

St. James Lodge No. 47 F. & A.M.

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Stated Communications: 1st & 3rd Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.



Lloyd Gerald Pence, Secy., P.M.

Home: 924-1000

JULY 2003 – AUGUST 2003



Run the Numbers

Even without the advantage of analytical geometry and calculus (discovered later in the 17th century by Newton and by Leibniz), Johannes Kepler established between 1609 and 1619 the three laws of planetary motion. The first showed that Copernicus was correct and Ptolemy incorrect -- the orbits of planets are not perfectly circular but are, instead, elliptical. The second showed that the area under the arc inscribed by a planet's orbital movement is equal, for any two equal periods of time. The third showed that the square of the orbital period of a planet is proportional to the cube of its mean distance from the Sun. Kepler's work made possible Newton's later explication of the Law of Universal Gravitation.

Descartes, Kepler, Galileo, Newton and other leaders of **The Enlightenment** insisted that it is not enough to understand the universe in spiritual terms of "perfections" and "purposes" -- that it is necessary, too, to understand nature in terms of her mathematical laws. For these men, it did not suffice, for example, to conclude that a river flooded because "its spirit was angry"; they wanted to understand such phenomena in measurable numerical terms, so that something could be done to control them and thus to promote the happiness and wellbeing of humankind. Theirs was a charitable purpose. They changed the world.

Are we, the Masons of today, content to understand our Craft only in terms of qualities and purposes -- our ritual, our three principal tenets, etc.? Must we not, in addition, give our full attention to quantitative aspects of The Craft?

What is the numerical magnitude of the decline in membership -- of my Lodge, of the Louisiana Grand Lodge, of Masonry in the U. S., and of The Craft throughout the world? What is the impact of that decline on the budgets of Louisiana's constituent Lodges and of the Grand Lodge? What percentage of the members of any given Masonic body are now "life members" and no longer paying dues?

One of the Four Cardinal Virtues is **Prudence**. Prudence would dictate that if future generations are not to be deprived of Masonry, entirely, then today's Masons should heed the numbers and begin to plan and work for "the lean years" to come -- or are they not already upon us?

In their wisdom, Masonic leaders in Louisiana have long since laid the foundations for us. **Perpetual Membership** and **The Grand Lodge Endowment Fund** are two ways in which Louisiana Masonry has exercised great Prudence in planning for the future. If you are not already a Perpetual Member, then you should consider becoming one. And, each of us should promptly and regularly make any large or small donation or bequest that we can make to The Grand Lodge Endowment Fund.

PAST EVENTS

Jul. 3 Bro. Evan Cooper's presentation on Bro. John Paul Jones was most informative and well received.

Jul. 17

EA Degree

REMEMBER GUEST NIGHT

Bring your spouse!

Thursday

September 4, 2003!

DINNER at 6:30 PM

Get busy -- start now inviting your friends.

Get serious about it.

Bring in all the good men you know.

Invite each to bring his spouse.

They'll thank you later.

THIS IS BY FAR OUR MOST POWERFUL TOOL FOR ASSURING THAT OUR BELOVED LODGE WILL BE PRESERVED FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

HELP US TO FILL THE BLUE ROOM WITH GOOD MEN AND THEIR WIVES!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW

MASTER MASON DEGREE

IN FULL REGALIA

SPECIAL COMMUNICATION

Saturday Morning

November 15, 2003

St. James Lodge

Breakfast at 7 a.m.

Ceremony at 8 a.m.

ALL REGULAR MASTER MASONS INVITED,

OF COURSE

If evening meetings are not for you, then this is your golden opportunity.

If you need transportation, please call

WM Larry Wade

928-3401 (Office)

769-0298 (Home -- evenings)

SW Frank Dedman

927-8196(Home)

JW Ken Streater

753-9337(Home)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW

FUTURE EVENTS

Aug. 7

Fellow Craft Degree(s)

(End Casual Summer Attire)

Aug. 21 RWB Clayton Borne III, Grand JW Guest Speaker

Aug. 28 Special Comm @ 6 pm -- two MM Degrees

Sep. 4 Guest Night (Open/meal 6:30)

Sep. 18 Fellow Craft Degree (tentative)

Oct. 2 Past Masters' Night (Open/meal 6:30)

Oct. 16 French Lodge EA Degree Demonstration

Nov 6 Masonic Education -- St. John the Evangelist (tentative)

Nov 15 MM Full Regalia Spec Comm (bkfst @ 7; degr @ 8)

Nov. 20 Thanksgiving Feast (Open/meal 6:30)

Illness, News and Relief

Brother Jim Reed has been diagnosed with advanced pancreatic cancer. Prayers are requested for Brother Reed and his wife.

Bro. "Mac" Little and wife Shanna have a new baby girl. All are doing well. Congratulations!

We wish Bro. Michalek well in his promotion and move to Oxford, MS.

We will miss Bro. Paul Roberts, who is going back to school in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Demits to the Celestial Lodge

Brethren, it is with sorrow that we note the passing into The Celestial Lodge Above of Bro. James Howard Dillard who joined the Celestial Lodge on Monday July 7 and was buried Wednesday, July 9. St. James Lodge shall miss him. Please remember his family in your devotions.

MASONIC EDUCATION

"Old Tiler Talks" by Carl Claudy -1924

A MASONIC SPEECH

"Old Tiler, I am in a jam!" The New Brother smiled, so the Old Tiler did not feel too worried. "If you don't help me out, I will be up against it."

"What's the trouble now?" The Old Tiler put down his sword to take the cigar the New Brother held out. "Must be something very bad or you wouldn't start me off with so good a cigar."

"I have to make a Masonic address."

"That has been done, and the addresser- yes, even the addressees- lived to tell the tale," countered the Old Tiler.

"I don't want just to get by. I want to make 'em remember it. I want to talk about something they haven't heard before. I've listened to many Masonic speeches, and most of them bored me to tears."

"There are rules for making a good address," mused the Old Tiler. "The three great rules are, have something to say- say it- sit down. Sometimes they are stated 'stand up, speak up, shut up.' Terminal facilities of adequate proportions are needed by railroads and Masonic speakers."

"That's just it!" cried the new Brother. "I want to know what to say and how to say it."

"Meaning you want me to make your speech for you, or to you, before you make it in there?"

"Well, er, no. Not exactly. But can't you, er, suggest something?"

"I could, but I won't. I'll suggest a method of handling your subject, however. Most Masonic speeches suffer from lack of preparation, and of clear thinking about what the speaker wants to say.

"I can't prepare you. I can't make you think clearly. But I can tell you the essence of appeal. It is drama. If you want your hearers to

Visit <http://www.calodges.org/no442/Old%20Tiler%20Talks/OldTilerTalksMenu.htm> to read more "OldTiler" stories.

Thanks to those who have commented on the 'Old Tiler' stories. -bz-

Send newsletter submissions to Bob Zinn, bz@chem.lsu.edu

hang on your words, dramatize your subject. If you talk about the Rough and Perfect Ashlars, bring your workman before your hearer; let them hear the strokes of the mallet on the chisel, let them feel the chips of stone as they fall to the ground. If you talk of the plumb line, make them see the Lord on His wall, watch the Children of Israel gather around, wondering at his putting a plumb 'in the midst' of them, that He would not pass by them any more.

When you tell of brotherhood, don't have it an abstraction, a theory, a hope; make it concrete. Tell some stories about it. Show one brother helping another; if you don't know any stories, make them up. But bring the living thought, alive, into the lodge room; men are nothing but children grown up. We all like stories.

"A most entertaining speaker made a talk on Masonic charity. One by one he brought vividly before the lodge a child in a Masonic home, an old blind Mason who was helped to be self-supporting by a lodge, an old mother of a Master Mason who kept her home, thinking it was supported by what her son had left her; he hadn't left a cent. The lodge pretended he had, and paid it during her life time. He made us see these people; we lived and grew up with the child; we shut our eyes to see how the blind man felt; from a window we saw the world go by, happy that our sons had kept us from want, as his simple words brought these things before us.

"The speaker spoke quietly, restrained, calmly. He didn't make the eagle scream; there was almost no applause during his address. But he made us visualize the sweetness of Masonic charity, as distinct from the cool impersonality of mere giving. He made us proud that we belonged to an organization which worked. He dramatized charity, and made us see its living human aspects, not its economic importance, or its religious duty angle.

"That's the answer of 'how shall I make any Masonic speech interesting,' my brother. Make it simple. Make it human. Make it dramatic. there is drama in all the Fraternity; any symbol, any tenet, any part of Masonry has a dramatic angle.

"I do not mean melodramatic. I don't tell you to put battle, murder, sudden death, in your speech. Melodrama is action without character; drama is action with character. A railroad accident is melodrama. The mother who saves for a vacation and gives her son the money to buy a set of golf clubs is dramatic.

"Find the character behind the symbols; get the human side of the Craft into its teachings; tell them in terms of people and action, of the things they know only as theories, and your audience won't walk out on you. Talk without ideas, and you'll speak to empty benches."

"I think," began the New Mason, "I think-"

"That's all that's necessary," smiled the Old Tiler.

"I think you'd better make this speech for me,"

"You think in melodrama," laughed the Old tiler. "It's your trouble, not mine.

Note: the 'Old Tiler' stories use an archaic spelling. We spell it Tyler.



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