

Grand Lodge of MA Celebrates 275 Years of Freemasonry

By MARK STOUGHT

THIS year, 2008, marks the 275th anniversary of the formation of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. As we are the third oldest constituted Grand Lodge in the world, the celebrations are suitably notable. In addition to a new and ongoing Masonic exhibit at the National Heritage Museum in Lexington, there was a special three-day celebration that took place from May 3-5, 2008 in various locations, centering on a Special Communication held May 5. Over 50 Grand Lodges from all over the country and the world were represented, from our own Prince Hall compatriots in Massachusetts to as far away as Japan, and Togo.

To start things off, there was a reception on the 3rd for all the invitees. On the 4th, there was an ecumenical service at Trinity Church. The keynote speaker was the RW and Hon. **Robert L. Steadman**, past Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts and a retired Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Superior Court. Later that evening, there was a sold-out 275th Anniversary Ball at the Castle at Park Plaza attended by over 900 guests. Additionally, the Grand Lodge building was open for tours conducted by trained guides the entire weekend, along with Masonic walking tours departing from the building.

The Special Communication on the 5th was the highlight of the celebration. Flags from, all of the attending jurisdictions were presented, and the replica of the Bunch of Grapes sign and the lock of **George Washington's** hair were present. There was also a program for the ladies, which consisted of a private tour of the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum on the Fenway in Boston, followed by a private luncheon. To top all of this off, there was a Commonwealth-wide Open House at all of the Massachusetts lodges on May 8, and a "Masonic Family Celebration" at the Brockton Rox game on July 6. All of the events were well-attended, and we can look forward to the Tercentennial of our Grand Lodge in 2033.



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