

THE ATHELSTANIAN



ATHELSTANE LODGE No. 839

FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS
EST. 1902

Naurashank Temple
2 South Middletown Road
Pearl River, NY 10965

Communications each 1st and 3rd Tuesday
Mailing Address: 18 Buena Vista Rd. Suffern, NY 10901

December 2008

Brethren:

You are cordially invited to attend the:

2136th Summoned Communication
Tuesday, December 2, 2008

Officers Dress: Tuxedo
Place: Naurashank Temple, Pearl River, NY
Business: Vote and Entered Apprentice Degree

The Lodge will open at 6:00pm with collation starting at 6:30pm and business beginning at 7:30pm. The business of the evening will be the conferring of the Entered Apprentice Degree. Please note it is also a summoned communication for the Brothers of Athelstane Lodge.

You are hereby summoned to the 2136th Stated Communication of Athelstane Lodge to be held in the Pearl River Masonic Temple on Tuesday evening, December 2nd for the purpose of voting to unaffiliate certain Brothers who are in arrears in payment of their dues for the current year according to the By-Laws of the Lodge.

By Order of the Worshipful Master:

Attest:
R.:W.: Ronald J. Steiner, Secretary

2137th Stated Communication
Tuesday, December 16, 2008

Officers Dress: Business Attire
Place: The View (Piermont, NY)
Business: Annual Holiday Party

Join us in for fellowship and celebration during our annual Holiday Party. The party will be different from past parties; being a cocktail party with music, dancing and fellowship. Instead of a sit-down dinner we will enjoy the View's famous cocktail arrangement together with four captain stations of hot food, followed later by a variety of desserts. A wine tasting event is included. The party begins at 6:30pm. The cost will be \$35 / person.

Charity Events
Tree of Life

Tuesday, December 23, 2008, 5:00pm to 10:00pm

Place: Palisades Mall
Business: Participation with United Hospice of Rockland in the Tree of Life holiday fund raising. **Your assistance is need.**

FROM THE SECRETARY'S MAILBAG ...

Sincere thanks from your Secretary to the close to 100 Brothers who have already returned their dues for 2009. It was particularly gratifying, in spite of the difficult economic times, to receive so many charitable contributions as well as checks for the Masonic Brotherhood Fund, which we have been delighted to forward. Thanks too to the Brothers who returned their questionnaires allowing us to update our records ... especially you contact E-mail addresses and phone numbers. It was also nice to receive some some notes of your well being. Please keep us informed as your glad tidings as well as the not so glad tidings.

Masonic protocol ... just a reminder that **we should not use Masonic titles on the outside of mail envelopes.** Mail addressed to the Lodge or your Lodge Secretary or Master of the Lodge should not be addressed to Right Worshipful, R:. W:.. or Worshipful or W:.. ... all that should be shown is Mr.

As we prepare for the Thanksgiving holiday, Joan and I would like to extend our warmest and most sincere greetings to you ... our extended Masonic family ... and to all of those you love for a joyous family holiday. At this time of the year it is especially meaningful to pause to say thanks for our bountiful blessings and to say a prayer for those less fortunate and especially for the men and women who are serving our nation and will not be with their families on this holiday.

With much love ... fraternally,

Ron
Ron Steiner

Florida Luncheon Details From
R.W. MARTIN LINDENBERG

November 14, 2008

Greetings:

To the Brothers, their Guests and Widows of **Athelstane Lodge** residing in Florida. Reservations have been made for **our annual luncheon** at:

Benvenuto Caterers
1730 N Federal Highway
Boynton Beach, FL 33435

Friday, January 23, 2009 12:00 noon

All reservations must be in by January 1, 2009 and it will be on a first come reserved basis

Brothers of Athelstane Lodge, as well as widows, will be paid for by the Lodge. The charge for each guest is \$35..

DIRECTIONS: Using I 95 or the Florida Turnpike, exit at Boynton Beach Blvd. Travel East and cross the Railroad Tracks to Federal Hgwy. Turn left approximately 1.1 miles on right.

Detach and Return (Verbals not accepted) either to R.W. Martin Lindener, 4505 South Ocean Blvd. Apt # 1004, Highland Beach, Fl 33487-4228, or to R.W. Harold Dresdale 840 NW 21st Way Dellray Beach, FL 33445

NameGuests..... X \$35. =

MENU

(Place X mark next to choice(s))

1 Complimentary Mimosa + Smoked Salmon & Dill Spread with Onion Rolls
Mixed Greens with Gargonzola, Granny Smith Apples and Toasted Pecans

Choice of (1 of 3)

- Filet of Tilapia, sauteed in white wine sauce, raisins, sweet onions, peppers & pinenuts
- Oven Roasted Chicken Breast Francaise
- Beef tips Stroganoff

Choice of (1 of 3)

- Tropical fresh fruit
- Granny Smith Apple Tart w/cinnamon Ice Cream & Caramel Sauce
- Profiteroles w/coffee ice cream and bittersweet chocolate sauce

HANUKAH AND HOPING

by Rabbi Eli Mallon, M.Ed., LMSW

Hanukah gives us special help in hoping.

On Hanukah, we recite “Hallel” -- a group of psalms (113-118) that are also recited in synagogue on Pesach, Sh’vuot and Sukkot (and in modified form on Rosh Hodesh).

The unifying theme of “Hallel” is a seemingly miraculous victory over apparently insurmountable odds. This relates to each of the holidays:

Pesach commemorates the miraculous “10 Plagues” and parting of the Red Sea. Sh’vuot, commemorates Matan Torah at Har Sinai. Sukkot commemorates miracles of Divine protection during the 40 years in which our ancestors wandered in the wilderness. Hanukah commemorates oil burning for eight days, having been enough to burn for only one.

In each case, it’s “Divine,” not “human” power that succeeds. The true theme of Hallel, then, is the superiority of Spiritual over material power. From the *human* viewpoint – “Israelites vs. Egyptians” or “Israelites vs. wilderness” or even “Israelites vs. nature” – the odds indeed seem insurmountable and the subsequent victory “miraculous.” But from the *Torah* viewpoint – “Egyptian power vs. G-d’s power” or the “power of nature vs. G-d’s power” – the outcome is never in question.

In later mandating the various mitzvot of Hanukah, the rabbis meant for us to affirm the supremacy of G-d’s power over any problem we might ever be facing. Reciting Hallel, lighting our hanukiah, we praise G-d for what G-d *did*, in order to remind our hearts what G-d *can do – is doing* -- now.

This year (2008), “economic collapse” could be our “pharaoh.” The Israelites saw the chariots pursuing them, and the Red Sea – a boundary they

couldn't cross – before them. Many of us see ourselves and our country (if not our world) “pursued” by financial problems that we can neither avoid nor overcome, with no avenue of escape before us. We could also call “economic collapse” our “Greek army;” our “one day’s worth of oil,” if we see ourselves as bound by “economic” laws, with nothing to help us beyond our own efforts. In so doing, though, we’d be missing the Torah-lesson in Hanukkah, Hallel and our hanukiah: Divine Power is *more real* than the world; always present with us, helping us at every moment, in every event, even today.

G-d led us out of Egypt; G-d can lead our world out of economic breakdown. G-d was present with us at Sinai; G-d is present in our world today, too.

G-d sustained us in the wilderness; G-d can supply our world with abundance.

G-d caused the oil to burn for 8 days; G-d is helping our world, unfettered by limitation. But Torah and the rabbis can do no more than *suggest* all this. It remains for *us* to choose

to change our thinking (b'ezrat Ha-Shem – with G-d's help, of course).

A Yiddish proverb says, “Worrying about a problem is worse than the problem alone.”

In the Talmud, *Avot d'Rabbi Natan*, teaching that we should “Learn to receive troubles,” says, “Be like a bottle that has no opening to let air in”¹ [it'll float in the sea, rather than taking in water and sinking]. Some of us, it's true, tend to worry more; others – less. Life experience, or a good friend, teacher or therapist, can often teach us the uselessness – if not outright harm – of worry. In any case, most people could learn to stay calmer, even gradually.

But how?

Growing up, some kids I saw seemed unflustered by anything that happened to them. I thought they were “cool.” How I wished I could be like them! But as time went on, I learned that many were merely keeping an outer appearance of calmness, while boiling inside with anger, worry or fear. “Looking calm” didn’t mean “being calm.”

To a large extent, our feelings are the products of our thoughts. Given any situation, we can choose thoughts about it that’ll create greater worry and tension, or less of those feelings. On Hanukah, this especially means thoughts about G-d.

In our present, apparently overwhelming economic crisis, can G-d help us?

Even a thousand years ago, the author of *Hovot ha-Levavot* had already answered this: “If you aren’t able to obtain the money you want in the manner you originally expected, the Almighty has many other ways and means by which you can acquire that money.”² On Hanukah, we can also remind ourselves that if G-d could cause one day’s oil to burn for eight days, there’s no limit to the ways G-d can help us. What’s more, if G-d *would* make the oil last, is there anything G-d would *not* do for us? No!

Do we smile at the story of the oil, thinking that it doesn’t stand up to historical scrutiny? If so, we’ve overlooked its meaning: *There’s no need to ask how G-d can help!* G-d can help in infinitely more ways than human beings can expect or imagine! G-d’s help wasn’t only in the past – it’s *always* with us. There are no limits to the ways G-d *is* helping us, even today.

We can tell ourselves – and see in our imagination – that despite the *appearance* of difficulty, G-d’s help is present and profuse, immeasurably greater than any perceived problem. This will give us a calmness based on sincere, positive hope.

As to why we light one additional light on each night of Hanukah, Hillel's school of thought taught, "We increase in holiness; we don't decrease."³ If, as we light our lights, we declare G-d's help and abundance in our mind and see it in our imagination, with greater sincerity and personal connection each night, we'll shortly find the belief filling our heart, too.

You might ask: "OK. It'll make us feel better. But will it actually change anything?"

Hasidut teaches the immutable spiritual law of action and reaction: "An arousal below causes an arousal above." The midrash also says that only after the first Israelite – Nachshon ben Aminadav – had entered the waters and they were up to his lips, did G-d part the Red Sea. We might say, too, that only after the Makkabee'im had first lit the oil, did G-d cause it to burn for eight days. Change begins with our certainty that G-d, with infinite capacity and good will, can do anything. If we doubt – the hanukiah in front of us is our reminder.

Let us, then, kindle increasing certainty in our hearts as we kindle one more light each night of Hanukah. And just as the light of our hanukiah is meant to radiate out into the world, let our trust in G-d's unlimited goodness and ability to help radiate out, too, healing the world's worry along with our own.

Hanukah Sameach

The Master's Station

I want to wish everyone a joyous holiday season. No matter your faith, it is a time for remembering the work of the Lord and our humility and submission to Him. May this Holiday Season bring you ever closer in your walk with the Lord. I want to thank Brother Eli Mallon for the special spiritual message he has written for this season.

The Lodge received beautiful thank you letters from both **Jillian Richards** and **Sarah Sassone** regarding their receipt of the Martin Lindenberg Scholarships.

BLOOD DRIVE

The Blood Drive held on November 17 produced approximately 30 units of blood. While this was short of our goal, given the time and location it was still a success. The Lodge will plan another blood drive in the Spring. We will plan to hold it at the Palisades Mall on a weekend. I want to specially thank **Br. Ron Steiner** and **Br. Richie Schwartz** for their efforts in planning the event with Hospice. I also want to thank **Br. Bill Thorne** for his participation and assistance.

SICKNESS AND DISTRESS

Brother **Bill Schroeder** reports he hasn't been to Lodge meetings lately because he had a detached retina, however he is recovering and hopes to be back soon.

Brother **Harry Kramer's** father-in-law, Claudia's father, suffered a massive heart attack this past week. Please keep him and the Kramer family in your prayers.

Brother **John Gebbia** returned safely from his trip to China but has suffered a numbers of seizures while there. I ask that you keep Br. John in your prayers.

Our cherished Brother R.W.: **Martin Lindenberg**, has been hospitalized since Monday in Good Samaritan Hospital with pneumonia. He requests no calls at the present time. Please keep Marty and Irene in your thoughts and prayers for a speedy and complete recovery.

Reminder: If you haven't done so already, please consider getting the Trestleboard by email rather than by regular mail. The savings will be allocated for Charity use. Please e-mail a note stating you want to participate. My e-mail is tomsassone@optonline.net.



Thomas Sassone, Master

Calendar of Upcoming Events

12/02/2008 ***Summoned Communication & 1st Degree***

12/16/2008 ***Holiday Party (Open)***

12/23/2008 ***Tree of Life***

01/06/2009 ***Robert Burns Night (Open)***

01/20/2008 ***DeMolay Ritual Presentation***

02/03/2009 ***TBA***

02/17/2009 ***2nd Degree (Edict Degree)***

02/24/2008 ***2nd Degree (Class 2)***

03/03/2008 ***TBA***

03/26/2009 ***Grand Lecturer's Convention***

04/07/2008 ***TBA***

04/21/2009 ***3rd Degree***

04/28/2009 ***3rd Degree (Class 2)***

05/05/2009 ***Brother Bring a Friend Night (Open)***

05/19/2009 ***Election of Officers***

06/02/2009 ***Installation of Officers***

06/16/2009 ***End of Year Party (Open)***

Officers 2008-2009

Br. Thomas Sassone (Ada)	Master
(845) 639-4664 tomsassone@optonline.net	
Br. Alexander Mulgrew (Jennifer)	Sr. Warden
(845) 639-4664 amulgrew@mulgrewsassone.com	
Br. Howard Bleiwas (Cynthia)	Jr. Warden
(845) 362-3604 howard@bleiwas.com	
Br. Ron Pomerance (Marion)	Assistant Jr. Warden
(845) 357-8388 thepommo29@aol.com	
R.W. Marvin Gess (Diane)	Treasurer
(845) 357-5366 mg@rossandgess.com	
R.W. Ronald J. Steiner (Joan)	Secretary
(845) 354-4192 nymason@aol.com	
Br. Louis Irizarry III (Rebecca)	Chaplain
(845) 359-9550 blaqsheep96@aol.com	
R.W. Bruce Klein (Rhonda)	Chaplain
(845) 426-5856 bdksq1@aol.com	
Br. John Gebbia III (Huang Mei)	Sr. Deacon
(914) 414-9440 OR_district.mason@yahoo.com	
Br. David McKeown (Colette)	Jr. Deacon
(845) 558-9237 mckeown502@yahoo.com	
Br Shannon Heithcock (Carla)	Sr. Master of Ceremonies
(845) 406-2721 shannon@storageeffects.com	
Br. Robert Trow (Joanne)	Jr. Master of Ceremonies
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Br. David Schwan	Marshal
(845) 639-7722 dschwan@redaschwanlaw.com	
Br. Nate Metlitz (Carolyn)	Marshal
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Br. Richard Schwartz (Susan)	Sr. Steward
(845) 354-2161 zjd10901@yahoo.com	
Br. Howard Whitman (Joan)	Steward
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Br. Richard Butts (Eraina)	Steward
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Br. Antonio Reda (Vicky)	Steward
(845) 639-7722 areda@redaschwanlaw.com	
V.W. Scott Allan Klein	Tiler
(845) 359-6787	

Trustees

R.W. Martin Lindenberg

R.W. Joel Rosenwasser

Br. Richard Schwartz D.S.A

Past Masters

David Richards	2007-08	R.W. Giles M. Purvis	1977	Jay Helfgott	affl.
Louis M. Irizarry III	2006-07	Norman J. Greenberg *	1976	George Liberis	affl.
R.W. Bruce Klein	2005-06	R.W. Harold J. Dresdale	1976	Nate Metlitz	affl.
R.W. Louis M. Irizarry II	2003-05	R.W. Martin Lindenberg	1975	M.W. Carl J. Fitje	Hon.
Harry F. Anderson	2002-03	Sander A. Lefkowitz *	1974	R.W. Charles Antzelevitch	Hon.
Harry E. Kramer	2001-02	Erwin L. Robbins	1973-74	R.W. Hon. Benjamin Gilman	Hon.
R.W. Peter J. D. Dedel	1999-01	Leonard J. Plotch *	1972	R.W. Albert E. Mealey	Hon.
Harry E. Kramer *	1999-00	Henry Morris	1972, 1985	R.W. Norman E. Moon	Hon.
Thomas P. Walden *	1997-98	R.W. Eugene W. Erickson	1971		
R.W. C.F. William Maurer III	1997-99	Charles K. Dunlop *	1969	* Tappan Zee Lodge No. 1125	
R.W. Glen L. Weinberg *	1994-97	Allen P. Oster	1969		
R.W. Joel Rosenwasser	1993-95	Henry Chait *	1967		
R.W. Mel Birnbaum	1992, 1995-97	Morton Baron	1967		
Anthony Urbinato	1987-88, 1990	Murray Kaplowitz *	1965		
George Bielski	1986, 1989, 1992	Robert Maidman *	1958		
V.W. Scott A. Klein *	1984, 1992-94	M.W. Neil I. Bidnick	affl.		
	1998-99	R.W. Robert Blanke	affl.		
Richard H. Fassberg	1984, 1991	R.W. Daniel E. Jonas	affl.		
Gerald P. Rickard	1983	R.W. Ronald J. Steiner	affl.		
Harold N. Eder *	1981	Alvin M. Russell	affl.		
Barry Ronner	1980-82	Stuart Sindell	affl.		
Eugene Foladare, DSA *	1979	Arthur S. Vener	affl.		
R.W. Marvin R. Gess	1979	Harry Sky	affl.		