

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:

The Wednesday, April 12, 2006 meeting is canceled.

This is as a consequence of it falling on the 1st Seder night of Passover, also known as "The Celebration of The Last Supper." We will resume our normal meeting schedule on April 26, 2006.

You and your Masonic friends are cordially and fraternally invited to attend the 2,718th 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 23rd Street, New York, NY:

Wednesday, April 26, 2006 at 7:30 PM

Guest Speaker: Bro. Henry Shienkopf

Presentation and Discussion – The Changing Dynamic of our Local and National Political Scene

This will be a meeting you certainly won't want to miss.

Dinner at 6:00 PM, Outback Restaurant, 60 West 23rd Street between 5th and 6th Avenues

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

Bro. Matthew Burich
Acting Secretary
Cell: (760) 522-0372
Email: mwb2103@aol.com



Bro. Phillip Weiss
Junior Warden
Home: (718) 331-8213
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W.: Bruce Zayde
Worshipful Master
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V.:W.: Nick Panariello
Senior Warden
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From The East

"There are passages here and there from which the connoisseur alone can derive satisfaction; but these passages are written in such a way that the less learned cannot fail to be pleased, though without knowing why."

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart¹

My Brethren:

This year, we celebrate the 250th birthday of our Brother, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, an undisputed titan in Western cultural evolution. Many believe, as do I, that he set the cornerstone for musical development, but in a way that was appealing to his broadest audience. He was not a cultural snob per se, although he did, without question, provide the stimulation and material from which those "in the know" could derive the utmost delight.

As Masons, we are taught that our noble craft, too, has a broad basis from which to draw. As our recent guest, V.:W.: Charles O. Cowan, in his presentation of the York Rite fundamentals demonstrated, Masonry has huge underpinning and appeals to a wide range of Brethren. There are those who look to Masonry as a way to fraternize with Masonic friends and colleagues and revel in their company, and that is perfectly fine. And then there are those who seek a deeper meaning in Masonry. Their quest is inner learning – a reach for what is true about life, humankind, and spirituality. While Masonry is not a religion, it does provide a pathway for those whose inner drive is for greater universal understanding about the more esoteric aspects of existence.

Observe the famous passage in Corinthians 9 -- 6 "Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously." This, most assuredly, applies to our craft. Masonry is most definitely a two-way street. As you put more work into Masonry, you can expect to gain more light and benefit from the knowledge and riches it offers. It is an excellent example of bilateralism. You cannot simply assume that the teaching of Masonry is an entitlement due the Master Mason. It is not. To derive all you can from Masonry requires dedication and effort; it is by no means automatic process.

We should keep this in mind when investigating potential candidates. The old precept of having a prospective Mason *first* ask of a Mason about how to become one was not a bad idea. It demonstrated intent and had an active component clearly established on the part of the candidate. While passivity is not, in and of itself a bad thing necessarily, it is not a desirable aspect of a potential Brother. Our fraternity has so very much to offer, and while times have changed, and we must face, accept, and incorporate these changes into our practice, the vitality and growth of our cherished craft needs true seekers in order to keep the inner core of Masonic teachings alive. Candidates should want to become Masons and not just look at it as a curiosity, something to be entertained with as they live their lives. By setting example through knowledge, behavior, dignity, and leadership, we can attract the finest people into our craft. It should be part of our own quest – to sustain and grow our fraternity, at the same time preserving the riches and fundamentals that define the absolute basis of what Masonry is all about.

Fraternally always,
W.: Bruce Zayde

1. Quoted in Simon P. Keefe, "The Concertos in Aesthetic and Stylistic Context," in *The Cambridge Companion to Mozart*, ed. Simon Keefe (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003), 78.

THE CHANGING SANDS OF TIME

At the beginning of the current Masonic year, there were extensive discussions on how Arcana can correct some management processes that allowed our assets to dwindle to levels where we cannot cover Arcana's annual expenses without liquidating principle. After reviewing Arcana's Bylaws, the Finance committee and the Trustees feel that the safeguards contained in them, *if* strictly adhered to, are sufficient to ensure Arcana's continuance once we have replenished our eroded principle assets.

The Finance Committee suggests the following changes to the Bylaws:

Reduce the period to unaffiliate from 2 years to 1 year on non-payment of dues to better manage membership and reduce overpayment of Per Capita.

Rationale:

Grand Lodge does have a procedure that will pay the Grand Lodge per capita dues for financial hardship of a brother, but this must be renewed annually and the Grand Lodge will only pay the current year's Per Capita. The Lodge continues to make mailings to this Brother. Under our current process not only have we forgiven the brother his dues for at least 2 years, but we have paid Grand Lodge at least 2 years Per Capita and mailed the communication for about 20 months (our current mailing cost is about \$1.00 for each brother, each month.) and a Certified mailing prior to unaffiliation of about \$5.00. Thus, our current net deficit per hardship member has been \$255.00. With this change and the lodge following Grand Lodge procedures in January of each year, we would reduce that deficit to our costs of mailing the communication each month to each hardship member.

Grand Lodge requires an annual report of Lodge membership as of December 31st and that brother's vote on unaffiliation prior to this, but after the lodge has mailed a certified or registered summon, thirty days prior. This means that the mailing must be made in October.

Article I

Membership:

Current

Section 12. Unaffiliation. Any member owing more than two year's dues may be unaffiliated after having been duly summoned, thirty days previously, to pay said dues.

Proposed

Section 12. Unaffiliation. Any member owing more than one year's dues may be unaffiliated after having been duly summoned, thirty days previously, to pay said dues. This vote should be the first meeting in December annually.

Article IV

Arrears and Penalties:

Current

Section 2. Arrears Defined. Any Brother owing dues for two (2) complete years or more shall be deemed to be in arrears.

Section 3. Penalty. The Lodge may, by vote, impose a penalty of unaffiliation on any Brother who shall be in arrears two or more years, provided, however, that at least thirty (30) days prior to such vote a summons be sent by registered or certified mail to such Brother at his last known place of address, directing him to pay the amount of his arrears, otherwise to show cause why penalty of unaffiliation should not be imposed.

Proposed

Section 2. Arrears Defined. Any Brother owing dues for one (1) complete year or more shall be deemed to be in arrears.

Section 3. Penalty. The Lodge may, by vote, impose a penalty of unaffiliation on any Brother who shall be in arrears one or more years, provided, however, that at least thirty (30) days prior to such vote a summons be sent by registered or certified mail to such Brother at his last known place of address, directing him to pay the amount of his arrears, otherwise to show cause why penalty of unaffiliation should not be imposed. This summons should be made in the month of October annually.

Reduce the number of stated Communications per month from two to one.

Rationale:

The following change would split our meetings into two types:

- A Stated communication where we are obligated to meet Grand Lodge requirements, do Lodge business, and rent the Lodge room.
- A Social meeting that we could hold at our convenience. This meeting could be raised to a special meeting at the discretion of the Lodge or master.

Article II Communications:

Current

Section 1. The Stated communications of this Lodge shall be held in the City of New York on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. The hours of all meetings shall be at the discretion of the Worshipful Master.

Section 5. The Master shall have the power to suspend Stated Communications between June 15th and September 15th, and when a Stated Communication falls upon a legal or religious holiday, or eve thereof.

Proposed

Section 1. The Stated communications of this Lodge shall be held in the City of New York on the second of each month. There will be a Social Meeting the fourth Wednesday of each month. The hours of all meetings shall be at the discretion of the Worshipful Master.

Section 5. The Master shall have the power to suspend Stated Communications and Social Meetings between June 15th and September 15th, and when a Stated Communication falls upon a legal or religious holiday, or eve thereof.

Increasing the dues by a multiple of Grand Lodge Per Capita Dues and Assessments... To increase Arcana's retained dues automatically with Grand Lodge.

Rationale:

Over the past several years due to excessive expenditures and lack of adequate management, Arcana has eroded its assets. Arcana no longer have a separate Welfare Fund that both Arcana and Elbe Garfield had previously. In addition, The Ben Chassid Memorial Welfare Fund Account has lost its IRS charitable designation and the fund has been reduced to about \$22,000 that is below the \$40,000 required by our Bylaws.

The Proposed formula will help Arcana keep pace with inflation by tying future Grand Lodge Per Capita Increases with the amount of Arcana retained dues. This change will also align the request for dues with the Masters term.

Article III Fees and Dues:

Current

Section 5. Annual Dues. The annual dues of each member shall be the Grand Lodge per capita dues and assessments, as of May 1999, eighteen and one half (\$18.50) dollars, plus an amount of fifty (\$50.00) dollars for dues prior to January 1, 2005 and an amount of \$65 for dues after January 1, 2005. Which total shall be rounded to the nearest five (\$5.00) dollars, thus as of May 1999, each member's annual dues would be seventy (\$70.00) dollars plus per capita. Dues are payable in advance and this formula will commence with dues payable after January 1st, 2000.

Proposed

Section 5. Annual Dues. The annual dues of each member shall be Eight (8) times the Grand Lodge per capita dues and assessments (as of January 1, 2007, thirty and one half dollars, \$30.50) rounded up to the nearest \$10 increment, \$250.00. Dues are payable in advance and this formula will commence with dues payable after May 1st, 2006.

Remove the term "Salary" from this document to avoid the reporting requirements of the IRS

Rationale:

This change removes the word Salaries from the Article Title and Section 9 the reimbursements of the officers without change.

Article VI Duties and Salaries and Reimbursements of Officers:

Current

Section 9. Salaries and Reimbursements. For the performance of their duties, the following officers shall receive annual salaries or reimbursements of expenses, as hereinafter set forth, payable quarterly:

Proposed

Article VI Duties and Reimbursements of Officers

Section 9. Reimbursements. For the performance of their duties, the following officers shall receive annual reimbursements of expenses, as hereinafter set forth, payable quarterly

PAST EVENTS

- We had a wonderful and stimulating discussion of the York Rites fundamentals by V.:W.: Charles O. Cowing, District Deputy High Grand Priest. The Q&As were lively and contributed to a far better understanding of, among other things, The Royal Arch Degree.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Wednesday, April 19, 2006 at 7:00 PM – Arcana Festive Board** to be held at Valentino's Restaurant and Lounge, 1389 Bay Street corner of Fingerboard Road, Staten Island, NY
- **Sunday, April 30, 2006 at Noon** – The reenactment of Brother George Washington's first Inauguration at St. Paul's Chapel, 209 Broadway, diagonally across from City Hall Park. Preceding the reenactment at **10:00 AM** there will be an Episcopal Holy Eucharist Service. Following the Inaugural reenactment, there will be a reception at Fraunces Tavern located at 54 Pearl St., corner of Broad St. ***You must make a reservation for the reception.*** Contact W.: Ove V. Nilsson, Chairman at (718) 638-8677 or (718) 263-1508 with your name, lodge, and telephone number.
- **Friday, May 5, 2006 at 6:00 PM** – The breathtaking new Space Show, **Cosmic Collisions**, narrated by Robert Redford, will be our treat for the night. The cost will be \$26.00 per person, payable in advance, or \$22.00 at the box office. The show we will be attending is the final one of the day at 7:00 PM, **so I would strongly encourage all those interested to be at the Planetarium no later than 6:00 PM to purchase tickets. Arriving late may mean that you'll be closed out!** After the show, we'll take a stroll a few blocks down Columbus Avenue to Isabella's Restaurant for dinner. So that reservations can be secured for dinner, please RSVP directly to the SW, V.:W.: Nick Panariello at (646) 660-1481 no later than April 21st.
- **Wednesday, October 18, 2006** – Mark your calendars for the Annual Seventh District Association Gala Event. Details regarding the event will be in upcoming communications.

GLAD TIDINGS

- It is with tremendous joy that I take pleasure in informing you that our Senior Deacon, Bro. Guy Catarina, went through his prostate surgery with success. Although there was some post surgical intestinal complication, it has resolved itself; Guy is recovering rapidly.
- I am thrilled to report that our Tiler, W.: Howard Danon, is with us again. He tiled our last two meetings, and I'd like to say that it's great to have a Tiler again – especially Howard.

SICKNESS & DISTRESS

- W.: Jerry Siskin is continuing to receiving hormone therapy for his prostate condition, which has unfortunately proved to be more intransigent than had been hoped. Additional treatments may be prescribed for Jerry as the situation becomes better understood. I ask all our Brethren who read this to please stop for a moment and say a prayer on his behalf. Jerry has always been, and will continue to be there for us, so please call him and wish him well; I know he'd love to hear from our lodge Brethren; he's reachable at (212) 255-6045. I know I speak for everyone in hoping to see Jerry soon at our upcoming meetings.

TRESTLE BOARD

AWAITING DEGREE OF MASTER MASON

Bro. Curtis Ellis, Bro. Jeffrey Berman

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

Tiler: W .: Howard Danon

Chaplain: R .: W .: Arthur Klansky

Arcana Lodge Historian: Bro. Phillip Weiss

YEAR OF THE ASHLAR (2005-2006)

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

