

M.:W.: Edward R. Trosin,  
Grand Master

R.:W.: Martin D. Merman,  
District Deputy Grand Master

*Free and Accepted Masons*  
**Arcana Lodge No. 246**



Dear Brother:

You and your Masonic friends are cordially and fraternally invited to attend the 2,714<sup>th</sup> Communication of Arcana Lodge No. 246 F. & A.M. to be held in the **French Doric Room** on the 10th floor Masonic Hall, 71 West 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, New York, NY:

**Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM**

**Presentation: Unusual Masonic Questions & Ideas**

*Learn about the curious and unusual in Masonry; bring your own questions – Don't miss this unique event!*

*Tom Sabini, Librarian and Masonic Scholar, Livingston Masonic Library*

**Dinner at 6:00 PM, Masonic Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Room 2-East, Cost: \$20.00 per person**

***Officers' Dress: Business attire / Attendees' Dress: Business attire, please!***

You are **summoned** and your Masonic friends are cordially and fraternally invited to attend the 2,715<sup>th</sup> Communication of Arcana Lodge No. 246 F. & A.M. to be held in the **French Doric Room** on the 10th floor Masonic Hall, 71 West 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, New York, NY:

**Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30 PM**

**Grand Lecturer Convention – R.:W.: Edward G. Gilbert**

*Hosted by Joshua Lodge – Focus for the evening: The Hiramic Drama*

*Location: 6<sup>th</sup> Floor – Ionic Room*

**Dinner at 6:00 PM, Masonic Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Room 2-East, Cost: \$20.00 per person**

**Lodge to be opened by officers at 7:00 PM**

***Officers' Dress: Formal / Attendees' Dress: Business attire, please!***

Bro. Matthew Burich  
**Acting Secretary**  
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Email: [mwb2103@aol.com](mailto:mwb2103@aol.com)



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**Worshipful Master**  
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Bro. Phillip Weiss  
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# *From The East*

## *Lieutenant Ivan Osokin and Mr. Ebenezer Scrooge*

My Brethren:

I would imagine that pretty much all of us know the name Ebenezer Scrooge, but I'm also convinced that virtually no one is familiar with Ivan Osokin, and what relationship, if any, can be drawn between these two significant literary figures?

Mr. Scrooge is, of course, the creation of famed novelist Charles Dickens and essentially embodies all that is dark and ugly in a human being. He is the central figure in the novel, *A Christmas Carol*, and is taken on a voyage by three spirits at the behest of Scrooge's erstwhile and moribund partner, Jacob Marley in an attempt to save Scrooge from a horrific and inevitable fate. In the final sequence of his travels, Scrooge, under the direction of *The Ghost of Christmas Future* is brought to the site of his own grave. He has learned that he died a lonely and despised man whose only virtue is that he was a "good man of business." He lived only for money and considered the welfare of people totally expendable and beyond any concern of his. At this point, when faced with his frightful and solitary demise, he appeals to ghost and asks, "Is this what must be, or is this what may be?"

Ivan Osokin, a character created by novelist and mathematician Peter Ouspensky in his book, *The Strange Life of Ivan Osokin*, which takes place in the early 1900s, is a lieutenant in the Russian Army, who has realized that through his own foolish actions, has lost his love, a beautiful woman who he has never asked to marry and who, in consequence, has decided to wed another officer. He realizes that his army career has gone nowhere, and in fact is headed toward a significant decline as he's been newly assigned to defend a remote and insignificant location in Russia. He reaches a state of complete despair and contemplates suicide. In a quirk of fate, he comes across a magician to whom he explains his misery. Osokin muses that if he could re-live the last twenty years of his life he'd fix everything and would make things right. The magician counters that if Osokin could be given the opportunity, he'd wind up in the same place in his life without any changes. Osokin firmly declares that that would be impossible, especially if he'd have all the memories of the past twenty years in his head as a guide. The magician then casts a spell, a dark fog appears, and whoosh, Osokin is sent back twenty years to his days in a military academy where his life begins anew, except in this case, he has all his memories of his past to help him make the "right" decisions.

Two men, Osokin and Scrooge, in essence became time-travelers, both observing their existences, and both given the opportunity to make changes. And what happens? We all know about Mr. Scrooge. He radically changes. His whole demeanor shifts and with it, his external world changes as well. He becomes the benefactor of many and is one of the most beloved and cherished people in his city and is rewarded with a rich and prosperous existence. Scrooge wins, but what about Osokin? Lieutenant Osokin undergoes no change. He's the same person as before but living his life over again. We are privy to his logic and thoughts as he traverses his life anew. We watch as he immutably, and with his purity of logic, makes the identical decisions, one after the other until he arrives at the same place in life with the same misery, the same despair, and the same contemplation of suicide. Why? Because he did not understand that to change his external circumstances he *first* had to change his internal self. One follows the other. It is a rule of existence from which no one can escape.

In his famous short book, *As a Man Thinketh*, James Allen shows us that our thoughts generate our existence. Dark and negative thinking brings us to a cruel and desolate place, whereas positive thoughts bring us to a place of beauty and prosperity. As we work on our Ashlar, we need to remember these truths. If we're not pleased with our existence, we must *first* change ourselves and the way we think. The external world will then follow.

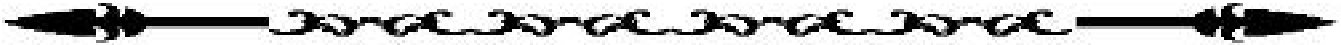
Fraternally always,  
W.: Bruce Zayde

## PAST EVENTS

- We held a well executed Second Degree and passed two worthy brothers to the Degree of Fellowcraft. Congratulations to Bro. Curtis Ellis and Bro. Jeff Berman

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup>** – Festive Board, Frauncis Tavern, New York, NY. The cost will be \$40.00 per person. Each lodge is entitled to just 15 tickets, so please, if you're interested, let Bro. Phillip Weiss know at your earliest opportunity and reserve your ticket by paying the fee up front. Tickets will be available after February 1<sup>st</sup> on a first come first served basis. (Bro. Weiss' contact information is on the front of this communication.)
- **Wednesday February 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Grand Lecturer's Convention. *Officers, please make every effort to attend so that Arcana Lodge can be honored with the Potts Award. We must have all senior officers present (Master to Junior Master of Ceremonies) in order to receive this recognition! Please do whatever you can to adjust your schedules accordingly, as we have only one opportunity. It'd be a pity for our lodge to go unrecognized.*



### Glad Tidings:

- It was heartening to see Bro. Larry Centore present, with full vigor, in his role as Junior Deacon for our Second Degree in January.

### Sickness & Distress:

- Bro. Guy Catarina, our Senior Deacon is continuing to undergo the necessary tests to assure that his upcoming prostate surgery will be completely successful. We're all here behind you, Guy, and are rooting for you. Please contact Guy and wish him well. He may be reached at (212) 447-1241. His e-mail address is: [gcaterina@nyc.rr.com](mailto:gcaterina@nyc.rr.com).
- W.: Jerry Siskin is receiving hormone therapy for his prostate condition, and though he hasn't been able to join us for the past few meetings due to the unpleasant side-effects of this treatment, his heart is always with Arcana, and our hearts, similarly are with him. Please give Jerry a call to wish him well. I know he'd love to hear from our lodge Brethren; he's reachable at (212) 255-6045.
- R.: W.: Arthur Klansky, our Chaplin, has suffered a loss to his extended family. His cousin, who he has been close to since childhood has passed away after a long illness. We share his grief and wish him well. You may communicate your condolences by contacting him at his home (718) 229-6178. I know that he'll be touched by your call.

## THE SHIFTING SANDS OF TIME

Bro. Robert Carle, due to very significant health issues, is no longer able to tile for our lodge. He attempted in good faith to fulfill the role, but is unable to maintain that position. We are, of course, saddened by his condition and certainly do wish him well.

# TRESTLE BOARD

## AWAITING DEGREE OF MASTER MASON

Bro. Angel Hinoestroza

## AWAITING DEGREE OF FELLOWCRAFT

Bro. Aramis Seferian, Bro. Jason Putignano, Bro. Michael Blacksborg, Bro. Jonathan William, Bro. Gerald Martin  
Bro. Thomas Rackett, Bro. John Shamen, Bro. Samuel Goldstein, Bro. Maury Satin

## AWAITING DEGREE OF ENTERED APPRENTICE

Mr. Colin Profitt, Mr. Jeffrey Stones, Mr. Kevin Eldrich, Mr. James Palese, Mr. Daniel Rodriguez

## Arcana Lodge Officers (2005-2006)

**Master:** W .: Bruce Zayde

**Senior Warden:** V .: W .: Nick Paneriello

**Junior Warden:** Bro. Phillip Weiss

**Treasurer:** R .: W .: Joseph Homer

**Acting Secretary:** Bro. Matthew Burich

**Senior Deacon:** Bro. Guy Caterina

**Junior Deacon:** Bro. Lawrence Centore

**Senior Master of Ceremonies:** Bro. Anthony Colao, Sr.

**Junior Master of Ceremonies:** Bro. Anthony Colao, Jr.

**Marshall:** Bro. Phil Chulbi

**Chaplain:** R .: W .: Arthur Klansky

## 2005-2006 Year of the Ashlar

We work on the perfection of our Ashlar with the loving help of our Brethren

