



GFN CYBER MASON

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The Newsletter of the Global Fraternal Network -- VIRTUAL INTERNET LODGE NO. 1
Volume 1, Number 4, June 2006

Editorial

Welcome to Bro Corby who has taken on the job of Sub Editor for the USA. I am sure with the backup of our American Brothers we shall have an even more interesting News Letter. Bro Corby has also been selected to serve as Director of the GFN Education Board.

Please note the new title of the News Letter. As I have received little response to request for title it has been decided to revert to the original.

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

During June I shall be interviewing our Founders Ran and Rene. If you have any questions you wish me to put to them please E Mail me. The interview will be published in the July edition

Spotlight on the Boards

ASIAN/PACIFIC

This Board is dedicated to the Brethren in the Asian/Pacific areas. It's function is to leave times and dates of meetings and other activities.

AP Forum

Every day at 7.00 pm Perth Time. 11.00 am BST



Retiring

From: John H Webster (@ 202.168.113.96)

Email: brotaz@bordernet.com.au

Message:

As from May first, 2006 I have been released from my various duties within the Global Fraternal Network. This request was for reasons that do not reflect on the GFN or its various officials, but as a personal one from me. Having been a member since near the beginning of the Network, this request was not easy, but

we are at a stage especially in Australia where we need some leadership, some dedication, that I feel I am unable to give. The organisation is worthy of nurturing and guiding into the future.

Over time I have been experiencing a heavier workload within my Lodge and Grand Lodge that must be my first priority. Also, having some difficulties with some aspects of my health, a spell is needed.

Who ever takes up the vacant situations, I wish only success.

I will for a short time still act as webmaster for our Asian/Pacific webpage, <http://www.geocities.com/apforum2004> Should you have any item, news or pictures for this URL, please forward to brotaz@bournet.com.au As to continuing with the web page, that will depend if you the member wish to support it.

John H Webster

Congratulations to Bro Andrew J Bradley who has been selected to serve as GFN Asian Pacific Leader and Board Moderator.

His E Mail address is ajbradley@hotke3y.net.au



USA Forum

Every day at 9.00pm 3.00 am BST

Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth - Living the Principles of Freemasonry

This is the program of James M. Williamson M: W: Grand Master of Masons in Ohio for the year 2006.

M: W:. Brother Williamson believes with Richard E. Fletcher, the executive secretary of the Masonic Service Association of North America that Freemasonry had always been about improving oneself. "The nature of the self-reflective process is private," Fletcher said, "and many people mistake that for secrecy."

As a private organization we have mistakenly over the years fostered the false impression that we are Secret when the Great Secret in Freemasonry is that we have no Secrets.

Part of the reason for declining membership in the Craft is this Identity Crisis.

To become more visible to the world at large, the Grand Lodge of Masons in Ohio has urged its Lodges to seek opportunities to serve their Communities in a number of ways, utilizing various Media to spread awareness of our purpose and presence.

One such occasion took place on April 22nd, 2006 when Bridgeport Masonic Lodge #181 in the 23rd Masonic District sponsored the dedication of the cornerstone at the new Bridgeport School Complex

The state officers of Ohio's Masonic Fraternity and local members of Bridgeport Lodge #181, Bridgeport, Ohio with over 150 Masons in Regalia participating and 200 members of the community observing symbolically laid the cornerstone.

The cornerstone ceremony is an ancient tradition popular in the United States since the colonial days. The Freemasons, whose origins are the medieval stonemasons, continue this tradition as a public service. The cornerstone laying ceremony symbolically uses the tools of the operative Mason to bring a special message of faith in the craftsmanship of a new building. This is a wonderful way to begin the life of a new building.

The Masons dedicated the first School Building in Bridgeport in 1857; other School Buildings there were consecrated in 1914, 1929 and 1955.

Bridgeport Masonic Lodge, located at 502 S. Lincoln & Whitely St. has been a member of the community since 1849, (157 years). It has 160 members, and is 1 of 11 Lodges in Belmont County.

On May 13th, 2006 at 2:00 PM the Grand Master along with the Grand Lodge Officers will lay the cornerstone of Badger School. Badger School is located on State Route 7, 1.5 miles south of Kinsman. This is the first cornerstone laying ceremony of a Public Building performed by the Grand Lodge of Ohio in the 25th District in approximately 60 years.

An Article in "The Beacon" November/December 2005 VOLUME 12, ISSUE 4, PG 5 reminds us this is not a new custom in Ohio.

"Last August, workers dismantling a former school building in Peebles, Ohio uncovered a sealed copper time capsule about the size of a shoe box, which had been placed there 92 years ago in a Masonic ceremony.

The stone containing the time capsule was mortared into the brick at the northeast corner of the school building.

The inscription read: "Laid by the Grand Lodge, F. &A.M., of Ohio 1913."

Inside the box were booklets and rosters from Rome Lodge #535, Peebles Lodge #581, Manchester Lodge #317, Winchester Lodge #236 and West Union Lodge #43. All five Lodges are still functioning today.

In researching old newspapers, they found an account of the event, which occurred on May 8, 1913. The articles said citizens of Peebles were proud of their new school building and that the Grand Lodge of Ohio would be laying the cornerstone as part of an all-day event."

There are currently 540 local Masonic Lodges in Ohio with a combined membership of 121,000. Annually, Ohio Freemasons contribute \$15 million to charities that include Special Olympics Ohio, college scholarships and elderly care. General information is available at www.freemason.com.

Ellis Mills [etfromstar187]
Sickness & Distress Trestle Board Director
Glad Tidings/ Birthday Trestle Board Director
Chairman GFN Staff Directory Committee
SW Star Lodge 187, Cuyahoga Falls, OH

THE secrets of the Freemasons.

Do They Control the Government?

DAN BROWN. From ABC News

*April 19, 2006 * - Having tackled the secretive Catholic conservative group Opus Dei, Dan Brown says he's writing his next book about the Freemasons.

The Freemasons say they are simply a fraternity that aims to make good men better and to support each other. Because they are essentially secret, however, groups such as the Freemasons can stir all kinds of theories.

The all-seeing eye atop the pyramid on the \$1 bill is a Masonic symbol. Some say that some of the great American buildings have Masonic symbols incorporated into their architecture.

Many of our Founding Fathers, including George Washington, Benjamin Franklin and John Hancock,

were Freemasons. There are currently 1.7 million members, though membership has been declining since 1960.

Some conspiracy theorists say that the Freemasons, or Masons, have designs on government control.

"The thing people think about when they think of Masonry is secrecy. They think of this hidden order that they know almost nothing about," said Steven C. Bullock, author of "Revolutionary Brotherhood: Freemasonry and the Transformation of the American Social Order."

The Freemasons have a 500-year history. Originally, they were stonemasons who built the great cathedrals of Europe.

"They traveled widely, because a town would have a church built maybe once every hundred years," said Margaret Jacob, author of "The Origins of Freemasonry: Facts and Fictions."

"As they traveled, they had secret passwords and signs so when they came into a town and said, 'I'm a stonemason, I want to work,' they had to be able to prove they were a member of the guild."

S. Brent Morris, who is, among other things, a 33-Degree Mason, master of the royal secret and managing editor of the Scottish Rite Journal, said that although Freemasonry was not a religion, it had overarching religious principles that were part of Masons' rich traditions.

"The Freemasons did something very radical 300 years ago. We said that men can agree that God exists and he compels them to do good in their life and we can stop all religious discussion at that point and go out and do good and help mankind. So Freemasons invite any believer in God to join them."

Morris said Freemasons displayed a Bible, a Koran and a Torah on their altar. Another powerful symbol of the tradition is the sword carried by the grand sword bearer of the Supreme Council, the highest order within the Freemasons that meets every few years.

Yet the society was so closed centuries ago, is so closed still, that the penalty for revealing Freemason secrets is supposed to be gory death.

Richard E. Fletcher, the executive secretary of the Masonic Service Association of North America, said that the Freemasons were not an enigmatic organization. Things like secret handshakes date back centuries.

"The handshakes are a throwback to our early days when Freemasonry was related to actual builders and stone," he said. "That is how they prove they are a guild member, because most were illiterate."

Although there were once anti-Masonic political parties and early 19th-century President John Quincy Adams called the Freemasons a power-hungry "boa constrictor" of an organization, Fletcher said Freemasonry had always been about improving oneself. The nature of the self-reflective process is private, he said, and many people mistake that for secrecy.

"While he is being challenged to look inward at himself as a person, he is going to have to self-reflect, contemplate, and think. This can't be done in a public forum," he said. "We are pledging ourselves to become better people in our home, in our churches, in all walks of life."

Throughout the centuries, the Freemasons evolved into a wide-ranging, worldwide fraternity with many members having considerable power and influence. In this country, that influence has sometimes reached all the way into the White House. Fourteen of 43 presidents have been Freemasons.

"More than one-third of the presidents belonged to the fraternity, so this is a substantial tradition of politicians being involved in Masonry, so there are fears at times in American history that Masons are too

involved in politics," Bullock said.

There are all kinds of stories: that Masons wanted to control a government and thus were behind the American Revolution. Some claim that the Masons killed President Kennedy.

"These are terrific stories. They're yarns. There is not, however, a shred of historical evidence to back them up," Jacob said.

"Their grand secret is that they have no secret," Bullock said. "They're claiming that they're hiding something, but really part of the point is to pretend that you're hiding something."

Still Brown can have a field day in his next book. After all, how did a Masonic symbol -- if it is a Masonic symbol -- wind up on our \$1 bill?

Some critics point to these conspiracy theories and group secrets as reasons for the drop off in Mason membership, but Morris said other organizations were experiencing a similar problem.

"It's also diminished in virtually every voluntary organization in the United States," Morris said. "When you look at all the organizations declining in membership and participation, I think you can't point to the Masonic traditions."

For more information about the (Scottish Rite SJ, USA) Freemasons, visit <http://www.srmason-sj.org/>



UK Forum every Sunday at 9.0pm BST

GFN Lapel Badges and Car Stickers

Are available to Euro members from the Euro Regional Leader bwbutler@btinternet.com

Cost £7 per pair

From: danitech

Message:

Thanks for the reminder

I don't like blowing my own trumpet but since news is apparently so scarce I thought that some of you may be pleased to know that my health is improving and that I will be receiving my chain of office as Grand Steward from HRH Prince Michael of Kent at Great Queen Street on Tuesday 13Th. June 2006 This year The Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons celebrates it's 150 anniversaries at the Royal Albert Hall.

I have also been installed as MWS in Royal Kent Rose Croix Chapter No. 8.

Any brethren visiting Newcastle upon Tyne are most welcome to attend any of my lodges provided that I am given sufficient time to accommodate them at our meetings

Province of West Kent

eFLASH message

PREPARED 10th MAY 2006

RECEIVED FROM GRAND CHARITY

I am pleased to enclose the latest in the Grand Charity's regular updates on the progress of long-term tsunami relief activities, funded through the Special Relief Chest established in the days following the disaster.

Bruno Oudmayer, Director, Plan India will address the General Meeting of the Grand Charity on Wednesday 21 June. The Council of the Grand Charity selected Plan, a leading international community development organisation, as its main delivery partner for tsunami relief projects in India, Indonesia and Sri Lanka. As well as reflecting on the impact of the tsunami on the affected regions, Bruno Oudmayer will be sharing the very latest news on the activities funded through the Grand Charity.

The General meeting is open to Freemasons, their wives, guests and other members of the public.

Date: Wednesday, 21 June 2006

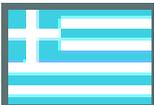
Time: 6:00pm, followed by a reception with refreshments

Venue: Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ

Contact: To assist with arrangements, anyone wishing to attend should notify Ann Garry on agarry@the-grand-charity.org

Resignation

John Nunn has due to home commitments resigned as Rep for London and Home Counties. I you feel you would be able to fill this position contact Euro Leader on bwbutler@btinternet.com



Summer Celebration of the Grand Lodge of Greece From: Panos (@ athei53-a-066.otenet.gr) Email: panrigas@otenet.gr Date: Sunday, April 23, 2006 at 15:07:06 Message:

The celebration of the District Grand Lodge of Northern Greece will take place in the Island of Corfu 10-11-12 Of June. Celebrations including Ladies Night, on Saturday, BBQ at Sunday plus works with all the participating Bros and the Lodge Phoenix no 1 of Corfu If you like to book just mail me Panos Rigas IV Rep of GFN in Greece reserved.

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