

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

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



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Monthly News letter for January 2006 – February 2006



February may be the shortest month of the year, but for us, as Masons, it is an important one.

The Grand Lodge meets in Alexandria, La on the 13th & 14th for all regular business and the election of the new officers for 2006. The Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens will attend; however, all Master Masons are invited and several of our other members will be there.

Most Worshipful Brother Bill Brown will give a report on the 16th reviewing the results of the votes on the Grand Lodge Resolutions.

Tax season is upon us again and on the 2nd, Worshipful Brother Ben Melanson will give an informative presentation on 2005 tax requirements that should be of interest to all. Also, Worshipful Brother Steve Selby will give a slide show presentation about the Grand Lodge building in Philadelphia, Pa. Brother Selby will also present the 2006 Budget for review and approval.

Guest night is rapidly approaching and this time we will have a real treat. I understand that some English Actors will present a play done "In The Round" for our entertainment. This will be an excellent opportunity to see and hear about Masonry during the 16th Century. Bring your wife or friend and invite your guest to the lodge for an evening of dining and entertainment.

I am always open to any ideas that anyone may have to make our Lodge better. Speak up and I will listen.

Stay well and safe, and I look forward to seeing you at the Lodge in February.

Fraternally,

David Dodge, Worshipful Master

RECENT EVENTS

- Jan. 5
Bro. David Cattar gave an interesting presentation on Masonic Education and Bro. Dennis Shaw told us about Masonry Down Under as he treated us to his 'presentation speech' which is given to new brothers, explaining the symbols on the certificate presented to all new brothers, one month after they are raised.
- Jan. 19
Grand Lodge Resolutions by M.W. Bro. Bill Brown
It was good to see our Tyler, Al Blanchard, at our last meeting as he recovers from the heart problems that had him flat on his back for way too long. The lodge conferred a Fellow Craft degree and visiting Brother Scott Miller from Progress Lodge No. 22 in Salt Lake City, Utah said that may be transferred to this area. He works for Sulzer Pumps. Some Brothers went to the York Rite Workshop in Alexandria, Jan 21.

FUTURE EVENTS

- Feb. 2
Feb. 16
Mar. 2
Mar. 16
- Review Programs for Charity
Grand Lodge Report
***Guest Night (Open/meal 6:30 PM)**
Rededication & Re-obligation; 25 & 50 yr. Awards
* Represents possible entertainment
TBA = To Be Arranged

Other Masonic Events –

Downtown York Rite Bodies meet regularly on the 1st Saturday of each month at 8:00 a.m. with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Scottish Rite Baton Rouge Valley meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Acacia Shrine Temple meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. with dinner at 6:00 p.m.

The Lodge of The Nine Muses, U.D., F.&A.M., meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month in the Red Room of St James Lodge. If you are interested in visiting, contact one of the members to find time, dress code and other details. Ernest Easterly, W.M., Ricks Bowles, S.W., Adib Shala, J.W., Sam Roberts, Treasurer, Larry Moore, Secretary, William Mollere, Chaplain, Naresh Sharma, Sr. Deacon, Danny Smith, Master of Ceremonies, Gerard Ruth, Sr. Steward, Robert Zinn, Jr Steward, Kristopher Easterly, Tyler, Tim Atkins, Jim Pecoraro

"Rays of Masonry" by Dewey Wollstein -1953

AM I A MASTER MASON?

Many times the question comes to the forefront: "Am I a Master Mason?"

The fact that perfection on earth has never yet been attained may offer some degree of satisfaction, but we who ask the question are not thinking in terms of perfection! Rather we are thinking in terms of those things which we could do which would make us better Masons.

We think in terms of a personal happiness that would naturally derive from living more the principles that make of a Mason a Master.

Then follow other questions:

Do I speak of a standard of morality for others which I do not make an effort to attain for myself?

Do I presume to question the motives of others and to establish a pattern for them which is my own, but perhaps less desirable than the one they live by?

Do I look for little, unimportant things to criticize, and enlarge upon these, overlooking my own greater faults?

Do I look for the good that I know is in my brother, or only for the things that are his special weaknesses, while I dismiss my own faults as mere trifles?

Since man cannot reach higher than his aim, what is my aim?

Is it greater love or greater envy? Is it unselfish service or personal gain?

Is it courage to defend the principles of Freedom, Justice and Tolerance, or the cowardice of silence?

How great is the disparity between what I stand for and what I am willing to fight for?

How can I become more deserving of the title- "Master Mason?"

"Old Tiler Talks" by Carl Claudy -1924

ODD

"Of all the odd things in Masonry," began the New Brother to the Old Tiler in the anteroom, "the oddest is why men want to become Masons."

"Meaning what?" asked the Old Tiler.

"Well, Masonry is serious," explained the New Mason. "Why should it appeal to men who are not serious?"

"But in Masonry is good fellowship, and fun, and mutual help and a good time... lots of people go to church for the associations they get, rather than any desire to take part in the service. Some come to a Masonic lodge for what they get, and watch the degrees as a necessary penalty.

Some men find in the lodge the satisfaction of an instinct. A good brother of this lodge is a motorman on a street car, a silent job. He has been street railroading all his life, and never has had a chance to talk much. In the lodge he found his feet, and discovered that he could stand on them and use his mouth at the same time. He became a fine ritualist, and has been Master. He is now a certified instructor. Masonry provided him with an opportunity to use gifts nature gave him, but which his job denies him.

"Another Mason I know finds the greatest joy in his lodge as the charity committee chairman. His business in life is being a turnkey in a jail! He lives his waking hours standing guard over criminals; in the lodge he comes into contact with the softer side of life. He is an excellent man on the committee. He know when folks are in distress and when they are shamming. He is charitably minded and Masonry gives him an opportunity to indulge that side of his nature.

"One brother gets great joy in the fun he makes during business meetings. He is a wit; and his remarks usually cause a gale of laughter. He is an undertaker, and can't wear a smile from the time he gets up until he comes to lodge!

"Some men find the lodge an outlet for their gregariousness, which shyness prevents them from expressing elsewhere. Meeting on the level they are not embarrassed. No one in lodge cares if you have a lot of money or none. So the little fellow who never made much of a commercial success enjoys being just as good, in his own eyes and that of the brethren in the lodge, as anyone. It's a provider of self respect.

"But none of these are the real reason why so many men cannot get along without Masonry."

The Old Tiler paused to light a cigar.

"What's that?" inquired the New Brother.

"It's a compound, not a simplicity," returned the Old Tiler. "Take ten parts reverence for what is old, add twenty parts of love of one's kind and common humanity, stir into it the religious complex which is fifty percent of any man's underlying motives, though a lot of them don't know it, and sprinkle with twenty parts of the habit of doing what the other fellow likes to do. Scientists call it the herd instinct- and you have about my conception of why the average man loves Masonry."

"That's not too exalted an ideal, is it?" Objected the New Brother.

"Few men have exalted ideals!" countered the Old Tiler. "I didn't say that was the best reason, I said it was the of the average man. I know three Chaplains of lodges who say it rests them to come to a place where preachers of the Word of God can worship Him without dogma or creed. I have been a Mason for more years than you have lived. I haven't been a Tiler all that time. But I have never seen an irreverent action in a lodge, or known a man who felt irreverent about his lodge symbols and ceremonies.

"It is a comfort that so many Freemasons find in lodge spiritual help, a touch of religion, a feeling or reality to their relations with Deity. Few of them say it. A large number do not consciously think it. For every man who says religion and Masonry mean the same thing to him a hundred feel the religious appeal of the lodge and don't know to what they respond."

"I don't know that it's so odd as I thought it was," mused the New Brother.

"The oddest part of it," suggested the Old Tiler, evenly, "is that you think there was something odd about the appeal of Freemasonry to anyone!"

"You are right!" assured the New Brother. "But I'm all even now!"

Send newsletter submissions to Bob Zinn,
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Your article could have gone here.



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JANUARY 2006 —FEBRUARY 2006