



Maine Masonic Mentoring Newsletter

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One Individual Making a Difference

The following letter was sent yesterday, November 24, 2015, by the Head of the Cambridge (MA) Friends School to his teachers and staff. Read his words, feel his passionate thoughts, and ask yourself, "What message might I send...what action might I take to make a difference in my life, my family, my Lodge, my community and beyond?" Each of us can be a symbol of hope. Each one of us can make a difference! – Editor

Dear CFS Community,

We have been discussing events in Beirut, Baghdad and Paris in ethics class of late. Much to my surprise, in the middle of a recent class, I found myself speaking of Vedran Smailovic.

In 1992, thirty-seven-year-old Vedran Smailovic was principal cellist of the Sarajevo Opera. Because of the fighting, Sarajevo was being called "the capital of hell." On May 27, a long line waited in front of one of the last bakeries in town. Parents wanted to buy bread to feed their families. A mortar landed among them, exploding and killing twenty-two people in line.

Something inside Vedran Smailovic's heart broke.

The carnage lay in the street outside his window. Instead of white bread for the masses to eat with their red meat, there were white bones and bloody masses of red flesh scattered everywhere.

It scarred his mind. His naivety evaporated. War was in his neighborhood. What could he do about it?

As he stayed up that night sobbing, his anguished mind struggled to rescue his soul from the pit of despair. How could he make a difference in a living hell? What could he do? Smailovic did the only thing he could. The only thing he knew.

The next day, he donned black. Not the black of mourning, but the formal black of a musician of a prestigious opera company. Twenty-four hours after the massacre, at 4 p.m., Smailovic settled his stool

beside the still smoking crater.

And he began to play.

He continued to play every day for two years. He played through the rockets red glare and the bombs bursting in air.

The citizens in the capital of hell received a heavenly emissary every day. They heard music that reminded them of the good, beautiful things of life: the lilting music singing that there was hope that again peace would return.

His powerful testimony brought even more attention to the horrors around him.

After twenty-two days, he moved his chair. He played in other neighborhoods with freshly charred craters and fragments of humanity where souls had recently departed this earth. He played in graveyards amidst the newly buried where muffled mourners shuffled in the street looking for bread. Snipers poised to shoot those who attended funerals where he played. Smailovic played on.

He played until December 1993.

He had played to hold out hope to those who would listen. He became the personal embodiment of hope for peace in Bosnia. He dispensed hope in his music; he became hope to his people.

The next year, in 1994, Yo-Yo Ma played a newly composed piece by English composer David Wilde at the International Cello Festival in Manchester, England. The piece, entitled "The Cellist of Sarajevo," haunted those who were there. Pianist Paul Sullivan described it this way in a collection of essays, *Everyday Greatness*:

"When he had finished, Ma remained bent over his cello, his bow resting on the strings. No one in the hall moved or made a sound for a long time. It was as though we had just witnessed that horrifying massacre ourselves.

"Finally, Ma looked out across the audience and stretched out his hand, beckoning someone to the stage. An indescribable electric shock swept over us as we realized who it was...

"Smailovic rose from his seat and walked down the aisle as Ma left the stage to meet him. They flung their arms around each other ... everyone in the hall erupted into a chaotic, emotional frenzy...

"We were all stripped down to our starkest, deepest humanity at encountering this man who shook his cello in the face of bombs, death, and ruin, defying them all."

As I write, it is as if the strings inside my vocal chords that make the dissonant sound of whining are

broken. They are snapped in two by the understanding that far worse things are happening in the world than my struggles to balance a budget, read reports, and to put 26 hours into a 24-hour day.

And the vocal chords that share hope and goodness and knowledge are stronger. I feel compelled. I must impart knowledge, but I must also teach to prevent more carnage in future breadlines. I must play my music. I will lend my voice. I will pull up my chair to empower my students to add their voice to the things that echo for the good in this world.

These are stressful times. Parents are stressed out. And when parents are stressed out, they send stressed children in through our doors.

And teachers, I know, are stressed too! In fact, I may be a contributor to such stress. But we love our students, which means we have a decision. We have a choice.

We can see the carnage and problems outside our window – and we can pit ourselves and say we are in the midst of the capital of hell. And we can do nothing.

Or, we can take a bit of humility and perspective from a cellist who really has been to hell. We can realize that we have a choice as we retreat into our homes at night and contemplate what we shall do the next day in school. Surely our problems are far less. Most of our problems aren't hell. They are hard. Sometimes they are hell. But not always.

We can't do a lot. Some of us can write. Others can speak or sing. But there's one thing we can all do.

We can teach.

For, you see, a good teacher is like music in the life of a student. Every educator is music in someone's life. Our little words and actions are notes in the symphony of our school. The more of us who unite to play sweet music, the more we can be heard. United we are a symphony. But even alone, we can still play sweet music.

So many times, life is not what we want it to be. But we examine ourselves, see what we can do, and then we do what we can with all we have.

By playing our music – we become a symbol of hope that others will hear.

Play on.

Wishing you a restorative Thanksgiving,

--Peter



“Quote of the Month”

Ernest Agyemang Yeboah

“It is a solemn duty to change lives positively. It is a noble honor to inspire and be there for others. It is an irresistible necessity to have empathy; to understand the situations and the reasons for the actions of others. Real mentoring is less of neither the candid smile nor the amicable friendship that exists between the

mentor and the mentee and much more of the impacts. The indelible great footprints the mentor leaves on the mind of the mentee in a life changing way. How the mentor changes the mentee from ordinariness to extra-ordinariness; the seed of purposefulness that is planted and nurtured for great fruits; the prayer from afar from the mentor to the mentee; and the great inspirations the mentee takes from the mentor to dare unrelentingly to face the storms regardless of how arduous the errand may be with or without the presence of the mentor.”



Reflections on Setting a Course for Life

Greetings Brethren,

It's hard to believe that we have reached Thanksgiving eve; there is a nip in the air and the foliage unique to our state has completed its annual majestic transformation. Many of our Lodges are preparing for elections and appointments for the ensuing year, and we are individually beginning to think of change that comes in the form of a New Year's Resolution. This is a wonderful time to take your new Brother by the arm and guide him through the election process that he is not familiar with. Allow him to be a part of the process and encourage him to contribute his talents to the Lodge and the fraternity.

Over the last few weeks I have taken an introspective journey and have tried to answer my own deep questions: How can I be a better man and Mason? How can I better demonstrate to my new Brothers what Masonry is? How can I best teach them what really matters? The answers are obviously different for everyone but during my own introspection I recalled some of my most important Masonic teachings. I can't help but realize the direction my own life has taken because of my Masonic experiences.

As Masons we should teach our new Brethren to be an example of gentle strength and humility, and take every opportunity to connect with something greater. Our personal struggles should not impede us from delivering a sincere message of compassion, service, mutual respect and love. Through my many Masonic insights, I can always reflect on the profound lessons of our Masonic lectures. Our Masonic message is crystal clear. It is an unbridled call to action: that we must all see the value in ourselves and those around us, and acknowledge our and others' imperfections without overreacting or pointing the finger of blame.

Apply the Golden Rule and act upon the square, as we should in our daily Masonic lives. “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you;” stand vigilant over the poor, the afflicted, the forgotten, and yes, also the successful and the prominent. Let's encourage our young Brethren to speak the language of Brotherly love, relief and truth and remind our senior

Brethren to do the same. So I challenge you with this directive and point you toward doing things that make a difference for us and our fellow humans. Make good use of the wisdom and intellect of our Masonic elders and know that they are inspiring: "Our efforts must aim at restoring hope, righting wrongs, maintaining commitments, and thus promoting the well-being of individuals and of peoples."

We, the Brethren of this great fraternity, are not fearful of our future just because we cannot see it. Remember we were all in darkness behind that hoodwink at one time.

Our Masonic message is breathtaking – let peace prevail, honor others as well as yourself, and take action to make positive things happen. It is with this intention that you could turbo-charge your goals for next year. You can use goal-setting to do tremendous good – what objectives can you plan to accomplish that will serve to enhance not only your life, but someone else's life, or many other lives as well? How big can you think, and how much good can you actually do?

You can use any means to do this as you like, but I urge you to engage now, and decide on your key targets before your new slate of officers assume their new positions, or as soon thereafter as possible, to give your subconscious mind enough time to work on them before the New Year begins, refining them as you go forward. Your efforts may not always go as planned and none of this can be accomplished without hard work, dedication, due diligence, patience and perseverance. In moving forward I leave you with this thought to further illuminate the extraordinary opportunity we all have in the upcoming year – so to paraphrase the late great Yogi Berra, "As you move forward toward your goals and you get to a fork in the road, take it."

Fraternally,

VW Richard M. Nadeau
DER 23rd Masonic District,
Mentoring Coordinator GLME



MENTOR signifies one who:

M = Motivates

E = Empowers

N = Nurtures

T = Teaches

O = Originates

R = Role model

When Should New Masons Begin The Masonic Rookie Program?

Maine Lodges have as many as five Masonic Rookies serving as officers; in fact, over 80% of our Rookies have become Lodge officers. Despite its proven successes, many Lodges do not expose their candidates and new Brethren to the Rookie Program. This is a disservice to the new Masons, their Lodges and Maine Freemasonry.

The purposes of the Rookie initiative are to bond the new Mason to his Brethren, Lodge and fraternity; to expand his knowledge of Freemasonry – its history, teachings, import to the community, and its operations and governance. It has been said that there cannot be dedication without education. Let's encourage and help candidates to become dedicated Masons.

Towards that end, building mentoring relationships should begin with the Committee of Inquiry process – the visit to his home and the discussions with him and his family. It should continue with the communication of his election and with his first meeting as a candidate. It should be furthered by preparing his mind and perspectives for the important and dignified ceremony of initiation.

At the conclusion of the Entered Apprentice Degree, the new Mason should receive the Rookie Program form (preferably directly from his pre-assigned Masonic mentor) with positive assurance that his new Masonic friends – and his mentor in particular – will accompany and assist him in his travels in pursuit of further light in Masonry.

Don't wait until after the conferral of the Master Mason Degree; start his Rookie activities on his first step in Masonry. The Rookie form is on the Grand Lodge website. It is provided by the Grand Secretary when his Masonic diploma and dues card are mailed for presentation on the night of the Third Degree only to help ensure that he receives the form; but receiving it after the First Degree will start him off on the right foot right from the beginning.

Masonic Excellence Award

Over the past several weeks, your Deputy Grand Master has traveled to all 24 Masonic Districts to meet with Lodge and District leaders to discuss the pursuit of excellence in our Lodges and Maine Freemasonry.

His state-wide journey has been completed, but ours as Lodge leaders is just beginning as we both ponder and address the health of our Lodges and the future of our Craft.

As we sit back in the easy chair after eating the Thanksgiving turkey and, as many say, "all the fixings," may our minds wander during the football games to a subject much more important than whether a team

made a first down. Consider well whether our Masonic leaders are throwing touchdown passes that will assure the future health and vitality of our respective Lodges. Not "Hail Marys," but well conceived and executed patterns that will score well on our Masonic Trestleboards.

The five questions posed during those 24 meetings were:

- ✦ What VALUE does the Lodge provide to Brethren, their families and the community?
- ✦ How does being a Lodge member afford opportunities for Brethren to improve themselves?
- ✦ Is the Lodge attractive, vibrant, warm, engaging ... THE place where people WANT to be?
- ✦ What is the public awareness and perception the Lodge, if they even know it exists?
- ✦ What will the Lodge look like and be doing just ten years from now?

As we objectively ponder those questions, we can't help but come to the realization that our Lodges have challenges to overcome and opportunities to realize. Perhaps they relate to delivering ritual, understanding and living by our Masonic lessons, building an officer corps, getting engaged in our communities, attracting and mentoring new Masons, fixing our buildings, strengthening our finances or just having fun in our Lodges with our Brethren and families.

The Masonic Excellence Award is not about rewarding overall excellence; it's about deciding what we want our Lodges to be with respect to those five questions, and striving for improvement as we pursue what Lodge members want from their Masonic experience.

Perhaps you feel that your Lodge is far from being excellent and this award is unrealistic or unachievable. If so, your Lodge may be the perfect candidate to pursue the award because, by undertaking efforts in just four of the categories mentioned above and as spelled out in the Report on Initiatives form, you and your Lodge Brethren could materially contribute to the enhancing the attractiveness and vitality of your Lodge.

Complete information on the Masonic Excellence Award is available on the Grand Lodge website www.MaineMason.org. Attached to this newsletter are two forms: 1) the Notice of Intention to Pursue the Award in 2016 and 2) the Report on Initiatives Planned for /Undertaken in 2016.

Lodges interested in pursuing the Masonic Excellence Award as a means toward more light and life in Masonry should return the Notice of Intention by December 31, 2015. The Report on Initiatives should be filed by January 31, 2016. Because this is the first year of the initiative and Brethren may want to discuss their efforts in officer and Lodge meetings, these dates may be extended by one month.

Please discuss this during your December Lodge meeting, or call a Lodge officer and encourage him to encourage the pursuit of excellence in your Lodge.

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 GrandLodge@MaineMason.org or 855-843-1086. The College generally does not require that one register for classes and events. However, to be assured a place at lunch or to be notified of changes in schedules participants do need to register.

Upcoming Maine Masonic College Courses

Updated listings of upcoming courses for the 2015 – 2016 Maine Masonic College year will be available in upcoming Mentoring Newsletters and on the MMC website: www.MaineMasonicCollege.com. Please contact Theresa Hatch to be considered as a possible host lodge for a College seminar. Two courses are being offered during most months and are now being offered throughout the Grand Jurisdiction. The upcoming schedule includes the following courses:

DEC 5 - - UMO-ASTRONOMY: Of all the arts and sciences, Astronomy has the closest association with our human feeling of awe and our search for who and where we are. The Maine Masonic College through the University of Maine is pleased to present this planetarium program once each year for the enjoyment and edification of the whole family. The program is typically a blend of a guide in observing the nighttime sky and an adventure into new discoveries in deep space. We have chosen December as the month for this occasion. The specific date will be announced.

WHERE: UNIVERSITY OF MAINE PLANETARIUM, ORONO
2PM

DEC 12 - - DONALD MCDUGAL & GEORGE MACDOUGAL - CRITICAL THINKING: A short presentation (1 hr) on the importance of Critical Thinking in society and our lives. What is Critical Thinking, where it is used, how easily the brain can be fooled and ways to get to the correct decision.

WHERE: OCEAN LODGE, WELLS 8AM-12PM

DEC 12 - - ERIC KUNTZ- SYMBOLISM: This course will help establish a foundation of understanding for 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. This is a practical applications course and is critical for mentors of any organization in which symbolism plays an important role.

WHERE: MORNING STAR LODGE, LITCHFIELD 9AM-12PM

JAN 9 - - BRIANNE SULDOUSKY- RHETORIC: While Rhetoric, as one of the seven liberal arts and sciences listed in the Fellow Craft Degree, covers the powerful and informative use of language in general, this training experience focuses on speech as an essential aspect of effective communication. This experience will provide the fundamental skills of organizing and delivering a message in speaking situations where the goal is either to inform or to persuade. Special effort is made to provide a friendly and supportive atmosphere in which participants may practice what they are learning.

Instructors for this course come from the University of Maine's Department of Communication and Journalism or some other similar institution of learning.

WHERE: RALPH J. POLLARD LODGE, ORRINGTON, 9AM-12PM

JAN 9 - - DONALD BEANE- ORGANIZATIONAL MANAGEMENT: The primary goal of the course is to introduce members to the current idea of management theory for both volunteer and employee based organizations. Starting with classical management philosophy, a brief history will bring the course up to modern theories to include the pros and cons of each major approach, and how and why each developed. We will cover the Classical/Scientific approach, the Bureaucratic model, Human Relations Model, Systems Theory, and Chaos/Random approach. Some of the particular theories discussed in detail will be Taylor-Webber, Maslow, Lewin, Likert, and Deutsch. By the end of the course, attendees will have a "toolbox" of approaches such as Lewin's Contingency model, to utilize in managing their organization.

WHERE: HIRAM LODGE, SOUTH PORTLAND 9AM-12PM

FEB 6 - - DONALD BEANE - HISTORY OF THE FREEMASON UNTIL EARLY 1700'S: ANALOGIES, METAPHORS, AND LEGENDS: The primary goal of this course is to examine the freemasonry organization in the period of time before it became a public organization in the early 1700s. It is a time lost in myths and legends. The course will exam the four primary documents, such as the Hallowell Manuscript or Regius Poem, Old Charges, etc., which purport to contain the clues to the early organization's history and to show how the early formation of belief systems and organizational structure occurred. By drawing ideas from these documents, it will be shown how a system of analogies and metaphors come to be developed to encapsulate and

demonstrate the core ideas and beliefs of the organization. And a point of discussion will be why, this happened.

Some of the more specific topics covered in the course will be what the role of the rise and fall of the Knights Templar played; the feud with first the Catholic Church and then some later Protestant denominations; the probable need for those early years of secrecy; the social/political roles the organization has played over time, such as during the American Revolution; and the current confederated form of it as a worldwide organization.

WHERE: ARUNDEL LODGE, KENNEBUNKPORT 9AM-12PM

FEB 13 - - CHARLES PLUMMER - WHY RITUAL AND MYTH: From a rich lifetime of study and thought, Brother Plummer brings us a perspective of the role that ritual and myth play in the development of the human psyche and the well-being of societies.

WHERE: MYSTIC LODGE, HAMPDEN 9AM-12PM



Begin your new Masonic Brother on a path to become a Maine Masonic Rookie!



A proven approach to bonding new Masons to their Lodge and Fraternity!

- New Masons may begin the Rookiewatch Program immediately after the conferral of the Entered Apprentice Degree.
- Every new Mason can earn the Masonic Rookiewatch Award. It's not a competition among Brethren; it's personal recognition for becoming involved in the work of your Lodge.
- All new Masons who complete the Rookiewatch Program criteria will receive the Rookiewatch pin and certificate, and be invited (with a guest) to the Rookiewatch Banquet – some Lodges have as many as six new Masons currently pursuing Masonic Rookiewatch status.
- In the first two years of the Masonic Rookiewatch Program, more than 80% of new Masonic Rookies are already serving as Lodge officers.

The Masonic Rookiewatch Form is attached

The Maine Masonic Mentoring Program

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