

# Hermes Boyatis – Newsman Extraordinaire

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found in New Zealand surely one of the most unique libraries in the world. In the midst of sheep-grazing land were concrete buildings with doors wide open. Inside were books to borrow or return on the honor system.

We asked him about the scariest, funniest, and most memorable times in his life. Most dangerous? Sitting in a plane on the Montreal tarmac when the Separatists were firing against the Royal Mounted! Scariest? When he was pursued by ground hornets as he was clearing brush in Falmouth.

Funniest? Hermes is a soap-and-suds guy, always doing his laundry. While he was washing his clothes in New Delhi, a bathtub overflowed into the rooms below. In Haifa, Israel, he hung up his laundry to dry on an upper porch of the hotel. A SWAT team of the Israeli police pulled down his line, warning him that he MUST NOT appear to be signaling enemies off the coast!

Most memorable? Hermes has traveled to Greece a few times in the past. On one trip to Macedonia, he followed the path of his father, a truly great liberator who had fought there in 1912-1913. The mountain route was treacherous. Boarding the bus, Hermes could not take his seat until, at the demands of the driver, he made the appropriate religious gestures.

We return to Hermes as designer and printer. For years he has produced business cards, banners, book plates, and even a hand-sized cod cookbook. His creative efforts are nonstop, unless he has a computer crash. His creativity extends to original, non-computer-related items as well: a long, rotating iron grille for outdoor whole lamb cook-outs; and a cannon announcing guests and dinners. He played the bouzouke for many years.

His memberships, beyond Masonic and Shriner affiliations, are numerous. Among them: Boston Heart Foundation; Ancient & Honorable Artillery

Company; the American Legion; the Sojourners; the Massachusetts Military Historical Association; Castle Island Association; AHEPA; North Shore Computer Society; Worcester County Shrine Club where he serves as vice-president; and the Brockton Historical Society.

Some sixty years ago, he was the youngest president of his Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, and, president of the Thessalian Mutual Benefit Society. His other Man of the Year tributes include the AHEPA (American Hellenic Progressive Association); the Hellenic Square & Compass Association; and Rabboni Lodge, from which he received the Tenets Award.

Somewhere among his past treasures is his Evzone attire with pointed slippers for his dancing! His favorite modern drama? Zorba the Greek. His favorite song? "Never on Sunday."

In conclusion, we can say that Hermes is always there for friends in need of help or solace, a devoted messenger of the gods!

To review his lifetime commitments:

First, like his fabled ancestor, to be a bearer of good news and good deeds. Next: BOOKS! To put them into the hands of every child – to read, to learn, to think.

Then, to seek solutions to global warning, death marches, border disputes, current genocides, and atomic threats.

Last and MOST IMPORTANT: to turn to CANNING and all other means of fundraising to bring help and hope to burned and disabled children and their parents around the world, with the Children's Transportation Fund!

*Past and present contributors to this tribute:*  
**Joe McKertich and Jane Manthorne.**



Front row left to right: LTC N. Hermes Boyatis, BGEN Joseph A. Milano; King Constantine of Greece at a reception for His Majesty in London Rear row not identifiable at press time



NORFOLK LODGE, ESTABLISHED IN 1874, IS LOCATED AT 1101 HIGHLAND AVENUE IN NEEDHAM, MASSACHUSETTS.

## Blue Lodge Happenings

By RALPH REEN

Greetings Brothers and Nobles,

This is the first in what I hope to be a long series of articles from the North and West of Boston published here in the *Aleppo News*. You know where that is, when the weather person says more snow is predicted than anywhere else in the state, that's where I call home. Let me introduce myself. My name is **Ralph**, I'm a member of Ancient York Lodge in Lowell and a Noble of Aleppo Shrine. I think I've found my calling as a Masonic guest.

I truly enjoy going to Masonic events. Do you have an event coming up at your lodge? Send me an email, if I'm not busy going to another event, I'll try to come to yours. I'll bring along some brothers and if it is appropriate, our wives. We've been to Robert Burns Nights, Italian, German and Greek nights. **George** and **Denise**, **Doug** and **Joan**, my wife **Gail** are great traveling companions. Have stories, will travel.

We went to a Roaring '20s party at Rural Lodge in Quincy before the holidays. The food was good, the acting was fine, but what made the evening was meeting a brother from St. John's Lodge. Jeff and his wife Sarah, asked to sit with us. We had a great time telling each other stories. George got himself goosed by a little old lady in a flapper costume. Way funny. We've made a couple of great new friends that have joined us on our travels around the state. Gotta love this Masonic brotherhood. We found the Roaring 20's night in Rural Lodge's newsletter. If you haven't seen Rural Lodge's excellent newsletter, put out by Brother **Graeme Marsden**, you should stop reading this right now and go to the website. <http://www.ruralodge.com/> Pretty cool, huh? You did sign up to get it emailed to you every week, right?

Masons are always charitable. We are currently involved in the "Send Nicole to College Fund drive". Nicole is a senior at the Greater Lowell Vocational High School and a Shrine Burn Hospital patient. Nicole has had 18 surgeries since she was 5. She hopes to go to Johnson and Wales in Rhode Island. We are trying to raise a bit of money to help her. We are passing out half pint Mason jars and asking brothers to put their spare pocket change in. We think we can raise enough to buy books and other such things needed for college. I'm sure that somehow I'll be asking you to help us send Nicole to college.

Nicole is a tough girl. When she is scheduled for more reconstructive surgery on her hands, she goes into Boston by herself. First a cab from school to the train station, the train to the Subway, the subway to the hospital. This has been going on for years. Know any deep pockets that can help send Nicole to college?

Noble **Bill Rawnsley** believes that the Shrine van may be able to pick her up for her scheduled appointments. This will be a good thing. please support the transportation fund any way you can. Go to the Circus, buy some extra popcorn. Make sure you laugh extra hard at "Boo-Too." Save some extra pull tabs and drop them of at the Shrine Center in Wilmington.

"Hi Uncle Phil." You know who you are.

I have a question, how many Masonic Social clubs do you belong to? I belong to two. The Acacia Club, which has a

function hall in Dracut, and the Anchor Club, which operates a summer lake house in NH. Both require that you be a Master Mason to belong. Both have very in-expensive yearly dues, both add another dimension to my Masonic life. I'll tell you more about them in the next *Aleppo News* column. You get to guess what the rest of my signature means.

I'd like to leave you with this true Masonic Story. It happened to me, and I can vouch that it happened just as written.

### All is well that ends well..... A true Masonic story.

Last night, we were to meet a prospective candidate at the Lowell Lodge building to fill out a pre-application form. He is going to join Ancient York Lodge. I got there early and went up to the Men's lounge to wait. I truly enjoy the leather seats and steam heat in that room. I could clearly see the entrance of the door and would be able to see my guy when he came in. The meeting was set for six o'clock.

Another lodge was meeting that night. A lot of men were coming in to go to the meeting, many stopping by to say hello. Talked about the Boy Scouts and other Masonic matters. They were initiating two men for their lodge, and also two courtesy candidates for another lodge in the building. It's great having too many candidates that we have to share the work with other lodges. So there were candidates that the brothers didn't know yet. 6:30 arrives and we're wondering where our prospect is???

At 6:45 a brother from the lodge that is meeting comes to us and asks: "Are you waiting for a prospect?" "We are, have you seen him?" "Yup, he's upstairs getting into a candidates uniform." "WHAT???????"

Seems a brother was closer to the door than me at 5:45, asked our prospect if he was joining the Masons, he answered "Yes." OK come with me. He was even introduced to me while I was waiting for him. Oh boy. They found out they had an extra candidate when the uniforms came up short and they found five guys not the four on the list.

We got him dressed, brought him back downstairs. I don't know what we did more; laugh or apologize. We did explain my mistake. We talked about Masonry. He did fill out the pre-app form. I know he will make a great Mason.

Can you imagine the hair-pulling and screaming that would have happened if we had actually initiated this man? We won't even vote on a prospect if we don't have his name right in the notice. What about if he had never filled out a single thing? I suspect the powers that be would take away my birthday. Ok. All is well that ends well. I will be closer to the door the next time. We did gain a great new prospect, and a good story.

