphia, PA. Details will be provided in the June District Newsletter.

The 5th Masonic District will again host the Brandywine Battlefield Degree on October 7, 2023. Stay tuned for details.

DOYLESTOWN LODGE ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST

On Monday, May 29th, Doylestown Lodge will host their Annual Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast from 7:00 am-Noon. Enjoy an all you can eat pancake and sausage breakfast at the Doylestown Lodge, 55 E. State Street, Doylestown (across from the County Theater). Adults - \$8, Children under 10 yrs.- \$3, under 6 yrs.- Free.

After breakfast, bring your lawn chairs and stay to celebrate Memorial Day with an old fashioned small town parade starting at 10:00 am. Doylestown's Memorial Day Parade is the oldest in the country. All Master Masons are welcome to march in Masonic dress with the Brothers of the Lodge.

CUSTOM HENRY RIFLE RAFFLE

Tickets are available for the one of a kind Henry Big Boy Model H006, .44 Mag/SPL Rifle. This custom made rifle was created to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Masonic Temple in Philadelphia. Proceeds go to the Grand Lodge of PA. Tickets are \$25.00 each with only 1000 tickets being sold.

The winning number will be taken from the FIRST 7:00 pm PA Daily Pick-3 evening lottery number on June 24, 2023. See DDGM Bradbury at the School of Instruction or a DDGM Visitation for tickets while they last.

PASSPORT TO FELLOWSHIP IN THE 8TH MASONIC DISTRICT

The 8th Masonic District has initiated the "Passport to Fellowship in the 8th Masonic District" program. Participating Brothers will visit Lodges in the 8th Masonic District to get their passport validated while enjoying Masonic fellowship at each location. Once the passport has been filled, it will be submitted to the DDGM. There will be a presentation of a "traveler" Square and Compasses lapel pin at the end of the year.

The rules for completing the program are: A Brother must visit all eight Lodges in a calendar year, three of those visits must be an extra meeting and he must attend the School of Instruction three times. Passports are available from the DDGM or your Worshipful Master.

Be a traveler...experience what our District has to offer.

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

May 22, 1859

In Edinburgh, Scotland, the English physician who was to become Bro. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, novelist and detective story writer, best remembered as the creator of Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson. Bro. Doyle was deeply interested in, and lectured, on the subject of spiritualism. He was raised in Phoenix Lodge No. 257, Portsmouth in 1893. He died at Crowborough, Sussex, England, July 7, 1930.

May 26, 1886

Born at St. Petersburg, Russia, Asa Yoelson, the Mason, actor and singer who became internationally known as Al Jolson. Bro. Jolson was known for his blackface minstrel songs and became famous as the star of the first talking motion picture, "The Jazz Singer (1927)." He was a member of St. Cecile Lodge No. 568, New York City where he was raised July 1, 1913. Bro. Jolson died October 23, 1950, in San Francisco after retrying from, entertaining American troops in Japan and Korea.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

May 14th is Mother's Day. If you have a special lady, please remember to thank her for all the support she has provided this past year. One way is to share this poem with her.

A MASON'S WIFE

From active Masons, resolute,
Our wives and families we salute;
We surely know the price you pay,
Who sit alone while we're away.

No high degrees on you conferred,
In Lodge, your name is seldom heard;
You serve our cause though out of sight,
While sitting home alone tonight.

Masonic papers list our names,
Awards are given, fit to frame;
But yours is absent...you who strive,
To keep our fortitude alive.

You're part of every helpful deed,
On your encouragement we feed;
Without your blessings, how could we,
Continue acts of charity?

And so, this poem, we dedicate,
To every Master Mason's mate;
And offer our undying love,
Rewards await in Heaven above.

Author Unknown

GLOSSARY – The Rite of Destitution

The Rite of Destitution is the removal of metal, or a prohibition against carrying items of a "metallic nature" into the Lodge as a Candidate. It relates both to the teaching of charity and the preservation of peace and harmony in a Lodge. In the days when Masonic ritual was being formulated, metal was usually in the form of a weapon, money, or a badge of distinction. In the Lodge, none of those things matter.

Further Light... Jim. Tresner

DID YOU KNOW?

Audie Murphy Single-Handedly Stopped a German Attack

On January 26, 1945, 2nd Lieutenant Audie L. Murphy was commanding company B of the 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, near the French village of Holtzwihr when six German tanks and several hundred infantrymen attacked his company. Murphy ordered his men to fall back to defensive positions in nearby woods while he covered their withdrawal and called down artillery to slow the German advance. German fire hit an American tank destroyer nearby and set it on fire. Witnesses later recalled how he "climbed on the burning tank destroyer, which was in danger of blowing up at any moment, and employed its .50 caliber machine gun against the enemy." From Murphy's exposed position on top of the burning tank destroyer, he killed over 20 German soldiers and repelled their attack. For more than an hour, Murphy continued to fire the machine gun, despite being wounded in the leg. He then led his company in a counterattack that killed or wounded 50 more German soldiers.

On April 23, 1945, at the age of only 19, Murphy received the Medal of Honor for his actions. Though Murphy's heroism on January 26 was extraordinary, it was not the first time Murphy had distinguished himself. He had previously received over 20 awards for valor, including the Distinguished Service Cross, two Silver Star medals, and two Bronze Star medals for valor in Italy and France. After receiving the Medal of Honor, Murphy was widely celebrated as the most decorated American soldier in World War II and was featured on the cover of Life magazine.

After the war, Murphy's national celebrity status brought him to the attention of Hollywood. He went on to have a prolific country music songwriting and acting career, starring in 44 feature films, including the movie adaptation of his autobiography, *To Hell and Back*. Despite Murphy's stardom and success, the soft-spoken veteran was never comfortable being the center of attention.

Murphy died on May 28, 1971 at the age of 45 in a plane crash near Roanoke, Virginia. He was buried with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery.

Tyler Bamford, The National WWII Museum, New Orleans, LA

THE NATURE OF FREEMASONRY

Edwin Booth, a Mason, and a great Shakespearean actor, once said: In all my research and study, in all my close analysis of the masterpieces of Shakespeare in my earnest determination to make those plays appear real on the mimic stage, I have never, and nowhere, met tragedy so real, so sublime, so magnificent, as the legend of Hiram. It is substance without shadow-the manifest destiny of life which requires no picture and scarcely a word to make a lasting impression upon all who can understand. To be a Worshipful Master, and to throw my whole soul into that work, with the candidate for my audience and the Lodge for my stage, would be a greater personal distinction than to receive the plaudits of people in the theaters of the world.

Trestleboard Tidbits, compiled by Alphonse Cerza, MSA