

# LIGHT



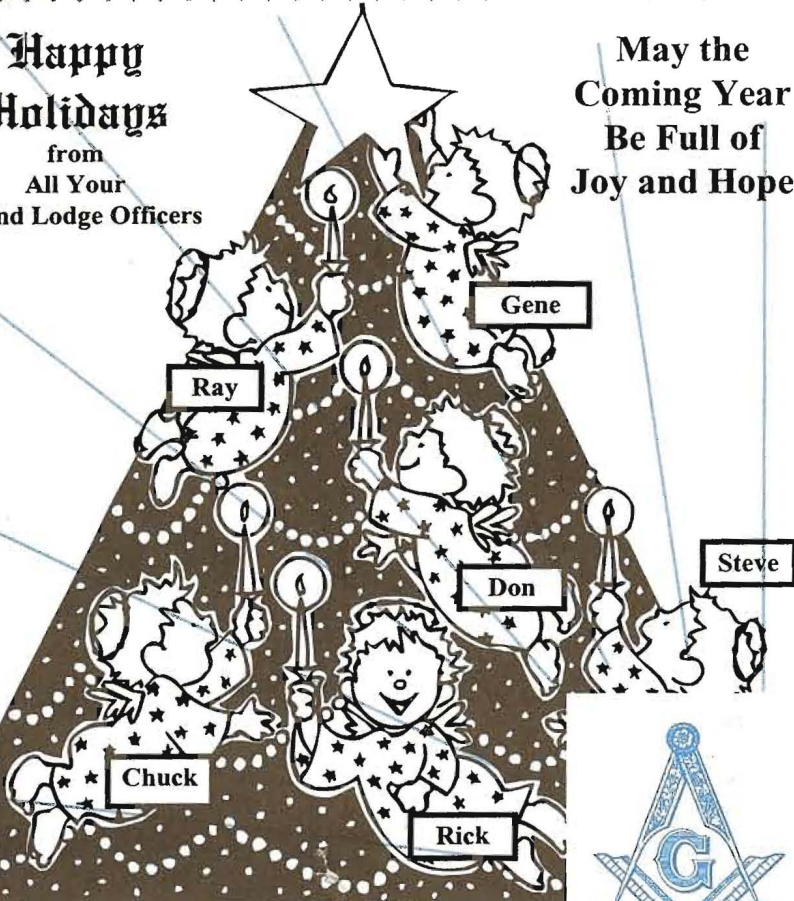
## From The **Great Land**

News of the M.W. Grand Lodge of F. & A.M. of Alaska

Volume V - Number 3.....Dec., 1998 - Feb., 1999

**Happy  
Holidays**  
from  
All Your  
Grand Lodge Officers

May the  
Coming Year  
Be Full of  
Joy and Hope





## YOUR GRAND LODGE OFFICERS:

**Grand Master - M. W.: Gene R. Freeman**  
P.O. Box 71085, Fairbanks, AK 99707  
(907) 457-4820

**Deputy Grand Master - R. W.: Raymond L. Beaver**  
1200-B Northern Lights Blvd. Anchorage 99503  
(907) 243-8331

**Senior Grand Warden - R. W.: Don G. Chaffin**  
P.O. Box 10837 Fairbanks, AK 99710-0837  
(907) 457-6269

**Junior Grand Warden - R. W.: Charles E. Corbin**  
P.O. Box 871023 Wasilla, AK 99687  
(907) 373-4879

**Grand Treasurer - R. W.: Steve Lee**  
P.O. Box 141062 Anchorage, AK 99514-1062  
(907) 338-5597

**Grand Secretary - R. W.: Richard D. Bender**  
3713 Challenger Circle, Anchorage, 99517  
(907) 248-4424

### Grand Lodge Office

**Mail - P.O. Box 190668, Anchorage, 99519**  
**(Physical Address - 4101 Arctic Blvd. #101)**  
(907) 561-1477

#### District No. 1

V. W.: Gregory E. Wyman (907) 452-3538  
530 Glacier Avenue, Fairbanks, AK 99701

#### District No. 2

V. W.: Novis L. Eady (907) 776-8549  
Route 1, Box 220, Kenai, AK 99611

#### District No. 3

V. W.: Loyd G. Williamson (907) 696-1890  
10303 Chain of Rock, Eagle River, AK 99577

#### District No. 4

V. W.: L. Tom Smotherman (907) 747-6759  
P.O. Box 6270, Sitka, AK 99835-6270

#### District No. 5

### "LIGHT from the Great Land"

is published quarterly  
by the M. W. Grand Lodge  
Free and Accepted Masons of Alaska

W. G. R. (Jerry) Fairley, Editor  
4410 Edinburgh Drive, Anchorage, AK 99515  
(907) 243-0509

## Your Grand Lodge's 1997-98 Visitation Schedule (& Other Important Dates)

(Subject to Revision)

(\* indicates Grand Master's Official Visit to the Lodge indicated. All Grand Lodge Officers and Committeemen are encouraged to attend if possible.)

### DECEMBER

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS !**

### JANUARY

**HAPPY NEW YEAR !**

### FEBRUARY

1 Grand Lodge of Utah  
4 Grand Lodge of Nebraska  
20-23 Conference of Grand Masters

### MARCH

18-21 DeMolay **CONCLAVE '99**

### APRIL

7-10 **GRAND LODGE of  
ALASKA** (Fairbanks)

Remember !

**Your Lodge Dues  
for 1999**

**Are Due NOW !**

(Delinquent on 1/1/99)

Contact your  
Lodge Secretary  
for the Amount Due.

Send In **YOUR** Article  
to the Editor or the Grand Secretary  
(If you aren't comfortable writing a complete  
article, the Editor will use your ideas to create  
an article with you name as author.)

**Next Copy Deadline -  
March 1, 1999**

**WISHING YOU  
LOADS OF LOVE  
AND LAUGHTER  
FOR THE HOLIDAYS**

## **Your Grand Master's Message**

The year of 1998 has certainly been a fast and furious one. Best wishes to you, My Brothers - Sisters - Friends, for a very prosperous 1999.



By the time this letter is read, almost all the new Worshipful Masters and other officers will be installed and in place. I did have the pleasure of attending some of the installations around the State. Congratulations to each Worshipful Master. May your wishes and dreams come true. And, I hope ALL you newly installed Worshipful Masters attend Grand Lodge this coming April '99.

My travels are not yet finished. February visitations will be the Grand Lodges of Nebraska and Utah, and the Grand Masters' Conference in Hawaii. If you would care to attend, let our Grand Secretary, Rick, know.

It's never too early to begin reminding all the Senior Wardens, Junior Wardens and Senior Deacons of the Wardens' Charge in September 1999. All of you who are eligible should be making plans to attend. SO MANY of you are eligible, but SO FEW attend. Those who have taken the time for the Wardens' Charge always comment on how rewarding the training is. It is as if this was one of the best kept Masonic secrets. It is like a bank account - the more you put into it, the more you have to draw upon, and - with interest.

To all the Deputies - EDUCATION is the byword. WE, the Brothers, can never get enough of it; and the more you know about the Craft, the better we all are for it.

Although it is a bit early to start thinking about the turn of the century, which is just around the very next corner, it is time for the Fraternity to get busy and improve Masonry. Changes are good. However, learn the traditions first. Two negative thought processes are "We've always done it this way", and "We've never done it that way before".

"Try it" You may find you like the changes. If not, step back and take a good look at the problem. Take a long look, find out what went wrong, and then fix it. Never make changes when they aren't needed. - - Now, off my soapbox!

May this holiday season be the best and greatest. May your dreams and wishes come true. Don't forget to give a rousing cheer and a round of applause and a great big "THANK YOU, GOD" !!!

I thank each and every one of you Brothers, those elected and appointed, and all the Brothers in the trenches, for all your support. You have been fantastic ! And, I would like you to remember that I would not have accomplished any of it by myself.

Now, in closing, THANK GOD. Hilary and I wish you GODSPEED. Lastly, WALK SLOW! DRINK A LOT OF WATER and make a lot of PITSTOPS!!!!!!!

Gene Freeman, Grand Master

**WISHING YOU PEACE  
& HARMONY**

## Spirits of Our Brothers Past

by Charles M. Masselli (P.M. Ashlar Lodge No. 105, Auburn, Maine)

We gathered in the entryway  
And greeted one another.  
All of us in common . . .  
Each one of us a Brother.

We can stay at home and watch TV,  
Or we can go out to the Shrine.  
But, what is it we do for Freemasonry  
To make our foundation shine?

Why did we come together here?  
Taking time from life's pace - so fast.  
Is it to serve our own peculiar Needs?  
Or to honor the Spirits of our Brothers Past?

We have Brothers in the hospitals  
And confined within their homes.  
Would the Spirits of our Brothers Past  
Want them to be alone?

The Master raps his gavel . . .  
And the Brothers come to order.  
The same scene plays throughout  
The land from North to Southern Border.

Or, would they point a finger  
Of disappointment toward you and me?  
And tell us to be accountable  
To our vows of Freemasonry.

We profess to be the tie that binds,  
Taking vows that forever last.  
But, will the work we do tonight  
Please the Spirits of Brothers Past?

The days seem few when Mother Lodge  
Is a focus in our life.  
A brief recess from the world,  
With its concerns and strife.

We speak about the days of old . . .  
When folks had less to do.  
Well, that excuse is getting old,  
The choice is ours as to what we do.

The time when the tenets of our profession  
Were as long as memories last,  
Seem to be days almost forgotten . . .  
Memories of the past.

### ***Go Placidly (Found in Old Saint Paul's Church, Baltimore; Dated 1692)***

Go placidly amid the noise and haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence. As far as possible, without surrender, be on good terms with all persons. Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even the dull and ignorant; they too have their story.

Avoid loud and aggressive persons, they are vexations to the spirit. If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain and bitter; for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself. Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans.

Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time. Exercise caution in your business affairs; for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; may persons strive for high ideals; and everywhere life is full of heroism.

Be yourself. Especially, do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment it is perennial as the grass.

Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth. Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness. Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself.

You are a child of the universe, no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here. And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.

Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be, and whatever your labors and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life keep peace with your soul.

With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be careful. Strive to be happy.

## **A Word From Your Deputy Grand Master**

Brethren - Greetings to all !

I would like to express my thanks to those Brethren who have expressed an interest in the Masonic Student Assistance Program (read that as drug and alcohol abuse). We have reached the point where we will need the support of all Freemasons in Alaska and elsewhere who are members of our Jurisdiction.

In the coming months I will be reminding you how important this project is to Freemasonry and endeavor to gain your support for this formidable task.

Finally, I wish for you that your Holidays will be happy ones, that the New Year will be a prosperous one, and that you take a few moments of your time to give some thought to those who are less fortunate.

May the God of love delight to dwell with you and bless you.

Ray Beaver, Deputy Grand Master



## **And, From Your Junior Grand Warden**

Well hello from the south. After recovering from the extensive travels that go with the territory, I'll get to the task of submitting an article. Talk about a "Traveling Man", I see now where that phrase came from!

But actually Brothers; it has been an interesting and fun year to say the least. I really believe that visiting other lodges and jurisdictions will prove to be the most memorable experiences in Masonry for me. There's a lot of great folks out there, but you have to travel some to find them.

I find that the events and problems of Masonry are pretty much the same wherever I've been. In our own jurisdiction I've heard things such as "Our meetings are so Boring, no wonder nobody shows up!" Well the way I see it is: "If you contribute nothing you will probably get nothing out of it." (As you can see, my way of thinking has not changed since I last wrote an article.)

In our endeavors to further the charitable aspects of Masonry let's not forget that charity is not the giving of alms alone but it is primarily the charity as spoken of in that book upon the alter "LOVE." As in Brotherly love and affection and the basic precepts of Masonry (which I spoke of in my previous article.) Precepts, being as described in my dictionary, a rule prescribing a particular kind of conduct or action; a proverbial standard or guide to Morals. i.e.: if we're going to talk the talk we had better be ready to walk the walk, for society as a whole never remembers the good only the bad. Sad but true.

Enough already!! Best wishes for the Holidays and I hope to see some of you at the many upcoming Installations.

Thanks for listening.

Chuck Corbin, J.G.W.



Well the holidays are nearly upon us and you know what that means -- Grand Lodge Annual Communication is not that far off. As of this writing, there are 5 Resolutions and 4 Statements of Availability that have been submitted for consideration. The Resolutions have been forwarded to the Jurisprudence Committee for their evaluation. Copies of the

Resolutions and the Jurisprudence Committee's Recommendations will be sent to all Grand Lodge Officers and the Constituent Lodges by late January.

Invitations to the Annual Communication will also be mailed by late January. Don't forget, this is one of the years when we move Grand Lodge from the first Thursday to the second. Our Annual Communication will be April 8-9, 1999 in Fairbanks, Alaska. Committee meetings will take place on Wednesday, April 7th. Invitations will be sent to Constituent Lodges, Grand Lodge Officers and Committeemen, all Past Grand Masters and visiting distinguished guests. We **DO NOT** send individual invitations to our Past Masters. If you wish to attend Grand Lodge and are not in one of the groups that normally receive an invitation, please contact your Lodge Secretary for an invitation and Registration Form. Our Headquarters Hotel will be the Westmark Hotel in Fairbanks. This is the same hotel we have met at in years past. I understand that they have recently completed a rather extensive remodeling project so we look forward to the new and upgraded facilities. **Don't forget, the deadline for Registration will be Friday, March 26th.** Don't wait until the last minute to register. The Arrangements Committee needs to provide the hotel with an accurate count for each of the meals. **PLEASE, don't show up on Wednesday or Thursday expecting to eat any meals if you haven't registered in advance.**

As we approach the coming Holidays, let us not become to "wrapped up" with the celebration of the holidays to remember what they really mean to each of us. I would like to wish all of you a Very Happy Holiday and a Prosperous New Year.

Richard D. Bender  
Grand Secretary



### The Value of the Written Word

The spoken discourse may roll on strongly as the great tidal waves; but like the wave, it dies at last feebly on the sands. It is heard by few, remembered by still fewer, and fades away, like an echo in the mountains. It is nothing to the coming generations of men. It is the written human speech that gives power and permanence to human thought.

Wisdom is rarely loquacious. Weight and depth of thought are unfavorable to volubility. The shallow and superficial are generally voluble and often pass for eloquent. More words, less thought - is the general rule. The man who endeavors to say something worth remembering, becomes fastidious, and condenses like Tacitus.

Albert Pike, 33°

Visit **YOUR LODGE** - TODAY!

**District No. 1 - V. W.: Gregory Wyman, Deputy.....(907) 452-3538**

Tanana Lodge No. 3..... Meets Second Wednesday at 8:00

Valdez Lodge No. 4.....Meets First Wednesday at 7:30

Fairbanks Lodge No. 12..... Meets Third Thursday at 7:30

North Pole Lodge No. 16..... Meets Third Monday at 7:30

Other (special) meetings as called by the Lodge's Master

## **Other Masonic Related Organizations Which Might Not Be Familiar to Alaskans**

**Acacia:** A college fraternity for Master Masons, the sons of Masons, and young men recommended by two Masons one of whom is an Acacian himself. The national governing board is composed exclusively of 32nd and 33rd degree Masons.

**Order of Amaranth:** Open to Masons and their wives, mothers, daughters, widows, and sisters. At least one Master Mason must be present at every initiation. It confers only one degree.

**Daughters of Mokanna:** An auxiliary organization of the Grotto comprised of the wives, mothers, daughters, widows, and sisters of the Master Masons in the Grotto.

**Daughters of the Nile:** An auxiliary organization for the wives, mothers, daughters, widows, and sisters of members of the Shrine.

**Desoms:** An organization for deaf Masons.

**Grotto:** A fun organization open to Master Masons. It imitates the Shrine to a large degree, but requires only that a member be a Master Mason rather than a 32nd degree Mason or Knight Templar. Officially known as The Mystic Order of Veiled Prophets of the Enchanted Realm (MOVPER).

**High Twelve International:** An organization of Master Masons that usually meet for lunch, enjoy fellowship, and support Masonic causes, with special emphasis on youth and patriotic endeavors.

**L.O.S. of N.A.:** The Ladies' Oriental Shrine of North America. Another auxiliary for the wives, mothers, daughters, widows, and sisters of Shrine members.

**National Sojourners, Inc.:** Open to Master Masons which are U.S. citizens and who have served or are serving as a commissioned or warrant officer in the United States military or in any armed service of a nation allied with the US in time of war.

**Philaethes:** A group for Masons interested in Masonic philosophy and history.

**Royal Order of Scotland:** An organization for Christian Masons who have been 32nd degree Masons or Knights Templar for five or more years.

**Tall Cedars of Lebanon:** A fun organization for Master Masons similar to the Grotto. It confers the two degrees of the Royal Court and the Sidonian.

**White Shrine of Jerusalem:** For Master Masons and their wives, mothers, daughters, widows, and sisters. Members must profess a belief in the defense of the Christian religion.

## **Support Your Masonic "Blue" Lodge**

**Attend its Meetings Frequently**

**Keep Your Membership Current**

**Help to Bring Others To "Masonic Light"**

Your Lodge **NEEDS YOU** - Attend Often!

**District No. 2 - V. W. Novis L. Eady, Deputy..... (907) 776-8549**

Mt. McKinley Lodge No. 5..... Meets 1st & 3rd Thursday at 8:00

Seward Lodge No. 6..... Meets First Tuesday at 8:00

Kodiak Lodge No. 9..... Meets Third Monday at 8:00

Kenai Lodge No. 11..... Meets 2nd & 4th Thursday at 8:00

Other (special) meetings as called by the Lodge's Master

## The Great Grand Lodge Mystery

This story involves: An Unknown "Mystery" Man, a Man from a Foreign Country, a Dead Man, and the Grand Lodge Office.

When you move your office after having been in the same location for several years, and when the individual doing the moving is not the same as the one who set up the office in the first place, you're liable to find most anything. That's the case with the Grand Lodge of Alaska.

During the move, Rick Bender, our Grand Secretary, came across what he thought was a cement block on the floor. This block was supporting several boxes of material to protect them from moisture in case there was a flood. (The office had been soaked at least once due to a broken water pipe.) However, on getting this block turned over, he found that it was not cement, but was, in fact granite. It was a tomb stone with a very attractive Square and Compasses design.

Now, here's the mystery - Who was this Mason, Where did he die, and How did his tomb stone get to the Grand Lodge Office? Cut into the back of the stone is the following:

**G.J.G. Brandt**

**1839 - 1896**

**Native of Holland**



The stone is very attractive, even if it is not as fancy as the memorial which is part of our Masonic legend. And, it makes a nice decoration. But, it belongs to Brother Brandt, and should be returned, if possible.

If you know anything about Bro. Brandt, or his stone, please contact the Grand Secretary. We will try to get it returned to its rightful owner.

**The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F.&A.M.**

**Alaska and its Jurisdiction, Inc.**

**M. W. Michael R. Boone, Grand Master**

P.O. Box 4717. Eilson A.F.B., AK 99702

**R. W. J. Andrew Carr, Sr., Grand Secretary**

8650 Brookway Circle, Anchorage, AK 99504 (907) 338-4638

Alpha Lodge No. 1, Elmendorf A.F.B.

Mt. McKinley Lodge No. 2, Anchorage

Midnight Sun Lodge No. 3, Fairbanks

Summit Lodge No. 6 Ft. Richardson

Arctic Lodge No. 7 Eilson A.F.B.



The Following Organizations Have Helped  
 Make This Publication Possible  
 We Thank Them For Their Support!



**DeMolay in Alaska  
 Building Leaders  
 in the Masonic Tradition**  
 For Young Men 12 to 20  
 (907) 243-0509



Orient of Alaska  
 Valley of Anchorage

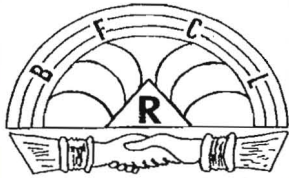
**Anchorage  
 Scottish Rite  
 Bodies**

(907) 274-0277

**We Support Our  
 Alaska**

**Grand Lodge**

(We Meet 2nd & 4th Friday)



**Rainbow in Alaska**  
 For Young Girls  
 Ages 11 - 20  
**Mrs. Ila Hammond**  
 Supreme Inspector  
 (907) 522-0128

Alaska Scottish Rite  
**Childhood Language  
 Disorders Foundation**

We Help Kids

Call (907) 274-0277



**Al Aska  
 Shrine**

(907) 274-4344



**Alaska's  
 Job's Daughters**  
 for girls aged 11-20  
 with Masonic affiliation  
**Rachel Elmore**  
 (907) 243-7761

**Gilbert "Gib"  
 Whitehead**  
 Intendant General  
 Red Cross of Constantine  
 Division of Alaska

Stated Meetings - 2nd Monday  
 (Except July & August)  
 Dinner at 7:00  
 Meeting at 8:00  
 Lunch - Every Wednesday



**York  
 Rite  
 Masons**  
 (907) 274-8051

**In Memory of All  
 Masons  
 Who Have Passed to the  
 Celestial Lodge Above.**

Doris (Mrs. Earl) Smith  
 for Glacier Lodge No. 10




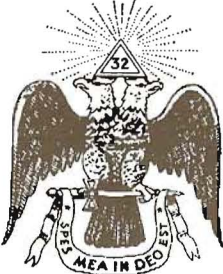



**Brothers  
 Helping  
 Brothers**  
 (Meets 1st & 3rd Friday)

**The Following Individuals and Organizations  
Have Helped Make This Publication Possible**

<p>The printed covers for our <i>"LIGHT from the Great Land"</i> were donated by a Brother.</p>	<p><b>David W. DeLong</b> P.: M.: Mt. Juneau Lodge No. 147 P.O. Box 21194 Juneau, AK 99802-1194 789-0355</p>	<p><b>Dragoljub Nedic</b> Tanana Lodge No. 3</p>
<p><b>Fred V. Angleton</b> Grand Master - Alaska - 1987 (907) 262-4051 Box 4155, Soldotna, AK 99669</p>	<p><b>Novis L. Eady</b> Deputy of the Grand Master District No. 2 P.: M.: Kenai Lodge No. 11</p>	<p><b>Hazen R. Ricker, P.M.</b> Eagle River Lodge No. 13 Glacier Lodge No. 10 <b>The Masonic "Ol' Goat" Mason of the Year 1996-97</b></p>
<p><b>R.: W.: Ray L. Beaver</b> Deputy Grand Master 243-8331 (Member - Lodges 3, 10 &amp; 15)</p>	<p><b>Frank W. Erie</b> Grand Master - Alaska - 1991 (907) 456-7490 410 Noyes Street Fairbanks, AK 99701-2931</p>	<p><b>Arthur A. Rindahl</b> P.M. Seward Lodge No. 6 P.O. Box 784 Sterling, AK 99672-0784</p>
<p><b>Richard D. Bender</b> Grand Secretary P.O. Box 190668 Anchorage, AK 99519-0668 561-1477</p>	<p><b>Monte R. Ervin</b> P.: M.: Tanana No. 3 P.: M.: Fairbanks No. 12</p>	<p><b>E. L. Soldin</b> Mt. Susitna Lodge No. 8 A Loyal Supporter</p>
<p><b>R.: W.: Don &amp; Char Chaffin</b> Senior Grand Warden &amp; His Lady Box 10837 Fairbanks, AK 99710 (907) 457-6269</p>	<p><b>M.: W.: Gene &amp; Hilary Freeman</b> Grand Master &amp; His Lady Box 71085, Fairbanks, AK 99707</p>	<p><b>Ray Tidwell</b> P.: M.: Valdez No. 4</p>
<p><b>V. Clifford Darnell</b> Deputy of the Grand Master District No. 5 P.: M.: Mt. Susitna 8, Eagle River 13, &amp; Iditarod 20</p>	<p><b>Joe E. Halm</b> 2600 Pualani Way No. 502 Honolulu, HI 96815 Life Member Glacier Lodge No. 10</p>	<p><b>Lloyd W. Triggs</b> Past Grand Master - 1996 / 97 1414 Valley Drive North Pole, AK 99705 488-2818</p>
<p><b>Arnold DeHeus</b> 2106 N. Eastside Street Olympia, WA 98506 (Tanana Lodge No. 3)</p>	<p><b>Howard N. Hobbs</b> Grand Master - Alaska 1994 / 95 272-9263</p>	<p><b>Loyd Williamson</b> Deputy of the Grand Master District No. 3 P.: M.: Glacier Lodge No. 10</p>

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Your Notice Of Support For This Publication  
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And They Deserve Your Consideration!  
We Ask That You Support Them!**

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<p><b>David Green &amp; Sons, Inc.</b>  <i>"Alaska's Most Respected Name in Fur"</i>          (907) 277-9595 (or 277-0000)          130 W. 4th Ave., Anchorage</p>	<p><b>G &amp; C Locksmith / Welding</b>          Complete Mobile Service          693 Pleasure Drive, North Pole  <b>Mitchell R. Miller</b>          488-6341</p>	<p><b>Glacier Lodge No. 10</b>          Anchorage, Alaska  <b>Michael D. Kean</b>          Worshipful Master</p>
<p><b>Magnum Maintenance</b>          "Host" Dry Extraction          Carpet Cleaning          693 Pleasure Drive, North Pole  <b>Mitch Miller, Owner</b>          488-6341</p>	<p><b>Moose River Auto Parts &amp; Towing</b>          New/Auto &amp; Body Parts/Used          24 Hour Towing          Call Norm: (907) 262-5333          Mile 81, Sterling Highway          HC01, Box 255, Sterling, AK 99672</p>	<p><b>Mt. Verstovia Lodge No. 18</b>          Sitka, Alaska  <b>John Bahrt</b>          Worshipful Master</p>
<p><b>National Association for the Self Employed</b>  <i>Health &amp; Dental Insurance, Travel Discounts, and more.</i>  <b>Stan Foulke 696-3499</b></p>	<p><b>Rent-A-Can Toilet Co. Billy E. McGowen</b>          Serving Alaska Since 1969          P.O. Box 770433          Eagle River, AK 99577-0433          694-9202</p>	<p><b>Tongass Lodge No. 19</b>          Ketchikan, Alaska  <b>Doug Ensley</b>          Worshipful Master</p>
 <p><b>Roni Pruett</b>          Alaska  <b>Fuchsia Society</b></p>	 <p align="center"><b>Fairbanks Scottish Rite Bodies</b></p> <p align="center">P.O. Box 70788          Fairbanks, AK 99707-0788          (907) 456-4937</p> <p align="center">We Meet the 1st Friday at 7:00</p> <p align="center"><b>Our Valley Supports the Grand Lodge of Alaska</b></p>	
 <p>Riding Out Of The West  <i>"The Men From 10"</i>          Van O.Chaney and          Jack Cheney          the World's Fastest Forks</p>		
<p><b>John I. Waters</b>          Pit: (907) 373-5211          1-800-478-5213</p>  <p>(907) 746-0235 (Evenings)</p>	<p align="center"><b>Quality Sand &amp; Gravel</b></p> <p align="center">Meeting all Your Construction Needs</p>	<p><b>Rick Lalack</b>          P.O. Box 1456          Palmer, AK 99645</p>  <p align="center">Mile 37.5 Parks Highway</p>

T'was the night before Christmas, when all through the house  
 Not a creature was stirring, except Papa's mouse.  
 The computer was humming, the icons were hopping,  
 As Papa did last-minute Internet shopping.  
 The stockings were hung by the modem with care  
 In hope that St. Nicholas would bring new software.  
 The children were nestled all snug in their beds,  
 While visions of computer games danced in their heads.  
 Dark Forces for Billy, and Doom II for Dan,  
 And Carmen Sandiego for Pamela Ann.  
 The letters to Santa had been sent out by Mom,  
 To [santaclaus@toyshop.northpole.com](mailto:santaclaus@toyshop.northpole.com) -  
 Which has now been re-routed to Washington State  
 Because Santa's workshop has been bought by Bill Gates.  
 All the elves and the reindeer have had to skedaddle  
 To flashy new quarters in suburban Seattle.  
 After centuries of a life that was simple and spare,  
 St. Nicholas is suddenly a new billionaire,  
 With a shiny red Porsche in the place of his sleigh,  
 And a house on Lake Washington that's just down the way  
 From where Bill has his mansion. The old fellow preens  
 In black Gucci boots and red Calvin Klein jeans.  
 The elves have stock options and desks with a view,  
 Where they write computer code for Johnny and Sue.  
 No more dolls or tin soldiers or little toy drums  
 Will be under the tree, only compact disk ROMS  
 With the Microsoft label. So spin up your drive,  
 From now on Christmas runs only on Win95.  
 More rapid than eagles the competitors came,  
 And Bill whistled, and shouted, and called them by name.  
 "Now, ADOBE! now, CLARIS! now, INTUIT! too,  
 Now, APPLE! and NETSCAPE! you are all of you through,  
 It is Microsoft's SANTA that the kids can't resist,  
 It's the ultimate software with a traditional twist -  
 Recommended by no less than the jolly old elf,  
 And on the package, a picture of Santa himself.  
 Get 'em young, keep 'em long, is Microsoft's scheme,  
 And a merger with Santa is a marketer's dream.  
 To the top of the NASDAQ! to the top of the Dow!  
 Now dash away! dash away! dash away - wow!"  
 And Mama in her 'kerchief and I in my cap,  
 Had just settled down for a long winter's nap,  
 When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,  
 The whirr and the hum of our satellite platter,  
 As it turned toward that new Christmas star in the sky,  
 The SANTALITE owned by the Microsoft guy.  
 As I sprang from my bed and was turning around,  
 My computer turned on with a Jingle-Bells sound.  
 And there on the screen was a smiling Bill Gates  
 Next to jolly old Santa, two arm-in-arm mates.  
 And I heard them exclaim in voice so bright,  
 Have a MICROSOFT CHRISTMAS, and TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT.



## Have a Merry Holiday Season

(Whether it's  
 Computerized  
 or  
 More  
 Traditional)

And a  
 Very  
 Happy  
 New Year,  
 Too !



## What is Prince Hall Masonry?

*NOTE: The following synopsis is excerpted from the Grand Lodge of New Brunswick's annual communication. Obviously, there is more to the history of these Brothers, and several books have been written on the subject. I strongly urge all the Brethren to take advantage of these resources so that they may get to know a little more about our good Prince Hall Brothers. Ed*

There are some schools of thought that Prince Hall (his name - not a title) was born in Barbados to a free black woman and a Scottish father. He emigrated to the Colony of Boston, Mass. and acquired real estate, making him eligible to vote. It was also documented that he was a devout Christian and a leather-worker by trade. On March 6, 1775, during the American War of Independence, Prince Hall along with fourteen men of color were made Masons in Army Lodge #441 of the Irish Constitution. When Army Lodge moved on, the aforesaid brethren were issued a permit authorizing them to appear publicly as a Masonic body for the purpose of celebrating the feast of St. John and to bury their dead.

On March 2, 1784, these same brethren applied to the Grand Lodge of England for a charter, which was subsequently issued to them on September 29, 1784. They were warranted under the name of African Lodge, No. 459 on the register of the Grand Lodge of England by authority of then Grand Master, the Duke of Cumberland. Prince Hall was the first Master. That charter, which is authenticated and in safekeeping, is believed to be the only original charter issued from the Grand Lodge of England still in the possession of any Lodge in the United States.

African Lodge allowed itself to slip into arrears in the late 1790's and was stricken from the rolls after the Union of 1813, although it had attempted correspondence in 1802 and 1806. In 1827, after other unreplicated attempts at communication, it declared its independence of any external authority and began to call itself African Grand Lodge No. 1.

It is interesting to note that when the Massachusetts lodges which were acting as a Provincial Grand Lodge declared themselves an independent Grand Lodge, and even when the present Grand Lodge of Massachusetts was formed by the amalgamation of two separate Grand Lodges, African Lodge was not invited to take part, even though it held a warrant every bit as valid as those others. This may be explained in part by this 1795 quote from John Eliot, who later became Grand Chaplain of the Gr. Lodge of Mass. He wrote, "White Masons, who are not more skilled in geometry than their black brethren, will not acknowledge them... the truth is they are ashamed of being on an equality with blacks."

Today there are 45 Grand Lodges (the latest being the just formed "Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the Caribbean") that trace their origin back to African Lodge #459. There are more than 5000 Prince Hall Lodges and over 300,000 members. So far as it is known, their ritual, their secrets, their procedures, their requirements, their beliefs, their tenets or fundamental principles, are all either identical with ours, or recognizably similar."

(by.. W Bro. Roy Cassidy)

*The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F.&A.M. Alaska and its Jurisdiction, Inc. and the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Alaska have agreed on mutual recognition for purposes of visitation. I strongly recommend that, if you have the opportunity, you should visit one of the several Prince Hall Lodges in Alaska. You will be welcomed, the Brethren are friendly, and the work is interesting. Yes, it is slightly different from ours, but you will be able to follow along as easily as you could when hearing the work of another state. **Please contact the Lodge's Master or Secretary BEFORE their meeting to insure proper reception.** Ed.*

Greet Old Friends, and Make New Ones! - **Attend Lodge**  
**District No. 3 - V.: W.: Loyd Williamson, Deputy..... (907) 696-1890**  
Mt. Susitna Lodge No. 8 .....Meets First Tuesday at 8:00  
Glacier Lodge No. 10..... Meets Second Thursday at 8:00  
Aurora Lodge No. 15 ..... Meets First Wednesday at 7:30  
Anchorage Lodge No. 17 .....Meets Second Wednesday at 8:00  
Other (special) meetings as called by the Lodge's Master

## Is This Something We Should Consider?

*The following is from the Dallas Morning News as reported in the Anchorage Daily News on 10/12/98.*

Secret societies aren't what they used to be.

Never were - if you listen to the Masons, the tradition-bound fraternity whose confidential customs have generated respect and suspicion for generations.

Listening to them, in fact, means they're willing to do something forbidden until not long ago.

They're talking, after centuries of sworn silence, to save their dwindling fellowship and the arcane rituals that support its goals of character-building and community service.

The Ancient and Accepted Order of Freemasonry, under attack by critics, economic forces and time itself, finally is mounting a defense and is openly seeking recruits to counter decades of membership declines.

Masons in Texas softened their aloof front last spring when the state organization began a controversial \$100,000 radio campaign that its officials say would have been unthinkable a few years ago.

Cracking the temple doors and letting the outside world glimpse its shrouded realm has shaken a conservative institution weighted by dusty ceremony and symbolism.

But for many brothers who say their activities have been persistently misunderstood as anti-Christian, the radical reversal is the only way for their treasured order to avoid becoming a relic of its own past.

Nationwide, Masonic membership has been falling since the 1950s. From 1987 to 1997, it tumbled by about 750,000 to just more than 2 million.

## What is Co-Masonry?

Co-Masonry refers to Masonic Lodges that admit both men and women. Co-Masonry traces its heritage back to the 19th century.

**Co-Masonry is not recognized as "Regular" by any of the Grand Lodges recognized by the Grand Lodge of Alaska. Therefore, there may be no Masonic communication between our Members and their organizations.**

There are two Grand Lodges of Co-Masonry with jurisdiction in America: Le Droit Humain, the original Co-Masonic organization in the US, and whose Grand Lodge is based in Paris, France, and the American Federation of Human Rights (a.k.a. American Co-Masonry), which is based in Larkspur, Colorado.

The degree structure differs slightly from standard Blue Lodge structure (i.e., the Scottish Rite is worked as part of the regular Lodge, not a separate organization), but in most things Co-Masonic lodges function as regular Masonic lodges.

Be an **ACTIVE** Mason - Visit lodge Regularly  
**District No. 4 - V. V. W. Tom Smotherman..... (907) 747-6759**  
 White Pass Lodge No. 1..... Meets Third Tuesday at 7:30  
 Mt. Verstovia Lodge No. 18 ..... Meets First Thursday at 8:00  
 Tongass Lodge No. 19 ..... Meets Fourth Friday at 7:00  
 Other (special) meetings as called by the Lodge's Master

***A Traditional Native American Prayer***

Oh Great Spirit, whose breath gives life to the world, and whose voice is heard in the soft breeze: We need your strength and wisdom. Cause us to walk in beauty. Give us eyes ever to behold the red and purple sunset. Make us wise so that we may understand what you have taught us. Help us learn the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and rock. Make us always ready to come to you with clean hands and steady eyes, so when life fades, like the fading sunset, our spirits may come to you without shame. Amen.

*From the Memorial Service of Aric R. Thompson, a DeMolay*

# Seasons Greetings

## **The Quantum Physics of Donut Holes**

by Samuel P. Gamsmeier, B.S., P.P.P.D., D.M.T.

Dear Dr. Gamsmeier:

I've been told that donut holes contain the same number of calories as a bite of donut. How can this be true?

A donut hole is created when a donut grows so heavy that it falls in on itself. This creates a gravitational field that sucks in all the other donuts around. It is for this reason that many astronomers use a box of donuts to study the night sky. A cinnamon roll perfectly recreates the Milky Way. Chocolate sprinkles disperse in the same pattern as asteroids. And, the twist in a French cruller illustrates the way the universe turns on itself, something only French bakers and Einstein knew until 1930. Plain donuts don't prove anything, but I eat those anyway. As for calories, don't worry about them. Wear a baggy over-sized lab coat and a disdainful attitude. Your personal appearance will be insignificant compared to your knowledge of astronomy. So, eat up!

In our continuing attempt to provide advice or answer your questions, we have engaged the services of the world renowned authority: Prof. Samuel P. Gamsmeier, B.S., P.P.P.D., D.M.T.

Just send your question or request to:

**Prof. Samuel P. Gamsmeier, B.S., P.P.P.D., D.M.T.**

**c/o Grand Lodge of Alaska, P.O. 190668, Anchorage, AK 99519**

**Attend Lodge - Help Make Masonry an Active Force in Your Community!**  
**District No. 5 - V.: W.: V. Clifford Darnell, Deputy ..... (907) 892-7031**

Anvil Lodge No. 2 ..... Meets 1st & 3rd Thursday at 8:00  
Matanuska Lodge No. 7 ..... Meets First Tuesday at 7:30  
Eagle River Lodge No. 13 ..... Meets First Monday at 7:30  
Itditarod Lodge No. 20 ..... Meets Third Thursday at 7:30  
Other (special) meetings as called by the Lodge's Master

## PROFESSIONAL EXCOMMUNICATION

If lawyers are disbarred and clergymen defrocked, doesn't it follow that. . .

Electricians could be delighted,  
musicians denoted,  
cowboys deranged,  
models deposed,  
and dry cleaners depressed?

Wouldn't you expect laundry workers to decrease, eventually becoming depressed and depleted?

Likewise, bed-makers might be debunked,  
baseball players debased,  
landscapers deflowered,  
bulldozer operators degraded,  
organ donors delivered,  
software engineers detested, and  
underwear manufacturers debriefed.

And won't all composers one day decompose?

On a more positive note, perhaps we can hope politicians will someday be devoted.



“Over the river and through the woods - to Grandmother's house we go.” - - - Happy Holidays !

## FAMILY

Family - a word used in connection with many varied situations.

- A family of chemicals.
- A family of plants.
- A family of animals.
- A family of ideas.

Yes - family is an ever present, ever past, ever future UNIT, and in the case of mankind, the basis of growth, stability, and knowledge.

It is not important how large or small our own personal family is. What is significant is that it is your family, my family, and many other families that make up a community, city, state, and country.

So it is with Masonry. Every Blue Lodge is a basic unit, or the basic family. It takes tens, or hundreds, or thousands of these families to make up the larger appendant bodies. However, it matters very little how small each Blue Lodge may be. What does matter is that every Blue Lodge realize it's own significance, and keep itself healthy, active, and alive.

Let's remember the old adage “Great things from small seeds grow.”



## THE STORY OF "TAPS"

It all began in 1862 during the Civil War, when Union Army Captain Robert Ellicombe was with his men near Harrison's Landing in Virginia.

The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land.

During the night, Captain Ellicombe heard the moan of a soldier who lay mortally wounded on the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or confederate soldier, the captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention.

Crawling on his stomach through the gunfire, the captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him toward his encampment.

When the captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a Confederate soldier, but the soldier was dead.

The captain lit a lantern. Suddenly he caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light, he saw the face of the soldier. It was his own son.

The boy has been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his father, he enlisted in the Confederate Army.

The following morning, heartbroken, the father asked permission of his superiors to give his son a full military burial despite his enemy status.

His request was partially granted.

The captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge of the son at the funeral. That request was turned down since the soldier was a confederate. Out of respect for the father, they did say they could give him only one musician.

The captain chose a bugler. He asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he found on a piece of paper in the pocket of the dead youth's uniform.

This wish was granted. This music was the haunting melody we now know as "Taps" used at military funerals.



For those who are interested these are the words to " TAPS "

Day is done, Gone the sun,  
From the lakes, From the hills,  
From the sky All is well,  
Safely rest, God is nigh.

*With thanks to Steve Cox for these articles. Ed.*

"It is the soldier, not the reporter, who has given us freedom of the press.

It is the soldier, not the poet, who has given us freedom of speech.

It is the soldier, not the campus organizer, who has given us the freedom to demonstrate.

It is the soldier, Who salutes the flag, Who serves beneath the flag, And whose coffin is draped by the flag, who allows the protestor to burn the flag." *Father Denis Edward O'Brien, USMC*

## Your Senior Grand Warden Has a Few Words

Brethren,

The Holidays are upon us and as such it is a good time to reflect on our family, not only our immediate family but also our Masonic family. Do you know a Brother who could use a helping hand, or a kind word? What better time than now to extend that helping hand or kind word? Perhaps now would be a good time to extend that olive branch and heal old wounds.

Subduing our passions and improving ourselves in Masonry. We would all like to be able to live by those words. To help us accomplish this, it would behoove us to remember what we have been taught as we progressed from an Entered Apprentice to a Master Mason. We should particularly remember our Charges.

Brothers, the following are excerpts from our Charges - in particular are areas that I personally try to live by. Some days are easier than others are. As Masons, we are not perfect but we should constantly strive for perfection.

Charge to a new Entered Apprentice - As a Mason, you are to regard the volume of the Sacred Law as the Great Light in your profession; to consider it as the unerring standard of truth and justice; to regulate your actions by the divine precepts it contains. In it you will learn the important duties which you owe to God, your neighbor and yourself: To God, by never mentioning His name but with the awe and reverence which are due from the creature to his Creator; by imploring His aid in all laudable undertakings, and by looking up to Him in every emergency for comfort and support:

Charge to a new Fellowcraft – You are not to palliate or aggravate the offenses of your brethren; but, in the decision of every trespass against our rules, you are to judge with candor, admonish with friendship and reprehend with justice.....

Charge to a new Master Mason -Exemplary conduct on your part will convince the world that merit is the just title to our privileges, and that on you our favors have not been undeservedly bestowed.

Charge to the Lodge at Closing – Be diligent, prudent, temperate, discreet.....You have been enjoined to remind a Brother in the most friendly manner of his fault, to endeavor to aid his reformation, and to defend his character.

In closing, allow me to give you a personal “charge”. **Have a very Merry Holiday Season, and the Happiest of New Years.** These words may not have the spiritual significance found in the Charges shown above, but they are words from the heart.

Fraternally,

Don Chaffin, Senior Grand Warden



**Help to spread the virtues of Masonic Brotherly Love and Friendship.**

**Help to show all Mankind that Masons live by the precepts we teach.**



# 1998 Holiday Season

**Brethren:** *In this season of peace and happiness, I have found no better expression of our feelings and our purpose than the message of Samuel L. Cole, Jr., the Grand Master of the Order of DeMolay. His charge to continue the "good work" applies to all Masons - a charge to support our Masonic principles, and to assist in developing the Leaders of tomorrow.*

TO: ALL THE BROTHERS OF DeMOLAY INTERNATIONAL

*Hark the chimes of Christmas  
as they ring across the snow;  
See the beaming faces  
As the people come and go,*

*Exchanging the Season's greetings  
With wishes warm and true...  
May the spirit of the Season  
Bring such exhilaration to YOU!*

As we enter this glorious Holiday Season, it is appropriate to pause and recognize, with warm and heartfelt appreciation, the unfailing endeavors of all our Members as they invest their time, patience, love, understanding and sometimes even a little frustration, in behalf of our splendid "product" - the young men of DeMolay.

With your continuing support and "labors of love", the high quality and integrity of our "DeMolay product" will continue to immeasurably enhance the citizenry, family values, decency and leadership levels of our entire country.

I charge all of us to continue the "good work" of over three quarters of a century, based on the enduring "rock solid" principles and precepts as established by our Founder, and enter the 21st century strongly united in cause and spirit as we march toward our 100th Anniversary.

I wish for you and your family a Christmas warm with happy memories ... bright with joyful moments ... filled with dreams come true. May the New Year bring to you and yours peace, good health, cheer, success and the rich blessings of our Heavenly Father.

Happy Holidays and most cordially,

Samuel L. Cole, Jr.  
Grand Master, DeMolay International

I would like to echo the sentiments of Grand Master Cole. The work done by the Advisors in the several DeMolay Chapters throughout the State is appreciated beyond words. The impact they make on the Members of DeMolay is beyond measure. And, the value of their efforts in helping to develop our youth into the Leaders of tomorrow is beyond price. Thanks go to all Masons for their support. Have a very Happy Holiday, and may your New Year be full and prosperous and bright.

Gerald R. (Jerry) Fairley  
Executive Officer for Alaska  
Chairman, Grand Lodge DeMolay Committee