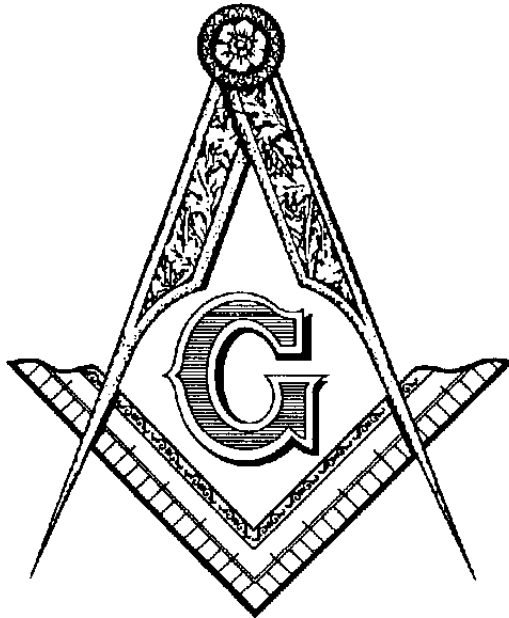


Fall Winter 2005

Volume VIII: Issue #13

Fulton- Montgomery



News

Official Publication of the
Fulton-Montgomery Masonic District
Free & Accepted Masons
State of New York

The Fulton-Montgomery News

• Staff •

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• Newsletter Policy •

The Fulton-Montgomery News, published quarterly for the benefit of the Brethren of the Fulton-Montgomery Masonic District and their families, is the official publication of:

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Any of the contents of this newsletter may be copied, quoted or reprinted with the permission of the Editor.

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Broadalbin, NY 12025

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• A View From The East •

by R.: W.: Claton D. Swain
DDGM Fulton-Montgomery District



September 15th, 2005

Greetings My Brothers,

Another summer has passed us by and our Masonic Year is once again upon us. Up here in the Northville area the trees are already changing into their beautiful fall colors and people are busy completing all those small items which need to be done before the winter cold sets in. My wife Barbara and I have been stacking wood and insulating those small places that seem to have a draft in the middle of the winter. Soon the crackle of the wood burning stove and the hum of the furnace will be a constant reminder to bundle up before venturing out into the cold.

Over the summer the district has been involved in many functions and events. In mid June we had our now annual Charities Golf Tournament. This was the first one we sponsored for our own Fulton Montgomery Masonic Charities group. Although a little shaky at the beginning it was received very well and the overall income was very good. Jeff Lanfear did a wonderful job as chairperson and he tells me there are many new ideas circulating in the district for next year. I congratulate all involved and look forward to next year's event. Through the efforts of our Masonic Charities group we were able to send a \$100 check to each of five graduating seniors of our district. They all are Masonic affiliated by their father or grandfather. This practice will be continued each year for members of our district lodges. Be sure to let your Master know if you have a graduating child before next May.

The annual district trip to Lake George and the Dinner Cruise was another successful fun trip with over 30 brothers and family attending. The weather was perfect and the food outstanding. On December 3rd a group from the district will travel to Radio City Music Hall to attend the Christmas Extravagaza. I have been told the trip is sold out and has a rather large waiting list. Brother Todd Payne, district chairperson of the Membership Development & Retention Committee will book this one again next year and he will remind everyone to be sure to book early if you have the desire to attend.

The district enjoyed a wonderful summer picnic at the Dorn Pavilion in Johnstown at the end of July. Sponsored by the men of St Patrick's lodge well over 100 people (not including the many children

who enjoyed the in-ground pool) were in attendance with plenty of great food to be eaten and drink to be consumed. Many of the individual lodges had events over the summer, Northville held their annual “All you can Eat Roast Beef Dinner” in mid July, Fultonville had several Brooks BBQ dinners and Kenyetto has had many fundraisers, one of which was participating in the first annual Broadalbin Town Fair. Hamilton held a Chicken BBQ; St Johnsville also had a Chicken BBQ with RW David Saltsman’s cooking. The St Johnsville fundraisers included a smorgasbord that was out of this world.

This year each lodge will present the Master Mason Degree. In the past all lodges have conformed to the edict from Grand Master Fitch to do the first and second degree. I understand from the Assistant Grand Lecturer Keith that all lodges have scheduled their third degrees for the year. If any lodge needs help with any part let RW Keith know so a substitute can be found. A district drama team will be formed within the next month and they will be available if you need them. I hope all lodges can put at least one candidate through the degrees this year. It will make for a fun filled year, swell our ranks and make the degrees easier. The most important part is for all of us to learn our parts so we can show the new brothers how Masonry is to be done. A good impression goes a long way to promote a great mason. If you need a mentor ask a Past Master or a member who has been around to help. Believe it or not they would love to help you and at the same time improve the lodge. The district raised 17 new Master Masons last year, can we beat the number this year, lets hope so.

I had planned on having a district wide “Bring a Friend and/or an Older Member Night” early in September. Due to other commitments we had to cancel for now but it will be held sometime soon. Your masters will be informed of when and where. Don’t let this little miss-cue stop you from looking for potential new members. This is the time to be asking that special friend who you were sure would not want to be involved. He just might surprise you when he hears of all the benefits and good work we offer and do for the communities. Tell him of all the activities we have and the companionship that has developed over the years. Also remember to mention that we are the oldest men’s fraternity in the world and are located in every country in the world.

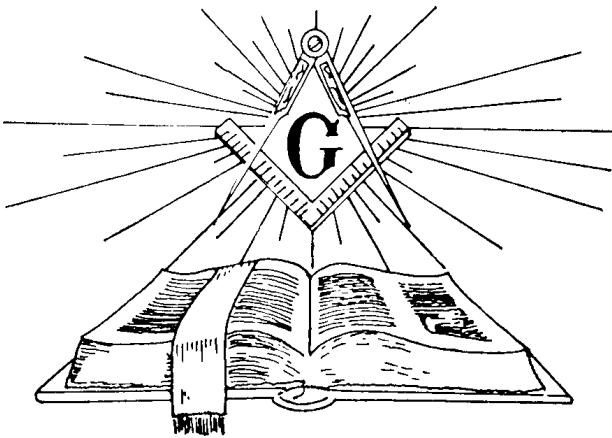
The state run MSAT program has been presented to several school districts within our district. Last year we had one district attend, this year we hope to have all our districts attend. To refresh your minds this is the program that teaches our teachers to observe and identify children who are in need of assistance due to family, health, peer pressure, drug or other related problems. We are also very involved in the Child ID as you all know. This past summer at the Fonda Fair our booth was probably the busiest one there. I had many people compliment

us on the work we are doing. I am very proud that we all work as a team to get the job done. The new ID cards went very well and I thank all you typing people for all your many hours. We managed to produce a total of 927 videos and cards. That is the most we have ever done-great job!

With the new-year comes a new round of Official District Deputy Meetings. I have been advised that some lodges are unable to put on a dinner for the district due to a lack of members willing to help. In no way does this event change anything about a DD visit, dinner or not I am there to see the members, deliver the Grand Masters word, check the books and enjoy an evening of companionship with fellow Masons. Plan to come out and hear what the Grand Master needs you to know. Dinner or not we are still Masons that need to walk and act as such. We still have the freedom to assemble and enjoy ourselves on any given evening, why not use it to your advantage and get something in return.

This past week the Past District Grand Officers met to discuss and begin the search process for the nomination of the next District Deputy and Staff Officer of our district. If anyone has a desire to obtain either of these positions and is willing to put in the hours Staff Officer Lee Smith and myself will be glad to sit down with them and explain what the job entails. It is truly an honor to represent a district but to get to represent the best district in the State of New York is the greatest moment in a Mason's life. Think about it. I did.

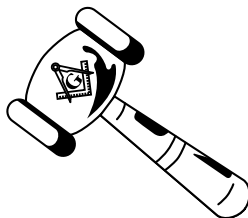
See you in Lodge, Fraternally,
Clayton "Skip" Swain, DDGM



• In Memoriam •

Bro. Harold Banta	<i>from his wife Norma</i>
Bro. Harold J. Harington, Fish House #298	<i>from his wife Dotty</i>
Bro. Dr. Robert Kemp	<i>from Bro. Dick Gugenberger</i>
Bro. Bill Tanner	<i>from Bro. Dick Gugenberger</i>
Bro. E. O. Christmas	<i>from Bro. Gary Harington</i>
Bro George Harington	<i>from Bro. Gary Harington</i>
Rev. Bro. Newton Perrins	<i>from Bro. Elsworth Simpson</i>
Bro. Ernest D. Mugglin	<i>from Bro. Elsworth Simpson</i>
Bro. Harold E. Lake	<i>from Bro. Churchill S. Lake</i>
Bro. Lawrence W. Castler	<i>from his wife Jean</i>
Bro. William V. Hovey, Fultonville #531	<i>from his wife Jeannette</i>

Remember a Brother. A \$10 contribution to the newsletter will keep their name in this column for 4 issues. Any Brother may be honored.



Traveling Gavel 2005-6

Thus far as of September 1st the total points received for each lodge attending M&O meetings is are as follows;

St Patrick's #4	57 points
Hamilton #79	17 points
Amsterdam #84	15 points
Fish House #298	14 points
Fort Plain #433	26 points
Fultonville #531	41 points
Kennyetto #59929	29 points
St Johnsville #611	15 points

Respectively Submitted,
R.: W.: David Saltsman, Chairperson

Brothers, this speech was given at Fort Plain during this years District Deputy Official visit. I have had several brothers ask me to publish it so here it is.

“Today I would like to talk to you about your commitment to lodge and the Masonic Fraternity. Recently I heard the phrase’s “volunteer organization” and “the lodge is dark” used over and over again when referring to Masonic activities. When I asked the brothers what it meant I was told this organization is one in which you don’t have to come to meetings, do any work or go anywhere unless you wanted to. Well, I guess in a sense this is true if you don’t take the obligations you took at our sacred altar seriously.

Some men feel that they work a long hard day so they are entitled to not go out at night if they don’t feel like attending a meeting. I seem to remember when I became a Mason I (just like all of you) swore that I would answer and obey all due signs and regular summons sent to me or handed me by a worthy brother. I also remember I was told it was necessary to attend but only if it was within the length of my cabletow or the square and angle of my work. What does the length of my cable-tow mean? What is Square and Angle of your work? Here are my beliefs as to what they both refer to?

I believe the first statement (length of your cabletow) refers to coming out and supporting your brothers at lodge meetings and volunteering to help at functions. It refers to you, the member, being responsible to the organization of which you joined voluntarily. Yes “voluntarily” is the word I used and you did volunteer to become a member. When you became a member you swore to certain obligations on the Holy Bible in front your brothers to which you must now adhere. It is your responsibility to support the lodge and it’s activities. Each brother, when initiated swore to an obligation that included a vow to walk and act as a Mason. It is each brother’s duty to keep faithful to his obligations.

We can also apply the phrase “length of your cable-tow” to becoming an officer. How many brothers repeat in chairs because no other brother will step up to fill the chairs? Many of our brothers believe they can not do the work or learn the part. I believe any brother can learn to do his position if he really wants to. It takes commitment to your fraternity which is where your obligations come in. You committed to get involved and reap the benefits now you must pay for your benefits and keep the craft going for the next generation by becoming an officer. Think of how hard it was just learning to walk when you were a baby, you only needed to take the first step, make the commitment and you were off and running. All of us took that first step and made the commitment to join now we need to take the responsibility to continue our beliefs and keep our craft alive.

Continued on page 19

• Lodge News •

St. Patrick's #4

By W.: William R. Dorn, Master

1st & 3rd Thursdays

Note: Due to an e-mail glitch, the Summer edition was not received for the District newsletter; contents thereof are herein updated, we are sorry you missed the information and events.

St. Patrick's Lodge is off to a great year of activities, events and meetings.

In May, the following Officers were elected and subsequently installed for our Lodge:

W.: M.: W.: William Dorn (Sr.) 518-762 - 1463

Sr. W. Bro. William Dorn (Jr.)

Jr. W. W.: Wayne D. Schermerhorn, (WDS103@yahoo.com) or (WDS103@nycap.rr.com) 725 – 0401 cell 774 – 6997

Secretary: (vacancy at present)

Treasurer: W.: John Morris

Sr. D. Bro. Bradley Yeardon

Jr. D. Bro. David Gilmore

Tiler Bro. (Bud) Phillips

Sr. M C Bro. W.: Grover F. La Fountain

Jr. M C Bro. Oakley Cole

Marshal W.: Bro. Albert L. Bayless, Jr.

Chaplain W.: Charles Nethaway

In addition, W.: Bro. Albert L. Bayless, Jr. was appointed Brotherhood Fund Chairman.

The Lodge hosted a District Family Picnic on July 30 at Dorn's Grove; this was well attended by adults and children and the Lodge received about \$400. for the treasury.

The Lodge also assisted in the CHILD ID programs at the Lexington Fair, the Gloversville Railfest and the Fonda Fair.

Lodge Officers and members are turning out in nearly record numbers at the District Masters and Officers meetings and Masonic Charities meetings. Come out and join the fun (all attendance helps us towards the Traveling Gavel Award).

St. Pat's Lodge WILL host the ANNUAL St. Pat's DDGM Visitation in March 2006 WITH a Corned Beef Dinner PREPARED by St. Monica OES Chapter. YOU won't want to miss this night – watch for the date!!! St. Pat's Lodge has all new front sidewalk and entrance; work has begun

on the driveway, to be finished next year.

Meetings are well attended and REFRESHMENTS follow the meeting.

Plan NOW to attend – IF YOU NEED A RIDE - CALL an officer and you will be picked up.

St. Pat's Lodge is LEADING in the race with the Traveling Gavel; you are invited to assist us by attending a District Deputy Grand Master Visitation and / or the Masters & Officers Meetings each month (members welcome and count for the Traveling Gavel, as well).

In addition to the District Newsletter inserts, the Lodge has resumed its Monthly newsletter. Send or call your information or interests to the Secretary.

YOUR LODGE IS VERY ACTIVE – new programs, events, Degree work are being planned, COME JOIN US.

We believe in KISMIF – “KEEP IT SIMPLE – MAKE IT FUN”.

W.: Wayne D. Schermerhorn, Jr. W.



Hamilton #79

By W.: Carlton Scutt, Master
2nd & 4th Wednesdays



Amsterdam #84

By W.: Jeff Lanfear, Master
1st & 3rd Mondays

Lodge opened on September 13th in due and ancient form. We were saddened by the loss of R.:W.: George Gill, who passed away August 26th in Florida. There was a grave side memorial on September 24th at 11:00 A.M. at Fairview Cemetary behind St.Mary's Hospital in Amsterdam. There was no Masonic Funeral requested.

I would like to take this moment to thank our webmaster Past Grand Master of Alaska R.:W.: Don Chaffin for his work on The Amsterdam connection, to the District Webpage. www.newyorkmasons.org .

Continued on page 16

Thanks for supporting our bulletin !



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We have 3 new candidates this year and will be raising them on December 13th.
Congratulations to Timothy Banta, Gogi Gwardshaladse, and Gregory Valenti on becoming Master Masons.



Fish House #298
By W.: James Lowerre

Fish House Lodge #298

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of Fish House Lodge for electing me as Worshipful Master for the ensuing year. It is an honor to hold this esteemed position and I will do this job to the best of my ability.

My list of officers are as follows:

WM- James Lowerre

SW- Robert Stankes

JW -Todd Payne

SD- Warren Hyde

JD- Eric Reidell

Tyler- Eric Richardson

Chaplain- Donald Robinson

Marshall- David Dickey

SMC- Mike Kratky

JMC- Stan Weaver

Sec. - Al Graham

Treas. - Norman Richardson

We had a very enjoyable summer with a lot of activity in the lodge. Our annual roastbeef dinner in July was a huge success with over thirty helpers and we made over \$700.00 more than last year(thank goodness for inclement weather). We also had Thursday morning breakfasts for lodge members and their friends for a couple of hours of fellowship. We did a mini golf tournament at 1,000 Acres for our lodge members. We also supplied dinners for the Northville Rotary. We had our first lodge meeting on Sept. 7, 2005 and had a roastbeef dinner. Our compliments to Fred our great chef. Coming up on Sept. 21, 2005 we have a Bring a Friend Night. Just a reminder on Oct.

18, 2005 we will be having the Grand Lecturer Convention. Fred is planning one of his great meals for this event.
Fraternally yours,
James A. Lowerre



Fort Plain #433

By W.: Robert Parkinson, Master



Fultonville #531

By W.: Hunter Cole-Hatcher, Master
1st & 3rd Wednesdays

It is September again and all of our lodges are coming into full swing. It was a great summer. On July 8th we had our annual summer Brooks barbecue. The weather was fair with a good turnout of people. Thank you all so much, especially to all of our dedicated members and families who showed up in support of this endeavor. We also had the pleasure of helping our local Demolay chapter in a fundraising car wash. They were raising money to pay for their expenses in going to their convention. It was very gratifying in seeing the support that our town gave to these young men. It was such a pleasure to see the support that all of the Masons and their families gave to this wonderful group. Finishing out the summer our lodge had the task of running the Child ID booth at the Fonda fair on Monday, September 5th, which was the last day of the fair. We were blessed with an abundance of help. This was good as we were fairly busy all day. I hope that all of our members and their families had an enjoyable day. Thank you for all of your help and support that day. It seemed that there was quite a crowd gathered there all afternoon and evening and time just flew by. As lodge is open we are now planning to have fun and educational activities on the second meeting of the month. The trestleboard is full and

will be posted in the lodge. The events we will hope to set and inform all of the lodges as to the content and dates. We would like to get input from all of our members. The reason for this is we would like to get everyone involved in this. Maybe there is a special topic you would like to learn about or something you would like to share. Please let us know. Hope to see you all soon.

Fraternally,
Brother Jay Krajewski



Kennyetto Lodge No. 599
W.: Roger B. Steele, Master
2nd & 4th Wednesdays

Well my brothers here we are again. This time a little later then usual but we are here. We are continuing with our plan for the beautification and tightening of our lodge with the addition of the new windows and the condensate pump. Both will be installed soon and we will be on our way. I know that I have not sent a Trestle Board in quite a long time but there will be one coming out soon and I hope it will be received with a warm response.

I hope to see you at lodge soon because we have some exciting plans and hope that you will be able to join us.

Fraternally,
W.: Roger B. Steele Master



St. Johnsville #611
By R.: W.: Jacques Mosher Sr., Master
1st & 3rd Thursdays

The second part of the statement (square and angle of your work) I believe refers to the sincerity of your fraternal commitment. Square and angle as we are told refers to your ability to decide if a Masonic sign is given at a proper time or place. It teaches us to use good judgement in determining Masonic practices. This put simply means that you understand when and where Masonry will be accepted and you observe these parameters. We are not a secret organization by any means but we should keep our desires in check and keep our ties to our brothers and their needs.

This past summer I was very surprised to learn that many brothers believe when a lodge goes “dark” for the summer all masonry stops. Do you believe this is true? Does this mean that when your lodge goes dark we no longer are masons? We take the summer off because it’s vacation time. My answer to these brother’s I put in the form of a question. If a crisis had risen in a family and help was needed locally or in a distant location what would they do? If a brother knew he could get help from lodge brothers both near and far, would he call a brother mason for assistance even though the lodge was dark? Of course the answer was yes he would call because that is what masons do, they care for each other in all ways. We are there not only during emergencies but each and every day of the year for moral support, spiritual support and even financial support if the need arises. We are Masons 24 – 7 as the phrase goes. This is the responsibility we are referred to from our obligations and one of the main principles of Masonry, especially in New York State.

In conclusion I hope these simple and short explanations of the basic principles I believe in have shed a little light on the ways of Masonry in all our lives. It is the responsibility of all brothers to promote our craft in a manor that depicts who and what we are. It is the responsibility of all brothers to think, act and walk the way of a mason. Our district promotes these principles by;

- 1) helping a needy family at Thanksgiving or any holiday time,
- 2) assisting people in nursing facilities,
- 3) buying a van for a disabled child’s mother,
- 4) doing a child ID program in a local school or in another district,
- 5) sending a contribution to the Brotherhood Fund,
- 6) assisting a brother mason involved in a crisis.

Remember we all belong to the same fraternity. We all meet on the level as equal men. This my brothers is what makes the Masonic Fraternity the greatest fraternity in the world. I would also like to take the time to thank each of you for doing your part to make our district the best in NY State.

Fraternally, Skip DDGM

Fulton Montgomery Masonic Charities

I would like to thank the Brothers and their wives for the work they put in Labor Day Week on the Child ID at the Fair. It is a great commitment to do these ID's, Child and otherwise. I know for a fact that we did children as young as 3 weeks old and seniors that I couldn't tell you how old they were. It is a wonderful service we perform for the public.

In the background we are looking into a request for a wheelchair for a 7 year old boy who is disabled. We have been told the mother of that child can't get a leanback wheel-chair for her adopted child to have at home. We will investigate more before we decide to spend benevolence money, if it can be obtained by some other means. By the way we have looked into the prices of such a wheelchair and have gotten a variety of prices ranging from \$2,000 up to \$6,000. We don't know as of yet why it wasn't covered by Medicare.

There has been a Golf Committee put into place for next year and I'm sure it will be a success as was our first Golf Tournament with the Masonic Charities as beneficiary. This will help toward the scholarship fund, the Child ID, and other benevolences. I would like to put on a dinner supported by the Fraternity District wide as we will need to build up the scholarship fund and the benevolence account, should the need arise where it will be needed.

I'm open to suggestions as I'm sure your lodge representatives are, as well. This is your charitable organization help make it work.

Fraternally Yours
Jeffrey Lanfear,
President



ompliments of:

Brother Royal P. Taylor Amsterdam # 84

Mrs. Nora Banta

Help the Newsletter! A personal contribution of \$10 or more will help

Child ID Program

On the week of August 26th through September 5th the Fulton Montgomery District held it's annual Child ID program at the Fonda Fair. With all 8 lodges participating on their respective assigned days a total of 927 Video and Child ID cards were made. Sponsors of the event included NBT Bank, William Hassan Cosmetic Dental Services, Egelston Oil Company, Wiliam Dorn Construction, Stoner Trail Self Storage, R & Q Carpet One, Betz, Rossi, Bellinger & Stewart Funerla Home and Enea Family Funeral Homes.

There were 342 Videos made

Child ID cards for ages 5 to 20 years old totaled 457

Child ID cards for 20 years and up totaled 118, the oldest being for an 85 year old man.

For a grand total of 927

83 people worked a total of 894 hours for an average of 10.5 hours per worker.

My deepest thanks to all that participated and gave of there time. Job well done.

Submitted by R.:W.:David L. Saltsman, Chairperson



Our Responsibilities, One Mason to Another

By W.: Hunter Cole-Hatchard

In the beginning and closing of lodge we speak of our duties and responsibilities. In particular we speak of our responsibility to worthy Master Masons, their widows and orphans. It has come to my attention that this is not always the case. Therefore, at each meeting when these words are said, take heed to your responsibilities.

From the Editor's Desk

Roger B. Steele

Again I must ask you to accept my apology for being so late with our newsletter. I know it's an issue that no one can foresee but I always feel guilty when we can't spread the word and let the other brothers far away know what is going on at home. Let's hope that with our new back up computer that we will never have to wait again.

I don't know who sent me this it has been so long but I think that you will all enjoy it.

In days of old a Brother Knight was having his squire polish up his best armor and his groom curry his best charger. His fair lady, seeing the activity says "If you're going to that Lodge again, you'd better be back before 10:30 else I'm bringing up the drawbridge and you're out for the night." "Yes, dear" he says, packs his apron into his saddlebags and heads off to the meeting. 10:23 and there's been a bit of Harmony at the close of the meeting. Sir Knight looks at his sundial and sees the time. He downs the last of his mead, grabs his apron, leaps to his charger and sets straight, the castle is up ahead but the horse is tiring. He spurs it into one last gasp effort. 10:29, only yards to go but the drawbridge is starting to rise. With a feat of horsemanship still unsurpassed, he gets to his feet in the saddle and leaps for the rising edge of the drawbridge. His fingertips just curl over the top but the beer and the weight of the armor are just too much. As his fingers slowly release their grip on the wood, he looks down and says "Oh well. So moat it be!"

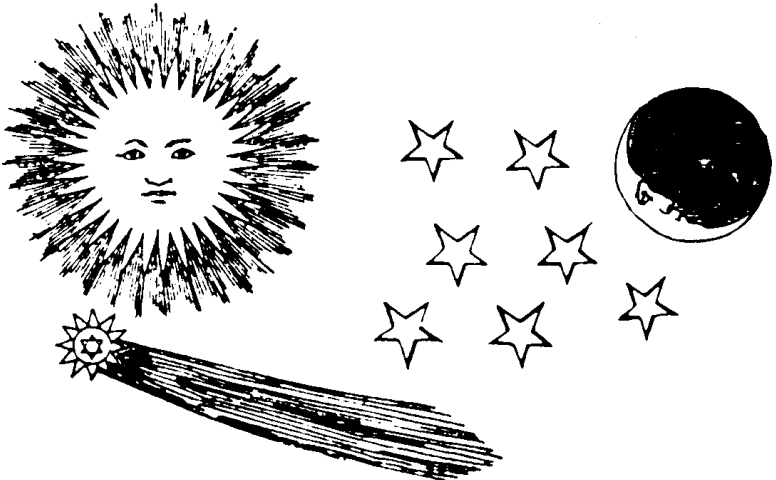
• From the District Reporter •

By Your name here

We are still looking for a District Reporter. all it will take is a small amount of time and have fun with it.

**Wishing you a Happy, Safe and
Healthy New Year.
Happy 2006**

from all of us at the Newsletter.



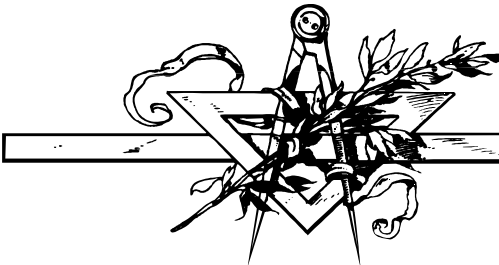
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