

# ANCIENT LANDMARK LODGE NO.5

## Ancient Free and Accepted Masons

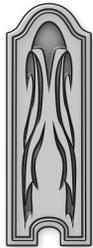


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### FROM THE SOUTH

The longer I am a Freemason, the more I am struck by the degree to which its teachings truly are life lessons. Mostly these lessons are allegorical and symbolic...but not always. Sometimes they can, and should, be taken quite literally. We are taught in the Fellowcraft Degree that Masonry is a progressive science. This, of course, is immediately evident by the simple fact that a man cannot become a Mason but by a series of degrees, a successive passing from one stage to the next. But for me, this lesson has been popping into my head quite frequently of late and in several other contexts.

I have noticed that every time I see and hear one of the degree lectures I seem to take some new tidbit of wisdom from it that I had never gleaned before. Had I not been paying close enough attention in the past? How had that little gem escaped me? And it occurs to me that I am likely not alone in this; that the degrees are too much for most men to digest in one sitting (or three); and that repetition is surely necessary if you want to gain true insight to their meanings. So it is also in the application of the ritual. I don't know about you, but I cannot simply sit down and memorize the various rituals. It requires a slow and (wait for it...) progressive course of repetition. And of course there is the traditional progression of the line of officers, another fine example of how Masonry builds upon what you've already learned, preparing you for each new step in the process.

Even the names of all the Brothers (and their wives) have come to me slowly. Yea, more slowly than for some others, I fear. But every time I come to a Lodge function I rely a bit less on those wonderful blue name tags and a bit more on my own feeble memory.

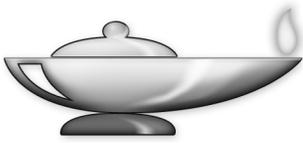
So what I've come to I realize is that life itself is a progressive science; a series of changes, new information and acquired skills, that hopefully make our lives better and bring us, step by step, toward that ideological goal of being the best men we can be.

I'm reminded of the experience of raising my children. I've always been in a certain reverent awe of people who are foster parents or who adopt older children. Because one of the truths of parenting is that you learn it progressively. You don't immediately have to deal with a two year old. No... you've had two years to come to terms with the day-to-day responsibilities of parenthood. So that "terrible-twos" tantrum is just another lesson in your tutelage as a parent. And you'll have had 16 years to prepare for the fact that your once tantrum-wielding child is about to get behind the wheel of a two ton automobile (gulp).

The same holds true for work and career. I could not possibly have done the tasks 20 years ago that I do today. This is true partially because the technology had yet to develop, but also because I have learned new skills and techniques all throughout those 20 years. And because of that fact, my income (and standard of living; and taxes) has increased relatively steadily.

But "Masonry is a progressive science" also pertains to the Craft itself. We have seen, over the several hundred years of our fraternity's existence, changes in the ritual and by-laws that have generally served to improve the Fraternity. Even in your own Lodge we make changes every year to try to best accommodate the needs of our Brothers. The MTA works tirelessly to improve our facilities, and this year your Lodge leadership has been working to improve the technologies that support the organization. We've also made some subtle changes to the roles of some of the officers. And in the face of some very difficult economic times and ever increasing inflation, we have been looking for ways to improve revenue and cut expenses. All of these changes are part of the process of progress. I believe that change comes whether we welcome it or not; so why not welcome it with open arms? Welcome it in the spirit of this progressive science we call Freemasonry!

Danny Baker - Junior Warden



## LODGE EDUCATION OFFICER

### That's Not the Way I Did It When I was.....

OK, you've all heard that before. It's usually repeated as a joke or even a serious statement about the way something is being done. Well, that's not the way I did it or that's not the way I was taught. I believe what's really happening is that we are recognizing a difference and we are questioning that difference. But we tend to always put it in terms of right and wrong which, when wrong, can lead to a very negative attitude. I recall my wife and I were making up the bed one day and putting clean pillowcases on the pillows. She was doing it one way and I was doing it another. She said to me, "you're doing it wrong". Now wait a minute, the case was going on the pillow, so how could I be doing it wrong. But because I wasn't doing it the same way she was or how she was taught, I was doing it wrong. In fact, I was just doing it differently, but that's not how she perceived it.

This caused me to begin to think about what is seen as right and wrong and how that changes as we examine one culture and then another. What is right in one culture may very well be wrong in another culture. What that culture sees as right behavior, in another is seen as entirely inappropriate, "wrong". This caused me to ask the question, "does right and wrong really exist in the world or is this just a way we have developed to make sense out of our circumstances?" What I also realized is if what I see as right and wrong is just different, then my attitude toward other cultures begins to change for the positive. What I'm really doing is taking the judgment out of the way I'm looking at a particular situation.

I believe this is what Freemasonry is trying to teach us when it talks about disinterestedness. To look at something impartially and objectively is to hold back your personal judgment and bias about that thing. Now, you can see clearly what is confronting you, whereas before your vision was clouded by your judgment and personal bias. To recognize someone else's opinion as just different from yours leaves you in a position where you can truly evaluate that person's opinion based on its merits alone--and perhaps see the value in that opinion even to the point of changing your own opinion on the subject.

The next time you are confronted with a situation that you immediately sense is wrong, try taking a step back from the situation and say to yourself, "this is just different," and see how your perception of the situation may change. Your perception of the situation may still be that it is wrong, but it will be as a result of your observations of the situation, not your personal bias.

I think this is called growing.

Bruce Sherman - Lodge Education Officer

## LINCOLN CHAPTER

The DeMoley organization was founded in 1919 by Brother Frank Sherman Land. Here is a little background on Brother Land.

Frank Sherman Land became a Mason in Ivanhoe Lodge #446 on June 29, 1912 in Kansas City, MO. In time, Land was selected to act as the director of the Masonic Relief and Employment Bureau of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry. This charity would come to help hundreds of families. A community leader who, at the age of 28, already had a successful business career as a restaurateur behind him, Land met Louis G. Lower in January 1919. Lower was a sixteen year old boy who had recently lost his father, Elmer Lower, a member of Ivanhoe Lodge. Land gave up his social service job with the Scottish Rite and became full time Secretary General in the headquarters of the DeMolay organization in 1922. Land was a past Potentate of Ararat Shrine Temple and served as Imperial Potentate of the Shrine in 1954-55. He was honored with the Knight Commander of the Court of Honor of the Scottish Rite and coroneted a 33° in 1925. He was named an honorary member of the University of Missouri chapter of Acacia Fraternity. He received the first International Gold Service Medal of the General Grand Chapter of York Rite Masons in 1951 for work in Humanities. He received the Grand Cross of the Southern Jurisdiction of the Supreme Council of Scottish Rite 33° in 1955.

## VALENTINE'S DINNER

There was a great turnout of Brothers and their significant other at this years Valentine's Dinner at the Lost Spur.





# THE SECRETARY'S DESK

flight home. We just finished the "trip of a lifetime" with my cousin and his daughter. If you recall, they are both battling cancer--he melanoma and she pancreatic. Her "bucket list" item and a dad's willingness to help her made this trip happen. My return flight is a bit longer than planned due to weather conditions, which in turn is making this article a quite a bit longer than planned. But it's a journey that has taken place in my life over several decades that I wish to share. Because of its length, I will dissect it a bit and spread it out over two months.

Years ago my Dad owned a Studebaker with "suicide doors" on it. In case you're a bit young and don't exactly know what that means, the rear doors on the car opened backwards. I was only a few years old, but do recall some of what happened. I was playing in the back seat with my brother and jumping from one side to the other. Of course, this was at a time when seat belts were only used in comic book spaceships and real airplanes. Now I also do recall that you pushed the handle down to open the door. Well, as you can guess, the door was opened, and the wind caught the door and me. As I drifted out and tumbled along the road, my mom watched "in total horror" in her review mirror as she saw a bundle of a kid rolling down the road and eventually into the ditch. I don't remember really anything much after that except my dad visiting in the hospital and reading stories to me. Somehow I survived. Ma Kuchera always said, "Boy your guardian angel was working overtime."

Nearly 17 years ago, my family and I were visiting Yosemite National Park--a must see by the way if you haven't been there. We flew into Reno, picked up a car, and headed for the hills, over Tioga pass into the park, according to our plan. On the way there, we were traveling a two lane highway. The opposing lane's traffic was backed up for miles, crawling along at a snail's pace. We thought we were making good time, hoping to make the park before nightfall. Suddenly, out of nowhere, appeared a car heading straight towards us in my lane. I was traveling well over 60 mph at the time, so I veered to the right and off the road, swerving between two huge car-crushing cotton woods, slowing along the drainage ditch without rolling the car, with gravel dust and several more cars behind me following my exact path of safety. How exactly I did that I don't know. It may have been some of my autotrack training I took over the years, but when I recall it, I see another set of hands on the wheel guiding me and several others away from a certain death.

A few days later we found out that there was a drunk driver who caused a fatal accident on that stretch of the highway that same day we were on it. I would be hard pressed not to say it wasn't the same guy. When I returned from that incredible trip, I was to learn that my Mother had terminal pancreatic cancer. Now, my dad who was a "tough as nails" retired SMSgt, became so distraught with all that lay ahead, it left little choice but for my wife Linda and me to step up and help my mother and father through the whole process. This included in-home nursing care, hospice, and, eventually, the funeral itself. I would have to say it was probably the toughest thing I have ever done in my life, but at the same time by far the most rewarding.

On one of those quiet moments alone with my mom just before her passing, I shared with her the story of Yosemite and how I truly had just made it back. She started to laugh, "Honey your guardian angel is still working overtime." Somehow I know she found great peace with that, and I was starting to understand what purpose life has in store for me. Doug Kuchera, Secretary

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Masonic Traveler Award

Don't forget about the Masonic Traveler Award, which will be presented to the member who makes the most visits to other lodges before Awards Night in October. Time is ticking down; there are only 7 months left until the presentation. You can buy your Masonic passport from the Lodge Secretary for \$10 to keep track of all your visits.

### Bowling Night

When: Thursday, April 5  
Where: West Side Lanes ([www.westsidelanesmn.com](http://www.westsidelanesmn.com))  
1625 S. Robert Street, West Saint Paul  
Time: Meet at the lodge lot at 7:20pm to carpool or  
Join us at the alley at 7:45pm  
Cost: \$3 for shoes, \$3.50/game  
Please R.S.V.P. ([rsvp@ancientlandmark5.com](mailto:rsvp@ancientlandmark5.com), or [www.ancientlandmark5.com/rsvp](http://www.ancientlandmark5.com/rsvp)) so we can reserve enough lanes

### Fellowcraft Degree

The second degree will be conferred on Thursday, April 26th, with dinner at 6pm and the degree beginning promptly at 7pm. Please come down and support the cast and candidates for this degree.

### 2012 Lodge Calendar

(all events are at the St Paul Masonic Center unless specifically stated otherwise)

|                        |                                      |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Thursday, April 5th –  | 7:20pm Bowling night                 |
| Thursday, April 12th – | 6:00pm Stated Meeting & Ladies Night |
| Friday, April 13th –   | Grand Lodge Annual Communication     |
| Saturday, April 14th – | Grand Lodge Annual Communication     |
| Thursday, April 26th – | 6:00pm Second Degree                 |
| Thursday, May 10th –   | 6:00pm Stated Meeting                |
| Saturday, June 9th –   | 9:00am Third Degree                  |
| Thursday, June 14th –  | 6:00pm Stated Meeting                |
| Saturday, July 21st –  | Lodge BBQ                            |

# LODGE of SORROW 2012



*And we shall become immortal by our deeds which will live on after us.*

| Name             | Birth      | Initiated  | Passed     | Raised     | Celestial Lodge |
|------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------------|
| J Robert Collier | 12/11/1915 | 02/22/1945 | 03/13/1945 | 04/04/1945 | 01/08/2012      |
| Larry Cook       | 12/30/1942 | 02/17/1976 | 03/16/1976 | 05/01/1976 | 02/19/2012      |

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