

Chapter 6

Recollections

Reflections:

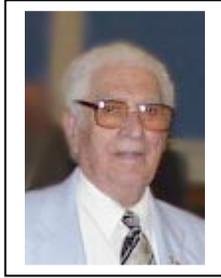
*Brother George Chaletzky
Charter Member*



As I recall there were six or seven who were the real force behind the beginning of the lodge. But THE one who got the ball rolling was Charles Hersh. He was the instigator and the planner. They were all from Temple Reyim and it was from the Temple membership that many of the first members came from. Carl Peterson and Tom Walters were essentially given to us and they were the ones who really got things rolling for us. It was a very busy period and the Lodge grew quite fast. I was active in a couple of the committees and enjoyed the variety of men that were attracted to the Lodge. Many of us who started the Lodge aren't here any longer, but it's great to be able to see the Lodge still growing and surviving. It was a great trip. Thank you for making my day!

Reflections:

*Bro. Albert Gersh
Charter Member*



Getting the Lodge started was a battle right from the beginning. It wasn't easy and took a lot of effort by a lot of fine men. It was great seeing fellows like Nate Goldstein and Bob Seder take on the active roles in the Lodge. It was a long fight, but getting that letter informing us that the Grand Master had granted us a Charter was one of the best days we ever had. It was such a great feeling of fulfillment! But because of their hard work and the work by those who have continued on, we're one of the best Lodges in the country. I'm always talking about how good our Lodge is.

Back then I was working 100 hours a week as a meat cutter. Thursday nights was one of my busiest and coming to Lodge was almost an impossibility until 1980 when I lost my store thanks to my landlord. After that I had plenty of time and enjoyed coming to the regular meetings. I am so proud of what everyone has accomplished in the Lodge and wish it many more years of success.

Reflections:

Bro. Myron R. Idelson Charter Member



What inspired us at the time was the thought and hope that we would become a real Lodge and not just the Club as we had been. We had meetings and get-togethers but they were primarily social but the hope was always there. But no matter how many meetings we had, there was always the “hope.” George Chaletzky did a wonderful job. He was a Trojan along with Paul Goldstein and Artie Wiseman. They were the leaders and we were the followers.

Shawmut Lodge and Brotherhood Lodge were gracious and encouraging us because they were so swamped with candidates and that we’d be able to relieve some of their problems. Other Lodges, however were concerned that if things slowed down, we’d affect their membership and their applications.

We had hoped for three Jewish Masons, past masters from other Lodges, to be our first leaders. But the first three Masters we had, given to us by the Grand Master, turned out to be wonderful persons despite some initial resentment. Tom Walters was a disciplinarian, Joe Balcom was a great barber, and Carl Peterson was a diamond in the rough. He was a very austere person but he turned out to be okay.

We had wonderful times in the early years. Each year we had more attending the various events than the year before. They measured themselves by numbers! But we had 17 people at the Lodge meeting the night before and those were the ones who were nourished and enriched. Those are the numbers that count. Some Master Masons build in steel and stone, some build in character and mind. Those who build in character and mind are being positive and we need more of them. Our members build in character and mind, no doubt about it!

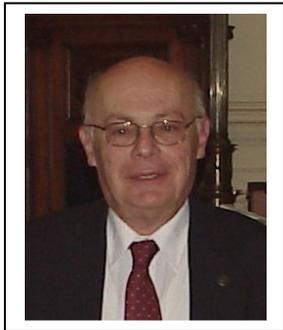
The Lodge has been a huge success as a result of our leaders and officers, lay workers and the Brothers. They’re sincere and dedicated. I was asked to speak about Garden

City Lodge many years back. I said then that the Lodge is not a building comprised of four cold walls and a ceiling, but rather it's a living, pulsating thing that generates warmth and friendship for all those who come under its influence. And I still feel the same way today.

Garden City Lodge understands, is faithful to its duty, and I think Garden City Lodge had made our lives a little better and a little happier by being in it. After all, what more can any man or men in a Lodge do that is greater than this. In getting back to Masonry, Masons should preach its sermon not with its lips but with its life. I've been blessed with so many wonderful experiences with people from all walks of life. I've had a lot of fun and Garden City Lodge has played a large role in my life. Keep the dream alive.

Reflections:

Brother Edward Shrier Charter Member



After 51 years, I can look back to my first meeting with Garden City Lodge and the many years of associated brotherhood. Masonry has been a motivating force in my life spanning from early twenties to the present day.

Many brothers remain important people with whom Masonry as blended together for an everlasting brotherhood.

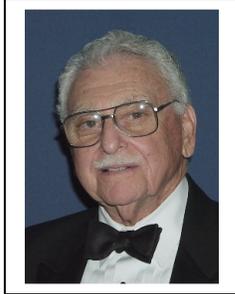
As I traveled primarily from Cape Cod to Florida, I hold dear the camaraderie that is so cherished as an active Mason.

It is so heartening to see progress of events taken by the official Masonic dignitaries; and how well the various Worshipful Masters have carried on our great traditions.

As a charter member of Garden City Lodge, I salute you all for your determined efforts.

Reflections:

Wor. Nathan Goldstein Charter Member; Master: 1958-1959



Back in the early 1950's a number of Jewish Masons from a number of different Lodges were relocating to the Newton area. After a while, as we began to know each other, and while forming Temple Reyim, some of us felt we'd like to get together as Masons too. Under the leadership of Charles Hersh who was really the instigator behind the movement, ten of us got together and formed a Masonic Club.

After three or four meetings, we called the Grand Master, M.W. Whitfield W. Johnson and set up an appointment. Three of us went to Boston and met with him. We wanted to form a new Jewish Lodge from Masons who were in the Newton area. We held additional meetings to decide who would be officers. We had Jewish past masters from other Lodges who were willing and able to take on the leadership of our Lodge for the first few years.

Since many came to Newton from other Lodges in Boston, Dorchester, Malden and other areas, they wanted to meet in Newton, their new hometown, because of the distances involved in traveling. Some just didn't want to drive at night.

The word of a new Jewish Lodge spread quickly and caused a great deal of excitement within the Jewish Masonic community. We quickly had at least 100 men who were willing to be Charter Members. Jason Poster from Brotherhood Lodge was supposed to be the first Master under dispensation, Charles Hersh was supposed to be the Senior Deacon and I was supposed to be the Junior Deacon.

I got a call from two Jewish past district deputies who were insistent on being included. I informed them we already had three past masters who were supposed to be the first senior officers of the Lodge. They said "you can't form a lodge without us!" They went to the Grand Master and complained and all hell broke loose!

In order to solve the dispute, The Grand Master assigned Tom Walters, Carl Peterson and Joe Balcom to us to be the first three officers. The Grand Master also required all members to be Newton residents, which eliminated the two D.D.'s.

Tom Walters was a tough Master – to put it mildly. He was a real taskmaster. He wanted to remove Charlie Hersh and I didn't think that was right and offered to resign. But it was Charlie who persuaded me to continue on. Charlie did so much work in forming the Lodge. He should not have been treated the way he was. We had many Masons ready to form the Lodge but not many who wanted to take on a leadership role.

It's funny how things work out in ways you don't expect them to. If we didn't have Tom Walters, we might not have been able to meet in Newton. The other Lodges initially didn't want us, but it was Tom who worked things out. The beginning was very hard. It took a lot of work by a lot of people.

I had a wonderful year as Master! I think I took in 40 people and had a long waiting list of mostly Jewish people. Bob Seder followed me and we had a lot of activity.

We all became friendly with other Masters in Lodges in the area and supported each other's activities. We even had an informal Jewish Masters Association and had a lot of stories to tell!

We're still around today because we didn't play politics with those who applied. We took them all at their word. We formed the Lodge in a very healthy way. As a result, Garden City Lodge was and probably still is one of the finest Lodges in this part of the country.

Reflections:

*Rt. Wor. Robert J. Seder
Charter Member; Master: 1959-1960*

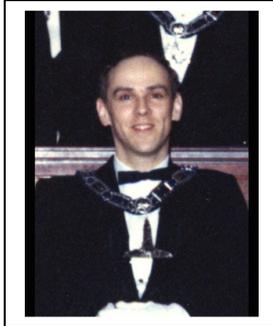


By the time I became Master, the Lodge had become well established after only a few years. From the line officers to the committees to the members on the sidelines, the cooperation was more than any one could expect. The members wanted the Lodge badly and were willing to work hard. However, it was a labor of love. The members were available to help in any way they could. Those years in line, as a junior officer, Master, and later Junior Grand [Steward] and District Deputy were some of the finest and most happy years of my life.

Reflections:

Wor. Richard C. Jelen

Master: 1968-1969



I thank the members of Garden City Lodge members for giving me the opportunity to serve as Master during the year 1968-1969.

We accomplished much during my tenure thanks to my outstanding line of officers and committee chairmen. My team made me successful.

Our candidates were eager to learn and to participate in Lodge activities. Many of the candidates we raised have become leaders of the Lodge.

The brethren on the sidelines inspired us to achieve great ritualistic success.

All of our social functions were well attended, as were our communications.

None of this could have been possible without the support of the membership. The lifeline of any Masonic endeavor was then and is now the active participation of the members.

My most memorable meeting was the night of my installation as Master. I had the honor to install my father as my Senior Deacon. During this ceremony, I was advised that my sister had given birth to my niece. This certainly was a night to remember for the Jelen family.

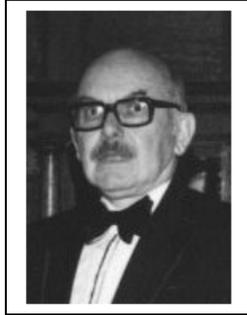
Garden City Lodge has made a significant impact on my life. The tenets of Masonry have been my guide throughout my life. I will always remember my Masonic Brothers. I know that if I am in need that I can call upon my Masonic friends and my Lodge for assistance.

Congratulations on our fiftieth anniversary.

Reflections:

Wor. Carl M. Frutkoff

Master: 1972-1973



I Joined Masonry while involved in construction of atomic reactor facilities at Hanford Works, Washington. A group from a Boston design and engineering firm was sent to Richland, Washington, in 1951 to manage the construction of work we had designed for the Atomic Energy Commission. Richland was a government owned town, and during WWII housed 50 thousand construction workers who had no idea what they were building until the bomb went off at Hiroshima.

Our group consisted of 55 engineers and inspectors who monitored the construction of huge water treatment plants that pumped water from the Columbia River for cooling the Plutonium Reactors.

We lived in government housing in Richland and drove 40 miles to the restricted construction site in government provided vehicles. The construction workers, 650 on our job, rode in busses. I happened to ride in a pool car with men who were Masons and members of Boston local lodges and connived to get me interested by their talk about Masonry to ask. There was one lodge in Richland, and one in Kennewick, a city about ten miles away. The Boston people liked the Kennewick Lodge and that's where I landed.

The night I was raised, when the Hoodwink was removed, I saw close to 100 construction workers and material suppliers I had been working with who came to see me raised.

When I returned to this area, after 3 years and two more sons, we purchased a house in Newtonville. There was a Lodge building three blocks away and one night I decided to visit. I happened on a new lodge and witnessed the constitution of Garden City Lodge by the Grand Lodge officers. Eventually my boyhood friend Lenny Kahn sponsored me. He eventually appointed me to fill a vacancy as Junior Steward, and the rest is history.

On my way through the chairs, I skipped the Junior Warden Chair due to the untimely death of Ed Jelen, a truly wonderful human being, and a great Mason. After I served as Master I went back to sit in that chair due to another vacancy. I never served as Marshal. When Harry Miller, the first Secretary of the Lodge, retired after 20 years of service I took his place at the Secretary's desk. I am very proud of the following awards:

1976 GCL, "Outstanding service to the Lodge" plaque

1985 Grand Master's Letter of Commendation

1989 Grand Lodge Joseph Warren Distinguished Service Award

1994 GCL "Outstanding and Dedicated Service as Secretary" plaque

Reflections:

Wor. Steven P. Fradkoff

Master: 1975 – 1976



I was installed Master of Garden City Lodge on Saturday evening October 4, 1975 at the age of 27 years old. I was the youngest Master that Garden City Lodge has had. As such, I was concerned with relating to the older members (over 40) of the lodge. Realizing this as Junior Warden, I made an extra effort to learn the names of the older members, their interests and what lodge activities they would like to participate in. When I became Master, members of all ages came to me and ask what they could do for the lodge. Committees were formed and I believe we had a very successful year.

The year started at the installation with Rt. Wor. Robert J. Seder as Installing Master. Bob was D.D. at the time, an honor for me and the lodge. The installation ceremonies concluded with a dinner dance at Valle's Steak House on route 9 in Newton. A steak dinner and a live orchestra cost \$18 per couple. Over 120 members and guests were in attendance.

The year continued at our October meeting with an Official Visitation by Wor. Robert J. Seder accompanied by Wor. William Szathmary and Wor. Richard Miranda. During the November meeting we observed the exemplification of the third degree by the "Paul Revere Colonial Degree Team" in authentic colonial dress. A family Chanukah Night followed our December meeting. Past Masters night was held during the January meeting and a lodge bowling party was held a week later on Saturday night at Sammy White's followed by coffee and ... at IHOP. In January GCL and several lodges offered a trip to Nassau. A few members of our lodge took advantage of the trip. On Saturday February 14th we held a Valentine's square dance (cost \$5 per couple) and in March was our annual table lodge followed by an informal Lady's night at the Hofbrau Restaurant in Brighton on a

Saturday night. At the April meeting Bob Seder presented Bro. Harry Miller a Grand Lodge Certificate of Meritorious Service for his 22 years as Secretary of the lodge.

During my year as Master I belonged to two Masters groups, as did most of the Masters of GCL at that time. As a result in May we had two different Master's groups Lady's nights a week apart.

The May meeting was Senior Warden's night with Wor. Bob Roth presiding in the East. On Memorial Day weekend we made our annual pilgrimage to the Nevele in the Catskills. We had 25 rooms that year. At the June meeting I raised Bro. Dana Alan Jackson to the sublime degree of Master Mason. In September, my last meeting was a business meeting followed by the installation on Saturday night.

My year as Master came to an end on Saturday September 11, 1976, when I passed the gavel to Wor. Robert Roth. It was hard to believe how fast my year as Master had passed and what a rewarding learning experience it had been for me. I was installed at age 27 and became a Past Master at age 39, but only a year had passed! In all seriousness, my year as Master was a wonderful growing experience, which I will never forget and I continue to thank the members of Garden City Lodge for giving me the opportunity to serve as Master of the lodge.

Reflections:

Wor. Paul S. Koss

Master: 1977-1978



Who would have known that after being raised in 1972 that in a short span of six years I would be sitting in the East of *my* Lodge ready to lead and to nurture those who would be assuming the same rite of passage after me. Through the leadership efforts, struggles and positive reassurances of many before me I was elected for the term of 1977-1978. Reflecting upon my year as Master of Garden City Lodge I do remember many situations. The Installation in September of 1977 was indeed a memorable occasion. There were more than 200 persons in attendance. I recall attempting to communicate my message that evening and there wasn't enough water to quench my dry throat, however; we did manage to get through the evening. Through "my year" The Lodge officers worked well together by learning and teaching one another about ourselves as men and Masons ever remembering the *tradition* of trying to perpetuate. One of my main objectives was to include family members, and during the year we held several theme events, one of which included an *Italian Dinner Night* that attracted a crowd of 188 members and their families. During the Masonic year 1977-1978, I learned many things, both positive and negative about myself and I am truly grateful for that experience. There were so many Masons and non-Masons that influenced My Masonic experience during my year as Master of Garden City Lodge. If I were to start mentioning those men and women I know I would not be able to mention everyone so to all of those men and women – Thank You! And thanks Dad (Lenny Brown).

Reflections:

Rt. Wor. Dana A. Jackson

Master: 1979-1980



After serving as a line officer for only four years, I was privileged to be elected Master of the Lodge at the relatively young age of 33, and to serve as Master as Garden City Lodge celebrated its 25th anniversary in November 1980. About 44 of the original 100 charter members were still on the books at that time, and M.W. Whitfield W. Johnson,

instrumental in the Lodge's being instituted, was in attendance with a large number of Garden City members at the celebration.

In 1980 the Lodge had approximately 500 members, and a strong group of officers, with two future Masters, Wor. Roy Tarr and Wor. Jim Rich, starting in line during my year as Master. My friend from elementary school days, Wor. Steve Fradkoff, was my sponsor in joining Garden City Lodge, and Steve helped organize a busy schedule of social events, including Red Sox and Celtics games, the Hasty Pudding Club, a mystery ride, guest speakers on finance and on Masonry. We were privileged to raise a number of candidates during the 1980-81 year.

With the help of Wor. Carl Frutkoff as Secretary, and the good counsel of my predecessors Wor. Bob Roth and Roger Appell, the Lodge passed into the capable hands of Wor. Bob Brown at the end of my term.

I am very proud to have had the privilege to serve as Master of what was then and still remains one of the strongest, finest, and friendliest Lodges in the jurisdiction.

Reflections:

Wor. Robert H. Brown

Master: 1981-1982



Being Master of Garden City Lodge was one of the high points of my life. When sitting in the various “chairs” in the Lodge Room, you quickly find out that the View from the East is literally and figuratively unique. Unlike some Lodge Halls, we seat the Master in a somewhat “lofty” perch. I always marveled watching the floor work in front of me, as well as seeing the organ music almost “flowing” out of the west.

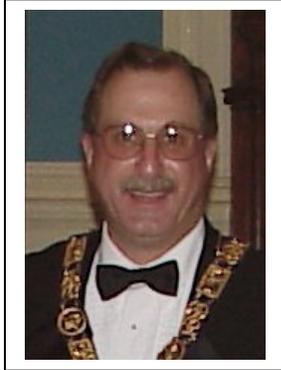
When I was installed, I had two sons, one four years old and the other three months old. By the time the year was over, we had initiated three candidates, I had changed jobs (not voluntarily) and seen my sons grow a bit. During the time I was unemployed (thankfully short) I was happy to have the Lodge to take my mind of more difficult things. My older son enjoyed running around the building when I would take him with me to a rehearsal or some other function.

Being Master helped me learn about organizational structures, how to lead and how to delegate. I also learned how to “let go” when it was time for someone else to lead the Lodge, offering advice when asked but leaving the decisions up to that someone else. Most of all, I made friendships that last to this day with other men who were Masters of their respective Lodges as well as the members of our own Lodge.

Finally, by serving as Master of Garden City Lodge, many years later I was given a privilege accorded only to a few. When my own sons asked to join the Lodge the then presiding Masters allowed me the honor of Raising my own sons.

Reflections:

Rt. Wor. Stephen C. Cohn
Master: 1991-1992



After a few years of Masonic dormancy due to changes of employment and working odd hours, I was fortunate enough to meet Wor. Steve Fradkoff at a local Temple function. I noticed his belt buckle and the rest, as it is often said, is history.

After affiliating with the Lodge in 1985, I was placed in line by Wor. Jerry Muller. I had no idea what was to become of it as my working hours were still in a state of flux. I was beginning to see that this Lodge had something special, but finding out what that something special was would have to wait another five years.

Along the road to the East, I came in contact with so many warm individuals in the Lodge, many of whom would play pivotal roles in my later functions. But being Installed Master of *this* Lodge was probably the most important thing to happen to me. I came into this Lodge with no preconceived plans and no agenda, and almost no clue! I just wanted to belong to an active Lodge and enjoy the Fraternity once again. I attended the requisite Warden's Workshops, Lodges of Instruction, District Deputy Visitations, and learned as much as I could. I guess I demonstrated alleged "proficiency" in the preceding stations as I was elected and Installed Master in September 1991 by my old friend, Wor. Russ Levine, my flying partner and ritual coach in my Blue Lodge, Level Lodge in Worcester. This was my tie from my old Masonry to my new.

As Master, everything was progressing nicely. We set out to achieve the "Grand Master's Award" with a very ambitious plan. We had special programs from a D.A.R.E.

presentation to a “Pink Lodge” and almost everything in between. We traveled to Charlton and to Level Lodge in Worcester. It was quite an experience to travel there, sit in the East of my Blue Lodge, and preside over the raising of another old friend.

But in January that almost come crashing down. My son was injured in an ice skating accident and my wife was ill and about to undergo three operations and be hospitalized for eight weeks in the spring of 1992. That, coupled with a large layoff at work, made for some interesting and sometimes tenuous moments.

The membership of the Lodge rallied and the support received from the officers and members, and with even some of the wives getting involved too, was unparalleled for us and something my family had not experienced in years prior. The true warmth and caring exhibited by the Brethren and their families with the many calls and visits meant so much for us. Only then did I then begin to see what the magic spark was in this organization.

The rest of the year, despite the adversity thrust upon my family and me, went on without a hitch. This Lodge and this group of truly caring folks made what could have been a disastrous year one of great pride. Programs went on as scheduled, attendance increased, blood donations increased, applications increased, and we had fun!

We didn’t achieve the Grand Master’s Award, mainly because of poor attendance at *one* event. Yet we did so much more over the course of the year, as a Lodge, in a losing effort than most Lodges did who were recognized and achieved their goal. But it turned out to become the catalyst for many successful years to come.

Garden City Lodge stood out then and continues to do so to this day. I truly hope it will always remain one of the finest examples of this Fraternity in this state. It is an absolute honor and pleasure to be associated with such a fine group of men and their families and to have been elected by them to serve as Master of our Lodge.

Reflections:

Wor. Malvin H. Lemeshow

Master: 1995-1996



As I reflect on my year as Master of Garden City Lodge, I can't help thinking how I was first introduced to the world of Masonry, only a few short years before. I really knew very little about the Masons at that time and most of what I did know, or thought I knew, was incorrect. Back then, I couldn't help noticing how many of my friends were sporting Masonic rings. One afternoon, as we watched our sons playing Tee-Ball, I asked Wor. David Gitner, "What's it all about?" The next thing I knew, I was enjoying bagels and lox at a Garden City Lodge brunch, meeting many of our Brethren. Not long after, as I went through my degrees, I became aware of many well known Masons; those in show business, politics, many of whom were part of our nation's history. I also learned of many Masons in my immediate family. I remember being so impressed at the ritual and ceremony of my initiation, I felt confident that I would eventually be sitting in the East as Master.

In September, 1994, I was installed Master of Garden City Lodge, the start of an incredible year for me. I realized quickly how much there was for the Master of a Lodge to do. The preparation for our ritual and business meetings kept me very busy in between the assorted letters for dispensations, invitations, etc. Having been brought up in a Masonic family, my wife, Meryl, was excited and very supportive of my duties and responsibilities as Master. She helped me plan some of the Lodge's social events, the first of which was my installation party, followed by a special Ladies night fashion show for our December meeting.

I really wanted my year as Master to be as special for the Lodge as it was for me. I tried to introduce a few new ideas throughout the year. The first being a puppet show for our Children's Holiday Party. With the assistance of our secretary, R.W. Steve Cohn, we were the first Lodge in the district and among a small few in the jurisdiction to

introduce photos in our printed notice. Steve and I were on the phone almost nightly. Being new at that time to the world of personal computers, and before we had many of the Internet tools at our disposal today, we spent much time figuring out how to transfer those pictures, notices and other materials in preparation for the Lodge notices and meetings.

It was a busy year for Garden City Lodge, ending up with thirteen new Master Masons signing our by-laws, two of whom are now Past Masters of our Lodge, Wors. Robert Duris and George Pultz. During the year, I sadly recall the passing of our past Master and vocalist, Wor. George Burns. At our June meeting, I dedicated our entire class of new initiates in his memory, presenting a special plaque to his widow, Lee, who joined us for our Past Masters night dinner. That same evening, Wor. Louis Oppenheim was presented his 70 year pin.

I was fortunate to get to know many fellow officers and Brethren from our district. My year would not have been complete without the support and friendship our district deputy, R.W. John Eldert.

In all, I look back at my year as Master remembering how I looked forward and enjoyed each and every meeting. The year really flew by. Before I knew it, I was about to take that lonely walk from the East, turning the Lodge over to my successor with very mixed emotions. I will always be grateful to the Brethren of Garden City Lodge for affording me the opportunity to preside in the East and lead the Lodge for what seemed to be a very, very short year. I came away a year later with a wealth of knowledge, great experiences, and many friendships. I sincerely hope I left behind something of equal value for the Lodge. Thank you, Brethren.

Reflections:

Wor. David C. Kramer

Master: 1998-1999



Garden City Lodge is a very special Lodge. The first time I walked into Garden City Lodge, as a guest, I was made to feel welcome and like “just one of the guys.” The friendship and warmth that I felt when I first arrived is what most influenced my decision to affiliate with and consequently become Master of Garden City Lodge. The mutual respect, which is afforded to and

by each brother, is what I enjoy most about attending Garden City Lodge.

When I rose before the brethren of Garden City Lodge on September 12, 1998 and took my oath as Master, I made a commitment to continue the hard work and dedication of those men who had served before me. I pledged that Garden City Lodge would remain the best Lodge in the jurisdiction and through the joint efforts of many this pledge was not broken.

We initiated, passed and raised five new Master Masons. We also elected three new affiliated Brothers. These eight men are men of quality and have served this Lodge well. We served approximately 40 dinners each month except for January and March. On January 14, 1999 we received our new District Deputy Grand Master, R.W. Stephen Charles Cohn, and over a foot of snow, but we still served over 70 guests. Our Table Lodge in March played host to over 90 Brethren as we awarded two 50-year veterans’ medals and dedicated the evening to the two recipients.

Our programming, however, did not stop with the second Thursday night of each month. In December, we held our annual Holiday party and we were visited by four Shrine Clowns. We ventured out to Needham in February

for a “Fifties Night” with Norfolk Lodge and in April, we had a Lodge Night Out at Albert’s Restaurant in Stoughton. In June, we celebrated the end of the Masonic year aboard the Spirit of Boston. The following weekend, we broke bread with Norfolk and Dalhousie Lodges at a BBQ at Ridge Hill Reservation in Needham. June, also, played host to our Fourth Annual Garden City Lodge Golf Tournament. This year we saw approximately 80 golfers take to the fairways. For the fourth consecutive year Garden City Lodge made a presentation of DARE tee shirts to the Brookline Police.

We had two further programs, which were very special to me. First, was our Annual Past Masters’ Night. Who will ever forget the marathon June meeting? I opened the meeting at 5:00PM and gaveled the meeting closed at 11:05PM. We brought together twenty-two Past Masters of Garden City Lodge to assist in the raising of our three newest Master Masons. What a testimony to the dedication and support that our Past Masters provide for this Lodge. We presented two more 50-Year Veteran Medals and one 25-Year Pin. Brethren also visited with us from Arizona, Virginia and India. The evening was incredible, but I guess that my legacy will always be that of the Master who presided over the longest meeting ever held.

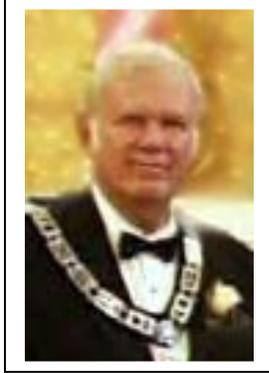
Finally, I set a goal for myself after I had visited the Masonic Home with Perfection Lodge to witness a second degree. As I looked around the room, I saw the pleasure on the faces of the resident Brethren who were there to observe. I pledged to myself that day, that if I became Master, I would take my Lodge to the home and confer a degree. On April 11, 1999 Garden City Lodge, initiated three new brothers at the Masonic Home and I was able to fulfill my dream.

I thoroughly enjoyed my tenure as Master and I left the East with mixed emotions. There was an overwhelming part of me that would like to have continued the journey. I hope that I have fulfilled the expectations of the brethren and that I have left Garden City Lodge a little bit better off for having served.

Reflections:

Wor. Roger H. Ambuter

Master: 2001-2002



It was never in my fondest dreams or imagination to be honored by being elected Master of Garden City Lodge. I was raised in Palestine Lodge in Everett in 1964 – the third generation of Masons to have been so raised in Palestine. Four years later, following my father’s death and brother’s raising (within a week) I became Masonically inactive for over twenty-five years before affiliating at Norfolk Lodge in 1993, going through the chairs and

being Norfolk’s Master in 1998/99. During my term at Norfolk, my cousin, Wor Dave Kramer was serving as Garden City’s Master. I visited our Lodge many times and was impressed by the relaxed nature of the meetings as well as the excellent ritual. As luck would have it, a rumor concerning Palestine’s merger floated by (freeing up Thursday nights) - I decided to apply for affiliation and affiliated in early 1999.

During conversations, I indicated that I would enjoy serving in the Garden City Line. Little did I know that the fates were listening and I “jumped” into line as Senior Warden in 2000/01. I felt honored and at the same time very strange about going into line as a senior officer while also being a Lodge member for such a short period. I promised myself that I would work exceptionally hard to support and verify the trust and confidence that Garden City Brethren had in me. I was also very fortunate to have served Norfolk Lodge where ritual and hard work were ingrained in all officers.

During the summer preceding my Master’s year, I pounded the pavements of Newton selling blocks on our first place mat. This was a labor of love for our Lodge and my first step in meeting my self-promise.

My installation was four days after 9/11. We were all in a state of shock and concern for our neighbors and ourselves. Many of us were not sure whether installation

would even take place on the designated night. It was the most serious and quiet Garden City Lodge installation that I've ever attended.

My year was highlighted by outstanding candidates – three of whom have been in line at various times; courtesy candidates both by us and by Lodges helping us; serving and being served by other Fifth District Lodges most notably Table Lodge; excellent ritual by all line officers and many family events with food and entertainment.

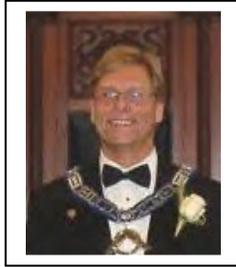
What I remember most is our October meeting. There were several issues being brought to me as Master. I deemed many of them not to be Masonic and, in fact, one bordered on poor Masonic ethics. I saw no easy resolution other than speak my feelings to the brethren and ask their support. I was quite concerned that my resignation would be requested. Following my statement, RW Bill Szathmary stood and said, “right on Master” and from that time forth I knew I belonged in and to Garden City Lodge.

The 2001/02 Masonic year was personally fulfilling and richly rewarding. All that was set out to accomplish was done and we all had fun.

Reflections:

Wor. George S. Pultz

Master: 2003-2005



I have had the distinct honor of serving as Master of Garden City Lodge for two years. Ours is a truly great lodge that continues to be a wellspring for service to mankind; a healthy and vibrant community of friendship and brotherly love; and an ark that serves as a safe retreat from the tempests of our daily lives.

I have witnessed this manifested in several ways: First, in the numerous Masonic activities in which the members of our lodge engage; Second, in the great turnout that we get at our regular communications; Third, in the fun that we have every month on the 2nd Thursday in the Newtonville Apartments; and Fourth, in the excellent ritual work performed year after year by officers committed to their lodge.

A large number of our members are very active in Masonry throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and I am proud to be associated with such a distinguished group of men. The activities that we participate in as a Lodge and as individual Masons exemplify the engagement that our members bring to the Fraternity. Service activities of our membership include: (a) strong regular participation in Masonic Blood Drives, including never failing to help out when needed to make and serve breakfasts for blood donors; (b) regular participation in the CHIP program, including organization and leadership of individual CHIP events; (c) regular service to Masonry in important activities (including chairmanships), such as Masonic Leadership Institute, CHIP, Lodge of Instruction and District and Grand Lodge activities; and (d) York and Scottish Rite and Shrine activities and events.

In addition, the brotherly love of our membership is exemplified in our many social activities beginning each year with Installation festivities, and continuing to the annual Garden City Lodge Holiday Party, and numerous successful

Lodge Nights out, among the highlights of which during my tenure as Master included Monday Night Football, College Basketball, Dinner Theater, Night at the Silent Movies, and the Boston Pops.

The great tradition of Garden City Lodge, as we look back on 50 years under our Charter, is perpetuated by the vibrancy that exists in the continuous Line of Officers, our many active Past Masters and on the Sidelines every month at our regular communication.

I have often said in open Lodge while presiding in the East, that coming to Lodge on the second Thursday of each month and being with my Garden City brothers in Masonry is among the best times in my life. It is wonderful to be able to walk through the doors of our Lodge, and leave the stress and bustle of the everyday world behind. I enjoy the fun as well as the reflection on the designs and work of the Supreme Architect of the Universe. The great thing is that when leaving Lodge, we don't leave the tenets and lessons behind, but instead take them with us as we try to make this world a better place for our families, our brethren and their families, and ourselves.

Brethren, all of this adds up to a great lodge, by any measure. And it is all made possible by your dedication, enthusiasm and good humor. Thank you brethren for your involvement for the past 50 years. I look forward to the next 50.