

The Maven's Journal

(Spring 2018)

"Dedicated to promoting Masonic leadership and education"

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Editor's Note:

As mentioned in December, *The Maven's Journal* is now a quarterly publication. In this Spring quarterly edition the multi-part *Architecture and Freemasonry* series concludes with *Operative Masonry on Display: Gothic Architecture, IL Duomo, and the*

Leadership Series

10 Tips to Maximize Every Minute

(Richard H. Ryder, 2018)

"Lost - yesterday, somewhere between sunrise and sunset, two golden hours, each set with sixty diamond minutes. No reward is offered, for they are gone forever." Horace Mann

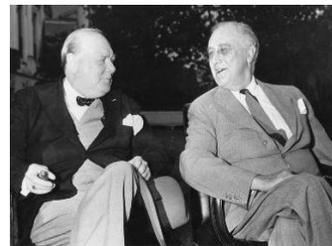
We are each given the same number of hours in a day; what we do with those hours distinguishes us from what others do with the same amount of time. The ability to manage time is a gift we give to ourselves. You can decide to spend it wisely or spend it on something that is meaningless. Of course, downtime is important; **it's a time to rejuvenate ourselves. What I'm talking about, however,** is how you spend those precious few hours of each day accomplishing whatever it is that satisfies you and gets you closer to what you want to do in life. Those who choose to focus their efforts on achieving their goals will reap the rewards of their efforts. **It's** your choice.

Learning effective time management is a noble goal and takes practice. There are numerous books on the subject and many have earned millions of dollars promoting it. There are many simple steps we can all take to use our time more effectively, but the following 10 tips are just a few that have served me well over the years.

1. Be on time - start on time - end on time. **It's rude and** disrespectful to think the time of others is somehow less important than yours, but that is the message you convey when you are late to an event or meeting. Everyone runs late on occasion – sometimes there are extenuating circumstances beyond your control. But there is no excuse for habitual tardiness. In the same vein, starting and ending meetings on time shows respect for attendees and their busy schedules. As a meeting facilitator, once you demonstrate this a few times, others will know that they must be punctual and stay focused.
2. Use a calendar: some people can remember their commitments without writing them down; most cannot. People who are active in one or more organization should have ready access to a good calendar and if you own a cell phone you most likely have one at no cost. If you are low tech or just like that tactile feeling of a physical calendar, us that. **It doesn't matter.** For some people a simple pocket calendar keeps them on track. Others like daily calendars with plenty of space for appointments and

Stonemason, where you will learn about the majestic structures built by our Masonic ancestors and their life on the job. The *Leadership Series* provides practical time management tips. *Looking Toward the East* profiles the Chaplain and the *Spotlight* article describes the unique wartime relationship between Bro. Franklin Roosevelt and Bro. Winston Churchill. As always, visit us at MasonicMaven.org and be sure to [Follow us on Facebook](#).

Regards,
Wor. Richard Ryder



Masonic Spotlight

Franklin and Winston: A friendship forged in the fire of war
(Richard H. Ryder, 2018)

He stood as a powerful force against the evil overtaking Europe. Newly elected to the highest office in his land, he led his country while hundreds

reminders. Whatever works best for you is what you should go with. The main thing is to use it.

3. Plan your day/plan your week: how often do you plan your day or upcoming week? We are all busy with life, family, and work. But taking a few minutes at the start of each day and week will reap benefits in the long run. Looking at the week ahead warns you of commitment conflicts and may allow you to proactively readjust your schedule. A review of your day at the beginning of each day helps you to stay focused on what you need to accomplish.
4. To Do List: a to do list is something most people have, either on paper, electronically, or in their head. If you are like many people, the list expands over time with more items added than removed. If this sounds familiar, try renaming it to a Things to Accomplish list. Having a to do list makes one feel that they are on top of things, but it is passive, for there is no personal commitment to act. However, maintaining a list of things to accomplish is a subliminal reminder that you need to act on each one. What ever you call YOUR list remember to time phase it for a certain day, week, or month. Consider organizing it as such in a physical or electronic folder by time frame. During your daily and weekly calendar review add and reschedule your list. If you find that you are constantly rescheduling something, this can be a red flag that either it is not important, maybe you have a fear of failure or success, or you must dedicate specific time blocks to whittle away at it. Breaking items into sub-items of manageable time blocks is a trick to help you focus on small gains that collectively will get you closer to accomplishing the bigger task at hand.

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Richard H. Ryder, 2018

of thousands of its soldiers were trapped on the opposite side of the channel with seemingly no place to escape. And yet, with strong leadership, military bravery, the determination of the citizenry, and divine intervention disaster was averted at Dunkirk. The world took a deep sigh of relief. The man was Prime Minister Winston Churchill and his country, Britain, was the only thing standing between Hitler and the West.

On the other side of the Atlantic Ocean stood a nation unsure of its leadership role. Still struggling from the effects of financial depression, there was building consensus in America that the U.S. should stay out of the turmoil in Europe. The President, though sympathetic to the plight of his British counterpart, had neither the political capital nor congressional authorization to assist with what Churchill really needed to hold a formidable and sustained defense against the tides of war – armaments, ships, warplanes, and military personnel.

Industrial production in



Education Series

Architecture and Freemasonry - Operative Masonry on Display:
Gothic Architecture, IL Duomo, and the Stonemason
(Richard H. Ryder, March-2018)

They were built to replicate heaven on earth, a way to bring bible lessons to the downtrodden, illiterate, and uneducated. In the escalating race to build ornate and impressive structures, stretching ever higher toward heaven, the laws of physics conspired to thwart construction. But three interrelated components of the new 12th century Gothic style architecture allowed massive stone cathedrals to rise up across Europe, many of which still stand today. In Florence Italy, a Gothic cathedral known more for its unique dome than its height is equally impressive. These religious monuments serve as a physical testimony to the innovation and persistence of medieval architects and the skill of its builders.

ROMANESQUE ARCHITECTURE

Gothic architecture, first seen in France, represented modern and high-tech innovation with its roots in Romanesque architecture. The Romanesque style represented a form of architecture virtually unchanged since Roman times. It utilized the simple and limited round arch based on a circle or semi-circle and depended on large **thick walls to support the ceiling's massive weight**. As such, it only allowed for very narrow windows that limited the entry of sunlight, creating an uninspiring and dark interior.

GOTHIC ARCHITECTURE – THREE DISTINGUISHING INNOVATIONS

America was not coordinated. The Army was in no shape to defend America, let alone fight a world war. The Navy and Air Force were in no better shape. And yet, Churchill kept persisting with Franklin Roosevelt, his distant cousin and Masonic Brother. (Roosevelt belonged to Holland Lodge #48 in New York; Churchill belonged to Studholme Lodge #1591 in London). Against the backdrop of war, a unique, often-times tested friendship and alliance was formed between two men so different in personality, yet so similar in character and will.

Little did Hitler know after Dunkirk that it was he who ultimately would be responsible for forging a collaboration between two 20th century icons.

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Richard H. Ryder, 2018



12th century Gothic architecture introduced to France three innovations that, when combined, allowed magnificent cathedrals to rise higher than any other structure. The risk of collapse was always present, but the pointed arch, flying buttress, and vaulted ceiling were ingeniously introduced to ensure design integrity.

Unmistakable Gothic style was first introduced on June 11, 1144 by Abbot Suger at the Church of Saint Denis, the burial place of French **kings located on the outskirts of Paris. He called it 'modern', while others invoked the memory of the barbarians known as the Goths; thus, the term Gothic. He knew the biblical story of God's house on earth - King Solomon's Temple. He was a visionary who realized the importance of light and the power of visibly bringing the bible to the masses through the images contained within stained glass windows. To him, light symbolized God. By bringing in more light to the church's interior Suger felt he would bring them closer to their creator. And so, he decided to rebuild the abbey church. The result was the start of a new architectural style that inspired other French towns to compete for the biggest and tallest cathedral. Soon, different expressions of Gothic architecture appeared in England, Germany, Spain, Italy, and the low countries. By the late 1500's, around the beginning of the Renaissance, Gothic architecture began to wane.**

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(Richard H. Ryder, March-2018)



Looking Toward the East

The Chaplain

The Word

Freestone

Richard H. Ryder, 2018

According to Wikipedia "A freestone is a stone used in masonry for molding, tracery, and other replication work required to be worked with the **chisel**". **Freestone is fine** grained and freely cut in any direction, and because it is uniform and relatively soft it will not shatter when cut or split. To some, the term Freemasonry refers to operative masons who worked in freestone, hewn from the quarry.

Richard H. Ryder, 2018



What did (s)he say?

*"If you want something done,
ask a busy person to do it.*

*The more things you do, the
more you can do."*

(Richard H. Ryder, 2018)

For several years I have had the honor of serving as Lodge Chaplain. While not a heavy responsibility in terms of ritual and floor work, it has, nonetheless, been a very rewarding role. Not only do I contribute to the work of the evening and have a very good seat from which to observe the work of others, but I am personally grateful for the chance to provide moments of personal reflection for lodge members as we collectively communicate with almighty God. In addition to providing opening and closing prayers during monthly meetings, prayers during degree work and before dinner, and a necrology prayer when remembering a deceased brother, it is an honor and privilege during a memorial service to comfort a departed **brother's family as they deal with their loss.**

Experience has taught me the personal rewards increase the more I add my own creativity to the work I perform. This is especially true in two areas: writing personal prayers and adding moments of reflection during necrologies.

Not everyone can write a prayer, which is why the trestle board is a must have book for all chaplains. But, for those who enjoy writing, have a spiritual nature, and a creative mind, writing your prayers is enriching and appreciated by the brethren. Remember, however, to write inclusive, non-denominational prayers, since Masonry reflects all faiths and denominations.

Hearing the same stock prayer recited each time a lodge is opened or closed can start to sound repetitious. For this reason, I have written a few opening and closing prayers to reflect the work of the evening. I fold in a few of the degree lessons into each as an acknowledgement to our supreme being that we have heard his request to us through the recited cipher. In referring to the degree lessons I help to reinforce them with the brethren.

I also write prayers that reflect the season, such as Spring and the hope it brings; the December holidays, known as festivals of light; and the end of our Masonic year when we part ways to enjoy Summer and refresh ourselves for the Masonic year ahead.

Lucille Ball, *American actress, comedian, model, film-studio executive, and producer.*



Attract and Retain

*10 Tips to Improve Your
New Member Process*
Richard H. Ryder, 2018

One of the most important things we can do as Masons is to bring new members into the fraternity. Someone once said ***“You need to bring in one member to replace you and one member to grow the lodge.”*** The applicant and candidate processes are very important and set the tone for the newly initiated. Done correctly the steps you follow toward and beyond the third degree form a strong foundation for engaging the new Master Mason inside and outside the lodge room.

Here are ten points to remember.

I try to be aware of local, national, or world events that resonate with our heart, mind, and soul. After the Boston Marathon bombing I felt it necessary to acknowledge the sadness we all felt in the greater Boston area and provide my brothers with a medium for expressing their profound sadness and desire to pray on behalf of the victims. The Newtowne school shooting tragedy was an event that moved all Americans to ponder the suffering that was inflicted and to find a way to cope. I felt the need to provide a few moments of reflection to help my brother raise a collective request to God for healing. When world events impact lives in war zones a general prayer for peace seems appropriate and helps us to offer our support to those who are victimized.

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Richard H. Ryder, 2018

1. Once a good man demonstrates an interest in Freemasonry and especially in your lodge, act upon his interest right away. As they say, ***“Strike while the iron is hot.”***
2. Get to know him personally and determine why he is interested in the Craft. This will help you determine how best to engage him after he takes his degrees.
3. One person in the lodge, preferably the lodge Ambassador, should act as a single point of contact and take responsibility for managing both the application and degree process. Doing so provides continuity for the lodge and the applicant/ candidate.
4. The single point of contact should attend the pre-application and application interviews, thus providing continuity not only for the

individual, but continuity for anyone applying to the lodge. Consider having the single point of contact conduct the interviews.

5. Make the interview process informal in tone, but have a consistent approach. Having a list of questions helps keep the interviews on track.

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Richard H. Ryder, 2018



Coming Attractions

In June, *The Maven's Journal* will discuss project management techniques in

the *Leadership Series* and how they apply to Masonic business. The *Education Series* article is undefined at this time, while the *Looking Toward the East* series will profile the lodge secretary. Finally, the *Attract and Retain* series will provide tips on engaging new members.



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