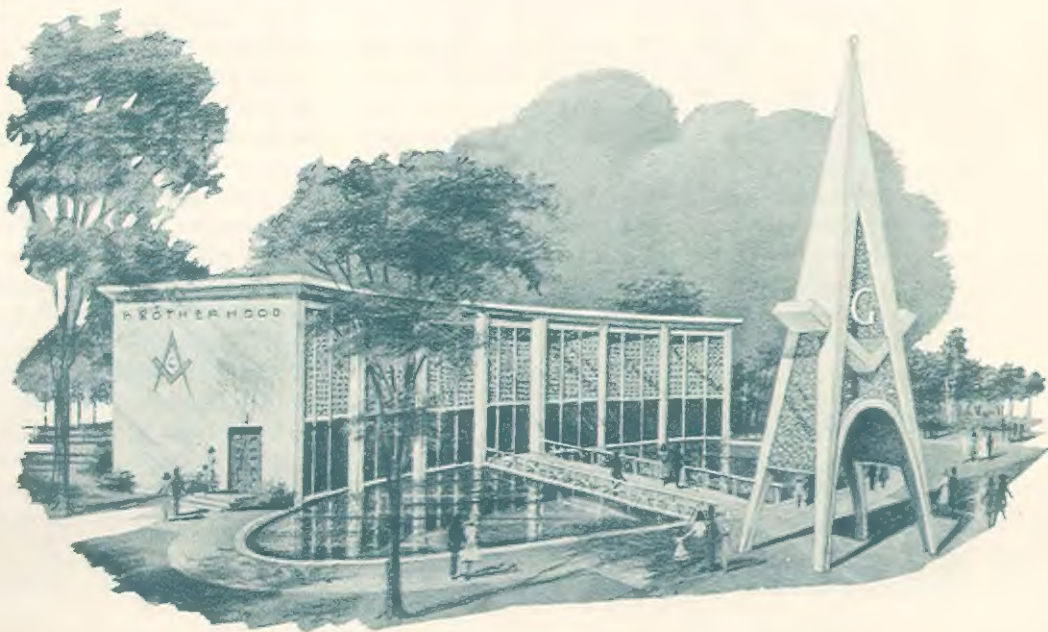




August 20, 1963

# *Start of Construction Ceremonies*

## Masonic Brotherhood Center





Excerpts from transcription of remarks made by Masonic and World's Fair officials at start of construction for the Masonic Center, New York World's Fair, August 20, 1963.



**COVER:**

The Masonic Center is a crescent-shaped structure fronted by a 60-foot arch formed by the square and compasses, the symbol of the fraternal order. Chapman, Evans and Delehanty are architects.

DR. ROBERTO DE MENDOZA [Deputy Chief of Protocol]: Mr. Ostrov, Judge Froessel, Mr. Constable, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. I have the honor to welcome you to the Start of Construction Ceremony for the Masonic Brotherhood Foundation Pavilion at the New York World's Fair. The colors will now be presented by the Masonic War Veterans of the State of New York.

We will now hear the invocation by Right Worshipful William F. Rosenblum, Grand Chaplain of the Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York, and Rabbi of Temple Israel, New York City.

RIGHT WORSHIPFUL WILLIAM F. ROSENBLUM, GRAND CHAPLAIN: As always before we begin our invocation, will you pause for a moment for your own meditation and prayer at this time.

Father of us all and great Architect of the Universe, in gratitude do we before Thee stand this day, to dedicate to our land and all the world this place as witness of our trust; to manifest that Masons must serve the cause of faith and freedom for all; to clearly proclaim that none be kept enthralled and none denied life's opportunities, that gone forever be inequalities that hold man and his neighbor separate, and that there exists no room among us for the blight of hate; to reaffirm a brotherhood in love symbolized by this shrine to be built with more than brick — with gifts of Thine more lasting even than steel — our faith in Thee and our devotion to democracy.

Oh Lord, let from this building radiate a light of fellowship so strong, so great, that darkness anywhere



will no longer reign nor bigotry his head ever raise again, and mankind in the world soon find surcease from war and strife — instead be endowed with peace. Oh Lord, Thy benediction on us rest, and through us this nation and our world be blessed. Amen.

**DR. DE MENDOZA:** The New York World's Fair Corporation is proud that the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York, acting for Masons everywhere, has joined with us through the Masonic Brotherhood Foundation to erect its own beautiful pavilion at the Fair. Our first speaker on this memorable occasion is a retired judge of the New York State Court of Appeals and a former Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York. He is now vice president of the Masonic Brotherhood Foundation, and chairman of the Masonic World's Fair Commission. I have the honor to introduce Judge Charles W. Froessel.

**MOST WORSHIPFUL CHARLES W. FROESSEL:** Dr. de Mendoza, Most Worshipful Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother Ellis, Vice President Stuart Constable, Reverend Clergy, officers and members of the staff of the World's Fair Corporation, distinguished brethren and friends.

This is an historic occasion for the Masonic fraternity statewide and worldwide. We would like the world to know us better, and where is there a more fitting place to achieve that objective than on these grounds during the World's Fair.

I have but a few observations to make. First, a welcome

to you brethren and your friends who have assembled here on this warm, midsummer August day. We of the Foundation are heartened by the manifest enthusiasm of our craft which augurs well for the success of this great enterprise. Next, I wish to thank my good friend, President Moses, for whom we have the very highest esteem for all that he has done for us — his kind and generous cooperation in facilitating our participation in this great enterprise, the willing and friendly assistance given by his fellow officers represented here today by the vice president of Operations, Mr. Constable, who has worked so closely with us, and Bill Ottley, who has been the liaison between us and the World's Fair and who has been most cooperative. To them and all the members of their staff, we are indeed deeply grateful.

We have a splendid site on which we are about to erect a very beautiful building, the exterior fashioned in white and gold, approached by a bridge crossing a reflecting pool, and dominated by the square and compasses, embodying the letter "G" — five stories high — symbols of our craft that teach us brotherhood among mankind. Our exhibits in this building will tell the world what we stand for, and of our historic past.

There are about 300,000 Masons in the State of New York, over four million in the United States of America, and at least six million around the world. We are inviting them to come to the World's Fair in 1964 and 1965, and to see our magnificent exhibit. I am confident a great many will. Our ticket sales campaign begins in our 1,062 lodges immediately after Labor Day. We hope to be able

to place our first order for 100,000 tickets next month, and should readily be able to do so if every Mason in this State does his part.

My brethren, we have a mission here. Let us together consecrate every faculty to its complete fulfillment.

DR. DE MENDOZA: Thank you, Judge Froessel. Before introducing the next speaker, I should like to present Mr. William Ottley, Director of Special Exhibits, who is specifically charged with making sure that the Masonic Pavilion will be one of which both the Fair and the Masons of the world will be proud. Now I have the great privilege to give you the vice president, Operations of the New York World's Fair Corporation, Mr. Stuart Constable.

MR. STUART CONSTABLE: It was about a year ago that Judge Froessel and I first talked about this exhibit, at the suggestion of Mr. Moses, and since then things have proceeded to this happy occasion where we start construction of this great fraternity's exhibit building on the Fairgrounds. I'm delighted to see all of you here. This is the largest crowd which I have seen at a groundbreaking ceremony, evidence of your very real interest in your fraternity and the World's Fair. I welcome you all here and hope to welcome you here many times in 1964 and 1965.

And it is now my pleasant duty to present the World's Fair's medal to Judge Froessel and to the Grand Master, Most Worshipful Harry Ostrov.

DR. DE MENDOZA: Our next speaker is very well known to most of you. He is a distinguished lawyer and philanthropist who has been a member of the Masonic

fraternity since 1927. A former Grand Treasurer and Deputy Grand Master, he is director of the New York Law School Alumni Association and has received many awards for his outstanding services rendered on behalf of humanity. It is my high honor to give you the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York, Mr. Harry Ostrov.

MOST WORSHIPFUL HARRY OSTROV: Dr. de Mendoza, Judge Froessel, Most Worshipful Brother Ellis, Mr. Constable, Mr. Ottley, my colleagues in Grand Lodge, my brethren, ladies and guests. My heart is full this morning with rejoicing that God has been so good to us that we are privileged to assemble on what is a truly historic occasion in the history of our Grand Lodge, in the history of our community, and we gather here for the purpose of starting the construction of an edifice which will be a beacon light to all of mankind, to the millions of men, women and children who will be privileged to attend the New York World's Fair in 1964 and 1965.

Dreams are things that all of us have, and there is not a person among us who hasn't wished at one time or another that dreams would come true. Well, dreams do come true — not by wishing for them, but by working for them. When the New York World's Fair project was first announced, some of us dreamed that the Masonic fraternity might there be represented, so that the millions of peoples from all over the world, from every conceivable background and every religious persuasion could come to the Fair and see what Masonry has done for mankind in the past, what it is doing now, and what it



hopes to do in the future.

Our fraternity is based upon one word — some call it "brotherhood." You will understand if I tell you that I refer to it this morning as "love" — love of God, love of country and love for the whole human family. As far as love of country is concerned, I venture to say that America would not be America were it not for those dedicated Masons, who from the very beginning of our history dedicated their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor to build the foundations of this nation which has prospered beyond their wildest dreams. In the Halls of Congress, in the legislative bodies in each of our states, among the governors — everywhere you will find Masons prominent yesterday and today in serving their government and their country.

We are proud of the contributions which Masons have made in every field of endeavor — whether it be in human relations, in government, in the arts, in the sciences. And we are proud of the many men in our national life in all of these spheres of activity who have been the recipients of our Distinguished Service award down through the years. They present a galaxy of service — to country, to God, to humanity — that can hardly be equalled by any other group of dedicated personalities.

What are we doing at this beautiful structure that we are about to rear on this ground on which we stand? We are building a structure that is going to be devoted to the prosperity of mankind, to a demonstration of the oneness of the human family, to promote brotherhood among mankind. And we hope that brotherhood will be the founda-



Mr. Stuart Constable, vice president in charge of Operations, New York World's Fair, presents the World's Fair medallion to Most Worshipful Harry Ostrov, Grand Master, at the ceremonies marking the groundbreaking for the Masonic Brotherhood Exhibit at the Fair.

tion for world peace, a world where every man has an equal opportunity to develop his best self for the benefit not only of himself but for his fellow man.

Each of us has a potential for good, for bettering the world and all those who dwell in it. And each of us should dedicate ourselves fully to the task of giving the very best that is in us towards reaching this goal. Our building is going to cost money. Aside from money, it's going to take the dedicated efforts of many, many of our brethren. As your Grand Master I feel greatly indebted to two of our past Grand Masters, both of whom are here today, without whose help it would hardly be possible for us to do what we are doing.

One of those is Most Worshipful Brother Froessel who addressed you earlier, and is now chairman of the World's Fair Commission of our Masonic Grand Lodge. And the other is a vice chairman and chairman of our ticket sales committee, Most Worshipful Brother Ellis. There are others among us today whom I would like to present: our Grand Secretary, Right Worshipful Brother Wendell K. Walker; our Grand Treasurer, Right Worshipful Brother Walter Dobler; our Senior Grand Deacon, Right Worshipful Daniel Eidler. I saw Brother Proctor somewhere around; Right Worshipful Brother Frank Cucurullo. Then we have two distinguished Masons among us who are trustees of our Masonic Hall and Asylum Fund at Utica: Right Worshipful Brother Leslie C. Riggs, and Right Worshipful Brother Frank Staples.

We have been most fortunate in the selection of our

architects and our builder. Mr. Powell is here today, representing the firm of Chapman, Evans and Delehanty and Mr. Crow is here, of the William L. Crow Construction Company. These men have given us more than just their professional advice. They have given us their time, their energy, their thinking, and they have been of great assistance to us.

Our building will be a beacon call to men of good will, whether they belong to our fraternity or not. We will welcome veterans, past and present, and see that they are made welcome and comfortable at this Masonic Center. Anyone who wishes will be more than welcome to come and see what we stand for, to see what we have done in our craft and what we will do in the future; to come, to sit, to see, to be refreshed and to go away with what we hope will be a correct and proper image of Free Masonry.

I issue the call to all of my brethren, to join with me not only in proving to ourselves that what we are doing is something truly worthwhile, but also in showing to the world that Free Masons practice what they preach. We are working toward that goal, when there will be hardly any gap at all between preachments and practice — not only among Masons, but on the part of men of good will the whole world over. Thank you very much.

DR. DE MENDOZA: Thank you, Mr. Ostrov. Dr. Henri F. Gondret, Grand Chaplain of the Masons of the State of New York, and president of the Brooklyn Division of the Protestant Council of the City of New York, will now deliver the Benediction.



DR. HENRI F. GONDRET: Almighty Father, and gracious Lord God: we lift our hearts to Thee in deep gratitude for this memorable and historic day, despite the weather, marking the start of the construction of the Masonic Brotherhood Center at the World's Fair. We are also mindful of the presence of outstanding luminaries in the Masonic firmament. We will give thanks, profound thanks, for the leadership of this very notable project, our energetic and dedicated Grand Master, Most Worshipful Harry Ostrov; the ingenious pioneering and labor of love of the vice president of the Masonic Brotherhood Foundation, the Honorable Charles W. Froessel, our esteemed past Grand Master; the presence of the indefatigable worker in Masonry and in every worthwhile project, Most Worshipful Raymond C. Ellis, Past Grand Master of Masons; the Honorable Robert Moses, president of the World's Fair, and the vice president, Mr. Constable, for their very gracious cooperation.

We invoke Thy blessing, Almighty Father, on this strategic witness on behalf of Masonry's inclusive brotherhood and benevolent idealism, with its welcome to all visitors to the World's Fair from near and far. And all this we pray in the name of our kinsman, redeemer and Lord. The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you, the Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you, and give you peace, both now and in the life everlasting. Amen.



Shown left to right are: Mr. Edwin H. Baumann, past Commander General, Masonic War Veterans; Most Worshipful Charles W. Froessel, president of the Masonic World's Fair Commission; Mr. Stuart Constable; Mr. Charles B. Masset, First Lieutenant Commander General, Masonic War Veterans; Most Worshipful Harry Ostrov; and Mr. Harold C. Miller, past Commander General, Masonic War Veterans.

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