

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 June 2006 – July 2006



July 2006

This month we celebrate the birth of our Nation, and I would like all to reflect a little upon the thoughts that went through the mind of Thomas Jefferson as he sat down to write the Declaration of Independence.

As he sat down to write, he was trying, he said, to place before the people "the Common sense of the subject." The common sense of the subject was that we should be free. And though great evils would linger, the world would never be the same after July 4, 1776. A wonderful country was born, and a revolutionary idea set forth to all mankind: Freedom, not by the good graces of government, but as the birthright of every individual. Equality, not as a theory of philosophers, but by the design of our Creator: Natural rights, not for the few; not even for a fortunate many, but for all people in all place, in all times.

President George Bush said in his address to the people of Philadelphia on July 4, 2001. "The world still echoes with the ideals of America's Declaration. Our ideals have been accepted in many countries, and bitterly opposed by tyrants. They are a rock on which we have built our nation. They are the hope of all who are oppressed. They are the standard to which we hold others, and the standards by which we measure ourselves."

Enjoy the day and take a minute to thank the good Lord for the wisdom of our Fore Fathers. This is the greatest country on Earth and we are blessed to be Americans.

Please refer to the schedule printed in the St. James News letter for coming events.

Be careful out there and I will see at the meeting place.

Sincerely,
David Dodge. WM

How are Independence Day, the Declaration of Independence and the 4th of July related?
Find out at the July 6th regular lodge meeting –bz-

RECENT EVENTS

Jun. 1 St. John the Baptist Program
W.Bros. Danny Johnson, of Fordoche # 292 and Tom Perry of East Gate #452 attended, representing Acacia Shrine and receive a donation to the Shrine Transportation Fund. A petition for reinstatement was received. An excellent Masonic Education talk recognizing the birthday of St. John The Baptist was given by Brother Steve Newman.

Jun. 15 *Honor the Flag of Our Country Program
A fine bar-b-cue chicken dinner was served courtesy of Frank's Restaurant. A program on the flags of our nation was presented by WM Dodge and PM Frank Dedman. Three Eagle Scouts, in full regalia, Zack Berrileau, John Bruner and Guy Watkins, of Troop 1 from St. James Episcopal High School, displayed some of the 'colors of our nation'. Flags presented included 'The Pine Tree Flag', The 'Don't Tread on Me' Flag. We were treated to an a capella presentations of 'The Star Spangled Banner' and 'America the Beautiful' by Bro. Paxton's wife, Anna. Donations were presented to Demolay and the Boy Scouts of America by the lodge. Mr. Sam Lato, District Director of the Tunica District received the donation and asked for volunteers to help mentor scouts. C. Lenton Sartain, P.M., accepted a donation from the lodge for the Charities Fund Committee's funds.

FUTURE EVENTS

-----Begin Casual Summer Attire, except for Degrees-----
Jul. 6 a 4th of July Program will be presented
Jul. 20 Treasurer's Report & Committee Reports
Aug. 3 Masonic Education Program
Aug. 17 TBA
-----End Casual Summer Attire-----
Sep. 7 *Guest Night (Open/meal 6:30 PM)
Sep. 21 Remembrance Night (Deceased Brothers)
Oct. 5 *Past Masters' Night (Open/meal 6:30 PM)
Oct. 19 TBA
Nov. 2 St. John the Evangelist & Election of 2007 Officers
Nov. 16 *Thanksgiving Program (Open/meal 6:30 PM)
Dec. 7 Install Officers for 2007 (Open/meal 6:30 PM)

* 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, No. 9, 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

SICKNESS and RELIEF, keep these in your thought and prayers:

Please keep MW Bro Pecarraro, PM in your prayer as he faces the challenges of living with lung cancer.

The Masonic Funeral

A new Worshipful Master in a small Georgia town spent the first four days making personal visits to each of the members, inviting them to come to his first Lodge meeting. The following Thursday the Lodge was all but empty.

Accordingly, the Worshipful Master placed a notice in the local newspapers stating that, because the Lodge was dead, it was everyone's duty to give it a decent Masonic burial. The funeral would be held the following Monday afternoon, the notice said.

Morbidly curious, a large crowd turned out for the "funeral." In front of the Altar, they saw a closed coffin, smothered in flowers. After the Chaplain delivered the eulogy, he opened the coffin and invited his Brethren to come forward and pay their final respects to their dead Lodge. Filled with curiosity as to what would represent the corpse of a "dead Lodge," all the Brethren eagerly lined up to look into the coffin. Each "mourner" peeped into the coffin then quickly turned away with a guilty, sheepish look. In the coffin, tilted at the correct angle, was a large mirror.

Remember the obligation we all took my Brethren and attend and support your Lodge!!!

Author unknown. Posted on the internet by
Ellis Mills [etfromstar187] SW Star Lodge 187, Cuyahoga Falls, OH

"Old Tiler Talks" by Carl Claudy -1924

GAMBOLS ON THE GREEN

"It's disgusting!" began the New Brother. "Morton must think more of his stomach than he does of his Masonry; insisting on expensive refreshments for ladies' night. What's the use of a ladies' night, anyhow? Jenkins is trying to start a ball game and Elliot wants a picnic! All this isn't Masonry!"

"Why isn't it?" asked the Old Tiler.

"What a foolish question. You know that Masonry isn't just enjoyment and foolishness."

"I've been a Mason half a century," said the Old Tiler, "but maybe I don't know what Masonry is. Who told you these chaps who want refreshments and ladies' nights and ball games and picnics thought these were all of Masonry?"

"But they are not dignified! Masonry is grave, impressive, grand, and solemn. Picnics and ball games and entertainments are frivolous. They can't mix."

"Go on, you interest me strangely," commented the Old Tiler. "Tell me; is it irreligious for a church to have a picnic or a social?"

"Why- er- I suppose not. But it isn't the church that has 'em, it's the Sunday School."

"Where they train children to be good, love God and come to church. The minister should know better than to try to impress children with the Fatherhood of God by holding a picnic! Any church entertainment which makes people come together, laugh and know each other better and make money to decorate the church is wicked. I would speak to the district attorney about it, if I were you."

"Now you are laughing at me!" protested the New Brother.

"That's more than anyone else will, if you keep on chattering," went on the Old Tiler. "Masonry is all you have said it is, and a great deal you haven't said. Religion is more than going to church. If God can stand seeing His ministers, and those who love and follow him, having innocent enjoyment in the entertainment or a ball game or a picnic, it should not hurt Masonry to do the same thing.

"Masonry is strong only because its bonds are strong. Its greatest bond is not charity, relief, knowledge, learning, ritual, or secrecy- but brotherhood. The feeling you have for one who has sat in lodge with you is brotherhood. You have sworn the same obligations, seen the same work, experienced the same emotions- there is a bond between you. Whatever makes that bond stronger is a help to Masonry.

"A picnic brings Masons together informally. It brings children together to play. You learn that Smith is different

from what he appears in the lodge.-There he is shy, retiring, and almost insignificant. On a picnic he is in his element; playing with the children, having a good time with the men, helping the women- and you like Smith better. There are a thousand Smiths and a thousand of you, and it is a picnic or a ball game or an outing of some sort which brings you together.

"Ladies' nights show women that Masonry is innocent, happy, and good. They learn what sort of men their husbands and brothers and sweethearts and sons see every week. They learn to associate a name and a personality with a position; they discover that the Master is human, the secretary is nice, the Junior Warden decent, the Senior Warden delightful. Such contacts spread the good repute of the order. Some men don't get as much out of the lodge as they might; it's their fault, perhaps, but we are not supposed to look for our brother's faults. If the ladies' night makes the 'come-but-seldom' brother feel that his lodge is doing something for him, it is worth while.

"There are other uses for money than hoarding it. There are better ways of spending it than upon new costumes and furniture. One good spending is to make someone happy. If this lodge has spare funds to provide some pleasure for its ladies, we should so spend it. If we have cash to finance a picnic or a ball game, it's wise to use it so. The gravity and solemnity of the third degree will not be hurt by the fun you have, any more than our reverence for the Creator is damaged by a Sunday School picnic or a church entertainment.

"Son, Masons are human. We are not better or different or larger, finer or more learned than our fellows. We strive toward perfection by means of a fraternal vehicle which the years have proved to be strong, well made, able to carry us to happiness and honor. If it could be damaged by picnics and ladies' nights, it would have fallen to pieces long ago. If its dignity was so slight that it was injured by a Masonic ball game, it would have been a laughing stock the day after baseball was invented.

"Get outside of Masonry and look in on it; see it for what it is, not for what it merely appears to be during a degree. When you see Masonry as love for one's fellow, brotherhood between men, charity to all, and reverence for God, you won't think that gambols on the green of life can hurt it."

"I have to go in lodge now," the New Brother announced.

"What's the hurry?" asked the Old Tiler.

"Got to support the motion to spend enough to give the girls a real feast!" grinned the New Brother, as he retied his apron strings.

Send newsletter submissions to Bob Zinn,
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JUNE 2006 — JULY 2006