



Maine Masonic Mentoring Newsletter

Vol. 2, No. 1 – January 2014

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To Maine Masonic Mentors and Brethren all:



The upcoming issue of the *Maine Mason* tells the story of becoming a Masonic Rookie, as expressed by several first-year rookies attending the inaugural recognition banquet in December...and as felt in the heart of our Grand Master.

Every new Mason as well as the officers of each Lodge are encouraged to consider the perspectives shared in the *Maine Mason* on the Rookie Program. Consider how becoming active in ... and bonding with ... your Lodge right from the night of the new Mason's Entered Apprentice Degree increases the recognized value of Freemasonry to each new Mason and to his Lodge. Consider making it an integral component of your Lodge mentoring program.

To all new Freemasons: "Have you been made aware of the Masonic Rookie Program (see program description and reporting form included in this newsletter)? Will you become a certified Masonic Rookie over the next year and qualify to represent your Lodge at the 2014 Rookie Class Banquet?"

To all Lodge officers: "Have you had candidates drop out of Freemasonry before completing the degree journey, or not return after taking the degrees? Are you aware of the Rookie initiative and considered how it might improve the candidates' experience as well as the retention and activation of new Masons? Have you appointed mentors for your candidates and actively encouraged your new Entered Apprentices to pursue the Rookie Award?"

Please remember, Lodges may have multiple Masonic Rookies each year. Rookie candidates need to

complete the program criteria and the Lodge secretary must turn in the completed form to the Grand Secretary.



Wor. Ryan Otis (left), Master of both **Belfast Lodge** and **Rolie's Bar and Grill** in Belfast, served up prime rib, chicken and fish to nearly 75 attendees at the 2013 Rookie Banquet. We thank the **Waldo County Shrine Club** for the use of its great facility for the first annual Rookie Banquet.



Masonic Mentoring.... How might we help you?

Planning will soon be underway on the mentoring program for the first year of our next Grand Master, RW David A. Walker. As we put on our thinking caps, we ask for your input. Please send your ideas as soon as possible to the Mentoring Program Chairman, RW Thomas E. Pulkkinen, at TEPulkkinen@aol.com.

- 1) Would you be interested in a Maine Masonic Mentoring facebook page to share questions and ideas?
- 2) Would you like an Internet-based mentoring educational / support medium?
- 3) What courses / speakers would you like available to you? What would be good locations for these courses?
- 4) What books on mentoring would you like Grand Lodge to make available at favorable prices (by buying at bulk prices)?
- 5) What ideas would you like to offer on the Grand Lodge mentoring initiative? How can it be made more helpful to Lodges and new Masons?
- 6) How could the Maine Masonic Mentoring Newsletter be made more helpful to you?

**Mentoring Isn't Only for Candidates...
It's Part of our Obligation to Help, Aid and Assist**

by RW Christopher M. DiSotto, Grand Marshal

In my travels during the past two years, I have heard it said that the Mentoring Program is working great. Those who have had mentors in their lodges certainly understand the success it brings...the retention of candidates. The troubling part of this is the many brothers who have said both publicly and privately that the Mentoring Program works only when there are candidates in the pipeline, not when there are none. I'm not sure whether it's the part about mentoring being a program that is most bothersome to me or the part about there being nothing to do if there are no new candidates in the pipeline.

First and foremost, it is my opinion that mentoring is not a program or an initiative. To me, mentoring is a desire to teach, learn and better oneself through the personal interaction with another. This is something we all should be doing regardless of whether we are told to or not as it allows us to help, aid and assist our brethren. We all have the ability to be mentors and we all have a need to be mentored throughout our lives.

Whether in our personal or Masonic life, there are so many opportunities we have before us and yet we seem to lose sight of what it all means. When we take our obligations, we agree to "help, aid and assist" and although one could take the literal translation, I ask you to step back and substitute the word "mentor" in its place. Does that change the meaning? I say no; mentoring is fulfilling our obligation to our brothers by helping, aiding and assisting in the attainment of knowledge, the development of ritual excellence and ultimately bettering oneself. One therefore may say that "help, aid and assist" means mentoring and vice versa. If we are fulfilling our obligation then we are not implementing a program, we are putting our obligation into action.

Let me use a personal example. I'm sure there are many who would say: "Is he really going to tell me he needs to be mentored?" Yes it is true; I am mentored as much, if not more than I mentor others. I have been blessed with a number of mentors in my life, including both newly raised brothers and well-educated ones who have been on their own Masonic journey for many years. Each one helps me in my endeavors to better myself through the attainment of more knowledge which has given me the confidence to overcome challenges and fine-tune my Craft in ways I didn't think were possible. I do not consider myself a

young Mason and I am certainly not a newly raised brother in need of the same type of mentoring as our newest brothers, but I do get mentored each and every day. If we think for one minute mentoring ends when we complete the progression of degrees, then we are drastically off course.

Mentoring is a desire to teach, learn and better oneself through the personal interaction with another...

So you see, it is not a program or initiative, it is not a one-time event, it does not place restrictions on who can and who can't be mentored; it is the continual practice of all successful people who truly want to be the best they can be. It is a way of life, a desire to help and be helped. There is nothing stopping anyone from reaching out and mentoring or being mentored by any brother. It rarely comes to you so go out there and get it. If you take the initiative, you will not only change a brother's life, but you will change yours in the process!



**Grow in Masonry through courses
offered by the
Maine Masonic College**

**Please email your intentions to attend
any of the courses to the College
registrar, Theresa Hatch at Grand Lodge, at 855-843-
1086 or by email at GrandLodge@MaineMason.org.**



January 11 – Masonic Psychology

RW Eric W. Kuntz, MD, Instructor
Bangor Masonic Center, 294 Union Street
9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Lunch 5.00. Open and useful to all
Diploma credit (new course)

This course will help establish a foundation of understanding for the several Maine Masonic College courses dealing with Masonic and other forms of symbolism, allegory, myth, and philosophical expressions of belief. It was developed from a psychological and practical perspective, which examines the use of dynamic roles of symbols as instruments of understanding and vehicles of exploration both in our personal lives and in our mutual and significant interrelationships with others.

The lecture portion of this course explores the use of certain symbols of the Masonic degree experience. Participants will be divided into groups and given practical exercises in which to explore the significance and efficacy of symbols in the process of developing individual and group insights in their encounter with

human situations and in their search for greater understanding and significance. This is a practical application course and is critical for mentors of any organization in which symbolism plays an important role.

The instructor, RW Eric W. Kuntz, MD, of Lygonia Lodge, Ellsworth, is a past District Deputy and the current Master of the Maine Lodge of Research. He is the Medical Director of Research and Education for the Acadia Hospital in Bangor and Associate Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at Tufts Medical School in Boston, the University of Vermont Medical School, and the University of New England School of Osteopathic Medicine. He is the past chair of the Ethics Committee of the Maine Association of Psychiatric Physicians. In addition, he is an acclaimed instructor of courses dealing with the importance of symbols and the psychological significance of ritual in everyday life.

February 15 – Understanding World Religions – What a Well-Informed Mason Should Know

RW Charles W. Plummer, Instructor
United Lodge, 65 Baribeau Drive, Brunswick
9:00 am - 2:00 pm. Lunch \$5.00. Open.

A recent poll of Americans revealed an alarming lack of basic knowledge about the world's religions. Surprisingly, a Gallup poll revealed that only half of American adults could name even one of the four Gospels of the New Testament.

This course has been designed to teach participants the basics of world religions including their origins, historical figures, rituals, scriptures, holidays and key teachings – all that Masons should know and understand in order to consider themselves religiously literate. By studying the religious traditions of the world, we will better understand our world and our neighbors, and because religions deal with the fundamental questions of human existence, understanding religion will help us to better understand ourselves as Freemasons who profess to be linked together by an indissoluble chain of sincere affection and who regard the whole human species as one family.

We will begin by exploring what a religious tradition is and by examining a number of ways of defining religion, along with the strengths and weaknesses of each. Then we will examine important themes that nearly all religions address: the concept of divinity or ultimate reality, scripture and ritual; the understanding of good and evil; and the idea of salvation or liberation. We conclude our studies by examining important trends in religion and the relationships of religion, violence and peace in today's world.

The instructor, RW and Doctor Charles Plummer, of

Acacia Lodge, Durham, is a scholar and teacher, served as Regent of the Maine Masonic College at its conception and then as a faculty member. His career has been that of a teacher and educator in public schools and at the college level. He continually brings his well-known and admired insights to every class he teaches. Brother Plummer has a doctorate degree in religious studies, and we all look forward with great anticipation to the understanding he will bring to us.

March 15 – Fourth Annual Celebration of the Arts and Sciences The Sixth Step – Music

Suzanne Nance, Program Leader
Bangor Masonic Center, 294 Union St.
9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Lunch 5.00.
Open to all



The annual celebration of the Arts and Sciences is becoming a major Masonic event in our jurisdiction as it should be. The arts and sciences are foundational to Freemasonry. This year the focus is on Music and the part it has and plays in the human experience. This subject is huge, and we are extremely fortunate to have the phenomenal artist and musicologist Suzanne Nance as our leader.

Until recently, Miss. Nance had been the Music Director for the MPBN system in Maine. She was a professor of voice on the faculty of the Cappelli Institute of Music in Chicago where she regularly taught master classes. She came to Maine from Colorado and the Aspen Music Festival and School. As a singer, Miss. Nance has sung in concert halls across Europe and the United States. During her six years in Maine, her extraordinary personality, knowledge and talent has won a legion of thankful friends. She will return from her new position in Chicago to be with us for our celebration of music.

Upcoming Maine Masonic College Courses

April 5 – Ethics, Sam McKeeman, Instructor

Lygonia Lodge, Ellsworth
9:00 am – 2:00 pm. Lunch \$5.00.
Open. Diploma credit.

April TBA – Seminar for Chaplains, RW Mark E. Rustin and W. Douglas Drawn, Leaders and Instructors

Meridian Splendor Lodge, Newport.
Open. (New opportunity)

This offering was originally intended for Lodge Chaplains but is now open to all. It will focus on how we may better serve each other in love and faith.

May 17 – Tenets and Cardinal Virtues, RW Reginald W. Wing, Instructor

Deering Lodge, Portland
9:00 am – 2:00 pm.
Lunch \$5.00. Open. Diploma credit.

**June 21 – The King’s Speech, Grammar Made Fun,
Bro. Jay S. Hoar, Instructor**

Oxford Lodge, Norway,
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm. Open.



Maine Masonic Protocol Manual

In response to great interest being expressed by Brethren attending the 2013 mentoring workshops, the Masonic Education and Lodge Services (MEALS) Committee has been busily preparing to publish a new protocol manual for Maine Masonry. An extract from the beginning of the manual follows and emphasizes the importance of practicing proper etiquette whenever and wherever Masons meet...

“All Masons should know and observe the rules of Masonic protocol. Protocol is a formal code of etiquette that has been long honored and practiced within our Fraternity. Protocol encompasses standards for conducting Lodge business and for maintaining a level of dignity and decorum that serves to promote harmony and respect within the Lodge.

“Rules of protocol represent standards for officer and member attire within the Lodge, the wearing of aprons and jewels, how officers and members are addressed during meetings and degree work and how the Master is recognized when Masons enter or retire from an open Lodge.

*“Regular attention to proper etiquette and protocol is a defining characteristic of Masonic meetings. It is an important part of showing respect to the Brethren and to the Fraternity and as such, should be practiced and encouraged by the Master at all times. What is the place of Masonic etiquette in the Craft? **It has no special place! It has every special place!** It is ALWAYS observed whenever and wherever Masons assemble, or speak, or act in the name of the Craft. For that reason, it is described as ‘MASONIC.’ If it belonged in the Ritual of the Degrees, a Master might conceive it to lie outside the span of his responsibility. The Master is ultimately responsible for breaches of protocol within his Lodge.”*

One excerpt from the manual covers discussions in Lodge and says...

6.2 Lodge Room Decorum

1 No one should sit while addressing the Master. It is a matter of respect to the office of the Worshipful Master and it is a courtesy to the Brethren. All Masons must stand while addressing the Master or presiding officer, unless excused for a handicapped reason, and

should not speak in Lodge unless permission is received from the Master who presides over the meeting. All comments to other officers or other members of the Lodge should be directed through the Master and not directed to the other member or members. There should be no talking on the sidelines during the meeting or degree work unless the Lodge is at ease or refreshment. Sideline discussions and unsolicited comments disrupt the harmony of Lodge meetings.

RW Tim Martel, Chairman of the MEALS Committee, will be developing an important Dirigo Leadership Seminar module on Masonic Protocol and looks forward to making the new manual available to all Lodges and Masonic mentors.

All Lodge and Personal Mentors are encouraged to obtain a copy of the new manual when it becomes available and to make teaching proper Masonic Protocol an important aspect of your Lodge mentoring initiatives.

On another note, your Lodge should have recently received great new degree instructional videos produced by MEALS. The videos are contained on a computer USB stick mailed to the Lodge Masters.



Mentoring Expectations

(Excerpted from *Mentoring for Growth*,
published by the Grand Lodge of Michigan)

When we discuss the issue of “expectations” we use the phrase in its broadest possible description. The Mentor will have many expectations as will the Apprentice. And while some of those expectations may be similar there will of course be some that are very different. Only by thoroughly understanding the needs and expectations of each other can we begin a beneficial Mentoring program.

So let’s ask the following questions:

- 1) What are the needs of the Apprentice?
- 2) Will the Mentor have the skills necessary to meet these needs?

The answers to these questions is where the Mentoring process needs to begin. The Mentor needs to know what the Apprentice needs. The Apprentice needs to know that the Mentor has the skills to fulfill those needs. This is where you start. Every Mentoring program has a certain end in mind. Once the Apprentice knows what this end is, he can then determine if he is capable, or even willing to do those things that will be required of him. By the same token the Mentor can determine if his skills match the need.

I cannot imagine a more painful and wasteful rela-

tionship than when the Mentor is unwilling or unable to conduct himself in a way that benefits the Apprentice.

The Mentor must be the more optimistic and positive force in the relationship. Without the positive power of the Mentor, the relationship will never move beyond its most basic opening comments. But if the Mentor is positive that he has the skill, understands the process and is willing to give of himself, then the relationship will grow and the end result will be successful.

We need to ask ourselves if the Apprentice and the Mentor are compatible? Is there a mutual respect for each other and are they willing to work together toward a better common goal?

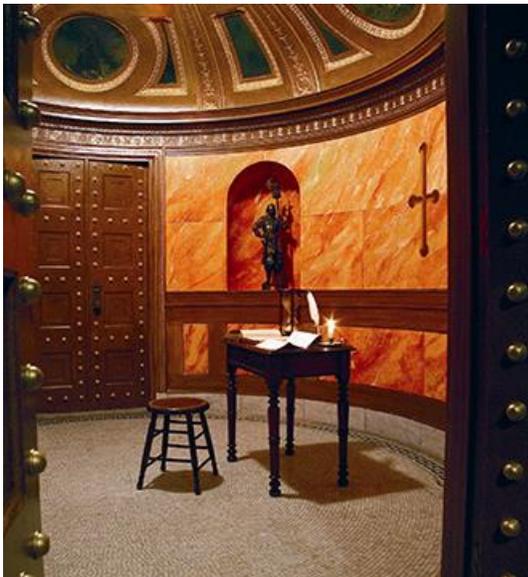
There needs to be an expectation of confidentiality and trust between both parties. This trust will grow over time. There also needs to be an ability to empathize with each other; to see each other through the others' eyes is a crucial component of the Mentoring program.

Finally there must be an expectation of selfless giving. Only through a willingness to impart the stories of your life, and a willingness on the part of the Apprentice to absorb those life lessons and experiences can you move to the second level of the Mentoring process.”



Chambers of Reflection

Personal reflection – or introspection – is an important aspect of life, wherein we may ask ourselves many probing questions: Is God truly **the** important rule and guide in all that I do? In what direction do I wish my life to take? Do I live and act in a way that I



Chamber of Reflection, Masonic Building, Boston, MA

might live respected and die regretted? What are my expectations from the Masonic journey upon which I am about to embark? How might Masonry improve me as a man, a husband, a father...?

What if you had entered a Chamber of Reflection before your First Degree and were told to ponder those questions? After all, a Mentor's job is to ensure the preparation of his candidate – both physically and mentally!



Chamber of Reflection

by Jordan T. Yelinek

Popular culture has made Masonry into a mythic organization. In Dan Brown's *The Lost Symbol*, the uninitiated eye would believe that in homes, offices, and even the United States Capitol, Masons around the world were daily retreating to personal Chambers of Reflection to consider the work at hand. The Chamber of Reflection, however, is a piece of Masonic ritual rarely practiced in the United States, with only a handful of Lodges utilizing it in Louisiana, New England, California, and other pockets across our country. To brethren in Latin America and Europe, the Chamber of Reflection is a familiar aspect of our Craft, and perhaps it should be considered for more regular use in our Lodges.

The Chamber of Reflection, as defined by Mackey in his *Encyclopedia of Freemasonry*, is "...a small room adjoining the Lodge, in which, preparatory to initiation, the candidate is enclosed for the purpose of indulging in those serious meditations which its somber appearance and the gloomy emblems with which it is furnished are calculated to produce. It is also used in some of the advanced degrees for a similar purpose."

Freemasonry is an initiatic society, and her rituals are transformative. The cultivation of the prospect for our Craft should be the utmost care of our Lodges, and when that prospect is made into a candidate for the mysteries of Freemasonry, it is our duty to ensure that he is indeed duly and truly prepared. The Brethren, on the candidate's entrance into the Lodge, can readily examine the physical preparation of the candidate, yet the mental preparation of the candidate too must be addressed. All too often, a candidate is rushed from his daily, dull cares of life, into the preparation room, where he is physically prepared, but carries with him, into the Lodge, the worries of his day.

An interstitial space between the profane and the initiated, the Chamber of Reflection provides an opportunity for our candidates to separate from the pro-

fane world, and ready their hearts and minds for the great work in which they are about to engage themselves.

The form of the Chamber of Reflection varies greatly between different jurisdictions. The most familiar are adorned with alchemical and arcane symbols, together with those of mortality. Still others are adorned with pieces of modern art, and some are quite plain. In all, the candidate for the Entered Apprentice degree spends some thirty minutes to an hour in the Chamber previous to his Initiation. The end result, in all three cases, if executed with attention and care, is the due and true mental preparation of the candidate.

The origins of the Chamber of Reflection draw themselves from the Pythagorean mystery schools, and even from the Cult of Mithras (perhaps another progenitor of our Craft). Here, novitiates were secreted away in a cave previous to the initiatory observances of these orders. To us, the Chamber is also reflective of this cave, as seen most closely in the arcane Chamber, which is painted black and small in size, to mirror this experience.

The arcane chamber also commonly possesses the skull, crossbones, scythe, or other emblems of mortality, familiar to us through our third degree. A small plate of bread and glass of water, intended for the candidate to eat and drink, are present, and are simple food for the work ahead. Alchemical elements, most commonly sulfur, salt and mercury, are drawn upon the walls. To the alchemist, these were the *Tria Prima*, and believed that all substances were, figuratively, formed of these three elements. Again, to the alchemist sulfur is a masculine element, and represents strength; salt is considered neutral, and represents wisdom; and mercury, a feminine element, represents beauty. An hourglass is also present, to mark the time and also for the familiar elements from our third degree. Phrases are sometimes written upon the wall, such as Perseverance and Vigilance. A mirror is occasionally present for the physical reflection of the candidate, together with the spiritual.

In all types of chambers, arcane, modern, or plain, a philosophical testament is written, or the candidate answers questions prepared for him in advance. Examples of such questions, used by Prometheus Lodge No. 851 in San Francisco, CA, are:

- In the modern world, in which we live, what drew you to seek membership in the fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons?
- It has often been stated that, simply, the goal of Freemasonry is to make good men better. What is it,

in yourself that you are seeking to better, through your experience of the fraternity?

- One of the principal tenets of Freemasonry is Brotherly Love. How, through the exercise of brotherly love, will you support and enable those around you in seeking to better themselves through the fraternity?

These questions (and the candidate's answers) are then sealed in an envelope, with the candidate's signature across the seal, and presented to the Brother who retrieves him from the Chamber. Some Lodges hold these questions, and return them to the candidate, unopened, on his raising to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason, while others read them in open Lodge before the initiation, to better know their candidate, and best match his experience to his needs and desires. Both are common throughout the fraternity.

Ultimately, the Chamber of Reflection provides an opportunity for the candidate to separate from the profane world as he begins his journey in Masonry. It provides reflection on who he is as a man, what he wishes to accomplish in his life, and how the Craft fits into that path. The symbolism of the arcane chamber, while most common throughout the world, may not be immediately clear in its purpose to the candidate, and perhaps either a chamber filled with modern art, or a unadorned chamber with a candle, pen or pencil and paper for the candidate to answer his questions upon may provide the optimum experience for the growth of the newest Entered Apprentice. Though, through the use of the Chamber of Reflection, or not, it is our duty as Brethren, to ensure the due and true preparation of our candidates, both physically and mentally for the good of our Craft.

[From The Voice of Freemasonry, Vol. 30 No. 1, 2013, Grand Lodge of Washington DC]



Bro. George Thelwell of Kilwinning Lodge 565, Ontario, Canada, visited Lodges in Cuba and reported that in Lodge Sol in Matanzas, Cuba, the candidate is placed in a small room with a bunk and desk, and told to write the predominant wish of his heart and why he wants to become a Mason. He is

then lead past the adjoining room where he is prepared to be taken upstairs to the Lodge to be initiated.

Bro. Thelwell said "I can tell you that had I been given that start to the initiation, I'm not sure I would have continued."

The desk holds a candle and a human skull and is illuminated by no more than a 10 watt bulb. An open grave is littered with human bones and the wall contains what look like six tombs.



Upcoming Dirigo Leadership Seminars

RW Jeff Sukeforth is pleased to announce three upcoming sessions of the Dirigo Leadership Seminar. All Masons may attend the seminar and Lodge Masters, Wardens and Deacons in particular are urged to attend, as the seminar is designed to ask the questions: "What is the value of membership in my Lodge? And How does my Lodge improve (or benefit) its members, their families and their communities?" It then suggests some perspectives and tools for officers and members to set about strengthening their Lodges.

A flier is attached that provides an opportunity for interested Masons to sign up to attend the seminar at one of the following dates and locations:

February 8th – United Lodge, Brunswick

May 17th – York Lodge, Kennebunk

September 6th – Lynde Lodge, Hermon



The Maine Masonic Mentoring Program

MW A. James Ross, Grand Master

RW Thomas E. Pulkkinen,

Program Chairman, Newsletter Editor

TEPulkkinen@aol.com

207-350-9525 (cell) - 207-633-7167 (home)

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Happy New Year!

*Reach out to a Friend
and tell him about
Freemasonry...and
what it means to you!*

*There's no greater gift
that you can give than
an opportunity to
become a Mason!*