



Maine Masonic Mentoring Newsletter

Vol. 1, No. 4 – December 2013

To Maine Masonic Mentors and Brethren all:

It's only natural!

People listen attentively and give credence to heartfelt messages conveyed by those who have experienced relationships or events that have directly affected or benefited them. Far for accepting than to a promoter's pitch to try a new program or product.

As the Grand Lodge Mentoring Coordinator, I can talk and talk and talk (and most will agree that I incessantly do) about how the Rookie Program and Mentoring will add value to the Masonic experience of our new Masons, to our Masonic veterans who participate in the programs...and to our Lodges as well.

But more convincing is the personal testimony of a new Mason, Bro. Scott Pullen, as expressed in his recent letter to our Grand Master. Read it and "consider well your situation." Wouldn't your Lodge, your Brethren and the candidates entering your Lodge benefit from adopting these Grand Lodge initiatives? I can't imagine that the answer would be anything other than a resounding YES!

Most Worshipful,

I wanted to send you a note upon my receiving the Master Mason Rookie Award from RW Seth Dube.

What a pleasure and honor it was to receive my pin, and I can't thank you enough to have been raised at the time that this award was available.

I hope this program continues on throughout the years.

With that being said, the program is inspiring and with the help of many Brothers and Lodges themselves, I got to receive this award and would like to share some credit.

Wor. Kelly Demers, Wor. Claude Drouin and Bro. Jack LaRoche from Dunlap #47 who helped me with ritual and lectures.

Wor. Eric Pooler and Bro. Lewis Gordon from OOB (Orchard Lodge) #215 who allowed me to perform EA lectures at Lodge. Bro. Lewis and I practice almost daily on opening and closing Lodges and ritual work.

VW Roger Berube was instrumental in my progress through the EA lectures and FC Middle Chamber and Letter G, always helping me with a word or sentence.

Wor. Eric Durgin has been a terrific mentor and helps me with ritual work; I closely base my Middle Chamber presentation on his definitive work.

And to RW Gerald "Butch" Gannett, who has taken me as a kind of partner and we travel to different Lodges throughout the District performing Lectures and Charges.

As I progress in my journey through Masonry, I will remember the day of my Raising and the day I received my Master Mason Rookie Award. I hope many Brothers in the future have this opportunity and go on to bigger and better things in the Fraternity.

Thank you again.

*Scott Pullen - JD Dunlap #47, Tyler Orchard #215
Comm. Officer - Widows Sons Maine Grand Chapter*



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Death of a Craftsman

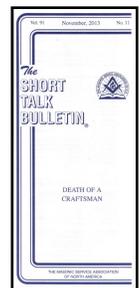
By John L. Cooper III, Grand Master
Grand Lodge of California

In Rosslyn Chapel, in Scotland, stands a memorial to the remarkable skill of the stonemason's art. Called the Apprentice Pillar, it might also be called the Pillar of Beauty, for it is an exquisite example of freestone carving by an operative mason. The legend, which may not be as old as the pillar itself, tells of the tragic end of the craftsman who carved it and the jealousy that caused his murder.

Crime of Passion

The legend begins with a Master Mason who assigns an Entered Apprentice the task of carving the third, and most beautiful, of the central pillars in the chapel. He does not give the Entered Apprentice any instruction in how to carve the pillar, perhaps because he wants the Entered Apprentice to fail at the task.

The Master Mason then sets off for a foreign land, ostensibly to study a famous pillar and then bring the



design back to the chapel, where he will complete the pillar that the failed Entered Apprentice could not carve. However, upon his return, he discovers that the Entered Apprentice has completed the pillar, and that he has done so with a skill that the Master Mason could never hope to achieve. In his anger, the Master Mason strikes the Entered Apprentice on the forehead with a setting maul, felling him dead at his feet.

As a punishment for his crime, the other stonemasons carve a stone head representing the Master Mason along the inner wall of the chapel, with its gaze forever fixed on the Apprentice Pillar. And across from this, they carve another head – one representing the slain Entered Apprentice, with a great wound on his forehead, gazing forever at the stone head of his murderer. The crime and its consequences were carved in stone for all time.

Regardless of whether this legend has any basis in fact, the beautiful Apprentice Pillar is still in Rosslyn Chapel, and the stone heads are still looking on after all these centuries. There is a Masonic allusion in this tale, but there is also a deeper Masonic significance in what the story tells us.

Lessons Carved in Stone

The legend is about the failure of the Master Mason to perform his prime duty of instructing his Entered Apprentice, and, instead, plotting to discredit him and claim the glory for himself. It backfires, and instead of our remembering the great skill of the Master Mason, we remember only his betrayal. The beauty created by the Entered Apprentice is his lasting memorial.

The story teaches three Masonic lessons that we should not forget. First, it is the duty of every Mason to empower another Mason to succeed. Every Entered Apprentice is told that his "future moral and Masonic edifice" will be built well and truly if he stays close to the "master builder" in his Lodge – symbolically represented by the Master of the Lodge. That, in turn, requires the Master to teach Freemasonry to those in his charge, and particularly to a new Mason.

Second, we are taught to circumscribe our passions, and keep them within due bounds. Focused energy is a blessing; unfocused anger and rage is destructive of all societies, and especially of ours. Jealousy has no place in Freemasonry, for – as we are taught – a Mason only succeeds in an environment of those who can work together and agree.

Finally, there is another lesson that comes from this old legend of Rosslyn Chapel and its Entered Apprentice Pillar: the lesson of doing what we are expected



to do in the best way that we can, regardless of the consequences. It is possible that the Entered Apprentice knew that he would be in trouble if he completed carving the pillar that the Master Mason had expected to complete himself. But he did so because he wanted to create a thing of beauty. That urge overrode any other possibility.

Give the World the Best You've Got

I am reminded of a beautiful poem by Kent M. Keith, which supposedly hung on the wall of Mother Teresa's home in Calcutta, India:

People are often unreasonable, illogical, and self-centered; Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives; Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies; Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you; Be honest and frank anyway.

What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight; Build anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous; Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow; Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough; Give the world the best you've got anyway.

You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and your God; It was never between you and them anyway.

As the Entered Apprentice of old carved his pillar because it was the best that he could contribute to his beautiful chapel, so we as Masons contribute the best that we can every day to the betterment of the world around us. Regardless of the consequences, he carved his pillar anyway, and regardless of the consequences, we, too, live as Masons should anyway.

Questions . . . for Reflection and Discussion:

1. What have you learned in your Masonic Journey that helps to avoid the excesses of passions such as anger, jealousy or greed for attention, power or glory?
2. What can we do in our Lodges to improve the way we educate and share our knowledge of Speculative Freemasonry as we train our Apprentices and teach those new Brothers that come behind us?
3. As we improve our "ashlars" in quarries of Speculative Freemasonry, how can we "live as Masons should," seeking every opportunity to display those tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth?

This article provides the legend and lessons behind a famous work of craftsmanship in Masonic lore. John Cooper, a Freemason for nearly 50 years and noted Masonic writer and scholar, was installed in October, 2013, as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of California, after previous service as Grand Secretary. He has a Ph.D. in Education from Claremont Graduate School in Los Angeles and served for 25 years as a public high school and community college teacher and school administrator. He has bachelors and masters degrees in political science from the University of California, Los Angeles. This article is reprinted from the California Freemason, August -September, 2011. - STB Editor



**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.



December 8 – Astronomy Event

University of Maine Planetarium
5781 Wingate Hall, Orono, 4:30 pm. Open to all by registration only and **limited to 30**.



This year we are holding our annual family Astronomy Program at the Planetarium on the Orono campus. The program will be presented by university staff and has been specially planned for those who want to enjoy and understand more about the night sky. It will be the season of star watchers!

(From Interstate 95: Take exit 193 and follow Stillwater Avenue toward Old Town to the fourth traffic light. Turn right on College Avenue and one mile later turn right into the parking lot by the Steam Plant (note the smoke stacks). On foot, walk across the street and up the sidewalk onto campus. At the top of the walk, Wingate Hall will be the second building on left.)

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 inter-relationships 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 Accacia Lodge, Durham, is 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.



Business Coaching - Mentoring

A Lodge, like a house of worship, is not a “business” in a traditional sense. However, to be successful these organizations need a vision of what they want to become; a cadre of inspired, well-trained leaders and employees (in Masonic terms: elected and appointed

officers, committeemen and sideline workers); sufficient financial resources; and a commitment to achieving their well-considered purposes or missions – touching upon fraternal, philosophical, religious, educational and charitable attributes.

It is towards these ends that the Grand Master added the Dirigo Leadership Seminar initiative to his trestleboard. He encourages all Lodge officers – particularly Masters, Wardens and Deacons – and other interested Masons to participate. In effect, the Dirigo Leadership Seminars offer business coaching!

The same importance is placed on mentoring our new Masons and new Lodge officers. The following article from CreativeMentoringIdeas.com addresses this important subject.

When reading the article, think of yourself as the company leader and your Lodge as a business... competing for a member's time and energy against other service organizations, or from work, home or social activities. Instead of profits, think of the value your Lodge adds to the lives of its members and their communities. In addition to the sound business skills and perspectives needed to lead a Lodge, think about the abilities and knowledge needed to confer degrees well and to employ proper Masonic etiquette. Think about who in Lodge have the right skills and personality to be effective mentors and Masonic educators.

Grand Lodge is striving to create a lasting system for developing and maintaining mentoring relationships, through Grand Lodge seminars and Maine Masonic College courses. Lodge leaders are encouraged to have officers attend an upcoming Dirigo Leadership Seminar and Maine Masonic College courses. Lead the way towards implementing an effective Masonic Mentoring program in your Lodge.



“With the growing competition in business, it has become difficult to gain advantage over the competition. This is especially true for small businesses.

“Even if you do have some money and a significant amount of time being devoted to the business, it is no guarantee that you will reap business profits. Even the people who are working with you might feel the heat of the competition as well as your wrath whenever they fall short of sales targets.

“For these reasons, the organization usually engages in business coaching or business mentoring. There may be differences between these two concepts, but they are actually very similar.

“The main difference between business coaching training and business coaching mentoring is that a

trainer who imparts business coaching training will impart the training once and he might be there for a long time. If the business so desires, however, they can hire a long-term mentor who can go about establishing mentoring relationships with the employees so as to improve their performance and the overall atmosphere in the workplace. This would also be a great decision in ensuring the profitability and the sustainability of the business.

“The first task of the business coach or mentor is to help you in securing the right skills and knowledge in running a business. Sometimes, there are also areas of the business about which the entrepreneur or leader does not have the right expertise. The entrepreneur might be savvy in marketing but poor in administration. Or he may be an expert in production but not so much in overall operations. These are the areas in which a business coach or a business mentor can help the entrepreneur.

“So how can this be done?”

“You as the entrepreneur need to determine the areas where you need assistance. It would be great to check your strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. After identifying these factors, you will need to check the skills and knowledge that you need in order to become successful in your business endeavor.

“After determining your needs, you need to scout for the right business coach or business mentor who will guide you in learning and practicing in those areas that you need to master. Be careful in choosing your business coach or mentor. Don't choose the very expensive ones. But you need to keep within your budget without compromising the quality of business coaching or mentoring.

“Business coaching or mentoring can guide your business to soar. But before you can maximize the effectiveness of these two important business practices, you will have to make sure that you know what you need.”

Masonic Rookies Take Notice:

The First Annual

Masonic Rookie Banquet

will be held on Sunday, December 8th

at the Waldo County Shrine Club

65 Northport Avenue in Belfast.

Forty-six Rookies have been invited!

Will you qualify for the 2014 Rookie Banquet?

Mouth to Ear

by Ill. Bro. Ernest Borgnine, 33°

In 1945, I traveled with a friend down to a little town called Abingdon, Virginia, to see what the Barter Theatre had to offer. It offered nothing except hard work and board. My friend, not accepting the work they offered him, stayed one day – I stayed five years. In that time I grew to love the town and all it offered. The people, in particular, were simply marvelous.

Occasionally I would be assigned to go down to the printing shop and get posters made for the upcoming shows at the Barter Theatre. One day, in talking to the owner of the print shop, one Elmo Vaughan, I found that he belonged to the local Masonic Lodge, No. 48, in Abingdon. My father was also a Mason and had advanced to the Thirty-second Degree in Scottish Rite-Masonry, and I told this to Elmo. He was pleased, and sensing his pleasure, I asked him if maybe I could join. He said nothing, continuing his work, and a short while later, I took my posters and left.

The next time I saw Elmo, I asked him again about joining the Masonic Order – again he said nothing – and again my work took me away. We became good friends and finally one day I passed by and again I asked if I could join the Masons. Instantly, he whipped out an application, and I hurriedly filled it out. I didn't learn 'til later, that in those days, you had to ask three times.

I was thrilled! Not only was I going to be the first actor ever in Lodge No. 48, but I could just imagine my father's surprise when I would spring the old greetings on him! I wanted only to surprise my Dad – and was I surprised, when after I was made an Entered Apprentice, I found I had to remember everything that happened to me at that event and come back and answer questions about it!

I was assigned to a dear old man of about 92 years of age who, I felt, must have been there when the Lodge first started. He was really of the old school – and he started me out with the foot-to-foot, knee-to-knee and mouth-to-ear routine of teaching.

Besides doing my work for the Barter Theatre and a little acting to boot, I was also going to that dear Brother for my work in Masonry. I would tramp all over those lovely hills and work on my "Whence came you's" and one day – oh, one fine day – I stood foot-to-foot with my Brother and answered every question perfectly! I was ecstatic! I was overjoyed and couldn't wait to get to Lodge to show my ability as an Entered Apprentice.

After I quieted down, that dear Brother said,

"You've done fine, but aren't you really only half started?" I couldn't believe him! I knew my work; what else was there? He said "Wouldn't it be better if you knew all the questions too?"

I couldn't believe my ears! All that hard work and only half done? He gently sat me down foot-to-foot, knee-to-knee and mouth-to-ear and taught me all the questions. That didn't come easy, because I was almost doing the work by rote, but with careful listening and by really applying myself, I was soon able to deliver all the questions and answers perfectly! The night that I stood in front of the Lodge and was asked if I was ready to answer the questions of an Entered Apprentice, I respectfully asked if I could do both-questions and answers. I was granted that wish and later found that I was the second man in my Lodge to have ever done so! I am truly proud of that, never having demitted, I am still a member in good standing in Abingdon Lodge No. 48.

I tell this story not for the merit it might gain me, but to tell you that learning the Entered Apprentice obligation taught me a great lesson in acting as well: that before I ever attempt to do a part I should work, rehearse, feel, almost live that part to know what I am talking about! As I've advanced in Masonry, I have found we are an elite group of people who believe in God, country, family and neighbors. We work hard to help our fellowman; and through our charitable work, such as support for the Childhood Language Disorders Centers, we have made it possible to help many children grow into good American citizens. We should always be proud of the Order we belong to. Where in all the world do you find so many great men and Brothers who have helped the whole wide world? But, we are hiding our light under a bushel basket!

Recently I attended a dinner for a friend, and I ran across a Brother who identified himself in a hushed voice. I asked why he spoke in a whisper when talking about Masonry, and suddenly I realized he wasn't the only one who had ever done that. I speak out loud about Masonry to everyone! I'm proud of the fact that I belong to an organization that made me a better American, Christian, husband and neighbor; and all it took was a little self-determination by going foot-to-foot, knee-to-knee, and mouth-to-ear!

The Maine Masonic Mentoring Program

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