

# \St. James Lodge No. 47 F. & A.M.

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Stated Communications: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.



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## NOVEMBER 2003 – DECEMBER 2003



### Followership

As others have done, Bro. Allen E. Roberts (1917 - 1997), a leading Masonic author of the Twentieth Century, advocated that the "Key to Freemasonry's Growth" is "Management". Bro. Roberts and other gurus, including Max DePree, agree that "Management" equates with "Leadership".

Bro. Roberts defined "Management" as, "Getting things done through other people" -- through "Followers".

Max DePree is a world-renowned authority on the subject of Leadership. Max and his brother, D. J., inherited the helm of their father's business -- then the premier source for the design and manufacture of office furniture -- Herman Miller Furniture Company.

During the 17 years that D. J. served as President of Herman Miller before passing that office on to Max, D. J. was won't to reassure his brother by saying, "It takes more grace than tongue can tell, to play the second fiddle well." That is, good "followership", like good leadership, requires thoughtful and deliberative practice.

This month, I'd like to share some excerpts from Max DePree's award-winning book, Leadership Jazz, whose title derives from the author's belief that the leader of a modern organization fulfills a role equivalent to that of the Director of a Jazz Combo -- recognizing the capabilities of each member of the group and leading the group so as to optimize the contribution of each individual. In the chapter, "Followership", DePree pauses from his focus on leadership, itself, to make the point, "...followers can improve their leader's ability to get the job done."

To quote DePree, "It seems to me, in the context of interdependent work, a leader has the right to expect followers to:

- Develop a high degree of literacy about the institution; understand its motives; know whom it serves.... [In the words of Bro. Allen E. Roberts, "No one can be dedicated to something he knows nothing about."]
- Take responsibility for achieving personal goals.... [Bro. Allen E. Roberts advocated that followers should actively participate in the setting of goals -- not just passively wait to have them set by their leaders.]
- See work and take ownership.... [Good followers do not wait passively for leaders to tell them what needs to be done -- they participate actively in the organization, under the guidance of the leader. Good followers may originate ideas, though they will never, of course, act without the sanction and direction of their leader.]
- Become loyal to the idea behind the institution even when unable to agree to all the goals and processes.
- Resist the inevitable and understandable fear of the unknown....
- Understand the contributions of others and accept the authenticity of each member of the group.
- Make a personal commitment to be open to change. [DePree adds, "Change is essential to organizational survival.]
- Take responsibility for civil and constructive relationships.
- Be a builder, not a taker.

Perhaps even as we emulate our Past Masters, we would do well to cultivate in ourselves the qualities of good followers. Recalling his seventeen years under the leadership of his brother, D. J., Max DePree counsels, "...I did learn something about leadership from trying to be a good follower."

**Nov 6** Examined 2 MM, 4 FC Catechism; Shrine Presentation  
**Nov 12**, 100 Masons were enlightened on the Enlightenment by Dr. Margaret Jacob, UCLA Prof. of History and a world renowned scholar of Masonry's role in The Enlightenment.

**Nov 15** Saturday Morning, A wonderful breakfast was served at 7 a.m.; 3 MM were raised, with full regalia.

**Nov. 20** Thanksgiving Feast (Open/meal 6:30) Menu, Fried & Smoked whole turkeys, Cornbread dressing w/giblet gravy, bean almandine casserole, cranberry sauce, pecan & pumpkin pie dessert.

### FUTURE EVENTS

**Dec 4** Exam. MM catechism; Necrology; Elect officers-'04  
**Dec 18** (Open/meal; 6:30) Install officers-'04

MASONIC LEARNING CENTER OF LOUISIANA

5800 MASONIC DRIVE  
ALEXANDRIA, LOUISIANA 71301

PHONE: (318) 487-4986

FAX: (318) 443-5759

November 18,  
2003

St. James Lodge No. 47, F. & A.M.  
Lloyd G. Pence, Secretary

Re: Gift to Masonic Learning Center of Louisiana

Dear Brethren:

Please accept the gratitude of the Masonic Learning Center of Louisiana for your generous contributions given to benefit the Dyslexia Training Program. Your gifts will help us in bringing to many children in Louisiana specialized instruction in the language arts calculated to enable these children to read and achieve according to their academic potential.

Thank you for all your help and interest in the Dyslexia Training Program...

Fraternally yours,  
Roy B. Tuck, Jr., P.G.M.  
Chairman Board of Trustees  
Masonic Learning Center

"Rays of Masonry" by Dewey Wollstein -1953

### MASONRY IN THE HOME

Home is the sphere in which Masonry should find its most effective expression. It is here that teachings, principles, obligations, take on a living, breathing form and are recorded in every deed, by every act. Those virtues which command respect and promote love are here exemplified by the father who was schooled in Freemasonry. Little children, seeking to adapt themselves to a world that is new, eager to give expression to childish thoughts, find a true companion in the father or brother who himself stood as a child in the "northeast corner" of life.

The Masonic influence creates a feeling of confidence and hope that through calm, deliberate thought, obstacles will be surmounted. Between husband and wife there is a natural exchange of confidence, a proper recognition of each other's rights. Within the family circle there is a bright outlook upon life, a manifestation of the Mason's belief in the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of man.

Because he is a Mason, the vows of marriage become even more sacred. His obligations are infinitely more binding. In the domain of home, limited though it may be, the Mason sees the foundation of all good government. In the performance of his duties as a husband and father he contributes to the welfare of all the people. His value as a citizen is proportionate to the standards of his home. All the while he supplies the tenets of Freemasonry he does more. Through his son he perpetuates Masonry: through his daughter he perpetuates the ideals that she will look for and expect in all men. As long as woman looks for these ideals, man will possess them.

A "key to perfection" is not claimed by Masonry. Yet we know that the Mason who holds his obligations as sacred trusts is a kind father, a faithful husband and a good citizen.

### **Illness, News and Relief**

Brethren, We regret to inform you that Bro. John Perkins ascended Saturday, November 01, 2003 to the Celestial Lodge. Brother Perkins was a plural member of St. James and Past Master of Milford Lodge # 117. I believe he was age 90.

"Old Tiler Talks" by Carl Claudy -1924

DID you have a happy Christmas?" inquired the New Brother in the anteroom.

"Indeed, yes! Did you?"

"Not particularly. Same old day, same old expense, same old gifts, same old thing," yawned the New Brother. "What did you do that made it happy?"

"First thing I went to church," answered the Old Tiler.

"Why, I didn't know you were a church goer!" The New Brother was surprised.

"It is debatable," confessed the Old Tiler. "But on Christmas I like to go to church. Any-way, I had to see the rector. I had a turkey for someone who would need it. After church I got in the automobile and the chauffeur drove me to see Brother Fosdick and--

"Whoa! You have a car and chauffeur?" demanded the New Brother.

"Always on Christmas," grinned the Old Tiler. "Feel mighty important, too! But it's not mine, of course. A banker lends it to me."

"Oh!"

"I couldn't get around without a car," explained the Old Tiler. "So Brother Vandever lends me his. I called on old Brother Fosdick. He hasn't been in lodge in ten years, but he doesn't know it. He thinks he was at the last meeting, and will be there the next. His mind isn't as clear as it was. He orders me to vote on this and how to do that, and is so important about it that he has a good time, thinking he is still a power in the lodge. It's not much of a Christmas present, but it's what he likes best."

"Oh!" said the New Brother.

"Then I was driven to the Masonic Home. Had some toys for some pets and never can deny myself the pleasure of giving them.

"Pets?"

"Pets is the word. Two children of a brother of this lodge."

"Oh!"

"We had a riotous time, the kiddies and I. They showed me their tree and all their gifts and we played tag a while and they blew horns and it was real Christmas-like. It's a shame to take up so much of the children's time but I had a lot of fun and they were very kind, of course because I am old."

"Is that it I" said the New Brother.

"The big kick came in the afternoon. I made a few calls on sick and house bound brethren, and then went to dinner. After dinner we got in the car and went to the orphan asylum, and I had the time of my life. We must have given away five hundred dollars in toys and games and books and dolls."

"You gave away five hundred dollars?"

"No, we did. I didn't pay for them. I am poor. Brother Vandever paid for them. All I did was buy them and take them there in Brother Vandever's car. He went along because he likes to."

"All you did was spend the money and distribute it and plan it. He just went along. I see," said the New Brother.

"Yes, I'd pay for part of them, but that would take some of the joy from Vandever," the Old Tiler explained happily. "We had fun. Then we went back to Brother Vandever's home and he gave me a present-think of that! There it is!" The Old Tiler pointed to a handsome stick. "He's quite a wag, is Brother Vandever. He's already done so much for me, lending me the car and all. I had no present for him. I told him so. He said I had already given him Christmas, which was nonsense, because I hadn't given him anything. I hardly know where the day went. But I had a real good time. That's what Christmas is for, isn't it?"

"I always thought it was a day to get up late and laze around and stuff myself and go to bed disgusted," snapped the New Brother. "I think I'll try your scheme next time."

"There's plenty of room for you in the car," answered the Old Tiler. "I'd love to have you and so would Brother Vandever."

"Oh" said the New Brother, thoughtfully.

Note: the old tiler stories use a different spelling of tyler than we use.

Visit <http://www.calodges.org/no442/Old%20Tiler%20Talks/OldTilerTalksMenu.htm> to read "OldTiler" stories.

Send newsletter submissions to Don Cannon [dcannon@eatel.net](mailto:dcannon@eatel.net) or Bob Zinn, [bz@chem.lsu.edu](mailto:bz@chem.lsu.edu)



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**NOVEMBER 2003 —DECEMBER 2003**