

## Hundreds Visit Memorial At World Conference

Over 600 people from around the world visited the George Washington Masonic Memorial on May 7 at a reception the Memorial hosted as part of the 9<sup>th</sup> World Conference of Masonic Grand Lodges.



*World Conference delegates gather in Grand Masonic Hall for an elegant reception hosted by the Memorial. Photo courtesy of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia.*

Guests were serenaded by a classical string quartet as they passed through the portico into the grand entrance space of Memorial Hall at the base of the 17 ft. bronze statue of George Washington where they were welcomed by Memorial President Michael D. Brumback; Akram R. Elias, Grand Master of the District of Columbia and Conference Host; Edmund Cohen, Grand Master of Virginia; Robert B. Heyat, Conference Chairman; Thomas W. Jackson, Executive Secretary of the Conference and George D. Seghers, Executive Director of the Memorial. Guests then proceeded on to view the new exhibit on American Freemasonry. From there, they proceeded to Grand Masonic Hall where they enjoyed a sumptuous and elegantly appointed buffet and more enchanting melodies from the quartet.

Guests were also invited on tours of the building. The Memorial received numerous positive comments on the evening all throughout the Conference and is grateful that so many Masons from all parts of the world had an opportunity to visit this magnificent tribute to Brother George Washington.

*continued on page 2*

### Greetings From The President

**Michael D.  
Brumback**



Brother George Washington was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason in the Lodge at Fredricksburg, Virginia (now No. 4) on August 4, 1753. The Lodge was self-congregated, comprised of a group of Scotch-Irish Masons, but did not officially receive its Charter from the Grand Lodge of Scotland until 1758. This procedure was not at all uncommon in 18th century Masonic circles.

The 17 ft. bronze statue located in Memorial Hall of the George Washington Masonic Memorial was donated by the young men of DeMolay and dedicated by President and Brother Harry Truman. The heroic statue depicts Washington as the Charter Worshipful Master of Alexandria Lodge No. 22. He also remained a member of Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 until his death in 1799.

There is no doubt that Masonry had a profound effect on George Washington because he attended Masonic functions, and referred to Masonry in writing throughout his life. His belief in the principles of Freemasonry is further attested by his statements, such as: *"The fabric of our freedom is placed on the enduring basis of public virtue, and will, I fondly hope, long continue to protect the prosperity of the architects who raised it. I shall be happy on every occasion, to evince my regard for the Fraternity."*

*continued on page 2*

## Greetings From The President, *continued from page 1*

The gifts he made to his Lodge, and the gifts from his family (after his death) also indicate Washington's love of Masonry. Upon being elected Charter Master of Alexandria Lodge No. 22, he selected a handsome leather chair from the library of his home at Mt. Vernon and had it taken to his Lodge to serve as the Master's chair. This same chair now sits in the East of the Replica Lodge Room in the Memorial. The William Williams' portrait Washington sat for in 1794 as a gift to his Lodge now hangs above the Master's chair. The silver trowel, which he used to lay the cornerstone of the U.S. Capitol, along with a Masonic square, is also on display. One of my favorite artifacts is the bedchamber clock that still shows the time when the physician stopped it at the moment of his death. That physician, Dr. Elisha Cullen Dick, was Worshipful Master of Alexandria Lodge No. 22 and conducted the Masonic funeral service for "The General."

Every Grand Lodge in the United States donated, built and continues to voluntarily maintain the pink granite memorial to George Washington and Freemasonry. All Masons in the United States are, in fact, part owners of this beautifully maintained edifice. So, please plan on making a sojourn to the Memorial with your family and learn more about George Washington and the importance Masonry played in the founding of this great country. If your Lodge would like to plan a trip to the Memorial, the Memorial staff will be happy to assist you.

I promise you that you will leave the George Washington Masonic Memorial proud to be a Freemason.

## World Conference, *continued from page 1*

The Conference was held for the first time this year in Washington, D.C. The theme was "Universal Fraternity in Action" and emphasized how Freemasons could better embrace today's changing world while preserving the traditions of the Fraternity.



*A classical string quartet entertains guests from the east niche of Grand Masonic Hall. This scene of Mount Vernon is one of three new murals the Memorial recently commissioned. Photo by Dimitar Mavrov.*

## New Exhibit Opens During World Conference

### *Update on Current and Future Projects*

By Mark A. Tabbert

The first months of 2008 witnessed the fruition of many projects. New murals and busts of Washington in the first floor niches were completed as the last of the Masonic temple postcard prints were installed. And phase one of the Memorial's new Masonic exhibit on American Freemasonry titled "Freemasonry: Building Men and Building Communities" opened to rave reviews on May 7 during the 9<sup>th</sup> World Conference of Masonic Grand Lodges. The exhibit also incorporates a new display area for the Grand Lodge of the Month Program which was inaugurated at the Conference with an outstanding display from the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. Phase two of the exhibit will open in August and include Masonic decorative art objects and historical panels on Freemasons in the American Revolution, Civil War and the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Also scheduled in August is the installation of a bronze bust of Washington for the large niche at the east end of Grand Masonic Hall.



*Featured in the new exhibit are the rough (shown here in foreground) and perfect stones with George Washington in the center. The exhibit also highlights the Masonic lives of Benjamin Franklin, Andrew Jackson and Harry Truman and is designed around the 47th Problem of Euclid, a symbol of perfection.*

Concurrent with these material renovations, the Memorial project to digitize Masonic Annual Proceedings is gaining wider acceptance and promotion among several Grand Lodges. The Memorial has also addressed its website with the expectation that a new design will be launched by the end of the year. Looking to and beyond the Memorial Association's centennial in 2010 are many exciting projects. A few of them are briefly cited here with more details to follow later.

**"The Masonic Family of Fraternities" Exhibit** – Working closely with the Grotto International, the Memorial will renovate the tower's largest room on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor to include not only a new Grotto exhibit, but other Appendant and Affiliated  
*continued on page 3*

## Message From Alexandria



George D. Seghers

Recently I was given a copy of “Doug Smith Speaking - Selected Writings of Alfred Douglas Smith, Jr.” Within this excellent volume was a selection titled “Address at the Dedication of the North Room of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial – 1949.” He wrote, “Buildings are but the symbols of the ideals of those who build them, and their use, manifestations of the philosophy in action. Through the arrangements of these materials and the location itself, future generations shall read the spirit of Washington the man, and measure the vitality of the idealism of the men of our generation.”

This is a powerful statement that is as relevant today as it was when written in 1949. The Memorial building is a strong, beautiful and enduring structure. The portico, our east, main entrance, is fashioned after the Parthenon – the most beautiful, sublime and perfect example of classical architecture in the world. The three orders of classical architecture, Doric, Ionic and Corinthian, are portrayed as pilasters on the exterior of the three levels of the Memorial tower. A stepped pyramid serves as the roof of the Memorial tower. The stepped pyramid was the first structure built by mankind to honor Deity. At the top of the pyramid is a tall, graceful lantern to spread the light of Freemasonry to the four corners of the earth. The design and the architectural features chosen by our forefathers, the builders of the Memorial, are perfect. They are solid granite manifestations of the Masonic teachings as portrayed in our Masonic rituals and Masonic writings. The Memorial stands solid, straight and square, just as George Washington stood and as all Masons should stand.

With proper care, the George Washington Masonic Memorial will stand forever. It will remain long after those of us that are honored to work here are gone. Proper care requires adequate funding and attention. To acquire adequate funding, the Memorial has instituted the \$1 Per Member Campaign “100% Participation By Our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.” What can be done with \$1 per year you may wonder? In today’s economy it seems an abysmally small amount. However, if you multiply it by the number of Masons in America, it becomes a very significant amount! The magnificent Memorial was conceived, constructed and financed by the Freemasons of America by making small, annual contributions. Unfortunately, over time, these annual contributions slowed, and in some cases, ceased. Now, we are asking the current generations of American Masons to accept the challenge to return the Memorial to the pristine condition it was in when dedicated in 1932 to our greatest citizen, our First President, and certainly our Foremost Freemason, Brother George Washington.

In 2010, the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association will celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its founding. We ask and encourage you to help in the monumental task of restoring the Memorial to its rightful and original condition as the Lighthouse of Freemasonry to not only America, but to the world.

Thank you for your continued support and please come and visit your Memorial.

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*George D. Seghers is the Executive Director of the George Washington Masonic Memorial.*

### **New Exhibit Opens,** *continued from page 2*

Bodies such as DeMolay, Job’s Daughters, High Twelve and the Order of the Eastern Star. The renovation is scheduled for completion by February 2010.

**“George Washington as Freemason” Portrait** – As part of the centennial celebration, the Association will hold a worldwide competition to commission a new Washington portrait. Progressing in the line of portraits, from the Williams of 1794, the Leutze of 1856 and the Burdette of 1932, it will present Washington as a Freemason for the new century.

**A Centennial History of the George Washington Masonic Memorial Association** – Published in time for February 2010, this will be a “coffee table” book richly illustrated and co-written by former librarian Dustin Smith and myself. It will celebrate the Masons who built the Memorial and dedicated themselves to preserving the memory and Masonic virtues of Washington.

**Freemasonry at Mount Vernon** – In February 2011, an exhibition on George Washington and Freemasonry will open

at Mount Vernon. This temporary exhibition will present the Craft to more than one million people who visit Washington’s home annually.

**International Freemasonry** – Also for 2011, discussions are underway for an exhibit on Freemasonry around the world that would include such Masonic patriots as Garibaldi, Bolivar, O’Connell and Kossuth. The exhibit would also include the vast international Masonic regalia collection of R.W. Bro. Thomas W. Jackson, PGS of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania and Secretary of the World Conference of Grand Masters.

**International Conference on the History of Freemasonry** – In May 2011, the Memorial will host the third International Conference on the History of Freemasonry. This Conference brings together the finest academic scholars from around the world.

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*Mark A. Tabbert is the Director of Collections of the George Washington Masonic Memorial.*

# 100% Participation By Our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

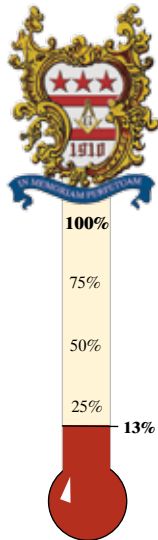
*Carrying on the Founders' Vision*

“We are not going to the Grand Lodges for the purpose of getting you to give money... but we are asking that the Grand Lodges endorse this movement.” These are the words of Grand Master Shryock of Maryland, the first President of the Memorial Association. He spoke these words in 1913 at the first Conference of Grand Masters to inform and encourage the Fraternity to support the construction of a great memorial to honor George Washington. The Fraternity endorsed this movement and met the goal of contributing \$1 per Mason in each Jurisdiction. As a result, their vision was fulfilled with the magnificent George Washington Masonic Memorial.

Today, the Freemasons of America must continue the founders' commitment. If all the Jurisdictions could contribute \$1 per member in 1913, surely, by today's standards, we can achieve this again. What could be a better investment of \$1 per Mason per year than the preservation of the incomparable legacy of our Foremost Freemason and First President? And what could be a better celebration of our centennial than to unite with our founders in their fiscal responsibility to support the Memorial?

Let's “inspire humanity” and show the world that “the virtues, character and vision of George Washington, the Man, the Mason and Father of our Country” will be forever preserved for all generations to come. Let every Jurisdiction unite behind this one symbol of veneration for Washington and let that unity ring out 100% strong by 2010!

*All Jurisdictions that contribute \$1 Per Member annually will be honored with a large seal of their Grand Lodge to be prominently displayed in Grand Masonic Hall at the Memorial*



*“...the preservation of the sacred fire of liberty, and the destiny of the Republican model of Government, are justly considered as deeply, perhaps as finally staked, on the experiment entrusted to the hands of the American people.”*

- George Washington  
First Inaugural Address, April 30, 1789

## A New Century A New Commitment

As we prepare for the Memorial Association's centennial celebration, we are also focused on the next 100 years. This is a time of dramatic change in our society and in our Fraternity. The mission of the Memorial has never been more important. When you support the Memorial through Planned Giving, you become a partner to help us advance the mission of the Memorial. Please be sure to visit the Planned Giving link on the Memorial's website ([www.gwmmemorial.org](http://www.gwmmemorial.org)). It's an excellent resource for charitable gift planning and also has monthly feature articles. Thank you for considering this commitment to the George Washington Masonic Memorial and to George Washington.

- Please send information about including the Memorial in my/our will.
- Please send information about Planned Giving.
- I/We have already included the Memorial in my/our estate plan via
  - will
  - trust
  - other arrangements

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To respond, please fill in your information, cut along dotted line and mail to:

**GWMM**  
**Planned Giving Program**  
**101 Callahan Drive**  
**Alexandria, VA 22301-2751**

**Or Fax to 703-519-9270**

*For additional giving opportunities, please see reverse side*

# Join the GWMM Today!

**Yes! Count on me to support our Memorial.**

Enclosed is my membership contribution of:

- \$100 - Silver Craftsman:** Your gift will be acknowledged and you will receive a Membership Certificate.
- \$250 - Gold Master:** Your gift will be acknowledged and you will receive a Membership Certificate.
- \$500 - Platinum Presidential:** Your gift will be acknowledged and you will receive a Membership Certificate.
- \$1000 - New Century:** Your gift will be acknowledged, you will receive a Membership Certificate and your name will be cast in bronze and displayed in the main entrance to Memorial Hall.

## PATRONS

- \$5,000 - Millennium Architect**
- \$10,000 - Millennium Master Architect**
- \$25,000 - Millennium Builder**
- \$50,000 - Millennium Master Builder**
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In addition to the above benefits, all Patrons will receive a Membership Plaque and your name will be permanently displayed on a Patrons Wall of Honor recognizing major benefactors prominently located in the Memorial.

*Already a Supporter? Great! Since Membership is cumulative, an additional contribution may upgrade your status to the next category.*

- Other Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Check enclosed made payable to *GWMM*  
Please charge my:  American Express  Discover  
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*Your gift is tax-deductible to the extent provided by law. All Memberships are gratefully acknowledged, published in The Messenger and permanently displayed in the Memorial.*

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To respond, please fill in your information, cut along dotted line and mail to:

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# CONTRIBUTORS

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	Greenleaf Lodge No. 349	MI
<b>Millennium Master Builder</b>	Joshua J. Grove	OH
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<b>Millennium Architects</b>	* George & Eileen Risk	NE
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## Local Lodges Honor Washington

On February 22, 2008, Greenleaf Lodge No. 349 of Kinderhook, Michigan and Tyre Lodge No. 18 of Coldwater, Michigan co-sponsored their first George Washington Birthday Ball. The gala event included a traditional 1700s-style dinner, birthday cake, and dancing to a live orchestra. Those in attendance represented six local Blue Lodges, two Shrine clubs, the York and Scottish Rite, and the Eastern Star. Several Lodges brought pictures of Washington that were displayed in the entryway to the banquet hall. Proceeds from the event were donated to the Memorial. The Memorial gratefully acknowledges this inspiring idea and outstanding show of support for George Washington and the Memorial and hopes to see many more similar events around the country.

# Grand Lodge Month Program

The Grand Lodge Month Program has been a great success this year. January was Ohio Month. This was their bicentennial commemorating 200 years of Ohio Freemasonry. The Grand Lodge sent two outstanding banners depicting the creation and history of Ohio Freemasonry that were displayed in Memorial Hall. February was Tennessee Month. Twenty-one Brethren traveled from Tennessee to the Memorial and



Officers and members of the Grand Lodge of Indiana held an Emergent Grand Lodge Session at the Memorial to celebrate their month in June. Included are Grand Master Jeffrey P. Zaring and Ronald K. Smith, PGM, (1<sup>st</sup> row, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> from left) with Memorial President Michael D. Brumback, PGM (behind them). Bro. Smith is wearing his 50-year membership award presented to him during the Session. Photo by Carl Culmann.

conferred the Master Mason Degree on Joseph Owen Stinson, member of Fairview Lodge No. 776, Fairview, Tennessee. May was Massachusetts Month which coincided with the celebration of the 275th anniversary of the founding of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. The Grand Lodge sent an outstanding selection of artifacts and information that inaugurated the Grand Lodge Month display case in the new Masonic exhibit on American Freemasonry. The Grand Lodge of Massachusetts also visited the Memorial and held an Emergent Grand Lodge Session. June is the Grand Lodge of Indiana Month. Memorial President Michael D. Brumback, Past Grand Master of Indiana, and his wife Mary hosted over 30 Grand Lodge officers, members and their wives on a visit to the Memorial. They held an Emergent Grand Lodge Session, presented a 50-year membership award to Past Grand Master Ronald K. Smith, and installed an outstanding display in the Masonic Exhibit.

Interest and participation in the Grand Lodge Month Program continues to grow. The schedule for the remainder of 2008 is: July - Mississippi, August - Illinois, September - Alabama, October - Maine, November - Missouri and December - Washington.



## Association Officers

*Elected February 17, 2008*

<b>Michael D. Brumback</b>	President
<b>Anthony P. Wordlow</b>	First Vice President
<b>Roger A. Simmons</b>	Second Vice President
<b>Donald G. Hicks, Jr.</b>	Third Vice President
<b>George D. Seghers*</b>	Executive Director
<b>Donald M. Robey</b>	Exec. Sec.-Treas. Emeritus

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*Term expires February 22, 2009*

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*Term expires February 22, 2010*

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• Memorial Welcomes World Conference Delegates  
• New Exhibit on American Freemasonry Opens  
• Grand Lodge Month Program

IN THIS ISSUE

The Messenger