

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

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

APRIL 2004 – MAY 2004



Brethren:

Receiving the Grand Master April 1, was a great honor. I want to thank you all for helping make the reception a success.

Please accept my personal thanks to each of the reception team members for your participation in greeting the Grand Master and his Official Family.

My special thanks to Shanna Little and Melissa Atkins for preparing the food. Everything was delicious. The Grand Master was impressed as to the turn out.

We counted 93 guests, including the band.

This brings to mind the May 6 meeting. It is our annual Honesty and Integrity evening. The meeting is an OPEN meeting and the wives and guests are invited.

The recipients of this years awards are Kathryn Goins and Harrell "Trey" Stephens, III. Kathryn is a senior from Baton Rouge Magnet High School and Harrell is Junior at Woodlawn High School.

Fellowship starts at 6:00 pm and dinner will be served at 6:30 pm. Bro. George Jones has a wonderful evening of entertainment planned for us.

Don't miss the fun! This is a special time for St. James and we need to come out and show the Youth of Baton Rouge that we support them.

Last meeting, April 15th we conferred an Entered Apprentice Degree. Those of you that did not come missed a good Degree.

Please make a note on your Calendar on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays, you know, the days that we meet at St. James.

Pray for the sick.

Frank E. Dedman
WORSHIPFUL MASTER

"Rays of Masonry" by Dewey Wollstein -1953

MASON OF MANY YEARS

He is not really old. In fact he is eternally young and very wise. If you count age in terms of years then you can say, he is old, and if you count years in service to Masonry, then again you can say he is old, but still you feel that this very service to Masonry has kept him young.

He is present at the meetings and his talks are brief, always filled with good thoughts. He loves Masonry, and for him it means love for all men. In every discussion he shows the wisdom of experience, of years filled with the knowledge and practice of the tenets and principles of Masonry.

He is interested in the degree work, the financial structure of the lodge. He is conservative in that he wants Masonry to ever be a thing of beauty and dignity, and he is progressive where progress does not destroy such beauty and dignity. He encourages the young Mason and has a kind word to say to the candidates. He praises the unselfish efforts of the instructor and the members of the degree team. Whenever the lodge is about to do something that is not Masonry he calmly says: "Brothers, let's not be too hasty."

He has a way of knowing about brothers who are sick and in distress, and he always reports these matters to the lodge.

When you pass him on the streets he smiles and asks: "Are you coming up tonight?" And, even if you had not intended to be present, perhaps his words make you change your mind.

The Mason of Many Years will think about the things that we are prone to forget, the little thoughtful acts that are a vital part of Masonry, which we are too busy to look after.

PAST EVENTS

Apr. 1 Grand Master's Official Visit (Open/meal 6:30)
Apr. 15 EA degree

FUTURE EVENTS

May 6 Honesty & Integrity (Open/meal 6:30)
May 20 TBA
(Begin Casual Summer Attire, EXCEPT for Degree nights)
Jun. 3 TBA
Jun. 17 St. John The Baptist Program
Jul. 1 July 4th Program
Jul. 15 Treasurer's Report & Committee Reports
Aug. 1 TBA
Aug. 15 TBA
(End Casual Summer Attire)
Sep. 2 Guest Night (Open/meal 6:30)

DO NOT MISS THE MEETING ON MAY 6th, the first Thursday in May.

The feature will be the Caledonian Society of which our own Miller Dial is a member. They are the Scotch Kilties you see parading in all of our parades in town. They will be in Kilts and will be marching with bagpipes and will give a full program with Scottish stories, accents, and music.

This will follow a meal at 6:30 pm and the whole thing will be **OPEN** which allows us all to bring wives and guests and prospective members.

Then, we will present the Honesty and Integrity Awards to two outstanding High School students. Come and support our youths. This is a great evening of entertainment. Enjoy your membership and fellowship.

Illness, News and Relief

WBro. Don Park has returned home to be confined there about three more weeks after a six-week stay in OLOL.

WBro. Al Livingston says he is all out of energy. He appreciated your cards, calls and visits.

Bro. Carlisle Richard is recuperating at Health South from Knee replacement.

We need to show our brethren that we care for them: Please, *call them, go see them, ask if you can help.* If you know of any brother that is sick, please make a note of it for MW Bill Brown and put the information at the sign in desk.

"Old Tiler Talks" by Carl Claudy -1924

GEOMETRIC BULL

"There are a lot of things in Masonry," began the New Brother to the Old Tiler.

"Bravo!" cried the Old Tiler, sarcastically. "Who told you all that?"

"And some of them," continued the New Brother, "are more or less bull. I yield to no one in my love for the order, but I see its faults. And when I am expected to learn the science of geometry as a part of Masonry I know I am being bullied. There is no more sense to including geometry in the second degree than there would be including paleontology or..."

"I love to hear a man say he can see the faults of Masonry," interrupted the Old Tiler, "because then I am in the presence of a master mind. Generations of philosophers have made Masonry what it is. When a new brother can plainly see its faults he is greater than all of these."

"Of course I did not mean it that way. I just meant that I, er, you know..."

"Do I? Well, then I suppose I'd better not mince words about it. To say there is no sense to geometry in the second degree is to advertise the fact that you know nothing and care less for the symbolism of the order. Take from Masonry its symbolism and all you have left is a central thought with no means of expression. Imagine a great musician, deaf, blind, and paralyzed, his heart ringing with wonderful melodies and harmonies, yet unable to give them expression, and you have a mental picture of Masonry without symbolism. Symbolism is Masonry's means of expressing thought, and geometry, in the second degree, is not an arithmetical study, but a symbol.

"Geometry was an outgrowth of the first science. The first glimpse brute man had there was aught in nature but haphazard chance or the capricious doing of a superior overlord was when he learned the stupendous fact that two and two always make four.

"From that humble beginning and recognition of the master law of the universe-which is, that law is universal, unchanging, and invariable-grew the study of things; their surfaces, their areas, their angles, their motions, their positions. Modern methods have gone farther than Euclid, but his work was perfectly done and Euclid's geometry stands today as a perfect thing, as far as he took it.

"Geometry is the science of order. Reaching back to the first recognition that there was order in the world, it may stand for anyone who has eyes to see, as it does stand in Masonry, for man's recognition of God in the universe. It is a symbol of universality. By geometry we know that natural law on earth is nature's law for the stars. There have been few atheists in the world, but I venture to say that none of them have been geometricians or astronomers. They know too much to deny the existence of the Great Geometer when seeing His work.

"Geometry is everywhere. It is in the snowflake's measured lines of crystallization. There is geometry of the honeycomb and a geometry of the cone of a fir tree. Mountains stand or fall as they obey or disobey the laws of geometry and the spider in her web and the planets in their orbits alike work according to the universal laws of geometry.

"I think God's thoughts after Him," said the great astronomer Kepler, looking through his telescope and thinking of the geometry of the skies.

"If we know two angles and one dimension, we can find the other dimension. Man has angles and dimensions; and if we know enough of them we can find the rest. One of a man's angles is his love of Masonry. Given a real love of Masonry as one angle, a willingness to live her precepts as the other and we can tell what sort of a man he is now, used to be, and will be in the future.

"It is a real geometry the second degree commends to you, my brother, because it is a symbol of law and order, of Deity, of universality. But it is spiritual geometry which you should study rather than the propositions of Euclid, bearing in mind that they are symbols of that which Masonry most venerates, most wisely teaches, and most greatly loves.

"Our ancient brother Pythagoras discovered the wonderful demonstration of the Great Architect which is the forty-seventh problem of Euclid. And so when I hear a young squirt of a Mason, with his eyes barely opened to the long path which is Masonry winding through the stars to God, say that the geometry in the second degree is bull, I wish I were young enough to take him out in the back lot and treat him as I would a small boy who found humor in church and fun in sacred things, and..."

"Oh, stop!" cried the New Brother. "I was wrong. I didn't understand. Say, where can I get a geometry book? I want to know more about that forty-seventh problem."

"In the reading room," growled the Old tiler. "And, say, son, when you get it in your head, come back here and explain it all over again to me, will you?"

NOTE: "The Old Tiler" stories use an archaic spelling of the word Tyler

We need articles for the newsletter.

YOUR ARTICLE COULD BE IN THIS SPACE.

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



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