

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

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Web Site: <http://www.stjameslodge47.org>

Stated Communications: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.

## Monthly Newsletter----- August 2011 – September 2011

### RECENT MASONIC EVENTS

*Thursday, August 4<sup>th</sup>* - Stated Communication - A report was made by the Building Committee that out tenant has moved out.

*Saturday, August 6<sup>th</sup>* - Downtown York Rite Bodies held its Annual Festival with 7 Candidates receiving Orders of The Temple and becoming Knights Templar.

*Saturday, August 13<sup>th</sup>* - The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Wardens' Retreat at Woodworth was reported on by W:M: James Robinson.

*Thursday, August 18<sup>th</sup>* - Stated Communication - one Fellow Craft degree was conferred; the Grand Master's request to "pass the hat" at one of our meetings for the Special Olympics was deferred until after Guest Night. A report was made that our tenant has vacated their lease and left lots of trash and some items of value. A salvage and work day was announced for Saturday, August 20 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Guests recognized were W: Bro. Bill Womack from Istrouma # 414 and Bro. John D. Ray from W. D. Fisher Lodge # 480 at Deville (near Pineville), LA.

*Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup>* - WIDOWS NIGHT at Baton Rouge Valley Scottish Rite at 6:30 PM.

**Thursday, September 1<sup>st</sup>** 44 members and guests, plus 4 French Horn quartet players from the "Baton Rouge Horn Club," led by Ellen Bordelon, entertained us. An excellent review of the history of St. James Lodge No. 47 and its building was presented by Worshipful Brother Naresh Sharma. An excellent meal of buffet finger foods was enjoyed.

### FUTURE MASONIC EVENTS

**Practice every Monday at 5:30 pm at the Lodge.**

#### End Casual Summer Attire

*September 11 (Sunday) 13<sup>th</sup> Masonic District Meeting 12:30/1:30 2:30 at East Gate Lodge # 452 at 14598 Florida Boulevard in Baton Rouge.*

September 15	2 EA Degrees, first at 5:30 P.M..
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<b>October 6</b>	<b>Past Masters, Widows &amp; 25/50/60 Yr (Open / Meal 6:30PM)</b>
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October 20	TBA
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November 3	St. John the Evangelist & Election of 2012 Officers
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<b>November 17</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Banquet, Veterans' Recognition (Open / Meal)</b>
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December 1	Installation of 2012 Officers
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*December 4 (Sunday 2:30 PM) 13th Masonic District Meeting*

December 15	Necrology Service
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### SICKNESS and RELEF

It is good to see W: Bro Cal Elliott recovering from recent illness, and W: Bro. David Dodge has recovered from a bicycle fall. Both Brothers are back in Lodge.

We wish W: Bro. Fred Ladner rapid recovery after his recent return to the hospital following a stroke. Fred is at St. James Wellness Center.

Our thoughts and best wishes are with our Brethren who can no longer attend Lodge due to age and infirmity. We should make an effort to call or visit them when we can.

It is with sadness that we were notified of the death on Wednesday, August 10, 2011 of Bro. Jim Theman Huff, Jr. in north Louisiana. Bro. Jim was 59-years old, a Chemical Engineer and farmer, He became a plural member of St. James Lodge on March 4, 2010. He was raised in White River Lodge No. 62 in Arizona on June 26, 1999. Our prayers go for his wife Nan and family.

Joe Richard

Bretheren:



Last month, the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Masonic Warden's Retreat was held in Woodworth, Louisiana. The theme of the conference was *to prepare a Warden to succeed when he becomes the Worshipful Master*. Ideas were presented which are used in successful business endeavors. One must know the foundation of their enterprise; communicate with colleagues, set realistic goals and develop methods to attain them. These concepts apply to both officers and members alike. If our Lodges are to grow, all members must join in.

As the average age of Masons is approximately 70 and average life expectancy only a few more years, a disaster looms.

A 1926 Masonic document indicated that a 10% attendance rate was considered "good." This leaves us with two options, (1) enlighten individuals as to the benefits of our fraternity to others, or, (2) provide an environment such that attendance will increase, or both.

Our Lodge has worked at the former through "Open Meals," which provide both entertainment and a brief overview of the fraternity. These get a person's foot in the door. The second is harder to do because time for friends and family may be reduced. Thus, our meetings, two times a month, at the Lodge, *must* provide something special that is better than time with friends or family to encourage attendance.

Sharing time with "like minded individuals" is enhanced by "the breaking of bread together." Let the "bread" provided be a pleasant diversion from that which would otherwise be consumed. Stated meetings should include items such as degrees, catechisms, and Masonic teachings, making the time spent at the Lodge a worthwhile experience.

Delegation of responsibilities, exploring what members want, refining and revising ideas throughout the year, all of these may enhance the meeting experiences, which make member's attendance an even more pleasant prospect.

These and other ideas were presented at the August retreat to both enhance the Masonic experience of the members and make the fraternity a more vibrant organization.

The autumnal equinox occurs during the month of September. This is designated as the "harvest month" of Charlemagne's calendar and of several countries. As Masons, our harvest may be measured in both the increase of new members to the fold and by their continued attendance. We shall continually strive to succeed in this endeavor through mutual efforts, commitments and dedication to the principles of Masonry.

May Peace and Harmony Prevail,

James W. Robinson, Worshipful Master

## Bring guests!

to the open Lodge meetings at 6:00 pm  
on **October 6, November 17**



**St. James Lodge No. 47**  
 Post Office Box 444  
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**Newsletter**  
**August 2011-- September 2011**

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Other Masonic Events

**REMEMBRANCE DAY**

10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 9/11 and 6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Hurricane Katrina  
 Monday, September 5, 2011 at 1:30 PM  
 Jerusalem Shriner Center  
 1940 Ormond Boulevard  
 Destrehan, LA

Many dignitaries are expected, including our Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons of the State of Louisiana. The keynote address is by Major General Bennett C. Landreneau, Adjutant General for the Louisiana National Guard.

Acacia Shrine meets at -7:00 P.M. every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 7991 S. Commerce Ave. A meal is served at 6:00 P.M.

Downtown York Rite Bodies meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month at 8:00 a.m. with breakfast served at 7:30 a.m.

Valley of Baton Rouge meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month, dinner at 6:30 PM, meeting at 7 P.M., at the Consistory on Florida Boulevard. The Advisory Council meets at the Consistory at 6:00 P.M. on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month.

Livingston Certificate Association meets at 6:00 P.M. with dinner, on the first Friday of each month at Pine Grove Lodge #288 in Ponchatoula, LA. and Baton Rouge Certificate Association meets at 6:30 P.M. with dinner on the third Friday of each month at Trinity Union Lodge # 372, Florida Blvd, Baton Rouge.

Lodge of the Nine Muses #9, F&AM, meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. The next meeting will be held on September 14<sup>th</sup>. The meeting starts at 6:30 PM. If you are interested in visiting, contact one of the members for dress code and other details.

Your article could have been here. Submit articles to Bob Zinn, N5bz@cox.net

58<sup>th</sup> annual gathering of **The International Masonic Lodges Named for St. Alban** October 7-9, 2011 at St. Albans Lodge # 28 Jackson Louisiana Information on the Gathering is available on the Association website at: <http://www.stalbanslodges.org/> The website for St. Albans Lodge # 28 F&AM can be found at: <http://stalbans.brla.us/>

**THE MASTER'S APRON**

by Brother Robert Burns (1759-1796)  
 (first Poet Laureate of Freemasonry)

Ther's mony a badge that's unco brow;  
 Wi' ribbon, lace and tape on;  
 Let kings an' princes wear them a' -  
 Gie me the Master's apron!

The honest craftsman's apron,  
 The jolly Freemason's apron,  
 Be he at hame, or roam afar,  
 Before his touch fa's bolt and bar,  
 The gates of fortune fly ajar,  
 `Gin he but wears the apron!

For wealth and honor, pride and power  
 Are crumbling stanes to base on;  
 Eternity suld rule the hour,  
 And ilka worthy Mason!  
 Each Free Accepted Mason,  
 Each Ancient Crafted Mason.

Then, brithers, let a halesome sang  
 Arise your friendly ranks alang!  
 Guidwives and bairnies blithely sing  
 To the ancient badge wi' the apron string  
 That is worn by the Master Mason!

With Compliments:

Tofique Fatehi

(contributed by WB Narish Sharma)

## The Unfinished Sanctum Sanctorum

A craftsman came to Adoniram, troubled by something he thought he was learning in Masonry. He said, "Master, many of the wise old Master Masons I know often say things that make it sound like there is no sense at all in Masonry. They speak of Masonic light as if it has no meaning and the True Word as though it is nothing at all. This is very disturbing because it seems to contradict all that Masonry is about, such as truth, relief, brotherly love, wisdom, strength, and beauty."

Adoniram nodded and asked, "What is it that knows all these principles that we venerate?"

"It must be the mind and heart, Master."

Then Adoniram knelt down and drew some symbols and figures in the dust. "Look here and tell me what you see."

The craftsman replied, "I see many of the signs and symbols of our Craft."

"Yes," said Adoniram. "And do you see that there are spaces within them, between them, and all around them, and that all of these spaces blend together into the greater space that is the dust upon which they are written?"

"It is obviously so, Master."

"Very well. Now close your eyes and look within. Do you also see that the words and concepts of Masonry are written within your mind and heart?"

The craftsman closed his eyes. "Yes. I hear the words and see the images within."

"Just as with the figures in the dust, the words and images in your mind are surrounded and penetrated by something. What is it?"

"It must be my mind," answered the craftsman.

"That's too easy. Tell me how you experience it."

"It is hard to say. It is darkness. It is silence."

"You call it darkness and silence because it has no image or sound to which you might give a name, right?"

With eyes still closed, the craftsman nodded slowly.

"Do you see how one might speak of this as emptiness or nothingness?"

The craftsman laughed as he opened his eyes. "Ha ha! Yes, I do, Master."

"And yet out of this darkness and silence all images and sounds arise, right?"

"Yes, it is obviously so, Master."

"So it must be a darkness that has light hidden within it, a silence that has sound hidden within it, an emptiness that is full, and a nothing that is."

"Everything, Master!"

"Yes, so it could be said. Are you still troubled?"

"No, master. I am at peace with the words of the old Master Masons."

"Good. Earlier we spoke of mind and heart. They are good words, but do they suffice for naming what you have found?"

"No, Master. No words suffice. How can I name what has no form or image yet must be real? How can I even say I know what it really is?"

"Brother, you have not yet received the Sublime Degree, yet you have entered the unfinished Sanctum Sanctorum and seen the blank trestleboard of our Grand Master Hiram Abif. I admonish you to visit it often. You must also know that though you would speak the words and show the images, you can never communicate this to anyone except those who are duly and truly prepared."

The craftsman only smiled and nodded.

With Compliments.

Tofique Fatehi

(Contributed by WB Naresh Sharma)