



Valley of Rutland

Newsletter

Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite Freemasons



51 Washington Street, Rutland, Vermont

August 2009

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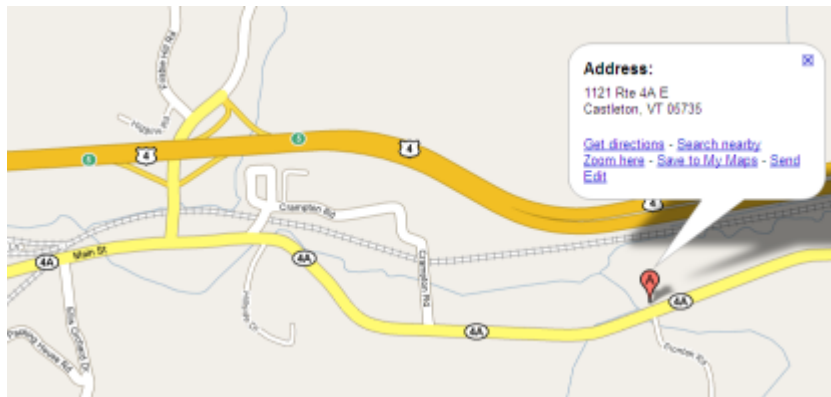
Some Wisdom from Eric Ginette 33°

Valley of Rutland family fun day:

The Valley will be holding its' Family Fun Day on Sunday, August 30, 2009 in lieu of our regular meeting. This event will be held at Brother Skeet Pike's (Meadow View Farm) located at #1121 Rt 4A east, in Castleton. The time frame is roughly 1:00 pm - 7:00 pm. When I was discussing the time with Skeet he responded with "come for lunch, stay for supper ". So it is written, so shall it be done.

The Family Fun Day is open to all Freemasons, their families and prospective Masons. If you know someone who is interested in the world of Masonry, bring them along and enjoy some Fraternity.

Join us for some food, fun, fraternity and some libations, if you please. The Valley of Rutland AASR asks that you RSVP to Rick.Boise@rutlandmasons.org if you are planning on attending. We want be sure of enough food for everyone. Please see map below for directions.



About this newsletter:

A few months back at the meeting it was decided the secretary was too busy with his duties so the Valley needed an "Information Officer" or "Valley Publicist" to handle the dissemination of information to the Valley members. I volunteered for the job and this is my first newsletter for the Valley. I will be reworking the format until I find what works the best for the purpose. I welcome submissions for the newsletter if

Member email Addresses:

Some of you have heard that I am collecting email addresses. My goal is to send out as much information using email as possible. With the ever rising cost of postage, it simply is no longer possible to mail information to everyone. In this day and age most people are using email, it is however, proving difficult to collect the email addresses of our membership.

Many people are reluctant to give over their email address, especially

New Vermont AASR Web Page:

The Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite Freemasons of the great State of Vermont, announce their new web page.

The page has been completely redesigned and can be found at www.vermontscottishrite.com.

Thank you brothers for putting this page together.

anyone is interested.

Thank you,
Rick Boise 32°

when they receive an email that has 20 different addresses listed in the mail to header of the email. There is a way to send an email to multiple recipients without everyone's address going to all the people receiving that email. This is how I send email to multiple recipients and I can assure you that any contact information I have for you is secure. So please send me your email address if you have received this newsletter from someone other than me.

Thank you,
Rick.Boise@rutlandmasons.org

“ICE”

Inspiration- Convenience-Enjoyment

Three hundred years ago speculative Masonry arose. The basic ideas of the future of western culture were spread out upon the frame work of ancient operative Masonry by young men who saw ahead to the world to come and strove to make this vision real by creating Freemasonry. Basic to these ideas was that of human liberty built upon the suffrage of the people; the right of individuals equally before the law; and the moral dignity proper for mankind. Set against an age where kings ruled a powerless mass of people and religion saw man as evil and dominated by sin, these were powerful and revolutionary ideas.

The project succeeded and over the years many millions of able men assembled under the banner of Freemasonry. But this very success sowed the seeds of failure, because these ideas became fixed in ritual and dogma, codified into Masonic Law, and carried on by ever older and older men. Instead of being a herald of the future at some point Masonry became the custodian of the past. Gradually we end up with the American Freemasonry of today: a glorious past having little relevance to our present culture, dispersed in a society that largely ignores it.

It would seem obvious that if Freemasonry is to return to being a vigorous meeting ground where the future is once again assembled by young minds it will not be by clinging to the sinking ship of the past. Three hundred years is a long time and the ideas and needs that gave expression to the vision of that day cannot serve to vitalize the vision of today.

It is unnecessary to define what this vision will be in this essay. It will not be the voice of any one man or the labor of any particular Lodge or Valley. But it is necessary to create the structure, the freedom, the organization capable of incubating this child of the future. Yes indeed the old structure of Freemasonry is grand and historic; yet it is feeble and abed. But within it resides yet the ageless human spirit that will give birth to the future. Will it be a future of the enslavement of the people, the extinguishment of the rights of the individual and debasement of the dignity of man; or the arising of a new vision of human freedom and expressions of the human spirit yet unarticulated and unknown?

These questions are too important to be decided by those ignorant of Freemasonry. Our fraternity has been for these long generations the voice of brotherhood, relief and truth. All of the great revolutions of human culture have had Freemasonry and Freemasons at their root. If man collectively is to continue to evolve our voices must become greater, not fade away.

And so what is this salve I suggest we spread upon the old man abed, buried almost under the weight of his aprons, jewels, and regalia? I will take up the call of John Wm. McNaughton for “ICE”: Inspiration, Convenience, and

Enjoyment. Each of these elements will aid our Fraternity to shed the encrustations of the past.

Inspiration is what men need before the desire for action can arise. Do you honestly feel your meetings, your degrees, your events inspire? Then change them until they do.

Our world is fast paced and a myriad of things clamor for our attention. If we ask men to engage in a convoluted path to and through our gates we guarantee that many will not make the effort and the spark will die long before the fire can be kindled.

And no man continues long in anything they do not enjoy. Look around your lodge room on meeting night. Have they not voted with their feet and is the evidence not those empty chairs? We must appeal to the senses as well as to the intellect. How many times have you seen men laughing and talking for long in the parking lot, there in the dark after the dour meeting has ended? Perhaps the real Masonry was out there.

Therefore I make this plea to leave go of the old forms that just do not work any longer and use the principles of "ICE" to unlock our creativity. We have to pry loose the fingers of our petty tyrants from the throat of the child of the Masonry of tomorrow. Our call is not to define ourselves by how closely we adhere to what has been done in the past, but by how we can inspire the creation of the future. This is not to suggest abandonment of our core principles, but certainly to abandon the worn out script we use to express them. Every dreary drop of the gavel as it paces its way through the old forms is another death knell to our fraternity. How long has it been since any light was allowed through the tightly curtained windows of our lodges? Is the recitation of ancient rituals in antique phraseology really all we have to offer the initiate?

Somewhere in there is an ever living truth, a vital force that has propelled our Society through three centuries, a wisdom valid for all times. It is inspirational.

When good men come together, there is Brotherhood. Let's get out of the way of that happening. I am tired of raising them only to watch the excitement in their eyes fade away. Let us apply a new yardstick to our events. Not "Is it the way we always did it?" but "Is it Inspirational? Is it Convenient? Is it Enjoyable?" Those sidelines will start to fill.

Eric Ginette
August 2009