

The TrestleBoard of Jackson Lodge #146, F. & A. M.

Jackson Lodge #146, F. & A. M.—Chartered 1853
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(812) 522-4945; jacksonlodge146@verizon.net
Meetings 1 & 3 Mon. 7:30 PM; 1 only in Dec.
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January, 2009 Issue Vol. 1

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Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth

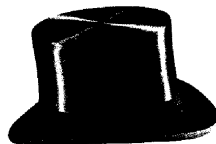
The hottest places in hell are reserved for those who, in time of great moral crisis, maintain their neutrality.—Dante Alighieri

Take a good look at yourself; you are someone's impression of Freemasonry.

The way to make money is to buy when blood is running in the streets.
—John D. Rockefeller, Jr.

Life being what it is, one dreams of revenge.
—Paul Gauguin

From the East Dan W. Self, WM



Welcome to the New Year! I would like to thank the members of the Lodge for their support on election night. I will do my best to maintain the

integrity of the Lodge and continue with the good service that all the Past Masters have given during their year.

I just finished my Past Master's Degree and would like to thank all the Past Masters for the help they showed me on that night. It was an unforgettable night and I learned lessons that will be with me for a lifetime.

This upcoming year will have many of the same events as in the past – with the exception that *I am adding a breakfast event the first Saturday of every month beginning in February. This will be from 7-10 AM and all with affiliation with the Lodge are invited. Also, if you have a friend you would like to bring, invite them too!* The Sweetheart Banquet will be Friday, February 13 and I will be announcing other upcoming events with each article.

I am looking forward to a fun and exciting year, and hope to see you at Lodge or at one of the Lodge functions.

Lodge Officers, 2009

WM Daniel W. Self 521-1695

SW Jack Riehl 522-6423

JW Jason Kaiser 216-0007

Treas. Terry Byrns, PM 523-3321

Secy. W. Jeff Reagin, PM 522-5886

Chap. Stephen P. Kroman 523-8084

Tyl. Michael Read 522-0697

Trustees

Randy Ent 522-5254

Frank Cummings 523-1017

Charles S. Seybold 522-8928

Leo Thompson 522-1435

Robert F. Trueblood, PM 445-3010

Will Bentley 523-0324

From the Secretary

Wm. Jeff Reagin, Secretary

Brethren, if you have not paid your dues (\$46.50), please attend to this as soon as possible; the paper work associated with late dues is terribly time-consuming and the time could be put to better use. We did pick up a couple of new Life Endowment members and I congratulate them on this decision. I do have 2009 validated license plate forms which are available on request. Your children, parents, OES members; and, our widows are eligible for Masonic plates. Also motorcycle enthusiasts may get a Masonic plate for your bike.

Jackson Lodge #146 Gary Wirt Scholarship Applications are available in the upstairs foyer; or, if you notify me in writing, I will mail an application to you. Sponsors, review the application to insure that the application has been filled out correctly. It seems every year we have a rejected applicant or two, because of an oversight on their part; this can lead to hard feelings toward the Lodge and the Scholarship Committee, when it really is just a case of failing to follow instructions. Pay close attention to those items which lead to automatic disqualification.

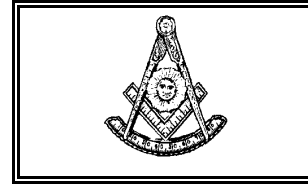
SD Reuben J. Cummings 522-8492

JD Gary Trowbridge 498-3210

SS Jason P. Cooley 524-2015

JS Mike Dutton 579-9423

Thoughts and Musings



Steven K. Robison, PM

At the Worshipful Master's request, I will try, once again, to serve as Editor for the TrestleBoard for the coming year. As in the past, news of Lodge and appendant body happenings is welcomed and encouraged. *[Submissions, please, not later than the 14th of a month, and a day or two earlier if the 15th of the month is on a weekend. Postal regulations dictate this time frame and we have very little control over that.]*

If you see something you don't like, please let me know; or, skip it and read something else. I will try to include a broad cross-section of materials in each issue so hopefully each reader will find something in each issue that is worthwhile. :-)

Frat.,

Steven K. Robison, PM, Editor

What Will Matter

Michael Josephson

Ready or not, some day it will all come to an end.

There will be no more sunrises, no minutes, hours or days. All the things you collected, whether treasured or forgotten will pass to someone else.

It won't matter where you came from or what side of the tracks you lived on at the end. It won't matter whether you were beautiful or brilliant. Even your gender and skin color will be irrelevant.

So what will matter? How will the value of your days be measured?

What will matter is not what you bought but what you built, not what you got but what you gave.

What will matter is not your success but your significance.

What will matter is not what you learned but what you taught.

What will matter is every act of integrity, compassion, courage, or sacrifice that enriched, empowered or encouraged others to emulate your example.

What will matter is not your competence but your character.

What will matter is not how many people you knew, but how many will feel a lasting loss when you're gone.

What will matter is not your memories but the memories that live in those who loved you.

What will matter is how long you will be remembered, by whom and for what.

Living a life that matters doesn't happen by accident. It's not a matter of circumstance but of choice.

Choose to live a life that matters.

Good Book

Forgotten Patriots, by Edwin G. Burrows, 2008, is a heart-rendering account of the brutal treatment of American prisoners of the British during the Revolutionary War. Centered principally in New York City, which was under

Your wealth, fame and temporal power will shrivel to irrelevance. It will not matter what you owned or what you were owed. Your grudges, resentments, frustrations and jealousies will finally disappear. So, too, your hopes, ambitions, plans and to-do lists will expire. The wins and losses that once seemed so important will fade away.

British control during much of the Revolution and in fact until 1783, the British prisons were models of inhumanity. Burrows believes that the number of captives may easily have exceeded 30,000 and that 18,000 (60 percent) or more of them did not survive – well over **twice** the number of American soldiers and seamen who fell in battle, now believed to have been around 6,800. That is an extremely high mortality rate for prisoners of war. But, the problem is that the British did not consider their prisoners to be prisoners of war; that would have involved recognizing the United States as a legitimate combatant and Britain was not prepared to do that. Burrows concludes that with very few exceptions, contemporary accounts of the horrors of the British prisons in New York are quite credible. Burrows suggests that the thousands of Americans who perished in New York during the Revolution were the victims of something well beyond the usual brutalities and misfortunes of war, even eighteenth-century war -- a lethal convergence, as it were, of obstinacy, condescension, corruption, mendacity, and indifference. Although the British did not deliberately kill American prisoners in New York as a matter of policy, they might as well have done. [One British jailer admitted to an American agent charged with inspecting the British prisons that accounts of his personal brutality toward prisoners were *absolutely true*.] The treatment meted out to the prisoners was simply abysmal; this reads like a horror story. One prison ship, the notorious Jersey, was responsible by itself for some 8,000 - 10,000 fatalities among helpless American prisoners. [The story of how this British brutality was suppressed over the years after the Revolution is highly interesting, as well.]

Another Good Book

Tippecanoe and Tyler Too, by Jan R. Van Meter, is an easy-to-read account of the famous slogans and catch-phrases from American history. The slogans are building blocks for larger political or cultural stories from our history. One reviewer suggests that this book reads like the greatest minds of Madison Avenue set down and wrote a history book. In addition to the title phrase, such slogans as “Speak softly and carry a big stick,” “Lafayette, we are here!” and “Remember the Alamo!” are discussed. This is a delightful book and a very easy way to pick up information and background on various eras of American history.

FREEMASONS AND FREEMASONRY

{Extract of an address by James A. Henderson –
Lansdowne, Ontario, June, 1878}

Our duties as Masons are reverence and obedience to the Most High, brotherly love, charity and truth to our fellow men. On these grand principles has our Order been reared up and limited to no sect, rank, or nationality. Masonry from its inherent goodness has become diffused over the world, and endeavors, as far as human aid can detect, to promote peace in raising the structure of moral duties, in promoting good feeling toward man, in inculcating courtesy to all, in refraining from allowing difference of opinion to disturb good feeling, in softening the roughness of temper, and in flinging a certain ray of sunset over the evening of life, when clouds gather around and storms threaten to ruffle it.

We wish it to be understood that we do not, as Masons, arrogate to ourselves the character of being better than other men. There are thousands who have not joined our fraternity who are as good and true as any of us, but we believe the true practice of Masonry has a natural tendency to refine and improve the hearts of all those who truly follow its precepts; that it wakens in our minds feelings of brotherly love and universal benevolence, thereby enabling us to become better members of society than we were before.

The Bible, ever open in our Lodge, teaches us the duty we owe to God and likewise to our fellow-men; it inspires us with awe and reverence to the Great Architect of the Universe; it orders us to practice truth, justice and charity to our fellow-men. But we do not attempt to usurp the position of those who minister in holy things or set ourselves above them, but rather seek to follow the guidance of our spiritual pastors and teachers, content that Freemasonry shall be recognized as the handmaid of religion. Let a man’s religion be what it will, we do not exclude him from the benefits and advantages of our Order, provided he believes in the Glorious Architect of Heaven and Earth, and practices the sacred duties of morality.

many thinking and serious persons object to Freemasonry on account of a few of the brethren not acting up to their professions, but these should remember that the abuse of a thing is no valid objection to its inherent goodness. How many call themselves Christians who are a disgrace, yet ultimately hurt not the Gospel, but themselves. A Judas existed among the holy Apostles of Christ. We have no fear for the existence of our Order; it shall endure as it has endured; it has stood as it shall stand, on its own merits. It has resisted the sword of the barbarian and the bigot, and the persecution of the powerful; it has been enabled to withstand all assaults made on it by virulent and implacable enemies; our Ancient and Honorable Fraternity founded on strength and stability.

“As some tall cliff that lifts its awful form
Swell from the vale and midway meets the
storm;
though round its breast the rolling clouds are
spread,
Eternal sunshine settles on its head.”

Failure Is Never Final!

Failure is never final! The only time you can’t afford to fail is the very last time you try.

Failure doesn't mean I'm a failure; it just means
I haven't yet succeeded.

Failure doesn't mean I have accomplished
nothing; it just means I've learned something.
Failure doesn't mean I've been a fool; it just
means I had enough faith to experiment.

Failure doesn't mean I've wasted my time; it just
means I have reason to start over.

Failure doesn't mean I should give up; It just
means I must try harder.

Failure doesn't mean I'll never make it; it just
means I need more patience.

Failure doesn't mean I'm wrong; it just means I
must find a better way.

Failure doesn't mean God has abandoned me; it
just means I must diligently seek His will.

—Rev. Norman Vincent Peale

Poet's Corner

Heavenly Father up above Grace us with Thy
eternal love. May we practice what we preach and
pray.

By living our Masonry every day. And bless this
food to our earthly use That we might serve Thee
without excuse. For all the things we ask of
Thee Thank you, Father . . . So Mote It Be!—R.
W. Alan R. Heath Past Deputy Grand Master,
Grand Lodge of Maine

How long is your cable-tow, brother?
Does it span across the street?
Can it stretch the length of a hand-throw,
Or perhaps a thousand feet?
Is there any definite measure
That cold mathematics may teach
To give the scope of your cable,
And limit its ultimate reach?
For who shall count in units
Of foot, or yard or mile,
The length of a hearty handshake,
The breadth of a cheery smile;
Or estimate the distance
A human heart may go,

Failure doesn't mean I've been disgraced; it just
means I dared to try.

Failure doesn't mean I don't have what it takes;
it just means I must do things differently next
time.

Failure doesn't mean I'm inferior; it just means
I'm not perfect.

When a brother reaches a brother
With the length of his cable-tow?

Every one has his troubles;
Reverses and sorrows must come;
And the hour of sorest trial

Is when they are striking home;
And sickness and death are the portion
That fate allots to all—

Our brother is sitting in sackcloth,
And his face is to the wall.

Ah, then is the time propitious—
Occasion waits sublime—

For the cable reaches farther
Than at any other time.

For the pull is very little,
And it giveth strength to the strong.

How long is your cable-tow, brother?
How long—how long?"

—Br. W. A. Spaulding, Los Angeles, CA

Here's a riddle (answer later in this issue):
What famous American inventor ran twice for
mayor of New York City – in 1836 and 1841 –
and lost both times?

Huh?

Movie actor Sterling Hayden: "There is not
enough money in Hollywood to lure me into
making another picture with Joan Crawford, and
I like money."

Clear Thinking, Department of Defense
We will not close any base that is not needed.
—Secretary of Defense Les Aspin

Voting Public?

Steve Allen (doing man-on-the-street interview):
If a person went on television and, running for
the presidency, admitted to being a heterosexual,
could you vote for him?

Woman-on-the-street: Yes.

. . .

Movie star Gary Cooper's name actually was
Frank Cooper. His agent didn't like the sound of
the name Frank, so she changed it to honor her
hometown: Gary, Indiana.

Said Cooper: "It's a good thing she didn't come
from Poughkeepsie."

If at First . . .

In 1954, Elvis Presley was kicked out of the
Grand Old Opry, whose musical experts
recommended that he go back to driving a truck.
In 1955, Elvis auditioned for a spot on Arthur
Godfrey's TV show, Talent Scouts, and was
turned down in favor of singers no one
remembers.

After that, Elvis had somewhat better luck with
his rock-and-roll career.

Naughty, Naughty, Game Show Idiot

Newlywed Game Host Bob Eubanks:

What was the first thing you said to your
husband on your wedding night?

Female contestant: Uh, gosh, that's a hard one.
Oh, wait, I don't mean THAT!

Basic Misunderstanding

Even a broken clock's right twice a year.
—sportscaster Rex Chapman, covering an NBA
playoff game

Risque' Church

Bingo Friday night at 8:00 PM
Quickies Thursday at 7:30 PM
—church bulletin

Right, Wrong?

Those who say that I am not in agreement with
the policy are, rightly or wrongly, quite wrong.
—British Home Secretary William Whitelaw

Blacks and Whites, Gray

There is no in-between — you're either good or
bad. Today we were in-between.
—soccer player Gary Lineker

Allen: Have you ever voted for a heterosexual,
do you think?

Woman: Oh no, no! You're talking about
sexual. No, no no! I'd never vote for THAT!

Thanks for Small Favors . . .

Chicago Bears linebacker Dick Butkus was a
football legend for his tough attitude and rough
play. Butkus, however, didn't see himself as his
opponents did. "I'm not so mean," he said. "I
wouldn't ever go out to hurt anybody
deliberately, unless it was, you know, important,
like a league game or something."

Moist Waiting?

BLUEPOINT OYSTERS
OPENED WHILE YOU WAIT
IN THEIR OWN JUICE
—roadside sign, Cape May, NJ

Thoughts

Honesty and Trust

- * All the strength, except truth, was on his side.
—Barbara Tuchman, on General Mercier's
handling of the Dreyfus Affair, The Proud
Tower, 1966
- * The cruelest lies are often told in silence.
—Robert Louis Stevenson, *Virginibus Puerisque*,
1881
- * For the greatest enemy of the truth is very
often not the lie — deliberate, contrived and
dishonest — but the myth — persistent, persuasive
— of our forbears. We enjoy the comfort of
opinion without the discomfort of thought.
—John F. Kennedy, commencement address, Yale
University, June 11, 1962
- * Honesty is the first chapter of the book of
wisdom.
—Thomas Jefferson
- * I hope I shall possess firmness and virtue
enough to maintain what I consider the most
enviable of all titles, the character of an "Honest
Man." Your honesty influences others to be
honest.
—George Washington

* I would rather be accused of breaking precedents than breaking promises.
–John F. Kennedy

Alas, how soon the hours are over
Counted us out to play the lover!
And how much narrower is the stage
Allotted us to play the sage!
But when we play the fool, how wide
The theater expands!
beside, How long the audience sit before us:
How many prompters, what a chorus!
–Walter Savage Landor

Insanity is doing the same thing, over and over again, but expecting different results.–Sudden Death by Rita Mae Brown, Bantam Books, New York, 1983, p. 68

I choose a block of marble and chop off whatever I don't need.
–Francois-Auguste Rodin, explaining his sculpture method (1840 - 1917)

It is always the best policy to speak the truth – unless, of course, you are an exceptionally good liar.
–Jerome K. Jerome

- * What Paul says about Peter tells us more about Paul than about Peter.–Benedict Spinoza (1632 - 1677), (In Erich Fromm's Psychoanalysis And Religion [1950], Chapter 3)
- * A government that robs Peter to pay Paul can always depend upon the support of Paul.
–George Bernard Shaw (1856 - 1950)

Minds are like parachutes. They only function when they are open.
–Sir James Dewar

All you need is three guys and a little boat, and the next day you're millionaires.
–Abdullahi Omar Qawden, a former Somali naval officer, on Somalia's pirates, in a New York Times news story

A good marriage requires communication, but most people's transmitters are better than their receivers.
–from the Indianapolis Star

Character is not cut in marble; it is not something solid and unalterable. It is something living and changing, and may become diseased as our bodies do.–George Eliot

Answer to riddle: Samuel F. B. Morse, creator of the Morse code.

Happenings, Events, and Reports

Masonic Breakfast Club

Meets every Wednesday at 8 AM, Townhouse Café. Come join us for fellowship!

Christmas Baskets

Again this year, the Lodge delivered (December 6) much-appreciated Christmas baskets to our widows, house-bound Brethren, and others associated with the Lodge.

White Christmas

The trip to "White Christmas," December 9, 2008, at Derby Dinner, was thoroughly enjoyed by the busload of members & their ladies who participated.

Past Master's Degree

Congratulations to Br. Dan Self, incoming Worshipful Master, who received the Past Master's Degree on December 13, 2008.

St. John's Feast

This was held at the Lodge on Saturday, December 27, 2008, with a delicious meal served, and a presentation by Br. Steven K. Robison, PM.

Appendant Body Contact

Br. Bucky Everhart, PM, advises that he is serving in 2009 as President of the Jackson Co. Scottish Rite Club; President of Bartholomew County Shrine Club; and, Potentate's Aide for So. Ind. Shrine Clubs, in addition to being the

Murat Shrine Christmas Party Chairman. Please contact Br. Bucky if you have needs from or concerns with any of these bodies, 497-3618.

Masonic

J. Keith Miller 59 yrs
Ron Downs 43 yrs
John M. Hill 40 yrs
Thomas R. Williams 34 yrs
David S. Baxter, Jr. 34 yrs
John F. Baker 34 yrs
David G. Ray 3 yrs

Widows' Birthdays

Mrs. Emma Aikman
Mrs. Virginia Johnson
Mrs. Betty Carter
Rita Tidd

OES Anniversaries

Kathleen Johnson 64
Jessie Ruth Lewis 40
Dorothy Lyons 29
Paul Lyons 29
Donald Weddle 25
Kim Feaster 24
Jacqueline Riehl Knell 20
Julie Marcum 20
Cotta Titus 19
Betty Carter 27
Franklin Cummings 14
Pat Cummings 14
Jennifer Stogdill 12
Maudeline Pierson 6
Debra Baran 3
Stan Baran 3

OES News

Mollie Brown, Worthy Matron
Jack Riehl, Worthy Patron

The January stated MEETING IS ON JANUARY 15 because of the New Year's holiday. Please make a note on your calendar and come join us for the January meeting. We expect to initiate two new members into the chapter at that meeting.

Anniversaries

Our Chapter 134 members have traveled recently to various OES events in District Four including the very lively and fun reception for WM Terrie Barbour of North Vernon, Grand Representative to Sao Paulo, Brazil. If you have not visited at another chapter yet, check with Secretary Janice Brock for dates and times of upcoming events.

Our own Sister Margaret Kroman, District Deputy #4, will be honored at a reception at Jackson Lodge on February 7 starting at 3 PM. All members are encouraged to attend. Please RSVP no later than February 1 to Secretary Mrs. Janice Brock, 315 E Redding Rd., Seymour, IN 47274 (812) 522-7459.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Ladies of the Lodge News

Ora Lee Schwade-President

We meet for lunch at the Lodge on the second Wednesday of the month. All ladies associated with the Lodge (wife, widow, or daughter of a Lodge member, past Rainbow Girl, OES member, or some other family or appendant body connection) are welcome to join us for a good meal and usually a program.

Rainbow News

Cassie Dailey, Worthy Advisor
Loretta Riehl, Mother Advisor

Hope all of you had a Merry Christmas and that the New Year will be full of Rainbow Happiness. Our first meeting in January will be the election of officers. January 24th will be installation of officers with Ally Snyder serving as Worth Advisor. Please come and join us. We congratulate Cassie Daily on really good term.

Ten Guidelines from God

Effective Immediately, please be aware that there are changes YOU need to make in YOUR life.

These changes need to be completed in order that

I may fulfill My promises to you to grant you peace, joy and happiness in this life. I apologize for any inconvenience, but after all that I am doing, this seems very little to ask of you. Please, follow these 10 guidelines:

1. QUIT WORRYING:

Life has dealt you a blow and all you do is sit and worry. Have you forgotten that I am here to take all your burdens and carry them for you? Or do you just enjoy fretting over every little thing that comes your way?

2. PUT IT ON THE LIST:

Something needs done or taken care of. Put it on the list. No, not YOUR list. Put it on MY to-do-list. Let ME be the one to take care of the problem. I can't help you until you turn it over to Me. And although My to-do-list is long, I am after all . . . God. I can take care of anything you put into My hands. In fact, if the truth were ever really known, I take care of a lot of things for you that you never even realize.

3. TRUST ME:

Once you've given your burdens to Me, quit trying to take them back. Trust in Me. Have the faith that I will take care of all your needs, your problems and your trials. Problems with the kids? Put them on My list. Problem with finances? Put it on My list. Problems with your emotional roller coaster? For My sake, put it on My list. I want to help you. All you have to do is ask.

4. LEAVE IT ALONE:

Don't wake up one morning and say, "Well, I'm feeling much stronger now, I think I can handle it from here." Why do you think you are feeling stronger now? It's simple. You gave Me your burdens and I'm taking care of them. I also renew your strength and cover you in my peace. Don't you know that if I give you these problems back, you will be right back where you started? Leave them with Me and forget about them. Just

let Me do my job.

5. TALK TO ME:

I want you to forget a lot of things. Forget what was making you crazy. Forget the worry and the fretting because you know I'm in control. But there's one thing I pray you never forget. Please, don't forget to talk to Me - OFTEN! I love YOU! I want to hear your voice. I want you to include Me in on the things going on in your life. I want to hear you talk about your friends and family. Prayer is simply you having a conversation with Me. I want to be your dearest friend.

6. HAVE FAITH:

I see a lot of things from up here that you can't see from where you are. Have faith in Me that I know what I'm doing. Trust Me; you wouldn't want the view from My eyes. I will continue to care for you, watch over you, and meet your needs. You only have to trust Me. Although I have a much bigger task than you, it seems as if you have so much trouble just doing your simple part. How hard can trust be?

7. SHARE:

You were taught to share when you were only two years old. When did you forget? That rule still applies. Share with those who are less fortunate than you. Share your joy with those who need encouragement. Share your laughter with those who haven't heard any in such a long time. Share your tears with those who have forgotten how to cry. Share your faith with those who have none.

8. BE PATIENT:

I managed to fix it so in just one lifetime you could have so many diverse experiences. You grow from a child to an adult, have children, change jobs many times, learn many trades, travel to so many places, meet thousands of people, and experience so much. How can you be so impatient then when it takes Me a little longer than you expect to handle something on My to-do-list? Trust in My timing, for My timing is perfect. Just because I created the entire universe in only six days, everyone thinks I

should always rush, rush, rush.

Be kind to others, for I love them just as much as I love you. They may not dress like you, or talk like you, or live the same way you do, but I still love you all. Please try to get along, for My sake. I created each of you different in some way. It would be too boring if you were all identical. Please, know I love each of your differences!

10. LOVE YOURSELF:

As much as I love you, how can you not love yourself? You were created by me for one reason only – to be loved, and to love in return. I am a God of Love. Love Me. Love your neighbors. But also love yourself. It makes My heart ache when I see you so angry with yourself when things go wrong. You are very precious to me. Don't ever forget . . . Touch someone with your love. Rather than focus upon the thorns of life, smell the roses and count your blessings!

Manipulating Numbers

Because lots of us find statistics both convincing and confusing, lots of tricksters find statistics useful – from politicians, to talking heads, to Madison Avenue's marketers. Here are just three statistical tricks number-manipulators often employ.

1. **Pick Your End Carefully** In this statistical sin, the perpetrator chooses to start or end a comparison at an abnormal point in an ongoing cycle. For example, measuring temperature changes from the low on a cool night to the high on a pleasant afternoon can be very misleading, can't it? In fact, temperature fluctuations over a typical week actually will be pretty normal, and not amazing at all. Where will you see this trick? When politicians talk about job gains and losses. Challengers might be tempted to talk about job losses since a high point in the economic cycle, while incumbents might prefer to talk about job gains since a low point.

2. Ignore Normal Growth

Every year, lots of numbers grow on their own,

9. BE KIND:

from the population of the United States to the price of the goods and services we buy. And reporters, politicians, and marketers trying to make their points may ignore this normal growth when they report new numbers. For example, let's pretend the number of Americans who keep pet elephants in their garage has doubled since 1950. Are we about to be overrun by garage-dwelling pachyderms? Nope! The total U.S. population has doubled in the same period, from roughly 150 million to over 300 million. So, in this example, the pet elephants are just holding their own. Where you'll see this trick: When politicians talk about tax increases and tax cuts. They'll lavish praise on "the biggest tax cut in history," ignoring population growth and inflation, and heap scorn on "the biggest tax increase in history," again ignoring population growth and inflation.³ Treat Exceptions as Rules People find concrete cases more persuasive than abstract statistics. Marketers and politicians know this, and they respond by using "best case" examples that often grossly misrepresent their product or policy. Think of ads for diet supplements, complete with "before" and "after" pictures and "results not typical" disclaimers buried in the fine print. Such ads want you to think that you will, in fact, achieve the same results. Of course, statistically speaking, you probably won't. That's what "results not typical" means. Where you'll see this trick: Typically, during speeches at political conventions. Both presidential candidates like to single out typical-seeming families who would benefit greatly from the candidates' programs. Maybe those families should have to wear t-shirts that say "results not typical."

There are even resource materials to help you manipulate numbers. Check out a classic little book, "**How to Lie with Statistics**," by Darrell Huff, first published in 1954.

"There are three kinds of lies – lies, damned lies, and statistics."

–Benjamin Disraeli

You are cordially invited to attend **Jackson Lodge #146 Annual Sweetheart Banquet** at the Pines Evergreen Room on **Friday, February 13, 2009**.

Doors open at 5:30 PM followed by a buffet-style dinner at 6:30 PM. Following the dinner, the Jackson County Community Theater will present *The Sunshine Boys*, a Neil Simon play, about a cantankerous comedy duo. Walter Matthau and George Burns starred in the 1975 movie adaptation, and we are sure you will enjoy the show!

Please make your *reservations at the Lodge (522-4945) by February 6, 2009*; Jeff Reagin will take reservations or you may leave a message. *Timely reservations are required in order to ensure sweetheart gifts*. PLEASE IDENTIFY YOURSELF when making a reservation. The Lodge is charged based on reservations; if you make a reservation and are unable to attend, please call Jeff promptly to cancel.

☞ This announcement is the invitation; no other invitations will be sent.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Mark your calendars! The 2008 Jackson Lodge #146 Sweetheart Banquet will be held at the Pines Evergreen Room on Friday, February 8, 2008. Buffet dinner will begin at 6:30 PM with special entertainment to start at 7:30 PM. Please contact the Lodge ASAP at 522-4945 to make your reservation!
