

Masonic Open House

Sunday, May 4, 2003 was an exciting day for Freemasonry in Delaware. On that day at 10:00 a.m. the doors of NUR Shrine Center opened wide for all to come and see what the family of Freemasonry was about. Participants from Grand Lodge, subordinate Lodges, the Masonic Home, Job's Daughters, DeMolay, York Rite, Scottish Rite Shrine, Tall Cedars and The Shield and Square Club put together individual booths offering pertinent information concerning their respective organizations. There was even a special



booth featuring famous Freemasons.

An estimated 250 persons were in attendance, either as visitors or participants. With the assistance of the New Castle County Police in the morning and the Shield and Square Club in the afternoon, Child Identification Kits were provided to approximately 60 children. The event demonstrated the unity of the various branches of the Delaware Masonic community.

Tall Cedars of Lebanon Brandywine Forest No. 20

By Harold "Pickles" Boyer
Grand Tall Cedar

The Tall Cedars of Lebanon's charity has been the Muscular Dystrophy Association since 1951. Brandywine Forest helps to support this charity with fund raising activities such as a flea market/yard sales, spaghetti dinners, horse racing (wooden horses of course - unable to find a clean-up person) and maning a refreshment stand at Dover Downs Raceway.

We have an annual childrens' Christmas party with a magic show. Each child receives a gift from their parent/guardian and cookies, ice cream juice, balloons and a gift from Santa Claus and his clown helpers.

Brandwine Forest Cedarets assist us in all of the above undertakings. These affairs have a family atmosphere of FUN - FROLIC - FELLOWSHIP and hard work.

Like all organizations our number of members has been on the decline This year we have been fortunate to have initiated four new members and reinstated one. To learn more about the Tall Cedars of Lebanon please visit our web site created by Earl G. Swanson, Past Grand Tall at: <http://www.webspawner.com/users/delawaretallcedars/>

Job's Daughters

By Kim Warren
Jurisdictional Guardian

Greetings from Job's Daughters of Delaware. There have been some exciting changes in our state organization that we would like to share with you. On June 6, 2003, the adult body changed from a Grand Guardian Council to a Jurisdictional Guardian Council. This change has given the adult leadership an opportunity to reorganize and provide fresh ideas to meet the needs of our ever-changing youth.

There are 8 Bethels throughout Delaware that are governed by its members, the young ladies, and guided by adult councils. The Jurisdictional Guardian Council is an organization of the adults to pull together the Bethels for statewide activities. There has been little change to the Bethels functioning, but new roles and activities for the adults. The new officers of the JGC are Jurisdictional Guardian - Kim Warren (PHQ), Associate Jurisdictional Guardian - Earl Emerson, Vice Jurisdictional Guardian - Debbie Watson, Vice Associate Jurisdictional Guardian - Jim Watson, Jurisdictional Secretary - Sharon Smith and Jurisdictional Treasurer - Pete Berg.

There have been mixed emotions about this transition because change is often difficult to accept, but there seems to be growing enthusiasm. The Supreme Guardian Council and the Jurisdictional Guardian Council will be working to make each of our Bethels stronger and increase membership. During the transition period there will be a lot of changes and new ideas tried. We begin this new era of Job's Daughters of Delaware with renewed enthusiasm and many hopes for the future. We look forward to welcoming your daughters, granddaughters, nieces, sisters, etc. into this great organization for young ladies that are based on virtues and values shared by all our Masonic family. We also look forward to sharing our smiles hugs and support with the masons of Delaware.

We thank you for your continued support of our "daughters" and including us in your activities. There is a place in our organization for everyone. Adults can help by visiting Bethels and watching the "daughters" do their memory work or serve on council to guide our "daughters" in their many adventures. Young ladies 11 to 20 years of age may become members and young girls under 11 years of age may join our "Jobie-to-be" program. If you would like more information, please contact me at (302) 717-2173.

Making Donations Count

For the second time in three years, Shriners Hospitals for Children has received the highest rating as the most Charity in the United States. That rating published in the December issue of *Smart Money* came on the heels of a previous top ranking in 2000 when the publication conducted its annual survey on top charities in the nation. There was no survey on charitable giving in 2001 because of events surrounding 9/11.

Freemasonry United

Brother Clarence F. Hammer, Jr. is an Ohio Freemason who currently resides at Windsor Place in Hockessin, Delaware. At the request of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio, through the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Delaware, Ionic Lodge No. 31 visited Brother Hammer on July 8, 2003 The purpose of the visit was to present him with a certificate and pin denoting 60 years of membership in the Craft.

Educated at the Universities of Ohio and Wisconsin, Brother Hammer spent his professional years as a Ph.D. physicist with the DuPont Company at the DuPont Experimental Station in Wilmington Delaware.

While in the U.S. Navy, during World War 11, Brother Hammer participated in a program developing magnetic mines. Stationed in Maryland he was initiated into Freemasonry in 1943 by a Maryland subordinate lodge as a courtesy to the Toledo-Fort Industry Lodge no. 144 in Toledo, Ohio.

Brother Hammer enjoys a close relationship with his three children and three grandchildren, all of whom he is very proud.

Pictured left to right: Brother Clarence "Mike" Hammer, Jr. and William F. Huxtable, Jr., Worshipful Master of Ionic Lodge No. 31.



Eastern Star

By Jackie Collier

Who are we and what do we do?

Since the Order of the Eastern Star seems to be one of the least "visible" of the Masonic-related organizations, this is something one hears quite often. "We know they are there.... but who are they and what do they do?" Perhaps I may bring an answer to this query.

If you are seeking to identify us by vocation or avocation, let me tell you that we run the complete gamut of both. We are educators, nurses, law clerks, store owners, farmers, funeral directors, bank tellers, secretaries, dental assistants and hygienists, office managers, truck drivers, printers, mechanics, military personnel, real estate agents, camp directors, law enforcement personnel, etc. by vocation, with equally diverse choices of avocation.

As diverse as we are in those fields, we are united by the common bond of our commitment to the principles of our Order - "Charity, Truth and Loving Kindness" for which we bring all of the talents, expertise, etc. of our various backgrounds to bear in our efforts to uphold those principles. In doing so, we have created a rather unique position for ourselves in the Eastern Star world. We are obviously a very small jurisdiction and our membership is just under 2000. However, we have established a record of per capita giving, both in time and money, that far out distances many, if not all, of the larger jurisdictions. I do not want to bore you with statistics, but these are numbers we find quite exciting and we constantly work to improve them.

A quick survey of the past five Grand Chapter years gives us these numbers (The proceedings for 2003 have not been published for 2003. Therefore, these figures cover 1977-2002). Our principal focus in this Grand Chapter is "special needs for children and we have given \$121,601.00 either directly to individuals or to schools and agencies concerned with their care. We also support students pursuing the field of religious leadership through direct awards for their education and here we have given \$24,000.00. The Masonic Home is important to us and there we have given \$6,807.00 to an Arts and Craft Activities Fund for the residents. The Veterans in the Hospital at Elmsere are also a project of ours. Our members volunteer there and provide a Hobby Cart to which we have donated \$6,024.00 in addition to the many hours volunteered. Cancer Research and the Heart Fund are among our projects and we have donated \$14,804.00 to Cancer and \$7,273.00 to Heart. Special projects of our various leaders have seen us donating \$1,510.00 to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, \$1,227 to the "Feed the Children" program, \$2,000.00 to the Diabetes foundation, \$817.00 to the Ronald McDonald House and \$1,651.00 for Leukemia. All of the above organizations do not complete our list of charities.

Our record of community service is also impressive with a total of 101,465 hours of volunteer service and \$103,005.00 in donations to charities other than those within Grand Chapter for this same five-year period. I think that sometimes we even astound ourselves!

All of this we have accomplished by working together, preparing dinners, having yard sales, holding ice cream social, working food service or hospitality at the NASCAR races, exhibiting at craft shows, etc. and having a great time working together while we have been doing it all.

So, who are we and what do we do? Well, I like to think that we are ordinary people from all sorts of backgrounds with all sorts of talents who work together toward a common goal with extraordinary results.

Scottish Rite Supreme Council Annual Meeting Northern Jurisdiction

St. Louis, Missouri will be the site of this year's annual meeting of the Scottish Rite Supreme Council for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction. More than 2,000 33rd Degree Masons and their ladies from 15 northeastern states are expected to attend the meeting on September 21-24, 2003.

The 2003 Session will be highlighted by the conferral of the organizations 1 33 rd Degree upon 143 Scottish Rite Masons who were elected for this high honor at last year's meeting in Boston, Massachusetts. The 33 d Degree is awarded for outstanding achievement in the fraternity or for significant contributions to others, reflecting credit on Freemasonry. This impressive ceremony will take place on Tuesday, September 23, 2003 in the St. Louis Convention Center.

Introductory luncheons honoring the 33rd Degree candidates and their ladies will be on the schedule for Sunday noon. Earlier business conferences attended by the officers of the Supreme Council will be held on Friday and Saturday.

The larger scale events will begin on Sunday afternoon, September 21 " when the St. Louis Ballroom of the Adams Mark Hotel will be the scene of the traditional Supreme Council Vesper Service.

Sovereign Grand Commander Robert O. Ralston will reside over the General Sessions of the Supreme Council on Monday, September 22 nd In the course of these sessions, prominent leaders from other Masonic organizations in the United States and throughout the world are expected to be in attendance.

A number of other events have been scheduled, including a Monday luncheon in the St. Louis Ballroom, Adams Mark Hotel, for all ladies attending the St. Louis meeting Mrs. Susann Ralston, Wife of the Grand Commander, will preside over the luncheon and program. At the same time, another luncheon will be served for all Supreme Council members, distinguished guests and members of the class in the Convention Center

That evening the renowned St. Louis Theatre Musicians Orchestra will perform in concert in the St. Louis Ballroom of the Adams Mark Hotel. During the week, special sightseeing tours will be available for those attending the meetings. In addition to the major event sponsored by the Supreme Council, a Masonic Marketplace will allow vendors to display Masonic-related items.

Seminars on Tuesday will provide an opportunity for those attending the session to learn more about the St. Louis Arch, the 32nd Degree Masonic Learning Centers for Children, Inc. and estate planning. Throughout the week there will be many smaller social functions occurring under the auspices of the 15 participating states and the 101 Valleys comprising the Northern Jurisdiction.

The 2003 meeting will end with the announcement of names of those elected to receive the 33rd Degree at Milwaukee, Wisconsin in September 2004.

Union Lodge No. 5

By Earl Emerson, PM

Union Lodge No. 5 has enjoyed another good year. Our membership is growing and most of the new members are under the age of 40. The Duncan Beard Chapter of DeMolay and Bethel No. 4, Job's Daughters International, which are sponsored by Union Lodge No. 5, are increasing in membership and doing well.

Officers for the next Masonic year are: WM - James P. Smith, SW - Marc M Mancini, JW -Gary Hutton, SEC - Kenard Pyle and TREAS - Louis N. Pederson

Union Lodge No. 5 sponsors a scholarship program at Middletown High School which is open to any graduating senior upon application and being selected by our scholarship committee. The winners for the graduating class of 2003 are Miss Emily Stamer, Miss Emily Parrott and Miss Clarissa Blackiston. A dinner honoring this year's David C. Burris Masonic Scholarship winners and their families was hosted by the officers and members of Union Lodge No. 5 on Thursday, June 19, 2003. Each year during the first week of May, Union Lodge No. 5 sponsors a "Sporting Clay Shooting" event. This year's event was held at J & P Hunting Lodge and Sporting Clay Range near Sudlersville, Maryland. The money earned by this event is used to for the \$1000.00 scholarship awards.

The Scholarship program is named in honor of David C Burris, a member of Union Lodge No. 5, who lost his life in an automobile accident. David was a prominent member of this community and did a lot of work with the youth of the area.

The Sporting Clays Event Committee and other members of the Union Lodge No 5 work all year to make certain the event is held with the utmost safety and that everyone in attendance has a good time. We thank the owners and personnel of J & P Hunting Lodge and Sporting Clay Range for their assistance and advice.



Left to right -Scholarship winners: Miss Emily Stamer, Miss Emily Parrott and Miss Clarissa Blackiston.