

Jefferson Lodge
No 90

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**Lodge Education
Officer**

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SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

In memory of our departed brethren called to the glorious and Celestial Lodge Above, we thank them for their service to our Lodge and Freemasonry: Thorton D. Reed, died 12/27/2008, 88 years old, a 42 year Mason, Henry B. Lytle, died 2/17/2010, 95 years old, a 68 year Mason, Robert Gilbert Jr., died 9/9/2009, 67 years old, a 38 year Mason. — Fraternally, Matthew B. Hudson

COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION

IDENTITY THEFT

Are You At Risk?

Monday, February 28th, 7:00 pm

Middletown Masonic Temple

Presented by the Middletown Police Department

LADIES NIGHT

LEADING LADIES

Hamilton Civic Theatre

Sunday February 20 2:00 PM Tickets \$16.00 per person

Dinner to Follow at the White House Inn for those interested

RSVP to Rick Duckson 937-654-0365 by February 14th

Two English Shakespearean actors, Jack and Leo, find themselves so down on their luck that they are performing "Scenes from Shakespeare" on the Moose Lodge circuit in the Amish country of Pennsylvania. When they hear that an old lady in York, PA is about to die and leave her fortune to her two long lost English nephews, they resolve to pass themselves off as her beloved relatives and get the cash. The trouble is, when they get to York, they find out that the relatives aren't nephews, but nieces! Romantic entanglements abound, especially when Leo falls head-over-petticoat in love with the old lady's vivacious niece, Meg, who's engaged to the local minister. Meg knows that there's a wide world out there, but it's not until she meets "Maxine and Stephanie" that she finally gets a taste of it.

I SWEAR...

As Ryan Johnson explains it, George Washington's inauguration ceremony was painstakingly planned down to the tiniest detail about seating arrangements -- with just one exception. As the first president of the United States arrived at New York's City Hall by horse-drawn carriage and prepared to step onto the open balcony that April 30 in 1789, it belatedly occurred to organizers that there ought to be a Bible on which Washington could take the oath of office. One of the men at hand, parade marshal Jacob Morton, also happened to be master of the St. John's Lodge No. 1 of the Masons and offered to provide one from the lodge, located nearby at the corner of Water and Wall streets. The organization's 1767 King James Version was rushed to the hall and opened to Genesis, at the end of Chapter 49 and the beginning of Chapter 50, where Washington placed his hand for the ceremony. As he completed the oath written for the occasion, Washington added the unscripted words, "I swear, so help me God," and bowed to kiss the Bible. Thus was born a tradition followed by almost every one of the 42 presidents inaugurated since then, including some who have used the very same Bible. The volume is still owned by the St. John's Lodge. At a Jan. 10 presentation at the Archives, Johnson explained that in the 1770s it was something of a luxury to have a copy of the Bible, let alone one of as high quality as the Masons' edition. Prior to the nation's independence, no publisher in the colonies had been allowed to print Bibles, because the authorization of the King of England was needed. Like the Masons' Bible, those used in the fledgling republic tended to come from Europe and at great expense. In commemoration of the new importance of the George Washington Inaugural Bible, as it came to be known, it soon had a new engraved image of the president inserted to face the opening page portrait of King George II. Johnson said it was likely unintentional, but the use of the Masons' Bible for Washington's ceremony also may have dodged an ecumenical problem. "No church's Bible would have been acceptable to people of the various denominations," he explained. By using one owned by a fraternal organization instead of a Bible from one of New York's 22 different churches, a potential disagreement over the president favoring one denomination over another was avoided, Johnson said. In the two centuries since then, the Washington Bible has been used at a variety of national events, including other inaugurations, the dedication of the Washington Monument and the laying of the cornerstone of the U.S. Capitol building, Johnson said. Lodge rules also allow it to be used for various Masonic ceremonies and the inaugurations of New York governors.