



GFN CYBER MASON

www.masonic-network.com

The Newsletter of the Global Fraternal Network -- VIRTUAL INTERNET LODGE NO. 1
Volume 1, Number 10, December 2006



Editorial

Seasonal Greetings to all from the Editorial Board

Roster Details

The site is being updated to include details of membership in the member's roster. Until this is complete please update your details when you leave a forum.

Pins, Caps and Car Stickers may be viewed and ordered from the GFN Site

Editor bwbutler@btinternet.com

SPOTLIGHT ON THE BOARDS

Masonic Education Board

This is the Forum to discuss questions about Freemasonry in general. Freemasonry being a "Way of Living", it behoves us to learn as much as we can about our Craft. This Board is meant to help you in your search for more light in Masonry.

Even though the GFN is password protected, all Brothers are reminded not to discuss the esoteric aspects of Freemasonry in this unsecured communication medium. Please feel free to contact the Board Director, R.W. Brother Corby Christensen if you have any questions. Messages are purged every 30 days.

Asian Pacific Forum

Every day at 7.00 pm Perth Time. 11.00 am BST

2nd GFN Asia Pacific Gathering
Hunter Valley, NSW, Australia
26th & 27th May, 2007

Only 8 months to go!

Now is the time to start planning your long weekend away on the last weekend of May 2007. There are numerous items to plan that require an indication of how many we will need to cater for, so in order for things to run smoothly we need an indication of how many we can expect. If you intend being at this event, please email Andrew Bradley at ajbradley@hotmail.com.

We would also welcome any suggestions that you may have for experiences, both Masonic and social, over the weekend in the Hunter Valley of NSW. To find out more about this wonderful area of Australia go to the [Hunter Valley Wine Country](http://www.huntervalleywinecountry.com.au) website.

Make this a weekend of new experiences and new friendships.

Mark it in your diary now!

Keep watching this space for more details



USA Forum

Every day at 9.00pm.



Greetings from Ohio at the holiday Season.



Christmas



Hanukkah



Waqf al Arafa (Hajj Day)



Kwanza

Zarathosht Diso

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Ellis Mills [etfromstar187] eteldest@yahoo.com

Sickness & Distress Trestle Board Director / Glad Tidings & Birthday Trestle Board Director

Chairman GFN Staff Directory Committee /

WM Star Lodge 187, Cuyahoga Falls, OH

TALK UP THE GFN AT LODGES OF INSTRUCTION

From: [Blue Hill Hiram](#)

Email: ralph.staples3@verizon.net

Date: Monday, November 6, 2006 at 21:26:46

Message:

Brother Staff Members, I have found that speaking at Lodges of Instruction has been a great help in spreading the word about our Internet Lodge #1 among our brethren. I have scheduled 2 upcoming Lodges of Instruction in Massachusetts. I start by asking how many of the Masons there are presently on the internet, by a show of hands, followed by the question: How many of you are members of the Global Fraternal Network Internet Lodge #1. I then read the GFN Founders Information, pass out flyers I have made up explaining the 3 Square & Compasses, On Line Registration Form, Talk about the Trestleboard and the East, West and South Gate. I pass out business cards with my name and phone number along with information I have printed directly from the website. I then take questions from the audience and finally I ask how many of the Masons present plan on becoming members of the GFN in the near future because of information they learned from this Lodge of Instruction. I also tell them that they can log onto the GFN as a link from the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts website. (Of course while I talk with them, I am wearing my GFN Hat with logo! All of the information I hand out was printed directly off the web page. Try it, you might like it!

Fraternally,

Ralph W. Staples, GFN Representative, Commonwealth of Massachusetts

IS THERE FREE-SPEECH IN FREEMASONRY?

by W.Tim Bryce, PM, MPS

timb001@phmainstreet.com

Palm Harbor, Florida, USA

"A Foot Soldier for Freemasonry"

There is a rumor circulating on the Internet that there is a resolution being prepared by a grand jurisdiction in the U.S. Southeast ("Dixie") that would, in effect, censor all forms of Masonic communications, including publications, blogs, discussion groups, e-mails, web pages, etc. This would mean that virtually anything pertaining to Freemasonry in the grand jurisdiction would have to first be reviewed and approved by the Grand Lodge prior to publication. If this is true (and I hope it isn't), this would be setting up a preposterous situation whereby Masonic communications would be grid locked at all levels. Such controls would be reminiscent of those enacted by Hitler and Goerbels in Nazi Germany.

There has always been a certain amount of censorship in Freemasonry. For example, some jurisdictions prohibit the publication of proceedings and any correspondence pertaining to Masonic charges. There have been instances where Masonic web sites were shut down and Masonic publications suspended simply because Grand Lodges wanted absolute control over what was written and said in their jurisdictions. Is this a violation of First Amendment rights? Undoubtedly. Nonetheless, this has occurred on several occasions around the world. In my case, when I was censored by my Grand Master last year, I was given no warning and ordered to shut down my Masonic publications and web pages. To this day, I am at a loss as to exactly why this was done (nobody spoke to me about it before or after the order was issued). Based on the letter I received from the GM, it was obvious to me that he was unfamiliar with my work and was acting on some bad advice by his handlers (my detractors). Nonetheless, this forced me to find new venues for my work which is now published by Brothers in other jurisdictions. Interestingly, as a result of the censorship, my stock rose radically while the GM's plummeted. I am now asked to write for a

variety of publications and speak to groups outside of my grand jurisdiction.

So, is there free-speech in Freemasonry? Only as much as allowed by the Grand Lodge. Constitutions are interpreted and enforced at the discretion of the Grand Masters which basically gives them broad powers to censor whoever they want. In other words, Masons must walk gingerly on egg cartons or face repercussions. Inevitably, this is causing Freemasons to go underground in their communications. Vehicles such as the Internet provide a convenient means for Masons to cloak their identity and whereabouts. When you think about it, this is barbaric as Masons should be allowed to identify themselves and speak on the level without fear of retribution.

To me, censorship is another indicator of how the tables have turned in Freemasonry. Instead of the Grand Lodges serving the Craft Lodges, it is just the other way around. It means Grand Lodges want nothing less than absolute power.

In a way, it reminds me of a chapter from Ayn Rand's acclaimed novel, *"The Fountainhead,"* about a brilliant architect who dares to stand alone against the hostility of unimaginative conformists. In the book, Howard Roark, the protagonist, is brought up on charges of destroying a building he designed. In the courtroom, he offers an eloquent defense which ultimately leads to his vindication. Although space prohibits me from including his complete courtroom testimony here, there are several passages which have a bearing on the subject at hand. In the courtroom, Roark explains to the jury...

"Throughout the centuries there were men who took first steps down new roads armed with nothing but their own vision. Their goals differed, but they all had this in common: that the step was first, the road new, the vision unborrowed, and the response they received--hatred. The great creators--the thinkers, the artists, the scientists, the inventors--stood alone against the men of their time. Every great new thought was opposed. Every great new invention was denounced. The first motor was considered foolish. The airplane was considered impossible. The power loom was considered vicious. Anesthesia was considered sinful. But the men of unborrowed vision went ahead. They fought, they suffered and they paid. But they won."

"Man cannot survive except through his mind. He comes on earth unarmed. His brain is his only weapon. Animals obtain food by force. Man has no claws, no fangs, no horns, no great strength of muscle. He must plant his food or hunt it. To plant, he needs a process of thought. To hunt, he needs weapons, and to make weapons--a process of thought. From this simplest necessity to the highest religious abstraction, from the wheel to the skyscraper, everything we are and everything we have comes from a single attribute of man--the function of his reasoning mind."

"But the mind is an attribute of the individual. There is no such thing as a collective brain. There is no such thing as a collective thought. An agreement reached by a group of men is only a compromise or an average drawn upon many individual thoughts. It is a secondary consequence. The primary act--the process of reason--must be performed by each man alone. We can divide a meal among many men. We cannot digest it in a collective stomach. No man can use his lungs to breathe for another man. No man can use his brain to think for another. All the functions of body and spirit are private. They cannot be shared or transferred."

"We inherit the products of the thought of other men. We inherit the wheel. We make a cart. The cart becomes an automobile. The automobile becomes an airplane. But all through the process what we

receive from others is only the end product of their thinking. The moving force is the creative faculty which takes this product as material, uses it and originates the next step. The creative faculty cannot be given or received, shared or borrowed. It belongs to single, individual men. That which it creates is the property of the creator. Men learn from one another. But all learning is only the exchange of material. No man can give another the capacity to think. Yet that capacity is our only means of survival."

"Rulers of men are not egotists. They create nothing. They exist entirely through the persons of others. Their goal is in their subjects, in the activity of enslaving. They are as dependent as the beggar, the social worker and the bandit. The form of dependence does not matter."

"But men were taught to regard second-handers--tyrants, emperors, dictators--as exponents of egotism. By this fraud they were made to destroy the ego, themselves and others. The purpose of the fraud was to destroy the creators. Or to harness them. Which is a synonym."

*"The only good which men can do to one another and the only statement of their proper relationship is—
Hands off!"*

"Now, in our age, collectivism, the rule of the second-hander and second-rater, the ancient monster, has broken loose and is running amuck. It has brought men to a level of intellectual indecency never equaled on earth. It has reached a scale of horror without precedent. It has poisoned every mind. It has swallowed most of Europe. It is engulfing our country."

The legislation proposed by the Dixie jurisdiction is frightening. If enacted, it sets into motion the enslavement of Masonic minds and, consequently, the erosion of this great fraternity. Freemasonry must remain free.

Keep the Faith.

NOTE: As with all of my Masonic articles herein, please feel free to reuse them in Masonic publications or re-post them on Masonic web sites (except Florida). When doing so, please add the following

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<<http://www.freemasoninformation.com/>> <http://www.freemasoninformation.com/bryce/free.htm>



I first saw Christmas items for sale in the stores sometime in September this year. My initial reaction was one of disgust at the retailer trying to get a jump on his competitors in that ever challenging chase for the consumer Christmas dollar. My next reaction was one of sadness for the young children. I seem to remember that when I was young that Christmas was a time that only seemed to last around a special two week period in the year. Now it seems to last for two months or more, and that special moment of magic is dragged on much longer. It seems like a rubber band that is stretched further each year, and the more it is stretched the more transparent each part of it becomes. I am sure that if we relaxed the band, then Christmas would regain its special meaning and people would not be blaze and ho-hum with it.

As a universal organisation of tolerance, I am sure that those among us who are not of the Christian faith will take time to understand the importance of this time of year to those who are Christians. The emergence of the "Happy Holidays" trend throughout the world, to me, shows that we are afraid to cause offence to people of other creeds by the simple act of celebrating this festival.

Some years ago, I was asked to propose the toast to the Spirit of Christmas in my Lodge. I did so with poetry and have included a copy for this newsletter. Please, if you feel it warrants, use it wherever you so desire.

From myself, Belinda, Connor, and Tegan we wish you and your families a safe, joyous and merry Christmas, and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Andrew Bradley

A Freemason's Christmas Wish

Wor Bro Andrew J. Bradley (1998)

It is the time of year when the Brethren rejoice,
and sing carols of praise in resounding voice.
Days of merriment and long nights of cheer,
as we all await the "Happy New Year!".
It is a time of family and life long friends,
a time of happiness and to make amends.
Roast turkey and baubles and the Nutcracker Suite,
we each have our own way to make Christmas complete.

As we stroll through this happy month of December
find time to pause and take time to remember
that distinguishing sign of a Freemason's heart -
those acts of Charity. How great they are.
As your family gathers 'round your Christmas tree,
and the children play with giggles of glee,
spare a thought for the poor, the man with no shoes,
whose daily meal is less than your dues.

Remember also the Grand Lodge above,
and the Supreme Great Architect's act of love.
And practise those virtues we hold so true.
Have some fun! But let Temperance chasten you.
And during this season of peace and joy
look well to our future - the girl and boy.
Then wonder what lessons you may them teach,
and with your guidance what heights they may reach.

So, to all of my Brethren from far and wide,
whether your Christmas be snow, or hot and dry,
may the Architect grant his celestial boon
and keep your good health 'til we meet again soon.
Take care of yourself and those you find dear.
Keep this festive spirit throughout the next year.
Look toward your next date with our happy band.
'Til our next merry meeting. Apron, heart, and hand.



Host Lodge required for the UK Get Together during 2007



Hedley Mason of Robin Hood Lodge being presented with 50 year as a Mason Certificate
Crayford Lodge No 6336 60th Anniversary Meeting



Members and Guests at the Festive Board



Firing and Wine Glasses presented to Lodge members and our guests at the White Table Meeting



Members and Guests at the Bar

The Crayford Lodge White Table Meeting to commemorate our 60th Anniversary was held on Wednesday 22nd November 2006 at the Dartford Masonic Centre.

This was a resounding success with one hundred and fifteen Members and Guests attending. The W.M W.Bro Stan Dunham opened the Lodge at 4.30pm and the business of the Lodge was conducted. The Lodge was closed at 5.00pm

Our non-Masonic guests were then admitted to be greeted by the WM. Worshipful Brother Gordon Davie, Past Senior Grand Deacon, Past Assistant Provincial Grand Master (West Kent) then gave a light-hearted talk on Freemasonry in general and gave a resume of the jobs of the various Officers, followed by a very brief explanation of the three degrees.

Worshipful Brother Brian Butler. Past Provincial Senior Grand Deacon (West Kent) then gave a talk on the history of Crayford Lodge and the Lodge Banner.

The Crayford Lodge No 6336 was consecrated at Freemasons Hall, London on Wednesday October 30th 1946.

By

The Deputy Provincial Grand Master,
W. Bro Wing/Comdr. Bertram Wilfred Noble, OBE, R.A.F. Past Grand Deacon

There were twenty-two founders of the Lodge, I will not give their names but they can be found on our Web Site

These were from J & E Hall, Bexley Council and local businessmen. As Wednesday afternoons were then early closing days the Lodge decided to meet on a Wednesday and we have met on a Wednesday ever since.

Our first venue was at the Wilmington Masonic Hall, but as you can see we now meet at Dartford.

We have had various trials and tribulations the most serious was in 1994 when the Lodge together with other Lodges meeting here was asked to donate £2,000 to keep this centre open. W.Bro Ted Stoner made a long time loan to the Lodge to enable us to pay. On his death the sum was repaid to his Widow.

Our Ladies Nights have always been a high point of the year. I believe we have held these at what was then the Bull at Birchwood now Deja Vu. The Yorkshire Grey now a MacDonald's restaurant. The Trafalgar Tavern at Greenwich. Bexley Civic Centre. Danson Park Boat House. At Swanley Bowls Club. At White Oaks Swanley. Two weekend festivals at Worthing, A weekend Festival at Tunbridge Wells and of course here at the Dartford Masonic Centre.

The evening at the Trafalgar Tavern was a sad occasion as our Master elect Bro George Hornby died of a heart attack during the evening.

Peter Evans who was Master at the time agreed to carry on for a second year. This was a major decision by Peter as he was working in Belgium at the time. During those two years he never missed a meeting, driving from the continent on the day of the meeting and driving back on the same night.

I now come to Charity.

Over the years the Lodge has made significant contributions to Charity. To both Masonic and Local organizations. We have recently given £2,500 to the Lions Hospice and £1500 to the local Sea Cadet Corp also numerous contributions to the Kent Air Ambulance.

Over the years various brothers have very generously given furniture and regalia to the Lodge. Again these can be found on our Web Site. www.crayfordlodge.co.uk

The Lodge Banner

The late Mrs Remington, wife of W.Bro Remington MBE, made the Lodge Banner. he was the fifth Master of the Lodge. He died in 1976

The figure depicted in the badge is that of St.Paulinus and is copied from a window in St Paulinus Church Crayford of which St Paulinus is Patron Saint.

The Latin inscription ' Pavente Dee Supremo' was added by the Rector W.Bro Hurwood who was a founder of the Lodge, the translation I believe is 'Favoured by the Most High God '

Paulinus, who was Bishop of Nola Compania came to England in the early years of AD 600. He assisted St. Augustine for a time; He afterwards went north and founded the Sees of Lincoln and York, eventually becoming the first Bishop.

On the death of Edwin, King of Northumbria, who he converted to Christianity he fled south and became Bishop of Rochester, were he died in AD 644.

The ceremony of Dedicating and Unveiling of the banner took place at the tenth regular meeting of the Lodge.

This was followed by some of our younger members saying what Freemasonry means to them.

The members and guests then left the Temple and attended the Festive Board were Firing and Wine Glasses engraved with the Lodge Logo were available for collection.

The evening ended with all present singing Christmas Carols

Brian Butler

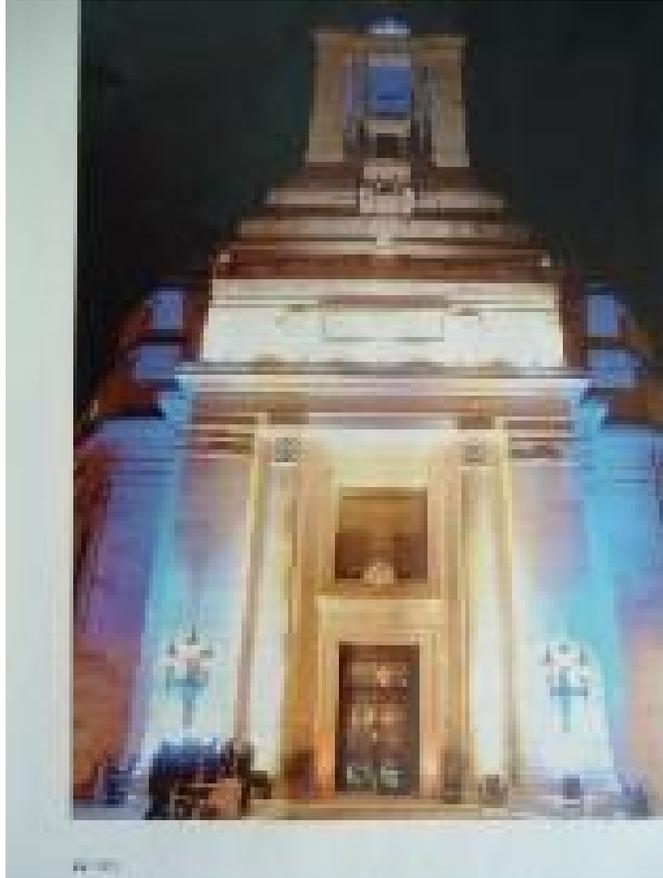
Situations Vacant

Editor of British/Euro Bytes Web site

A number of vacancy's exist for UK County Reps

Some Euro Reps required

Interested? In the first instance contact the editor.



Masonic Buildings. (UGLofE HQ)

Quote of the month.

“It is not the years in your life but the life in your years that counts”

Adlai Stevenson

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