



***THE HISTORY OF ARCANA LODGE No. 246 F. & A.M.***

***1852 – 2025***

***Compiled by: R.:W.: Harvey Reibel, DDGM  
Seventh Manhattan District***



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Harvey Reibel

Entered Apprentice: Tuesday, October 24, 1967

Fellowcraft: Tuesday, February 27, 1968

Master Mason Raised: Tuesday, April 23, 1968

W.: Master of Arcana Lodge No. 246 (2017-2019)

R.:W.: District Deputy Grand Master (2024-2026)

## Chapter 1

Jan. 1852 – Dec. 1899

In November 2008, our Worshipful Master, called and asked if I would accept the position as Historian of Arcana Lodge No. 246. Two thoughts came to mind. One thought was: here is a great opportunity to share my knowledge of Arcana Lodge and the second thought was that I have been in Masonry for so long that my first apron, hammer and level was presented to me by Hiram himself.

From time to time, I will be speaking to you about our Lodge's history.

But first let me say this: I am a Mason. Let that sink in for a moment. I share this privilege with many other men, throughout this and other countries, who believe in certain ideals. As we all know, Masonry dates back to ancient times. Modern Masonry dates back to the guilds that were formed several centuries ago.

In my travels, over the years, I have visited a number of Lodges in the United States. Their Degree work might differ slightly in wording or language. However, depending on the region of the country that I have visited, there was always a certain consistency to it. If you have never sat in another Lodge in New York State, another state or in a Lodge of a foreign country, you are truly missing something. What I have always found was that wherever I traveled, I was always welcomed as a Brother. That is one of the essentials of Masonry.

I recall the first Lodge I visited, so many years ago. It was in Dallas, Texas. By then I had been in Masonry a few years. I was on company business and that evening I visited the Local Lodge. There I was in a Lodge that was about to conduct a 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree. The officers wore western style tuxedos, cowboy boots and cowboy hats. If I didn't know better, as they say in Texas, I thought I was in Hog Haven. I very much enjoyed the Degree work that was preformed that evening.

During the summer of 2009, I visited King Hiram's Lodge on Provincetown, Massachusetts. The Lodge was formed in 1795. As a matter of fact, and this is no joke, Paul Revere delivered their charter. They are very proud of their long history.

Most recently, I had the privilege of sitting in Garibaldi Lodge and observing their 1<sup>st</sup> Degree work. Even though I do not speak or understand Italian, except for a few

colorful words, I knew exactly what was occurring. Again, that is what is wonderful about Masonry. You don't have to know the language. All you have to know is the essence of the Degree work.

For those of you who are new to Masonry, there are several branches. To name a few, there is the Blue Lodge of which we are associated. There is the Royal Arch, Knights Templar and Cryptic, all part of York Rite. There is the Scottish Rite, Mecca Temple and the Shiners. For the young men there is DeMole. Triangle and Rainbow are for the girls and for the ladies we have Eastern Star. In addition to these, there are Square Clubs such as the Masonic War Veterans and the list goes on. As time passes you might find that you have an interest in one of these branches or Square Clubs.

And now, let me address you on the subject of Arcana Lodge No. 246's history.

It was the winter of 1852. January was the month. Nine brothers, from 5 different Lodges, filed a petition with The Most Worshipful Oscar Coles, the Grand Master of the State of New York. The petition was for a dispensation to form a Lodge in the City of New York.

The name that they had chosen was Arcana. It was a very appropriate name for Arcana represents' something hidden, concealed and is most secret. In their words, and I quote, "To impress upon its members that a Mason should, at all times, remember that he is entrusted with secrets that should be safely lodged in the repository of his faithful breast and never be revealed."

For the record the original nine Brothers that formed the Lodge were:

Charles A Peck, William R. Stafford, Lyman Fisk

Samuel Jenkins and John Hayward

All members of Lebanon Lodge No. 191

John B. Breckenridge, a member of Joppa Lodge No. 201

Smith Mead, a member of Jerusalem Lodge, Connecticut

James H. Brush, a member of St. Johns Lodge No. 1 and

Henry C. Banks, a member of Anglo-Saxon Lodge No. 137

Their petition was recommended by Lebanon Lodge No. 191, Eureka Lodge No. 243 and Joppa Lodge No. 201, and was granted on Jan. 24, 1852.

Charles Peck was elected and installed as Arcana's first Master. William R. Stafford was Arcana's first Senior Warden and John B. Breckenridge as Arcana's first Junior Warden.

The Lodge received its charter on March 5, 1852.

If you have an opportunity, come to the East and read the Charter. You will observe these very names inscribed on it.

New York City was not the city we know today. In describing that time period, lower Manhattan was crowded with newly arrived emigrants. This was many years before the great influx of Europeans that arrived on our shores in the late 1800's and early 1900's. Harlem, was building up. On that date, the tall skyscrapers had not been built. The northern portions of Manhattan were mostly farming as was the Bronx, Queens and Staten Island. Central Park did not exist and Brooklyn, which also had quite a few farms, was known as the "City of Churches". There was no bridge or tunnel from Brooklyn to Manhattan. While the railroads were being built, the subway system, baseball, football, basketball or hockey teams did not exist. Automats, Nathan's, McDonald's and the Big Box stores had not yet arrived.

These nine gentlemen were most likely farmers, businessmen or men of industry.

On February 10, 1852, just prior to receiving its charter, a 1st Degree was conferred on candidates in waiting and they were duly initiated as Entered Apprentices.

Their names are:

Lucius P. Hudson  
Robert Milligan and  
Canston Brown

The Lodge continued to grow and by 1868 had a membership of over 122.

During the 1860's, our nation was in the midst of a Civil War. Many of Arcana's members fought in the service of our country, as they did again in the Spanish American War.

There is no record available of the number of injuries or deaths sustained by those men.

During this time the Lodge continued to grow and do works of charity, just as we do today.

In the next 40 years Arcana had many Masters of the Lodge. Due to certain events that occurred during those years, several members of the Lodge advanced quickly through the chairs to the East.

While they all did the work of the craft, two stand out among them.

In November 1870 Brother Isaac Van Benchorten was raised in New York Lodge No. 330. In 1885, at a time when that Lodge's future was at a low point, affiliated with Arcana Lodge and in 1886 and 1887, became Master of Arcana. He then went on to serve as Secretary of Arcana Lodge for the next 35 years.

Another Master of the Lodge, Worshipful John T. Logan, a Civil War Veteran, has the distinction of presiding in the East for more years than any other Master. He served in 1892, 1893, 1894, 1897, 1898 and 1899

This brings us to the turn of the century.

My brothers, at this point, I will conclude Chapter 1 of Arcana's early years. In the coming year, I will speak to you of Arcana's history during the early to middle 1900's. I thank you for listening.

## Chapter 2

Jan. 1900 – Dec.1951

To recap the first 48 years of Arcana's history:

A petition to form a Lodge was filed by 9 brothers from several other Lodges in January 1852. It would be known as Arcana Lodge No.246. The Lodge received its' charter in March 1852, just 3 months after its' original petition was filed.

In the years following 1852, the Lodge grew. In 1885, the first of several Lodges would merge with Arcana.

Let me digress for a moment, if you will. I have been asked about the Grand Lodge buildings that existed during those years. There were several that were used in the 1700 and 1800's. They were in various locations in lower Manhattan and generally had a few rooms that the "Lodges of The Day" would meet in. Lodges would also meet in private rooms of Taverns. The Grand Lodge buildings, typical of the day, were usually 2 or 3 stories tall. In the early years of 1870 Napoleon Lebron drew up plans for a Grand Lodge on the corner of 23<sup>rd</sup> Street and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The building was about 5 stories tall. This building would remain in use for the next 30 years. Within a few decades, as Masonry expanded, it was determined that a new and larger facility was needed.

In the early 1900's, ideas, designs and contracts were being readied for the construction of a new Grand Lodge Building. The building would be constructed on 24<sup>th</sup> Street, just to the east of Manhattan's 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

The cornerstone of the building was laid on May 7, 1908. When completed it would be a 19-story structure. The construction was finished in 1909 at a cost of \$1,303,252.00. The Grand Lodge offices and Lodges were transferred to the new building in early fall, that year.

In 1910, construction would begin on the second phase of the Grand Lodge building. This structure would be on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Street side of the building. It was completed in 1912. At some point the old Hall was torn down. The site is now occupied by a branch office of Chase Bank.

To those of you who are new to Masonry, if you have not visited the Grand Lodge room, you are truly missing a spectacular sight. The room is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> floor of this building. Within the room there is a U-shaped balcony on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor. The room can seat over 1,100 Masons.

There are twelve other Lodge rooms in the building. They are the American, Chapter, Colonial, Corinthian, Doric, Empire, French Doric, French Ionic, Gothic, Ionic, Jacobean and Renaissance. In the years since the buildings were constructed several other Lodge or meeting rooms have been added.

You will also find a most impressive library within the building. Most importantly are the offices for the Grand Master, the Grand Secretary and their staff as well as other rooms that support the operations of New York State Masonry.

An interesting note here is that Arcana Lodge had their meetings in the Doric room for over 60 years before moving to its' present location. The move was the result of Arcana moving from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Manhattan District to the 7<sup>th</sup> Manhattan District.

Here is a description of New York City in the middle to late 1800's.

Shortly after our Lodge was founded the idea of Central Park, as we know it, came into being. Frederick Law Olmstead, a leading Landscape Architect of the day was one of the driving forces in developing the park.

Another notable person was Abner Dobleday. He was a career military figure who attained the rank of Major General, in the Union Army. During the Civil War he introduced a form of baseball to the Union Soldiers. While the game had its' origins in Europe, his version was uniquely American. After the war baseball developed and quickly become the nations' pastime.

During this time period the great hordes of immigrants, from Europe, had begun.

Several elevated railroads were in operation or would soon be constructed throughout what would become the 5 boroughs. In the early 1900's they would be integrated into what we know as the BMT and IRT subway system. The oldest line in the city is the Culver Line. It was a grade level and elevated line in Brooklyn and would become part of the BMT. In the 1930's the IND would be constructed. This was many years before the Number and Letter System was established.



As we enter the 1900's, there is a bridge, which was built earlier, connecting Brooklyn to the island of Manhattan. The city of Brooklyn is now one of the 5 boroughs that make up the City of New York.

In 1900, the first part of the subway system, known as Contract #1, was being constructed and would go into operation in 1904. It would run from City Hall to upper Manhattan.

A few years later, Contract #2, as it was known, would be a spur from the Atlantic Avenue Terminal of the Long Island Railroad in Brooklyn. It would run to lower Manhattan via a tunnel under the East River. This second phase ran along Lexington Avenue to 42<sup>nd</sup> Street-Grand Central Station and then turned west to Times Square. It would then turn north and be extended to the Bronx. The Bronx at that time consisted mostly of farms. In later years the Lexington Line would be extended through upper Manhattan to the Bronx.

When the Lexington Line was extended to the Bronx the connection between Grand Central Station and the Times Square Station, along 42<sup>nd</sup> Street became a shuttle line between the two stations.

As the multitude of new immigrants coming to our shores caused much overcrowding in the lower east side and what was known as 5 Points and Hells' Kitchen, the building of the second phase of the subway served to opened up the Bronx for development.

There is a regular ferry service from the lower part of Manhattan to and from Staten Island, otherwise known as Richmond County and many of the farms in and around New York City are disappearing. A regular ferry service from Manhattan to New Jersey has also been established.

There is a great flurry of building within the city. Newly constructed buildings for residence and businesses are going up and the population of New York City is expanding.

Arcana Lodge No. 246, too, was growing.

So here we have a snapshot of events at the beginning of the 1900's.

This evening I will cover the history of Arcana Lodge No. 246 during the early to mid-1900's.

As the year 1899 turns to 1900 the Lodge has been in existence for 48 years.

In 1900, the Master of the Lodge is R:.W:.. James Kelly. When he was raised as a Master Mason, in 1891, the Lodge was going through a very difficult time as there was a heavy debt and the conditions of the Lodge, it's disheartened and indifference of the members, burdened him. It was through his and several of the Lodge Brothers efforts that things were turned around.

In recognition of his efforts, he was honored by the Grand Master and appointed to the position of The Grand Director of Ceremonies of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York. Years later, in 1942, he received the Grand Lodge 50 Year Medal.

The next Master of the Lodge was R:.W:.. Charles Schenk. He served with great distinction. In 1913, he was honored by an appointment to be the Grand Steward and the following year as Grand Sword Bearer.

In 1904, W:.. Charles Palmer, during his tenure, raised a total of 35 Fellowcraft to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree of Master Mason. This was a record that held for 15 years.

Over the next several years the W:.. Masters of Arcana departed their chairs with the knowledge that the Lodge was financially secure and that they were doing the work of Masonry. They all served with distinction.

The year is 1912 and Arcana Lodge is in its 60<sup>th</sup> year of existence. An anniversary celebration was held at the Café Martin. The W:.. Arthur M. Allen was Master of the Lodge that year and he welcomed everyone to the dinner. Among the visitors that attended, that night, was the Grand Master M:.. W:..Robert Judson Kenworthy. In addition to Grand Master, there were many dignitaries wearing the Purple Apron.

An interesting note here is that in 1900 the Lodge had a membership of 71 brothers and in 1912 the membership had risen to 250 members.

W.: George W. Preece was the Master of the Lodge in 1914. He was a veteran of the Spanish-American War. With his experience in Close Order Drill, he created a very fine Fellowcraft Team.

The years passed with more good men serving as Master of the Lodge.

In 1919, the war was still raging in Europe when the Master of the Lodge, W.: Walter A. Fribourg raised a total of 58 brothers. The record still stands.

W.: Sol S. Schatzberg sat in the East in 1921 and again in 1946. One event stands out during his tenure. There was an occasion when the Grand Master visited the Lodge. That evening the Lodge donated more than \$4,500.00 to the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hospital, in Utica, N.Y. The funds were used to furnish a room that bears the name of our Lodge.

A few years later, in 1927, the Lodge celebrated its' 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at the Hotel Pennsylvania with a dinner and dance. To commemorate the occasion the Lodge presented the Senior Grand Warden with a \$1,000.00 bond for the Third Manhattan District Tuberculosis Fund. There were over 1000 attendees that evening.

Keep in mind that in 1921 and in 1927, \$4,500.00 and \$1,000.00 was quite a large sum of money to contribute.

With the Stock Market crash in 1928, things slowed down a bit, however, during the 1930s the business of the Lodge continued pretty much as they did in the previous decade.

The year 1940 came around and our Lodge celebrated its' 88<sup>th</sup> birthday. This time the dinner/dance was held in the Masonic Club.

War clouds were stirring again. This time Europe and Asia were the center stage of the conflict.

In 1941, the Master of the Lodge, W.: Alfred H. Bishara held a celebration commemorating Lincoln's Birthday by having one of our Past Masters deliver The Gettysburg Address.

With the sudden attack at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, by Imperial Japanese Military Forces, we are once again at war. This time our adversaries would be Germany, Italy and Japan. This was truly a world conflict. There was loss of life on all fronts. One of our Past Masters, W.: Sol Schatzberg, lost his son, Pilot Officer Seymour Morton Schatzberg. A memorial fund was established in his name.

In 1942, 1943, 1944 and 1945 the Lodge did what it had done in previous conflicts. They conducted Clothing and Bond Drives for the war effort. Our Lodge even had a "Gallon Club" which consisted of members who donated 8 pints of blood during the war.

The Allies had defeated the Axis powers in 1944 and in August of 1945, the Japanese surrendered in Tokyo Bay and World War II was over.

As has happened before, once again, in 1946, a Past Master sat in the East. This time it was W.: Sol Schatzberg. As I mentioned previously, Brother Schatzberg was responsible for the \$4,500.00 appropriation to the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hospital in 1921.

In 1948 another record was set. On March 23, Brother Paul Stone, or as he was called, "Poppa Paul Stone" raised his 5 sons and 4 son's-in-law. The Lodge room was at capacity.

There have been many outstanding events in the Lodge room over the years. One such event occurred in 1950 when the Lodge held a "Third Generation Night". R.:W.: Abraham Hyman, his son Sidney and grandson Victor conducted a 3rd Degree on proficient Fellowcraft. Abe sat in the East, Sidney sat in the West and Victor sat in the South.

On June 25<sup>th</sup> of that year, the North Koreans invaded South Korea and once again our Armed Forces were put in "Harm's Way"

In 1951, W.: Irwin M. Levy was elected as the 100<sup>th</sup> Master of the Lodge.

Since the Lodges founding in 1852 there have been 5 conflicts that our members have been involved in. Starting with the Civil War, the Spanish-American War,

World War I, World War II and the Korean War our Lodge can boast of members who have served with distinction and honor.

Although many of our Brothers could not join the Armed Forces, they did contribute too many worthwhile causes. In addition to the Clothing, Bond and Blood Drives, the Lodge assisted in the care of over 200 of our Brothers whose sons and daughters were in the Armed Forces. This included wounded soldiers and sailors. Through it all, the Lodge has been very conservative in its acts of charity. All this was being done without any clamor for publicity.

My brothers, this year, 2012, Arcana Lodge No. 246, Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York will be celebrating the 160<sup>th</sup> year of its' founding. So, let me say this, "Here's to all the Grand Lodge Officers, Masters of the Lodge, past and present, to all of our Brothers, wearing White or Purple Apron, they all helped to make our Lodge and Masonry what it is today, may we always seek more light on Masonry!"

At this point I will conclude the 2<sup>nd</sup> Chapter of Arcana's history. In the coming year, I will address you on the Lodge's history from 1952 to 1982.

I thank you all for attending this evenings' lecture.

## Chapter 3

Jan. 1952 – Dec. 1982

In Chapter 1 of my previous lectures, I spoke of Arcana's founding in 1852 through 1899.

In Chapter 2, I addressed the Lodge on the History of Arcana in the years 1900 to the end of 1951, which marked its' 100<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary as a Masonic Lodge.

Due to the vast amount of information that we have documented about the previous 60 years, today's lecture, Chapter 3, will cover the 30-year period, from 1952 to 1982, when the Lodge celebrated its' 130<sup>th</sup> birthday.

It is 1952 and Arcana Lodge has been in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Manhattan District for many years and would continue to do so for many more years.

In 1952, yet another milestone occurred. That was the year that Arcana Lodge No. 246 celebrated its' 100th Anniversary. While there are certainly other Lodges with long histories it still stands as quite an achievement.

As in many Lodges we have had our share of ups and downs. There have been mergers with other Lodges and a move from one district to another. Through it all, Arcana Lodge has survived. The Lodge has shared the sadness and joys of our Brothers. We have joined other Lodges in fraternal brotherhood. Many of our Brothers went on to wear the Purple Apron. Our Lodge has a sterling record that we can all be very proud of.

As 1952 begins, we have W:. Mac Rauch sitting in the East. W:. Rauch was a human dynamo. He created many projects and events that year and, in the years, to follow.

On March 8, 1952, his crowning achievement was the Centennial Celebration of our Lodge at the Astor Hotel. It was here that Arcana entertained over 600 guests including officers of the Grand Lodge. A check for \$1000.00 was presented to the Grand Master as a donation to the Masonic Brotherhood Fund. Ten years later, W:. Mac Rauch was still very active and Co-chaired our 110<sup>th</sup> year Anniversary Banquet Celebration.

W.: Milton Kern became the Master of the Lodge in 1953. It is also the year that one of our brothers, R.:W.: William Gieselberg, received his 50-year Grand Achievement Award Medal.

Most of you did not know W.: Milton Kern. When degree work was performed W.: Kern was extremely proficient. To watch him recite the Middle Chamber Lecture, as part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree, was very moving.

Another event that bears marking, that year, is the Tanz Family Night. The Sublime Degree of Master Mason, in its' entirety, was conferred by members and relatives of the Tanz Family who are all members of Arcana Lodge.

For the history buffs, The Korean War or as some would call it, "The United Nations Police Action" began on June 25, 1950. On June 10, 1951, Peace Talks were started and held in Panmunjom, Korea between the United Nations Forces and the North Koreans. The talks would take a little over two years before hostilities and a Cease Fire would be enacted. This occurred on July 27, 1953. To this day the United Nations maintains a large military force throughout South Korea and its' northern border. The largest of these forces are represented by the United States.

The next year, 1954, W.: George Tanz became our Worshipful Master. The Tanz name pops up throughout those years as active members of the Lodge.

W.: Sam Weiss, the father of Brother Phil Weiss, was elected to be our Worshipful Master in 1955. As the Lodge grew, so too, did the number of "White Aprons" or "Side Liners" as they were affectionately known. Over the years they have been a great support within the Lodge. W.: Weiss went on to serve as the Secretary of the Lodge for many years.

As I have previously mentioned, the name Tanz pops up in the history of Arcana. In 1956, the Worshipful Master of the Lodge was W.: Philip Tanz. During his tenure, he appointed W.: George Tanz, Education Chairman of the Lodge. It is also the year that W.: Tanz raised his son, Harvey to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason.

As 1957 begins, we find W:. Morton Pearl in the Master's chair. During that year W:. Milton Kern was chosen to chair the celebration of the 2000<sup>th</sup> Communication of the Lodge. It is also the year that W:. George Tanz was chosen as the first man from Arcana to be Assistant Grand Lecturer for the Third Manhattan District.

W:. Samuel Price was the Master of the Lodge in 1958. A soft-spoken man, one of his great qualities was that he was a deeply religious man and a devout student of the Torah otherwise known as the Holy Scrolls of Jewish Law. When his year of serving as the Worshipful Master was completed, he passed his Emblem of Authority on to his successor with a hearty "Sholom" to him and Arcana.

The man he passed the Emblem of Authority to in 1959 was W:. Philip Margolin. He set a high standard for his officers and the Lodge. During his year, several events took place. One in particular was the announcement that W:. George Tanz was appointed by the Grand Master to be District Deputy Grand Master for the Third Manhattan District.

For the first time in Arcana's 107-year history our Lodge was so honored.

W:. Leo Schatzberg became our next Master of the Lodge. The year was 1960. The previous Master of the Lodge placed the Lodge in very capable hands.

During his year of service, over 200 guests assembled at the Edison Hotel. The event was a tribute to W:. Sol Schatzberg. It was a testimonial dinner for the Pilot Officer Seymore M. Schatzberg Memorial Fund.

It was also the year that Arcana welcomed back R:.W:. George Tanz, the District Deputy Grand Master. He had just completed his rounds in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Manhattan District for 1959-1960.

The next year, 1961, W:. Peter Leonforte was our Master. As of this date, 1961, he was the youngest Master in the Lodge's history.

As we move into the year 1962, W:. Marvin Kerr became the newest Master of the Lodge. If you are keeping track of the years, the Lodge was now in its' 110<sup>th</sup> year. It was a very fruitful year marked by the establishment of a 100-bed infirmary at the Masonic Home in Utica.



Another outstanding event that year was the conferring of the Entered Apprentice Degree to Howard Rauch. What made this special was W:. Mac Rauch who was the Master in 1952 assembled all the officers in the line from the 1952 year to assist him in the degree work.

It is now 1963 and W:. Alvin Renner is our new Master. As in years past, it was a productive year. Sadly, it is also the year that the world was shocked by the assassination of John F. Kennedy, the President of the United States. The Lodge's alter was draped for 30 days at the request of the Grand Master.

The baton for the Master of the Lodge in 1964 was passed on to W:. Stanley Aronowitz. He had a special interest in Masonic History and Education. During his year of service to the Lodge, lectures on those subjects were brought before the members.

In that year, there was a Jersey Night in which all chairs were taken by our Brothers from New Jersey.

The calendar now turns to the year 1965. W:. Jules Levere is sitting in the East. He too, had a very active year with several events planned.

Once again, our military has been ordered into "Harms Way". The first official combat troops are sent to Vietnam. For the record there have been "Advisors" in South East Asia for several years. Sadly, this is an unpopular war and will cause much unrest in this country. Even after all these years, some of the wounds are still felt today.

It was also the year of the "Big Blackout" where much of the Eastern Seaboard came to a sudden stop due to a major power failure. It was several more days before things got back to normal.

W:. Victor Payne became the Master in 1966. His rituals were outstanding and done with perfection.

In that year, after 2 years as Junior Grand Deacon, R:.W:. Mac Rauch was appointed as Senior Grand Deacon.

1967 finds W.: Ed Santer, seated in the East. He has, for several years, been the Blood Bank Chairman.

In April of that year, the Lodge was overflowing with Brothers and visiting delegations for the Homecoming of R.:W.: Stanley Aronowitz. All living Past Masters in the New York City area were in attendance.

W.: Genero Verringia became the Master of the Lodge in 1968. When doing degree work, he performed the rituals with great proficiency.

In May of that year, the Lodge was summoned to convene for the purpose of approving a proposed Agreement of Consolidation between Arcana Lodge No. 246 and Louis Kossuth Lodge No. 117. Louis Kossuth Lodge had a dwindling membership and could not survive long. As we were a very healthy Lodge we were approached about combining Lodges. Negotiations had been going on for some time. The vote was taken and passed and in November of that year the newly Consolidated Lodge met as Arcana No. 246. Arcana Lodge kept its' name as we were the older of the two lodges. There was much handshaking and congratulations that evening as we welcomed our fellow Masonic Brothers.

W.: Marvin Cohen ascended to the Masters Chair in 1969. He enjoyed a very active Trestle Board. Masonic Education nights were held that year. On one occasion, "The Rusty Brothers" performed what to do and what not to do when examining a Brother.

As we say goodbye to the 1960's and welcome 1970, W.: Lester Feinstein is gracing the East. W.: Feinstein was very devoted to outstanding ritual work and enjoyed the pleasure of having his son Michael and his nephew Steven Willinger enter our Lodge that year.

Our next Master of the Lodge, in 1971, is W.: Irving Schoichet. He was so extraordinary in ritual work that he received an appointment to be the Assistant Grand Lecturer. During his tenure he repeated what other Masters had done by having a Past Masters Night where Degree work was performed.

In 1972, we see W.: Stanley Stein, seated in the East. His business required him to travel to many cities around the country, but, he always managed to be back at the Lodge when it convened. Like many previous Masters was excellent in ritual work.

It was during the summer, in those years, that the Lodge would gather for a weekend at one of the hotels in the Catskills.

A “New Breed” of Master of the Lodge came to us in 1973. His name: W.: Arnold Gray. It was not unusual to see him arrive on his motorcycle.

1973 starts with the ending of the Vietnam War and the troops are coming home. Some would treat the returning troops badly but the various Veterans Associations felt differently. These men had served their country and deserved better.

In that year M.:W.: Harry Ostrove, Past Grand Master was one of our guest speakers. It should be noted that many of our Past Masters went on to more lofty positions in Masonry.

In 1974, W.: Charles Babitt was our next Master of the Lodge. He achieved a long-standing wish to be the Master of our Lodge. He was raised in Dirego Lodge No. 3 and had already served as the W.: M.: of Palestine Lodge No. 204.

We now begin a new year. Who is sitting in the East? It is my oldest and closest friend. We were the same age and grew up in the same building in Brooklyn. He is now W.: Alvin Brent Blacksburg. He had a thorough understanding of our By-laws and financial structure.

A side note, if you will, some financial matters were printed in our Lodge Notices and none could be found. W.: Blacksburg called me inquiring if I had those Lodge Notices. I did and gave him copies.

That year Brothers Harvey Klein, Ed Kohut and Jay Austin displayed their skills at ritual work. In time they too would grace the East.

W.: Seymore Cohen was the Worshipful Master of Arcana in 1976. It was the nations Bi-centennial. “Cabletow of 76”, a patriotic play was presented, in costume, by the Scottish Rite Players.

1977, the 125<sup>th</sup> year since the Lodge was founded, begins with W.: Harvey Klein, our new Master of the Lodge presiding in the East. Through his efforts we have a strong improvement in the candidates and an active Trestle Board.

This was also the year that major revisions in the By-Laws were proposed and passed with no additional increases in dues projected for several years to come.

After more than a year in planning, a celebration was held marking the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Arcana. It was a huge success.

1978, events were taking place within the Lodge and W:. Harvey Klein is reelected as Master of the Lodge. This is not the first time that this has occurred.

As it turned out, it was a very fruitful year with several nights of Degree work and events. For several years, now, there have been elections for the “Man of the Year”. This was awarded to individuals who have lived and imparted the meaning of Masonic life. It was a long-standing tradition in Arcana.

Another interesting fact is that in the late 60’s and 70’s there are quite a few Arcana men who have moved to Florida. They have gatherings a few times a year. It was suggested and approved that Arcana hold a luncheon, in Florida, for our Brothers. It occurred in November that year.

1979, changes are in the works. As officers advance, W:. Edward Kohut now assumes the chair in the East. He recognizes the problem of the decreasing membership at our meetings and sets in motion a plan to reach out to the members.

The Doric Room on the 8<sup>th</sup> floor, where our lodge meets, is in need of much repair. In a move that delights everyone the Lodge, we move to the American Room on the 19<sup>th</sup> floor.

On it first night in the new room the 1<sup>st</sup> Degree is held and within the next two months the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Degrees are held. It was said that the Degree work was outstanding. During that year W:. Kohut brings his two sons in to the Lodge.

By September of that year all work and repairs have been completed in the Doric Room and Arcana moves back to the 8<sup>th</sup> floor.

W:. Jay Austin assumes the chair in 1980. At his recommendation, lectures were held on subjects such as Masonic Etiquette and Masonic Ritual. In the course of that year the Lodge raised several candidates to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason.

Another Transit Strike occurred that year affecting our Lodge meetings. Fortunately, it lasted a short time.

The consistent problem of declining attendance was addressed. It is developing into a larger problem as many other Lodges are having the same experiencing.

In 1981, something special occurred. W.: Jay Austin, the outgoing Master of the Lodge, passed the baton of office to his father, W.: Laurence Austin. W.: Laurence Austin commented that this was one of the most sublime experiences of his life. This was first for our Lodge.

During that year the Lodge conducted several degree nights. On one particular evening the Middle Chamber Lecture was delivered by W.: Stanley Stein, with perfection. The officers in the line were also to be commended for their fine work.

The Lodge also continues to have Ladies Night, Masonic Birthday Night and “Man of the Year” Night.

Addressing the Lodges of the State of New York, a report from the Grand Lodge indicated that many Lodges throughout the state were considering mergers. It was brought out that Lodges in small communities survive better than Lodges in large cities. It is a sign of the times as communities in suburbia grow, the attendance from Lodges in larger communities diminish. One reason for this is that in the past, Brothers who worked in the city most likely lived within city limits. As families moved to suburbia the Brothers would, after working in the city, travel home rather than attend meetings. However, it was also stated that that is not always the case. There was always a core group that attended Lodge Meetings regardless of where they lived.

After many years as Secretary of the Lodge, W.: Sam Weiss retires. He will be sorely missed. He passed his duties to W.: Harvey Klein.

And now we come to the year 1982. W.: Julius S. Levere is elected to serve as our next Master of the lodge.

In his acceptance speech he spoke of and I quote, “About the honor of being elected to this position. With the help of all of my Brothers of the Lodge, it will be my privilege to look after the affairs of our beloved Arcana for the ensuing year.

This can only be accomplished with a group of Masons that willingly and lovingly labor for the sole purpose we are all bound by the perpetuation and furtherance of the light that we all see in Masonry Together, with God's help, we will achieve our goal."

That year, the Lodge initiates a new policy in order to increase attendance. They will gather at 6 pm, on meeting nights, in the new Masonic restaurant on the lower level of the Temple. The Lodge will pay \$6.00 towards the price of each diner. What a deal.

In that year, two recent Past Masters, W:. Laurence Austin and his son, W:. Jay Austin preformed the Degree of Entered Apprentice.

Also, a dinner was held to honor R:. W:. Mac Rauch. The amount of purple in attendance rivaled a St. John's Day in Utica. Attending was the M:.W:. Ernest Leonardi, the Grand Master of the State of New York, the Deputy Grand Master, four Past Grand Masters and many others wearing the Purple Apron. Yes, Arcana, was truly recognized.

There was Past Masters Night and a Masonic Birthday Night and while I have not previously mentioned it, there was a Ladies Auxiliary known as the Audrey Rauch Chapter of Arcana.

This was a group of ladies whose husbands are in Arcana Lodge. They were founded in the late 50's and after 25 years in existence they have decided to dissolve their group and donate their entire treasury to Masonic Charities.

Among the officers of the Lodge that year is a young fellow named Arthur Klansky.

This year, on Tuesday March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013, Arcana Lodge No. 246 marked the 161<sup>st</sup> year of its founding.

As I stand here tonight, I too celebrated an anniversary. On April 23, 1968, I was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason and mark my 45<sup>th</sup> year in Masonry. I have always felt privileged to belong to such fraternity. By the way, our secretary for many years, W:. Sam Weiss investigated yours truly the previous year.

My Brothers, we have come to the end of the 30-year period covering 1952 to 1982. There is a vast amount of information available, some of which is redundant. I have attempted to include the most pertinent highlights and events of those years. My next lecture or Chapter 4 will cover the years 1983 through 1999. To our R:. W:.'s, Past Masters, our W:. Master, Officers of the Lodge, my Arcana and fellow Masonic Brothers and guests, I thank you for your attention this evening.

## Chapter 4

Jan. 1983 – Dec. 1999

Good evening everyone. Tonight's lecture, Chapter 4 of Arcana's History, will cover the years 1983 to 1999. The information for tonight's lecture has been gathered from Lodge Notices. Some of the events that I will discuss tonight are redundant for there is a certain amount repetition in the Lodge communications and meetings year after year.

Upon reading the Communications of the Lodge, during the years 1983 to 1999, and then preparing my notes for this evening's lecture, a number of memories came back to me. In many instances, I witnessed those events and it made me think how wonderful and rewarding Masonry is. In some instances, where it calls for, I have exercised "Poetic License"

Some of you older Brothers, who are in attendance this evening, may recognize the names of the Masters of the Lodge and new candidates as we enter the next phase of these lectures. It will probably bring a smile or two as their names are mentioned.

The year is 1983. It is the start of Arcana's 131<sup>st</sup> year and once again a Past Master sits in the East. His name is Jay Austin. As a matter of fact, there are 8 W:. or R:.W:.'s who are sitting in various chairs in the Lodge!  
They are:

W:. Jay Austin, Master of the Lodge  
R:.W:. Stanley Aronowitz, Senior Warden  
W:. Julius Levere, Junior Warden  
W:. Harvey Klein, Secretary  
R:.W:. Mac Rauch, Treasurer  
W:. Arnold Gray, Steward  
W:. Edward Kohut, Steward and  
W:. Laurence Austin, Chaplain

In 1983, the Lodge is still in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Manhattan District. Their meetings are held in the Doric Room on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month with the exception of July, August and early September.



W.: Jay Austin has instituted Hobby Night, where the Brothers brought their hobbies and discussed them in the Lodge.

The Blood Drive continues and each member that donates blood will be treated to dinner, courtesy of the Lodge.

Among the list of Masonic Birthdays for April of this year is Jacob Zayde. He was raised in 1937.

Several Degrees were conferred this year. Among them was the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree conferred by the Junior Officers of the Lodge.

The Lodge conducted a Ladies Night at a Famous Kosher Japanese Nightclub called "Shalom Japan". Oy, it was such a success.

A new year, a new Master! W.: Krikor Drigian sits in the East for the year 1984 and his promise to the Lodge is to continue the good work of his predecessors.

Our Lodge Brothers who have moved to Florida continue to have annual gatherings and send their best regards to us in the north.

This year the Lodge has had several visitors from Lodges in Paris, France.

Another highlight in 1984 was a visit from the Grand Master of the State of New York, The Most Worshipful Calvin G. Bond and The Right Worshipful Robert C. Singer, Deputy Grand Master of the State of New York.

From time-to-time Arcana held Table Lodge meetings and this year was no exception. It was welcomed as a break in routine.

As we enter the new year, 1985, W.: Krikor Drigian will sit in the East for a second year.

Here are some facts about Arcana Lodge No. 246. Did you know that Arcana Lodge was represented at the laying of the cornerstone of this very building and that Lodge members were present for the laying of the cornerstone of the Egyptian Obelisk in New York City's Central Park and the cornerstone of the Masonic Home in Utica, New York?

In February of that year W:. Sam Weiss, a Past Master of Arcana, a secretary of the Lodge for many years and father of Brother Phillip Weiss, was called to the Lodge on High. A side note if you will, W:. Weiss investigated me when I sought admittance to Masonry in 1967.

This year, one of our own, Brother Robert Blum celebrated 63 years in Masonry. Happy Birthday!

It is also the year that the Lodge has elected to have one Lodge Bulletin per month, where two communications are combined in one notice. This is a cost saving measure to lower the expenses of the Lodge.

A report was brought before the Lodge regarding the problem of attendance and the collection of dues. This was a problem that was occurring in many other Lodges here in New Your City and throughout the state, as well.

Our R:.W:. Jay Austin, has been appointed District Deputy Grand Master of the Third Manhattan District, by The Grand Master of the State of New York, The Most Worshipful Calvin Bond. A ceremony was held in the Colonial Room of this building on October 8th. In attendance were 5 Past Grand Masters.

As 1985 comes to an end, the Lodge is visited by several Arcana Brothers who now reside in Florida.

1986 arrives and we find Arthur Klansky, with his new title W:. Master and takes his chair in the East.

In his address to the Lodge, he stated "That one cannot lead unless you have followers and supporters and that he is open to suggestions, support and ideas that help to make Arcana a flourishing Lodge."

In February, he will be the first sitting Master to visit our Brothers who are living in Florida. As a result of this, a luncheon, by the Arcana Club of Ft. Lauderdale, was held at the Bonaventure Country Club, in Bonaventure, Florida.

In April, the Lodge held Homecoming Ceremonies for R:.W:. Jay Austin, in our Lodge Room! It was a very joyous occasion where many Grand Lodge Officers were in attendance to pay tribute to his many accomplishments.

Some facts for 1986: In the Masonic Birthday Department, Brother Philip Joffe celebrated his 65<sup>th</sup> year and Brothers Robert Blum and Philip Karp their 64<sup>th</sup> year as well as R:.W.: Ben Kurzrok, who celebrated his 62<sup>nd</sup> year, in Masonry! For you history buffs, it is also the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Statue of Liberty.

Throughout the year, several Degree nights were held. As the year is coming to an end, we find a young man awaiting the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. His name, you ask, is Edward Zwillick.

As each year comes to an end, the Election Committee is at work and ready to elect and install the new officers for the upcoming year.

As we enter into a new year, 1987, we find W:. Andrei Kulyk gracing the East. As things turn out, he will reside in the East for the next two years.

Once again, the Lodge held a Hobby and Vocation Night where the Brothers were encouraged to come forth and speak about their particular hobby or vocation.

The Lodge continues to have a poor attendance record, a fact that is very troubling. Part of the problem is this year's terrible winter weather. It is the hope of all that as the weather improves so will the attendance.

During the 12 months of 1986 the Lodge conducted Degree Nights, Table Lodges, several lectures and in conjunction with other Lodges in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Manhattan District, a Ladies Night.

At the last Lodge meeting of 1987, the W:. Master of the Lodge was not in attendance. In their infinite wisdom, the members of Arcana re-elected him to serve another year. Much to his surprise W:. Andrei Kulyk is informed of his re-election and will sit in the East in 1988.

In his speech to the Lodge, he quoted the closing paragraph from John Hamill's book "The Craft". I will read a portion of that paragraph. I quote, "It is the basic appeal of the principles of Freemasonry which motivates their continued membership. It is often forgotten that membership in Freemasonry is voluntary. No one has to join, no one is coerced into joining and the candidate has to make the first approach. After initiation, a member is at complete liberty to withdraw at any time. That so many remain in membership and derive enjoyment and satisfaction

from it without material gain is one of Freemasonry's strengths. So many other organizations with origins similar to or based on Freemasonry eventually failed because, unlike Freemasonry, they became partisan and materialistic, leading to their being fragmented by factions and ultimate collapse" Unquote.

During his tenure as Master of the Lodge, in 1988, there were Degree Nights, Table Lodge nights, Sunday Brunches, Ladies Nights and lectures by prominent members of the Masonic fraternity.

As the calendar advances to the year 1989, a new Master of the Lodge has been installed. He is W.: Jerome Siskin. In 1950, he was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason and 38 years later he sits in the East. He was raised in a different Lodge and joined Arcana Lodge a few years later.

In February, a note from the Arcana Club of Florida was read to the Lodge. They wrote that they will hold their annual luncheon (Dutch treat) at Gibby's Restaurant in Ft. Lauderdale. The full coarse meal, in which you have a choice of chicken or fish, will be served for the sum of \$6.00 per person, which includes taxes and gratuity.

On March 28, the Lodge honored R.:W.: Ben Kurzrok, on his 65<sup>th</sup> Masonic Birthday. He was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on March 31, 1924. Ben has had a very long history with Arcana.

In one of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Nights, a young man whose name is Charles Betz, was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. Within 6 years, he will be elected the Master of the Lodge.

In June of that year, W.: Larry Austin became R.:W.: Larry Austin when he was appointed District Deputy Grand Master of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Manhattan District. It is also a first where a father (Larry) has followed a son as District Deputy Grand Master.

In the course of the year, discussions were held on many subjects. One such discussion was the idea of lowering the age of prospective candidates from 21 years of age to 18 years of age. There were several views on the subject. It was brought out that many young men ages 18-21 were serving in the military and that required a certain amount of responsibility, but, in the end it was felt that a young man of 18 was not quite mature enough.

Once again we look at the calendar and it is 1990. A Past Master has been elected to serve as Master of the Lodge. He is W:.Krikor Drigian. As has been occurring for the several years, most of the Officers are Past Masters of the Lodge and this year is no exception.

They are:

Master	W:. Krikor Drigian
Senior Warden	W:. Arthur Klansky
Junior Warden	W:. Julius Levere
Senior Deacon	R:.W:. Jay Austin
Treasurer	R:.W:. Marvin Kerr
Treasurer-Emeritus	R:.W:. Mac Rauch
Secretary	W:. Harvey Klein
Chaplain	W:. Jerome Siskin
Tiler	W:. Norman Heinsch

The Lodge received word from the Arcana Club, in Florida, that they will be having another luncheon. They have added Roast Beef to the menu and the price for the luncheon is still \$6.00 and \$11.00 for a guest. An even better deal than the previous year!

Early that year the Lodge celebrates another homecoming. R:.W:. Laurence Austin returns to the Lodge after serving as District Deputy Grand Master for the Third Manhattan District.

Among the list of potential candidates are two young men recommended by Ed Zwillick. Their names are Robert Schor and Stephen Kastner. In addition to them is another young man by the name of Seth Zolot. Look for their star to rise in the coming years.

While I have not previously mentioned it, the Lodge has been and is a big supporter of the Brotherhood Fund. Many times, over the years Arcana has led the Third District in donations.

It is a New Year, 1991, and once again a Past Master, W:. Andrei Kulyk graces the East.

Each year one of the things the Master presides over is the approval of the annual budget. Another is the election of Directors of the Pilot Officer Seymore M. Schatzberg Memorial Fund.

One of the saddest news that we experience as Masons is the passing of a member of a Lodge. One such loss is the passing of R:.W:. Ben Kurzrock. Ben was proud of a number of accomplishments and deeds in Masonry. A pillar in the Lodge, he was raised on January 7, 1924 and left us on January 20, 1991, for a total of 67 years as a Mason.

In the Glad Tidings Department, Brother Robert Blum will celebrate his 69<sup>th</sup> Masonic Birthday and Jacob (aka Jack) Zayde his 54<sup>th</sup>.

In August of that year, the Lodge suffered another tragic loss. W:. Harvey Klein, our secretary, was called to the Lodge on High. W:. Klein assumed the duties of secretary following in the footsteps of two legendary secretaries, W:. Sol Schatzberg and W:. Sam Weiss.

So, we end the year with a mixed bag. The Lodge lost some dear and devoted members and gained some new and promising Brothers who in time will sit in the East.

1992 and once again a Past Master will sit in the east. W:. Julius Levere, in his acceptance speech thanked all who participated in the election process and wished all a Happy New Year. He went on to say that "Arcana Lodge, being in existence for many years, promises to continue its tradition of Masonic excellence and benevolence."

From time to time the Masonic Building goes through a re-furbishing, re-modeling and or up-dating period. This year is no exception. Some of the projects involve the Masonic Library, the building lobbies and a mini-museum which will be open to the public.

One of our very active Brothers, Charles Betz, briefed the Lodge on its "Drug and Alcohol Abuse Program". Arcana Lodge remains the only participant in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Manhattan District's Program with our sponsorship of three schools. It is a big task and as a result, he declined to assume any more District-wide projects.

That year a special dispensation was granted by the Grand Lodge in order to permit the Conferral of the Entered Apprentice Degree to John Reyes-Guerra. It became known that his childhood friend, Andrew Scott Targum, was also awaiting the Entered Apprentice Degree. John Reyes-Guerra's father, the W.: David Reyes-Guerra is a member of Continental Lodge and Andrew Scott Targum's father, the W.: Emmanuel Targum, is a member of Arcana Lodge and the Lodge's oldest living Past Master. The arrangements were facilitated by the R.:W.: Cliff Green, the secretary of Continental Lodge. The event was both moving and memorable.

Brother Phil Karp reached a milestone on Masonry when he received the 70-year award. He is 95 years young.

The Lodge conducted several Degree Nights, this year, where the Junior Officers preformed accurately and with zeal. Their names are: Brothers Carlos Rausch, Charles Betz, Victor Amadeo, Steven Kastner, Seth Zolot and Ed Zwillick. Yes, the future of the Lodge is in good hands.

Some major events and future changes that occurred this year are the preliminary discussions that are ongoing with the Prince Hall Masons. Another is the Grand Lodge's new By-laws, Section 303, which states that all Lodges will have to hold elections immediately after the Grand Lodge Convention. This means that the Installation of Officers must be completed by June 30<sup>th</sup> each year.

In the fall of 1992, the Lodge voted on Proposed Amendments to Arcana Lodge By-Laws. The amendments concerned the dates of Installation of Officers, dates of the Fiscal Year, Annual Reports, Budget Committees and the increase of Annual Dues. All were put to a vote and passed unanimously.

As the Lodge closed its last meeting in December, they prepared for a New Year and a new Master.

That honor, for the first half of in 1993, went to W.: Arthur Klansky.

In the past few years, the attendance of the Lodge has steadily improved. This is due to the programs and social events such as the Fellowcraft Club that the Lodge has introduced. In addition to that, the future of the line has been infused with talented young officers.

In one of W:. Klansky's communications to the Lodge, he stated that if it were not for the cooperation of the ladies, we would not get the great participation from our brothers.

For the first time, that anyone remembers, our Lodge held a "Bring a Friend Night".

In March, the Lodge raised 9 Fellowcrafts to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. According to a few Florida Brothers, when World War II ended, as many as 10 candidates were raised at one time.

June has arrived and W:. Klansky's tenure, due to the Grand Lodge Rules, as Master of the Lodge has ended. In the fall, as per those rules, a new Master will begin his term. The voting in June chose the next Master of the Lodge. From this day forward the Master's year will start in June and finish in late May.

1993-1994, a new Master, Brother Carlos Rausch is now W:. Carlos Rausch. He is one of the new and younger breed of Brothers in the line.

Another Brother who has joined the line is Michael Moriarty.

Among the nine Brothers awaiting the Degree of Fellowcraft is Entered Apprentice Joseph Bonsignore. The Degree was bestowed upon the nine candidates in October of that year.

In December, Arcana Lodge held its 2500<sup>th</sup> Stated Communication Anniversary with a celebration. The Lodge opened at 5:30p.m. A dinner was held at the Athens Restaurant, downstairs, at 6 p.m. All Entered Apprentice and Fellowcraft were invited to attend. In attendance were members from the Grand Lodge, Past and Present District Deputies of the Third Manhattan District, Past and Present Masters of Arcana and a Grand Representative of the Province of New Brunswick, Canada. R:.W:. Marvin Kerr gave an illuminating historical review on the history of our lodge from 1852 to the present.

Hobby Night was the subject of a lodge meeting in the New Year. In March, Brother Michael Fischetti and three brothers waited patiently at the Outer Door of the Lodge. They were waiting for their cue to enter the Lodge Room. At the proper moment, Brother Fischetti, and his pals, Smiley, Tubby and Tiny entered



the room. They were dressed as clowns and took their seats. When asked what their hobby was, their answer was “Clowning”. They are members of Mecca Temple Shriners.

Their travels take them to hospitals, senior citizen complexes and other facilities. Their mission is to spread a little happiness and joy wherever they can.

More Degree work that spring brings us to the end of W:. Carlos Rausch’s year as Arcana’s Master of Lodge. A name to remember is Fellowcraft John Lentinello, He will be in the line in two years.

1994 – 1995 begins with a brand-new Master named Robert Phillips, now W:. Robert Phillips. He thanked the Brothers of the Lodge for their confidence. W:. Phillips then went on to present W:. Carlos Rausch, the outgoing Master, with a set of sterling silver cuff-links and a Past Master’s Apron was presented to W:. Rausch by W:. Julie Levere.

With the summer at an end, the Lodge got down to the business at hand for the coming year. To name a few, Degree Nights, Bring-a-Friend Night, Ladies Night, History Night, Table Lodges, Lecture Nights Committee Reports, Voting and of course Election and Installation Nights.

Tragedy once again strikes the Lodge. In the fall, one of our most respected Brothers, R:.W:. Mac Rauch passed on to his rewards on high. R:.W:. Rauch was a successful businessman, a good family man and one of the most active Brothers in our Lodge. An example of some of his deeds was the many contributions to the Grand Lodge. He also chaired a committee which arranged gifts and visits to various Veterans Hospitals.

On a happy note, it was announced that Brother Mike Moriarty is getting married.

The Master of the Lodge also conducted lectures on the subject of Masonic Etiquette.

Another Degree Night and the Lodge initiated six new Brothers, one of them being Vincent Scandole.

1995 – 1996 arrives and we are half way through the 1990's. Sitting in the East is W.: Charles Betz.

R.:W.: Marvin Kerr and R.:W.: Brent Blackburg, Junior officers and Drama Team from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Manhattan District raised 9 Fellowcrafts to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason.

In the fall, rumors are flying regarding the possibility of 12 to 16 potential candidates that will be waiting for consideration to join our Lodge. Among the list of candidates are Nicholas Panariello and Phillip Weiss. Did they pass the investigation? Were they initiated as Entered Apprentice? Stay tuned.

The answer to the previous questions is “YES”. Nicholas Panariello and Phillip Weiss are now Entered Apprentice and are awaiting the Degree of Fellowcraft.

In March of 1996, the Metropolitan District Deputies Association arranged for the Conferral of the Degree of Fellowcraft to 27 Entered Apprentices. What made this a special occasion was the fact that the Conferral of the 2nd Degree was in the Grand Lodge Hall. Brothers Steven Kastner, Mike Moriarty and Seth Zolot did outstanding work.

1996 – 1997, As W.: Charles Betz's year as Master comes to an end and he passes the Emblem of Office on to a new Master, W.: Edward Zwillick.

Time marches on and in time we have newly raised Master Masons. They are Brothers Leff, Marrone, Panariello, Phillips, Testa and Weiss. Does any of these names sound familiar?

In one of the Lodge Bulletins, this year, under the title “Glad Tidings”, it writes of the marriage of Seth Zolot to his bride, Ellen. Members of the Lodge who attended that evening said, “What a nice boy, what a great girl”. Congratulations.

As it turns out, the truth is that it is Seth's father who is re-marrying. The error is due to misinformation on the printer's part.

Among some of the events that the members participated in, outside of the Lodge that year, was a Father's Day Brunch, a Baseball Day, the Fellowcraft Club (now

known as the Friendship Club) which held a picnic at Tallman State Park, a trip to Atlantic City and a fishing trip.

During the remainder of his term as Master, W:. Zwillick and his line of Officers, Conferred the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Degrees on a number of candidates. When all was said and done the number of members on the Lodge had increased and so did the attendance at meetings.

1997 – 1998, we turn to a new Master as Stephen Kastner is elevated to W:. Master and becomes the Master of the Lodge.

On one of the early Lodge meetings, that year, was “Bring a Friend Night” Brother Nick Panariello spoke on the subject of Masonic Charities, Brother Victor Amodeo talked about Masonic History and Brother John Lentinello regaled those in attendance on famous Masons. Did you know that Mozart was a Mason?

As has happened in Arcana Lodge over the years, the Officers in the line along with some sideliners preformed proficiently when doing Degree Work. Another highlight, that year, was the presentation of the Past Masters Apron to W:. Edward Zwillick.

At the April meeting, the Conferral of the Sublime Degree of Master Mason was conducted upon 10 candidates. Suffolk Lodge No. 60 and Duncan Patton Lodge No. 1134, in full costume, performed the Degree Work. Almost 100 brothers were present for the occasion. The degree took place in the American Room, on the 19<sup>th</sup> floor.

1998 – 1999, we are almost at the end of the 90’s. Robert Schor takes his seat as W:. Robert Schor, Master of the Lodge.

For a while, now, there has been a committee investigating a possible merger. Our very own, and my old friend, V:.W:. A. Brent Blacksbury, who is a Chemical Engineer with a Law Degree, is busy drafting new By-laws, so that the Lodge may, if they wish to merge vote upon.

If the vote in both Lodges is “Yes” a possible new Lodge name would be A.G.E. No. 246. That would be “A” for Arcana, “G” for Garfield-Goelet and “E” for Elbe And Arcana would keep No. 246. However, the name was not written in stone.

Taxes are increasing and so are the dues for Arcana Lodge. The simple fact is that Lodge Room rental, general expenses, printing and mailing costs are on the raise.

The annual dues for lodge members will be \$75.00 per year and the fee for application to our lodge will be \$300.00.

Another tragic loss hits our lodge, that year. Although he had been ill for a while, the shock of the passing of a Brother Lodge Member is never easy. On April 14, 1999, V:W:. Alvin Brent Blacksbury was laid to rest. His love for Masonry and Arcana were very evident. He had a Masonic Funeral with an overflowing attendance.

On a personal note, Alvin and I grew up together. We were one month apart in age. He referred to me as his older friend. My brother, Saul and Alvin's brother, Leslie, were also close friends. Jack Blacksbury, Alvin's father was a member of Arcana Lodge. Alvin or Brent, as many of you know him, was raised in 1960. One after another, we were all raised in Arcana Lodge. My brother, Saul and Alvin are gone now. Leslie and I and our families remain very close.

On several nights during the year, a group of our childhood friends get together for dinner. On each occasion, we raise our glasses and toast the friends that we have lost. Alvin and my brother's name are among them.

W:. Arthur Klansky, was in possession of several boxes of Arcana "stuff". He had them as a result of renovations on several floors of the Grand Lodge Building. The 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in April, that year, was devoted to what was in the boxes. Brother Nick Panareillo and Entered Apprentice Bruce Zayde were very interested in finding out. Among the items found in the boxes was a listing of the 1<sup>st</sup> 1000 Arcana Members and minutes logs from 1919 to the 1940's.

In June 1999, mergers are in the air and it promises to be an interesting year.

Seth Zolot, joins the long line of Masters when he becomes Master of Arcana Lodge that year. Henceforth he will now be known as W:. Seth Zolot.

Arcana Lodge is still in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Manhattan District.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Manhattan District was dissolving and Arcana Lodge will, after some events, move to the 7<sup>th</sup> Manhattan District.

Elbe-Garfield-Goelet Lodge is in the 7<sup>th</sup> Manhattan District. They are looking to merge with another Lodge.

Arcana for several reasons including the fact that the 7<sup>th</sup> Manhattan District was a more active district chose to merge with Elbe-Garfield-Goelet Lodge. In September, both Lodges conducted voting on the merger. When all was said and done the result was positive.

As was previously mentioned, a group from Arcana Lodge met with members of Elbe-Garfield-Goelet Lodge to work out the details of an orderly merge of the two Lodges.

The merged Lodge will be known as Arcana No. 246. The reason for this being, the Grand Master of the State of New York felt that a Lodge with 4 names, or 3 initials was a bit too long. In addition to that, Arcana Lodge was the oldest of the Lodges. Hence, Arcana kept its name.

It was decided that once the Lodges were merged, the sitting Master of Elbe-Garfield-Goelet Lodge would take over the duties as Master of the Lodge.

On November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1999, Arcana Lodge of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Manhattan District held its last meeting in the Doric Room.

When Arcana Lodge moved over to the 7<sup>th</sup> Manhattan District, their new meeting nights would be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month. The meeting would be in the French Doric Room, on the 10<sup>th</sup> floor of the Masonic Building.

So, it came to pass that at the appointed time, on December 8, 1999, W.: Seth Zolot turns the Lodge over to R.:W.: Myer Rossabi, the next Master of the new Arcana Lodge. In W.: Zolot's words, "It is the shortest time a Master sat in the East".

What a fitting place to conclude this chapter on the history of Arcana Lodge. When next I address the Lodge on our history, I will cover the years 2000 to 2008.

I thank you all for attending and listening to this evening's lecture.

## Chapter 5

Jan. 2000 – May 2008

As we enter this phase of Arcana's history, Jan. 2000 – May 2008, many of you who are seated here this evening will recall firsthand the events of this evening's lecture. Join with me as we relive some of those events, moments and memories.

Much of what I speak of this evening was gathered from Lodge Bulletins.

At the close of 1999, W.: Seth Zelot, the Master of the Lodge turns the Master's Chair over to R.:W.: Myer Rossabi on December 8, 1999. This is a result of the prior move from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Manhattan District to the 7<sup>th</sup> Manhattan District and the merger of Elbe-Garfield-Goelet Lodge No. 889 and Arcana Lodge No. 246.

On that day, in this room, the combined Lodges held their first meeting.

R.:W.: Rossabis' first order of business was to thank specific members of 7<sup>th</sup> Manhattan District and the members of the Consolidation Committee for their tireless efforts in bring about this merger of the two Lodges.

At that meeting favorable investigative reports were presented regarding potential candidates. A vote was taken and passed. The Degree of Entered Apprentice was then scheduled for February 23, 2000.

During R.:W.: Rossabis' tenure as Master of the Lodge, a Membership and Retention Committee and a Telephone Relay Committee was formed. The Membership and Retention Committee would be chaired by Bro. Robert Cole and assisted by Bro. Victor Amodeo. The Telephone Relay Committee will be chaired by W.: Charles Betz and will be assisted by Bro. Bill McMamara.

A number of events took place that year. There was a Table Lodge for all the Lodges in the 7<sup>th</sup> Manhattan District, an Our Town Theater Party, a Memorial Night, a Baseball Day at Shea Stadium and a fishing trip.

Some appointments that year were: W.: John Marvin to the Law Committee, Bro. John Lentinello to the Audit Committee, R.:W.: Myer Rossabi and Bro. Jerry Butkow will share duties on the Finance Committee. That committee is responsible

for the association's investments. W.: Larry Sussman, Bro. Jerry Butkow and Bro. Dr. Joe LoPinto were named members of the Special Projects Committee. This committee approves the distribution of about \$450,000.00 annually to various worthy causes.

As many of you know W.: Laurence Sussman is a founding member of the 7<sup>th</sup> District Association Heart Line which provides free cardiovascular or thoracic surgery to needy patients.

Other appointments in May of that year are: R.:W.: Joseph Homer, the new Junior Grand Deacon, R.:W.: Myer Rossabi, reappointed Grand Steward and R.:W.: Stephen Kastner, the new Grand Sword Bearer, all to the Grand Lodge of the State of New York and now R.:W.: Laurence Sussman, the new District Deputy Grand Master of the 7<sup>th</sup> Manhattan District,

In May 2000, elections are held and R.:W.: Myer Rossabi is re-elected and will remain in the East for the year June 2000 – May 2001. Bro. Victor Amodeo is the new Senior Warden and Bro. Joseph Bonsignore is the new Junior Warden.

Some names to remember for the future are Bros. Vincent Scandole, Nick Panariello, Guy Caterina and a young man by the name of Bruce Zayde.

In late September of 2000, the sitting Master, R.:W.: Myer Rossabi developed a heart problem which required surgery. In October he underwent successful surgery. This required a recovery period and Bro. Victor Amodeo became the acting Master of the Lodge.

In the fall of that year, there was a Bring a Friend Night, a Fellowcraft Degree, a Presentation Night, a Dinner Night and an Entered Apprentice Degree.

In January 2001, R.:W.: Myer Rossabi having made a fairly good recovery from his heart surgery resumes his duties as Master of the Lodge. In his address to the Lodge members, he thanked everyone for their cards and support and especially the Brothers of the line.

Soon after that meeting, due to his health condition, he turned his duties over to the Senior Warden, Bro. Victor Amodeo. This is a perfect example of what the line officers must prepare for.

The Lodge continued to have a fishing trip, a Degree night, a Table Lodge night and a district wide boat trip to Foxwoods.

On a sad note, the R.:W.: Stanley Aronowitz passed on to the Celestial Lodge on February 8, 2001. When I entered Masonry, in 1967 as an Entered Apprentice, he was one of the first members of the Lodge that I met. His Degree work was outstanding.

As we approach May, it is time for elections. The result is that Bro. Victor Amodeo is elected as the new Master of the Lodge.

In R.:W.: Rossabi's closing remarks to Arcana Lodge he spoke of his three terms as Master of Elbe-Garfield-Goelet Lodge No. 889 and his two terms as Master of Arcana Lodge No. 246 and his work in Masonry.

June 2001 – May 2002, W.: Victor Amodeo is now in the East. Within that month the Lodge held a Father's Day Brunch. Over the summer, members met for a picnic at Tallman Mountain State Park and a baseball game at Shea Stadium.

In September, a planning committee was formed for the celebration of Arcana's 150<sup>th</sup> year. To refresh your memory, in January 1852, 9 Brothers met to form a new Lodge. They petitioned the Grand Lodge and received their charter on March 5, 1852. The date of the 150<sup>th</sup> year celebration is set for May 18, 2002 and is to be held at Terrace on the Park. Yes, Arcana's history is quite long.

As the Lodge returns after the summer, let me pause, for a moment, to reflect on an event of great significance. I am referring, of course, to the events of 9-11. As you all know that was the day that terrorists hijacked 4 civilian passenger aircraft. Two crashed into the Twin Towers, one into the Pentagon and the 4<sup>th</sup> crashed in Shanksville, PA. The 2 towers collapsed and there was widespread damage to a portion of the Pentagon. The result was a great loss of life at all sites. Rescue crews, medical staff and many aid groups were quick to respond. In the coming days among the many that responded were Brother Masons. The principles that we stand for are simple. We value brotherhood, honor, loyalty, service and a reverence to a supreme being. All were met.

The business of Masonry goes on. In the coming months members of Arcana Lodge attended a District Wide Dinner, and a "Trap and Skeet" shoot event.



In December, Arcana Lodge along with other Lodges in the district conducted a First Degree in Joshua Lodge. There was a total of 15 candidates initiated to the Degree of Entered Apprentice. R.:W.: Steven Kastner graced the East.

The winter is almost over and Arcana Lodge will host a district wide 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree to be held on March 5, 2002. Permission to conduct the Degree in the Grand Lodge room was requested and granted. The Degree will pass 25 to 30 Entered Apprentices to the Degree of Fellowcraft. It turned out to be quite an evening.

Time and the calendar repeat itself. Once again, the Lodge approaches election of officers. The outgoing Master, W.: Victor Amodeo thanked all for the support he received during his time as Master of the Lodge. All officers move up one chair and now Joseph Bonsignore will take his place in the East as W.: Joseph Bonsignore.

June 2002 – May 2003, in his first Lodge Bulletin as Worshipful Master, he praised the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee for their work in planning and executing the highly successful event. The credit for this undertaking goes to: R.:W.:’s Victor Amodeo, Arthur Klansky, Ira Levy and Steven Kastner, W.:’s Ed Zwillick and Seth Zolot, Bros. Vincent Scandole, Peter Devens, Steven Zwillick and Phillip Weiss.

At the 150<sup>th</sup> celebration, the M.:W.: Carl J. Fitje, Grand Master for the Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York and his staff complemented Arcana on their long history and a great reception.

Another notable attendee, that evening, was Past Grand Master M.:W.: Stewart McCloud. He was equally gracious in his remarks to the lodge.

In September 2002, in line with the Grand Masters aggressive membership drive, he has approved and authorized the Conferral of all three Degrees, all in one day. That day has been set for March 29, 2003.

The work will take place in nine locations throughout the state, one of which will be in New York City. Guess who one of the candidates is?

It was also announced that the Hon. George Pataki, Gov. of the State of New York, has petitioned the Grand Master for membership to Masonry.

Some of the events planned for Arcana in the coming year are: a baseball game at Shea Stadium, Bring a Friend Night, Dinner and Play Night, several Degree Nights, Grandmasters Ball, a Grand Lodge Concert, the induction of M:.W:. Past Grand Master Stuart McCloud as an honorary member of Arcana Lodge, a Table Lodge Night and a Skeet and Trap Shoot. Yes, W:. Joseph Bonsignore has a very busy year on his plate. Looking back, he did it.

At the November Lodge Meeting, there were two Past Grand Masters and the present Grand Master in attendance. Past Grand Masters M:.W:. Gary Henningsen and M:.W:. Stewart McCloud and the sitting Grand Master, M:.W:. Carl Fitje, were all there. The occasion was the Conferral of Honorary Membership in Arcana Lodge to Past Grand Master M:.W:. Stewart McCloud.

In December, we lost another of the pillars of the lodge. R:.W:. Milton Kern passed on to the Celestial Lodge. Most of you, this evening, did not know him. To watch him doing Ritual Work was truly inspiring.

There is Degree work to be done as several brothers were raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in February.

More sad tidings to report that month as the Lodge lost R:.W:. Myer Rossibi. He has devoted much and has traveled many roads on Masonry.

On March 29<sup>th</sup>, The Grand Masters Class, an event that has not occurred in New York State in over 100 years has arrived. As was mentioned previously, the First, Second and Third Degrees of Masonry will be Conferred that day. Several candidates are from Arcana Lodge.

I see a smiling face in the room. He is one of the candidates, why it is none other than Anthony Colao Sr. and he will soon join the line.

The calendar turns a page and the yearly ritual of elections is upon us.

As the Lodge is in its 151<sup>st</sup> year, W:. Joseph Bonsignore reflects on the past years events and thanked all for their help and assistance. He passes the baton of office over to the new Master.

June 2003 – May 2004, the new Master of the Lodge is W:. Vincent Scandole.

The summer picnics and baseball games continue to be a big hit.

With the newly raised Brothers in the Lodge, after the One Day Class in March, it became important to instruct them in the many aspects of Masonry. This was a challenge and they survived.

A sad comment here is that as many newly raised Brothers that any Lodge welcomes in, there will be a certain percentage of them that do not become more active. This has been true for many years. To deal with this, a number of efforts and ideas have been tried. Some work and some do not.

The Grand Lodge will increase their annual dues and the impact on the Lodges will require an increase in their dues, as well. The end result is that our new yearly dues will increase to \$85.00.

In the course of this year's Lodge meetings and events were "Bring a Friend Night", the Fourth Annual "Trap and Skeet" shoot and two lectures within in the Lodge. The lectures were conducted by Bros. Phillip Weiss and John Lentinello. Their topics were "Masonry, Under Two Flags" and "Famous Masons"

A number of candidates are awaiting either the Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft or Master Mason's Degree. Over the next few months many will advance to the next Degree.

In W.: Vincent Scandole's closing remarks as the outgoing Master, he reflected on his theme for the past year. That theme, which headlines each Lodge Bulletin, was of Brotherhood, Honor and Loyalty. Every Mason should have those values as we all benefit from them.

June 2004 – May 2005, the torch of W.: Master of the Lodge passes on to W.: Joseph Petrauskas. Bro. Bruce Zayde is the Senior Warden and W.: Nick Panarello is the Junior Warden.

R.:W.: Larry Sussman received his appointment to Directorship of the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory. In addition to R.:W.: Victor Amodeo received his appointment to the Grand Director of Ceremonies.

Over the summer the annual picnic and Baseball Day events went off as scheduled.

I am somewhat of a history buff when it comes to the American Civil War and in the October Lodge Bulletin there is mention of Masons at the Battle of Gettysburg. Of particular interest is the Friend-to-Friend Masonic Memorial. General Robert E. Lee, commander of the Confederate Forces attacked the Left Flank of the Union Army on the first day of the battle and the Right Flank on the second day of the battle. The result of which was not a clear victory. General Lee now chose to attack the center of the Union Lines. On the third day, approximately 25,000 men of the North and South were involved the fighting. In the center, waiting in a wooded thicket of trees was Southern General George Pickett. He was tasked with charging the Union Army. Pickett's Charge, as it became known, pitted men of the Southern Forces against the men of the Northern Forces. As the Southern troops neared the Northern lines, Confederate Brigadier General and Masonic Brother Lewis Addison Armistead, who prior to the outbreak of war was an officer in the Federal Army, fell from his horse mortally wounded. As he fell, as the event is recounted, gave the sign of distress and a Brother Mason in the Union Army, Captain Henry H. Bingham came to his aid and offered help. As the General lay dying, he asked the Captain to pass his family bible on to his friend of many years, Union Major General Winfred Scott Hancock. This incident of Masons in battle, regardless of sides, is one of the greatest examples of Free Masonry in combat and so in 1993, the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania erected and dedicated a monument at the Gettysburg National Cemetery. The monument depicts the Captain aiding the General. The end result of this epic battle was the Southern forces leaving the field.

A planned trip, in November, for a tour of the Grand Lodge of Philadelphia and a visit to the Battleship New Jersey took place. Included in the itinerary was a Buffet Lunch.

There is a discussion in the Lodge, once again, about the rising costs of the Lodge Room rental and other expenses. A real possibility exists that the yearly dues may be increased again.

In the course of events in his year as Master, W.: Joseph Petrauskas officiated in several Degree Nights.

In reading the Lodge Bulletins during his year, it appears that W.: Joseph Petrauskas was also a history buff of sorts. Several of the Lodge Bulletins were filled with stories of famous Masons of the last 100 years and made great reading.

June 2005 – May 2006, we have our next Master of the Lodge. W:. Bruce Zayde is his name. He would name this year “The Year of the Ashlar”, for as the Ashlar grows so does the individual.

In W:. Bruce Zayde’s inaugural address to the Lodge he spoke of the coming year regarding his vision of a year of celebration, joy, growth and work. In addition to that are his plans to have in place a web-site for the Lodge that will contain information pertaining to meetings and planned functions. He went on to say that he wanted to have an “Open Door” policy where he would be available and reachable to all brothers by E-mail and telephone.

That month in the Lodge Bulletin there is a listing of candidates awaiting the Degree of Fellowcraft. Three names stand out. They are Bros. Ronald Pufahl Sr., Ronald Pufahl Jr. and Jon Pufahl. The Conferral of Master Mason was done that month.

In the glad tidings’ column, Bro. Phil Chulbi attended the meeting having recovered from his “Sports Injury”

The following month R:.W:. Stephen Kastner delivered a speech on the subject of Masonic Etiquette and Bro. Philip Weiss addressed the Lodge on Arcana’s history.

The Lodge adjourned for the summer and meetings would resume again in September.

During the hiatus, members of the Lodge attended a Golf Outing and a baseball game where the Mets played the Dodgers. If anyone is interested, I could check the stats to find out the score.

The Lodge resumes meetings in the fall. A move is underway to have greater interaction between the Lodges of the Seventh Manhattan District.

The first co-sponsored activity is a Magic and Delight Show. A Magic Show, mind you! The end result was that all of the Seventh Manhattan District disappeared and was never to be heard from again. Just kidding!

Later that year the Lodge Conferred the Third Degree on all qualified Fellowcrafts. Guess who will join the line in 2006 – 2007. That’s right Jon Pufahl.

As in any Lodge, during the course of any year, members of the line, for various reasons, drop out. This year is no exception. In this case a member accepted a position in a different state. The end result was the advancing of two Brothers to the next position. Bro. Anthony Colao Sr. advanced to the position of Senior Master of Ceremonies and Bro. Anthony Colao Jr. to Junior Master of Ceremonies.

More Degree work and Bro. Larry Cantore, is back to the Lodge meetings after re-cooperating from surgery.

In the spring, the Lodge was visited by V:.W:. Charles O. Cowen. The subject of his presentation to the Lodge was the York Rite fundamentals. It was a most interesting evening.

As W:. Bruce Zayde's year in the Master's Chair comes to a close he thanked all who assisted him in his efforts and the experience of being the Master of the Lodge.

As with many previous Masters of the Lodge, he will go on to higher positions in Masonry.

June 2006 – May 2007, a new year and a new Master of the Lodge. The honor is given to V:.W:. Nicholas Panariello.

In his opening address to the Lodge he stressed his theme for the coming year and titled it "The year of rebuilding". He went on to say that there is much work to be done and asked the members of the Lodge for all of their assistance.

The Lodge adjourned for the summer and when they returned to their labors in September were brought up-to-date regarding the events that occurred in July and August.

The Lodge officers that year were:

Worshipful Master: V:.W:. Nicholas Panariello  
Senior Warden: Bro. Guy Caterina  
Junior Warden: Bro. Lawrence Centore  
Treasurer: W:. Vincent Scandole  
Secretary: W:. Seth Zolot

Senior Deacon: Bro. Anthony Colao Sr.  
Junior Deacon: Bro. Anthony Colao Jr.  
Chaplain: R.:W.: Arthur Klansky  
Senior Master of Ceremonies: Bro. Phil Chulbi  
Junior Master of Ceremonies: Bro. Fred Cortese  
Stewards: Bros. Christpoher Coughlan and Jon Pufahl  
and  
Organist: W.: Bruce Zayde

That year there were several By-Laws that were proposed. One had to do with the number of Lodge meetings per month. Should there be one or two meeting per month? Another addressed the problem of members that were in arrears of dues, a third proposal for an increase in dues, per year, from the current amount of \$95.00 to be raised to \$150.00 per year and one that proposed a change of wording from Salaries and Reimbursements for Officers to Reimbursements of Officers.

On the first proposal, the Lodge would continue to have two meetings per month, the second one regarding Lodge members who were in arrears of dues allowed the Brothers to vote for the un-affiliation of said member, the third vote for an increase in dues was not approved, but will be re-addressed later and the fourth proposal on the wording was passed.

In following meetings there was a District Deputy Visitation, “Bring a Friend Night”, Degree rehearsals, Bros. advancing to the next Degree, Awards Night and a discussion pertaining to the continuing dilemma of financial matters and dues increases.

Other events held that year were the Third Annual Charity Gala, Grand Masters Ball, Toys for Tots Charity Ball and the annual Skeet Shoot.

A note in the May Lodge Bulletin congratulates Bro. Phil Weiss upon his retirement from his job with the City of New York.

As has happened through these many years, in all Lodges, the time has arrived when the Masters position is turned over to the next Master of the Lodge.

V.:W.: Nicholas Panariello, the outgoing Master of the Lodge thanked all who assisted him during this difficult year.

June 2007 – May 2008, we enter a new year. In June the Installation of Officers takes place and Master Elect, now W.: Guy Caterina sits in the East.

In his first message to the Lodge, he thanked all for entrusting him with this high honor.

The Lodge closed for the summer. When they returned, they learned of the passing of W.: Krikor Drigan. He was Master of Arcana Lodge in 1984, 1985 and 1987 and was fondly remembered for his dedication to the craft, a mentor and for his very fine ritual work.

In the Glad Tidings Department, R.:W.: Larry Sussman is once again a proud grandpa. His new grandson was born on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

It was noted that in the By-laws of the lodge there was confusion in wording regarding the Ben Chassid and Seymore Schatzberg Funds. Discussions were held, corrected and then voted upon.

Guess what? Remember the re-addressing of the dues question? Well, the dues will increase to \$150.00 starting in 2008.

The Senior Warden, Bro. Anthony Colao Sr. organized an Oktoberfest night. The result was a large turnout in the district and a huge success. Anthony, have you given any thought to going into the catering business?

In December the Lodge conducted a 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree to be followed in March with a 1<sup>st</sup> Degree and a 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree in April. All of the Brothers in the line did very well.

In January the District Deputy Grand Master R.:W.: David Mordo visited our Lodge. Prior to his visit a dinner was held on the 19<sup>th</sup> floor.

The meal was prepared by Bros. Phil Chulbi and John Brienza, both accomplished chefs. I am told the preparation took 3 days. Anthony, you have competition.

Now before anyone corrects me, I know that one of the duties of the Junior Warden is to call the craft from labor to refreshment. Phil Chulbi accomplished that duty admirable.



Among the list of candidates awaiting the Degree of Entered Apprentice is a Mr. Lane Farber, does anyone recognize that name? Does he have a future in the lodge?

In the February and March Lodge Bulletins that year was a brief summary of the practices, breakdowns and differences of the York and Scottish Rites. It was a most interesting read.

Preparations for the Annual Brunch in June are in the works. This year the Brunch will be held at the Long Island Marriott, in Uniondale, L.I. Chef Phil Chulbi is at it again.

As May arrives, so does the yearly ritual of Election Night. The Lodge is prepared for Installation Night. The new officers take their place. Sitting in the East will be Lawrence Centore, now known as W:. Lawrence Centore.

June 2008 – May 2009, W:. Centore, indicted that he had many new and exciting ideas for Arcana and asks for help from the Brothers.

In the Lodge Bulletin went on to say that during the summer break the full schedule for the coming year regarding activities, Degree work and events will be worked out.

It is indeed a busy schedule. In October, Arcana hosted the Formal Presentation of R:.W:. Joseph Bonsignore as District Deputy Grand Master at Russo's on the Bay and V:.W:. Nick Panariello will have a re-presentation ceremony for the Grand Sword Bearer, Grand Lodge of N.Y. The ceremony took place in the Doric Room.

In that same month and the next month, a District Wide 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree ceremony is to take place in the Grand Lodge Room. There are 50 Entered Apprentices divided into two groups awaiting the Degree of Fellowcraft.

About that time, I presented W:. Centore with a complete set of Lodge Bulletins that dated back to the day I was raised. For my part, I was attempting to clean out some files. Little did I know that I would be getting them back within a few months when asked to be the Historian of the Lodge. The wheels of Masonry turn in strange ways.

As 2008 comes to a close, the Lodge conducted a combination Past Masters Night, Awards Night and a Holiday Dinner at El Coyote. Bro. Phil Chulbi did it again.

That same evening petitions were presented for Mr. Andrew Farber, Mr. Eric Immesberger and Mr. Ronney Brown. A committee was assigned to investigate them.

In January, the Conferral of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree was conducted upon several Fellowcrafts. Among those who are now Master Masons is Bro. Lane Farber.

There is more Degree work to be done and that will take place in March.

The next month District Deputy Grand Master R.:W.: Joseph Bonsignore visited Arcana. He orchestrated a Drama of the Hiram Legend which was put on by Dunwoodie Lodge.

How quickly a year goes by. It is Election Night which will be followed, in two weeks, by an Open Installation Night.

W.: Lawrence Centore humbly thanked all who worked so hard during his term as Master and for truly showing him the real meaning of Freemasonry.

June 2009 – May 2010, who is sitting in the East? He decided not to become a caterer after all opting for his elevation to the East. Could it be, yes, with his new title W.: Anthony Colao Sr.

My brothers, this concludes Chapter 5 of the History of Arcana Lodge No. 246. When next I address the Lodge on its history it will be for the years 2009 to 2017. I thank each and every one of you for attending.

## Chapter 6

Jun. 2009 – May 2019

In my last lecture on the History of Arcana Lodge No. 246 it covered the years from January 2000 to June 2008. Tonight's lecture will cover the History of Arcana from June 2009 through 2019.

It is June 2009 and the new Master of the Lodge is W:. Anthony Colao Sr.

Because of the large number of candidates awaiting the Degree of Entered Apprentice and before breaking for the summer the Lodge conducted the 1<sup>st</sup> Degree upon the worthy candidates. This was accomplished by dividing the large group into two smaller groups.

The summer is over and Lodge meetings resume with the good news that Bro. Lane Farber's daughter was married over the summer and Bro. Anthony Colao Jr, the Junior Master of Ceremonies, is getting married. Best wishes abounded from the Lodge Brothers.

It will be a very busy year for there are several Degree nights planned between January and May 2010.

Additionally, there is the 7<sup>th</sup> District Annual Gala, Bring a Friend Night, a Table Lodge Evening, the Grand Lecturer's Convention for the 7<sup>th</sup> District and a Ladies Night.

Many of you seated here this evening are aware of R:.W:., then, Bro. Jon Pufahl's project which is the 7<sup>th</sup> District Masonic Child ID Program. He informs us that the program has been expanded to include special needs children and adults as well as senior citizens. This is a very important program and volunteers are needed to continue this good work.

In March there is "Move up a Chair" night. In the W:. Master's words, "Come and watch our officers stumble through the work as they advance to new chairs". It was good training and turned out to be successful.

As April arrives the Lodge prepares for the homecoming of R:.W:. Joseph Bonsignore. It was been two years since he was appointed 7<sup>th</sup> District Deputy Grand Master. It was a great evening with many Purple Aprons and testimonials to R:.W:. Bonsignore.

On a very happy note, R:.W:. Bonsignore's wife and two daughters will graduate from college in May. He will need another job to pay off all those student loans.

In April, a 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree was Conferred upon worthy candidates. Two of the candidates are Bros. Andrew Farber and Eric Immesberger.

Another year has passed and the cycle repeats itself as elections are held.

W:. Anthony Colao St. will pass the mantle of office to the next Master of the Lodge. In his closing remarks he congratulated the newly raised brothers, noting that four of them had their fathers present, three of whom are members of Arcana. He thanked the line officers and Brothers and all who assisted him. He went on to thank R:.W:. Michael Moriarty for his support, good council and fine ritual work.

June 2010 – May 2011, with the elections completed the line officers advance to the next chair. The new Master of the Lodge is W:. Jon Pufahl and as previous Masters of the Lodge have done, he brings with him some new and fresh ideas.

In his opening remarks to the Lodge, he quoted an old Masonic axiom, "Masonry takes good men and makes them better". How true that is, as Masonry teaches us many values. I speak of a reverence of God, honor, loyalty and brotherhood.

The Lodge officers that year were:

Worshipful Master: W:. Jon Pufahl  
Chaplain: W:. Anthony Colao Sr.  
Senior Warden: Bro. Fred Cortese  
Junior Warden: Bro. Anthony Colao Jr.  
Treasurer: W:. Lawrence Centore  
Secretary: W:. Seth Zolot  
Senior Deacon: Bro. Lane Farber  
Junior Deacon: Bro. Keven Keating  
Senior Master of Ceremonies: Bro. Ron Brown

Junior Master of Ceremonies: Bro. Eric Immesberger  
Stewards: Bros. Andrew Farber and Karl Vasquez  
Marshal and Organist: W:. Bruce Zayde

To start off his year as Master, he emphasized the Masonic ID Program and the future purchase of 4 ID Computers. This will be made possible through the good offices of the 7<sup>th</sup> Manhattan District Association.

After the summer recess the Lodge quickly gets back in gear. In an effort to conserve funds regarding the monthly communications, a proposal is brought before the Lodge that the Lodge should E-mail the Lodge Bulletins to those individuals who have computers. A very good idea indeed!

Bro. Andrew Farber, is hard at work setting up an Arcana web-site where you will be able to access the site by Googling: [ARCANALODGE.COM](http://ARCANALODGE.COM)

The District Deputy Grand Master R:.W:. Bill Sohni delivered a lecture, the subject being, “The Candlelight Charge”.

The Lodge was treated to a lecture by one of our own. Bro. Lane Farber addressed the Lodge on the subject of England’s Masonic History in the early 1700’s.

Although he had been ill for quite some time, in November of that year, the Lodge lost a devoted member. W:. Ed Zwillick went on to the Celestial Lodge. He was raised in Arcana Lodge on November 11, 1986 and served as the Master of the Lodge from 1996 – 1997. A dinner, hosted by the Zwillick family, was held in his honor in January.

The Masonic Safety ID Program has been very successful. To date almost 800 children were provided ID’s. More programs are planned.

In February, Arcana Lodge hosted the Grand Lectures Convention. All Lodges in our district joined us for the convention.

At the next Lodge meeting the 1<sup>st</sup> Degree was Conferred upon 6 new candidates and then warmly welcomed into the Lodge.

In preparations for future Degree work the Grand Lecturer R.:W.: Charles Toombs guided the Brothers through the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree. He has a special way of teaching the Brothers. Among the ruffians are Bros. Lane Farber, Eric Immisburger and Andrew Farber.

More Degree work for the Lodge and a “Reports and Awards” night are scheduled for the spring.

More glad tidings to report when R.:W.: Bruce Zayde is installed as the Grand Sword Bearer for the Seventh Manhattan District and Bro. Lane Farber showed great effort in the 7<sup>th</sup> Districts Ritual Runoff.

As the yearly elections come to a close and the sitting Masters year ends, W.: Jon Pufahl humbly thanked the Lodge members for the strength and support he received for the projects and Degree work over the past year. He, too, will go on to higher stations in Masonry.

June 2011 – May 2012, in his first address to Arcana, W.: Fred Cortese, the new Master of the Lodge, briefly outlined the events for the coming year. They included a Past Masters Night with a Professional Photo Shoot, the Annual Brunch, a Trap Shoot, Golf Outing, Holiday Party and Table Lodge. Mixed in these events will be Degree work. It will be a busy calendar year.

In the fall the Lodge was visited by District Deputy Grand Master R.:W.: Bill Sohni and the Lodge prepared for a Third Degree. W.: Larry Centore, our Treasurer, helped develop a new menu at Limerick’s for the Lodge dinners before meetings. R.:W.: Laurence Sussman was honored by the Seventh District Foundation at the Sixth Annual Gala Awards Presentation Charity Ball for his good work.

As a result of the Grand Lodges increasing our rent and as previously mentioned, the District will, for those of us who have computers, now E-mail the Monthly Bulletins. This is a cost savings measure.

In January, R.:W.: Michael Moriarity was honored as “Mason of the Year” at Verdi’s of Westbury, by the Half Century Club. It was a packed house with over 150 family, friends and Masonic Brothers attending.

In the Glad Tidings Department, Bro. Eric Immesberger, the Lodge's Junior Warden and his wife are the proud parents of a newborn daughter, Kiera Alexis Immesberger. Congratulations to the two of them.

In the spring, Bro Immesberger was busy handling affairs which involved the tragic death of a fellow ATF agent. A benefit fund raiser held at Mulcahy's in Wantagh, Long Island was a huge success which was attended by a capacity crowd.

The following month the Lodge conducted a flawless First Degree upon 4 candidates. Two weeks later Arcana Lodge No. 246 joined with Joseph Warren-Gothic Lodge No. 934 for the homecoming ceremony of District Deputy Grand Master R.:W.: William Sohni. The Lodge Room was overflowing with Purple Aprons, Brothers and their ladies. The accolades were abundant.

In the Sickness and Distress area, our secretary, W.: Seth Zolot undergoes heart surgery. It will take some time for his recovery and turns the secretarial duties over to R.: W.: Jon Pufahl.

The British are coming with a very special evening held in the Grand Lodge Room. It was the English Master Mason Degree conducted by a Special Degree Team. They consisted of several Past Provincial Grand Officers from the United Grand Lodge of England. What a night it was.

The clock and calendar wait for no one. The calendar turns to the month of May and once again it is time for elections. W.: Fred Cortese and the Lodge has had a very busy year. He thanked all who assisted him and now passes the Mantle of his Office over to W.: Lane Farber.

June 2012 – May 2013, in the first Lodge meeting of June our new Master of the Lodge, W.: Lane Farber lays out plans for the coming year, which will include lectures, degree work, events and visitations.

The Lodge breaks for the summer to resume work in the fall.

A lecture given by R.:W.: Bill Sohni on the subject of Masonic Etiquette was very educational and enlightening.

R:.W.: Jon Pufahl will provide the LSOME (Lodge System of Masonic Education) course for those who are interested. This course is designed to give an overall view of each Degree. An example would be for a prospective candidate to have a rough idea of what is expected of him as he enters Masonry.

In addition, these courses he will also continue his work on the Masonic ID program.

Although it had nothing to do with Masonry, Hurricane Sandy and its aftermath affected the Greater Metropolitan area. Almost everyone, in one way or another, was affected by the storm.

In February, the Lodge conducted a Second Degree on Entered Apprentices with Past Masters and Brothers doing fine work. Later that month the next Chapter of Arcana's History was delivered by yours truly.

A big event that is planned will take place on April 17, 2013. The public event will be a dinner and Apron Re-presentation to R:.W.: Bruce Zayde and R:.W.: Jon Pufahl. The aprons are for Office of District Deputy Grand Master and Grand Sword Bearer. The ceremony was held on the 19<sup>th</sup> floor of the Grand Lodge. The list of their Masonic History and many accomplishments is very impressive. The Grand Master of the State of New York, M:.W.: James Sullivan and a large contingent from the Grand Line were in attendance.

June 2013 – May 2014, the election procedure repeats itself and W:. Lane Farber will sit in the East for another year.

Over the summer break, W:. Vincent Scandole took the plunge and was married. Brothers offered best wishes to Vinnie and his bride, Michele.

Bro. Karl Vazquez, our Senior Warden, is busy reaching out to the Brothers for the upcoming Degree work. A Conferral of the First, Second and Third Degrees are planned. Added to his busy schedule, he and his wife are now the proud parents of baby Karl Ruben Vazquez Jr.

R:.W.: Laurence Sussman brought up the idea of the Lodge getting involved with the VA Hospital in the area. The Lodge had a presentation by R:.W.: John Andrades on the work involved. The discussion stressed some "Do's and Don'ts".



R:.W:. Jon Pufahl continues to conduct the Masonic ID Program. There will be two in the upcoming months.

In December Bro. Eric Immesberger delivered a fascinating lecture on ATF Tactics and Procedures. He brought along some of the weapons and equipment used by the ATF. If I were a criminal, I would not fool around with the boys from ATF.

Here are some Masonic History Highlights for you. Did you know that two great explorers, Bros. Bernt Balchen and Admiral Richard E. Byrd each dropped Masonic Flags at the North and South Poles? Did you know that Bro. Leroy Gordon Cooper Jr. on a space orbit mission carried a Masonic Coin and a Masonic Flag in his pocket? He later presented them to his mother Lodge, Carbondale Lodge #82 in Colorado. Did you know that over the city of Paris, France a Brother was initiated in a Hot Air Balloon? Did you know that the magician Harry Houdini and Dr. Norman Vincent Peale were Masons?

In January, under Sickness and Distress, Bro. Phil Chulbi fell and broke his right shoulder which required surgery and rehabilitation. The result being that he was not able to attend several Lodge meetings.

In early spring, Eric Immesberger, the Senior Warden, that year, has been transferred to a new ATF assignment Kansas. We will miss him.

Another joyous event is the 7<sup>th</sup> District Homecoming and Testimonial Dinner honoring R:.W:. Bruce Zayde, District Deputy Grand Master and R:.W:. Jon Pufahl, Grand Sword Bearer.

It is hard to believe that two years have gone by. W:. Lane Farber has sat in the East during that time and did a great job. He, the Line officers and Brothers performed much work which included Degrees and events.

June 2014 – May 2015, elections for the next Master of the Lodge and Officers are completed. Having recuperated from his broken shoulder, the honor of Worshipful Master is given to W:. Phil Chulbi.

In June the Lodge was treated to a lecture by Bro. Dr. Oscar Alleyne, a representative from the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of New York. He went into the history of the original charter from England and the difficulties of the day regarding their recognition. In his lecture he illustrated with great detail how some Lodges broke away but used Masonic words and symbols in their gatherings. These clandestine Lodges are not recognized by the Grand Lodges. Within the past few years, the Grand Lodge of New York State recognized the legality of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of New York and welcomed them warmly. As of this date, several other jurisdictions have also recognized their legality and now have reciprocal agreements.

In this new year, R.:W.: Jon Pufahl steps aside as secretary and W.: Lane Farber will take over the duties of Secretary of the Lodge.

In October, R.:W.: Jon Pufahl, our new District Deputy Grand Master was presented with his Apron of Office and on the same night it was “Bring a Friend Night”. Other lodges of the district joined us for the presentation. R.:W.: Dan Eckman was Master of Ceremonies and R.:W.: Laurence Sussman served as Chaplain.

During the winter the Lodge lost another brother. W.: Charles Betz served the Lodge with great distinction. He was among those who helped in the transition from the 3<sup>rd</sup> District to the 7<sup>th</sup> District. True to his character, he never pushed ideas, but, offered them wisely. He raised his son into Arcana Lodge.

Did I hear someone say “Lightening doesn’t strike twice in the same spot”? Well, they never met Phil Chulbi. February rolls around and it seems that W.: Chulbi fell again and this time he broke his left shoulder. The fall also compressed several vertebrae. More surgery and rehabilitation caused him, for a period of time, to not discharge his duties as Master. In order to continue our Lodge meetings W.: Lane Farber and others filled in for W.: Chulbi.

In February, yours truly delivered the next Chapter of Arcana’s History. The lecture covered the years 1982 to 2000. In that same month the District Deputy Grand Master R.:W.: Jon Pufahl paid an official visit to our Lodge.

The following month, Bros. Stephen Fornatale, Anthony Guerriero, Scott Conroy, William Negus and Michael Albino were raised to the Degree of Master Mason.

R.:W.: Michael Moriarty sat in the East. Scott Conroy will in a short time be the Junior Deacon and Michael Albino will be the Senior Master of Ceremonies.

In subsequent meetings discussions and Reports to the Lodge were brought before the Brothers.

As we approach May, the annual elections are upon us. The results are in and in May, Bro. Andrew Farber is elected to succeed W.: Phil Chulbi. He will now sit in the East as W.: Andrew Farber and joins many Brothers who have preceded him. This is a proud moment, indeed.

June 2015 – May 2016, as the new Master of the Lodge, he is joined by Brothers who have advanced to the next chair and Past Masters who will fill the remaining chairs and positions.

Upon becoming Master of the Lodge, W.: Andrew Farber now joins a select group of Brothers whose fathers, in this case W.: Lane Farber is a Past Master of the Lodge. Here is the line for the 2015 – 2016 year.

Worshipful Master: W.: Andrew Farber  
Chaplain: R.:W.: Laurence Sussman  
Senior Warden: W.: Fred Cortese  
Junior Warden: Bro. Harvey Reibel  
Treasurer: W.: Seth Zolot  
Secretary: W.: Lane Farber  
Senior Deacon: Bro. David Goldstein  
Junior Deacon: Bro. Scott Conroy  
Senior Master of Ceremonies: Bro. Mike Albino  
Junior Master of Ceremonies: Bro. Phil Weiss  
Stewards: TBA  
Marshal: W.: Lawrence Centore  
and  
Organist: R.:W.: Bruce Zayde

This year was a difficult year for several reasons. Several holidays happen to fall on Lodge nights and the continued troubling low attendance affected many of our meetings.

In spite of that several of the Brothers of the Lodge were able to gather for dinners before the meetings and then open the Lodge for the business at hand.

During this past year there were glad tidings and sad tidings. Reports on potential candidates were presented, voted upon and accepted.

The Lodge conducted awards night for Brothers who have been in Masonry for a number of years. Awards were presented to the Brothers for 15, 20, 25, 30 years and so on.

Another happy occasion in our Lodge was the attendance of R:.W:. Felix Rossabi, who was accompanied by his son, Meyer.

The Lodge has candidates on waiting for the 3 degrees and plans are in the works to do Degree work in the coming year.

It never ceases to amaze me just how fast a year goes by. Here it is June of 2016 and we have elected new officers to continue the work of the Lodge. Once again, W:. Fred Cortese will set in the East.

The other chairs were occupied by:

R:.W:. Larry Sussman, Senior Warden  
Bro. Harvey Reibel, Junior Warden  
W:. Lane Farber, Secretary  
W:. Seth Zolot, Treasurer  
Bro. David Goldstein, Senior Deacon  
Bro. Phil Weiss, Junior Deacon  
Bro. Meyer Rossabi, Senior Master of Ceremonies  
W:. Felix Rossabi, Junior Master of Ceremonies  
Bro. Mike Podolsky and Bro. Scott Conroy, Marshals  
and  
R:.W:. Bruce Zayde, Organist

The Brothers meet for dinner at various restaurants before Lodge Meetings. It is a great way to introduce new Brothers to the Lodge.

The Lodge had visitors from other Lodges as well as visitors during “Bring a Friend Night”.

In December the Arcana Lodge and Perfect Square Lodge held a Holiday Party in the French Doric Room. Many of the wives attended.

In February the Seventh District Foundation conducted a Robert Burns Supper. Members of the 5 Lodges of the District were in attendance. There was Scotch and plenty of food for all. The specialty of the evening was Haggis.

During the course of the year the Lodge Conferred the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Degrees upon candidates.

The year is now 2017 and after 49 years in the Craft, Bro. Harvey Reibel will set in the East as Arcana Lodges next Worshipful Master. Henceforth, he will have the title of W.: Harvey Reibel. In accepting this honor his comments were “Setting in the East had been a fleeting thought many years ago. More recently however, I’ve thought much about it. I thank you profusely for all your support and trust. It could not have come to fruition without all of your skilled assistance.” He went on to say, “D.D.’s, R.:W.:’s, W.:’s, my Brothers and guests, our Lodge was formed in early 1852. There have been many Masters of the Lodge since that day. I am very humbled by the Lodge’s trust in me to continue the long tradition of Arcana Lodge No. 246 as the incoming Master of the Lodge. This is truly a great honor you have bestowed upon me. With the assistance of you, the newly elected officers and appointed Brothers of the Lodge it is my wish that the coming year will be a fulfilling and enjoyable one for all. Thank you my Brothers and Guests”.

The chairs and other positions of the Lodge are now filled by:

R.:W.: Lawrence Sussman, Senior Warden  
Bro. David Goldstein, Junior Warden  
W.: Seth Zolot, Secretary  
W.: Andrew Farber, Treasurer  
Bro. Addullah Alawi, Senior Deacon  
Bro. Phillip Weiss, Junior Deacon and Historian  
Bro. Anthony Colao Jr., Senior Master of Ceremonies  
Bro. Myer Rossabi, Junior Master of Ceremonies  
W.: Lawrence Centore, Marshal

Bro. Michael Albano and Bro. Michael Podolski, Stewards  
W.: Fred Cortese, Chaplain  
Bro. Christopher Coughlan  
and  
R.:W.: Bruce Zayde, Organist

During this year, due to rising expenses, there was a vote to increase the yearly dues from \$150.00 to \$205.00 which includes Grand Lodge Dues. The W.:M., Treasurer and Secretary addressed the subject of delinquent dues from Brothers by reaching out to them, Holiday Parties, Business of the Lodge and Lectures. One such lecture was of great interest. It was the subject of Freemasonry in POW Camps during wartime. The lecture was given by the Lodges Junior Deacon and Historian, Bro. Phillip Weiss. As in past years, of most importance was the Degree work conferred on proficient candidates.

A note worth mentioning here was the combination of three Lodges of the District, Arcana Lodge, IMA Lodge and Joseph Warren Gothic Lodge conducting the Raising of Worthy Brothers to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. The three Lodges also combined their efforts for the Drama of the Hiram Legend.

As has happened several times in past years, W.: Harvey Reibel will sit in the East for another year where with the cooperation and assistance of the Brothers he oversaw Degree work and several events including a District Wide Holiday Party.

In 2019, when turning the gavel over to the incoming Master of the Lodge, W.: David Goldstein, W.: Reibel had these words to say to the Lodge, "My Brothers, as I pass the Gavel of Office on to your next Master of the Lodge several things come to mind. First, let me thank one and all for the privilege you have bestowed on me to sit in the East for the past two years. It has been an enormous and profound honor to me for the trust you have given me to guide Arcana Lodge. Second, your support and guidance has helped me to govern the Lodge and was much appreciated. Third, in that time, I have learned much regarding Masonry and, in the coming years, will continue to learn more.

It has been wisely said many times, Masonry takes good men and makes them better. For this and many other thoughts, I thank you."

As the incoming Master of the Lodge, W.: David Goldstein has much on his plate. Our Lodge, as with many others in the New York City and New York State are suffering from declining attendance. There are many reasons for this, however, suffice it to say, there is an ongoing effort to increase the attendance. He will reach out by Lodge Bulletins, scheduled events, phone calls and letters with the hope that it will have a positive result.

The Lodge Officers for 2019 are:

Senior Warden: W.: Anthony Colao, Sr.  
Junior Warden: Bro. Abdullah Alawi  
Secretary: W.: Seth Zolot  
Treasurer: W.: Fred Cortese  
Senior Deacon: R.:W.: Lawrence Sussmen  
Junior Deacon: Bro. Phillip Weiss  
Senior Master of Ceremonies: Anthony Colao, Jr.  
Junior Master of Ceremonies: Bro. Jonathan Zolot  
Stewart: Bro. Jaime Soto  
Stewart: Even Patkannas  
Marshal: W.: Lawrence Centore  
Chaplain: W.: Harvey Reibel  
Organist: R.:W.: Bruce Zayde  
Tiler: Bro. Cristopher Coughlan  
Historian: Bro: Phillip Weiss

In the course of his leadership, he conducted an Awards Night, a Holiday Party at a Russian Restaurant and a Fellowcraft Degree.

2020-2021: Unfortunately, the Pandemic of the century (Covid-19) effected the world. The result was that Lodge Meetings were put on hold from February through the summer of 2020. This effected the advance of worthy Brothers, elections and other events, for the time being.

It was through the guidance of W.: David Goldstein and Bro. Anthony Colao, Jr., that a Zoom session was created during the summer of 2020. This enabled many of the Brothers to visually see and speak to each other on a monthly visit. It was a big success. We even had Brothers join in that we had not heard from in a very long time.

Over the summer the Grand Lodge of the State of New York enacted strict guidelines for the Lodges to open and in September 2020 several Brothers met in the Lodge Room to conduct elections. W.: David Goldstein will sit in the East for another year.

His officers for the year 2020-2021 are:

Senior Warden: W.: Anthony Colao, Sr.  
Junior Warden: Bro. Anthony Colao Jr.  
Secretary: W.: Seth Zolot  
Treasurer: W.: Fred Cortese  
Senior Deacon: R.:W.: Lawrence Sussmen  
Junior Deacon: Bro. Phillip Weiss  
Master of Ceremonies: Bro. Frank Monte  
Junior Master of Ceremonies: Bro. Roberto Antonio Fuentes  
Stewart: Bro. Even Patkanas  
Stewart: Bro Jaime Soto  
Marshal: W.: Lawrence Centore  
Chaplain: W.: Harvey Reibel  
Organist: R.:W.: Bruce Zayde  
Tiler: Bor. Christopher E. Coughlan  
Historian: Bro: Phillip Weiss

2021-2022 For the 4<sup>th</sup> year W.: David Goldstein will grace the East. This is due to a number of reasons. One of which is low attendance. We are not the only Lodge in the District that is affected. The pandemic is the root cause. However, there are several candidates in waiting, so things are looking up. In the planning of this year's calendar the Lodge did manage conduct a First and Second Degree, have several instructional or educational evenings and an "End of the Year (June)" party at a Russian Restaurant. This has been done before, but somehow after the great pandemic, it seemed more fun.

His officers for the year 2021-2022 are:

Senior Warden: Bro. Anthony Colao, Jr.  
Junior Warden: W.: Anthony Colao Sr.  
Secretary: W.: Seth Zolot



Treasurer: W.: Fred Cortese  
Senior Deacon: R.:W.: Lawrence Sussmen  
Junior Deacon: Bro. Phillip Weiss  
Senior Master of Ceremonies: Bro. Frank Monte  
Junior Master of Ceremonies: Bro. Roberto Antonio Fuentes  
Senior Stewart: Bro. Even Patkanas  
Junior Stewart: Bro Jaime Soto  
Marshal: W.: Lawrence Centore  
Chaplain: W.: Harvey Reibel  
Organist: R.:W.: Bruce Zayde  
Tiler: W.: Mark Evens  
Historian: Bro: Phillip Weiss  
Mentor: R.:W.: Lawrence Sussmen  
Mentor: R.:W.: Bruce Zayde  
Mentor: W.: Seth Zolot  
Lodge Brotherhood Fund Chairman: W.: Harvey Reibel  
Trustee: W.: Lawrence Centore  
Trustee: Mergim Bazhdari  
Trustee: Alfonse Lombardo

Seventh District Board Members  
W.: David Goldstein  
W.: Harvey Reibel  
Bro. Arnold Winn

May 2023, W.: David Goldstein has been chosen to sit in the East for another year. This year attendance has improved a bit. The Lodge conducted several events and participated in Degree work with other Lodges of the District. Also, within this year the Seventh Manhattan District and some other Districts held a Third Degree in the Grand Lodge room where 31 candidates were raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. It was an all-day event culminating with a great collation in late afternoon.

Plans are already in motion for our annual (June) night out at Mari Vanna Russian Restaurant.

His officers for the year 2023-2024 are:

Senior Warden: R.:W.: Lawrence Sussmen  
Junior Warden: Aysaac Allen  
Secretary: W.: Seth Zolot  
Treasurer: W.: Fred Cortese  
Senior Deacon: Bro. Phillip Weiss  
Junior Deacon: Bro. Even Patkanas  
Senior Master of Ceremonies: Bro. Frank Monte  
Junior Master of Ceremonies: Bro. Mark Leonforte  
Senior Stewart: Bro. Peter Leonforte  
Junior Stewart: Bro Jaime Soto  
Marshal: Brian Reily  
Chaplain: W.: Harvey Reibel  
Organist: R.:W.: Bruce Zayde  
Tiler: W.: Mark Evans  
Historian: Bro: Phillip Weiss  
Mentor: R.:W.: Lawrence Sussmen  
Mentor: R.:W.: Bruce Zayde  
Mentor: W.: Seth Zolot  
Lodge Brotherhood Fund Chairman: W.: Harvey Reibel  
Trustee: W.: Harvey Reibel  
Trustee: Bro. Mergim Bazhdari  
Trustee: Bro. Steven Greenbaum  
  
Seventh District Board Members  
W.: David Goldstein  
W.: Harvey Reibel

May 2024, Philip Weiss, after many years in the quarry, now has a new title in the Lodge. He is the incoming Master of the Lodge and is now W.: Phillip Weiss. The Past Masters and Brothers all welcome him to the East. In his address to the Lodge, he brought forth several ideas that are planned for the coming year. One such plan is the up-dating of the Lodge By-Laws. Another is to reach out to the Brothers that have not paid their yearly dues for several years and try to bring them back to Lodge attendance. Also planned are several Degree nights and lastly to have a more active recruitment effort. Many of his plans were fruitful.

His officers for the year 2024-2025 are:

Senior Warden: Bro. Aysaac Allen  
Junior Warden: R.:W.: Harvey Reibel  
Secretary: W.: Seth Zolot  
Treasurer: W.: Dave Goldstein  
Senior Deacon: R.:W.: Lawrence Sussman  
Junior Deacon: Bro. Mark Leonforte  
Senior Master of Ceremonies: Bro. Peter Leonforte  
Junior Master of Ceremonies: Bro. Brian Reilly  
Senior Stewart: W.: Anthony Colao Sr.  
Junior Stewart: Bro. Anthony Colao Jr.  
Marshal: Bro. Even Patkanas  
Chaplain: W.: Dave Goldstein  
Organist: R.:W.: Bruce Zayde  
Tiler: W.: Mark Evans  
Historian: W.: Phillip Weiss  
Mentor: R.:W.: Lawrence Sussmen  
Mentor: R.:W.: Bruce Zayde  
Mentor: W.: Seth Zolot

Lodge Brotherhood Fund Chairman: R.:W.: Harvey Reibel  
Trustee: R.:W.: Harvey Reibel  
Trustee: Bro. Mergim Bazhdari  
Trustee: Bro. Steven Greenbaum

Seventh District Board Members  
W.: David Goldstein  
R.:W.: Harvey Reibel

The history of our Lodge does not end here. With the Great Architect to guide us  
Arcana Lodge No. 246 will continue to thrive.

TO BE CONTINUED

## Chapter 7

### EPILOG

These series of lectures were given over a period of years. My goal was to bring the history of our Lodge to you, my Brothers, to fondly remember and bring a smile or two to the many who participated in and witnessed the events of those years.

My Brothers, our Lodge has come a long way. The original 9 Brothers who applied for a charter in 1852 could not have dreamed that Arcana Lodge would still be active, today. I know that there are Lodges with longer histories, but, how many of them still have their original name?

All Masonic Lodges here and elsewhere over the years have experienced their ups, downs, times of joy, times of sorrow, times of war and times of peace.

So here we are in Arcana's long history. Our Lodge has, for these many years, grown, conferred upon qualified candidates the 3 Degrees, contributed to charitable causes, aided sick and distressed worthy Brothers and widows, enjoyed visitations from the highest levels of Masonry, conducted social events, had their share of Brothers who have "Traveled upon the Level of Time to that undiscovered country, from whose bourne no traveler returns". Most importantly let us not forget the brotherhood and fellowship that Masonry teaches us.

It is up to our Past, Present and future Masters of the Lodge, its Officers, Brothers and future candidates to carry on the Masonic work that we have enjoyed these many years. Yes, Arcana's History is not over. What it has is a bright future before it. To paraphrase the words of Spock, the Vulcan character on Star Trek, "May Arcana live long and prosper".

R.:W.: Harvey Reibel

## Chapter 8

**MASTERS OF ARCANA LODGE No. 246**

1852	W.: Charles H. Peck	1853	W.: William A. Stafford
1854	W.: Nelson C. Gridley	1855	W.: Philip Pritchard
1856	W.: William A. Stafford	1857	W.: James A Morehouse
1858	W.: Philip Pritchard	1859	W.: Philip Pritchard
1860	W.: J. C. B. Yuille	1861	W.: John Philips
1862	W.: John Philips	1863	W.: Danial W. Leeds
1864	W.: Richard H. Cooke	1865	W.: William A. Stafford
1866	W.: Lewis A Osborn	1867	W.: Joseph E. Banks
1868	W.: Joseph E. Banks	1869	W.: C. Deforest Burns
1870	W.: C. Deforest Burns	1871	W.: C. Deforest Burns
1872	W.: Lewis J. Belloni, Jr.	1873	W.: Lewis J. Belloni, Jr.
1874	W.: Lewis J. Belloni, Jr.	1875	W.: Lewis J. Belloni, Jr.
1876	W.: George Tuttle	1877	W.: C. Deforest Burns
1878	W.: George Tuttle	1879	W.: Eustance W. Fisher
1880	W.: Walter P. Montague	1881	W.: Richard P. Philips
1882	W.: Walter P. Montague	1883	W.: Elbert W. Brown
1884	W.: Elbert W. Brown	1885	W.: Joseph E. Banks
1886	W.: Isaac Van Benschoten	1887	W.: Isaac Van Benschoten
1888	W.: William A. Glover	1889	W.: William A. Glover
1890	W.: William A. Glover	1891	W.: William A. Glover
1892	W.: John T. Logan	1893	W.: John T. Logan
1894	W.: John T. Logan	1895	W.: George H. Smith
1896	W.: George H. Smith	1897	W.: John T. Logan
1898	W.: John T. Logan	1899	W.: John T. Logan
1900	R.:W.: James A. Kelly	1901	R.:W.: James A. Kelly
1902	R.:W.: Charles Schenck	1903	R.:W.: Charles Schenck
1904	W.: Charles H. Palmer	1905	W.: Felix A. Wiener
1906	W.: Charles H. Palmer	1907	W.: Louis J. Rosette
1908	W.: Louis J. Rosette	1909	W.: Joseph C. Sichel
1910	R.:W.: Asher Meyerj	1911	R.:W.: William T. Gieselberg
1912	W.: Arthur M. Allan	1913	W.: L. M. J Weining
1914	W.: George W. Preece	1915	W.: Oscar J. Bubasek
1916	W.: Ameen Shibley	1917	R.:W.: Joseph E. Lauber
1918	W.: Max Herzka	1919	W.: Walter A. Fribourg
1920	W.: Jacob H. Frank	1921	W.: Sol B. Schatzberg
1922	R.:W.: Ernest Liens	1923	R.:W.: John E. Meyer
1924	W.: Bernard Schwed	1925	R.:W.: Abraham E. Hyman
1926	W.: Adolph G. Osterle	1927	W.: Jacob O. Solow
1928	W.: Samuel W. Philips	1929	W.: Abraham Solomon
1930	W.: Charles S. M. First	1931	W.: Henry Weber
1932	W.: Sylvan B. Kraus	1933	R.:W.: George D. Preece
1934	W.: Benjamin E. Mandel	1935	R.:W.: Oscar Yaeger
1936	W.: Irving G. Bodner	1937	W.: E. Sidney Hyman

1938	W.: Benjamin Kurzrok	1939	W.: Samuel Magid
1940	R.: W.: Samuel A. Segal	1941	W.: Alfred H. Bishara
1942	W.: Theodore F. Gieselberg	1943	W.: Barney Steinberg
1944	W.: Benjamin Chassid	1945	W.: Harry G. Chadell
1946	W.: Sol S. Schatzberg	1947	W.: Emanuel Targum
1948	W.: Gorge M. Weiner	1949	W.: Michael J. Woolf
1950	W.: Norbert J. Kopins	1951	W.: Irwin M. Levy
1952	W.: Mac Rauch	1953	W.: Milton Kern
1954	R.: W.: George Tanz	1955	W.: Sam Weiss
1956	W.: Philip Tanz	1957	W.: Morton Pearl
1958	W.: Samuel M. Price	1959	W.: Philip Margolin
1960	W.: Leo Schatzberg	1961	W.: Peter A. Leonforte
1962	W.: Marvin Kerr	1963	W.: Al Renner
1964	W.: Stanley Aronowitz	1965	W.: Julius Levere
1966	W.: Victor Payne	1967	W.: Ed Santer
1968	W.: Jerry Verringia	1969	W.: Melvin Cohen
1970	W.: Lester Feinstein	1971	W.: Irving Schoichet
1972	W.: Stanly Stein	1973	W.: Arnold Gray
1974	W.: Charles Babitt	1975	W.: A. Brent Blacksbury
1976	W.: Seymour Cohen	1977	W.: Harvey Klein
1978	W.: Harvey Klein	1979	W.: Edward Kohut
1980	W.: Jay Austin	1981	W.: Laurence Austin
1982	W.: Julius Levere	1983	W.: Jay Austin
1984	W.: Krikor Drigian	1985	W.: Krikor Drigian
1986	W.: Arthur Klansky	1987	W.: Andrei Kulyk
1988	W.: Andrei Kulyk	1989	W.: Jerome Siskin
1990	W.: Krikor Drigian	1991	W.: Andrei Kulyk
1992	W.: Julius Levere	1993	W.: Arthur Klansky
1993-1994	W.: Carlos Rausch	1994-1995	W.: Robert Philips
1995-1996	W.: Charles Betz	1996-1997	W.: Edward Zwillick
1997-1998	W.: Stephen Kastner	1998-1999	W.: Robert Schor
1999-2000	W.: Seth Zolot / R.: W.: Myer Rossabi	2000-2001	R.: W.: Myer Rossabi
2001-2002	W.: Victor Amodeo	2002-2003	W.: Joseph Bonsignore
2003-2004	W.: Vincent Scandole	2004-2005	W.: Joseph Petruskas
2005-2006	W.: Bruce Zayde	2006-2007	V.: W.: Nicholas Panariello
2007-2008	W.: Guy Caterina	2008-2009	W.: Lawrence Centore
2009-2010	W.: Anthony Colao Sr.	2010-2011	W.: Jon Pufahl
2011-2012	W.: Fred Cortese	2012-2013	W.: Lane Farber
2013-2014	W.: Lane Farber	2014-2015	W.: Phil Chulbi
2015-2016	W.: Andrew Farber	2016-2017	W.: Fred Cortese
2017-2018	W.: Harvey Reibel	2018-2019	W.: Harvey Reibel
2019-2020	W.: David Goldstein	2020-2021	W.: David Goldstein
2021-2022	W.: David Goldstein	2022-2023	W.: David Goldstein
2023-2024	W.: David Goldstein	2024-2025	W.: Phillip Weiss
2025-2026		2026-2027	

