

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

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

Monthly news letter for JUNE 2005 – JULY 2005



FROM THE EAST

I hope each of you is inviting Guests for our upcoming open meetings and meals. If they say they can't make one meeting, invite them to another.

REMAINING OPEN MEETINGS, this year:

September 1st, October 6th, November 17th and December 15th

Brethren, a resolution to amend the By-laws was received at the June 16th meeting. Election Day of officers is to be changed from the first meeting in December of each year to the First meeting in November of each year

Action will lay over for 30 days from this notice.

YORK RITE FESTIVAL JULY 30th & AUGUST 6th

The Downtown York Rite Bodies meet on the first Saturday of each month at 7:30, in the second floor dining room. We first enjoy a relaxed period of warm, casual fellowship. We then continue the fellowship over a home-style breakfast prepared by Companion Percy Lee. The meetings begin at 8:00 a.m. and usually end by 9:30.

The York Rite Bodies are the **Washington Chapter of Royal Arch Masons**, the **Lambert Council of Royal and Select Masters**, and the **Plains Commandery of Knights Templar**. The "Chapter Degrees" (more properly called the "**Capitular Degrees**") are four in number -- the Mark Master Degree, the Past Master Degree, the Most Excellent Master Degree, and the Royal Arch Degree. The "Council Degrees" (more properly called the "**Cryptic Degrees**") are three in number -- the Royal Master Degree, the Select Master Degree, and the Super Excellent Degree. The last of these is very seldom conferred. The Knights Templar "Degrees" are not called "Degrees" -- they are the "**Chivalric Orders**". They are three in number -- the Order of the Red Cross, the Order of Malta, and the Order of the Temple. Having completed these Degrees/Orders, one is a 32^o Mason. These Degrees/Orders are very eloquent and beautiful in their content. There is a strong element of continuity, as they unfold.

The Capitular Degrees and the Cryptic Degrees will be presented on July 30th at the Red Room of St. James Lodge. The Chivalric Orders will be presented on Saturday, August 6th at Istrouma Lodge. The Festival will employ the combined efforts of dozens of York Rite Masons from the Downtown YR Bodies, the Istrouma YR Bodies, the Clinton YR Masons, and the St. Francisville YR Bodies -- and possibly others, as well, from around the state.

If you are already a YR Mason, you are urged to contact Bro. Joe Richard, Bro. Don Park, Bro. Sid Felts, Bro. Carle Jackson, Bro. Steve Selby, Bro. Bill Mollere, or Bro. Larry Wade; we will work with the Festival Planning Committee to find a way you can help to make this Festival a quality experience for candidates.

In truth, we are all York Rite Masons. The three "**Symbolic Degrees**" that we all have shared are York Rite Degrees. If, however, you have not progressed through the "higher" York Rite Degrees/Orders and would like to do so, or if you simply have a question about York Rite Masonry, please contact any of the Brothers mentioned above.

YORK RITE FESTIVAL JULY 30th & AUGUST 6th

RECENT EVENTS

Jun. 2 Short business meeting
Jun. 16 St. John The Baptist Program, July 4th Program

FUTURE EVENTS

(Begin Casual Summer Attire, except for Degrees)

Jul. 7 TBA
Jul. 21 Treasurer's Report & Committee Reports
Aug. 4 TBA
Aug. 18 TBA

(End Casual Summer Attire)

Sep. 1 **Guest Night (Open/meal 6:30)**
Sep. 15 Remembrance Night: Deceased Brothers
Oct. 6 **Past Masters' Night (Open/meal 6:30) ***
Oct. 20 Masonic Education Program
Nov. 3 St. John the Evangelist, Election of Officers for 2006
Nov. 17 **Thanksgiving Program (Open/meal 6:30) ***
Dec. 1 TBA
Dec. 15 **Installation of 2006 Officers(Open/meal 6:30)**

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 officers 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, Nareesh Sharma, Senior Deacon, Danny Smith, Master of Ceremonies, Gerard Ruth, Steward, Robert Zinn, Steward, Kristopher Easterly, Tyler

. On June 5, 2005 the 13th Masonic District Lodge was hosted by St. James Lodge #47. There was a large attendance with only 4 lodges in the District not having a representative present. Most Worshipful Grand Master Harold G. Ballard was in attendance. St. James Lodge won the award by having the most Officers in present.

"Old Tiler Talks" by Carl Claudy -1924

ADVERTISING

The New Brother leaned against the wall near the Old Tiler and lighted a cigar. "We would do more good in the world if we advertised ourselves more," he said.

"Why?" asked the Old Tiler.

"So that those not members of the fraternity would know more about our work."

"Why should they?"

"The more people know about us, the more regard they have for us, the more men would want to be Masons, the larger we would grow, and so the more powerful we would be!" answered the New Brother.

"You would advertise us until all men became Masons?"

"Well- er- I don't know about all men; but certainly until most men applied."

"If all men were Masons at heart there would be no need for Masonry," answered the Old Tiler. "But not all who call themselves Master Masons are real Masons. What we need to do is advertise ourselves to our brethren."

"But we know all about Masonry," protested the New Brother, "the world at large does not."

"Oh, no, we don't know all about Masonry!" cried the Old Tiler. "Even the best-informed don't know all about Masonry. The best-informed electricians do not know all about electricity; the best-informed astronomers do not know all about astronomy; the best-informed geologists do not know all about geology. We have much to learn."

"But electricity and astronomy and geology are sciences. Masonry is- is- well, Masonry was made by men, and so men must know all about it."

"Can a man make something greater than himself?" countered the Old Tiler. "Our ears hear sounds- translate vibrations of air or other material to our brains- as noise or music. But the ear is limited; we do not hear all the sounds in nature; some animals and insects hear noises we cannot hear. We have eyes, yet these imperfect instruments turn into color and light but a tiny proportion of light waves. Scientific instruments recognize vibrations which physical senses take no account of- radio and x-ray for instance. Yet our whole conception of the universe is founded on what we see and hear. Very likely the universe is entirely different from what we think. The ant's tiny world is a hill; he has no knowledge of the size of the country in which is his home, let alone the size or shape of

the world. A dog's world is the city where he lives; not for him is the ocean or the continent or the world. The stars and the moon and the sun are to him but shining points. Our world is bigger; we see a universe through a telescope, but we can but speculate as to its extent or what is beyond the narrow confines of our instruments.

"Masonry is like that. Our hearts understand a certain kind of love. Prate as we will about brotherhood of man and Fatherhood of God, we yet compare the one to the love of two blood-brothers and the second to our feelings for our children. We measure both by the measuring rods we have.

"Real brotherhood and real Fatherhood of God may be grander, broader, deeper, wider, than we know. Masonry contains the thought; our brains have a limited comprehension of it. If this be so then we know little about Masonry, and what even the most learned of us think is probably far short of reality."

"All that may be so," answered the New Brother, "and it is a most interesting idea; but what has it to do with advertising to the profane?"

"Does a scientist make any progress by advertising his science?" countered the Old Tiler. "Will a geometrician discover a new principle by advertising for more students? Will the astronomer discover a new sun by running placards in the newspapers? Will a geologist discover the mystery of the earth's interior by admitting more members to the geological society?"

"Masonry needs no advertising to the profane, but advertising to its own members. I use the word in your sense, but I do not mean publicity. Masons need to be taught to extent Masonry's influence over men's hearts and minds. We do not need more material to work with, but better work on the half worked material we already have.

"Masonry is humble and secret; not for her the blare of trumpets and the scare head of publicity. To make it other than what it is would rob it of its character. To study, reflect, and labor in it is to be a scientist in Masonry, discovering constantly something new and better that it be more effective on those who embrace its gentle teachings and its mysterious power."

"Oh, all right!" smiled the New Brother. "I won't put it in the paper tomorrow. Old Tiler, where did you learn so much?"

"I didn't," smiled the Old Tiler. I know very little. But that little I learned by keeping an open mind and heart- which was taught me by-

"By your teachers in school?"

"No, my son," answered the Old Tiler, gravely, "by Masonry."

My thanks for the contributions to this issue of the news letter! Send newsletter submissions to Bob Zinn, bz@chem.lsu.edu

"Rays of Masonry" by Dewey Wollstein -1953

WE ARE DREAMERS

Nothing great has been achieved unless the pattern has first been conceived in the mind and heart. Call it what you will- Vision, Dream, or Designs upon the Trestle Board, it is the same. In that sense, we Masons are Dreamers.

Long ago Masons set forth the outline of a noble dream, and every Mason has had his part in bringing about the reality. There is the dream of Universal Brotherhood, not the superficial condition in which men lightly use the words with insincere piety and say: "If you do as I do, we will be brothers; If you believe as I do we will be brothers." Masonry's dream of Universal Brotherhood will become a reality through study, through patience, through Unfaltering Trust, and through the knowledge that Brotherhood is a Fact in Nature. Such a condition will result when we gain the ultimate wisdom that religion, science, and philosophy, form the trinity which will unite men. Do we not refer to Masonry as the Science of Morality? We do not say that Masonry is a religion, but who will say that Masonry is not an expression of the best in all religious teachings?

We are Dreamers. The dream in the minds and hearts of Jefferson, Franklin, and Washington, became the United States of America. They envisioned a condition wherein man would no longer be a puppet, but would walk forth in the Light of Freedom.

Yes, we are Dreamers. We dream of a time when our hospitals for the mentally ill will be emptied. We dream of a time when no child will be born into a world of hate, prejudice, of war. We dream of a time when no child will be denied love, shelter, spiritual training, and the opportunity for intellectual development. We dream of a time when man will live in the positive knowledge of the unerring accuracy of Moral and Spiritual Laws.

As we dream we work, and as surely as we work, hope and pray, the Great Dream will come true.



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