



The Rite Light



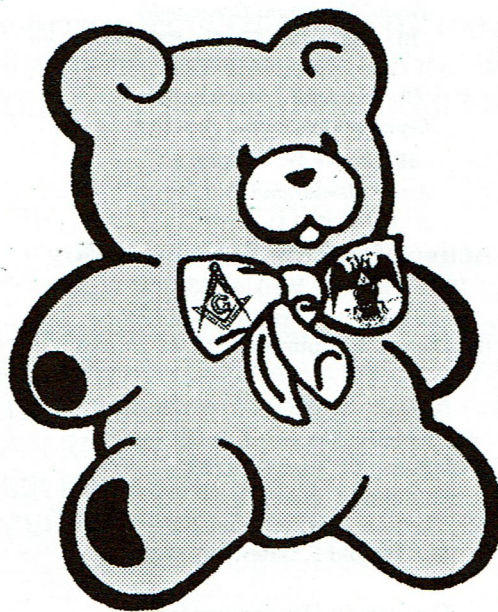
VALLEY OF ALBANY
ANCIENT ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY, N.M.J., U.S.A.

Vol. XXI

Summer 2000

No. 1

Freemasonry
Helping
Children



**FALL REUNION
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2000
CANDIDATES ARE EVERYWHERE - JUST ASK!**

Allegiance

The Bodies of Scottish Rite, sitting in the Valley of Albany, State of New York acknowledge and yield allegiance to thy Supreme Council, 33° Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States of America, and whose Officers are:



Ill. Robert O. Ralston, 33°
Sovereign Grand
Commander



Ill. Harold L. Aldrich, 33°
Deputy for the
State of New York



Ill. Richard H. Welkley, 33°
Active for Area 4

Ill. Robert O. Ralston, 33°

Sovereign Grand Commander

Ill. Lawrence D. Inglis, 33°

Grand Lieutenant Commander

Ill. Robert W. Clarke, 33°

Grand Minister of State

Ill. Harold L. Aldrich, 33°

Deputy for the State of New York

Ill. Bruce W. Widger, 33°

Active Member and Past Deputy

Active Members for New York

Ill. Richard H. Welkley, 33° (1991)

Ill. Douglas K. Wilson, 33° (1995)

Ill. Gary A. Henningsen, Sr., 33° (1998)

Active Emeriti Members

Ill. John H. Van Gorden, 33° (1974)

Ill. Ralph M. Tompkins, 33° (1981)

Ill. James F. Niehoff, 33° (1991)

Ill. Carlton A. Winchester, 33° (1992)

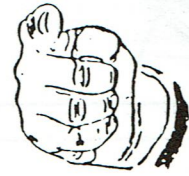
Ill. Harold F. Dates, 33° (1995)

Deputy's Representative

Ill. Alan C. Lewis, 33°

The RITE LIGHT is published quarterly by Scottish Rite Bodies, Valley of Albany, 67 Corning Place, Albany, NY 12207-1904. Richard G. Barrell, 33°, Editor, 869-0684 or 434-8970; Russell J. LaGrange, Jr., MSA, Assistant Editor 438-7128 or 457-6166.

HAVE
YOU

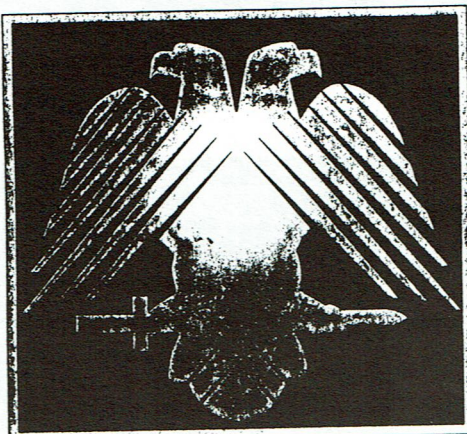


OBTAINED
A
NEW MEMBER?



"A mighty woman with a torch...."

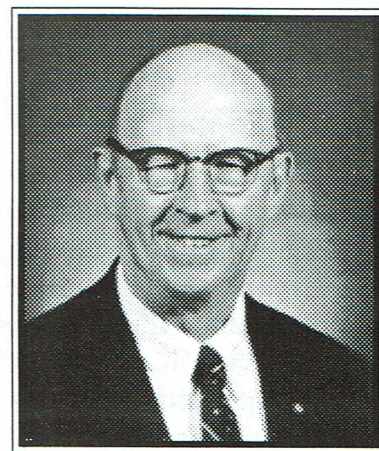
32° Masonic Passport



The New Colossus by Emma Lazarus

Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land:
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
Glow's world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.
"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

Commander-in-Chief's Message



Lewis O. Slocum, 32° MSA
Commander-in-Chief
Consistory

GREETINGS SUBLIME PRINCES:

AS YOUR COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF SITS HERE WRITING THIS MESSAGE HE CAN NOT HELP BUT THINK BACK TO APRIL 29, 2000 AND OUR SPRING REUNION. WHAT A WONDERFUL DAY! A GOOD CLASS OF CANDIDATES; TWENTY ONE IF MEMORY SERVES ME CORRECTLY.

MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED THAT DAY, INCLUDING OUR BROTHERS FROM TROY AND SCHENECTADY. EXCELLENT WORK FROM ALL.

THIS WAS ESPECIALLY A GREAT DAY WITH THE MESSAGE FROM OUR SOVERIGN GRAND COMMANDER AFTER OUR WORK WITH THE DEGREES WAS OVER. IT WAS REPORTED WE HAVE THREE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED AND FORTY TWO NEW SUBLIME PRINCES IN THE NORTHERN SCOTTISH RITE JURISDICTION, GREAT WORK. THEN CAME THE VIDEO PUT TOGETHER FOR OUR VIEWING. I DO BELIEVE WE ALL ENJOYED SEEING THIS. HOPEFULLY A TAPE OF THIS CAN BE PURCHASED TO BE SHOWN IN OUR LODGES ETC. VERY INFORMATIVE.

JULY 29, 2000 OUR BROTHERS IN LEXINGTON MA WILL HOST A SPECIAL EVENT OPEN TO ALL. SEE DETAILS ON FURTHER PAGES OF YOUR RITE LIGHT.

OUR FALL REUNION WILL BE COMING ALONG BEFORE WE KNOW IT AND PLEASE CONTINUE YOUR FINE WORK ON OBTAINING NEW PEOPLE.

ALSO THE COUNCIL OF DELIBERATION WILL BE HELD JULY 14 & 15, 2000. ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THE MEETINGS, BUT RESERVATIONS SHOULD BE IN.

WELL ENOUGH OF MY WRITINGS FOR NOW, SUMMER IS HERE, TIME FOR MORE FUN AND GAMES.

SINCERELY & FRATEERNALLY



LEWIS O SLOCUM
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

Corner Stone-laying Ceremony Supreme Council Headquarters

July 29 celebration all-day family gathering

The Supreme Council of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the ancient Accepted Scottish rite will hold a cornerstone-laying ceremony on July 29th for its newly renovated headquarters in Lexington, mass. Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts, Fred K. Bauer, will perform the ceremony. A representative from each of the 15 grand Lodges will assist the Grand Master.

The dedication marks several new beginnings for Supreme Council headquarters.

The Supreme council and support staff, the Information Systems department, The Northern Light magazine editorial office and administrative personnel of the 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children will all be housed under the same roof for the first time.

More importantly, a new 32° Masonic Learning Center for Children will also be on site.

The Center will tutor up to 60 dyslexic children free of charge and become one of a network of 55 proposed Masonic Learning Centers across the jurisdiction.

The ceremony kicks off an entire weekend of

festivities planned at the Lexington headquarters and the adjacent Scottish Rite Masonic Museum of Our National Heritage. To commemorate the newly renovated headquarters and learning center, as well as the 25th anniversary of the museum, the Scottish Rite has planned family-oriented events on the grounds throughout the day. Events include a family-style picnic, roving barbershop quartets, an antique auto display, and more. The museum will be hosting musical entertainment during the afternoon.

Masons from all over the 15-state jurisdiction will be in attendance to witness the ceremony.

For information, call Supreme Council (781) 862-4410 or check the Web site

www.supremecouncil.com.

For Details, Contact:

Robin Robinson

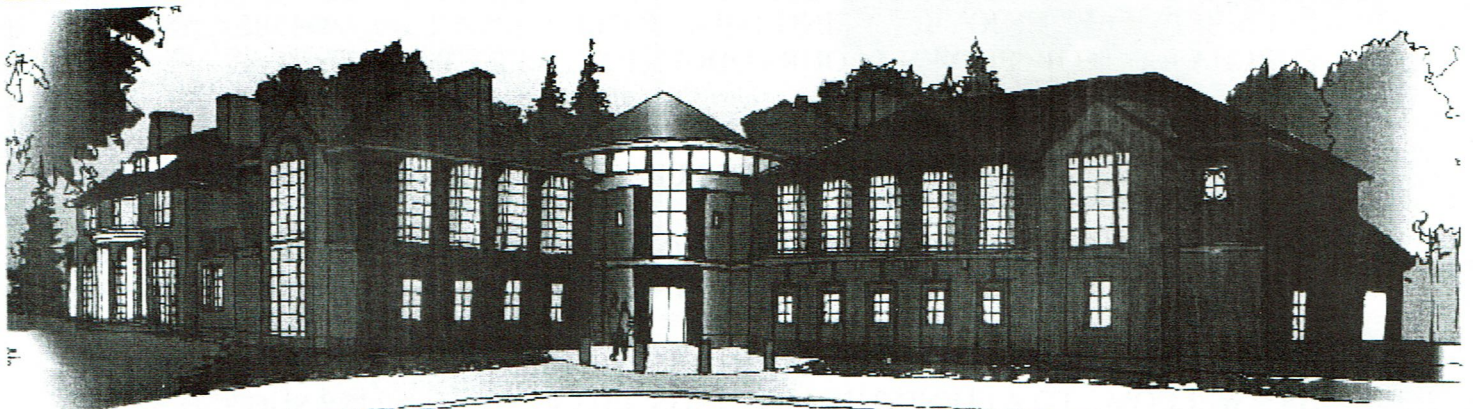
Supreme Council Headquarter4s

PO Box 519

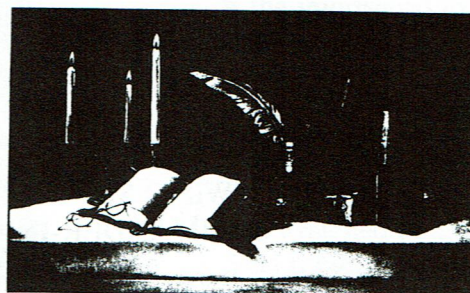
Lexington, MA 02420

Phone: 781-862-4410

Fax: 781-863-1833



Architect's rendering of the addition to the Supreme Council headquarters building.



Robert H. White, 32°

The Great Light of Freemasonry

ELECTED TO RECEIVE THE 33°

Arnold W. Proskin, 206 Graffunder Drive, Menands, Attorney

Pittsburgh will be the site of this year's annual meeting of the Scottish Rite Supreme Council for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction. More than 2,500 Thirty-third Degree Masons and their ladies from 15 north-eastern states are expected at the meeting on Sept. 24-27. The Supreme Council last met in Pittsburgh in 1989.

The 2000 Session will be highlighted by the conferral of the organization's Thirty-third Degree upon 318 Scottish Rite Masons who were elected for this high honor at last year's meeting in Atlantic City, New Jersey. This year's millennium class will be the largest in recent years. The Thirty-third Degree is awarded for outstanding achievement in the fraternity or for significant contributions to others, reflecting credit on Freemasonry. The impressive ceremony will take place on Tuesday, Sept. 26, in the Pittsburgh Convention Center.

Introductory luncheons honoring the Thirty-third Degree candidates and their ladies will be on the schedule for Sunday noon.

Earlier business conferences attended by the Active Members and officers of the Supreme Council will be held on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 22-23.

The larger-scale events will begin on Sunday afternoon, Sept. 24 when the Pittsburgh Convention Center will be the scene of the traditional Supreme Council Vesper Service. The Rev. Dale R. Smith, 32° will deliver the Vesper message. He is Senior Minister, Level Green Community; Past District Superintendent of the Western Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church; and Past Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. Assisting will be Sovereign Grand Commander Robert O. Ralston, 33°; Grand Prior Kenneth V. Kettlewell, 33°, Interim Pastor, Second Presbyterian Church in Cambridge, Ohio; and Rev. Richard G. Morledge, 32°, Pastor Emeritus, First Presbyterian Church in Bakerstown, PA; Past Dean of the Chapel at Grove City College; and Past Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

Grand Commander Ralston will preside over the General Sessions of the Supreme Council on Monday, Sept. 25. In the course of these sessions, prominent leaders from other Masonic organizations in the United States and throughout the world are expected to be in attendance.

A number of other events have been scheduled, including a Monday luncheon for all ladies attending the Pittsburgh meeting. Mrs. Susann Ralston, wife of the Grand Commander, will preside over the luncheon and program. At the same time, another luncheon will be served for all Supreme Council members, distinguished guests, and members of the millennium class.

That evening, the Pittsburgh Pops Orchestra will present a concert in Heinz Hall. During the week, special sightseeing tours will be available for those attending the meetings.

In addition to the major events sponsored by the Supreme Council, a Masonic Marketplace will allow vendors to display Masonic-related items.

A series of seminars on Tuesday will cover topics of interest for those attending the session.

Throughout the week, there will be many smaller social functions occurring under the auspices of the 15 participating states and the 108 Valleys comprising the Northern Jurisdiction.

The 2000 meeting will end with the announcement of the names of those elected to receive the Thirty-third Degree at Indianapolis, Indiana, in September 2001.

2000 - 2001 OFFICERS

LODGE OF PERFECTION - 14°

TPM	WILLIAM MINOR KORN
DPTY MSTR	KURT WESLEY MASON
SR WRDN	BEN FRANKLIN FROGETT
JR WRDN	STEWART RALPH KIDDER
TREAS	GEORGE JOHN DEVENEAU
SEC'Y	RICHARD GEORGE BARRELL
TRUSTEE	PAUL GARRETT HEINTZ
ORATOR	KENNETH MCKEE WHITE
MST OF CER	ROBERT STEPHEN VALENTA
CPTN GUARD	MICHAEL DUANE DERRY
HOSPITALER	ALFRED KRUEGER
TILER	THOMAS WILLIAM SNOW

COUNCIL OF PRINCES OF JERUSALEM - 16°

SP	WILLIAM FREDERICK OKESSON JR
HP	RAYMOND HAYWOOD GAUL
SR WDN	HOWARD ARTHUR SCHOONMAKER II
JR WDN	ROBERT GLOVER ALCORN
TREAS	GEORGE JOHN DEVENEAU
SEC'Y	RICHARD GEORGE BARRELL
TRUSTEE	LESLIE WILLIAM KERR
ORATOR	RUSSELL WILLIAM POKORNY
MST OF CER	ROBERT HOWARD FICKIES
MST OF ENT	PETER JOSEPH GREGORY
HOSPITALER	ALFRED KRUEGER
TILER	THOMAS WILLIAM SNOW

CHAPTER OF ROSE CROIX - 18°

MWM	RUSSELL JAY LAGRANGE JR
SR WARDEN	ROBERT EASTMAN MURPHY
JR WARDEN	RICHARD FRANK CESARE
TREASURER	GEORGE JOHN DEVENEAU
SECRETARY	RICHARD GEORGE BARRELL
TRUSTEE	RONALD HAROLD NOLL
ORATOR	ALAN CRAIG GARRISON
MST OF CER	CARL FREDERICK RYMSKI III
CPTN GUARD	THOMAS WILLIAM SNOW
HOSPITALER	ALFRED KRUEGER
TILER	THOMAS WILLIAM SNOW

CONSISTORY - 32°

CIC	LEWIS OWEN SLOCUM
1ST LT COMMANDER	ALEXANDER ROBERT GRONE
2ND LT COMMANDER	GERALD FREDERICK IRWIN
ORATOR	DOUGLAS CLINTON HAYS
CHANCELLOR	HENRY RENAUD DIEHM
TREASURER	GEORGE JOHN DEVENEAU
SECRETARY	RICHARD GEORGE BARRELL
MSTR OF CER	BYRON DAVID MOAK
ENGR & SENESCHAL	FRED CARL FREDRICKSON
STANDARD BEARER	RONALD HAROLD NOLL
CAPT OF GUARD	HOWARD JAY LASKER
HOSPITALER	ALFRED KRUEGER
SENTINEL	THOMAS WILLIAM SNOW



*Make Blue Lodge
attendance
a regular habit!*

PRIORS CORNER*This was taken off the Internet***It seems prayer still upsets some people.**

When Minister Joe Wright was asked to open the new session of the Kansas Senate, everyone was expecting the usual generalities, but this is what they heard:

"Heavenly Father, we come before you today to ask Your forgiveness and to seek Your direction and guidance. We know Your Word says, 'Woe to those who call evil good,' but that is exactly what we have done.

"We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and reversed our values. We confess that.

"We have ridiculed the absolute truth of Your Word and called it Pluralism.

"We have worshipped other gods and called it multiculturalism.

"We have endorsed perversion and called it alternative lifestyle.

"We have exploited the poor and called it the lottery.

"We have rewarded laziness and called it welfare.

"We have killed our unborn and called it choice.

"We have shot abortionists and called it justifiable.

"We have neglected to discipline our children and called it building self-esteem.

"We have abused power and called it politics.

"We have coveted our neighbor's possessions and called it ambition.

"We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression.

"We have ridiculed the time-honored values of our forefathers and called it enlightenment.

"Search us, Oh, God, and know our hearts today; cleanse us from every sin and set us free. Guide and bless these men and women who have been sent to direct us to the center of Your will, and we ask it in the name of Your son, the living Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen."

The response was immediate. A number of legislators walked out during the prayer in protest. In six short weeks, Central Christian Church, where Rev. Wright is pastor, logged more than 5,000 phone calls with only 47 of those calls responding negatively. The church is now receiving international requests for copies of this prayer from India, Africa, and Korea.

Commentator Paul Harvey aired this prayer on "The Rest of the Story" on the radio and received a larger response to this program than any other he has ever aired.

With the Lord's help, may this prayer sweep over our nation and wholeheartedly become our desire so that we again can be called one nation under God.

Why Should I Pay My Dues?

Every year some members ask the question, "Why should I continue to pay my dues?" They rationalize that due to health, work schedule, geographic location, or other reasons, they are no longer active participants in the activities, and therefore should not continue their membership.

The simple matter is, if you are a dues paying member, then you are indeed an active participant in the Fraternity! Think about it. Rent or mortgage costs, property taxes, permits, inspections, utilities, capital improvements, regular maintenance. These are just some of the major expenses incurred by all Masonic bodies. Then there are the expenses of the annual activities, dinners, printing, postage, newsletters, decorations, entertainment, administrative costs, charity. The list is endless.

If the only members we have are members that attended all the activities, Masonry

would quickly become only a memory. By ALL the members paying their annual dues and making voluntary contributions, we can continue to do good things not only for ourselves, but the community.

You certainly believe in the good of Masonry, or you wouldn't have become a member in the first place—our aims and purposes, our family oriented programs, the high moral standards so desperately needed in the world today, our charities and benevolent activities, and the great lessons taught in the several degrees.

By paying your dues, you are indeed an active and valuable member. You are saying in effect, "Yes, I believe in and support the cause of Freemasonry, and I will continue to do my part to see that it flourishes and prospers now and into the future."



William F. Okesson Jr.

FROM THE SOVEREIGN PRINCE

Greetings Valiant Princes:

As we start the new millennium, the New York State Scottish Rite has a big challenge.

Everyone has to make an extra effort in attending their meetings. This way everyone benefits, and you don't have to fill chairs with sideliners.

When I was replacing American flags at veterans grave sites on Memorial Day, I would occasionally see a grave marker with the Masonic Square and Compasses on it. The oldest one I saw, and I am sure there are older, was born in 1812, and died in 1865.

You've heard the saying, "if it's to be, it's up to me". You are responsible for your health, your wealth, and your happiness. Each of us has to take responsibility for our actions - good and bad. You are responsible for the actions you take and the action you don't. So, let's have everyone take responsibility and promote the Scottish Rite this year to the length of their cable tow.

We've got some great programs scheduled this year. Won't you be a part of them? At least one?

The terrible mud slide that swept a large piece of Delaware Avenue, Delmar, along with homes and businesses, just a few weeks ago, has left everyone awe struck. How could this happen?

To answer some of your questions and find out what is being done to prevent this from happening again, make sure you plan on coming to our September 21, 2000 meeting. Mr Robert Frickies, geologist engineer, now working on the redevelopment project in Delmar, will be our guest speaker. Should be interesting.

Frank Robinson will be with us on October 19, to talk to us about the Handicapped Little League team he coaches.

Next year - 2001 - our February 27 meeting will feature John Anson, who will give us a presentation on flintlocks.

And finally, on April 26, 2001, we will be entertained by a representative of the United States Border Patrol who will share with us some of his chilling experiences in this all important arm of law enforcement.

So, mark your calendars, and come visit us - and bring along one of your Scottish Rite friends.

William F Okesson Jr
Sovereign Prince





Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite Ineffable & Sublime Grand Lodge of Perfection

August, 2000

Dear Respectable Brethren:

I am very honored to have been elected and installed as your Thrice Potent Master for 2000 - 2001. This is a responsibility not taken lightly and I promise to do my best to serve you and the Valley of Albany. I have revamped our officer's line and have challenged them to be present at all Lodge functions. The newly installed list of officers is as follows:

Kurt W. Mason
Ben F. Froggett
Stewart R. Kidder
Paul G. Heintz, MSA
Kenneth M. White
Robert S. Walenta
Michael D. Derry

Deputy Master
Senior Warden
Junior Warden
Trustee
Orator
Master of Ceremonies
Captain of the Guard



William M. Korn

Congratulations to these officers and I know that these brothers will do their best to support the Lodge and the Valley.

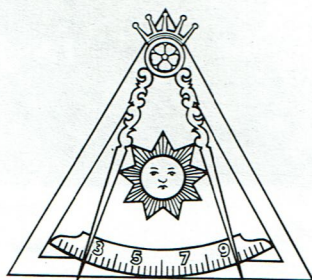
To summarize the upcoming year, there will be four Lodge of Perfection meetings. They will be held on October 12, November 9, February 8, and April 12. Hopefully the programs that I have planned will be both educational and enjoyable. One will be a program on the Daughters of the American Revolution (Shirley Carman), one a presentation on the Mastodon period (John Anson), one a picture show and talk on a visit to the Holy Land (Walter Collins) and finally a demonstration of fencing, the sport. Please make note of these dates and plan on attending.

Membership! As you may have already read, our next Scottish Rite REUNION is scheduled for October 21. Please get those petitions in. I believe our degree work is improving and nothing gives the degree cast more pleasure than to present the degrees to a full house. I have been told that many Blue Lodges are raising brothers, why not ask these new brothers to petition the Scottish Rite.

Finally, I hope that your summer has been enjoyable and I look forward to seeing and greeting each of you this fall.

Faternally,

William M. Korn
Thrice Potent Master



Letter from

Ill.: Richard H. Welkley, 33°, Active for Area IV

To all the Valley Brothers in the
Valley of Albany
Valley of Schenectady
Valley of Troy

A few leaders of our three Valleys have met together to discuss some of our common needs and how to address those needs. First, all three of our Valleys are experiencing difficulty getting interested men to be officers of the bodies of our Valleys. Our Valleys need men who will attend meetings, be leaders, and promote the welfare of the Valleys. Second, all three of our Valleys are experiencing difficulty getting interested men to do ritual work for our reunions. Third, all three of our Valleys are experiencing declining membership.

Our conversation moved toward the idea of a merger of the Valleys. There is no plan at present to merge! There are many issues which present themselves when we talk merger. **IF** a merger happens, where will the merged Valley meet? **IF** a merger happens, what will we call the Valley? **IF** a merger happens, will all of the concerns of all three Valleys be addressed and be satisfactorily answered. **IF** a merger happens, what happens to the traditions of the present Valleys? These are but a few of our concerns.

However, the greatest concern at this point of the discussion is: What does the general membership of each Valley think about the possibility of merger? Thus, this letter is written for you to thoughtfully address the issues which the leadership of your Valleys are facing right now. If you are not in favor of merger; in spite of the difficult issues of shrinking membership, of the problem in getting good leaders, and of the problem in getting actors and directors for reunions; please write a viable alternative to answer these serious needs of your Valley.

Please, sit down and write to us, immediately, and tell us what you think about merger, or your alternative, which might be better than merger! The "Merger Exploration Committee" will be meeting in August to carry the discussions further. Address your envelope to:

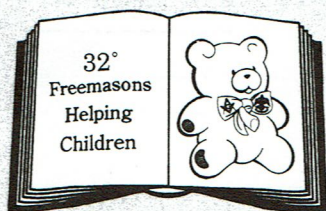
William A. Jerwann
24 Valdepenas Lane
Clifton Park NY 12065-5833

Are You a Builder?

I watched them tearing a building down.
A busy crew in a little town.
With a HO-HEAVE-HO and a lusty yell.
They swung a beam and a side wall fell.
I said to the foreman "Are these men skilled
As the men you'd hire if you had to build?"
He gave me a laugh and said "NO indeed!
Just common labor is all I need;
These men can wreck in a day or two
What BUILDERS have taken a year to DO."
I asked myself as I went on my way –
Which of these roles do I play?
AM I A BUILDER, who works with care,
Measuring life by rule and square;
Or am I a WRECKER, who walks the town
Content with the labor of tearing down?



***Our hope
is in God!***



**32° Masonic
Learning Centers
for Children, Inc.**

**33 Marrett Road
Lexington, MA 02421
Tel: (781) 862-8518
(877) 861-0528
Fax: (781) 862-4514**

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Joseph J. Berlandi

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John H. Jack Van Gorden**

Memorandum

To: All interested parties
From: Robert O. Ralston, President, 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children, Inc.
Subject: Corporate Learning Center
Date: Thursday, April 6, 2000

Our 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children have and continue to enjoy extraordinary growth and success.

Much of that success has been related to the efforts and direction of Mrs. Phyllis Meisel, who has served our charity since its inception as a part time consultant. As such Mrs. Meisel was responsible for clinical operations, even while she maintained a full time position at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston.

We have now grown to twenty-six 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children in operation, and we continue to plan for 8 to 10 additional centers each year until we reach our goal of 55 centers.

With this growth, our need for a full time Corporate Clinical Director is very apparent.

It is my pleasure to announce that Illustrious and Doctor Richard Van Doren, 33° has accepted the position of Corporate Clinical Director, effective the first week of June.

Brother Van Doren's professional background as a clinical psychologist, as a member of the Corporate Professional Advisory Committee, as well as his Masonic career, provide us with a person we believe is uniquely and deeply qualified to fill the position of Corporate Clinical Director. (Please find attached a copy of his resume). He and his family will be relocating to the Boston area.

I know you will join Phyllis and me in congratulating Ill. Brother Richard Van Doren, and wishing him every success as he joins our Corporate Staff.

It is also my pleasure to inform you that Mrs. Phyllis Meisel will remain on our staff and looks forward to working with Richard in a part time capacity. She will continue as Clinical Director of the Newtonville, Massachusetts, 32° Masonic Learning Center for Children.

Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, N.M.J., U.S.A.

VALLEY OF ALBANY

Richard G. Barrell, Secretary
67 Corning Place
Albany, New York 12207-1999

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THE HISTORY OF FREEMASONRY

No one knows with certainty how or when the Masonic fraternity was formed. A widely accepted theory among Masonic scholars is that it arose from the stonemasons' guilds during the Middle Ages. The language and symbols used in the fraternity's rituals come from this era. The oldest document that makes reference to Masons is the Regius Poem, printed about 1390, which was a copy of an earlier work. In 1717, four lodges in London formed the first Grand Lodge of England, and records from that point on are more complete.

Within thirty years, the fraternity had spread throughout Europe and the American Colonies. Freemasonry became very popular in colonial America. George Washington was a Mason, Benjamin Franklin served as the head of the fraternity in Pennsylvania, as did Paul Revere and Joseph Warren in Massachusetts. Other well-known Masons involved with the founding of America included John Hancock, John Sullivan, Lafayette, Baron Fredrick von Steuben, Nathanael Greene, and John Paul Jones. Another Mason, Chief Justice John Marshall, shaped the Supreme Court into its present form.

Over the centuries, Freemasonry has developed into a worldwide fraternity emphasizing personal study, self-improvement, and social betterment via individual involvement and philanthropy. During the late 1700s, it was one of the organizations most responsible for spreading the ideals of the Enlightenment: the dignity of man and the liberty of the individual, the right of all persons to worship as they choose, the formation of democratic governments, and the importance of public education. Masons supported the first public schools in both Europe and America.

During the 1800s and early 1900s, Freemasonry grew dramatically. At that time, no social "safety net" had been provided by the government, and the Masonic tradition of founding orphanages, homes for widows, and homes for the aged provided the only security many people knew.

Today in North America, the Masonic fraternity continues this tradition by giving almost \$2 million each day to causes that range from operating children's hospitals, providing treatment for childhood language disorders, treating eye diseases, funding medical research, contributing to local community service, and providing care to Masons and their families at Masonic homes.

The four million Masons worldwide continue to help men and women face the problems of the 21st century by building bridges of brotherhood and instilling in the hearts of men ideals for a better tomorrow.