

Dear Brethren,

You, your Masonic friends and prospective Masons of good character and rapport are cordially invited to our ***Brother Bring a Friend Night***, an evening of fellowship and education, hosted by Norsemen Lodge, No. 878 F. & A.M., to be held on

**Thursday Evening,  
November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011  
At 7:00 p.m SHARP!**

for a short tour of Grand Lodge, to be immediately followed by a Table Lodge  
***"Feast of the 7 Toasts"***

### Officers' Dress

November 17<sup>th</sup> Business Suit

By Order of:

**W.: Jason C. Truce  
Master**

Attest:

**B.: Dennis Elliot  
Secretary**

This is a true copy of the Summons, the original of which, bearing the raised seal of the Lodge, is appended to the Minutes of this Communication.

### FROM THE EAST

My Brothers,

The falling leaves and shorter days are constant reminders of the coming end of the year. 2011 has been a busy year for Norsemen Lodge, and there is still much work to be done.

I would like to thank all of the Brothers who attended our November 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, and congratulate Singh Foo, Yosi Azulay and Mark Evangelista, Entered Apprentices, who recited their Obligations in front of the assembled members. Special recognition should be given to Brother Foo, for being the only one to get through the entire Obligation. Well Done!

On November 17<sup>th</sup> we will be meeting at 7:00pm, where John Andrades will lead us on a tour of the Grand Lodge Building. Once complete, we will make our way to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, in room 2 West, for our first Table Lodge. Here, we will spend a couple of hours with

our Brethren, and friends who we hope will petition to join our beloved Lodge.

This is an extremely important evening for our Lodge. Besides being one of the biggest events put on over the last few years, it is also part of our "Brother Bring A Friend Night", so we must put our best foot forward. We are happy to accept any assistance from our members, whether it be in the form of helping with the menu, supplies or the actual service. Please call me if you would like to pitch in!

There will be a short video presentation by the R.:W.: Anthony Cuonzo, which will highlight some of the benefits of being part of our Fraternity. There will also be several handouts available, and petitions for those who are interested.

There has been a lot of effort and expense put into the planning and execution of this event, and in return we are asking that each and every member of Norsemen try to attend, and try to bring someone who they believe has the character to be a "Brother" to us all. **The cost will be \$20 per person**, quite a bargain when you consider what is being offered.

Looking beyond our event, we are fast approaching the end of the year, which means we must furnish our reports to Grand Lodge for 2011. It also means we must act on those who are in arrears 2 or more years. I have compiled a list of 14 Brothers who fall into this category and have attempted to contact each one by telephone. I will continue to reach out in an effort to bring them back into compliance before our December Communication. For those who are still delinquent, we will be forced to unaffiliate them for Non Payment of Dues (NPD). I do not want to NPD even one member, and will work to avoid it at all reasonable costs.

Lastly, we have received the 2012 Dues Cards from the Grand Lodge, so you may notice that we have started sending out notices for your 2012 dues. Please try to take care of your dues, and any arrears, so that we will be able to make an accurate budget, and operate at the high level you deserve.

Faithfully Yours,  
W.: Jason C. Truce

### FROM THE WEST

Brethren,

I hope this message finds you and your family in good health and spirits. Our October meeting was our official visit from our District Deputy Grand Master. The message of our Grand Master was delivered to our lodge and I must say I found it to be a powerful and inspirational message. The meeting was followed by a

small coalition and some great fellowship. My Brothers this meeting was a summoned communication and to say that we had a poor attendance is an understatement. Not counting the lodge officers present we had a grand total of 2 Brothers from our lodge attend. I shouldn't have to remind you that we all took an oath to answer and obey all summoned communications. This means that if it is within the length of your cable tow you must attend this meeting. Our Master is doing a great job of providing a well prepared and enlightening program for every meeting. I just wish more Brothers would come out and support him and your fellow Brothers.

Cordially and Fraternaly,  
B.: Frank Rizzi S.W.

### FROM THE SOUTH

Brethren,

As the holidays are rapidly approaching, I hope everyone and their families are doing well, especially during this festive season. With that in mind, let me remind all that our dues payments need to be received for 2012. Also, if there are brothers who haven't paid for this year or a previous year, please have these payments in by the end of the year. We do not want to lose members from this lodge, so please contact either the WM, SW, or myself so we can rectify these issues. W.: Jason Truce has already worked with many brothers on back payments of dues, and saved many from being NPD. There is no reason any brother should be in this position, so please contact us as soon as possible.

Please be aware that our Brother Bring A Friend night has moved to Nov. 17 at 7pm. We will be having a grand lodge tour followed by a table lodge. This will be the first table lodge Norsemen will do in recent years, and I'm sure it will not disappoint. Couple that with the tour and I'm sure it will be a fun night. I hope to see all of you there.

Cordially and Fraternaly,  
Anthony Varvara, JW

### Tentative Table Lodge Menu:

Penne ala Vodka  
Salad  
Soup/Appetizer  
Sausage & Peppers  
Chicken Cutlet Parmigiana  
3 Bean Salad  
Potato Croquettes  
Soda, Beer, Wine & Punch

# TRESTLEBOARD

## Awaiting Second Degree

Bro. Mark Evangelista  
 Bro. Singh Foo  
 Bro. Bruce Becker  
 Bro. Yosi Azulay  
 Bro. Frank Vasquez IV  
 Bro. Alex Omar Rebaza  
 Bro. Hector Lorenzo  
 Bro. Dillion Rodney  
 Bro. Wilfredo Taveras

## Awaiting Committee Report

Bro. Keneth Becker

### 2011 District Deputy Grand Master Official Visit Schedule

November 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Bay Ridge Lodge #758
December 28 <sup>th</sup>	A.G.D.S. #647

### DATES TO REMEMBER

**November 17<sup>th</sup> – Brother Bring a Friend**  
 Grand Lodge Tour, Table Lodge – Cost: \$20  
**November 19<sup>th</sup> - Toys For Tots**  
**December 1<sup>st</sup> – Stated Communication**  
 Treasurer & Secretary Reports, Act on Delinquents  
**December 5<sup>th</sup> - Shriners Benefit Concert**  
 Starring Broadway Performers. At Grand Lodge

### IMPORTANT!

#### FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

Please be advised that paying your dues allows the Lodge to operate on a regular basis. If you haven't done so already, please be so kind as to remit your payments as soon as possible. The dues for 2012 are \$147.50.

#### DUES CARDS COME WITH NOTICES.

Please note the changes as to where payments are to be sent:

**Norsemen Lodge, No. 878**  
**c/o Jason Truce**  
 1754 East 38<sup>th</sup> Street  
 Brooklyn, New York 11234-4408

#### Grand Master

M.:W.: Vincent Libone

#### Deputy Grand Master

R.:W.: James E. Sullivan

#### District Deputy Grand Master

R.:W.: Alfonso Serrano

#### Grand Sword Bearer

R.:W.: David J. McDowell

### LODGE OFFICERS 2011 – 2012

<b>W.: Jason C. Truce</b>	<b>Master</b>
(917)662-4845	
<b>B.: Frank Rizzi</b>	<b>Senior Warden</b>
(917)642-3812	
<b>B.: Anthony Varvara</b>	<b>Junior Warden</b>
(917)596-7159	
<b>B.: Dennis Elliot</b>	<b>Secretary</b>
(551)221-1766	
<b>W.: Joseph J. Burke</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
(718)930-5222	

### APPOINTED OFFICERS

Bro. Paul Ciliento	Senior Deacon
Bro. Patrick DiMeglio	Junior Deacon
Bro. Nicholas DiMeglio	Senior M of C
Bro. Frank Lapetina	Junior M of C
Bro. Russell Berry	Steward
Bro. Thomas Stoppini	Steward
Bro. Simeon Cator	Marshal
Bro. George Shabouk	Organist
Bro. George Sukkarrieh	Tiler
W.: Anthony Montalbano	Chaplain

### TRUSTEES

W.: Michael Greber	2011
W.: Joseph Posa	2012
W.: Louis Costagliola	2013
W.: Adam Seminara	2014

### Charities

We at Norsemen Lodge are advocates of charitable events. If there are any Brothers who know of an event that we can be part of, please do not hesitate to contact the WM and he will see to it that we lend a helping hand, and if possible, a monetary gift.

# NORSEMEN LODGE #878

## November 2011



### Communications:

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays  
**Grand Lodge Masonic Hall**  
**71 West 23<sup>rd</sup> Street**  
**Renaissance Room**  
**6<sup>th</sup> Floor**  
**New York, NY 10010**  
 (347)497-3676

Visit Norsemen Online:  
[www.Norsemen878.com](http://www.Norsemen878.com)

-- among them are life, liberty and pursuit of happiness--to secure those rights governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. "

Later those rights were preserved in the Bill of Rights which was added to the Constitution of the United States, which is the greatest document of modern history. William Gladstone, one of England's greatest statesmen, attended to the truth of this statement in these eloquent words: "The American Constitution is the most wonderful work ever struck off at a given time by the brain and purpose of man."

The rights of free men are inalienable because they are given by Almighty God and not by man. The purpose of our government is to protect these rights which insure the dignity of man. These constitutional guarantees make it mandatory that our government be one by law and not by man. In 1776 men were governed by the personal rule of kings and emperors, and the declaration of the rights of free men was revolutionary. It is apparent to us today that these rights are in accordance with Masonic doctrine, which is interwoven into the fabric of the governmental structure of the nations. The hopeful expression of Jefferson that the entire world might be free and possess the security of government to these ends is far from being realized, and undoubtedly he would be grievously alarmed with the formidable and ominous dangers to these sacred rights and purposes of our government. There is a real and vital need of Masons today to be vigilant and alert to safeguard these precious rights from those who seek to circumvent and undermine as well as those who seek to overthrow our form and purpose of government.

The average American desires wholesome things in his life. He believes in virtue and the qualities of honesty and decency. He has innate within him the desire to express, to give and to share his time, talent and substance for assisting those individuals who are truly in need. In recent years it has become fashionable for too many persons to shirk opportunities and tasks for the assistance to unfortunate persons and the general improvement of our society. There too

frequently evolves the decision to let the government take care of these problems, or we find excuses to close our eyes and pretend that things are not as bad as they are. Moral and mental laziness have emerged from the course of inaction toward these problems in our communities and even in our immediate families. This ineptness has seriously affected the personal moral responsibility of the individual. These conditions were apparent to the late Brother Peter Marshall (Old Monkland St. James Lodge No. 177, S.C.) when he made this significant statement, "Let us stand for something lest we fall for anything!"

We need directive purpose in our striving and endeavors for successful living. We need to be both sensitive and responsive to the needs of others. We need the vision and then to strive to attain great goals in living. The doctrines and brotherhood of Masonry furnish guidance, inspiration and assurance for those who conscientiously seek its truths and live in accordance with its precepts. The organized and unified effort and work of the members of our Craft produced wonderful accomplishments in its benevolences and charities, which would be utterly impossible if left to individual effort and action. The strong bonds of brotherhood are strengthened and become meaningful in this good work.

The appeal and call of Freemasonry has ever been in its effective techniques of building character. Masonic law requires that only those of good moral character and possessing an unqualified belief in a Supreme Being may be admitted to membership. Contrary to most other organizations, membership cannot be directly solicited and new members are motivated to petition for Masonry by the excellent reputation our Fraternity and its members enjoy. This is a fine compliment to Masonry and is one of those attributes which make it unique.

What we believe in and work for, determines in a large measure who and what we are. The lives of truly great men attest to this fact. Likewise, Masonry opens new horizons for those who will give it "the attentive ear, the instructive tongue, and the faithful breast," and who are sensitive for the needs of others and willing to

work as a cog in a mighty organization whose designs are honorable and far reaching. We need, however, to strength that which we have. Our teachings must first be significant in the lives of our members before we can discern good effects which would naturally emerge from them. The purpose of this sketch of Freemasonry is not to analyze comparative strength and weakness of our Fraternity, but to bring into sharper focus its need, and the force which Masonry has to offer in the lives of its faithful members.

It is a matter of common knowledge how Operative Masonry existed for many centuries and that great cathedrals were constructed by these craftsmen. The magnificent structures erected by them before the time of modern machinery testify to the skill and devotion of our ancient craftsmen to their assigned tasks. From this gradually emerged the beautiful symbolism of Speculative Masonry which became formally organized in the early part of the 18th Century. It has been aptly said that while Operative Masons built great temples for the worshipers, Speculative Masonry seeks to build worshipers for the Temples. Anyone who is even superficially informed as to the work and doctrines of Masonry knows that it cannot be classified as a religion or as a substitute for one. Masonry does engender Brotherly Love and Adoration to God, which should induce its members to become better members of the church of their choice.

The Blue Lodges of Ancient Craft Masonry have three splendid and impressive degrees. The thrust of the Entered Apprentice Degree is the teaching of great moral principles by beautiful ceremonies and lectures. These include the four great cardinal virtues of temperance, fortitude, prudence and justice, together with the beloved golden tenets of Masonry--Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. The Fellowcraft Degree emphasizes the importance of the acquisition of knowledge, and that with it comes greater duties and responsibilities. The great degree of all Masonry is the sublime degree of a Master Mason. This degree reveals the Doctrine of the Immortality of the Soul in a very impressive manner and also charges that it is incumbent upon all Masons to continually pursue further light as we travel

symbolically in our pilgrimage in life from the West to the glorious East.

In the Master's Degree we are told to emulate the legendary Master Hiram who was faithful even though his life was imperiled. It would be well for us today to not only emulate his fidelity and courage but his industry, skill, and devotion to his work. Perhaps one of the greatest teachings of Masonry is that the building of human character is likened to that of building a great Temple. If it is important that the best designs, materials and workmanship should be used in the erection of a beautiful Temple, isn't it even more important that greater concern should be employed in the building of our own character temples, which the Apostle Paul to vividly depicts as a "house not made with hands, eternal in the Heavens."

What we do not understand, we do not possess. Neither can we impart to others what we do not possess. Superficial exposure to Freemasonry will not suffice to achieve even minimum requirements of a real Mason. To be meaningful it must be more than an intellectual exercise or a passing experience. Ritualism must be supplemented and embellished by explanation, education, personal fellowship before Masonry can become a part of us and its precepts strengthened by performance.

The late Roscoe Pound, formerly Dean of the Harvard Law School and Honorary Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska, was a great scholar of Masonry as well as of the law. Dean Pound expressed his concept of the meaning of the true acquisition of Freemasonry with these words: "Albert Pike taught that the individual Mason, instead of receiving a predigested Masonry ladled out to him by another, should make his own Masonry for himself by study and reflection upon the work and symbols. He stood for a Masonry built up within each Mason by himself and for himself on the solid foundation of internal conviction."

The penetrating observation of Dean Pound goes to the very heart of Masonry. It also reminds us of the very first lessons of Masonry, when we were informed that we must first be prepared to be a Mason in our hearts. Most of us fail to see or realize the full measure of the

limited time God has given us, because we insist on looking outside instead of within us. The greatest problem of our lives lie within us and are concerning ourselves. As Masons, let us be aware that God has built within us meaningful resources for greater living. Freemasonry is a virtual treasure-house of wisdom, strength, and honesty which upholds good over evil, and whose doctrines and teachings have been and are now unchangeable, that gives us vision and purpose, and reassurance in time of sorrow or stress.

This closing prayer seems appropriate to the tasks that lie before us:

"O God, make of us what Thou wilt,  
Guide Thou the labors of our hands;  
May all our work be surely built,  
As Thou the Architect has planned!  
But whatso'er Thy power shall make  
Of these frail lives, do not forsake  
Thy dwelling place. Let Thy Presence rest  
Forever in the Temple of our breasts."

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### **A Note From The East**

We hope you enjoyed this short article on Freemasonry and learned something new. Over the last several months many Brothers have voiced a desire to "Take Something Home" from the Lodge. This is part of our continuing effort at providing that for you. We plan to continue this practice with our future Notices, as well as starting other new initiatives aimed at providing each and every member of Norsemen an opportunity to expand his horizons and gain the light they seek.

If you have any questions, suggestions or requests, please contact W.: Jason C. Truce at [BklynSteele@aol.com](mailto:BklynSteele@aol.com) or (917)662-4845.

## **A FOCUS ON FREEMASONRY**

*by Herbert A. Ronin, Past Grand Master of Masons in Nebraska and Chairman Emeritus of the Executive Commission of M.S.A.*

*This Short Talk Bulletin has been adapted from a paper, "A Sketch of Freemasonry", which Most Worshipful Brother Ronin prepared for the Scottish Rite several years ago.*

Through the years in our American society, Freemasonry has stood head and shoulders above the some 700 other fraternal organizations. Its more than three million members today evidence its impressive size and stature. It has been a powerful instrumentality for good because of its great teachings of morality. The kindred fellowship of good men seeking great goals in living has merited the splendid reputation which Masonry possesses. Our members can be justifiably proud of our American heritage which in a large measure is the work product of members of the Craft.

The imprint of Freemasonry was indelibly engrossed in the birth certificate of our Nation, the Declaration of Independence. This bold document was authored by Thomas Jefferson, and was adopted by the Continental Congress, which was predominantly Protestant, and whose leaders were members of our Craft. Fifty years after its adoption and shortly before his death, Thomas Jefferson penned these prophetic words concerning his crowning masterpiece: "May it be to the world what I believe it will be to some parts sooner, to others later. but Finally to all, the signal of arousing men to burst their chains under which ignorance and superstition had persuaded them to find themselves and to assume the blessings and security of government."

The message of Jefferson made inference to those democratic ideas which are the heart and philosophy of our government. Among them are these words which should be not only familiar but thoroughly understood by all Americans: "All men are created equal--they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights--