

# THE TRESTLEBOARD



## FROM THE EAST

BY WORSHIPFUL MASTER BRENT BAIRD

**D**o we renovate the old, purchase an existing, or build a new? Building, that is. The answer to this question must be determined in order to secure our future. Indeed, the Troy Masonic Temple is a majestic building, having served Masonic bodies in Miami County well for almost 100 years. Over the last few years, however, the building has shown its age. Now, the building is expensive to operate and in need of costly repairs.

To address these issues, the Temple Board has formed a Building Committee. Its task is to explore the three options listed above and determine the best solution for our needs. Two preliminary meetings have already taken place with the next meeting scheduled for June 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm in the Franklin Lodge dining room. The committee is currently seeking the advice of architects, builders, appraisers, and other lodges that have faced the same issue. Committee members will provide insight into the pros and cons of each option. But the most important input should come from the membership of all Masonic bodies who call the Troy Masonic Temple "home."

The problems that we face in our current situation are very real. Establishing the correct course of action is not a task that should be taken lightly. The Temple Board needs to hear from all members on this most important undertaking. I am asking you to please mark your calendar and attend our special board meeting. Only together can we plot the best course for tomorrow.

*Troy Landmark: This photograph, one of six original sepia photographs showing the Blue Lodge cornerstone being laid in the northeast in the summer of 1907, was recently resurrected and returned to Franklin Lodge by Brother Charles Marlin.*



## THE LODGE EDUCATION FLAME

BY WORSHIPFUL BROTHER PAUL SLUITER



**T**he importance of the Fellow Craft degree has escaped many of us. It has long been regarded as something sandwiched between the Entered Apprenticed and Master Mason degrees as some kind of "filler." Indeed, the Fellow Craft degree is a much misunderstood degree, greatly underrated in Freemasonry.

It might surprise many of you that at one time the Fellow Craft degree was the highest of the degrees. The Entered Apprentice presented his "master's piece" and became a Master, or "fellow," of the Craft. This may explain why the three principal officers of the Master Mason's Lodge wear, as jewels of office, the working tools of the Fellow Craft degree: The square, plumb, and level.

To my knowledge, installations under the English jurisdiction are in the Fellow Craft degree. Hence, appropriately, the working tools of the Fellow Craft degree are the proper jewels, and the degree has become known as the "British" degree.

The Fellow Craft degree is sandwiched between the Entered Apprentice degree and the Master Mason degree, but what do you find in the middle of the sandwich? The meat, of course. The meat of Masonry is in the underrated Fellow Craft degree.

Some of our most important symbols – some of our most beautiful lessons and teachings – are in the Fellow Craft degree. As an illustration of this, read the Charge of the degree.

One final thought: The winding stairs symbolize our way through life to the Middle Chamber, which symbolizes that eternal

temple at which we hope to arrive, by our own endeavors: A virtuous life in the blessings of God. And, by the teachings of the Fellow Craft degree.

There is a Middle Chamber. There are wages of a Fellow Craft to be earned!

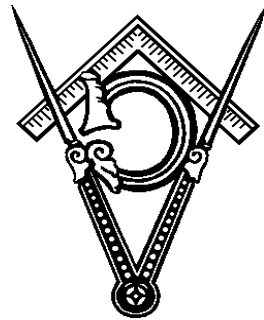
## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**T**he Annual Steak Fry will be held on Thursday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, at 6:00pm. We will once again meet at the Troy Park Shelter #7. Dinner includes char-grilled steak with all the trimmings and is **FREE** to all members and prospective members. We're looking forward to a large turnout, so please join us for great food and a chance to get together during the lazy days of summer. If you plan to attend or have any questions, please RSVP Brother John Chang (339-5547) no later than Monday, August 11<sup>th</sup>.

**M**en and guests of Franklin Lodge! Don't forget that the High Noon Club has a delicious lunch waiting for you on every first and third Tuesday of the month. A mere \$3.50 will get you an hour's worth of fun and good food. Lunch begins at – you guessed it! – noon.

**S**end your articles or announcements that you would like to see in The Trestleboard to David Leytze, c/o Franklin Lodge #14, or e-mail them to [franklinmason@earthlink.net](mailto:franklinmason@earthlink.net). We'll do our best to pass your information on to the Brethren.

God Bless America!



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June 2003

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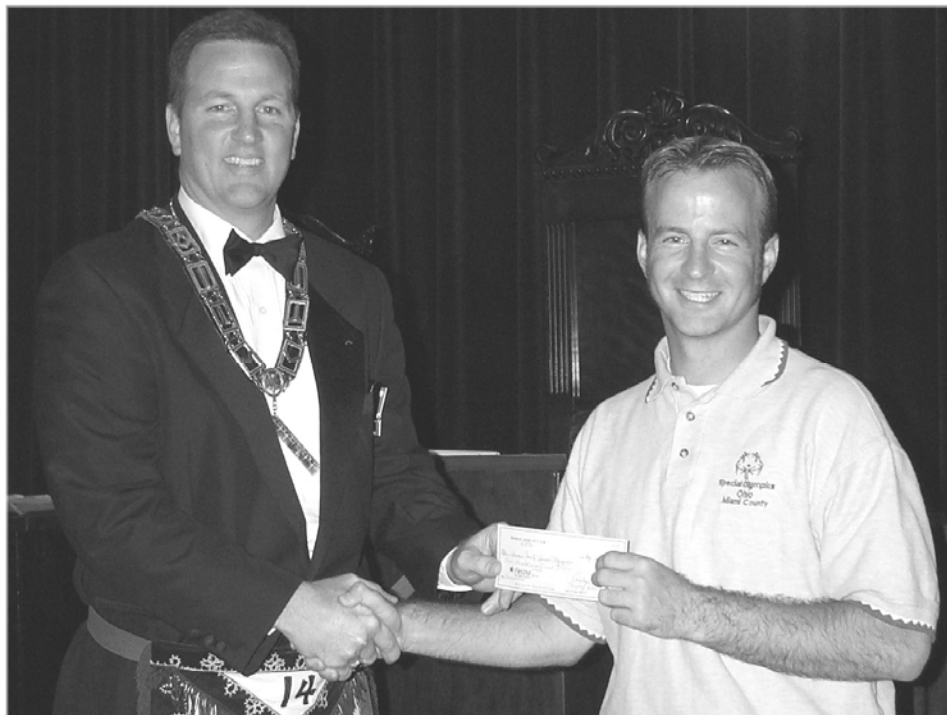
JUNE 2003

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"In necessary things, unity; in doubtful things, liberty; in all things, charity." Richard Baxter (1615-1691)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY				
1	2	* Noon Luncheon * Temple Board 6:00pm * #14 Blue Lodge Stated Meeting 7:30pm	3	4	* Masonic Building Committee Special Meeting 7:30pm * Eastern Star Grand Inspection 7:30pm	5	6	7		
8	9	* Coleman Commandery 7:30pm	10	11	* Order of The Eastern Star 7:30pm	12	13	Flag Day ○ Full Moon	14	
Father's Day	15	16	* Noon Luncheon * Potluck 6:30pm * #14 Blue Lodge Stated Meeting 7:30pm	17	18	19	20	* Special Olympics State Summer Games, Columbus	Summer Begins * Special Olympics State Summer Games, Columbus	21
* Special Olympics State Summer Games, Columbus	22	* Order of The Amaranth 7:30pm	23	* Franklin Chapter & Council 7:00pm	24	25	26	27	28	28
● New Moon	29	30								



**FRANKLIN LODGE RAISES MONEY FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS**

BY BROTHER TIMOTHY RAY

At the regularly stated meeting of Franklin Lodge on May 6<sup>th</sup>, Worshipful Master Brent Baird presented a check on behalf of the Lodge for the amount of \$570 to Mr. Tom Helbig, Director of the Miami County Special Olympics program. Franklin Lodge #14 had raised over \$1,700 for Special Olympics as a result of the March 21<sup>st</sup> spaghetti supper fundraiser for that cause. Of that amount, \$1,200 was earmarked for the Ohio Special Olympics Summer Games, to be held in Columbus in mid-June. It was decided by vote of the Lodge to donate the remainder to the local Special Olympics, which impacts over 200 Miami County Special Olympians throughout the year. Mr. Helbig spent time explaining the local program to the Lodge, emphasizing the critical need for local support. The local program, he stated, is

funded entirely by area fundraisers and donations, with an annual budget of approximately \$10,000. Mr. Helbig accepted the donation with gratitude, and expressed the appreciation of all those involved with the Special Olympics program here in Miami County. A fine job by all of the Brethren who donated their time and energies to support this truly worthwhile cause! (Photo by Timothy Ray.)