

ANCIENT LANDMARK LODGE NO. 5

Ancient Free and Accepted Masons

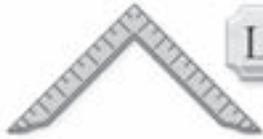


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LOOK TO THE EAST

The Great Architect and Grand Design

Each of us is a God-fearing man. We are mindful of the simple fact that the Great Architect of the Universe has bestowed upon each and every one of us unique and wonderful gifts, which we employ in our daily lives, whether consciously or not. We have all heard that we use roughly 20% of the capacity of our brains, and, if we were to unlock even a portion of the remaining 80%, we would astound ourselves. I dare say, we would astound all around us as well.

The Great Architect has entrusted us with a myriad of intricate skills which we unlock when we are challenged by a new task or opportunity. As stewards of these skills, we owe it to God, our country, our neighbors, and ourselves to employ these for the good of humanity and to better our cause, our Masonic cause – to make good men better.

In part, this was put into action at the Grand Lodge Membership Seminar held on 26 March. The Grand Lodge assembled a cadre of presenters, from local Lodge officers to world-renowned authors (Christopher Hodapp, author of, "Freemasonry for Dummies"), to talk about the need for, and the possibilities of, bringing more good men into the Craft. Brothers Jason Crespino and Dave Roussopoulos took time from their busy schedules to attend the seminar. They are fired-up and ready to assume the roles of co-chairs of the membership committee. They will be actively involved in helping our Lodge to make MORE good men better. Thank you Brother Jason and Brother Dave for your willingness to stretch-out, to help our Lodge to be an integral part of the Grand Design.

What is the Grand Design? The Grand Design is His and His alone. We can choose to be a part of it, or we can abstain. As Masons, though, it is incumbent upon us to be involved, to be active, and to use our time, talents and energies to work toward the Grand Design. Each of us certainly does this, whether through service to our Lodge, or to our church, or to any number of organizations seeking to help, aid, and assist the less fortunate of our society.

Can we do more? Do we have more time to spare? Is

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FROM THE WEST

Something A Little Different

Ah, April... typically a month of grass, flowers, flooding, and the Masters golf tournament (a personal favorite). In token of the change that April generally brings, I have decided that, instead of writing a traditional article as I have done thus far, I would switch things up a bit and issue a trivia challenge.

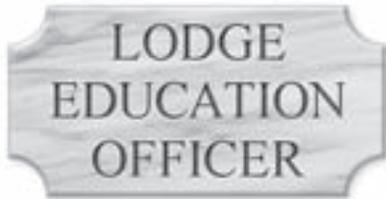
I'm sure by now that most of you know that I am a big fan of Masonic ritual. Recently, however, I have begun to grow curious about the history of our Minnesota ritual. Knowing that different Masonic jurisdictions often have different ritual, I came to wonder how we chose our ritual and from where it came. Just this morning, I stumbled upon a preliminary answer to this question in a very fascinating article about the early Masonic ritual and its spread to Minnesota. Rather than just give you the answer, I am going to issue a friendly challenge. The first person that can give me the correct answer to the following trivia question will win a small prize. I shall add that I will only accept answers in person.

Here's the question... The Grand Lodge of Minnesota first adopted a uniform ritual in 1863. From which U.S. Masonic jurisdiction did this work originate, and who is on record as having taught it to A.T.C. Pierson, who then brought it into Minnesota?

I hope those of you who search for the answer will learn something about the history of our ritual along the way. I know I learned quite a bit in reading the aforementioned article (which I will name next month) about the history of Masonic ritual and its early use and propagation in the U.S. and Minnesota.

Good luck,
Keith Reiersen, Senior Warden





George Washington and Benjamin Franklin

Barnes A. Sharitt, Jr.
Lodge Education Officer

(The data below is from WB Ed Halpaus' weekly column "Mehr Licht! More Light!" for February 24, 2011. WB Ed is the Grand Lodge Educational Officer and publishes this column on a weekly basis. While Washington's Birthday is past, it may be profitable for us to consider once again the impact of these two eminent brothers. – Barnes A. Sharitt, Jr.)

The Saint John's Bible and G. Washington and B. Franklin

By Ed Halpaus, Grand LEO, Grand Lodge AF&AM of Minnesota

Every four years, when a new U.S. President is sworn into office, Masons speak of the Bible from St. John's Lodge in New York City; the Bible Brother Washington used when he took the oath of office as President of the United States of America. Brother Alan Boudreau [1] in his paper "George Washington and New York City," gives us some interesting information about that Bible and Washington's inaugural ceremony.

The "Presidential Bible" was presented to St. John's Lodge by Jonathan Hampton in 1770; it is a King James Bible complete with the apocrypha. The Bible was held by M.W. Brother Robert R. Livingston, Chancellor of New York State, and Grand Master of Masons in New York when he administered the oath of office.

Brother Washington placed his right hand on the open Holy Bible, at the conclusion of the oath Washington bent forward as he spoke saying "I solemnly swear," and kissed the Bible. The Chancellor replied "it is done," and proclaimed to the gathered audience "Long live George Washington, President of the United States."

In the history of the U.S, and world there have been many who tirelessly worked together towards the goal of liberty and freedom. They may not have all had a real affection for each other, but many if not most of them did: Two who did truly like each other were W. Brother Washington and M.W. Brother Benjamin Franklin.

It has always been a tradition in Masonic Lodges in the U.S. to commemorate Washington's birth-date, at a communication near the 22nd of February, with some traditional food and some information about our Brother and first President of the United States. There has been quite a bit written about Brother Washington, and I would say that it might be possible to have a library composed of only books and articles about him. I read once that more has been written about him than any other single American.

Next month some letters between Washington and Franklin



FROM THE SOUTH

Climbing the Staircase

April has become one of my favorite months. April is the month when Spring begins and we begin to "climb" back into the warmer weather. Trees begin to grow leaves again and our lawns begin to recover after a long winter. April is also the month when we put on our Second Degree, perhaps my favorite degree. The lessons of the Second Degree place an emphasis on education, and because I've spent most of my life involved in some aspect of our educational system, this degree really hits close to home. I don't mean to make it sound as though I've regretted spending most of my life in our educational system. On the contrary, I've willingly taken each step of the way to where I am today and am very glad I did.

Getting an education can mean different things to different people. To some, it is a means to an end and a way to improve marketable skills in the workplace. To others, it is an end in itself. We see today many different kinds of schools, from technical schools to liberal arts colleges, and everything in between. Our ancient ancestors looked on education as a foundational requirement for being a good citizen and they too saw the dichotomy I've just spoken of. In the Greek city-states of the Classical period, an education often meant personal instruction from a tutor in philosophy and public speaking, and sometimes other subjects, depending on whom you could hire for a tutor. The Greeks, and especially the Athenians, were particularly concerned about developing citizens who could participate fully in their democracy. We're not talking about the representative republican form of government we have in the United States today, but a genuine democracy where all citizens were involved and were sometimes drafted to fill a public office whether they wanted to or not. True, citizenship was narrowly defined in ancient Greece, but those who were citizens were expected to discharge their duties competently, and, without an education, this could prove difficult.

The lessons of Masonry instill an education that is both philosophical, attempting to teach us how to think, and also practical. Getting involved in the degree work can give us skills that have much wider applications than the degrees themselves. I invite one and all to get involved in our Second Degree or, at the very least, come down and watch. I know our degree team and newly admitted brothers will appreciate the support.

Joe Amos, Junior Warden



THE SECRETARY'S DESK

As I write this, I am currently on the coast of Northern California enjoying a bit of R & R away from the daily grind of work and obligations. I just finished a 1000 mile journey through Death Valley and the surrounding area on my motorcycle, once again hooking up with my cousin to make our annual ride. The last time I wrote of him, he was facing the menace of an aggressive melanoma and didn't know if we would ever ride together again. It was started as a joke a couple of years ago that our last ride would be Death Valley. Well, we did it and are already talking of our next trip to Banff, maybe even next fall.

As I have toured about the state of California, dodging snow storms in the high altitude to enduring desert heat, I soon learned to appreciate what I do live.. No, not because of our weather, but because of the great economic environment we have and the people that make it work.

In California, I have been through entire towns devastated by the economy where house after house is sitting empty. Business store fronts are dark, and "for rent" and "for sale" signs affirm what I already know--they are hurting. Sure, this is California where it's not uncommon to see a Ferrari or Bentley racing towards you. Yes, there are multi-million dollar homes in the hills. Yes, California is the Golden State, and wealth does abound in so many places. Some of America's richest call it home, but for the most part, you get the feeling that many are just getting by. Proposition 13 and its repeal are the big buzz. Homeowners are not just worried about falling values, but the repeal of a tax relief bill that could force many from their homes because of taxes.

One of the towns I went through was so devastated that the people were taking materials off the houses that were left behind. These included roof trusses and siding. Widows were boarded-up. Doors, if they were still on, were wide open. Something has definitely failed.

I have also noticed something else. Towns that appear to be thriving have a compass and square on the community board as you drive in to them. Sure, the Rotary and Lions are there also, but the healthiest towns also have Masonic ties. One town that I spent a bit of time exploring by foot had some old photos displayed of the city from the late 1800's to early 1900's looking up a street name aptly named Lodge. Sitting up on that hill was a Masonic Lodge. That city was small, but its store fronts were filled. Restaurants abounded, and people walked the streets in the early evening, enjoying the place they called home. Sure, maybe it was the Rotary Club that spruced up that park, or the Lions Club that helped the student get a scholarship, and just may-

Secretary's Desk continued next column

Bunco Night on April 30th

Once again, it's time for our semiannual Bunco party! The catered supper will begin at 6:00 in the Lodge dining room, and the games will begin at 7:00 pm. Our great prizes will once again be available for highest score, most buncos, last bunco, and lowest score...see, you don't have to be good to win!

Bunco is an enjoyable and EASY game to learn, and a great chance to get to know your lodge brothers and sisters, their friends, and their families; it's a very social game!!

Cost is \$12.00 per person, and we do need reservations from you in order to insure that we have enough food and other refreshments. Payment is due at the door, but you must call in to the Lodge Secretary or Kim Remus Buck (651-702-0705) by April 26th.

Please join us!! Hope to see you there!

Look to the East continued from page 1

there more that needs to be done? The answer is "YES" to each of these. How do we accomplish this? What if I can't commit all of the time I should in an endeavor? Hmmm-mmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmm (the Master ponders). TEAM-WORK. The more people involved in a team, the merrier. We all know that there is nothing so dull than being tasked with something and having to do it all by yourself. We also know from our gainful employment that issues, ideas, and solutions abound when even two people are engaged in the work. More people, more - well hopefully not more issues, but more ideas and solutions will come together.

This is the Grand Design - the Great Architect giving us the talent - to work together and build a better world, one good man at a time. Work with others to help unlock the other 80% of your capabilities. Work with others to help THEM unlock the other 80% of their talent. Does this really work? Yup - that's how we managed to put men upon the moon. Just ask WB Barnes about his experiences with this. Embrace the Grand Design, my Brothers, and love what you do.

Yours Fraternaly,
Drew C. Bjorklund, Master

be the Church helped a local veteran's group raise awareness for returning vets. I also would be very surprised not to find a Brother Mason amongst each of the groups, working quietly for the betterment of his fellow man and city.

As I finish this on my return flight, I ironically realize that I am traveling East, and it makes me smile as I give thought to each of our own journeys and the work we each do along the way. It is good to be from Minnesota; it is great to be a Mason.

Doug Kuchera, Secretary

LODGE of SORROW 2011



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

Name	Birth	Initiated	Passed	Raised	Celestial Lodge
Isadore Kanevsky	11/21/1920	4/2/1958	5/1/1958	5/21/1958	2/3/2011



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