

# ANCIENT LANDMARK LODGE NO. 5

## Ancient Free and Accepted Masons

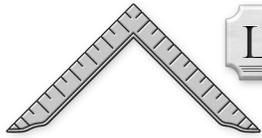


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### LOOK TO THE EAST

#### A Musical Mindset

Last month's Lodge Education Officer presentation got me thinking about music, and how powerful a force it is and always has been in my life. If you weren't present for last month's Stated Communication, Worshipful Brother Ron Larson stepped in as a guest LEO and gave us a brief recounting of the life and work of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. It was compelling and fascinating and not at all brief.

I personally grew up on rock and roll, and rhythm and blues. I had an appreciation for other genres, but guitars and drums were my bread and butter. It wasn't until my adult years that I realized how much I enjoyed classical and symphony music, and I believe it was this realization that helped me broaden my horizons into the eclectic tastes that I now enjoy. So WB Ron's presentation was just another link for me in a life-long chain of musical cues.

We humans have very associative memories. Sights and smells and sounds (especially music) can trigger even the most deep seated of memories in us. I have a number of specific musical triggers that, when I hear them, bring me back to a place and time as early as my childhood. And the detail and specificity of some of those memories is truly remarkable – almost haunting. One in particular, as an example, is The Beatles' "Lucy In The Sky With Diamonds". To this day, when I hear that song I am instantly transported back in time, to my fourteenth year, in my parent's basement. My dog is running past, and my neighborhood friend, Colin, is sitting on the floor as we play a board game called Billionaire on the coffee table in front of the sofa. I can practically smell the mustiness of the basement in summer and I can hear Colin explaining his latest plan to me (Colin always had a new scheme for us to work on). It's almost like a sort of magic.

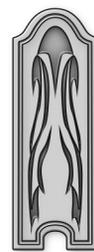
The Middle Chamber lecture in the Fellowcraft Degree describes music thusly:

*"Music teaches the art of forming concords, so as to compose delightful harmony, by a mathematical and proportional arrangement of acute, grave and mixed sounds. This art, by a series of experiments, is reduced to a demonstrative science, with respect to tones, and the intervals of sound. It inquires into the nature of concords and discords, and enables us to find out the proportion between them by numbers."*

Now I am not one to disparage Masonic teachings, but that description, while technically accurate, has always seemed woefully short of the mark for describing the importance and meaning of music. To me, it's akin to dining at the finest restaurant in Paris, helmed by a world renowned chef, and then describing the experience by listing the ingredients used and which utensils I employed. It's not wrong, it just lacks the passionate experience in each savory bite.

So if you see me driving along in my car and I look like I'm having some sort of fit, worry not... I just have the music turned up. I can't sit still when I hear music that I love. And my love of music continue to add new memories to associate. I hope that never changes. What music stirs your emotions and floods you with memories?

Fraternally,  
Danny Baker  
Worshipful Master



### FROM THE SOUTH

#### Making Good Men (or Kids) Better

Besides my role as Junior Warden in the Lodge, I play a few other roles in life: the boss at work, husband, sibling, neighborhood fix-it guy, son, etc. The role that consistently rises to the top of this list in terms of importance is that of father. For those that do not know, I am the father of eight and nine year old sons and a five year old daughter. They are the largest source of joy in my life and also a major contributor to the gray in my beard.



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Often in the context of explaining why a certain behavior is acceptable, I recite the job description for the position of Dad. Somewhere between the prerequisites (provide wholesome food, provide suitable clothing, etc.) and the nice-to-haves (take family vacations, expose to cultural events, etc.) are what I originally called the core competencies (which were quickly relabeled *must-haves* as my then seven year old kept asking “What’s a ‘copentency’ again?”). Among the must-haves is an item that had kept me up at night, *ensure children grow up to be good people*. This one was difficult on two fronts. The first, unlike the other items on the list, was that it is very difficult to gauge my performance on this task. Sure there are little glimpses into their psyches here and there but the true measure cannot be taken until they are on their own and free to make all their own decisions. The second difficulty was that the item sounds rather nebulous and was hard to explain in precise terms. I knew what I mean by it but was not sure they did. Talking about doing the right thing was just as unclear and led to me giving anecdotal examples. Those, in turn, led to the children’s grandiose “what if” counter examples, which then devolved in to a competition to see who could come up with the most outlandish scenario.

When I first looked into becoming a Mason, WB Todd Henderson summed up the mission statement of the fraternity in the oft-used phrase, “we make good men better”. It sounded rather vague at the time but lofty nonetheless. I have heard this saying many times since then, but it wasn’t until I was trying to impart upon my children what being a good person means that I really started searching for light on the “making good men better” claim.

Throughout our ritual we take oaths, make promises, and hear what those who have passed this way have done. I had always chuckled a little that the list of “furthermore” promises in the oaths each contained a caveat, or an “out” as I saw it. After taking time for some examination and introspection, I realized I was taking the same “what if” path as my kids by dismissing these caveats as “outs”. I came to understand these caveats are acknowledgements that the promises are not absolutes but examples of the right thing to do in most circumstances. You are still responsible for using good judgment.

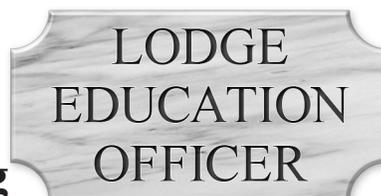
Great! I was back to a list of anecdotes with a list of criteria to teach my children what being a good person means but with the equally undefinable addition of “good judgment.” As luck would have it, this was right around the time WB Bruce Sherman gave a LEO presentation about teaching people about Masonry. My take away from that presentation was that no one can be told what being a Mason means, they have to be shown by example. That was something I could apply to my dilemma with my children (and already was).

Since then I have slept easy knowing I am doing my best to show them the path rather than try to direct them. Just last week, my oldest son notices a neighbor chopping ice and asked if he could offer to help. I feared that it was a ploy to accost our neighbor for money, so I asked him why he wanted to do that. He answered that our neighbor looked tired and was still wearing his work clothes and it looked fun. He chopped ice until I called him in to get ready for bed! Maybe I don’t have to wait until they are grown to know whether they will be good people.

Cordially,  
Terry Mallberg  
Junior Warden



**Communicating**



It’s been a very long, cold winter, which should go without saying, yet we say things now that need not be said. We like to connect with other people (as well as other animals, such as our pets) and what better way than by talking to them. For instance, I have a big smart German shepherd. I talk to him and he listens to me as he tips his head to the right and then he tips his head to, all the while looking me in the eyes. However, if I want to communicate with him I’ll ask him to show me what he wants. He then runs off to the door to show that he wants to go out, or he’ll put his nose against his treat jar indicating he wants a treat. His very favorite toy is a very big red Kong. He’ll pick it up, walk over to where I hang my hat, look at it and whine to let me know it is now time to go outdoors and play fetch. I know exactly what he wants.

During the opening and closing lodge rituals, the officers very clearly communicate who they are and why they are in their respective position. I’ve always enjoyed sitting, watching and listening to this as it smoothly flows from one officer to the other. Even the nights when it doesn’t flow perfectly it lets us know we all make mistakes

Please make note that next month starting Thursday April 3rd the Grand Lodge starts their 161st Annual Communication at the Minneapolis Marriott Northwest, 7025 Northland Dr. N., Brooklyn Park. Anyone with a valid Masonic membership card can attend. The last day is Saturday April 5th ending at 5:00 PM. Every Communication I have attended I have enjoyed very much.

Fraternally,  
Earl Wolford  
Lodge Education Officer



## LOOKING AHEAD

**Thursday, April 10th - Stated Meeting**  
6:00pm Dinner, 7:00pm Meeting

**Thursday, April 24th - Fellowcraft Degree**  
6:00pm Dinner, 7:00pm Degree

**Thursday, May 8th - Stated Meeting**  
6:00pm Dinner, 7:00pm Meeting

**Saturday, June 7th - Master Mason Degree**  
8:30am Coffee & Donuts, 9:00am Degree

**Thursday, June 12th - Stated Meeting**  
6:00pm Dinner, 7:00pm Meeting

### March Stated Communication

Last Thursday evening was our regular Stated Communication and it was... interesting. We had a packed agenda and a full sideline. The meeting ran a bit long, but we got through it all and had a pretty good time doing it.

We had a visit from our Grand Lodge District Representative, WB Steve Oian, and our own WB Ron Larson stood in as Lodge Education Officer and gave us an educational and entertaining presentation on one rather famous Freemason: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. I learned that Mozart lead a fascinating and incredibly ambitious life. He was prolific in measures that I find hard to fathom. Ron played us some recorded samples of music spotlighting the broad range of Mozart's talents, and then he even got out his own violin and viola and played a short sample himself with each instrument.

We also presented and voted on our proposed bylaws change to raise the Lodge dues. The amendment was accepted and will now be sent to the Grand Lodge for approval on form. I want to be very clear that anyone who wishes to debate the merits of this change will be given ample opportunity when the matter comes before the Lodge again in the fall.

And we presented two of our newest Brothers, Steven Sauvageau and Hector Rodriguez, with their aprons (and name tag, certificate, and lapel pin). Congratulations, Brothers!

Danny Baker,  
Worshipful Master

## Entered Apprentice Degree



### April Stated Communication

Thursday, April 10th

Dinner: 6:00 pm

Meeting: 7:00 pm

### May Stated Communication & Awards Night

Thursday, May 8th

Dinner: 6:00 pm

Meeting: 7:00 pm

At dinner during our May Stated Communication, we will be presenting anniversary awards to several of our Brothers. Depending on attendance, we have 30, 40, 50, and 60 year awards to present, as well as one 70 year pin. It's always a good night of fellowship, meeting these Masons who have been loving the Craft longer than some of us have been alive. Come down to Lodge and hear some stories of how it used to be - you might come to realize that not all that much has really changed.

# LODGE of SORROW 2014



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

Name	Birth	Initiated	Passed	Raised	Celestial Lodge
Johnson, Lynn W	4/26/1924	11/18/1958	12/18/1958	1/20/1959	1/12/2014



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