Masonic Membership Program of Georgia

Referral Name: ____________________________
Relationship: _____________________________
Address: _________________________________

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Referred By: ______________________________
Address: _________________________________
Phone: _________________________________
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Lodge No. ___________________________
District No. ___________________________
Scottish Rite ________ York Rite ________ Shriner ________

Friend to Friend

www.BeAMasonGA.org

Masonic Membership Program of Georgia

You are the key to membership!

The time is now for us to embrace this opportunity to guide Freemasonry into a better, stronger fraternity that we can all be proud to call our own.

Making Good Men Great
Grand Lodge Office: 478-742-1475
Please send changes of address to the Grand Secretary
at 811 Mulberry Street, Macon, GA 31201
on your lodge secretary’s monthly report.
The editor does NOT keep the list of addresses.

Grand Lodge Officers

Grand Master
Michael H. Wilson (6, 84)
3655 Jensen Ct
Loganville, GA 30052
Email: mike.wilson@wilsonroofingcompany.com
678-410-0833

Deputy Grand Master
Johnie M. Garmon (114)
P.O. Box 1921
Blairsville, GA 30514
Email: garmon1@windstream.net
706-781-9565

Senior Grand Warden
Jan M. Giddens (33)
2897 Huntcliff Drive
Marietta, GA 30066
Email: giddensj@comcast.net
678-232-4115

Junior Grand Warden
Donald C. Combs (46)
1262 Meadow Lane SE
Darien, GA 31305
478-235-3750

Grand Treasurer
Bobby B. Simmons, (111,756)
203 Williams Drive
Bonaire, GA 31005
Email: bnsimmons81@bellsouth.net
813-391-9616

Grand Secretary
Van S. McGee (26, 70)
811 Mulberry Street
Macon, GA 31201
Email: gsec@glofga.org
478-742-1475

Grand Chaplain
Gary Monk (165, 42, 743, 124)
5665 Aven Road
Marietta, GA 30068
Email: Gmonek@bellsouth.com
678-296-0330

Grand Marshal
Ray Sikes (489)
1070 Knights Ridge Drive
Rutledge, GA 30663
Email: ray@rebuildga.com
678-794-8389

Grand Orator
Edgar Land (81, 758)
811 Mulberry Street
Macon, GA 31201
Email: edgarland@ellijay.com
706-273-0665

Senior Grand Deacon
Michael A. Kessler (216)
3592 Woodstream Circle NE
Conyers, GA 30094
Email: makesessler22@gmail.com
770-455-4583

Junior Grand Deacon
Benjamin W. Polston, II (6)
2859 Brindle Creek Dr. SW
Conyers, GA 30094
Email: bwpolston@gmail.com
678-571-2738

First Grand Steward
Mark A. Bradley (36)
219 Jacob Drive
Hoschton, GA 30548
Email: mark@reman@windstream.net
706-983-9216

Second Grand Steward
Bill Shepard (717, 214)
148 Sulah Street
Brunswick, GA 31525
Email: wfshep@gmail.com
(912)-269-5272

Third Grand Steward
Brian Coffey (271, 749, 710)
134 Lenox Parkway
Martinez, GA 30907
Email: Coffeybr@gmail.com
706-210-2637

Grand Tyler
Joe Colvard (25)
1577 Brewers Bridge Road
Elderton, GA 30735
Email: gtylerjc@gmail.com
706-988-9048

Publications
Editor of the Masonic Messenger
Daniel P. Bennett (364,154)
728 Baugh Mountain Rd. NW
Sugar Valley, GA 30746
Email: editor@masonicmessenger.com
770-608-6232

Chairman of Publications
Ross M. Laver (371, 216)
Email: rosslaver@masonicmessenger.com
770-489-1864

Published bi-monthly at 811 Mulberry Street, Macon, GA 31201. The Messenger goes to all Masons holding membership in Georgia. Subscription is $10.00 domestic, $16.00 foreign per year.
Advertising rates on application

FORM FOR CHANGING ADDRESS FOR MESSENGER
Type or print information requested and mail to the Grand Lodge address on the back cover.

Name in Full ____________________________________________
Lodge Name and Number ________________________________
If you have moved, PLEASE RETURN YOUR ADDRESS LABEL ABOVE TO THE GRAND LODGE OF GEORGIA along with your new address:
Street or P.O. Box _______________________________________
City ___________________________________________________
Zip Code _______________________________________________

Brethren, it is your responsibility to make your address current. Be certain your Lodge secretary has your correct address. Current addresses are kept in the Grand Secretary’s Office in Macon. The editor of the Masonic Messenger DOES NOT keep a list of addresses.

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Back Cover: Forums! Forums! Forums!
Grand Lodge Calendar*

*the Grand Lodge Calendar is correct as of the date of publication but may not reflect changes made after that date. For current information on the Grand Master's travels or Grand Lodge events please see the Grand Lodge Website at glofga.org

District Conventions for 2019
1st District: 10:00 AM March 24, 2019 @ Vidalia Lodge No. 330
2nd District: 9:00 AM April 7, 2019 @ Tifton Lodge No. 47
3rd District: 10:00 AM March 17, 2019 @ Travelers Rest Lodge No. 65
4th District: 9:45 AM August 18, 2019 @ Hamilton Lodge No. 16
5th District: 10:00 AM September 8, 2019 @ Fulton Lodge No. 216
6th District: 9:00 AM May 5, 2019 @ Meridian Sun Lodge No. 26
7th District: 9:00 AM May 11 and 12 @ Cherokee Lodge No. 66
8th District: 10:00 AM May 19, 2019 @ Dawson Lodge No. 68
9th District: 9:00 AM September 22, 2019 @ Norcross Lodge No. 228
10th District: 10:00 AM June 9, 2019 @ Grovetown Lodge No. 730
11th District: 10:00 AM September 15, 2019 @ Lakeland Lodge No. 434
12th District: 9:00 AM April 21, 2019 @ Cochran Lodge No. 217

2019 Masonic Home Trustee Meetings
Friday, March 1, 2019 @ 1:30 PM Masonic Home Camp-Shellman’s Bluff
Saturday, April 13, 2019 @ 1:30 PM Masonic Home
Wednesday, June 5, 2019 @ 11:00 AM Masonic Home
Wednesday, August 14, 2019 @ 11:00 AM Masonic Home
Saturday, October 5, 2019 @ 1:30 PM Masonic Home
Monday, October 21, 2019 @ 11:00 AM Al Sihah Shrine Temple, Macon GA
Wednesday, October 23, 2019 @ Conclusion of Grand Lodge

Masonic Home Workdays March 1st and 2nd at Shellman’s Bluff and April 13th at the Home.

The projects for this year are as follows:

1. Remove dead trees and underbrush
2. Replace door on Superintendent’s Cottage
3. Install electrical services on dock
4. Install water line on dock
5. Replace pole for security light at shop
6. Install post for sign
7. Remove concrete around pool
8. Repair steps on ramp at dock

Tools needed

... Carpenter tools... Chainsaws
... Plumbing tools... Pitchforks
... Electrical tools... Bush hooks
... Rakes... Gloves

If you have questions or your Lodge would like a particular job give me a call.

Bob Whitlow
912-269-2149
# Grand Master’s Calendar

*the Grand Master’s Calendar is correct as of the date of publication but may not reflect changes made after that date. For current information on the Grand Master’s travels, please see the digital version of the calendar at [https://glofga.org/glofga/index.php/gm-s-calendar/2017-calendar](https://glofga.org/glofga/index.php/gm-s-calendar/2017-calendar)

## February 2019

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2019 OFFICER INSTALLATIONS

Ocean Lodge No. 214
Hinesville Lodge No. 271
Palestine Lodge No. 486

Meridian Sun Lodge No. 26
Senoia Lodge No. 82
Leroy Duncan Lodge No. 262

Cornelia Lodge No. 92
Altamaha Lodge No. 227
Glenwood Lodge No. 479

Richard T. Turner Lodge No. 116
Eastpoint Lodge No. 288
Grayson Lodge No. 549

Cairo Lodge #299 & Whigham Lodge #356
Oothcaloga Lodge No. 154
Brethren, we obligated ourselves to help, aid and assist a Brother Master Mason in Distress.

Distress can come in many forms. For a brother who is a Federal Employee, this has become a time of financial hardship. For those affected, remember that there is some assistance available.

Please start at the Lodge. Consult with your Worshipful Master. The Lodge should help as much as possible and the District Deputy to the Grand Master if more assistance is needed.

We are hopeful all Federal Employees will be able to return to work and receive compensation in the very near future. We are family and as such we should do all we can to relieve the needs of our brethren, please remember to pray for all who may be in need today.

With High and sincere fraternal regards,

Michael H. Wilson
Grand Master
The idea of The Children’s Garden came from WB David Wellman while I was planning for the Grand East, in a meeting with MWB E. Ray Knittel. The idea of the cottages had been “floating” around for years and some preliminary drawings had even been made of some of the things that needed to be done. However, since so much pre-construction work had to be done, the task appeared overwhelming, and was “put on the back burner”. This was discussed with several members of the Grand Line at that time and it became a consensus among us that it was time to make some significant changes at our Masonic Home. We had an excellent Superintendent doing a fine job and a great facility for the Masonic Home, but the fact remained that the dormitory style arrangement was not in the best interest of the children. The better arrangement was to move toward converting to a “cottage style” campus. It was decided if this was not done in the foreseeable future, that within a few years, the possibility existed the Home might even be in danger of closing.

The biggest question facing the “cottage concept” was money. An enormous amount of money would have to be raised to construct enough cottages for 30-40 children. A meeting with some of the Grand Line and Masonic Home Trustees to tour the Methodist Children’s Home in Macon was set up, so we could get some ideas there. We became “sold” on the cottage concept and even made visits to other children’s homes to get more ideas. During our visits we questioned various people on how they came up with the money to build their cottages. That was when we decided we had to have a dedicated developmental committee to raise funds. Many of our brethren were involved in the process and over the next several months, worked hard toward seeking fund sources. A Developmental Committee was formed, but it took months to secure the right chairman in WB Gary Monk for the fundraising. The rest is history.

Meanwhile, work continued on the “Children’s Garden.” This fund raiser for the cottages had the “potential” of raising between three and four million dollars. Even if that much was not raised, it would be a great start to show others that the beloved Masons of Georgia were serious about the care of our children and with the blessings of the Good Lord, the project would be a success. This became a major project in 2013-2014 when we asked brethren all over our great State of Georgia for their assistance. The brethren responded very well and by our Grand Lodge Session of 2014, we had raised approximately $125,000. A few months later during MWB Douglas W. McDonald, Sr.’s service as Grand Master, the Good Lord sent Brother Walter Matthews with a donation large enough to erect the first cottage in honor and memory of his sister. Other large donations began arriving and several months later, Brother Matthews donated enough money to build and furnish the second cottage.

In 2018, after a substantial donation from the Thomas T. Irvin Family Foundation, the third cottage was begun, to be named in Memory of Most Worshipful Brother Thomas T. Irvin, PGM, 33°. Recently, enough money has been received to start and almost complete the third cottage. Now we need the funds to complete the interior furniture and furnishings in the Irvin cottage. Our most gracious First Lady, Jane Wilson, has undertaken a fund raiser to accomplish that goal. Hopefully this will be accomplished this year by the sale of enough bricks for the Children’s Garden. She is seeking donations from all who will give, including lodges, appendant bodies and other organizations. Many lodges are buying a brick in memory of a deceased Brother in lieu of buying flowers. Many Masons are buying bricks in honor of members of their family and in memory of their loved ones. Some organizations are buying a brick in honor of their newly elected Worshipful Master.

In summary, please open your heart and find a good reason to buy some bricks in honor of, appreciation of, memory of, etc. to support our First Lady in her worthy project. Also encourage anyone you know to do the same. Many Masons, as well as Non-Masons, have bought bricks. I affirm to you beyond the shadow of any doubt, all of your money will go for a great cause and will put a bigger smile on our children. Additionally, you will receive a blessing within your heart that you really did a good deed! If you do not have the special forms for the First Lady’s project, please note on the regular form that your donation is to be used for the First Lady’s project. The regular form can be found at www.glofga.org under Grand Lodge’s Corner, “Make a Donation to the Children’s Garden (Brick)"
Cornelia Masonic Lodge #92 F&AM held a chicken plate fund raiser for Adrian Brooksher. Adrian is a member of Cornelia Lodge #92 F&AM and is battling cancer. His expenses are rising and Cornelia Lodge #92 F&AM, along with participation from Hollingsworth Lodge #355 F&AM, and Mount Airy Lodge #141 F&AM sold chicken half plates to help offset some of the expenses. Adrian was presented with a “check” at Cornelia Lodge #92, F&AM.

Harmony Lodge #405 recently held a Family Fun Day for all masonic and non-Masonic Families in the Soperton Georgia area and the first of many Family Fun Days in the future with fun for old and young kids alike.

Riverdale Lodge No. 709 hosted its 3rd Annual First Responders breakfast for those serving the city of Riverdale. It was a well-attended “Thank you” to those who work so hard for us each and every day.

Sylvan Lodge #429 helped install and finish the sheetrock in the dorm bathrooms through the generosity of Owens Corning, and with the help of the brothers of District 4C Coweta Masons, Brother Cal Holbrook, Entered Apprentice Brother Mitchell Lemacks, petitioning Brother Kevin McKenzie. Brother Bill Moore, Brother Marcus Moore, and Brother Ben Moore helped deliver the insulation. Thank you all for your work in the quarries!
Brethren All,

As a part of the program of the Grand Master Michael H. Wilson, the Grand Lodge of Georgia F&A.M. is introducing a Membership Program which will be further explained by the District Deputies to the Grand Master for each subdistrict. With the assurance of the Grand Master, you can be confident that this program is not in conflict with the Masonic Code of Georgia as it relates to solicitation. This program has had many hours of development and has been rigorously examined and approved by the Educational and Historical Commission. After study of the materials used, some were re-written, and improvements were made so that the purpose of the program was clearer and more direct to the desires of the Grand Lodge. The materials used are simply to give potential members of our great Fraternity answers to their questions: who we are, what we do, and why we belong to a Lodge.

Additionally, a test run of the program was conducted last year and the response to the it was overwhelmingly positive.

The Grand Master is excited to roll out and have this valuable tool to increase discussion and entice more good men to inquire further into becoming a Freemason. With all of this considered, the Grand Master requests that you to lend your support to this program as a laudable undertaking for the future of the Grand Lodge of Georgia.

With highest Fraternal regards,

Michael H. Wilson
Grand Master
COMING SOON TO A LODGE NEAR YOU

Masonic Membership Program

A Time To Grow

It is our greatest wish that you will embrace this program and with your own good works, we may grow our Fraternity together. The concept is very simple. All we need to do is share the history and knowledge of who we are and what we do, to our eligible friends or family members. We are not asking anyone to join, rather, we are creating curiosity and hopefully, sparking the desire of our friends and family members to ask more questions about Freemasonry, and in time, ask the “RIGHT” question. A Freemason is never prouder than the moment they raise a friend or family member.

All we ask of you is a referral of eligible friends or family members who you believe might make a good Freemason. Postage paid postcards are being distributed to the Brethren of our lodges along with a good, firm explanation of what Grand Lodge is hoping to achieve. Once you mail in your referrals, these individuals will receive a series of letters sharing our history and what we are today. Our hope is that the recipients of these letters will be prompted to ask you about Freemasonry. There is also a website where individuals desiring to know more can sign up to be contacted by a member in their area. This is a bold program that we believe will help carry our Craft into the future.

JUST THREE EASY STEPS!

- Think of good men that you believe will be good Masons.
- Fill out the postage paid referral postcard and drop in the mail.
- Share the reasons you wanted to become a Mason with family and friends and let your light shine for others to see. Remember, sharing your passion for Freemasonry can help spark revival of the world's greatest fraternity!

If your referral does not live in your district but has asked the right question, we will help you work to find an active Lodge close to them where they may have their degree work done as a courtesy to your Lodge. Brethren, this is something we can do together to grow our great Fraternity. So, let’s get started!

www.BeAMasonGA.org
MASTONIC MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM OF GEORGIA

Referral Name: 
Relationship: 
Address: 

Phone: 
Referred By: 
Address: 
Phone: 
Email: 
Lodge No. District No. 
Scottish Rite York Rite Shriner

Friend to Friend

www.BeAMasonGA.org

MASTONIC MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM OF GEORGIA

YOU ARE THE KEY TO MEMBERSHIP!

The time is now for us to embrace this opportunity to guide Freemasonry into a better, stronger fraternity that we can all be proud to call our own.

MAKING GOOD MEN GREAT
LIKE AND FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK FOR ALL THE LATEST EVENTS AT THE SIX VALLEY LOCATIONS

SEARCH FOR SCOTTISH RITE ORIENT OF GEORGIA

INTERESTED IN SEARCHING FOR MORE LIGHT? THE SCOTTISH RITE OFFERS THE 4th – 32nd DEGREES.

TO FURTHER YOUR MASONIC KNOWLEDGE AND BECOME A 32° SCOTTISH RITE MASON PETITION YOUR NEAREST VALLEY TODAY!

DEGREES ARE PRESENTED AT THE SPRING AND FALL REUNIONS

CONTINUING MASONIC EDUCATION IS ALSO AVAILABLE THRU THE SCOTTISH RITE SUPREME COUNCIL’S MASTER CRAFTSMAN PROGRAM

We put the fun in “Fun”raising

Golf Tournaments
Fun Walks
Dinner Theaters
Dove Shoots
Spaghetti Dinners
Parades

PHILANTHROPY

Each year thousands of children are helped through the Scottish Rite’s Rite Care Centers for Communication Disorders through over 150 Clinics nationwide. The Scottish Rite Orient of Georgia through the Scottish Rite Foundation of Georgia supports 5 Rite Care Centers here in Georgia.

The Scottish Rite Foundation of Georgia also awards Scholarships each year to deserving students attending college at a Georgia campus. In 2019, the Scottish Rite Foundation of Georgia will award (75) $1,000.00 Scholarships. For further information or to apply for a scholarship visit www.gascottishrite.org

VALLEYS

Valley of Albany— (229) 432-6939
Valley of Atlanta— (404) 873-3659
Valley of Augusta— (706) 733-5387
Valley of Columbus— (706) 322-3091
Valley of Middle Georgia— (478) 714-2503
Valley of Savannah— (912) 232-5132
**ELEVENTH ANNUAL YORK RITE FESTIVAL**
**MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER’S CLASS**
**APRIL 27th, 2019**

Location-Grand Chapter Building  
811 Mulberry Street, Macon, GA 31201  
All Degrees and Orders of the York Rite Will Be Conferred  
Registration Fee: $10.00 for All  
Registration @ 7:00am  Work Begins Promptly At 8:00am  
E-MAIL: tmarshall@btconline.net  Cell: 912-282-4493

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**50 & 60-Year York Rite Awards**

**Grady Gibson,** of Ellijay Chapter #150, was presented his 60-yr Royal Arch Apron by MEGHP Stephen C. Higgins on December 18, 2018

**William L. Cantrell,** of Ellijay Chapter #150, was presented his 50-yr Royal Arch Apron by MEGHP Stephen C. Higgins on December 18, 2018

**MWPGM Edgar Land & Paul Nealey** were presented their 50-yr Royal Arch Apron and Robert J. Brown was presented his 60-yr Apron by MEGHP Stephen C. Higgins on December 2, 2018

**MWPGM Edgar Land & Robert J. Brown,** of Summit Council #19, were presented their 50-yr & 60-yr Royal Arch Apron, respectively by MGGM Larry C. Bennett on December 2, 2018

**MWPGM Edgar Land & Robert J. Brown,** of Blue Ridge Min Commandery #37, were presented their 50-yr & 60-yr Royal Arch Apron, respectively by REGC Steve A. Kirk on December 2, 2018

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**Petition for York Rite Bodies**  
http://www.yorkriteofga.org/bpflies/combpet.pdf  

**Georgia York Rite Website**  
www.yorkriteofga.org  

**Find your closest York Rite:**  
http://www.yorkriteofga.org/yorkrite-by-city.html
Lewis Jewel Awards in Blue Lodge

By Bro. Ralph Staunton, Dacula Lodge #433

The Masonic Lewis jewel is awarded to a son of a Masonic Father. The upper bar has the fathers name and year of joining his lodge and the lower bar his son. A chain goes down to the Lewis device. (you can see Lewis Jewels at the “masonic supply shop” on the internet, among other places).

Dacula Lodge #433 WM Tuchschmidt, restarted this practice of awarding the Lewis jewel in Lodge at the raising of the Masonic sons Bro. Doug McCoy and Bro. Kirk Strange. 2018 WM William Conrad continued by awarding Lewis Jewels at the raising of Bro. Rodger Warner, a third generation, and then Bro. John Stone, a fifth generation Masonic son. Imagine the pride in these Masonic families and the example it gives.

Lewis Background and Meaning

I need to acknowledge RT W Bro Don Falconer, second Grand Master Mason, Operatives Lodge Endeavor #429, United Grand Lodge of New South Wales for his research (which also can be found on the internet)

A Lewis is a simple device employed by Operative Masons to raise heavy blocks of stone to great heights and set them in place with safety and precision. Look up the research if you want to know how the device works and how it is used lifting different shaped stones.

Our ancient Operative Brethren used this tool as early as the Roman era and probably its use was learned from the ancient Egyptians and Phoenicians and maybe even used in building King Solomon’s temple.

Traveling Masons of France introduced the device into Scotland about 1150 and Scottish Operative Masons were soon calling the device a “Lewis” and were soon referring to the son of a Freemason as a Lewis (Denoting Strength). The son of a Freemason as a Lewis appears in the 2nd edition of the book of constitutions for the original Grand Lodge of England in 1738.

It appears in the constitutions of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania in 1727. Many references include the lecture in the 2nd Degree published by William Preston in 1780. Early Masonic catechisms such as the Wilkinson Catechism (1730-1740) state:

Q: What is a Mason’s sons name?
A: Lewis

In the days of Operative Masonry, when a son followed in his father’s footsteps, it was a great source of pride. So it is in speculative Masonry when we can continue this ancient tradition in our Blue Lodge.
Boy, do I wish I could win the Lottery!

I have uttered this phrase many times in my life, I have always envisioned myself owning a large ranch in New Mexico or living on the lake and fishing every day. We have dreamed this dream and wondered what life would be like if it were to happen.

That train of thought got me thinking this morning, “what if we already know the numbers? What if the Grand Architect has us right where we are needed?”

You and I have access to the greatest minds God has ever placed on this Earth, we have the great fortune of being part of a fraternity that has thousands of years of history. We are part of something so vast that for centuries rulers, tyrants, political figures, and even religious leaders have tried to extract the information we hold dear from us by any means necessary.

Our start in this journey begins with a simple question: “Do you believe in a Supreme Being?” With that affirmed we start the process of linking our self to those who are like-minded. I began to think of the trowel and mortar, and the “hope” that those items bring. If the Cornerstone and those that form the foundation are always longing to be the stone that sits directly under the steeple, or if the stone that supports the steeple is always longing to be the point of the steeple that everyone gazes upon, then, my Brethren, we have no stability or foundation on which to build!

My home Lodge is a special place. My Director of Work and my Coach are very near and dear to me, for they are the foundation that I started to build my “search” upon. These two men start us on our “path” and guide us toward that thing which we all seek. They enable us to discover those winning numbers. We all have those numbers stored within us, however, my Brethren, it is truly up to us to unlock them—we all know the phrase. So, what is it that you seek?

I think it would be great to fish every day and rise around the lake at sunset. I would enjoy sitting on a large porch every day and watching the sun set every evening over the Rocky Mountains. However, I most desire that thing that we all must search for, that “light” that draws all men to us. Brethren, you and I have those winning numbers and we know exactly where they are contained. I encourage each of you to search your heart and see where the Grand Architect has placed you. You may be that fruitful and beautiful foundation stone that has the ability to shoulder unforeseen amounts of weight and knowledge. You may be the point on the steeple that shines bright so that all men will see and draw near. You may represent a paving stone that is there to guide others on their journey. You may be that stone that supports a man as he kneels and takes his obligation before God.

All the stones are essential and each one has its purpose. I encourage you to bend that knee, seek that which is lost, and find your NUMBERS.
There is a song written by one of my favorite bands, Live, entitled “Brothers Unaware.” The lyrics of the first stanza reflect the title:

“So many people/I know only a few/yes I may say that I love this man/and that man/but what keeps me from loving you?/date of birth geography/ the color of my skin ideology.”

It never ceases to amaze me that as a Freemason, I have Brothers all over this planet, of all different races, colors, creeds, and nationalities and we are all bound by the same ties of Brotherly love, truth, and relief, hope, faith, and charity.

As a historian and a history teacher in the public school system, I am continually amazed at the times I come upon references—or sometimes what’s more, images—of Freemasonry in the history that I read and teach. A great example of this is comes from a time I showed a short video in class on the subject of former Democratic Governor Lester Maddox. Toward the end of the video which recounts the history—good, bad, bewildering, and scandalous—of the Governor within the history of Georgia, across the screen comes an image of then Lieutenant Governor Maddox in his later years, and behind him, just barely visible to the “all seeing Masonic eye” are one or two Shriner statuettes. Lo and behold, when I look up Governor Maddox’s obituary there is his complete Masonic history: “He became a Master Mason in 1940, was a member of the Yaarab Temple, a York Rite, Scottish Rite and Royal Arch Mason, the Knights Commander Court of Honor, The National Sojourners and other Masonic groups.”

In other short clips I find little gems such as an image of civil rights icon John Wesley Dobbs—grandfather of Maynard Holbrook Jackson, Jr., Atlanta’s first African American mayor—in full Masonic regalia and sitting as Grand Master of Prince Hall Masons. Of course, my students don’t catch on to why I get all excited when things like this crop up or flash across the screen, but, it is honestly exciting to see your beloved Fraternity’s fingerprints in places you least expect to find them.

Reflecting on the upcoming Martin Luther King, Jr holiday and February being Black History Month all over the United States, I’m amazed to see how many prominent, inspiring, and influential African American Masons
have graced not only the United States, but Georgia in particular.

On the national stage, those that stand out the most, of course, would be W.E.B. DuBois, author, educator, and historian; Henry McNeal Turner, first African American Chaplain for the Union Army; Thurgood Marshall, United States Supreme Court Justice; Nathaniel “Nat King” Cole, musician and vocalist; Edward Kennedy “Duke” Ellington, musician and composer; Richard Allen, founder and first Bishop of the African Episcopal Methodist Church; Medgar Wiley Evers; Benjamin L. Hooks; Sugar Ray Robinson; Scottie Pippen; Shaquille O’Neil; Emmanuel Lewis. The list could go on forever of those men whose names we know and whose accomplishments and achievements we revere, and with whom we share a Fraternal bond.

The history of Georgia is similarly amazing, beginning with Jefferson Long, the first African American congressman from Georgia. We can add to that list Booker T. Washington, educator and founder of the Tuskegee Institute, and Benjamin Mays, educator and former president of Atlanta University. Reverend Martin Luther King, Sr., father of Martin Luther King, Jr; Reverend Andrew Young, executive of the SCLC, congressman, mayor, and UN Ambassador; Congressman John Lewis; and coming full circle, Maynard Jackson, first African American mayor of Atlanta.

I’m always amazed when I look at the number of white Masons who have impacted this country—George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Johnathon Swift, Oscar Wilde Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry Truman, Gerald Ford, Buzz Aldrin, John Wayne, Mel Blanc (one of my favorites). These are important names to me and I find that my name is enrolled among the workmen with them. However, I am even more proud to be a Freemason when my name and my profession can be tied in Fraternal bonds with those Brothers of whom I am unaware. Those which catch me off guard. I know their names, I know their works, their accomplishments, accolades, and gifts to humankind. But when I see “Brother” or “Freemason” listed next to their name, or see the Square and Compasses on their grave marker, or read their affiliations in their obituary, or see a picture of them in full Masonic regalia in one of my classroom video clips, “how good and how pleasant it is” to be able to look and say, “I call that man my Brother.” So mote it be.
...And Then This is Winter

Brother Jerry O. Weaver with a forward by Worshipful Brother Jamie Newsome

Maybe once in a generation God gives us the gift of sharing life with one of His true noblemen. Our teachings define such a man as one who is not only a Mason in name, but also a Mason in nature. The Cedartown community and Caledonia Lodge #121 experienced such a gift in Brother Jerry O. Weaver, M.D. On January 5th, Brother Weaver was summoned to his eternal home and entered the Celestial Lodge.

Masonry, as we all know, views life in three principal stages: Youth, Manhood, and Age. Those three stages teach us to learn, to labor, and then to lead. In Youth, we are taught to develop those operative skills and internal qualities that equip us for life. Brother Jerry graduated from Cedartown High School, the University of Georgia, and the Medical College of Georgia by the age of 26. After joining the United States Navy, he did a rotating internship at Portsmouth Naval Hospital and a two-year surgical residency at Balboa Naval Hospital in San Diego. Brother Weaver attended the Submarine Medical College in New London, Connecticut, and graduated from Deep Sea Diving School in Washington, D.C. Commander Weaver served as Medical Officer and Diving Officer on the Nuclear Polaris Submarine USS Lewis and Clark (named for two Freemasons). After completing two patrols of duty, he was stationed at the Mine Defense Lab in Panama City, Florida, where he was the Senior Medical Officer of the world’s largest ocean simulation facility. Brother Weaver accomplished all this by the age of 32.

In Manhood, Masons are taught to apply all that was honed in youth to the betterment of our families, our communities, our Lodges, and ourselves. Brother Weaver came home and was “Cedartown’s Doctor” for almost 30 years. He treated three generations of some families, mine included. He practiced in a time when many doctor’s offices were family businesses and he saw his patients as part of his family. No patient of his was told “we’re booked” but was told “we’ll work you in.”

After many years of labor in the quarry of life, we hope to, in Age, become an overseer of the work, a Master Craftsman. We hope to continue to be serviceable to our fellow man through guidance and example. After retiring due to declining health, Brother Weaver poured himself into the works of Masonry. He was Temple Doctor for Yaarab Shrine for 18 years. He continually gave his time, money, energy, and medical expertise sacrificially as long as his health would allow. His life was, for almost 80 years, a shining example of Masonry working through a man to benefit others.

Every new Master of a Lodge receives the following charge, “The perfect and ideal Master has not yet been installed; however, high ideals of service to one’s Lodges and Brethren should be the goal of every Master. Pleased and reasonably content should be the Master who at the end of his term can stand in the East for the last time, and looking west toward the setting Sun, know that he has done the very best that was in him.” The older we get the more we realize the depth of that charge. Those who attended Brother Weaver’s memorial service found included with his obituary the letter below. Non-Masons found heartfelt advice from a well-respected, well-traveled, highly-educated, elder statesman, and Medical Doctor. Masons found the lessons inculcated in the degrees demonstrated for all to see in the life of a friend and a Brother.

The following essay is reprinted with permission of Brother Weaver’s daughter, and my lifelong friend, Stephanie Weaver Clay.

- WB Jamie Newsome
You know, time has a way of moving quickly and catching you unaware of the passing years. It seems just yesterday that I was young, just married, and embarking on my new life with my mate, Jean. And yet, in a way, it seems like eons ago, and I wonder where all the years went. I know that I lived them all.

And I have glimpses of how it was back then and all my hopes and dreams. But here it is, the winter of my life, and it catches me by surprise. How did it go so fast? Where did the years go and where did my youth go?

I remember well seeing older people through the years and thinking that those older people were years away from me and that winter was so far off that I could not fathom it or imagine fully what it would be like. But here it is. My friends are retired and getting gray; they move more slowly and I see an older person now. But I see the great change, not like the ones I remember who were young and vibrant, but like me, their age is beginning to show and we are now those older folks we used to see and never thought we’d be.

Each day now, I find that just a shower is a real target for the day! And taking a nap is not a treat anymore…it’s mandatory! ‘Cause if I don’t of my own free will, I just fall asleep where I sit!

And so, now I enter this new season of my life unprepared for all the aches and pains and the loss of strength and ability to go and do things that I wish I had done but never did!!! “Living in the moment”: it’s a concept that challenges each of us to fully participate in life. Today’s lifestyles are complex, cluttered, and often confusing, leaving us struggling to balance our never-ending to-do list with planning for the future. But taking a moment to be kind to those around us allows us to fully experience the only thing we really have: the present. But at least I know, that though the winter has come, and I’m not sure how long it will last, this I know, that when it’s over, it’s over…

Yes, I have regrets. There are things I wish I hadn’t done, things I should have done, but indeed, there are many things I’m happy to have done. It’s all in a lifetime.

So, if you’re not in your winter yet, let me remind you that it will be here faster than you think. So, whatever you would like to accomplish in your life, please do it quickly. Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery; today is God’s gift. That’s why it is called the present. Don’t put things off too long!!! We never know when it is the last kiss or hug that we will give, so try to never forget the power of each moment. You never know when you’re making a memory. Every day above ground is a great day.

Life goes quickly. So, do what you can today, as you can never be sure whether this is your winter or not! You have no promise that you will see all the seasons of your life. So live for today and say all the things that you want your loved ones to remember and hope that they appreciate and love you for all the things that you have done for them in all the years past!!!

“Life is a gift to you.” When we choose not to focus on what is missing from our lives but are grateful for the abundance that’s present, we experience heaven on earth. The way you live your life is your gift to those who come after. If you teach your child the Golden Rule, you will have left an estate of incalculable value. Make it a fantastic one.

Raise them to be tender of the young, compassionate of the aged, sympathetic of the striving, and tolerant of the weak, because in your life you will have been all of these. A humble person is always a great listener, and without question one of the simplest acts of kindness and humility is to listen sincerely to what someone says. The measure of a truly great man is the courtesy with which he treats other men.

Live it well! Every day above ground is a great day. Enjoy today! We all make excuses: “I will…Someday…Somehow.” The question isn’t where or when, the time to act is now! Do something fun! Be happy! Be thankful!

In conclusion, as Audrey Hepburn once said, “For beautiful eyes, look for the good in others; for beautiful lips, speak only words of kindness; and for the poise, walk with the knowledge that you are never alone.”
A SURPRISE VISIT FROM THE GRAND MASTER

By Worshipful Brother Gary Monk, Grand Chaplain

Grand Master Mike Wilson and his appointed Grand Line Officers were on one of many multi-day, multi-Lodge visits recently, this one happened to be in South Georgia in late December.

During a day with some “off-time” while driving through Folkston, Georgia, a Masonic Lodge was sighted down a side street. So, with no pressing schedule it was decided to stop and have a look.

Folkston Lodge No. 196 is on the upper level of a two story building with the entrance on the side of the main building. As expected in the middle of the day, there wasn’t anyone at the Lodge and it was locked. However, a man who was nearby and walking his dog asked if he could be of some assistance. Once informed that Grand Master Wilson was just passing through and would like to see the Lodge, the non-Mason said that his father-in-law was a Mason and that he’d call him to get the combination to the door lock.

The Grand Master and Grand Line Officers took a look around upstairs, and pictures were taken. As a token of gratitude, Grand Master pins were placed on the Secretary’s desk.

About to leave, up the stairs comes the father-in-law who is a Past Master. The Worshipful Master – of three days—soon follows behind. Both asked, “What is wrong? Have we done something we shouldn’t?”

When assured that nothing was amiss and that the Grand Master just wanted see their lodge both Masters laughed. Word travels fast in Folkston. One was even questioned by his nephew, a local law enforcement officer, why he was in such a hurry.

More pictures, more stories and a wonderful and unplanned Masonic event happened that made a difference to some Folkston Masons and the Grand Master and his Grand Marshal, Grand Chaplain, and Grand Tyler.
MASONS HONORING VETERANS

On December 15, 2018 at 11 AM in every National Cemetery across America, citizens of all kinds will participate in laying a wreath on the graves of America’s veterans. Since 2008 this has been a yearly endeavor to place wreaths on every grave in every cemetery in the U.S. and abroad with only 100,000 placed that first year. The event has grown every year so that now the more than 225,000 graves at Arlington National Cemetery have full coverage. The cemeteries in Canton and Marietta contain more than 28,000 graves and they are hoping for full coverage this year.

This event is a wonderful mix of citizens of all kinds coming together to honor our deceased hero’s. There are school JROTC, Boy Scouts, motorcycle clubs, old and young veterans, along with families with children walking the grounds places wreaths and looking at the names on the stones. For the past several years members of Buford Lodge No. 292 have made the trek to Marietta National Cemetery to provide coffee, hot chocolate and doughnuts to the hundreds of participants along with their trucks and willing Brothers have made this an annual pilgrimage. Members of Kennesaw Lodge No. 33 began serving breakfast for the Civil Air Patrol Cadets and the Brothers from Buford before heading to the cemetery.

This year the trucks delivering the wreaths was late so instead of meeting at Kennesaw Lodge the sausage biscuits, juice was moved to the cemetery before unloading the trucks. This the first year that the Marietta National Cemetery has reached full coverage, thank you to all who donated this year! Our Grand Master MWB Michael H. Wilson gave the invocation to start the ceremony and then assisted the Brethren in laying wreaths at the graves.

This is a wonderful and moving event to attend, the site when you look up the hill and see all the wreaths is heartwarming. This is a great Lodge event to attend, you don’t even have to donate money your labor is welcomed and you will want to return every year.
Brothers all, now is the Time to Get a Vote on Agent Orange Reform. The “Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act” (H.R. 299) has passed the House unanimously (382-0) and now is in the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee awaiting a vote.

If this Bill passes, the proposal would clarify that service members serving off the coast of the Republic of Vietnam during the Vietnam conflict and those serving near the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) in Korea have a presumption for filing disability claims with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for ailments associated with exposure to the Agent Orange herbicide. The legislation will also extend health care, vocational training & rehabilitation and monetary allowance to a child who was born with spina bifida if at least one of the child’s parents served in Thailand between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975 and had been exposed to a herbicide agent during that period. The bill also now includes changes and improvements to VA’s home loan program.

Thousands of Navy and Marine Corps veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan who developed post-traumatic stress but were denied Veterans Affairs health benefits have been given a green light to sue the military, under a ruling by a federal judge in Connecticut. Senior U.S. District Judge Charles Haight Jr. in New Haven on 22 Nov. certified a class-action lawsuit against Navy Secretary Richard Spencer by veterans who say they were unfairly given less-than honorable discharges for minor infractions linked to their untreated mental health problems. The discharge designation prevents them from getting VA benefits including mental health treatment.

"This decision is a victory for the tens of thousands of military veterans suffering from service-connected PTS and TBI (traumatic brain injury)," lead plaintiff and Marine veteran Tyson Manker, of Jacksonville, Illinois, said in a statement 23 Nov. "The fact that the Court has now recognized this class of veterans is further evidence of the Department of Defense's disgraceful violation of the legal rights of the men and women who have served their country."

Manker developed PTS after serving in the 2003 invasion of Iraq and received an other-than-honorable discharge for a single incident of self-medicating himself with an illegal drug, according to the lawsuit. The Naval Discharge Review Board rejected his request for a discharge upgrade, as it has done with similar applications by thousands of other veterans. Navy officials did not immediately return messages seeking comment Friday. The Connecticut U.S. Attorney's Office, which is defending the Navy against the lawsuit, declined to comment.

In a court filing, a federal prosecutor listed several reasons why a class-action lawsuit should be rejected, including that the plaintiffs could reapply for discharge upgrades under new rules put in place last year that call for more leniency for veterans with mental health problems. Yale Law School students are representing the veterans and have filed a similar lawsuit against the Army. They say nearly a third of the more than 2 million Americans who served in Iraq or Afghanistan suffer from PTS and related mental health conditions and the military is issuing less-than honorable discharges at historically high rates, often for minor infractions attributable to undiagnosed mental illness.

Last year, the discharge review boards for the Army and Air Force granted about 51 percent of discharge upgrade applications involving PTS, while the Navy board granted only 16 percent. Haight called the discrepancy "stark." Another plaintiff in the Navy lawsuit, which was filed in March, is the Connecticut-based National Veterans Council for Legal Redress, a group of veterans with less-than-honorable discharges. "We filed this lawsuit to make sure that the Iraq and Afghanistan veterans with service-connected PTS do not suffer the same injustices as the Vietnam generation," said Garry Monk, executive director of the veterans group. "We are thrilled with the court's decision and look forward to creating a world where it doesn't take years of wading through unlawful procedures for these veterans to get relief."

Till the next issue, I wish all the best and if I can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to call me. May God Bless you and may God Bless the USA
'Charity Begins with YOU!

Remember when you went through the Enter Apprentice Degree? One of the Charity Lectures ended with: ‘And now abideth, faith, hope, charity, these three: but the greatest of these is charity’. February is a month that symbolizes and represents the opportunity for each of us to share our appreciation for loved ones through cards, a gift, a phone call or a text to let them how much they mean to us.

February is also a great month for us to show and symbolize our love through a charitable activity. Perhaps you could volunteer to help someone in need, to spend time with an elderly person who is alone, to make a donation of time or financial resources to further a great and worthy cause.

Imagine the difference you would make in someone’s life just by sharing your time and doing what is kind to someone in need.

GACHIP is a wonderful cause on behalf of our Grand Lodge of Georgia. You can help make a difference by supporting and promoting GACHIP to our local schools, day care centers, Safety Days, and Lodge family events. GACHIP Kit provides invaluable tools of photographs, voice recordings, digital fingerprints, and unique DNA of each child.

This New Year presents an entire host of venues and many opportunities to promote our GACHIP Program. Take that first step and contact friends and families and encourage them to contact organizations where we can host a GACHIP event. Contact your GACHIP District Director and invite him to a Lodge Family event to ‘showcase’ our program.

Our 2018 Program ended on a great note of hitting a record of 120,150 ID Kits. We have great tailwinds starting in 2019 with scheduled events and support in our communities through the greatest of all our gifts of LOVE which is our charity. So take some time today and make a call to an organization, a family or friend and tell them about GACHIP and discuss event ideas.

Charity begins with YOU – and ME – and each of us! Support the children in your family, church, local school, and neighborhood. You will never regret knowing that your influence made a difference in just one child’s life!
William Junior Gantt
Villa Rica Lodge No. 72

Walter Lamar Smith
Latham Lodge No. 12

John Lee Floyd
William A. Davis DL No. 753

Ronald Carey Yearwood
Latham Lodge No. 12

Dwight Glenon Wood
Panthersville Lodge No. 543

Robert Donald Sikes
Springfield Lodge No. 440

Lowell Daniel Morgan
Springfield Lodge No. 440

Dennis Larry Satterfield
Euharlee Lodge No. 457

Stanley Anderson McCart
Ancient York Lodge No. 127

David Richard Cook
Ancient York Lodge No. 127

Presley Joe McKee
Lakewood Lodge No. 443

James E. Sutherland
Eastpoint Lodge No. 288

Calvin Columbus Vaughn
Philomathea Lodge No. 25

Gordon Bell
Sand Hill Lodge No. 350

Richard Leathers Burton, Jr.
Atlanta-Peachtree Lodge No. 59
60 Year Awards

Ernest Paul Ellison
Latham Lodge No. 12

Earl L. Rader
Stilesboro Lodge No. 260

Robert Lamar Angel
Mackey Lodge No. 120

James R. Mullis
A.J. Miller Lodge No. 204

Paul David Wiley
College Park Lodge No. 454

Ralph Hampton Dixon
Hinesville Lodge No. 271

Emory Lee Morris
Crawfish Springs Lodge No. 300

Robert Luther Bridges
Gordon Lodge No. 240

Earl Nunn
Wellington Lodge No. 467

Johnny Earl Hyers
Bacon Lodge No. 56

Clyde Folds and Foster Conner
Dawson Lodge No. 68
Joel Echols Burns  
Panthersville Lodge No. 543

Edward Jack Dalton  
Sumach Lodge No. 55

Samuel Douglas Cochran  
Ancient York Lodge No. 127

Charles Cecil Davis  
Tennille Lodge No. 256

Hal Emanuel Blanton  
Coosa Lodge No. 622

Hubert B. Nix  
Roswell Lodge No. 165

Marion Allen  
For Valley Lodge No. 110

Robert Jack Robertson  
Quitman Lodge No. 106

Andrew Dallas Rodgers  
Lakewood Lodge No. 443
70 Year Awards

James Seaborn Allen
Gordon Lodge No. 240

75 Year Awards

William Heaton
Milan Lodge No. 393
In Memoriam

Members Reported Deceased from October 10 to November 30, 2018

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Grand Master's Forums

Saturday January 5
Savannah / Scottish Rite

Saturday January 12
Atlanta / AMC

Saturday January 19
Greenville Lodge 321

Saturday January 26
Augusta / Scottish Rite

Saturday February 2
Gainesville Lodge 219

Saturday February 9
Macon / Shrine

Each of these forums will begin at 9 AM. Registration will begin at 8 AM.
The break-out sections will be completed by 12 Noon and a lunch will be provided at each location.