

Winter 2001

From The President

MW Paul E. Ellis



The archives of the Memorial are replete with memorabilia and artifacts touching on the life of our first President, Brother George Washington. We are proud to be the repository of so many significant historical items. There is also a prized possession in the Memorial which came about through the efforts of another President and Mason, Past Grand Master Harry S. Truman. On June 24, 1948, he presented to the Memorial a replica of the Great Seal of the United States, which stands seven feet in diameter and is electrically lighted. The story of the presentation is interesting and is set forth in detail by Brother William Adrian Brown in his History of the George Washington Masonic Memorial.

Brother Brown was a longtime curator of the Memorial archives. Brother Brown relates that a personal friend of the President, Captain Harvey E. Dudley, was initiated in Alexandria-Washington Lodge. When the President heard about it, he was anxious to confer the Master Mason Degree on Captain Dudley, but he was not familiar with the Virginia ritual. Arrangements were made for Brother C. Philip Heishley to instruct the President. While at the White House with the President, Brother Brown admired a large seal of the United States and expressed his desire to have one for the Memorial. A few days later, the President called Brother Heishley and informed him of a large electrical seal in a federal storehouse, which was listed as scrap, but might be repaired. It was repaired and the President made plans for its presentation on June 24, 1948 when he was to confer the degree on Captain Dudley.

The day arrived and the Memorial was crowded with brethren looking forward to witnessing the President of the United States confer the Master Mason Degree. The President was late and the Lodge reluctantly proceeded without him. When he finally arrived, he apologized and stated that he had been detained by important affairs of state. He then presented to the Memorial the Great Seal, which used to be on top of the Government Printing Office building in Washington. It was damaged during an electrical storm, removed, never repaired and placed in a storehouse as scrap.

For many years the Great Seal was displayed in Assembly Hall of the Memorial. It was recently removed to make way for another exhibit. However, it will soon be returned to a rightful place of prominence for display on the Assembly Hall Level.

And what were the affairs of state that delayed the President? Check your history and you will find that it was on that eventful day that the President authorized the United States airlift for Berlin.



Capital City Opera Performances of Hansel & Gretel A Rousing Success

Sold-out performances of Hansel & Gretel by the [Capital City Opera](#) thrilled audiences three days in December at the George Washington Masonic Memorial Hall.

Under the baton of co-founder and Maestro Kim Allen Kluge, [CCO](#) enchanted children and adults alike on Dec. 15, 16 and 17 with a lyrical combination of acrobatic young dancers, powerful baritones and sopranos, and a 13-piece orchestra prominently situated atop the multi-level set.

One newspaper critic, writing about the performances, wondered why orchestras at Broadway musicals did not sound as good.



[CCO](#), in its first appearance at the Masonic Hall, brought Hansel and Gretel to life under the guidance of music director Kluge, stage director Jeff Keenan, scenic designer Greg Mitchell and choreographer Binnie Ritchie Holum. Standout performances included mezzo-soprano Jennifer Anne Cooper as Hansel and soprano Lisa C. Mandelkorn as Gretel.

The classic children's tale, written by 19th-century German composer Engelbert Humperdinck, was first performed in 1893. Humperdinck wrote the opera to entrance his own nieces and nephews.

[Capital City Opera](#) had its inaugural bow – a performance of Puccini's La Boheme – in 1997. Since then, [CCO](#), dedicated to bringing affordable and accessible opera to both new and long-time fans of the medium, has staged proven operatic masterpieces throughout the metropolitan Washington area.

At the Masonic Hall performances, orchestra members wore casual sweaters instead of the black formal wear generally associated with operas – part of Kluge's and [CCO](#) co-founder Marcia Neuhaus Speck's approach of accentuating the human elements of storytelling to establish an immediate and strong connection with the audience.

[CCO](#)'s nontraditional techniques also included positioning the orchestra in full view on the stage instead of in the conventional pit and having dancers enter through the aisles. Combined with imaginative scenic designs and strong emphasis on theatrical lighting, [CCO](#) succeeded in creating a powerful rapport among all those in attendance.

The George Washington Masonic Memorial, proud to have hosted [CCO](#), has slated a return engagement by the innovative opera company in June, when a new production, Mozart's Cosi Fan Tutte, will be unveiled. For information or reservations, call 703-683-1220.

WASHINGTONS & FRIENDS INVENT A TOWN

A symposium about the birth of Alexandria, George Washington's hometown, was held Feb. 3 at the George Washington Masonic Memorial in Alexandria, VA.

Sponsored by The George Washington Birthday Celebration Commission and Gadsby's Tavern Museum Society, the symposium examined factors that caused early leaders to consider Alexandria as an optimum spot for a town and how its early citizens faced the prospect of changes.

Speakers included Alexandria historian Dr. James Munson on "How It Began: Why They Had to Invent Alexandria," George Mason University history professor Dr. Peter Enriquez on "Scandal in the Courts," and University of Maryland history professor Dr. Allison Olson on "Humor in Early America."

Other addresses included "The Role of Blacks in Early Alexandria" by African American history consultant A.T. Stephens, and "Military Music in the 18th Century" by SFC Jack Skorjia.

Additional highlights were a Fifes & Drums program by The Old Guard, Fort Myer, VA, and vignettes of early Alexandria and tavern life by the G.W. Symposium Players.

A Message from the Executive Secretary-Treasurer

George D. Seghers



The Memorial recently hosted a reception for M.W. James Dean Cole, Grand Master of Masons of Virginia. The event was a great success. Following dinner in Assembly Hall, the Grand Master addressed the Brethren in the Lodge Meeting held in the Auditorium. In his address he stressed his theme for the year, "Do Good Unto All." This phrase is taken from the closing charge of a Master Masons Lodge under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Virginia. M.W. Brother Cole remarked that as Masons we often forget that this charge applies to all of humanity not just to the members of the Craft, and that this is something we should apply to our daily lives.

It is fairly easy to "do good" to our friends, our family, and those we like. The real challenge is to "do good" to those we don't particularly like or to those who are rude to us or mistreat us, to truly "do good unto all." If we are to attract members to the fraternity, we must follow this charge and set an example that will make people want to be around us and want to get to know us.

Freemasonry uses many symbols to illustrate moral concepts and teachings. One of these is Jacobs Ladder. There are many interpretations of Jacobs Ladder. One that I find very enlightening is in the Rule of St. Benedict.

"Wherefore brethren if we wish to attain the topmost height of humility and to come quickly to that heavenly excellence which in this present life we reach by humility, we must raise up - and by our acts we must ascend - that ladder which appeared to Jacob in his dream whereon he saw angels

ascending and descending. This ascending and descending doubtless signify nothing else than an ascent by humility and a descent by pride. The ladder itself is our life on earth, raised up by God towards heaven for the humble in heart. The sides of the ladder we call our body and soul, and into these sides God has inserted steps of humility and discipline for our ascent."

We ascend or descend the ladder by our acts. Freemasonry developed and flourished because of the moral character of its members, because it teaches that "every human being has a claim upon our kind offices." This is what is meant by the Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God. The Memorial is dedicated to a Freemason who understood and lived by this charge. A man who dealt fairly with all, who "did good unto all." A man who set an example that we all can follow, a man of great humility and great character, George Washington, the father of our nation and America's foremost Freemason.

"Projects That Need Funding - 2001"

The following projects need funding before they can be accomplished. Due to the expense of the elevator operating system renovation, the Memorial does not have the funds to complete these projects. If you are interested in sponsoring one or more of the following, please contact the Secretary-Treasurer.

Re-tube one Boiler in the Heating Plant	\$12,000
Install Sidewalk in front of Square and Compasses	\$1,200
Replace Sidewalks on each side of Square and Compasses	\$1,600
Structural Engineer Survey of the Building	\$30,000
Install Dampers on the 13th Level of the Tower	\$42,000
Install Emergency Lighting in the Building	\$35,000
Install Emergency Generators for the Elevators & Building	\$125,000
Install exterior and interior Security Cameras & Monitors	\$35,000
Install Security Lights, North Parking Lot and Driveway	\$7,000
Install Room Dividers in the Dining Room	\$6,800
Replace Stage Flooring in the Auditorium	\$7,000
Remove, Reset and Replace Front Steps	\$250,000
Replace Sheers on the Auditorium Windows	\$24,500
Replace Shrubbery on Memorial Grounds	\$6,000



Grand Lodge of Rhode Island Holds Session at the Memorial

The Grand Lodge of The Most Ancient and Honorable Society of Free and Accepted Masons for the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations inaugurated Rhode Island Month at the Memorial on Saturday, January 6, 2001. Friendship Lodge No. 7 of Chepachet, R.I., the Mother Lodge of Grand Master Benjamin A. Phillips, held a Lodge Meeting in the Memorial, the Grand Master closed Friendship Lodge and opened an emergent Grand Lodge of Rhode Island. The Grand Master thanked the members of Friendship Lodge and the Officers of the Grand Lodge for attending the meeting. The Grand Master welcomed and thanked the visiting Brethren which included the following officers of The Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia: R.W. Brother Robert H. Starr, Deputy Grand Master, W. Brother Paul M. Bessel, Senior Grand Steward; and W. Brother George D. Seghers, Grand Marshal and the Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Memorial.

The Grand Master was accompanied by Brethren and family members for a total of 47 attendees. An informative and attractive display has been installed in Assembly Hall with photographs of the Grand Lodge Officers and information about the history and activities of the Grand Lodge of Rhode Island. Publications from the Grand Lodge of Rhode Island are being distributed to visitors to the Memorial and the State Flag of Rhode Island is being flown at the Memorial this month.





Memorial Windows Available for Dedication

To dedicate a window in honor of an individual or an organization requires a donation of \$7,500. The Memorial will install a dedicatory plaque at, or near, the designated window stating for whom the window is dedicated and by whom it was presented. This is an excellent way to support the Memorial and perpetuate the memory of an individual or organization. For more information contact the [George Seghers](mailto:gseghers@gwmemorial.org) at 703-683-2007 or Email: gseghers@gwmemorial.org

Memorial Introduces Collector's Edition for 2001



The Tall Cedars of Lebanon are sponsoring the 2001 Holiday Ornament. Each ornament is crafted in America and comes with a beautiful 24kt. gold finish. A booklet with historical and educational information is enclosed in each gift box. The ornament is available through the Memorial Gift Shop at 703-549-9234.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MEMORIAL

21st Century Members		Life Members	
Aubrey Lewis	GA	Robert A. Jeffery	MA
		Robert H. Maxson	OH
		Myrtle Lodge No. 89	MI
		Walter F. Rosso	GA
Window Dedications		Bequests	
Oklahoma Masonic Foundation, OK		Estate of Charles Edgington Fruin	\$1,000
Stewart W. Miner By The Grand Lodge of DC			
Charles S. Iversen By The Grand Lodge of DC			
For information about Planned Giving contact: W. Scott Stoner at 717-898-2185			

Association Officers	
Elected February 21, 2000:	
Paul E. Ellis	President
Warren D. Lichty	First Vice President
W. Scott Stoner Second	Vice President
Michael D. Brumback	Third Vice President
George D. Seghers	Exec. Sec.-Treasurer
Marvin E. Fowler	Sec.-Treas. Emeritus
Donald M. Robey	Sec.-Treas. Emeritus
Board of Directors *Members of Executive Committee	
Term expires February 22, 2002:	
W.M. (Mike) Gower	McAllen, TX
Richard G. Moore	Dever, NC
Warren D. Lichty*	Lincoln, NE
Brian A. Paradis	Harrison, ME
Larry C. Schafer	Phoenix, AZ
Stanley S. Sheldon , Jr.	Pomfret Center, CT
Walter E. Winingar	Church Hill, TN
Term expires February 22, 2003:	
Paul E. Ellis* (Chairman)	Seaford, DE
David H. Flucke	Ann Arbor, MI
Aaron W. Harvey	Portland, OR
Billy B. Millhollin	Forsyth, MT
Charles H. Penn, III	Keithville, LA
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Term expires February 22, 2004:	
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