

ANCIENT LANDMARK LODGE NO. 5

Ancient Free and Accepted Masons

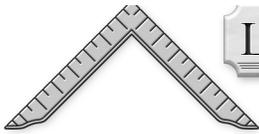


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LOOK TO THE EAST

Bricks and Mortar

We are taught early on that a Masonic lodge is a collection of Masons and not the building they meet in. We are also taught that it is our internal, not external, qualifications that make us worthy to be made a Mason. With all of this emphasis on the internal, the external often gets overlooked. Take the example of our own origins.

The operative masons of the Middle Ages were renowned for their skills. This was often apparent in the construction of the cathedrals, those amazing buildings that dot the landscape of Europe. However, the cathedrals were not meant to showcase the masons' mastery of their art, although they do that most impressively. Instead, the cathedrals were meant to reflect the glory of God. They typically contain soaring arches and exceedingly ornate stonework. Take a tour of the cathedral in St. Paul or the basilica in Minneapolis. Interestingly, the cathedrals of Europe were also designed with their own symbolism: many were oriented so that the worshipers would be facing east, which symbolized the Risen Christ. Another interesting point about the cathedrals in Europe: not only are they usually the most imposing structure in a given locality, they are usually the oldest. Why is that? Simply put, the local people love the buildings and try very hard to maintain them.

While I'm on the subject of externalities, let's also take the example of our own bodies. I think most of us would agree that what is on the inside of a person is what really matters most in this life. But we can't ignore those vessels that carry us to work or home or to gas stations or wherever our daily wanderings take us. We're not the Black Knight of Monty Python fame, able to ignore "superficial" wounds and continue the battle. I don't always put this into practice, but I will acknowledge that the better I care for my body, the better I will feel.

And so where am I going with this? I want to bring your attention to our own lodge building.

The MTA has recently begun a campaign to re-upholster the furniture of the large lodge room. If you look just to the right of the main entrance to the lodge room, you'll notice a schematic of sorts that shows the lodge room lay-out and lists the prices to re-do the various types of furniture. This, my fellow Brothers, is my point. I love being a Mason and I try to take to heart all the lessons I'm taught by the Craft, but we need to look after the externals, too.

We at Ancient Landmark are co-owners of the building and we have a responsibility to help with the building's upkeep. I announced in lodge at the February Stated Communication that we, as a lodge, would be looking at helping out in the very near future. I was pleasantly surprised that I have already received donations from a few Brothers. We are going to set up a fund at the lodge to help re-upholster the furniture. The Lodge will also be looking at making a contribution. Please consider a donation. It will help out enormously.

Our lodge building is not as ornate as a cathedral. It does, however, serve the very important purpose of providing us with a place to continue our work of teaching the Craft and enjoying fellowship. The cathedrals have been around for ages because our operative Brethren were skilled at their work and people loved what they created and cared for the buildings. Let's follow that example as speculative Masons and care for our own building.

Joe Amos
Worshipful Master



NEXT STATED MEETING

March 14th
6:00pm Dinner
7:00pm Meeting





THE SECRETARY'S DESK

As this is my first article for the newsletter and I am relatively new to both Masonry and the Lodge, I was advised by a very caring Brother to take a little time to introduce myself.

I am a member of the Baby Boom. For those of us who were just graduating from 6th Grade when Sputnik was launched, this meant that if you could add, subtract, multiple and divide you were immediately tracked into a Math and Science curriculum as the nation needed scientists and engineers to close the technology gap with the Russians.

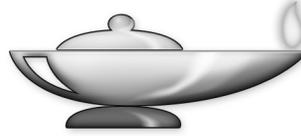
It was fun to be tracked into advanced math and science and not to have to worry about silly things like English, Geography, History, writing papers, etc. I went to Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago for Mechanical Engineering and in four years of study had one English course and one History course. Just down the shore of Lake Michigan was the University of Chicago where the first Atomic Reaction was developed. Also at University of Chicago was a beautiful Irish Colleen with flashing green eyes, studying literature and Liberal Arts. After two years of diligent effort, I finally got a “yes” to my marriage proposal.

While I was in College, my father, an honorably discharged World War II Marine Sergeant, joined the Mason's, went up the Scottish rite, and joined the Shrine which he loved. He was settled in Billings, Montana where he spent the next 45 years traveling with the Al Bedoo Shrine Oriental Band whenever possible.

After I graduated from college, I worked in Chicago so my new wife could finish her degree. I also began to read all of her course work and found that there were things other than equations that could be thought provoking. When she graduated I went to the Business School at Chicago to get an MBA.

When I started my business career, I thoughtfully chose a corporation in an industry that I believed would always be in business. Scott Paper made about a third of the Bath Tissue in the US. People will always need Bath tissue. After a 20 year Career with Scott Paper, mostly in Philadelphia with a 3 year stint in Taiwan, I moved to a smaller Bath tissue Company headquartered in Portland, Oregon. About 13 years ago, we moved to Minnesota, and I joined a Canadian Company who exported Tissue products into the U.S.

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LODGE EDUCATION OFFICER

Do You Really See What Is Before You?

Last year I gave a talk in a LEO report about hearing what others are saying. The subject of the talk was we only really hear what we want and if we were to really listen we would realize that much more is being said than what we normally hear. Last month in my LEO article, we talked a bit about symbolism in society and cultures, and in Freemasonry.

This month let us examine a bit the ways in which Freemasonry uses symbolism to teach important lessons. One of the first things our candidates learn about Freemasonry is that we use symbols and allegories to teach Masonic lessons. In the Scottish Rite we talk about how our Masonic symbols conceal their true meanings and it is left to us to study and understand those hidden meanings to learn the lessons they hold.

One such symbol is the idea of keeping the secrets of our Freemasonry. On the surface it would seem that what we are telling our candidates is to make sure none of our Masonic secrets are every revealed to anyone who is not a Freemason. In the obligation of the first degree we promise to keep the secrets of Freemasonry to the extent that we would not only never speak of them to anyone who is not a Freemason but also never reveal them in any form.

But wait a minute.... What about the “www” thing. If you want to know anything about Freemasonry including any of the so called secrets, all you have to do is that “www” thing on your handy iPad and there it all is laid out before you in its entirety. So, you would have to ask, what secrets?

As a new Master Mason just raised a couple months back, I was looking on the internet to see if I could get some kind of understanding of what I had become a part of. I keyed in a search on the “meaning of Masonry” and up popped a web site with the Grand Masonic Word plastered across the top of the page. You can imagine my surprise! What was this! The Grand Masonic Word in a web site. The most secret of secrets in Freemasonry as a title of a web site on the internet for anyone and everyone to see! How could this be? To add insult to injury the web site was a single page of text written by a women complaining about how much time her husband was spending at his Masonic Lodge. As I looked further into the internet I found most all of what we consider the “Secrets” of Freemasonry available for anyone to see. This was in direct conflict with what I had promised and what I believed.

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MASONIC CHARITIES

Brothers, Sisters & Friends;

I am issuing a challenge to all of you. You know how passionate I am about the Masonic Cancer Center at the University of Minnesota, I am continually working to fund the pledge made on behalf of all of us to build a new clinic at the U of MN and to find a cure for cancer, while providing the best treatment in Minnesota!

Minnesota Masonic Charities is the charitable body of Minnesota Masons, it is by Charities that we are able to fund the Scholarships we give out each year, it is by Charities that we were able to match the monies we gave to service the wishes of terminally ill and disabled children who wanted to learn to hunt and fish this summer, it is by Charities that we are able to get the matching funds for our local service programs. However, the money we are given is not easily replaced except by our largesse.

Nearly all of us will suffer from some form of cancer between the ages of 65 to 80. Our goal at the Cancer Center is to have a cure for every cancer by 2023.

We Mason's have pledged to the University of Minnesota, \$65 million dollars to build the new Masonic Cancer Center. With the recession, pledges have been understandably very little to date.

Please join me in search of the cures for cancer with your gift of money or maybe gifting a portion of your life insurance policy. Let us work together to support the kindness and aid we get and give from Minnesota Masonic Charities.

Fraternally,

Alan Peterson, PM
Masonic Cancer Center board member



Secretary... cont. from page 2

As my retirement age neared, and my father passed 90, I thought he might enjoy it if I joined the Masons so I petitioned Ancient Landmark No 5 in 2008 and was raised to Master Mason in December of that year. I was able to bring my father to attend Lodge at AL#5 once before he died.

Jerry Jacobsen
Secretary



LEO... cont. from page 2

I began to think about what I had promised in my obligation and wondered if there might be a different meaning to those words. I thought about that part of the obligation and the fact that there really did not seem to be any secrets in Freemasonry if they were all plastered all over the Internet. Then I realized that the words I spoke hid a challenge to me personally. It wasn't about the secrets being kept, that had passed from reality a long time ago. It seemed to me this was more about me keeping the secrets. It was a promise not about what was being done but what I must do.

In the end I realized this was more about a promise of personal integrity than it was about keeping secrets. Maintaining a high level of personal integrity in your dealings with your fellows is an essential quality of any human being and builds trust among your fellows. That is what our Craft was trying to teach us, that is what this symbol was hiding and was only reviled after some reflection.

It should be obvious to anyone then that to take our symbols and allegories at face value is to miss their true meaning. You must take the time to look closer at these symbols and understand what they may mean to you. You may find a very different meaning than someone else has found but if it is right for you then it is right. Share that understanding with others and help them to grow their understanding in Freemasonry and you may find that you have grown yourself.

I leave you then with this one thought; "Knowledge of any kind brings about a change in awareness from where it is possible to create new realities." -Deepak Chopra.

Fraternally,

Bruce L. Sherman, PM
LEO



LOOKING AHEAD

Thursday, March 28 - Entered Apprentice Degree
6:00pm Dinner, 7:00pm Degree

Thursday, April 11 - Stated Meeting
6:00pm Dinner, 7:00pm Meeting

Thursday, April 25 - Fellowcraft Degree
6:00pm Dinner, 7:00pm Degree

LODGE of SORROW 2013



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

Name	Birth	Initiated	Passed	Raised	Celestial Lodge
Joseph Ditschler	04/29/1934			06/21/1966	01/24/2013



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