

JEPHTHA LODGE 494

Huntington, New York 11743 ♦ 631.351.8361 ♦ <http://www.jephtha.com>

GREETINGS FROM THE EAST



My Brothers, what an exciting month we've experienced together!

I would like to thank all of you for electing me Worshipful Master of Jephtha Lodge. This is an honor I will cherish for the rest of my days. Congratulations to all my elected and appointed officers as well. A wonderful thank you to W.: Anthony Colonna for sustaining the lodge during the COVID pandemic. We will continue to do great things this upcoming year!

There are many events being planned that will keep us and our families engaged throughout the forthcoming months. Additionally, I would like to maintain brotherly love as our major focus. We are strong, and we will always continue to strengthen our bonds. This is what separates us from any other fraternity and why Freemasonry will live long after we are called home by the Great Architect of the Universe.

As this Masonic year ends, we can be proud of having raised over \$9K for Sunrise Walks. For anyone not familiar with the Sunrise Association Day Camps, it is a free summer camp for children with cancer and their siblings. This type of successful fundraising during a pandemic is astounding. We should all be proud! We are capable of more and we will continue to reach new heights! Everything is possible when we work together as brothers.

Enjoy the summer. Take time to rest and recover. Read and improve yourself in Masonry. If you need us, we are here. Reach out. Health and wellness to you and your family.

I wish everyone a happy Fourth of July.

Sincerely and Fraternally,
Br. Jeremiah Campbell, Worshipful Master

GREETINGS FROM THE WEST



Dear Brothers,

Summer vacation, what a wonderful thought! It doesn't have to be two weeks at a tropical resort; it can be a relaxing weekend in your back yard with your family, a day off with your pet, or being involved Masonically - studying ritual for an hour, preparing something for the lodge, or meetings by Zoom or in person. To me, that is a vacation, a break from the pressures of life to be among my beloved Brethren.

While writing this article I was thinking of the past year and all we accomplished, smiling as I do so, realizing all the charity we achieved and all the brotherly love we have expressed. I'm also thinking of the ensuing year as we strive to accomplish more, raising even more money for our beloved Sunrise Association Day Camps; for the newly created Jephtha Lodge Scholarship Fund allowing sons, daughters, grandchildren or widows of Master Masons to further their education; The Helping Hand Mission; Toys for Tots; Ride 343 NYC Fire Department in Support of Veterans; Nassau and Suffolk BOCES School Supply Drive; the United Veterans Beacon House; The Jephtha Lodge Benevolence Fund, and The Grand Lodge of NY Benevolence Fund.

I wish to thank all the officers for a beautiful installation night on June 14th, and all the brothers and their families who attended. I also wish all the officers, especially W. : Campbell, a blessed year as I look forward to faithfully serving our lodge as your Senior Warden.

Enjoy your 4th of July while celebrating our country's birthday, enjoy your vacations be they large or small, be safe, and relax during the beautiful days of summer.

And always remember, it's not how long the day is, it's how much light you bring to it.

Sincerely and Fraternally,
Br. Michael S. Crispino Jr, Senior Warden

GREETINGS FROM THE SOUTH



Greetings Brethren,

I could not be more honored to address you as Junior Warden for the 2021-2022 Masonic year. I am certainly learning about responsibility and trust in this new role, and I appreciate the support and love I have received from you, my brothers. Thank you.

As I have been studying my new lines as Junior Warden and my responsibilities of calling the craft from labor to refreshment, it has become apparent the overarching responsibility of the Junior Warden is your care. In the days before clocks, when men were building the Temple, observing the sun as it moved across the sky and noticing when it reached its highest point indicated the brothers needed rest, refreshment and safety from the brutal effects of the midday sun. The Junior Warden's job was to make sure that happened - brothers were well fed, refreshed and ready to resume their labors after the sun had passed its strongest point.

Today in the Craft, the Junior Warden's role has not changed. His responsibility is for the care, feeding and refreshment of his brothers, a responsibility I take very seriously. Caring for my brothers, ensuring their safety and well-being, knowing they are well fed and refreshed is the embodiment of the love I feel for you, my Brothers of Jephtha Lodge.

As I write my first message to you as Junior Warden, I am keenly aware of what a humbling experience this new responsibility is. My Brothers, whom I love and respect, are now dependent on me, and this is when I begin to completely realize and understand for what I have just volunteered. I will do all in my power not to let you down.

Sincerely and Fraternally,
Br. William P. Fenty III, Junior Warden

GREETINGS FROM THE CORNER DESK



My brothers,

Every year I think to myself, "Summer is coming; that will give me time to catch up on everything and get a bit of rest." Then, June arrives, and I realize (as all adults eventually do) that "summer vacation" doesn't really exist for grownups. Life just continues to move forward.

At Jephtha, we officially "go dark" for a two months, but like life, we continue to move forward. Keep an eye on the Facebook group and the phone apps - your new Worshipful Master and his line are making plans. You do not have to wait for us though - invite your brothers over; go out for a drink; call someone you haven't seen at lodge for a while. Brothers don't have to wait for family reunions to spend quality time together!

Sincerely and Fraternally,
Br. Tim TenClay, Secretary

KEEPING IN TOUCH



BAND (Jephtha): <https://band.us/band/77740271>



FACEBOOK: Jephtha Lodge No. 494



INSTAGRAM: Jephtha 494



MASONS OF JEPHTHA #494: <https://www.jephtha.com>



OUR LODGE PAGE (Jephtha): <https://494-ny.ourlodgepage.com>



GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE STATE
OF NEW YORK: nymasons.org/site

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Syed N. Asad
Daniel Bernzweig
Craig M. Cohen
William P. Fenty III
Michael Fufidio Jr
Randolph Ivans
Enelus F. Junio
Alfred A. Kunz

Paul J. Levy
Malcom C. MacLeod
Frank P. Marinaro III
Brian E. O'Donoghue
Craig J. O'Grady
Marlo A. Suazo
Robert J. Wedderburn
Robert V. Williamson

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Scott D. Bloomfield
Geoffrey M. Cohen
Raymond J. Dowling
Austin Enaw
Jesse Esperto
Michael T. Forster
John Hurioglo

Cooper J. Macco
Timothy L. Mason
Christopher Schenker
Herbert F. Schumann
Ronald D. Steiger
Christopher J. Tilley
Stephen M. Vogel

JULY AND AUGUST 2021 CALENDAR

Shepherding for Entered Apprentices - Thursdays on the following dates, in lodge at 7:30 PM:

July 1, (No class on July 8th), 15, 22, 29

August 5, 12, 19, 26

September 2, 9, 16, 23 - final class (Tentative Second Degree of Fellowcraft on September 27)

All brothers are encouraged to attend. There will be guest lecturers.

Long Island Ducks Baseball Night with Jephtha Lodge, July 27th, 6:30 PM - next page for details

Long Island Ducks Baseball Night with Jephtha Lodge, July 27th, 6:30 PM, Central Islip, NY
Brothers, Family and Friends are invited.

Paper tickets are available at \$12/ticket, payable by cash, check or PayPal
and should be paid by July 20th.

Contact Br. John A. Lentinello at john.lentinello@gmail.com for payment.
Details can also be found on Facebook (Jephtha Lodge No. 494) and
Band (<https://band.us/band/77740271>).

JEPHTHA LODGE EXCEEDS FUNDRAISING GOALS FOR SUNRISE DAY CAMPS



The third annual Jephtha Lodge Charity Walk benefiting Sunrise Association Day Camps completed its most successful fundraising drive in 2021 despite the challenges faced during the global pandemic.

The Sunrise Association Day Camps in Wyandanch provides children ages 3½ to 16 struggling with cancer, and the difficult treatments associated with it, with activity filled summers at outdoor day camps free of charge. The struggling children's months of isolation are broken up with a few weeks of sunshine and fun at the day camp, without rescheduling any medical treatments since the children return home at night. The program also includes siblings to help the children with cancer be more comfortable at camp and less lonely.

The global pandemic forced the Sunrise Association Day Camps to go virtual during 2020, limiting all activities to virtual only events with counselors, games and recreation. With COVID-19 still a threat, the Sunrise Association Day Camps has developed new protocols for the summer of 2021 to keep the children battling cancer, who are at a much higher risk of contracting the virus, in a safe environment.

Masonic lodges throughout New York were also shut down in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, preventing any in-person meetings. The Masonic primary function of charity could have been severely hindered due to these unforeseen circumstances, but the lodge in Huntington once again rose to the test.

The members of Jephtha Lodge No. 494 in Huntington and their family members recognized these challenges. Spearheaded by the Jephtha Lodge Benevolence Committee, Chairman Bill Fenty III organized the "Masons for Sunrise" team to meet its primary objective - to cover the \$6,000 cost to send one child to camp this summer.

The Committee exceeded its expectations, once again raising the bar for future fundraisers. With the annual Sunrise Association Day Camps Charity Walks cancelled once more due to the pandemic, on June 5, 2021, 55 people, including Jephtha Lodge Brother Masons, members of Truth Triangle No. 31, Knights of Antiquity DeMolay, New York Squires and their families created their own walk in Huntington Village. The group walked from the lodge to Heckscher Park and back while completing one round of the pond on a hot, humid Saturday morning.



The charity walk was the conclusion of a series of fundraisers the lodge held for the Sunrise Association Day Camps. On April 24th, Jephtha Lodge Brothers assembled for an online cocktail event, including trivia and other activities. Brother William Friedman provided metal for Brothers Matt and Chris Tomasino to design and create new masonic key chains and one large Masonic Square and Compasses to be raffled for the Sunrise Walks fundraising.

Brother Paul Levy won the large Masonic symbol and promptly donated the impressive design to the recently named private, lodge bar, The Quarry, where it is proudly displayed. For the second year, brother Friedman supplied dozens of new T-shirts emblazoned with "Masons for Sunrise" to be distributed to the walkers.

Jephtha Lodge raised over \$6,500 in its recent 2021 drive, an impressive increase from the \$4400 in 2020, making "Masons for Sunrise" one of the top-15 fundraisers out of over 100 teams at this year's Sunrise Walk events on Long Island. The goal will be higher for 2022, a challenge one of the fastest growing Masonic lodges in New York is prepared to meet.



Sincerely and Fraternally,
W. Br. Ronald J. Seifried, DSA, Historian

MASONIC MOMENT

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR AND MASONRY

In 1099, Godfrey de Bouillon's First Crusade takes Jerusalem. Godfrey de Bouillon (1058-1100), Duke of Lower Lorraine, was one of the leaders of the First Crusade. He was not a Knight Templar. When the Pope issued his summons to the Crusade, Godfrey joined the French knights leaving for the Holy Land, together with his brother Baldwin. In order to finance his expenses, he mortgaged his entire property. His army was made up of Walloons, Flemings, and Germans. On July 15, 1099, his soldiers were the first to break through to Jerusalem and took part in the subsequent massacre of the Jewish and Muslim residents of the city. On July 22, he was named ruler of Jerusalem. This choice, in which Godfrey de Bouillon was preferred to Raymond de Saint-Giles, was the best solution to the problem faced by the conquerors of Jerusalem, who had to decide the status of Jerusalem's ruler, and to whom he would be subject. Thus, Godfrey was awarded the title of "Defender of the Holy Sepulcher." For the rest of the single year in which he held this title, Godfrey managed to extend the boundaries of the Crusader state and to lay the foundations of its organization. After his one year of rule, he died and was buried in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. His brother Baldwin became King. It would not be until 1116 when Hugh de Payens, a knight of the lower nobility of champagne, approached King Baldwin II, with eight other Knights who swore to devote their entire lives to the service of the Holy Land. They were assigned a portion the al-Aqsa Mosque on the site of the original Temple of Solomon. It was from these headquarters that the group took the name: Poor Fellow soldiers of Christ and the Temple of Solomon, later to be known as The Knights of the Templar and, finally, the Knights Templar who in the eyes of many, were to become the forerunners of modern

Masonry. Reprinted from *the masonictrowel.com*

Respectfully submitted,
Br. Richard Gentile

FAMOUS JULY MASON

ROBERT THE BRUCE

Robert I, King of Scots, Earl of Carrick and 7th Lord of Annandale

July 11, 1274, Turnberry Castle, Scotland - June 7, 1329, Manor of Cardross, Scotland
Freemasonry was founded in Scotland by Robert the Bruce and William Sinclair, following the Battle of Bannockburn. It was their way of protecting the secrets of the Knights Templar, the so called guardians of the Holy Grail.

The legacy of the Knights Templar and the Masons is incorporated in the secret symbols and puzzles adorning the walls of Rosslyn Chapel. Buried vaults, once accessible, below the chapel house the remains of ten Barons of Roslin in full armor, along with their treasures. Legend has it, the Holy Grail, which is believed to have been brought back from Jerusalem, lies with them, they being its protector... One has to wonder if there is any truth in the legend?

In 1314 Sir Henry St. Clair fights alongside Robert the Bruce, King of Scotland at the Battle of Bannockburn. They defeated the English, gaining Scotland's Independence. In 1320 The Declaration of Arbroath was drawn up to get the Pope to recognize Scotland's right of Independence, which had not been accepted by the English. Sir Henry St. Clair was one of the signatories upon the document, which received approval from the Pope.

Robert the Bruce died in 1329 and his body was buried in the choir of Dunfermline Abbey, the traditional resting place of Scottish monarchs, which is now the site of the present parish church. After his bones were rediscovered in 1818, they were reinterred with great pomp in the new church. Today there is a monumental, brass plaque inserted in the floor indicating the royal vault. His heart rests in Melrose Abbey and his embalmed viscera in St. Serf's Chapel, Dumbarton. It was common practice in the Middle Ages to dismember important individuals to have them venerated in several churches.

In 1330 Sir William St. Clair along with John Sinclair, his brother, and Scottish knights carried the heart of Robert the Bruce to the Holy Land. They died in battle in the Holy Land, and their bodies were returned to Scotland.

In 1446 William Sinclair builds Rosslyn Chapel, and dedicates it to the Knights Templar.

NB Bruce is originally a Norman-French surname, Brus, and Robert the Bruce would be Robert de Brus in France. His family came from France at the invitation of David I, King of Scotland, during the 12th century. Eventually Brus became Bruce. Reprinted in part from *crusaderhistory.wordpress.com*, with addenda

Respectfully submitted,
Br. Richard Gentile

FAMOUS AUGUST MASON

FRÉDÉRIC AUGUSTE BARTHOLDI

August 2, 1834, Colmar, France - October 4, 1904, Paris, France

Although Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi was a sculptor and painter, he will always be remembered for his

colossal statue, La Liberté Éclairant le Monde (Liberty Enlightening the World), commonly known to Americans as the Statue of Liberty. Bartholdi's father died when he was two years old and the family moved to Paris where Bartholdi eventually studied architecture at the famous École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts de Paris (The Superior National School of Fine Art in Paris) under several noted artists and architects. Beside the Statue of Liberty, his other works in the United States include: angelic trumpeters on the tower of Brattle Square Church, Boston (1876); Marquis de Lafayette, also known as Lafayette Arriving in America, in Union Square, New York City (1873); the Bartholdi Fountain in the United States Botanic Garden, Washington, DC (1878); the Statue of Christopher Columbus, Providence, Rhode Island (removed in 2020); and The Lafayette and Washington Monument, Morningside Park, New York City (1895).

Bartholdi joined the Freemasons' Lodge Alsace-Lorraine in Paris in 1875, but he always kept his ties to Alsace. In 1922 his family home in Alsace became Le Musée Bartholdi (The Bartholdi Museum). In 1886 Bartholdi was made a Commander of the French Legion of Honor.

The following article entitled, *Masonry and The Statue of Liberty*, by R.:W.: Robert C. Singer, Deputy Grand Master of Grand Lodge, F. & A.M, New York, brilliantly summarizes the involvement of the Masons from the very creation of the Statue of Liberty in France to its reassembly in New York Harbor.

* * * * *

Masons everywhere can take special pride in the part our great Fraternity played in the creation and erection, nearly 100 years ago, of the most unique symbol of freedom and opportunity, the Statue of Liberty.

In the summer of 1865, a group of Frenchmen were gathered together one evening at the home of the well-known author, Édouard René de Laboulaye, in the village of Glavingny, a suburb of Paris. Among those present were Oscar and Edmond de Lafayette, grandsons of the Marquis de Lafayette, Masonic brother of George Washington; Henri Martin, the noted historian and French Mason; and a young artist from Colmar in French (later German) Alsace by the name of Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi, who at the time was engaged in making a bust of Laboulaye, called by one biographer "America's most ardent admirer in France."

Laboulaye told the group that it would be a splendid gesture on the part of all liberty-loving Frenchmen to acknowledge their friendship to America by presenting a fitting memorial. (Some have speculated that he had a second motive in mind - to call attention to the contrast between the American way of life with its freedoms and that of the French under the repressive Second Empire.)

The 31-year-old Bartholdi became imbued with the idea and also the challenge it presented to his artistic talent. But the proposal lay dormant during the autocratic rule of Napoleon III and throughout the destructive years of the Franco-Prussian War.

In 1871, Laboulaye, the Brother Lafayette with their cousin, the Marquis de Noailles, and the Marquis de Rochambeau, along with Henri Martin, revived the plan for the as yet unnamed memorial. They suggested that Bartholdi visit America and make arrangements for the presentation of the monument on July 4, 1876, the Centenary of the Declaration of Independence.

Armed with letters of introduction and full of high hopes, Bartholdi sailed for America, although it is said that he did not have even a rough drawing of the proposed monument. Two weeks later, while standing on the deck of the ship *Péreire* steaming up Lower New York Bay, he caught a vision of a magnificent goddess holding aloft a torch in one hand and welcoming all visitors to the land of freedom and opportunity.

Quickly obtaining paper and brush, Bartholdi sketched in water-color the idea of the Statue of Liberty substantially as it appears today. It was his thought to have this symbolic structure tower over the steeple of Trinity Church, then the tallest building on the New York skyline. He wrote to Laboulaye, "these outlines may well aim beyond the mere monument at a work of great moral value."

Bartholdi returned to France in 1874 and soon thereafter the Franco-American Union was established in Paris to raise funds for the Statue of "Liberty Enlightening the World." That same year, Bartholdi began his work at the Parisian firm of Gaget, Gauthier & Cie. His model for the face of the "Goddess of Liberty" was his mother, Charlotte Beysser Bartholdi. First, he made a four-foot clay miniature, then a nine-foot cast in plaster, and then proportionately enlarged each section four times, making as many as nine thousand measurements with each increase in size.

During the construction of the copper-clad monument, Bartholdi leaned heavily on another Freemason's expertise, that of Gustave Eiffel, designer of the Eiffel Tower, for the intricate steel skeleton supporting the soaring statue. (This paragraph is an addendum from *freemasonscommunity.life/famous-freemasons*)

Under the leadership of Henri Martin and inspired perhaps by the fact that so many of the sponsors of the Franco-American Union were members of the Masonic Fraternity, a campaign netting one million francs was completed by 1880. Contributors included over 100,000 individuals, 181 villages, 10 Chambers of Commerce, and many school children. The pedestal, which was America's responsibility, had been plagued by inadequate financial support, and it took a last-minute effort by Joseph Pulitzer, the owner and editor of the New York World, to raise over \$100,000, most of it from school children. Together, American and French citizens contributed some \$500,000 to the project.

Although the Statue's completion was not in time for the original 1876 date, the right hand and torch were displayed at the Philadelphia World's Fair and later in New York, so America was given a "sneak preview" of what was to come.

On Washington's birthday in 1877, Congress accepted the statue, in the name of the United States, as a gift from the French people. President Hayes then authorized General William T. Sherman, Army Chief of Staff, to select a suitable site for the gift. Sherman, knowing Bartholdi's preference for Bedloe's (now Liberty) Island, wisely concurred.

Meanwhile, in France Bartholdi and his fifty workmen finished the head, which was to go on display at the Paris Exposition Universelle in 1878. In 1880, the final stage was in preparation. The copper sheets were ready to be riveted in place, and Levi P. Morton, American Minister to France, later Vice President of the United States and Governor of New York, was invited to "drive the rivet in the first part to be mounted, the big toe of the left foot. "

The giant lady literally grew out of the Paris pavement. When completed, she stood 151 feet high and remained in place for two years, awaiting the building of a pedestal.

The statue was finished on May 21, 1884, and formally presented to Ambassador Morton by Ferdinand de Lesseps, head of the Franco-American Union and builder of the Suez Canal, at a friendship dinner on July 4, 1884.

Around this time, Bartholdi, who was a member of Lodge Alsace-Lorraine in Paris, which was composed of intellectuals, writers and government representatives, invited his brothers to view his masterpiece prior to its leaving their native land for America. It is also reported that in November of that year, he delivered a lecture and gave the Lodge a report on the history and various methods used in the creation of the statue.

In 1887, after the statue was dedicated at its final resting place, Bartholdi told his Lodge brothers of the ardent welcome he had received in New York and of the wide enthusiasm created by his work.

Meanwhile, in America plans were being made for the laying of the cornerstone of the pedestal. Chairman William M. Evarts of the American Committee contacted the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York and requested a Masonic ceremony "appropriate to the occasion."

It had been a tradition in America to have the cornerstone of major public and private buildings and monuments consecrated with full Masonic rites, ever since President George Washington, on September 18, 1793, had personally laid the cornerstone of the United States Capital, with the assistance of the Grand Lodge of Maryland. Similarly, the cornerstone of the Washington Monument was laid in a Masonic ceremony.

The Evart's invitation, however, was more than a local manifestation of the influence of the Craft or the continuance of a national practice. The presentation and erection of the Statue of Liberty was an occasion of worldwide significance, and delegating the laying of the cornerstone to the Masonic Fraternity was a fitting tribute rendered to free men of high principles and recognized international reputations throughout the world.

The date set for the ceremony was August 5, 1884. The American Committee sent invitations to all the leading state and municipal leaders across the Nation. The ceremony was scheduled to begin at two o'clock. Everything humanly possible was carefully planned. But one factor could not be controlled--the weather. On August 5, 1884, it did more than just rain--it poured!

However, the ceremony went off as scheduled. The gaily decorated vessel Bay Ridge, draped with the Tricolor of France and the Stars and Stripes, ferried approximately 100 members of the Grand Lodge of New York and visiting Masonic Grand Officers, along with many civic officials, to Bedloe's Island. Because of limited space, the traditional Masonic parade was omitted and the program was begun immediately.

A United States Army band played "La Marseillaise," the French National Anthem, following with the very popular "Hail Columbia." Then began, on the raised northeast corner of the pedestal, the formal cornerstone ceremony.

Brother Richard M. Hunt, principal architect of the pedestal, presented the Working Tools to M.:W.: William A. Brodie, Grand Master, who in turn distributed them to the Grand Lodge officers: R.:W.: Frank R. Lawrence, Deputy Grand Master; R.:W.: John W. Vrooman, Senior Grand Warden; and R.:W.: James Ten Eyck, Junior Grand Warden.

R. .W. . Edward M.L. Ehlers, Grand Secretary and a member of Continental Lodge 287, read the list of items to be included in the copper box within the cornerstone: A copy of the United States Constitution; George Washington's Farewell Address; 20 bronze medals of Presidents up through Chester A. Arthur (including Washington, Monroe, Jackson, Polk, Buchanan, Johnson, and Garfield who were proven Freemasons); copies of New York City newspapers; a portrait of Bartholdi; a copy of Poem on Liberty by E.R. Johnes; and a list on parchment of the Grand Lodge officers.

By traditional ceremony, the cornerstone was then tested and being found, square, level and plumb, the Deputy Grand Master completed the work by applying the mortar and by having the stone lowered firmly into place. The Grand Master then struck three blows with the gavel and declared the stone duly laid. The elements of consecration, corn, wine and oil, were next presented by R.:W.: Brothers Lawrence, Vrooman and Ten Eyck.

The most Worshipful Grand Master then gave a brief but pointed talk. He posed a question: "Why call upon the Masonic Fraternity to lay the cornerstone of such a structure as is here to be erected?" His answer, which is as true today as it was then, was: "No institution has done more to promote liberty and to free men from the trammels and chains of ignorance and tyranny than has Freemasonry."

The principal address was given by the Deputy Grand Master, R.: W.: Brother Lawrence, who said in part:

"Massive as this statue is, its physical proportions sink into comparative obscurity when contrasted with the nobility of its concept. Liberty Enlightening the World! How lofty the thought! To be free, is the first, the noblest aspiration of the human breast. And it is now a universally admitted truth that only in proportion as men become possessed of liberty, do they become civilized, enlightened, and useful. . . . As Masons, we cannot appropriate to ourselves alone the lessons which this monument will teach. Not only to us, but to all men will it appeal . . . the gigantic figure which is here to stand in unapproachable grandeur while the centuries pass, will command: "Be noble, and the nobleness that lies In other men, sleeping, but never dead, Will rise in majesty to meet thine own. "

The remainder of the story concerning the Statue of Liberty and Freemasons is almost anti-climactic.

Upon completion, the pedestal stood 89 feet high from its foundation on old Fort Wood, an abandoned 12-acre site on Bedloe's Island, 2,950 yards southwest of Manhattan Island. Liberty was dismantled in Paris, every copper plate and beam coded and packed into 214 cases, and the whole shipment transported on a 70-car train to the coast. After a month at sea on the *Isère*, she arrived at Bedloe's Island in June 1885. It took 15 months to assemble the 225 tons of pure copper (applied in 1/8" thickness), steel and iron, but when she was in place, the result was as magnificent as the creator's dream.

Dedication Day, October 28, 1886, was declared a holiday in New York City. Charles P. Stone, Grand Marshal, led the 20,000 paraders, including many Masonic Lodges, from 57th Street past President Grover Cleveland's reviewing stand at Madison Square Park and on down to the Battery, where groups were taken by steamer to Bedloe's Island. Brother Henry C. Potter, Episcopal Bishop of New York, gave the Invocation and Comte Ferdinand de Lesseps presented the statue to Chairman Evarts in the name of the French people.

Both the Statue and the pedestal were then formally presented to President Cleveland, who received the monument with eloquent thanks in the name of the United States. Brother Bartholdi then pulled a silken cord releasing the Tricolor veil from the head and face of the Statue of "Liberty Enlightening the World."

The main speaker was Chauncey M. Depew, United States Senator, railroad president, one of the most famous orators in American history, and an active member of Kane Lodge 454, having been raised in 1885. The program was closed with a Benediction pronounced by Bishop Potter.

The Statue of Liberty is not just a colossal 225-ton pile of metal reaching some 300 feet in the air at the entrance of New York harbor, conspicuous by day and a guide to mariners by night. Magnificent in its conception, wonderful in design, and a masterpiece of engineering skill, this gigantic figure, holding aloft a torch of freedom in one hand and clasping a book of laws inscribed with the date "July 4, 1776" in the other, casts its light far beyond the horizon. The light which illumines the Statue of Liberty is a guiding symbol to the path of freedom for men of all nations.

Yes, Freemasons everywhere can well be proud of the key role played by the Craft in the inception and erection of this great memorial, and each of us should renew his vows and obligations to spread further the light of freedom, truth, tolerance, and justice which the Statue of Liberty so grandly symbolizes.

(On August 5, 1984, the Grand Lodge of New York observed the Centenary of the cornerstone laying in appropriate ceremonies at Liberty Island, which were attended by Masonic and governmental dignitaries. A bronze plaque commemorating the original event was dedicated and affixed to the pedestal.)

R.:W.: Bro. Singer resides at 501 Tulip Ave., Floral Park, N.Y. 11001

This article is partly based on two seminal works, one by Brother William C. Kiessel, Jr., which appeared in the September 1983 issue of *The Masonic Philaenist*, and the other by J.E. Bebens, from the October 1983 Knight Templar magazine. Material for these articles, as well as additional information for this *Short Talk Bulletin*, was gathered from the files of the Robert R. Livingston Masonic Library of the Grand Lodge of New York, and the Spring 1984 issue of *The Empire Slate Mason*. Reprinted from *masonicworld.com*

Respectfully submitted,
Br. Richard Gentile



Photographic addendum from *www.salon.com*

The Statue of Liberty during its construction in Paris, France (1878-1884).

Dedicated in New York Harbor on October 28, 1886, President Grover Cleveland presiding.

All brothers of Jephtha Lodge are encouraged to contribute articles for Masonic Moments and Famous Mason (the same birth month as the month's publication). Kindly submit articles to the Communications Committee: Br. Bill Fenty III (wfenty@gmail.com) and Br. Richard Gentile (rg.jlnews@aol.com) by the 15th of the month for publication the following month. If you have any questions, kindly contact the two brothers above.

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May 21, 2021

Masons of Jephtha # 494 F. & A.M.
c/o Master W Anthony Colonna
PO Box 20243
Huntington Station, NY 11746

Dear Members of Masons of Jephtha # 494 F. & A.M.:

On behalf of myself and all the patients, thank you for your generous donation of Beanie Babies to Shriners Hospitals for Children®, for its Philadelphia location. I want to express to you our deepest appreciation and gratitude on behalf of our organization and the children we have the privilege of caring for.

Your gift will help enable Philadelphia Shriners Hospital to deliver life-changing medical care without placing burden on the families of our patient and every gift to Shriners Hospitals for Children makes a difference in the life of a child. There are many children smiling today because of our donors.

As you know, Philadelphia Shriners Hospital is changing lives every day through innovative pediatric specialty care, world-class research and outstanding medical education. Our health care system provides advanced care for children with orthopaedic conditions, burns, spinal cord injuries, and cleft lip and palate. Shriners Hospitals for Children is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and relies on the generosity of donors. All donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent permitted by law.

I can be reached at 215-430-4055 or tdiamond@shrinenet.org if you should have any questions.

Sincerely,

Thank you!

Terry Diamond
Director of Development

During this time of national emergency, the health and safety of our patients, families, volunteers and staff is our top priority. With the evolving nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are closely monitoring updates and following state and federal recommendations to ensure our patients and family members are protected when visiting our facility

JEPHTHA LODGE 494

2020-2021

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Senior Warden	Br. Michael Crispino Jr	Junior Steward	Br. Frankel Junio
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Chaplain	W.: Br. Anthony Colonna	Assistant to Marshall	Br. William Fenty Jr.
Senior Deacon	Br. John A. Lentinello	Tiler	Br. Gary Osarczuk
Junior Deacon:	Br. Anthony Kalabacus	Organist	Br. Randolph Ivans
Senior Master of Ceremonies	Br. Luke LoPorto	Ritual Director	W.: Br. Rich Harris
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TRUSTEES

W.: Br. Daniel Bernzweig	Br. Stephen Schenker
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Br. Walter Willems	



Happy Independence Day
God bless our glorious Republic.