

## MARCH 2008

Brethren,

I've got a Masonic symbol on the back of my truck; just like so many other brothers. It represents my pride in my affiliation with our fraternity and it helps others to identify me as a Mason.

But that's the rub. It "identifies me as a Mason." And sometimes, just sometimes, that's not always a good thing. Let me explain... Several weeks ago, I was driving along, minding my own business when some South Jersey Genius cut me off and came within inches of causing an accident. Instinct took over and of course, my "Jersey" came out.

Now, I've been to more than a few of our states, not to mention several other nations... and brothers, let me tell you, no one has refined the art of the four letter word like the people here in the Garden State. And sad to say, I'm no exception to that rule.

So, while simultaneously slamming on the brakes, steering defensively, and trying to keep my truck on the highway... and way before I regained some self control, words flew from my mouth and I pantomimed several hand motions, just to make sure the other driver understood my displeasure at his poor choice of vehicle maneuvers. What made the situation worse is that there was no apparent reason for his maneuver. No cars in front of him, no obstacles, nothing; he just felt like driving in my lane.

I'm sure most of us have been there. Many of us probably handled the situation better; some worse. But in my case, that's how I responded. Not something I'm proud of – but natural human emotions just the same. But - and I'm sure you're way ahead of me here - that's the rub. I'm a Mason. That shouldn't be my first reaction. What if the people behind me had seen my Masonic sticker... what would they have thought about our fraternity? That we're all a bunch of raving lunatics? What if they were Masons themselves? Is this really the kind of behavior I want to display to others? Is this the perception I want to leave with people who may associate me with our fraternity? Is this what we mean by Prudence and Temperance? No, I didn't put my best foot forward that day. Whether you choose to look at it from a Masonic perspective, a civil perspective, or just plain old Christian values... what I did was wrong; regardless of the circumstances.

This started me wondering just how many of us have left similar impressions? Have you ever chewed out a waitress? Yelled at someone over a counter? Treated someone disrespectfully? As Mason's we should all say that we've never done these things. But the reality is, most of us have.

But as with any lesson in life, we all should aspire to try and do better – even if we flub things up once in a while. So, heed our teachings and try to improve yourself, wherever your short-comings may be. Remember who you represent and who you are. Do your best... and when it comes to blowing up, remember that you're a Mason.

"Rocky" Moroz,  
Worshipful Master

*Your appearance at our regular meetings is earnestly solicited, yet it is not meant that Masonry should interfere with your necessary vocation, for these are on no account to be neglected.*

### **MOST WORSHIPFUL JOHN S. RYAN**

*Grand Master of Masons of the State of New Jersey*  
1 Killdeer Glen, Hackettstown, NJ 07840

### **RIGHT WORSHIPFUL CRAIG M. APPLEBAUM**

*District Ritual Instructor of the 22nd Masonic District*  
PO Box 461, Richland, NJ 08350  
856-697-6960

### **RIGHT WORSHIPFUL WARREN J. COLES**

*District Deputy Grand Master of the 22nd Masonic District*  
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Grand Lodge Web Site: [njfreemasonry.org](http://njfreemasonry.org)  
District Web Site: [www.22nddistrictnjmasons.org](http://www.22nddistrictnjmasons.org)  
Lodge Web Site: [www.mastermason.com/shekinah58](http://www.mastermason.com/shekinah58)

My Brother,

You are cordially invited to attend the following communications:

### **REGULAR COMMUNICATIONS:**

**Friday, March 7, 2008 - 7:30 PM \*\*\*FOOD - 6:30pm\*\*\***

- Refreshments, Business Meeting

### **EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS:**

**14 March, 2008 - 7:30pm** (refreshments at 6:30pm) - The Fellow Craft Degree will be conferred on: Bros. Entered Apprentice Ronald J. Charlesworth, Mathew L. Stabile, Michael A. Scherbekow, Michael V. Pinnino.

**28 March, 2008 - 7:30pm** (dinner at 6:30pm): The Entered Apprentice Degree will be conferred on: Mr. Scott Oliver.

### **OFFICERS REHEARSAL:**

*All Officers are required to attend*

Dates: March 4, 6, 11, 13, 17, 20, 24, & 27

Time: 7pm sharp! In by 7pm - finished by 8pm!

### **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

**1 March, 2008 - 8:30am:** Work party at the lodge to paint both the upstairs men's and ladies room plus other misc. items. Coffee at 8:00 AM. All are welcome.

**7 March, 2008 - 7:30pm:** Official visit of R.W. Warren J. Coles, DDGM of the 22nd Masonic District; Shekinah. Dinner 6:30pm.

**8 March, 2008 - 11am to 1pm:** Shekinah Sub Sale. See officers for tickets. Work party Friday after regular meeting and again Saturday morning. Volunteers needed both days!

**5 April, 2008 - 4pm:** Annual Phoenixville Trip. Contact Bro. Bill Johnson for tickets (856) 825-1042.

**17 & 18 April, 2008 - All Day:** Annual Communication of Grand Lodge, Atlantic City, NJ.

**2 May, 2008 - 7:30pm:** The Delaware Colonials will exemplify the Fellow Craft Degree at Shekinah Lodge.

**14 June, 2008 - 6:30pm:** Feast of Saints John. All Masonic widows invited free of charge.

**21 June, 2008 - 11am:** 1st Annual Shekinah Masonic Poker Run & Raffle. Raffle ticket will be on sale soon for your chance to win a Harley Davidson motorcycle. Contact Bro. Kurt Ferguson for more information.

### **BRETHREN,**

***REFURBISHING OF THE BASEMENT BANQUET ROOM AND KITCHEN IS NEARLY COMPLETE AND THE DINNING TABLES ARE NOW FOR SALE. INTERESTED PARTIES SHOULD CONTACT R.W. BRO E. LEE MYERS FOR DETAILS. PROCEEDS WILL GO TOWARDS THE PURCHASE OF NEW DINNING TABLES.***

***NAME TAGS ARE BEING SOLD FOR THE LODGE ROOM CHAIRS AND ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR \$100.00. IF INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT THE SECRETARY.***

"A wise man asks questions more freely than he tries to answer them"

Attest: Ronald N. Spiels, PGC, Sec'y

### **SHEKINAH LODGE WEBSITE:**

<http://www.mastermason.com/shekinah58>

*"Where you can find past trestleboards, photos, and events."*

### **THE MASONIC SERVICE ASSOCIATION EVENTS**

New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home, Vineland, NJ

Please contact Richard Reynolds if you can assist at any of these events - 696-5038.

**CHAPEL ESCORT - EVERY SUNDAY AT 9:30am**

**BINGO - (5:30 to 8:30pm) - Contact Rich Reynolds for dates.**