



# GFN CYBER MASON

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The Newsletter of the Global Fraternal Network -- VIRTUAL INTERNET LODGE

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Volume 3, Number 2 February 2008

**Forums meet at the East Gate.**

**UK 9.00 pm GMT Sunday only**

**AP 9.30 am GMT**

**USA 3.00 am GMT**

**Time Conversion <http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/>**

“The views expressed here (by Members of the GFN) are of those individuals who contribute them and are not of any Masonic Lodge, Grand Lodge nor of the Editors, Officers or Personnel of the Newsletter”.

## **Editorial**

### **Welcome to**

Noko [41\\_baird@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:41_baird@tiscali.co.uk) John McDevitt Nelson who has volunteered to join our distribution team.

**Update your Profile if you have changed your email address.**

**On several occasions the GFN chat site has been offline. Our Kent Rep Peter Evans has designed a back up Chat Line for use when this happens. For details of this go to our Links page and take note of the address.**

## **THE LEVEL AND THE Square by Brother Rob Morris *Poet Laureate of Freemasonry***

*(This poem, written in August, 1854, is the most popular Masonic Poem of all time.)*

We meet upon the Level and we part upon the Square.  
What words of precious meaning, those words Masonic are!  
Come, let us contemplate them! They are worthy of a thought;  
In the very walls of Masonry the sentiment is wrought.  
We meet upon the Level, though from every station come,  
The rich man from his palace and the poor man from his home;  
For the rich must leave his wealth and state outside the Mason's door,  
And the poor man finds his best respect upon the Checkered Floor.  
We act upon the Plumb - 'tis the orders of our Guide.  
We walk upright in virtue's way and lean to neither side;

The All-Seeing Eye that reads our hearts doth bear us witness true  
That we still try to honor God and give each man his due.  
We part upon the Square, for the world must have its due;  
We mingle with the multitude, a faithful band and true.  
But the influence of our gatherings in memory is green,  
And we long upon the Level to renew the happy scene.  
There's a world where all are equal - we are hurrying toward it fast,  
We shall meet upon the Level there when the gates of Death are past;  
We shall stand before the Orient, and our Master will be there  
To try the blocks we offer with His own unerring Square.  
We shall meet upon the Level there, but never thence depart.  
There's a Mansion - 'tis all ready for each trusting, faithful heart.  
There's a Mansion, and a welcome, and a multitude is there  
Who have met upon the Level and been tried upon the Square.  
Let us meet upon the Level, then while laboring patient here;  
Let us meet and let us labor, though the labor be severe;  
Already in the Western sky the signs bid us prepare  
To gather up our Working Tools and part upon the Square  
Hands round, ye faithful Brotherhood, the bright fraternal Chain.  
We part upon the Square below to meet in Heaven again!  
What words of precious meaning, those words Masonic are –  
- We meet upon the Level and we part upon the square

Any comments or articles to me please on [bwbutler@btinternet.com](mailto:bwbutler@btinternet.com)

If any brother would submit their Lodge Web Site to be included as a link in this News Letter please forward Lodge Name, No. And URL



## Asian Pacific

**"Andrew J. Bradley (-;-)" <ajbradley@hotmail.net.au> wrote:**

From: Andrew J. Bradley \(-;-\) <ajbradley@hotmail.net.au>  
Subject: GFN Topic Nights are happening  
Date: Sun, 20 Jan 2008 21:15:12 +1100

**Topic Nights Are Happening!**  
**On the Second and Fourth Sundays of each month commencing at 9:00 am GMT.**

Our first Topic Night was a bit disappointing with few members arriving late, which left little time to work through the subject for the night. We did, however, meet and welcome a new member from Nigeria and had a truly international night with members from USA, Australia, South Africa, Nigeria, the UK and a Tasmanian holidaying in Wales.

Thanks to those who have sent emails suggesting topics. Remember, that we need your input and if you wish to nominate a topic just send me an [email](#)

Also remember that the chat rooms are not only opened on these nights. They are open all the time. If you have a few spare minutes, why not hop in and see who's on. If the chat rooms are empty, log in and wait a while, you never know who will pass by - just keep pressing that [chat] button every once in a while.

• 10th February 2008 •

The Next Generation

Suggested by [Narendra](#) (Bro Narendra Porwal)

*What inducement can there be for the younger generation to join Freemasonry?*

*Why are they not joining? How do we attract younger members?*

• 24th February 2008 •

Three Degrees in One Day

Suggested by [JCutler](#) (Bro Jason Cutler)

*Does this add to, or take away from, the Masonic experience?*

*Should there be qualifying times between degrees? Or even before joining other Orders?*

Hi Brian

I received this today interesting reading if you want to use it please contact the writer

take care

Dennis

**Gordon Mallitt** <[gormal@optusnet.com.au](mailto:gormal@optusnet.com.au)> wrote:

From: "Gordon Mallitt" <[gormal@optusnet.com.au](mailto:gormal@optusnet.com.au)>

To: <[Dennis\\_19502000@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Dennis_19502000@yahoo.co.uk)>

Subject: Grand Lodge of India

Date: Fri, 28 Dec 2007 11:21:56 +1000

re GFN News, January, 2008

Thanks for that Article by Brother Garakh about the formation of the Grand Lodge of India in the January 2008 Edition of GFN News. My interest stems from the fact that I have been in contact with various freemasons in India during the past twelve months and had not been able to sort out in my own mind just how all the grand lodges- District Grand Lodge of India (English Constitution), DGL (Irish Const.), and DGL (Scottish Const.), and the Grand Lodge of India all comfortably and harmoniously seem to slot in. I am happy to now know more than I did before reading the article referred to.

During my 65 years as a freemason (initiated Lodge Trafalgar #586 UGL.New South Wales, March 1942), I have seen the rise in our numbers after WW2, and the more recent decline in numbers. I am currently Organist in three lodges and a 'back-up' ritualist. I live in a retirement village and drive thirty-three kilometers each way to and from my lodge. I enjoy the social aspects of membership, and enjoy the company of those whose only interest in freemasonry is of a social nature. Masonry just would not be the same without such members, and we need them, even though we might be tempted to think of them as "rough ashlar." I believe them to be better men than they would have otherwise been. Of course, I also enjoy the company of those we might refer to as 'serious freemasons', those who try to walk the walk as well as talk the talk. It is their privilege to be the examples, which the 'ruffies' might follow in some ways. But we need some sort of balance, or a sense of proportion, and, to some extent this must be determined by the make-up of the community in which the particular lodge exists and serves.

Now, to get back to my interest in Indian Freemasonry- here is a true story, which is being acted out right now- my daughter returned to India just this week:



## Indian Odyssey.

My middle-aged daughter was slowly but surely going blind, with a condition called macular degeneration and for which there is no cure. For about ten years Maxine has kept in touch with all the latest research developments in Australia and overseas- but there is no early prospect of real help. Then having heard good reports of a hospital in southern India claiming good results from their ayurvedic treatment, she told me she was booking her passage to India for treatment, and this horrified me! I asked myself the question "How safe would it be for a middle aged lady who is blind in one eye and can't see much out of the other to go to such an unfamiliar country, with different cultures, different foods - different everything??" Her eye specialist gave her the nod- any hope is better than none! Were I a couple of years younger I'd accompany her, but at this late stage (86 yrs.) it would be out of the question for me to go to India.

So I put the question to a brother mason in Hong Kong, who was born in India, and asked his advice. He referred my query on to another mason in Mumbai who replied to me "If any of you have thought of coming to India to seek relief from your medical sufferings, here is a hand of help.

Grab it!"

He explained-

"Medical procedures overseas are very costly and there is a backlog of patients waiting for common procedures. If adequate insurance coverage does not exist then the operation may not be financially viable for the patient.

"Medical procedures in Mumbai are far more cost effective. With many new hospitals having opened up there is now a surplus of world-class medical facilities. Scheduling a surgical procedure is not very difficult even with eminent doctors and hospitals."

The Scheme is that an organized group of Masons under the banner of Mumbai Masons for Medicaid – MMM, are willing to provide assistance and liaise with Masons who wish to undergo medical procedures in Mumbai.

This is a not a scheme for financial assistance. No funds will be expected to be paid on either side. The visiting Mason will be expected to pay for the cost of the treatment and all associated costs. The Mumbai Mason / District will only assist him and provide ground logistics and not incur any financial obligations.

This is not a scheme to offer Medical advice or to hold out any guarantees of any nature as to the success of the procedure.

The areas of help MMM is expected to provide: -

in out best hospitals and doctors for the procedure, within budget specified.

Consult with the Doctor concerned and convey opinion of the procedure to be carried out.

Book Hospital bed and schedule surgery.

Book Hotel for Companion.

Receive at Airport

Play Host during the stay.

Inform folks back home about progress.

Assist in completion of paperwork during discharge

Put them back on the flight.

And generally to do such things as a willing mason and a gracious host would do.

Then, without even asking, I have received many offers of help from Indian masons- e.g.

Wor.Bro. Varma- medical director of Malabar Institute of Medical Sciences, and Professor in University of Kozhikode, whose wife is an eye-surgeon.

Brother Gopalan, whose friend was treated at this hospital and came out with good results, although he went blind again after some years, probably because of diabetes.

A medical specialist working at another hospital in the same city as the one Maxine booked into, has a good opinion of the work done there. He and his wife, also a doctor, offered whatever assistance is needed. They met Maxine at the airport and drove the 46 km. to the hospital.

Another doctor, whose niece is an ophthalmologist- has offered whatever help his family can give.

The Wor. Masters of lodges in the district have offered assistance by way of transport, comfort, friendship and security.

We received dozens of offers of advice and assistance, all in the name of freemasonry!

Maxine went to India in March, and has had the eye treatment, which has arrested the disease. If nothing more is gained, that part of the overall treatment has been of great benefit. In July 2007 she will return to India for vision

improvement therapy. Any improvement will be a bonus. The masons of India will meet her at the airport, escort her to the hospital (46 km) and see her safely admitted. They assist in many practical ways- by ensuring her personal comforts, ensuring she phoned us at home every day, keeping us aware of progress and escorting her back to the plane to come home.

This has been an overwhelming experience for Maxine and our family! The Freemasons in another country, one which we sometimes refer to as "third world" have excelled themselves, have freely given us all this help, reminding us of the NE Charge-" If at any future time you should meet a worthy mason in distress . . . . ."

Good morning Brother Brian.

Of course you may publish the contents of my letter. The second part of it is a copy of an article published in the August 2007 edition of "The Queensland Freemason" on page 22, and the editor of that magazine informs me that it is quite in order for other masonically based publications to reprint it. This magazine is also on the UGLQueensland web site

[www.freemasonsqld.org.au](http://www.freemasonsqld.org.au).

The article should be updated now. It was written in June when Maxine had only been to India once. Since then she went in July and is now there for her third visit. During the first they halted the disease, macular degeneration. Since then she has not had the continuous headaches previously experienced. During the second visit they confirmed that the disease is finished and made some improvement to the other eye. She can detect light and movement with the affected eye, but because the retina is completely detached, cannot focus. She can see well enough to be able to perceive distance and drives a car.

This week she reports that tests at the hospital have shown her vision is still improving and the hospital hopes to continue the improvement in the next few weeks and after she leaves India and returns home, for months to come. Before going back to India last week Maxine visited her regular eye specialist in Brisbane, and he confirmed that her sight was definitely showing an improvement over the past year. At the end of each visit to India she leaves the hospital with several months supply for home treatment.

So Brian, if you care to edit the update into the original article, then I think it should be done- it gives more answers!

S&F

Gordon

*(Editor's Note- Brethren seeking further details should contact Brother Mallitt by e-mail [gormal@optusnet.com.au](mailto:gormal@optusnet.com.au), or phone*

*07 3805 7830 )*



**UK Forum. DO WE NEED IT? If you think we do come and join us  
Every Sunday at 9.0pm UK Time**

W/Bro Brian

Many thanks for GFN News. It is an excellent education to read about the work in other Lodges throughout the World and I congratulate you and your team for persevering with this superb publication.

I wish you and all concerned a Happy and successful New Year.

F & S

Bro Roy Lewing  
Crayford Lodge 6336



**USA Forum**

Brethren,

It is my privilege and pleasure to introduce the  
Newest member of the Global Fraternal Network Staff;

Brother James Markwalder has been selected to serve  
As the GFN Convention Master. He should be made aware of  
anyone wanting to arrange a convention.

His e-mail address is; [jmarkwalder@SBCGlobal.NET](mailto:jmarkwalder@SBCGlobal.NET)  
"mailto: [jmarkwalder@SBCGlobal.NET](mailto:jmarkwalder@SBCGlobal.NET)"

Frat  
John R

## **THE SQUARE AND COMPASS BRAND**

Montana's first livestock brand was the square and compass; it is still in use. No one knows when it was first used; but it was before May 25, 1872, when it became necessary to date and register brands then in use. Poindexter T. Orr of Beaverhead County, Montana Territory first owned it.

Dear Brother

I note with interest comments about speakers being "**Movers and shakers of Freemasonry.**" That's another of our 'secrets' or paradoxes of the fraternity.

We do have a number of members who like to travel around speaking to groups. I have listened to many, and know a few. On examination of the information I could glean from their presentations. They are fine speakers and well versed in their subjects but really provided me little action information. While providing an entertaining evening I wasn't able to list or relate anything 'new' or novel in their presentations. And sadly nothing I could take back to lodge to use for action information.

I have finally come to the conclusion we have some who like to give lectures and some who like to listen to lectures and that's their Masonic thing. (Part of my 40 reasons to be a Mason)

Those of the appendant bodies who like that activity should well remember that the real life and blood of freemasonry is within the regular activity of the Blue Lodge.

That the real "movers and shakers" of Masonry are the brothers who appear at every Blue Lodge meeting. Who do whatever is needed to make an interesting and pleasant meeting. Who plan and execute those events, which make a Lodge interesting and fun to attend. Who go into the community with the blood bank, veteran's service, CHIP, cook and feed, who support and often take an active part in the volunteer organizations that are vital to our community infrastructure functions.

Those members of the Blue Lodges who make every meeting happen, month after month, year after year, are the real "movers and shakers" of our fraternity.

Frat  
Steve Grant



## **South Africa**

And the dissatisfaction not only in the USA or Canada and Europe continues well into the 21st century. The sooner we all sit down and pave the way ahead the better for the craft in years to come. I do not want to continue to flog a dead horse, but the itch just does not seem to want to go away!

Instead of always saying the same i.e. old guard versus young blood, we should begin with dialogue. I belong to a good few Masonic forums on the Internet and it seems to me that the majority of up and coming brethren are discontent with what FM has to offer. Read article below and I have seen others written by young masons in the past.

There are naturally some blue lodges, which are on the right track and are working together as a team, which is a good sign for the future! Charity begins at home, and our blue lodges are our home before anything else which the craft has to offer, if our foundations start crumbling, well we all know what the end result will be!

Don't be enticed by the golden carrot, which raises its head in our Masonic corridors, concentrate on that which constitutes true FM! My 2c worth,

Alex. Buerkle

Please read Article below...

## **The Restaurant At The End Of The Masonic Universe**

By Stephen Dafoe

So there is this restaurant chain with locations throughout North America. Its slogan is a pretty catchy one and the chain's management uses it on a daily basis to motivate staff and to recruit new patrons to the chain's thousands of locations.

The slogan is "we take good food and make it better" - eight simple words, which have struck an emotional chord with millions of people who like to eat.

There is no marketing genius behind the slogan or the success of the same in attracting people to the restaurant chain. Everyone likes good food, so it is unlikely that there is a person alive who would not like good food Made better. Who could resist such a slogan?

Sadly, the restaurant chain seldom lives up to its own slogan. The restaurants are often poorly decorated - their tables and chairs wobbly and in need of repair. Staffs often quarrel with one another and the management, Too often, seem only to be concerned with climbing the corporate ladder to the head office. The food, so much talked about is bland at best and dreadful at worst.

Yet as each new patron comes in for the first time to sample this "good food made better" he sees a group of smiling faces, all lapping up the meal as if it was the greatest food on the planet - just like the advertising People said it was.

The new patron does his best to eat his meal even though the food offered does not appeal to the palate as sweetly as the words used to describe it.

Not wishing to show his displeasure to his two friends who sponsored him for it is, after all, an exclusive restaurant - he sits in silence eating his meal with each mouth full being as forced as the smile on his face.

Sometimes the patron simply pays his tab, leaves the restaurant and vows never to return to the establishment. However, sometimes the patron decides that maybe he just went on a bad night - perhaps the staff was having a Bad He decides to give the "good food made better" joint one more try.

Returning on another night he sees the same dozen patrons who were there the month previous - they are still arguing with one another about which fork you should use for the salad and the proper way to hold a wine glass. The manager is still ignoring the new customers in favour of the company higher-ups seated at a back table who he is trying to convince of his suitability for a more prominent position in the firm.

What's worse - the food is still bland, boring and not what the sign on the door proclaims - yet the regulars are still lapping it up like it's their last meal.

This time the patron decides that the marketing slogan is nothing more than eight simple words cleverly arranged to deprive him of his hard earned money.

The thought occurs to him that maybe he could pull the manager away from the corporate wheels long enough to suggest a few small things that could truly make the good food better. However, he has a sinking feeling that he would be told, "but we've always cooked it this way before" or "we tried that once and the patrons didn't like it." He feels he might even be told, "The head office would never allow it."

So instead of voicing his concerns, exercising the old business axiom that the customer is always right, he says nothing. Instead he leaves the restaurant and vows never to return - either cancelling his pre-booked reservations on the way out the door or never returning and having his membership cancelled by the chain via a nasty letter. He wonders how it is that the restaurant survives and why the same dozen diners seem to enjoy the food so much. His conclusion is a simple one - they like things the way they are and the establishment will never change so long as the chain is run by people who like to make bland food and patronized by people who like to eat the same.

And so we come to a problem that is rife within Freemasonry today.

We advertise ourselves as an organization that makes good men better, and while that is precisely what we have done for millions of men over the centuries, it cannot be argued that we are letting down the many young men who enter our doors who feel cheated and deceived.

"I really feel that I have been sold a pack of lies," wrote one such young mason recently on an Internet discussion forum.

How sad it is that a young man, who has been a Mason for one year would feel that he has been lied to by an organization that has Truth as one of its three greatest attributes.

"This is not the Masonry I signed up for," he continued in his posting and in so stating arrives at the crux of our problem.

Freemasonry in large parts of the United States and Canada is not offering what it is advertising, but if it advertised what it offered - would it receive many new candidates.

"Freemasonry - we take good men and let them sit in a room and listen to the reading of minutes and 45-minute debates on spending \$50 on why we should or should not buy a plaque to show what great guys we are."

It just does not have the same marketing strength as "Freemasonry - we take good men and make them better." Unfortunately our young brethren, past and present have tried to improve what Freemasonry offers within the tiled recesses of our lodges, but are met with resistance at each step of the way.

We say we are about making good men better through self-improvement - yet few are the lodges that apply the working tools within the body of a lodge to educate our young members as to how to do this.

The Masonic Information Centre (MIC) recently released a publication entitled, "It's About Time." The publication identifies the problems currently confronting Masonic identity and offers sound solutions for the same.

One of the most powerful statements in the 17-page document follows:

"The Square and Compasses, the best known symbol of a Mason, cannot replace the identity of living the life of a Mason, which is itself perpetually in a state of improving ourselves in body, mind, and spirit. Masonic imagery is a valuable resource when it inspires us to take new action consistent with our personal growth and enlightened thought? We must discover our own Masonic calling, our own place in the history of Masonry, by making authentic Masonic performance our top priority."

However, we have allowed, as the MIC points out in the publication, Masonry to be shaped by the 20th century's emphasis on the Masonic ritual being the completion of the Mason's education about his fraternity.

Like the analogy of the restaurant chain, little changes in how lodges deliver Masonic lessons because the same dozen patrons sit in her seats and run the show. Those men, like the restaurant patrons in our analogy, come back month after month and year after year because they enjoy the bland food - a meal that is largely comprised of recitation of minutes, tedious debates over how funds are dispersed and arguments over when and how to salute the Worshipful Master.

And when a young man, initiated, passed and raised leaves because he finds the meal unappetizing, he is viewed as a disgruntled customer, which the restaurant is better off without.

The recipe of Freemasonry is as sound today as it was three hundred years ago - it is the present kitchen of stubborn cooks who need to be tossed out.

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## **Situations Vacant**

A number of vacancy's exist for GFN Reps

Interested? Contact John Nicholas plump45@yahoo.com

?

## **Masonic Buildings.**



Detroit USA



Windsor UK

Please let me have Pictures of your Lodge Buildings. Keep them coming.  
Ed

## **Lodge Links**

Arcadia Lodge No 278 California <<http://www.calodges.org/no278/>>

Collinwood Lodge #582, Ohio [www.collinwood582.org](http://www.collinwood582.org)

21st Masonic District of Ohio, <http://masonicoh21.net/>

Steubenville Lodge No 45 Ohio <http://www.steubenvillelodge45.org/>

Alba lodge No 315 USA <<http://www.albalodge315.org/>>

Statesville Lodge No27 USA. <http://www.statesville27.ncmason.org/>

Triangle Lodge No 708 Georgia USA [www.trianglelodge.org](http://www.trianglelodge.org)

Triangle Lodge Maine [http://www.bluelodges.com/blweb/site\\_main.aspx?lodgeid=10](http://www.bluelodges.com/blweb/site_main.aspx?lodgeid=10)

Solomon's Lodge No. 3, F. & A.M. Philadelphia, PA

[www.solomons3.org](http://www.solomons3.org) <http://www.solomons3.org>

Lynnhaven Lodge No 220 Virginia <http://www.vamason.org/no220>

Freedom Military Lodge No 1775 Washington DC <http://www.freedomlodge.org>

New Freedom Lodge No. 118, Lovettsville, VA, USA <http://www.freedom118.org/>

Crayford Lodge No 6336 England <http://www.crayfordlodge.org.uk>

Prov of Shropshire <http://www.pglshropshire.org.uk/>

Lodge Duyfken which is in the District of Carpentaria, in Queensland,

Australia. <http://www.tNewinyuri.com/omr8a>

#### Quote

*"The more things a man is ashamed of, the more respectable he is.*

**" George Bernard Shaw** (1856–1950), Anglo-Irish playwright, critic.

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#### Editorial Team

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