

# **TRESTLEBOARD**

## **Northwood Ancient-Craft No. 551**

AUGUST 2010

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**850 HORACE BROWN DRIVE • MADISON HEIGHTS, MI 48071**

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**Arthur Gustafson, Worshipful Master**

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## **FAMILY IN THE FRATERNITY**

In our fast-paced world, where pressures of time become greater and greater, there are all too-few times when fathers can share quality time with their sons. As boys grow into men, unfortunately the sharing opportunities grow even rarer. But there is one thing that a father can always share with his son no matter how much time or how many miles separate them and that is Freemasonry.

Every man wants to pass his wisdom, his knowledge, his experience and his good reputation on to his son(s). It is a rare Mason who does not hope in his heart that his son(s) will join the Craft. The fraternity offers a special bonding among the Brothers....a special feeling which comes from having shared the same deeply moving experiences, honoring the same ideals of truth and charity and brotherly love. It's a good feeling, and when that feeling is added to those which naturally exist between a father and a son.....well, those of us who have been there can tell you there is nothing like it.

The old saying that a picture is worth a thousand words certainly rings true in the picture of our Worshipful Master and his son above. You can sense how happy and proud our W.M. Art is to have fulfilled this great desire to stand with his son, Adam..... a newly raised Master Mason.

W.M. Art and Adam join the ever growing father-son and brother-brother group within our Lodge.



**W.M. Art Gustafson and his son, Adam**



**L>R: Seth Seifert, Nicholas Wion, Larry Bullock, Adam Gustafson, W.B. Ray.**

Also welcomed as newly raised Master Masons on the evening of June 24, were Brothers Larry Bullock, Nicholas Wion and Seth Seifert. W.B. Ray Doyscher did his usual excellent Bible presentation to the new Master Masons with a message that will stay with the Brothers for their lives.

Parts of this article were excerpted from "When Your Husband or Father Is A Mason" published in a Masonic Renewal Committee of North America flyer.

## LODGE OFFICERS - 2010

### WORSHIPFUL MASTER

Arthur Gustafson, PM ..... (248) 941-3773

### SENIOR WARDEN

Don House, PM..... (248) 689-5543

### JUNIOR WARDEN

Gerald Brown ..... (586) 354-1940

### SECRETARY

James Sparks, PM ..... (248) 544-4613

### TREASURER

James McPherson, PM ..... (248) 588-1623

### CHAPLAIN

Ray Doyscher, PM ..... (248) 544-7443

### SENIOR DEACON

Roy Prince ..... (248) 280-4515

### JUNIOR DEACON

James Niks ..... (248) 656-2689

### STEWARD

Fred Messer, PM ..... (586) 978-8694

### STEWARD

Mitchell Urbanski

### MARSHALL

Guy Shelton, PM ..... (586) 939-0536

### TILER

Jack Parkin, PM ..... (248) 589-1692

### TEMPLE BOARD MEMBERS

Ronald Aldridge, PM (2011) (248) 548-3905

Elton Scott, PM (2012) ..... (248) 545-4276

Donald Novak, PM (2010) .... (248) 541-5518

### DINNER RESERVATIONS

Gerald Brown, Jr. Warden ..... (586) 354-1940

Don House, Sr. Warden ..... (248) 689-5543

Art Gustafson, W.M. .... (248) 941-3773

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James Sparks, PM

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### LODGE WEB PAGE

www.nac551.com

Ron Aldridge P.M., Webmaster

### TRESTLEBOARD

Don Novak, P.M., Editor

### MADISON HEIGHTS MASONIC TEMPLE

850 Horace Brown Drive

Madison Heights, MI 48071

(248) 588-3394

## LODGE ACTIVITIES

### August 2010

08-26 THU

Annual Welcome Back Corn Roast  
4 pm - 7 pm ALL Welcome - Family,  
Friends, Kids, Prospective Masons

### September 2010

09-02 THU

Potluck Dinner (6PM) Business Meeting (7PM) (B)

09-09 THU

Officers meeting - 7 pm  
Plan 2011 Agenda and Calendar

09-16 THU

E.A. Degree Practice - 7 pm

09-23 THU

F.C. Degree Practice - 7 pm  
Social Night to follow

09-30 THU

Lodge is DARK

### October 2010

10-07 THU

Potluck Dinner – bring a dish and join us (6 PM)  
Business Meeting (B) 7 p.m.

## *Scottish Rite - Vally of Detroit Learning Center of Detroit Charles S. Wright 5K Memorial Walk*

**Sunday, September 26th, 2010**

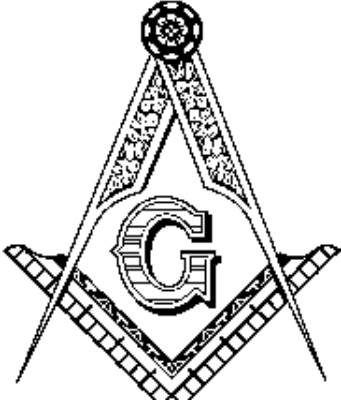
Take an Important Step in the Fight Against Dyslexia  
Ford Field Park, South Shelter  
Monroe Street (1/2 mile north of Michigan Avenue)

Registration - 11:00 a.m. / 12:00 p.m. Start  
Adult Pre-registration - \$15.00 before Sept. 20, 2010  
Adults at the door - \$20.00  
Children under 12 - \$5.00

Free post walk barbecue, commermorative t-shirts  
and prizes for top fundraisers.

For information contact Marc Liljegren  
313-212-1476  
- or -  
Jason Schneider  
734-678-8189

# FROM THE EAST



The dog days of summer have begun to wane and autumn is just around the corner. I hope everyone had the opportunity to enjoy the warm weather and spend some much needed time with family and friends.

Before we begin our work in the Craft this fall, your Worshipful Master and all of the Officers of this Lodge extend to you and your

family and friends an invitation to our Annual Welcome Back Corn Roast and Picnic. This event will be held on Thursday, August 26, 2010 from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. at the Temple. Please join us and enjoy the camaraderie and great eats. As usual, our grillmasters will prepare tasty hamburgers and hotdogs with all of the fixings. Our other chefs will prepare fresh corn on the cob, cooked to perfection. I am sure there will be some tempting desserts to top off the meal.

Reflecting back on the first half of 2010, we had a slow start with not much work for the Officers. With the arrival of spring and all of its glory, we suddenly had four new petitions for membership in the Craft. The Officers of the Lodge went to work, and with the assistance of all of the Lodge brethren, on Thursday, June 24, we raised the four new Brothers to the sublime degree of Master Mason.

Our new Brothers are Larry Bullock, Seth Seifert, Nicholas Wion and my own son, Adam Gustafson. We look forward to seeing them regularly in the Lodge.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome W.M. Nicholas Ruby and the brothers of Eureka-North Warren Lodge 594 to our Temple. They are now renting space in our Temple. Please give them a big Masonic WELCOME BROTHER when you see them.

In Closing, I would like to extend my sincere and heartfelt THANKS for all of your hard work in supporting the Lodge and making it a pleasure for me to serve as your Worshipful Master. I look forward to seeing you all at the Annual Welcome Back Corn Roast and in the Lodge this Fall.

In serving you all,

Art Gustafson, P.M.

Worshipful Master

## ***When, then, is a man a Mason?***

He is a Mason when he can look over the rivers, the hills and the far horizons with a profound sense of his own littleness in the vast scheme of things, and yet have faith and hope and courage - which is the root of every virtue.

When he knows that down in his heart every man is as noble, as vile, as divine, as diabolic and lonely as himself and seeks to know, to forgive and to love his fellow-man.

When he knows how to sympathize with men in their sorrows knowing that each man fights a hard battle against many odds.

When he has learned how to make friends and to keep them and above all how to keep friends with himself.

When he loves flowers, can hunt birds without a gun, and feels the thrill of an old forgotten joy at the sound of the laughter of a child.

When he can be happy and high-minded amid the meaner drudgeries of life.

When the glint of the sunlight of flowing waters subdue him like the thought of one much loved and one long dead.

When no voice of distress reaches his ears in vain and no hand seeks his aid without response.

When he finds good in every faith that helps any man lay hold of divine things and sees majestic meanings in life, whatever the name of the faith may be.

*This passage was excerpted from an article called "Life Through the Eyes of a Mason" written by VW Bro. Bob Walker, Eastern Star Lodge 51, Nova Scotia 02-10-1990 and posted on the Website of St. Johns Lodge #9 F & A.M. of Washington.*



# NAC 551 Hosts Free Masonic Child ID Program



On Saturday, May 15, 2010, The Brothers of Northwood Ancient Craft Lodge 551 hosted a free Masonic Child ID program in conjunction with Kids Day America at the Van Every Family Chiropractic Center in Royal Oak.

The Michigan Masonic Child ID Program provides the family of a child with everything needed for the Amber Alert System. This includes a dental impression as well as a CD containing a

photo, digital fingerprints, and other vital information. The parents or guardians must fill out a permission slip for the child to receive this service. The Masons retain absolutely no records except for the permission slip.

This program is considered one of the most comprehensive programs of its type by the National Center For Missing and Exploited Children. In 2009 alone, this program identified more than 14,000 people in Michigan. We had over 100 children participate during our one day event.

The ready availability of this information to law enforcement and other agencies if anything were to happen to one of the children is absolutely crucial. Of course, we earnestly hope that no family will ever have to use this service that we have provided. It is just a fine example of Masons reaching out to our community and spreading the light of the Craft.



L>R: Ray Doyscher, David Bauldry, Larry Bullock, Mitchell Urbanski.

## LODGE SUPPORTS BOY SCOUTS



L>R: Ray Douscher Sr., P.M., W.M. Art Gustafson, Roy Prince, Denver Laabs.

For the past several years, the Lodge has been blessed to have a local Boy Scouts Indian Dance group provide a moving performance for us as the culmination of the Annual Mason of the Year Dinner. This year was no different. After a fine meal, W.B. Ray Doyscher Sr., P.M. received his award for the Mason of the Year for 2009. Following this, all in attendance adjourned to the Blue Room for the evening's entertainment. The Boy Scout Order of the Arrow Dance Team provided music and drumming in the darkened Lodge Room while Scout members, dressed in authentic Indian regalia, performed a series of symbolic dances representing different Tribes and segments of Native American life from the past.

As in past years, the proceeds from the dinner were split with half going to the Order of the Arrow Lodge 176 Dance Team to help defray their expenses for the year and the other half going to the local Boy Scouts of America

district. Bro. Roy Prince and his wife, Beth Ann, were responsible for arranging to have the scouts in attendance and Beth Ann also is a member of the Drum group.

At a later date, W.B. Ray Doyscher Sr. P.M., W.M. Art Gustafson and Bro. Roy Prince attended a scouting event and presented a check from the Lodge in the amount of \$250 to Mr. Denver Laabs, Northridge District Executive, representing the Boy Scouts.

Bro. Roy wrote a very informative article in the last Trestleboard about the history of Scouting and Masonry. There are certainly many philosophical similarities between the groups and our Lodge to proud to support the Boy Scouts. As Masonry makes good men better, so too, does Scouting make young men better.

# ***OAKLAND POLICE ACADEMY SCHOLARSHIP***



**Bro. Don Novak and Brian Showers**

Several years ago, the brothers of Northwood Ancient Craft Lodge 551 were looking for new ways to serve the community and assist others in need. This led to the creation of an endowed scholarship in the Lodge's name with Oakland Community College's Police and Fire Academies. The purpose of the scholarship is to offer financial assistance to a graduate who desires to dedicate his or her life to serving the public and our local communities.

The members of the 97<sup>th</sup> Session of the Oakland Police Academy Training graduated on June 18, 2010 at the Royal Oak Campus. W.B. Don Novak P.M. and his wife, Officer Susan Novak of the OCC Public Safety Dept. were in attendance to represent the Lodge.

Graduate Brian Showers of Auburn Hills was this year's scholarship recipient. Brian is 27 years old and a graduate of Saginaw Valley College. He married his wife Michelle last September.

Brian received the Academy's Outstanding Performance Award finishing number one academically and number two overall in his class. He also received a scholarship from the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards for his achievement.

W.B. Don Novak had an opportunity to meet with Brian's parents and grandparents after the ceremonies. They were extremely proud of Brian and thanked the Lodge profusely for the scholarship. His grandfather, a minister, lives in Alma and related that he has a close association with many Masons there.

Brian is actively seeking employment in a very competitive market and tough economy here in Michigan.

## ***IN MEMORIAM***

“Well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord”. All Masons are intimately familiar with these words from the Apron presentation in the Entered Apprentice Degree. It is the aspiring hope of all good Masons to hear these words from the Lord and Judge Supreme in the Celestial Lodge above at the end of their toilsome journey here on Earth. The following Brothers have laid down their working tools here on Earth and entered the Celestial Lodge above.



CHARLES S. WRIGHT May 12, 2010

Brother Charles was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason in Southfield Tuebor Lodge. Several years later he transferred his membership to Northwood Ancient Craft. Bro. Chuck was an author, writer and political consultant. He was active with the Scottish Rite Masons and was their Ambassador to our Lodge.

W.B. JOHN A. WALFORD P.M. June 4, 2010

W.B. John was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason in 1958.

He earned his 50 year pin in 2008. John was active in the Lodge being Worshipful Master in 1967 and 1986. He was Master of the Year in 1987. John was an accomplished ritualist and served both the Past Masters Degree team and the South Oakland Degree team. It is said that Brother John and W.B. Bob Damery of Berkeley Lodge 536 raised over 1000 Master Masons.



W.B. CLINTON J. JOHNSON P.M. June 5, 2010

W.B. Clinton was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason in 1956 He earned his 50 year pin in 2006. Bro. Clinton was Worshipful Master in 1969. He was active in the Past Masters Unit along with his close friend, John Walford.



# Northwood Ancient Craft Lodge 551 ANNUAL FALL CORN ROAST

Thursday, August 26, 2010  
4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Madison Heights Masonic Temple  
850 Horace Brown Drive

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