

Officers

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Harvey Goldberg

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Kevin O'Rourke

(302) 250-3616

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Jr. Warden

Gary Williamson

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Rollyn@pursersoffice.com

Sr. Deacon

Kenyatta Williamson

Jr. Deacon

Kelvin Blassingame

Sr. Steward

Tom Sandilands

Jr. Steward

Drew Wedel

Treasurer

David Simkins, PM

Tiler

TBD

Special Note

We will be conferring the EA degree on a new candidate on **Thursday November 30**. The degree will be at **Lombardy Hall on Rt202**, where Granite-Corinthian meets. In the spirit of this family season and to celebrate as one big Masonic family, we will be conferring our candidate in conjunction with two from Granite. **Three new brothers, one fabulous night**, come out and fill the sidelines, and show these new guys what Masonic brotherhood is all about!!

CHOCOLATE NIGHT IS HERE AGAIN!!!

Once again Brothers, Chocolate Night is upon us, and with it, our lodge collation room will be packed to the gills with visiting families and friends doing the good work of preparing the many gifts we have collected and purchased for gifting the needy children of the area.

Our brother, Rev. Bill Downing, has made this his personal mission for over 20 years to provide these gifts to working families in need, so that they don't have to choose between having a Christmas gift for their children, without having to sacrifice something like food or shelter to do so. Come visit with us as the Grand Master of Delaware and his Staff will be present. **Snacks / light dinner will be provided.**



Eureka-DuPont Lodge No. 23-29

Delaware A.F. & A.M.



Masonic Trestle Board

December 2017

Monthly Stated Communications every
2nd Thursday, 7:30PM

(except July & August)

Brandywine Masonic Temple
2016 Foulk Road, Wilmington, DE 19810
<http://eurekadupont.org>

Need a ride to Lodge? We'll get you a ride.
Call the Master at (609) 645-1235

All Visitors Welcome!

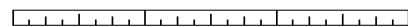
Eureka-DuPont Lodge No. 23-29 A.F. & A.M.
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To the Family of the Eureka-DuPont Lodge Brother whose name appears on the mailing label. In the event that he enters a hospital, a nursing home or is incapacitated in any way, please notify the Worshipful Master or Secretary of Eureka-DuPont Lodge.



Committee Chairman Roster

Charity

Harvey Goldberg, WM

(609) 645-1235

Sick & Visitation

David Simkins, PM

(302) 598-4797

Widows & Orphans

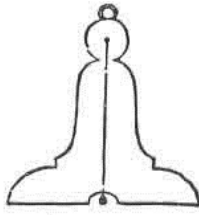
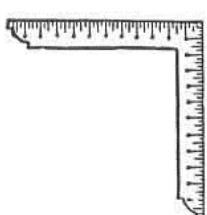
Gary Williamson, PM

(302) 588-7725

Candidate Instruction

Kevin O'Rourke

(302) 250-3616



Please take time out and visit our website eurekadupont.org where you can find all of this year's trestle boards.

Information on the Wilmington Breakfast Club can be had on the internet, here: <http://jtroy.com/breakfast>

December, 2017 Trestleboard

The 224nd Regular Communication of Eureka-DuPont Lodge No. 23-29 will be held at Brandywine Masonic Temple at 2016 Foulk Road in Wilmington, Delaware on Thursday, December 14, 2017 at 7:30pm. The reading of the minutes, correspondence, payment of bills, reception of petitions, and all other business as may be lawfully brought before the Lodge will be transacted.

Harvey Goldberg, Worshipful Master

Attest: Rollyn Trueblood, Secretary

This month there will also be a vote for Grand Lodge Officers— If you are a Eureka-DuPont member of Grand Lodge you may vote. Come vote!

Eureka-DuPont will be joining Granite-Corinthian in conferring the Entered Apprentice Degree on three worthy candidates at the Talleyville Masonic Temple on November 30 at 7 pm.

Eureka-DuPont Calendar

Nov 30	EA Degree at Granite-Corinthian	7:00 pm
Dec. 2	Claymont Christmas Parade	9:00 am
Dec. 14	Stated Communication (Choco. Night)	7:30 pm
Jan. 20	Officer Training (Dover)	8:30 am
Mar. 17	Officer Training (Dover)	8:30 am

Eureka-DuPont Living Past Masters

2017 Jerome R. “Jay” Troy	1975 Frederick A. Egan
2016 Thomas J. Cole	1974 Lawrence D Jester, Sr
2015 Gary R. Williamson	1973 David Hipp
2005-14 David M. Simkins	1972-4 John R. Bradd
1998-03 Robert R Hiddeman	1972 Kenneth C. Butler
1994-97 Joseph L. Kaufman	1970 Anton W. Benson
1993 Peter M. Pena	1970 Alvin M Rubenstein
1990 Neil M. Thompson	1969 John Barnes
1986 Lloyd H. Stover	1966 John W. Davis, Jr.
1982 Anton W. Benson	1963 Donald P. Zebley
1979 George W. Butz, III	1958 Emil R. A. Bohus
1977 Edward W. Louden	1956 Arthur A. Thompson
1976 Kenneth C. Butler	
1975 John R. Kraus	



From the East



Merry Christmas and happy Chanukah! As we all know this Stated Communication is chocolate night and a good time to be had by all. Today I've included a realistic Masonic look at Xmas that I think you'll appreciate:

Is Father Christmas a Freemason?

I have a very serious question to put to you all.

I would like to raise it with you and then do some detective work, examining the evidence that might lead us to answering it.

It is a most important question that I am sure you have often asked yourself, and relates our Craft to the wider society in which we live and concerns several major issues of this season. This very serious question is "Is Father Christmas a Freemason?"

Let us consider the facts of this case: Of whom does this remind you? A worthy gentleman, who is (we must admit) getting on a bit in years and is perhaps a little overweight, who wears a very distinctive costume as the badge of his activities, who provides the opportunity for friends and visitors to meet in fellowship, who is surrounded by secrecy and mystery, dispenses goodwill and the charity of gifts all over the world (avoiding ostentatious public display while doing so) and is there doing it year after year!

Well, fellow detectives, you must admit that this description could fit either Santa or a Freemason. But this is merely circumstantial evidence. We need some proof!

Let us start with his movements on the evening in question. All the reports have him coming from the North Pole. As the sun rises in the east to open and enliven the day, and with him needing to finish the world before dawn, then he would have to begin in the East and move towards the West. Therefore Father Christmas must begin his journey at the north-east corner of the world. This, of course, is exactly what we do with an Entered Apprentice.

Similarly, you would assume he would finish heading for home, which would place him in the north-west corner at the end of his work, to give his salute to the world and leave. Convincing proof, you must agree!

But, think too, he undertakes this great journey to provide the gifts but once a year, and I am sure that any Brother Treasurer will agree that this is exactly the frequency with which most Brethren provide the gift of their charity to the lodge! And the secrecy, the mystery? Those of you who are parents, remember. What was the worst crime that an older child could commit at this time of the year? To tell the younger ones the secret of Santa, to break the faith that they should have kept. And I am sure your punishment of them pointed out that they were void of all moral worth and totally unfit to be received into the dinner table but be sent to their room for destroying something that was so good, so worthwhile and so innocent.

Surely all this evidence shows us beyond doubt that Father Christmas is a Freemason! He practices Brotherly Love and Relief; we are happy to meet him and the Christmas season, and sorry to part.

All the details, his wearing of a uniform, the rituals that happen year in year out, the fact he is a male ... On a more serious note, Brethren, the way the whole Christmas season has developed and is practiced does have many things in common with Freemasonry, and we can learn much about each from the other.

For instance, where did the figure we call Father Christmas come from originally? What is his background? Father Christmas, or Santa Claus, or St Nicholas has elements of pre-Christian myths and legends, which developed through the Middle Ages by being built into the great Christian story of God's wonderful gift to the world.

By the eighteenth and nineteenth century these details were formalized into the character that we still have today: his stylized uniform, his way of working, his ritual activities and sayings. This all sounds very Masonic.

The pre-Christian legends of Solomon's Temple, the pyramids, Pythagoras, and so on were developed through the Middle Ages by the great Christian cathedral builders, then formalized in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries into the uniform, the work, the rituals that we use today.

St Nicholas was actually a 4th century Turkish bishop who had originally been a rich nobleman. One of the stories about him was that he had helped a poor man who could not afford to pay for weddings for his 3 daughters.

St Nicholas climbed onto the roof and threw a handful of gold coins down the chimney and these coins fell into the girls' stockings that had been hung up by the fire to dry. The girls were then able to marry well and lived happily ever after.

He has been considered the patron saint of poor children ever since. The legend became very popular in Europe, especially the Netherlands where it was mixed with elements from the pagan Yule or mid-winter festivals. St Nick became Santa Claus, who would arrive on December 6th (St Nicholas' Day) mounted on a white horse and visit children to enquire about their behavior the previous year.

Good children would be rewarded, and bad ones punished. The night before, children would leave a pair of the shoes or clogs out, filled with hay and carrots for the horse. In the morning these would be found, filled with sweets or small presents.

These traditions were taken to America by Dutch settlers, but it was the famous poem by Professor Clement Clark Moore which begins "'Twas the night before Christmas, and all through the house...." which settled most of the details into the Santa figure we know today.

Many of these details (such as the reindeer, and their names, the flying sledge, coming down the chimney) were first brought together in this poem, but Professor Moore took them from old traditions from as far afield as Finland and Siberia and they have stuck and become a single story. You can see how similar this is to the creation of our ritual and ceremonies.

While these also certainly include many elements that are ancient folklore, they were put together quite deliberately by identifiable people, with a specific aim: to create an impression in the minds of the Brethren taking part. Like the Santa legend, the details may be fictional, they may come from many different sources, and they may even be inconsistent with each other. That does not matter.

It is the impression that all of them create as an entirety that is important. Would you deny all the good that the Santa story achieves, all the happiness it creates, just because it is a story? Of course not. And this is the real linking of Father Christmas and Freemasonry. Why do we have Christmas and why do we have Father Christmas? We celebrate religious beliefs about the birth of goodness, and hope for the future; we reaffirm the belief that people are basically good and can develop into loving, caring, helpful, supporting friends to each other.

We look to a New Year where things can be better. We do this at this season whether we are celebrating the Christian Nativity, or the Jewish Hannukah with its lights and gifts and story of peace, or the Hindu Diwali with its festival of lights and gifts of sweets and toys, or even if we hold no formal religion except the pleasure of seeing a child's face transfixed with wonder and delight. And why are we Freemasons? Because we believe that there are important things like goodness and hope for the future, and that men can develop into loving, caring, helpful, supporting Brethren to their families and each other.

We not only look to a future where things can be better, but we see it as our role, as Free and Accepted, or Symbolic, Masons, to help to build that future.

So, I feel I can safely say that Father Christmas is a Freemason. Not only does he show so many of the signs and tokens of being one, but he brings us a message that we, as Freemasons, can heed for the whole year.

Peace on earth, good will towards men!

Merry Christmas.

David Downie

St Trinians Lodge No 2050

Isle of Man

So Mote It Be!

Harvey Goldberg, Worshipful Master

Dinners

Our SS, Tom Sandilands, provided a delicious pasta, meatball and sausage meal at our last meeting. Our Stewards continue to prepare dinner prior to each Stated Communication throughout the Masonic year. Snacks/light dinner will be served on Dec. 14 (6:30ish).