



Suffolk Lodge No. 60 AF&AM

GOING FORWARD

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FROM THE EAST

Submitted by W:.Gary Gudzik

Brothers,

This is the first issue of Going Forward since February, but that does not mean your Lodge has not been hard at work in the quarries of Masonry. In fact, we have been very busy. We had an outstanding set of degrees in the spring under W:. Intardonato's leadership, and in June, the new line of officers took their chairs and hit the ground running. I presented a lecture (in full cowboy costume) entitled Freemasonry in the Old West: Builders on the Frontier at our first meeting, then we held a lively Table Lodge before the Lodge went dark for the summer.

Several social nights were held through the summer months, and when we re-opened in September, we held our Annual Meeting. The Trustees' list of accomplishments over the last year is impressive, and just goes to prove what a few dedicated Brothers can do when we pool our time, treasure, and talent for the betterment of the Lodge. A copy of their report is included in this issue of Going Forward.

FROM THE EAST

Submitted by W:.Gary Gudzik, DSA

Our second meeting in September featured a new format for collation. We set up tables in the Lodge Sanctuary, and opened the meeting in due form. After a brief business meeting, we called the Lodge from Labor to Refreshment and shared a delicious meal in the Lodge room as I presented a lecture entitled The Wages of a Mason: Corn, Wine, Oil and More, which was followed by an excellent discussion before we were called to Labor again and closed the meeting in due form. We intend on refining and improving this format for at least one of our meetings each month. Breaking bread together as we listen, discuss, and learn promotes the unity and camaraderie so important in our Craft.

I encourage you to join us at an upcoming meeting, or stop by for a social night. If you are interested in presenting a paper or lecture or leading a discussion of Masonic interest at one of our Lodges of Table Discussion, please contact me and we'll work out a mutually

FROM THE EAST

Submitted by W:. Gary Gudzik, DSA

convenient date. I am excited to announce that R:.W:. Jeffrey G. Santorello will be presenting a lecture from the Robert R. Livingston Memorial Library (of which he is a Trustee) on November 20. We are all looking forward to this lecture, which promises to contain interesting facts about the history of Suffolk Lodge No. 60.

I thank you for the confidence you've placed in me as your Worshipful Master, and I look forward to the upcoming Masonic year with great anticipation as we work together conferring the three Degrees of Masonry and improving our minds with knowledge and enlightenment.

Fraternally yours,

W:. Gary D. Gudzik, DSA

THE WAGES OF A MASON: CORN, WINE, OIL, AND MORE.

W.: Gary Gudzik, DSA



Presented to Suffolk Lodge No. 60, F&AM

September 18, 2025

By W.: Gary D. Gudzik DSA

Tonight I wish to share some thoughts with you on the subject of wages. When most people hear the word wages, they think of money — a paycheck, a salary, or perhaps a pension. Yet the history of wages is far richer than that, stretching back thousands of years and telling us much about how mankind has valued labor, skill, and dignity.

And in Freemasonry, wages take on a deeper meaning. For we are taught that the true wages of a Mason are not silver or gold, but something higher — rewards of the spirit, represented in the symbolic wages of corn, wine, and oil.

Let us trace both the history of wages, and their meaning in our Craft.

THE WAGES OF A MASON: CORN, WINE, OIL, AND MORE.

W.: Gary Gudzik DSA

Ancient Wages: Sustenance and Survival

In the earliest days, before the invention of money, wages were paid in kind. A man's work was rewarded with food, clothing, and shelter.

In ancient Egypt, those who labored on the great monuments were given rations of bread, beer, and onions. Archaeology shows they were not slaves, but paid laborers — compensated in sustenance for their families.

In Mesopotamia, workers of the temples received grain, dates, and oil as their hire. Their daily "paycheck" was a portion of what sustained life itself.

Brethren, here we see the first truth about wages: that labor deserves recognition, and sustenance must follow work. The laborer was not expected to work without reward — for as Scripture reminds us, "the laborer is worthy of his hire."

THE WAGES OF A MASON: CORN, WINE, OIL, AND MORE.

W:. Gary Gudzik DSA

Classical and Medieval Wages: Coin and Craft

With the rise of coinage, wages became more standardized. Roman legionaries received stipendia, from which our word stipend derives.

The notion that Roman soldiers were paid in salt is a persistent myth, not a historical fact. While the word "salary" does come from the Latin salarium, meaning "stipend" or "money allowance," which is related to the Latin word for salt (sal), it's believed to be an "allowance for salt" rather than direct payment in salt. Soldiers were paid in Roman coins, though salt was a valuable commodity for food preservation, and later in the Roman Empire, soldiers might have received a portion of their payment in goods, including salt, but this was not the primary form of their compensation.

The phrase "worth his salt" stems from this myth. Someone who is "worth their salt" is considered a valuable, deserving, and competent member of a team or group, earning the respect and compensation they receive.

THE WAGES OF A MASON: CORN, WINE, OIL, AND MORE.

W.: Gary Gudzik DSA

Classical and Medieval Wages: Coin and Craft (continued)

Craftsmen, artisans, and builders received daily pay in coin — a system that spread across the Mediterranean world.

But it is in the Middle Ages that the wages most relevant to Masonry take shape.

Within the great guilds, wages were determined by rank. Apprentices often received no pay at all, except food and lodging, while they learned their trade. Journeymen — so named because they traveled from place to place — received daily wages in coin, enough to sustain themselves. Masters earned shares of the profits of a completed project.

And so, brethren, wages were not only about money. They marked progress in skill and recognition within the Craft.

Does that sound familiar? Apprentice, Journeyman, and Master? It is this very system that Freemasonry has adopted as its symbolic journey, reminding us that each stage of life and labor brings with it its own form of wages.

THE WAGES OF A MASON: CORN, WINE, OIL, AND MORE.

W.: Gary Gudzik DSA

Early Modern Wages: Proof and Trust

As feudalism declined, men became free to sell their labor for coin. No longer bound to the land, they could travel where work was available.

For operative masons, this meant that a journeyman might appear in a new town, seeking wages for his work. But how could the masters know he was truly skilled? How could they be sure he was not an impostor?

And so, lodges of masons developed secret words, signs, and marks — tokens of recognition to ensure that only a true and skilled craftsman could receive his wages.

Brethren, here lies the root of our own traditions. Just as operative masons proved their work before receiving wages, so must speculative Masons prove themselves — in knowledge, in character, in faithfulness — before receiving the wages of the Craft.

THE WAGES OF A MASON: CORN, WINE, OIL, AND MORE.

W:. Gary Gudzik DSA

The Industrial Age: Wages and Dignity

The Industrial Revolution brought profound change. No longer did men work as small craftsmen, but as laborers in vast factories.

Wages were standardized — a daily or weekly rate. Yet the question quickly arose: what is fair pay?

Was it enough simply to survive, or should a man's wages allow him to live with dignity? Thus began the ongoing debates about minimum wage, fair pay, and the value of labor in an age of machines.

Brethren, the question is still with us today. Even in our time, society wrestles with how to value labor. But Masonry offers a reminder — that the true wages of a man cannot be measured merely in dollars and cents.

THE WAGES OF A MASON: CORN, WINE, OIL, AND MORE.

W.: Gary Gudzik DSA

The Symbolic Wages of a Mason

And now we arrive at the heart of the matter: the symbolic wages of a Mason.

In the Fellowcraft degree, we are taught that the wages of a Mason are *corn, wine, and oil*. Let us pause to consider their meaning.

Corn, or Grain

Corn is the staff of life, the symbol of nourishment and plenty. It represents the fruits of our labor, the harvest of our industry. In a Masonic sense, it reminds us of the blessings of sustenance — not only food for the body, but also knowledge and truth for the mind and soul.

When we earn our wages in corn, we are reminded to share our abundance. As Masons, we are charged to relieve the distressed, feed the hungry, and support those in need. Corn is therefore the symbol of *charity and abundance*.

THE WAGES OF A MASON: CORN, WINE, OIL, AND MORE.

W:. Gary Gudzik DSA

The Symbolic Wages of a Mason (continued)

Wine

Wine has, from the earliest times, been the emblem of joy and refreshment. In Scripture, wine makes glad the heart of man. In Masonry, wine symbolizes the refreshment of brotherhood — the joy we feel when united in harmony.

When brethren meet in unity, when the lodge is filled with peace and good will, then we taste the wine of refreshment. It is not an earthly vintage, but the gladness of friendship, the refreshment of a clear conscience, the joy of shared labor well done.

Wine is therefore the symbol of *joy and harmony*.

Oil

Oil in the ancient world was precious and sacred. It was used to anoint kings and priests, to heal the sick, to consecrate temples. Oil smooths, heals, and sanctifies.

THE WAGES OF A MASON: CORN, WINE, OIL, AND MORE.

W.: Gary Gudzik DSA

The Symbolic Wages of a Mason (continued)

In Masonry, oil reminds us of peace, concord, and brotherly love. Just as oil calms the stormy sea, so brotherly kindness calms the strife of men. Oil teaches us to forgive injuries, to bind up the wounds of others, and to consecrate our lives to service.

Oil is therefore the symbol of *peace and consecration*.

Brethren, consider how fitting these wages are. For what more could a man desire than sustenance, joy, and peace? What greater wages could life bestow than charity, harmony, and love?



THE WAGES OF A MASON: CORN, WINE, OIL, AND MORE.

W:. Gary Gudzik DSA

Conclusion

The history of wages is the history of humanity itself — from bread and beer in Egypt, to the coins of Rome, to the symbolic wages we receive as speculative Masons.

The world measures wages in money. But Masonry teaches us to measure wages in something higher — in corn, wine, and oil.

Corn, to nourish both body and soul.

Wine, to gladden the heart in unity.

Oil, to consecrate our labors in brotherly love.

Brethren, let us then labor faithfully, not for the wages of silver or gold, but for the true wages of a Mason. And when at last our labors are ended, may we be found worthy to receive the wages prepared for us by the Great Architect of the Universe — wages not of this world, but of life everlasting.

THE ENDURING VALUE OF FREEMASONRY

Bro. Duy Nguyễn

How It Shapes Men into Better Versions of Themselves



For centuries, Freemasonry has stood as one of the world's oldest and most enduring fraternal organizations. With roots tracing back to medieval stonemasons' guilds, it has evolved into a global brotherhood that focuses on personal growth, moral integrity, and the betterment of society. But beyond the mystique, symbols, and rituals, Freemasonry's true power lies in its transformative impact on the individual man.

THE ENDURING VALUE OF FREEMASONRY

Bro. Duy Nguyễn

How It Shapes Men into Better Versions of Themselves (continued)

A Moral and Ethical Framework

At its core, Freemasonry is a system of morality, veiled in allegory and taught through symbolic ritual. It offers men a structured path to reflect on their own character, ethics, and responsibilities. In an age where moral relativism can cloud personal direction, Freemasonry reminds men of the enduring values of honesty, integrity, humility, and justice.

Bro. Shaheed Raheem, Bro. Harrison Gudzik and W. Bro. Christopher Connolly took to the skies again this summer.



THE ENDURING VALUE OF FREEMASONRY

Bro. Duy Nguyễn

How It Shapes Men into Better Versions of Themselves (continued)

By participating in its teachings and rituals, a Mason is encouraged to examine himself, correct his flaws, and strive to live a life guided by virtue — not just in private, but publicly as a son, husband, father, friend, and citizen.

A Path of Self-Improvement

Freemasonry challenges men to pursue continuous self-improvement — intellectually, spiritually, and emotionally. It is not a religion, but it demands a belief in a Supreme Being and fosters spiritual reflection. Through mentorship, shared experiences, and thoughtful dialogue within the lodge, Masons develop wisdom, patience, and the capacity for deeper understanding.

In an era of instant gratification and superficial achievement, Freemasonry offers a disciplined, lifetime journey of self-mastery and growth.

THE ENDURING VALUE OF FREEMASONRY

Bro. Duy Nguyễn

How It Shapes Men into Better Versions of Themselves (continued)

Building Brotherhood and Fellowship

One of Freemasonry's greatest strengths is the bond it fosters between men of diverse backgrounds. Race, religion, political affiliation, and social status are irrelevant within the lodge. This unity in diversity teaches tolerance, respect, and empathy — qualities often lacking in polarized societies.



W. Bro. Tom Pace, Bro. Harrison Gudzik, W. Bro. Gary Gudzik, DSA and W. Bro. Chris Connolly enjoyed a good ole fashioned campfire with some specialty camp grub this summer at Bro. Pace's upstate retreat.

THE ENDURING VALUE OF FREEMASONRY

Bro. Duy Nguyễn

How It Shapes Men into Better Versions of Themselves (continued)

The fraternity offers men a trusted circle of brothers committed to mutual support, whether through life's triumphs or its trials. This sense of belonging and shared responsibility can be profoundly enriching and stabilizing for a man.

Cultivating Leadership and Service

Freemasonry promotes leadership not through titles or power, but through service to others. Masons are taught that leadership is rooted in humility, listening, and acting with integrity. Within the

THE ENDURING VALUE OF FREEMASONRY

Bro. Duy Nguyễn

How It Shapes Men into Better Versions of Themselves (continued)

lodge, men take on roles that develop public speaking, organizational management, and mediation skills — abilities that translate into better performance in family life, the workplace, and community involvement.

Moreover, Freemasons are deeply involved in philanthropy and charitable works, from supporting education to funding healthcare initiatives. This commitment to service nurtures a man's sense of purpose and civic duty.

A Timeless Guide for Modern Men

In a world where many men feel disconnected, lacking mentorship, or searching for meaning beyond material success, Freemasonry offers a compass. It doesn't promise perfection, but it provides a brotherhood, a moral framework, and a path to becoming a better version of oneself.

THE ENDURING VALUE OF FREEMASONRY

Bro. Duy Nguyễn

How It Shapes Men into Better Versions of Themselves (continued)

Ultimately, the importance of Freemasonry is not in the secrecy of its rites, but in its power to instill timeless values, encourage self-reflection, foster brotherhood, and inspire men to live lives of honor, service, and wisdom.

As the Senior Warden of this new year, I plan to reach out to each Brother of this Lodge near and far. I hope to speak with you soon.

Kindest Regards,

Bro. Duy Nguyen

HARMONY IN THE LODGE: A TIMELESS PRINCIPLE

W.: Jason Intardonato

One of the enduring beauties of Freemasonry is its ability to gather men of every walk of life and unite them in common purpose. From its earliest days, the Craft has taught that all men meet upon the Level, act upon the Plumb, and part upon the Square. These lessons remind us that wealth, rank, or station do not define a Mason—character and brotherly love do.

What strengthens our fraternity is the variety of experiences, backgrounds, and perspectives each Brother brings. When a merchant, a teacher, a craftsman, and a physician sit together in Lodge, their differences enrich the whole, allowing wisdom to be drawn from many wells. This variety has always been one of Masonry's greatest sources of strength.

In our ritual and practice, advancement is never given by favoritism or privilege. Every Brother progresses by the same path, tested by his own labor, reflection, and dedication. This ensures that each Mason, regardless of circumstance, is offered the same opportunity to grow in light.

HARMONY IN THE LODGE: A TIMELESS PRINCIPLE

W.: Jason Intardonato

Most importantly, in the tiled Lodge no man is a stranger once he has taken his obligations. The hand of friendship extends equally to all who enter in good faith, and every Brother is assured that he will not be left to stand alone.

In a world often divided by differences, Freemasonry quietly demonstrates another way: men of varied beliefs, cultures, and stations working together in unity, guided by the principles of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. What some today describe in new terms is, in truth, what Masonry has quietly practiced for centuries.



OPERATIVE MASON SPOTTED!

Bro. Russell Galati was hard at work this summer helping to improve our Temple.

Trustee Report 6/6/24 – 6/5/25

Sufflok Lodge #60

9/4/25

- Negotiated a better rate for garbage pickup.
- Lighting and Switches: Replaced lighting and switches in the Temple loft, stairwell, kitchen, and collation room with LED bulbs and fixtures to enhance enjoyment and improve energy efficiency.
- Air Conditioning: Installed new air conditioning units in the Temple to increase comfort during Lodge events, enabling greater use of the space during warmer months and mitigating issues caused by humidity.
- Keyboard Removal: Removed the unused keyboard from the Temple to increase available space and improve functionality.
- Stairwell Repair: Repaired the broken step at the bottom of the stairwell to ensure safety for all individuals accessing the area.
- Door Improvements: Replaced the weather strip and door stop at the side Temple door to improve security and create a more weather-tight seal.
- Preparation Room Storage: Installed shelving in the preparation room to provide out-of-reach storage and optimize organization.
- Stairwell Renovation: Removed old shelves and resurfaced the ceiling in the stairwell; installed wainscot to enhance visual appeal. (Still underway.)
- Security Cameras: Installed security cameras around the building to increase safety and provide monitoring capabilities.
- Grounds Maintenance: Cleared the grounds of debris to improve safety and the visual appearance of the property.
- Fire Suppression System: Installed a new fire suppression system in full compliance with code requirements.
- Kitchen Upgrades: Had the stove professionally cleaned and upgraded the surrounding electrical systems in accordance with code regulations.
- Safety Inspections: Maintained ongoing efforts to ensure all safety inspections are up to date.

Trustees: W:. Gary Gudzik, W:. Tom Pace, W:. Nick Montanino

Major Contributors: W:. Jay Intardonato, Bro. Russel Galati, Bro. Fred Intardonato

TRESTLE BOARD

Stated Communication — Thursday, October 02, 2025 — 07:30 PM - 09:00 PM. Lecture: Yom Kippur - A Masonic View

Social Night — Thursday, October 09, 2025 — 07:30 PM - 09:00 PM.

Stated Communication — Thursday, October 16, 2025 — 07:30 PM - 09:00 PM. Table Discussion: Geometry and Freemasonry

Social Night — Thursday, October 23, 2025 — 07:30 PM - 09:00 PM.

**Social Night — Thursday, October 30, 2025 — 07:30 PM - 09:00 PM.
Family Halloween Costume Party**

Summoned Communication — Thursday, November 06, 2025 — 07:30 PM - 09:00 PM. Official Visit of the District Deputy Grand Master

Social Night — Thursday, November 13, 2025 — 07:30 PM - 09:00 PM.

Stated Communication — Thursday, November 20, 2025 — 07:30 PM - 09:00 PM. Table Discussion Lead by R.W.: Jeffrey Santorello

No Social Night - Thanksgiving — Thursday, November 27, 2025

**Work Party — Sunday, November 30, 2025 — 07:30 PM - 09:00 PM.
Holiday Decorating & Dickens Festival Setup**

**Work Party — Monday, December 01, 2025 — 07:30 PM - 09:00 PM.
Holiday Decorating & Dickens Festival Setup**

Stated Communication — Thursday, December 04, 2025 — 07:30 PM - 09:00 PM.

TRESTLE BOARD

**Dickens Festival — Saturday, December 06, 2025 — 07:30 PM - 09:00 PM.
Dress Code: Business**

**Dickens Festival — Sunday, December 07, 2025 — 07:30 PM - 09:00 PM.
Dress Code: Business**

**Social Night — Thursday, December 11, 2025 — 07:30 PM - 09:00 PM. FC
Rehearsal**

**Family Holiday Dinner — Saturday, December 13, 2025 — 07:30 PM -
09:00 PM.**

**Summoned Communication — Thursday, December 18, 2025 — 07:30 PM
- 09:00 PM. St. John's Day Festive Board / Brother Bring a Friend**

Christmas — Thursday, December 25, 2025 — No Social Night



Masonic Tombstone photographed by W:. Bro. Jason
Intardonato in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada this summer.

SUFFOLK LODGE OFFICERS 2025-2026

Office	Name	Email
Master	W:. Gary Gudzik	gary.gudzik@suffolk60.com
Sr. Warden	Bro. Duy Nguyễn	duy@suffolk60.com
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Secretary	W:. Jason Intardonato	jasoni@suffolk60.com
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Trustee	W:. Philip Lunarola	philip.lunarola@suffolk60.com
Chaplain	W:. Christopher Connolly	copodet@aol.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN 2024-2025

Office	Name	Email
Northstar	W:. Jason Intardonato	philip.lunarola@suffolk60.com
Temple Beautification	W:. Thomas Pace	thomas.pace@suffolk60.com
Finance	Bro. Alfred Intardonato	fred@intardonato.com
Audit	W:. Gary Gudzik, DSA	gary.gudzik@suffolk60.com
Ritual	W:. Gary Gudzik, DSA	gary.gudzik@suffolk60.com
Communications	W:. Jason Intardonato	jasoni@suffolk60.com
By-laws	W:. Christopher Connolly	copodet@aol.com
Special Events	Bro. Gilbert Quiles	gilbertquiles@gmail.com

Suffolk Lodge No. 60 AF&AM

SUFFOLK MASONIC DISTRICT TEAM

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District Deputy Grand Master	R.: W.: Robert J. Licata	ddgm@suffolkmasons.com
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Asst. Grand Lecturer	V.: W.: Bruce A. T. Siska	batsaia@optonline.com
Asst. Grand Lecturer	V.: W.: Jeremiah Campbell	miah1221@gmail.com
Asst. Grand Lecturer	V.: W.: Stuart H Smith	ssmith3300@aol.com
Grand Chaplain	R.: W.: Timothy J. TenClay	teejtc@gmail.com
District Advisor	R.: W.: William McCauley	masonknight@msn.com

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

DUES

2026 DUES NOTICES ARE GOING OUT!

Brothers, your lodge depends upon timely remittance of dues to operate and maintain our beautiful temple, which is our sanctuary. Please pay your dues on time or better yet, in advance. Dues can be paid by check, cash or credit.

Please contact the secretary or WM if you are having trouble paying your dues. secretary@suffolk60.com or jasoni@suffolk60.com

Regular Member Dues: \$400/year

35 Year Member Dues: \$220/year

Please make checks payable to:

Suffolk Lodge No. 60 F&AM

and remit to:

Suffolk Lodge No. 60 F&AM

312 Main St.

Port Jefferson, NY 11777

To pay by credit or debit card you may either pay at the bar register at the temple or pay online by going to: <https://store.suffolk60.com>

Credit transactions incur a service charge.

You can also Zelle payment to treasurer@suffolk60.com

ONLINE RESOURCES

SUFFOLK60 WEBSITE

<https://www.suffolk60.com>

SUFFOLK 60 FACEBOOK (PUBLIC)

<https://www.facebook.com/Suffolk60/>

SUFFOLK MASONIC DISTRICT WEBSITE

<https://suffolkmasons.com>

SUFFOLK MASONIC DISTRICT BAND

<https://band.us/band/70497133>

The **Going Forward** Newsletter was developed by W.:. Frank Miranda and is currently edited by W.:. Jason Intardonato, Secretary and Past Master of Suffolk Lodge No. 60 AF&AM. Please submit any questions, corrections, announcements, or other suggested content to jasoni@suffolk60.com.