

An *entablature* refers to the superstructure of moldings and bands which lie horizontally above columns, resting on their capitals.

**HAVE YOU WONDERED** why the Junior Warden reports that it is his duty to "observe the sun at its meridian height"? Well, as we all know, it's so that he can call the Craft from labor to refreshment at noon. How does he know when the sun is at its meridian height? He can't just eyeball it. He needs to know exactly when noon occurs. As Masons, we need to know how to find true north—just in case it's cloudy or the sun dial is broken. It's a pretty simple operation, but far too many Masons don't know how it's done, especially some Junior Wardens. It can be determined by the use of just two of our working tools: the 24-inch gauge and the compasses. One observes the sun as it first rises in the east and then as it sets in the west. The 24-inch gauge placed between these points. Then you swing two arcs with your trusty compasses from points equidistant from your observation point so that the two arcs intersect, draw a line between the two points of intersection, and you have a true north-south line.



Dr. Kirsten Jacobson

On the fourth of February, 2012, the Annual Celebration of the Liberal Arts and Sciences was held at Meridian Splendor Lodge in Newport.

This celebration, sponsored and arranged by the

Maine Masonic College, was dedicated to a greater awareness of the importance of the arts and sciences in our individual lives and in the welfare of civilization as a whole.

The event was led by Professor Kirsten Jacobson of the University of Maine's Philosophy Department. Dr. Jacobson gave new meaning to the masonic phrase "an instructive tongue and attentive ear". With insight and feeling she set the stage for a unique interactive discussion.

Utilizing a number of brief texts from Greek dramas and philosophies, those present explored the role that philosophy and the arts and sciences have had in enhancing the reach of our minds, in bringing new joy and in helping each of us in our quest for a responsible understanding of many issues that have no easy answers.

Contributions from the participants were provocative and insightful. Dr. Jacobson skillfully gave background



Small Group Discussion

and wove together the various strands generated by the enthusiastic small group discussions. It was an extraordinary experience!



A delicious banquet was served at noon by the Newport Masonic Association under the capable direction of Norma Leighton.

Participants are looking forward to next year which will focus on the creative role of art in human history and development.

## THIRD ANNUAL MAINE MASONIC COLLEGE CONVOCATION

Plans for the third annual convocation are on the trestleboard and preparations are underway! Today would be a good time to mark **Saturday, July 28th and Sunday, July 29th** on your calendar and to start building your summer around those dates. We are in for another stimulating, entertaining, and thought provoking event. We will hear from speakers from Maine, Florida, Maryland, and New York—and they will have a chance to hear from you as this will be another interactive session. The theme is "**Masonry in Our Time**" and we shall cover the waterfront, from a consideration of contemporary books concerning Freemasonry (The Da Vinci Code, The Lost Symbol, and others) to what we need to do to keep up with a fraternity that is threatening to expand its membership, reversing a long-term trend towards shrinking.

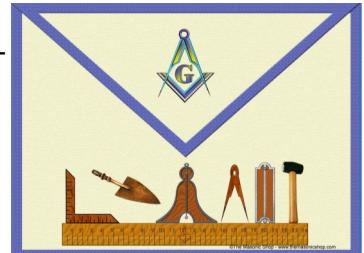
(Continued from page 1)

We'll be meeting in Bangor again, at the newly re-named Hollywood Casino Hotel. Once again the Convocation is open to spouses, significant others, friends, and prospective Masons.

In a new wrinkle, the M.E.A.L.S. (Masonic Education and Lodge Service) Committee is joining us and will offer presentations that may be more practical than philosophical, e.g., leadership, public relations, mentoring, and forming daylight lodges, to mention just a few topics. You get to choose which presentations in which you wish to participate at any time of the day.

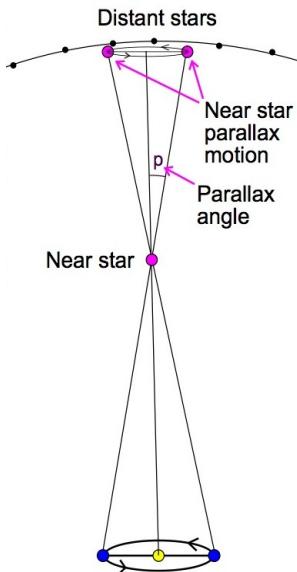
If you are hesitant about attending in July, ask someone who has attended the first two Convocations and ask what they recommend. We believe that they are our best advocates. We'll be putting out more information about the Convocation soon, but you may mark your calendar now. Except for meals and hotel accommodations, everything is free!

Submitted by: Bro Stephen Nichols, Chairman, MMC Board of Regents



## #10 The Minutes of ‘Old Builders Lodge #1000’

By: Brother George M.A. Macdougall



Earth's motion around Sun

Have you ever wondered how scientists know how far away a star or galaxy is? For instance, you will be reading an article on Astronomy (the study of the stars) and all of a sudden the fact pops out that the Hiram galaxy is 300 light years across and 220 million light years away from the Earth. (A light year is defined as the distance that light travels in one year. One light-year is 5,900,000,000,000 (5.9 trillion) miles. That means that if the Hiram galaxy is 220 million light years away, it took the light that forms the image of the galaxy 220,000,000 years to reach your eye! The galaxy might not even be there anymore!) Well, obviously, no one jumped in their space ship and flew out there and measured the distance on their odometer. So how do they know? Scientists and Astronomers are able to do this by using Parallax and the Pythagorean Theorem. In our last three installments of ‘The Minutes’ we talked about the idea of heliocentrism. In doing that research I came across the discussion of Parallax (remember in the article on Copernicus, they used parallax against him) and shared it with you as a separate installment of ‘The Minutes’.

As the Earth revolves around the sun, near stars seem to shift their position against the farther stars. This is called parallax shift. By observing the distance of the shift and knowing the diameter of the Earth's orbit, astronomers are able to calculate the parallax angle across the sky.

The smaller the parallax shift, the farther away from earth the star is. Once they know the angle, Astronomers use the Pythagorean Theorem to calculate the distance. This method is only accurate for stars within a few hundred light-years of Earth. When the stars are very far away, the parallax shift is too small to measure.

The method of measuring distance to stars beyond 100 light-years is to use Cepheid variable stars. These stars change in brightness over time, which allows astronomers to figure out the true brightness. Comparing the apparent brightness of the star to the true brightness allows the astronomer to calculate the distance to the star. This method was discovered by American astronomer Henrietta Leavitt in 1912 and used in the early part of the century to find distances to many globular clusters.



Keep up to date with our classes by checking our web-site [www.MaineMasonicCollege.com](http://www.MaineMasonicCollege.com)

**LIKE us on  
Facebook**



[http://www.facebook.com/  
mainemasoniccollege](http://www.facebook.com/mainemasoniccollege)