

**Masonic Matters**  
**December 10, 2006**

**“It is only when men begin to worship that they begin to grow.”**  
President Calvin Coolidge-1922

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**“I love a hand that meets my own with a grasp that causes some sensation.”** F.S. Osgood

I bring you greetings from Most Worshipful Brother Steven R. Johnson, Grand Master of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Minnesota, and all of the Grand Lodge officers elected and appointed of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota.

To all our friends and Brothers who are celebrating holidays in December and January I extend my best wishes to you and yours; may everything that is good and wholesome come to you and yours in the coming year.

**“The pleasantest things in the world are pleasant thoughts, and the great art in life is to have as many of them as possible.”** C.N. Bovee

**Masonic Musings**

One of my favorite magazines is Positive Thinking; it is published in Pawling New York, and I think it is a magazine that descended from Brother Norman Vincent Peal's ministry. In any event there is always something in the magazine I like to read. In a recent issue was a recipe for **Pomegranate-Cranberry Sauce** by Chef Kyle Shadix. He says that “Some scholars believe the Pomegranate was the fruit of the tree of life, Jewish tradition holds that its seeds match the number of Mitzvot, or good deeds, in the Torah.” I think that's interesting, and after reading this I will look at the Pomegranate's a little differently when the explanation of the pillars is delivered in the Second degree. Here's the Chef's Recipe in case you would like to try it this holiday season:

2 Cups (16 fluid ounces) of 100% Pomegranate Juice

1 Cup sugar

1 12-ounce bag (about 3 cups) of fresh or frozen Cranberries, and the zest of 1 Orange

1 11-ounce can of Mandarin Oranges, rinsed and drained

½ Cup Pomegranate seeds – this is optional – and something I'm going to skip. Those seeds are tough on the old guys who have dentures – I like to be nice to old people.

1. Bring the Pomegranate juice and Sugar to a boil.

2. Add Cranberries and simmer, stirring occasionally, until the berries just pop, takes about 10 or 12 minutes.

3. Stir in zest, Orange segments, and the Pomegranate seeds if you're using them.

4. Cool for 24 hours. You need to plan ahead for this dish.

5. Serve it with Turkey or Chicken.

This recipe has 41 calories for a 2-tablespoon serving. 10g of carbs & 1g fiber everything else is zero

**“Cookery is become an art, a noble science: Cooks are gentlemen.”** Robert Burton

**Freedom, Fervency and Zeal - Chalk, Charcoal & Clay - The three C's of Freemasonry**

The symbolism relating to Freedom Fervency and Zeal in our lectures today can also be found in the earliest known records of degree work in the eighteenth century. These three qualities of the

Entered Apprentice are said to distinguish the servitude of the Apprentice:<sup>i</sup> The word 'Servitude' being used here is, to me, interesting especially when we explore the meaning of the three C's.

**The first C: Chalk = Freedom.** Okay, servitude and why it's interesting to me. One definition of freedom is to be a state of exemption from the control or power of another. Another definition would be not bound or not in any captivity; it is a rule in Freemasonry that no man can be initiated into any degree of Freemasonry who is at that time restrained or deprived of any of his liberties.

So servitude as it is used by Brother Mackey does not mean the Apprentice is in any respect in the position of being deprived of his freedom as a bondsman, serf or slave. As far as Freedom, Fervency and Zeal are concerned it means that the Apprentice's work should be done freely and in Freedom; meaning willingly, generously, readily and without restraint. So the word freedom is not taken in this part of the ritual as meaning liberty. It is, rather, meant in the earlier Anglo-Saxon meaning of frankness and a generous willingness to work or perform one's duty.

**The second C: Charcoal = Fervency.** As Charcoal symbolizes Fervency the Apprentice will show his fervency in his warmth, friendliness and earnestness, in his eagerness and willingness to learn the lessons of Freemasonry and in his willingness to help his Lodge as opportunities arise. A quality of Charcoal is also durability; it is so resistant and enduring that from the time when no man remembers when, surveyors would place a shovel full of Charcoal near a place or other marker, so that if the landmark were to be removed the charcoal would remain there for centuries until it is dug up by another surveyor. Charcoal will not be consumed or cease to exist until it has a source of oxygen and has been touched by fire. When applying the symbolism of Charcoal to the Mason - his devotion to duty, his willingness and eagerness, his fervor for learning and working in Freemasonry will not be short lived.

**The Third C: Clay = Zeal.** Clay is an interesting symbol to represent Zeal, because Zeal is represented by enthusiasm, diligence and an ardent affection.

So to be zealous means to be ardently active, devoted and diligent in devotion to a task, or in this case to the fraternity. Clay is also interesting to me because, if you have ever tried farming or gardening in clay soil you know how ardent you need to be in working clay ground. Clay in this case represents mother earth which is always employed for man's use. This also reminds me of the use each freemason can be to the Craft, and also to each other as friends and Brothers.

**"The discovery of that which is true, and the practice of that which is good, are the two most important objects of philosophy."** Brother Voltaire

**Things that aren't so or things that appear to be something they are not.**

Every once in a while a person will come face to face with the fact that what we know to be true just isn't true after all. When this happens it can lead to an expression of an "Aha Moment," like a light being turned on and finally the meaning of something is clear. Or it can lead to skepticism and demanding proof, because the belief held is so firm that no matter what - that persistent belief in a mistaken idea needs more than just an explanation to change.

A persistent belief in a mistaken idea is placed in a person's mind by another; consistently repeating things that are not true and speaking as one who knows what he is talking about. This is evident in some of the myths that have been promoted against some groups of people over the centuries by others who wanted to suppress or even eliminate them. This continues even today in many parts of the world, and also with the anti-Masons.

There is an interesting book that gives a good account of them called 'Enemies Within – The Culture of Conspiracy in Modern America.'<sup>ii</sup> When we study specialized history, such as this book does, we will find that almost every group might have at one time or another been the prey of another stronger group, which, I think, can be summed up as someone who is different from his neighbors, who is not known very well and is thus suspect in his beliefs and motives.

For a taste of what this book is about you could read the Short Talk Bulletin Volume 80 – October 2002 – No. 10 which is written by the book’s author Robert Alan Goldberg, and it makes for a good topic for a Lodge Education piece.

If you are still looking for a book to give to a Brother Mason this holiday season this book, while it is not a Masonic book, is a good book for Masons to read.

**“All theory, dear friend, is grey, but the golden tree of actual life springs ever green.”**  
Brother Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe 1749-1832

**From the Great light of Masonry** = “Early in the morning of the twenty fifth day of the ninth month, which is month of Chisleu, in the one hundred fortieth year, they rose and offered sacrifice, as the law directs, on the new altar of burnt offering that they had built. At the very season and on the very day that the Gentiles<sup>iii</sup> had profaned it, it was dedicated with songs and harps and lutes and cymbals. All the people fell on their faces and worshiped and blessed Heaven, who had prospered them. So they celebrated the dedication of the altar for eight days, and joyfully offered burnt offerings; they offered a sacrifice of well-being and a thanksgiving offering. They decorated the front of the temple with golden crowns and small shields; they restored the gates and the chambers for the priests, and fitted them with doors. There was very great joy among the people, and the disgrace brought by the Gentiles was removed. Then Judas and his brothers and all the assembly of Israel determined that every year at that season the days of dedication of the altar should be observed with joy and gladness for eight days, beginning with the twenty fifth day of the month of Chisleu.<sup>iv</sup>” 1 Maccabees 4:52-59 in the Apocryphal / Deuterocanonical Books-The new Oxford Annotated Bible.

**From the Study Notes:** “Judas set the rededication of the Temple exactly three years after its pollution and three and a half years after Antiochus’ capture of Jerusalem, (see Daniel 7:25 and 2 Maccabees 10:3.) The Hanukkah<sup>v</sup> festival, celebrated for eight days like Solomon’s dedication of the first Temple (1 Kings 8:65-66,) and Hezekiah’s reconstruction (2 Chronicles 29:17,) commemorates this event.”

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With “Brotherly Love,”  
Ed Halpaus  
Grand Lodge Education Officer

**Political Freedom, Religious Tolerance, Personal Integrity; Freemasonry – it’s not for everyone.**

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<sup>i</sup> Mackey’s Encyclopedia of Freemasonry; Clegg 1929 edition.

<sup>ii</sup> By Robert Alan Goldberg – Yale University Press – ISBN 0-300-09000-5

<sup>iii</sup> Gentile literally means ‘other nations,’ In this quotation Gentile refers to the Greek Nation which had prevented the Jews from observing their religious practice in or out of their temple, which followed Antiochus’ capture of Jerusalem.

<sup>iv</sup> Special Thanks to Brother Stan Shapiro of Albert Pike Lodge for his help in understanding Biblical history.

<sup>v</sup> Hanukkah means ‘dedication.’