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MASONIC CENTER IMPROVEMENTS

The improvements at the Masonic Center, on which we have been reporting for a year or more, continue. Among the refurbishments have been the beautiful marble-and-granite floor of the South Meeting Room, matching floors for the Museum, Hall, Foyer, and Preparation Room, and fresh paint in the South Meeting Room.

The latest work is in the North Lodge restroom and at the rear entrance of the Masonic Center. At the rear entrance, a Vermont Green Slate has been laid in the foyer along with Brushed Indian Black Granite for the stairs.

In the North Lodge restroom, Black Vermont Slate was used for the floor, and Honed Indian Black Granite is being used for the stalls.

All of the work has been contracted and overseen by WB **Beaux Pettys**, and is in conjunction with further improvements in the North Lodge and Hallway of the Center, to include new carpet and paint.

BOWLING FOR BREAST CANCER

The Lodge's "Bowling For Breast Cancer" event, originally scheduled for August 20, 2006, is still being planning, but the date must be changed. The venue will be the Brunswick Express Lanes, on Monroe Drive. It will be discussed at the meeting on July 18, and input will be welcomed on how it can best be organized and how the competition aspect of it can be handled.

Get all the latest on Gate City Lodge No. 2 on our web site, www.gatecity2.com.

NEW ITEMS FOR MUSEUM DISPLAY

The newly renovated Museum – a project that has Gate City fingerprints all over it – will have some very interesting items on display in new custom-made display cases. Included will be a 1611 first edition of the King James Bible, a copy of the Lunar Bible, and a Lunar Bible fragment. Also on display will be the Masonic apron and DeMolay certificate of Astronaut Edgar Mitchell. These items are expected to be the subject of great interest to our Brethren and visitors to the Masonic Center.

HRABE NAMED DIRECTOR OF FERNBANK

We are pleased to report the recent promotion of our Junior Warden, **Douglas J. Hrabe**, to be Director of the Fernbank Science Center by the Dekalb County School Board. Fernbank is an internationally recognized institution,

and Gate City Lodge is glad that Brother Hrabe's abilities are recognized in his profession, as they are within our Lodge room.

The Trestle Board joins the Brethren of the Lodge in congratulating him and wishing him well. We are very proud of you, Bro. Doug!

Meeting Notice

There will be a regular stated meeting of Gate City Lodge No. 2, F. & A. M., will be held on July 25, 2006, at 7:30 p.m., in the Masonic Center.

There will be a regular stated meeting of Gate City Lodge No. 2, F. & A. M., on August 8, 2006, at 7:30 p.m., in the Masonic Center.

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SHOOTING EVENT VERY SUCCESSFUL

The Dan Genson shooting instructional, on Saturday, June 24, went very well despite some last-minute problems. The major concern was a late change of venue, and the event was held at the indoor range of Georgia range and Guns, Forest Park.

Starting at 9:00 a.m. there were three blocks of instruction:

- Basic firearms safety was presented by WB **Larry Sullivan**, a Lieutenant with the Atlanta Police Department.
- Atlanta Police Department Sergeant WB **Dan Genson**, explained how to perform a “double tap” and why such a technique is employed.
- Marine Staff Sergeant **Jann Genson**, a firearms instructor and an Entered Apprentice Brother, described and demonstrated the principles of basic pistol and rifle marksmanship as taught by the Marine Corps.

At 11:00 a.m. the group headed to the firing line and everyone had the opportunity to practice the techniques presented in the classroom on five pistol lanes and two rifle lanes. There was a wide variety of weapons available, including an AK47, several 9mm pistols, an M1911 45 ACP, a German Luger, an M1 Carbine, and an AR15.

In addition to the instructors, the following had signed up to take part: David Johnston, Taylor Johnston, Beaux and Claire Pettys, WM Beaux Pettys’ father, a friend of Clair Pettys, JW Doug Hrabec, Chris Wilson, Alexander and Laura Davidson, Nick Hayes, and WB John Guest.

The event was organized and run by JD Chris Wilson, who did an outstanding job and deserves the accolades of the Lodge.

We note with sadness the death of William Michael Genson, the brother of WB Dan Genson and the uncle of Entered Apprentice Brother Jann Genson. We understand that William Genson, only 53, passed away as the result of infection following an operation. The family is included in our prayers.

DEGREE WORK EARNS PRAISE

Anyone who has seen the Gate City officer corps this year will have noticed the proficiency of the ritual work, both in the conferral of the degrees and in the opening and closing of the Lodge. The impressive work is the result of a renewed emphasis on the work, going back to at least 2004, under WB **Dan Genson** (and perhaps before). For various reasons, the work had lost its sharpness, was not up to Gate City’s standards, and Worshipful Masters Genson, **Joe Brooks**, and, currently, **Beaux Pettys** have

worked hard to bring it back to the level for which our Lodge has traditionally been known.

Your Editor is not an expert on ritual work, but **WB C. David Johnston**, Worshipful Master in 1989, is an expert. His impression of recent work, excerpted from an e-mail to the officer corps, is as follows:

Brethren -

I am remiss in not writing sooner. I thought the EA Degree Tuesday evening [June 13] was not only the best work that this group of Officers has done, but I cannot remember a more impressive and technically proficient EA Degree in my 25 years in Gate City Lodge No. 2!!

ALL of the Officers are to be commended for the additional time that went into the preparation for this degree. While there are always some little details still to work on, you should be proud of having put on an excellent EA Degree!!

Any Brethren who missed this missed a GREAT evening - and you should make a point of being there the next time!

David Johnston

The hard work is paying off!

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FURTHER TO ... REMEMBERING "TH' JUDGE"

An article in the June issue about WB **Charles Wofford**, based on information provided by WM Beaux Pettys, included a sentence that said, in part, "... it has been said that WB Charles Augustus Wofford ... was the first-line signature on 10,000 petitions." Your Editor inserted an Editorial note at that point, to the effect that inasmuch as Gate City Lodge's historical membership has been only about 3,400 men, total, from 1887 to present, the 10,00 number cannot be supported.

Now, to our dismay, we are in receipt of a note from WB Pettys, pointing out that his statement was that "it has been said", not "it is a fact". He goes on to suggest that fast living in Florida (he suggested some rather lurid details, which need not be enumerated here) has perhaps caused some deterioration in the mental acuity of your Editor. Our only comment is to note that we reported the number just as he had submitted it, and that we then had taken appropriate steps to protect our esteemed Worshipful Master from potential ill effects of his innocent exaggeration. [No one ever suggested this was an easy job, but nobody told me, either, what I would have to put up with!]