

# ANCIENT LANDMARK LODGE NO. 5

## Ancient Free and Accepted Masons



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### LOOK TO THE EAST

#### A Book Report – of sorts

Reading books gives me a sense of accomplishment in large measure because I don't read "fluffy" stuff – I tend to read things with substance and meaning to my life, though I will admit to reading many of Agatha Christie's mystery-novels, and Tolkien's tales of Middle Earth, but that is not the subject here.

One of the books I am currently reading (I also tend to have several books in various stages of completion) is called *The Meaning of Masonry* by W.L. Wilmshurst. When this book came into my hands, I thought, "EUREKA! This is it; I finally have the Holy Grail in my possession". I hoped I was going to be able to de-cipher the cipher, and unlock the doors which have hidden the meaning of our allegorical lessons. Little by little, the meanings are becoming clearer, compelling me to re-think several misconceptions I have long held true, which may have been the author's intent. I haven't finished the book yet, but I suspect that there will still be plenty left to de-cipher, and not all of the lessons will have been fully explained. I won't be disappointed by this. I have already thought, "ah-ha", more times than I have with any other book I have read on Masonry. My insight on Masonry is glowing brighter with each reading session, sort of like the slow turning up of a rheostat on a light switch.

It is an interesting reading and takes one back a bit, when he talks about the growth in ranks of Freemasonry as being close to exponential. To put the book into proper context, it was written sometime in the 1920's or 30's. To hear about "growth" as opposed to "decline" in Masonry, gives one a temporary sense of calm and pleasure. Growth, or the lack thereof is not at issue here, but it is rather what this enlightened Past Master has to say about our lessons in Blue Lodge.

We have all been told that our lessons are allegorical, which leaves a door open for us to either open further or to leave in a position of being slightly ajar. Wilmshurst carefully ushers us through the veil - the door -with tantalizing explanations of what each degree means and what our symbols (working tools, beehives, chambers, etc.) represent. His is a plea for Freemasons to move beyond rote memory work and the precision of floor-work and to explore the original intention of our Craft; that of finding our true place in life, that of finding meaning in what we do, that

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### FROM THE WEST

#### Wow, What A Year!

It is hard to believe I am once again writing a December newsletter article. I know I say that every year, but this time, I'm really struggling to figure out where the time went. I think 2011 has been one of the busiest, fastest, and most exciting years I've experienced in a very long time.

In early March, Karen and I, after nearly 7 years together, finally got married. It was a wonderfully small and simple ceremony with immediate family, and was officiated by our very own WB Loren Davis, who happens to be an ordained minister (and he does a great job!).

The rest of the spring flew by, busy with work, class and Lodge, and I soon found myself on a plane to Copenhagen, Denmark for the start of what would be a two-week experience of a lifetime, cruising the Baltic Sea. We spent three and a half days in Copenhagen and Malmö, Sweden before boarding the ship for our 11-day voyage across the Baltic. Along the way, we visited Oslo, Norway; Århus, Denmark; Berlin, Germany; Tallin, Estonia; St. Petersburg, Russia; Helsinki, Finland; and Stockholm, Sweden. What an experience!

Of all the Masonic events and activities in which I have participated this year, I am most proud and excited about what we have accomplished in the Lodge. Under the leadership of our Worshipful Master Drew Bjorklund, the Lodge hosted a wildly successful Canadian Visitation, presented a Hiram Award to a very well deserving WB Alan Peterson, one of my mentors, and brought several vibrant new Masons into the fraternity. We have also have a new class of seven Fellowcrafts, who, by the time this newsletter reaches you, will be only days away from being raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason. It is truly an exciting time to be a member of Ancient Landmark Lodge.

These activities are what being a Mason is all about. I come to Lodge because I enjoy the process of Masonry – spending time with my Brothers, receiving education and knowledge, and working to make our Lodge a better and stronger place for those who will join the Craft tomorrow.

Brethren, it has been an enormous honor to serve you and the Lodge this past year as the Senior Warden. I wish you all very happy holidays and look forward to an exciting 2012.

Fraternally yours,  
Keith Reiersen, Senior Warden



## FROM THE SOUTH

### Fellowcraft Degree

Our most recent Fellowcraft degree featured a number of innovations, and I wanted to take a moment to express my thanks to everyone involved. For those who didn't attend, we held the degree at the Triune Temple on Iglehart Avenue in St. Paul. It's a traditional Second Degree Lodge building, complete with the architecture, and is also on the National Historic Register. While I love our Lodge building, it was indeed a pleasure to be able to watch the degree in a setting that allowed our newest members to visualize the lessons taught in the degree to an extent we haven't had in the past.

We also divided up one of the lectures among several of our officers. Those of you familiar with the degree will probably know which lecture I'm referring to. The Brothers who undertook their parts put in a great deal of work and, although I've thanked them several times, I wanted to do it again. Thank you Danny, Jeremy, Terry, and Johnnie. You did a fantastic job.

More than using my bully pulpit to thank our Brothers for such a great job though, I wanted to ruminate a bit on why we broke up the lecture the way we did. For many years now I've heard many Brothers express awe at those who could deliver the entire Senior Deacon's lecture in the Second Degree. The awe stems from admiration at those who can undertake the work, but there is also a sense that the lecture is too big a job for one person. I know this feeling. I've had it before.

Once I started the work, however, I realized that it wasn't so bad, after all. Yes, there is a lot of information and some peculiar words, but it can be done. Sometimes all that's needed is a reason to begin. The Greeks used to say, "Well begun is half done." And so, the main reason we decided to break up the lecture was to give more people a chance to see the possibilities. I think it worked and I hope everyone enjoyed the degree as much as I did. Until next time.

Joe Amos  
Junior Warden

## LOOKING AHEAD

### Master Masons Degree

Saturday, December 3.

8:00 AM Coffee and donuts

### Stated Communication

Thursday, December 8.

6:00 PM Dinner - 7:00 PM Meeting



## LODGE EDUCATION OFFICER

LEO's Corner  
Barnes A. Sharitt, Jr.

It is with pleasure that the Masonic year is completed. This year we have shared a journey through the byways and paths of the Craft, in which all of us have participated and learned more than what we knew when the year began. To all who have participated during the year, may I express appreciation for your cooperation. May 2012 be another year of enlightenment for all of us.

The accompanying article was published by WB Ed Halpaus as Number 315, January 31, 2011 in his column "Old LEO Letters and Talks." WB Ed is the Junior Grand Steward of the Grand Lodge AF&AM of Minnesota. It is with his permission that this column is printed below. I have the pleasure to share the following article with you:

"It seems that there is always interest in the ceremonies and degrees within the various jurisdictions of Freemasonry throughout the world. Below is some information from Freemasons' Guide and Compendium regarding the Greater and Lesser Lights from England about the time the book was written in 1950. I'm not sure it's still the way Brother Bernard Jones describes it, but it may be.

The Greater and the Lesser Lights

In the eighteenth century the 'Moderns' at first regarded their three big candles carried in high candlesticks as the three great lights, the purpose of which was "not only to show the due course of the sun which rises in the east, has its meridian in the south and declension in the west, but also to light men to, at and from their labor" and also to represent "The Sun, Moon and the Master of the Lodge."

The 'Antients' took a less obvious view of the matter; to them the three great lights were the Volume of the Sacred Law, the Square and Compasses, while the three lesser lights were the candles of the Master and his Wardens. To the 'Moderns' the Volume of the Sacred Law, the Square and Compasses were known as the 'furniture' of the lodge; they are still often known in that way. Probably by the end of the century many of the 'Modern' lodges had come to look at the matter differently, and we find the Lodge of Reconciliation, after the union, adopting the 'Antient' practice as to the great lights, and agreeing that the three lesser lights are situated in the east, south, and west, and are meant to represent the sun, moon, and Master of the lodge.

In the old lodges the candles were arranged to form a triangle on the Floor of the lodge, a position which they still occupy in a few of the older Lodges, but mostly nowadays (an arrangement dating back to the early nineteenth century) the candles are at the side of the Master and the two Wardens, where the three tall candlesticks seem to do duty for the three tall pillars present in the old lodges. There does not appear to be any reason why the candlestick should be on the left or right of a pedestal, and, although the right side is the more general, the left is the more convenient so far as the work with the Candidate is concerned.

In some old French lodges there was a custom of using nine candles in the Third Degree only, in three clusters of three each, retaining the triangular arrangement. Apart from this, it is not thought that there was ever a custom of arranging the candles in different ways to indicate the degree in which the lodge was work-

## LEO... cont. from page 2

ing.

In existing old lodges there must be great diversity with regard to the positions of the candles and with regard to the customs associated with them. For example, in the Lodge of Love and Honour, No. 75, Falmouth, founded in 1751, the candle in the east is lit before the Master enters the lodge. The lodge having been opened, the Wardens approach the Master's light with their candles, light them, return and place them in position, and resume their chairs. The candles stand out on the floor, Candidate passing between them and the pedestals."



### Look to the East continued from page 1

of discovering the Ancient Mysteries which the enlightened people throughout history have aspired to find. Great stuff!

I truly wish that I could go back about 30 years and add Freemasonry to my life. If I did that, I would also like to have this book and doubtless others that I could read and embed into my psyche BEFORE stepping into the line of officers. Had I done that, I would have been a much more enlightened and "masterful" Master to the Lodge. Sorry Brothers – you got stuck with a 60+ wannabe. But, there is plenty of time for the present line officers to search for these Mysteries, since the average age is roughly 35 years old.

Ah well – better late than never. Thanks, Doug! I love the book, as I have loved being Master of this grand assemblage of friends and Brothers.

Fraternally and gratefully yours to One and All,  
Drew Bjorklund, Master

## LINCOLN CHAPTER

Well the boys have had their annual Flag Football game and Monster Mash dance. All went well, and no injuries were reported. They have elections and installation coming up (dates will be given later). Our chapter had the honor of having both the State Master Councilor and the State Sweetheart from Lincoln Chapter right here in the Masonic Center. We have winter activities coming up such as: Blitz (games such as broomball and kickball), Grand Masters class (we do our degrees for the Grand Master and Grand Officers), and Winter Carnival in Biwabik, MN (video games, skiing, tubing and plenty of fellowship).

Do the names of John Wayne, Mel Blanc, Burl Ives, Garry Collins, and of course Walt Disney mean anything to a DeMolay? Not only are they Senior DeMolay, but Hollywood stars, actors or producers, and they are also members of the DeMolay Hall of Fame, those few individuals singled out for exemplary service in their profession and to the Order of DeMolay. When you become a Senior DeMolay where will your future lie? As Walt Disney said, "If you can dream it, you can do it." and "We keep moving forward, opening new doors, and doing new things, because we're curious and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths." To quote John Wayne: "Tomorrow is the most important thing in life. Comes into us at midnight very clean. It's perfect when it arrives and it puts itself in our hands. It hopes we've learned something from yesterday."



## THE SECRETARY'S DESK

### The Temple is complete- Well Almost.

One thing you may not be aware of is that the Worshipful Master and I meet once a month for lunch. We discuss the business of the Lodge and what needs to be done to get it done.

Now these luncheons are usually long and are held at a very secret location known as the Wild Onion. It's always an experience for me just to see what Drew would be wearing for the event. At one such meeting, he showed up in what I would call safari gear, right down to the hat, shooting shirt, and cargo pants that I am sure are an Orvis exclusive. I was surprised when he didn't attend our sporting clays event as he sure could dress the part. Even if he couldn't hit a thing, he would have looked like he just stepped out of a catalog, a man ready for adventure in the darkest of Africa.

At several of these lunch occasions, he could be seen in the hat of Scotsman. A "toorie bonnet," I believe is the correct term for it. I have also been told by others and not from experience of our meetings, that Drew has a vast knowledge of Single Malts. He personally has also claimed some odd Scottish heritage even with a last name of Bjorklund, I am not sure if it is the hat or the heritage that has given him his great insight about fine Scotch, but I did always know I would be in trouble if he came up with inventing golf, or worse yet, showed up in a kilt for lunch. It's also true I would have pretended not to have known him and run for the door as if the place were on fire.

At our last meeting, something I wasn't prepared for happened. No, it wasn't the kilt. I had presented a proposal of some sort to him and he responded that he was a "lame duck" now. How could it be that the Worshipful Master is in Senior Slide mode? The trestle board must still need wholesome instruction for the Craft. It also made me stop to reflect that, once again, he is right. His Temple is almost complete. If you step back and look, you will see what a wonderful structure it is, so full of detail. I was amazed at his ability to have so many craftsmen in the back ground or in the quarry working for its completion. Lame duck? I think not. I have promised him that I will not let him just slide on out as the year ends.

If you ever see a guy on Grand Ave on a Wednesday just before lunch dressed for a jungle safari, that's my friend Drew. It's been a great pleasure working with you, The Worshipful Master.

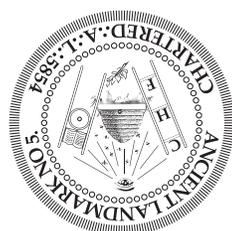
Doug Kuchera, Secretary

# 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        |
| James Bramer     | 9/12/1918  | 9/17/1946 | 10/1/1946 | 10/25/1946 | 2/12/2011       |
| Fred Hrachovina  | 9/2/1926   | 4/19/1949 | 5/3/1949  | 5/14/1949  | 4/16/2011       |
| David Eckstrom   | 9/13/1938  | 10/3/1967 | 11/7/1967 | 12/9/1967  | 7/15/2011       |
| Robert Vesaas    | 12/22/1919 | 3/18/1948 | 4/1/1948  | 4/14/1948  | 8/9/2011        |
| Dennis Phelps    | 2/2/1942   | 1/4/1966  | 2/15/1966 | 3/15/1966  | 10/09/2011      |



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