

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 MARCH 2005 – APRIL 2005



FROM THE EAST

I hope you have invited your guests for the April 7th open meeting. We will be receiving the Grand Master of Louisiana.

Our guest nights are OUR chance to show our friends and neighbors that Masons are not evil. We may seem a bit strange at times, but we are not evil.

Remember, to invite WIVES and GUESTS, especially prospective Masons.

Do your part, BRING A GUEST!
(bring more than one if you can)

Dinner will be served at 6:30 and the meeting to start at 7:30.

I want to give my special thanks to degree teams for the very good work done on the recent degrees. Visitors from other lodges were very impressed.

Ken Streater, W.M.

RECENT EVENTS

Mar. 3 **Guest Night (Open/meal 6:30)**
Mar. 10 Special to confer MM 7:30
Mar. 17 Rededication & Re-obligation.

We regret to announce[these were missing from last newsletter]

Past Master of St. James Lodge, W: Bro. Milton Cook passed to the Celestial Lodge. His funeral was on Feb. 14.

Bro. James Davis died Feb. 3. There was a Masonic Service on Feb 6.

Bro. Robert Haskel Lynch joined The Celestial Lodge Above on Jan 29.

FUTURE EVENTS

HOW MANY HAVE YOU INVITED to the open meeting? It is not too late!

Apr. 7 **Grand Master's Official Visit (Open/meal 6:30)**
Apr. 14 EA special at 6:30
Apr. 21 two FC degrees
May 5 **Honesty & Integrity (Open/meal 6:30) ***
May 19 TBA

(Begin Casual Summer Attire, except for Degrees)

Jun. 2 St. John The Baptist Program
Jun. 16 July 4th Program

Other Masonic Events - A Scottish Rite Reunion is scheduled at the Consistory on April 2-3 and a York Rite Festival is scheduled for April 23 at St. James Lodge.

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

An Essay On Some Symbols of the Masonic Fraternity
By Ed Lane, taken from a talk written 1/6/2003

The Masonic apron is a symbol of Free & Accepted Masons. Its symbolically pure and spotless surface is ever a reminder to me of purity of life and rectitude of conduct. It stands for my never ending quest for higher thoughts, nobler deeds, and greater achievements. No true Mason, whether or not he regularly attends lodge meetings, should let any act of his stain the purity of that fair emblem of his or mar the record of his life here on earth.

The stone masons helping to build King Solomon's Temple wore aprons similar to mine. The way they were worn indicated their status within the craft. This, together with the proper passwords and handshakes, were the "union cards" allowing access to the various areas of the temple under construction.

Each time I have looked at my apron and have worn it in the lodge room, I have been reminded of the pure, honest life I wish to live.

Another wonderful Masonic symbol consists of the Ashlars. Two stones called Ashlars rest in the lodge room near the Worshipful Master's position. The one on the right is a rough, jagged stone. The one on the left is true in geometry, smooth and highly polished. When I see them I am reminded that when my life started I was like the jagged stone, but when my life is over I should be like the polished stone that glistens here.

Another wonderful symbol, much respected, is the square. When a Masonic Brother walks on the lodge floor, the turns he makes are square. This is a reminder that dealings with others should always be honest, "On the Square".

Many other wonderful significant symbols exist in Masonry. I am guided by them as many others before me have been guided—and in the future by which others will be guided.

Ed Lane

P.S. The various organizations within Masonry benefit mankind in many ways. One example is the Children's Hospitals sponsored by the Shriners. There are many other benefits Masonry provides for its members, member's families and many others in our society

A word from the editor:

You may not have noticed [how could you miss it?], but last months newsletter looked a bit different.

A computer problems cause all 'graphics' to be omitted during printing. This made 'From the East' and many other items disappear completely from the newsletter.

This gave an unintended 'emphasis' to an item that should have been near the bottom of this column. It appeared near the top of this column and was followed by a large blank space. There was a line of text that indicated that the space was intentionally left blank.

That was incorrect. I only intended to leave a small blank space at the bottom of the column.

Someone suggested divine intervention?

My point was 'We need to know the names of those among the brethren that are sick or in need.'

SPECIAL CONGRATULATION TO THE FOLLOWING LONG TIME MEMBERS to be honored at our next meeting:

Wiley S. Noble, 50 year certificate

Neal S. Chollette Jr, Bobbie E Lastor, Dewey Van O'mire PM. 25 Year certificates

George H. Jones PM will receive the Lodge Fidelity Medal for his 60 years of service as a Master Mason.

SPECIAL GUEST editorial:

The Noblest Brotherhood,
by a Newly Raised Master Mason.

We, as a society, are in desperate need of enlightenment. The question raised is: How do we receive this enlightenment through our adult lives? The answer is an easy one: Through the aid of mankind in general.

But where will we find such men, men that will understand the words that Confucius once spoke: "The day we stop learning, should be the day the lid is closed on our coffin." Thankfully there are men out there that are willing to contribute to the continuing education of fellow men, and at the same time realize that their minds are always sponges. They are willing to learn and keep an open mind to all. There is one special place where these timeless principles are held in high value. The place is the Halls of Freemasonry. This is the ONLY such place I have found.

From the day we are born, we begin to learn. As we grow we begin to learn from causal reasoning (Making educated decisions and observations based on a world of cause and effect, or more simply, learning through experience). But, as the philosopher Kant once stated: There must be some sort of transcendental freedom involved with experience. For if there is not, we will have to accept that our life and the decisions we make in it are predetermined by causes and effects long before the choice even arises. Such concepts are difficult to understand, and as our experience in life grows, so do the questions we have about our lives.

The great halls of Masonic lodges are filled with outstanding men that understand this complication in life and are will to guide others through it.

It is natural for man to spend his life yearning for knowledge. It is unnatural to avoid this yearning when there is something out there, a group of people ritually joined together for such communication. Many people desire the continuing education of enlightenment that Freemasonry can offer; but just like the gentleman that would rather spend two hours lost on the road before seeking the guidance of a map, so are many people

insecure in the thought of accepted a different kind of map, the map of enlightenment which Freemasonry offers. Those of us that have joined, have learned to overcome such frivolous notions, understanding that only through God and our fellow man can we attempt to learn what would otherwise be alien to us; but more importantly we are secure enough with ourselves and God not to dismiss that all men need a map, and collectively we know that our map is much stronger.

Why is our map to enlightenment so strong? It is because we are the group of men not afraid to ask for help when we get lost. Being new to Master Masonry, it was and still is a Past Worshipful Master, Brother Frank Dedman, who has taught me and is still teaching me the dedication that all Brothers have to seeing their fellow members advance in wisdom and morality. Surely there cannot be a greater cause than this!

Most importantly, I want to express what Freemasonry can offer those of us who were secure enough to join:

1. Know that if you fall or take the wrong path, there is Brother to help, all you have to do is ask.
2. We will all, at some point in our life, run into a crisis of confusion. Know that a Brother will be there to help you through it.
3. There is also the joy of knowing that we will one day be able to help guide others, the way we were guided.

Freemasonry offers us help with questions which we would have been to afraid to ask our best friends before Masonry stepped into our lives, for we know that in our Halls stand men of the same nature, not afraid to learn and not afraid to ask. Before we reach the meta-physical, our Brothers become the earthly rock upon which we can lean for the guidance it will take to one day enter the meta-physical realm of God.

Freemasonry embraces all men with monotheistic beliefs, teaches them that the manner in which we treat all our fellow humans is our ultimate responsibility. Never before and never since, has an organization opened its arms so widely to such a diverse group, and taught its members a manner of spirituality in which all are equal. So, in conclusion, I ask you: What society could be nobler than that?

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ATTITUDE

by Charles Swindoll (as read by WM Streater in lodge)

The longer I live the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skill. It will make or break a company...a church...a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past...we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude...I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it. And so it is with you...we are in charge of our attitude.

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



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