

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 September 2008 – October 2008



Brethren,

I hope this finds you and yours fully recovered from any damages you may have received from Hurricanes Gustov and Ike. Let us pray to the Great Architect of the Universe that those not as fortunate may receive a quick and speedy recovery. In that vain, if anyone knows of a fellow Brother or a fellow Brother's family that is still in need of assistance, please let me know.

Due to the impacts of Hurricane Gustov, Guest Night was postponed and has been combined with Past Masters' Night on October 2nd. Thank you to all who were able to attend on September 4th. We were truly blessed to have not only power, but air conditioning at the Lodge when many of the Brethren and the community at large were still without power. Under the circumstances, the meeting was relatively short, in order to get the Brethren out prior to curfew.

Guest Night has now been combined with Past Masters' Night. Please remind your guests of the opportunity to come out and share a good meal and good camaraderie with the Brethren on October 2nd. As always, dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m., with the program starting at 7:30 p.m.

As for the pendant bodies, the Baton Rouge Valley of the Scottish Rite reunion has been condensed from a two day reunion to a one day reunion on October 4th. Only the terminal degrees will be conferred. In addition, Hurricane Gustov forced the 13th Masonic District to postpone their quarterly meeting until October 5th.

Finally, let us thank the Great Architect of the Universe that the damages from the recent hurricanes were not worse. As seen by the devastation caused by Hurricane Ike along the Texas coast, damages could have been much worse. Let us remember our fellow man in the devastated areas and count our blessings as we approach the holiday season.

William E. Little, W.M.

RECENT EVENTS

September 1, Sunday - Thirteenth Masonic District met very briefly at St. Albans Lodge # 28 in Jackson, with Hurricane Gustav approaching. It was decided to postpone the business and election of officers to a Special Meeting on Sunday October 5 at 1:30/2:30 PM, again at St Albans.

September 4, 7:30 P.M. Thursday, Stated Communication - Hurricane Gustav hit Baton Rouge about 3:00 PM on Monday, September 2, and postponed Guest Night that was scheduled for the 4th. Everyone in East Baton Rouge Parish was without electric power, except for a very few who had generators. But even these had to wait up to six hours in long lines for gasoline. Major electrical transmission lines and substations were knocked out. A few were still waiting for power after two weeks. To maintain our 164 year old tradition of always meeting for a Stated Communication, the Lodge was opened with 12 members present. Investigation Committee

reports were given, and two ballots were held with favorable results. The Building Committee reported the decision to proceed to install a new air conditioning cooling tower for our tenant by a contract with Legends, Inc., and a motion passed. Guest Night was rescheduled to be concurrent with Past Masters' Night on Thursday, October 2 with dinner at 6:30 PM. The meeting lasted only 28 minutes, leaving 2 minutes to beat the curfew in effect.

September 18, 7:30 PM. Thursday, Stated Communication - Twenty-seven members and guests attended. Bro. Peter Dietrich, a member of Naval Lodge #4 in Washington, D. C., was introduced as a new plural member of St. James Lodge. Visiting Brothers were Scott Dicus of Eastgate Lodge #452 and Joe Cooper from Center Lodge #244 in Bogalusa. An Investigation Committee report was made and ballot was held on a new petition. One Entered Apprentice degree was conferred. Thanks are extended to the degree team that did a very good job. A letter was read from Livonia Lodge #220. They were unsuccessful at establishing a Dyslexia clinic, and returned assistance with thanks to St. James Lodge. A letter was read from W: Bro. Chuck Morris from Youth Foundation of Louisiana thanking St. James for assistance for DeMolay.

FUTURE EVENTS

-----End Casual Summer Attire-----

Oct. 2 Past Masters' Night & Guest Night(Open/Meal 6:30 PM)

Oct. 3 Fri. Lodge of Nine Muses #9, Annual Table Lodge banquet at the Camelot Club, at **7:00 o'clock** in the evening. Keynote speaker is W. Bro. Brent Morris, 33°, Grand Cross, noted author and Masonic historian, managing Editor of the Scottish Rite Journal, Editor of the Heredom, Transactions of the Scottish Rite Research Society and Director of Membership, Supreme Council of the 33°, Washington, D.C. Bro. Morris is also the sitting Master of Lodge Quatuor Coronati Lodge #2076, the premier Masonic research Lodge located in London, England.

His curriculum vitae may be seen at: <http://www.freemasons-freemasonry.com/brentmorrisfr.html>.

Oct. 4 7:00 AM - 5:00 PM Sat. Saturday, Scottish Rite Reunion
Oct. 4 7:30/8:00 AM Sat. Down town York Rite
Oct. 5 1:30/2:30 PM Sun Thirteenth Masonic District
Special Meeting at St. Albans Lodge #28 in Jackson.
Oct. 16 Possible degree conferral
Nov. 6 St. John the Evangelist & Election of 2008 Officers
Nov. 20 **Thanksgiving Program (Open/Meal 6:30 PM)**
Dec. 4 **Installation of 2009 Officers (Open/Meal 6:30 PM)**

Sickness, Relief and Sorrow

Bro. Al Blanchard is recovering after having a defibrillator implant.

Bro. Carlisle Richard is in treatment for cancer.

Bro. Joe Bardwell is doing well, following surgery for cancer of the prostate, and hopes to return to work soon.

Carolyn Pence, widow of W: Bro. Lloyd Pence, is back in Oschner's Hospital for tests, weakness and severe back pain. She has been diagnosed with stage 4 cancer in her liver and various bones, and will soon be moved from her home to a care facility by her family.

Please keep these special people and all others in your prayers. Nothing more, from the West, Joe R

Other Masonic Events

Acacia Shrine meets at 6:00/7:00 PM every 3rd Wednesday at 7991 S. Commerce Ave

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 the Consistory on Florida Boulevard with Advisory Council at 5:30, dinner at 6:30, and meeting at 7:30 PM

Livingston Certificate Association meets at 6:00 P.M on the first Friday of each month at Hurd Murrell # 454 in Livingston, LA and Baton Rouge Certificate Association meets at 6:30 P.M. on the third Friday of each month at Trinity Union Lodge # 372.

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.

HELP NEEDED – Volunteer(s) to be the Lodge Photographer(s). Contact Joe Richard if you think you can handle this important job.



St. James Lodge No. 47
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September 2008 — October 2008

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Notify our Secretary, W.Bro. Dedman and Joe Richard if you change your address or telephone.
Your article could have been here. Send articles to Bob Zinn, bz@chem.lsu.edu

Happy Birthday to W.Bro. Judge C. Lenton Sartain, Jr. "Chief" celebrated 88 years on Friday, September 19

"Rays of Masonry" by Dewey Wollstein -1953

THE PURPOSE

If men are morally qualified to become Masons, then what does Masonry offer them? The purpose of Masonry is to improve. It is a system of morality. It means nothing to those who lack the desire to grow spiritually.

Goodness, Masonry point out, is not a fixed element, which one works at today, and rests from tomorrow. Masonry is the force that leads men on in the adventures of the heart, keeping man between two columns- The Pillar of All-Creation and the Pillar of Man's Creation. There is forever the struggle between life and the things of life. The victory is not in waiting for the destruction of adverse conditions, but in making a life in the "middle of them."

Men, therefore, may be morally qualified to become Masons, and yet fail utterly to improve themselves in the art of Masonry. The failures are those who believe that the ultimate attainment of some degree of spiritual improvement is not worth the steady application that is required to achieve it.

It is essentially necessary that our officers make a thorough study of Masonry in order to keep before the members the real purpose of the Institution. The proper discharge of the duty of the Worshipful Master to see that the lodge is set to labor under good and wholesome instruction largely determines the success of a lodge. The success can never be computed in numbers, in degrees, or in proficiency in the ritualistic work.

Masonry cannot offer that which first must be in the heart. It can begin there and take us to paths of undreamed triumphs.

"Rays of Masonry" by Dewey Wollstein -1953

RECAPTURE THE SPIRIT

So many times in our Masonic conversations is heard, "Masonry of today is not what it used to be." Generally the speaker is one who was active in Masonry, but for some reason, no longer attends lodge regularly. To those who are striving earnestly to be Masons and to practice the tenets of Masonry there is a depressing reaction to such statements. The very manner in which the statement is made is repugnant to those who know that Masonry's voice is needed more now than ever before. They know that the translation of the beauty of Masonry and the expression of its force for good in a divided world calls for the loyalty of all who bear the name of Mason. If the individual has lost something that he once found, to whom should he look for its recovery? If our century has obscured the sentimental and ethical nature of man should we withdraw our efforts when these things are most needed? If I am a hermit, may I expect to find Brotherhood? Masonry is an abstract term. Its energy and life-blood is the individual Mason. If I say that Masonry is not today what it was yesterday, I am really saying that I have failed to contribute what I gave yesterday.

We decry the loss of moral courage that yesterday distinguished the acts of Masons. Are we honest in our verdicts? Think of all the men who are actively working in your lodge. Are they above or below the average citizen in honesty and moral strength? Are they holding to the "Faith of our Father" in this period of pandemonium? Do they represent the best element in your community?

The Spirit of Masonry lives today with all the vigor of yesterday. If we have lost it, let us look for its recovery within ourselves.

"Rays of Masonry" by Dewey Wollstein -1953

OUR STRENGTH

Duty is not confined to a display of heroism in times of abnormal circumstances. Duty is noble when discharged in the normal way of life. It is noble and Godlike when it is performed willingly and in the silence of the heart.

We speak of the enemies of Masonry. Toward our enemies, and none but the foolish would deny their existence, we have certain duties which are the highest expressions of Masonic teachings. It is the glory of Masonry, however, that whenever an enemy appears, it is in the form of greed, of tyranny, or unbridled ambition for power. The enemies of Masonry have always sought to arrogate unto themselves a power for the ultimate purpose of selfish gain. The philosophy of Masonry does not always strike a responsive note within the hearts and minds of all men, yet whenever an honest and impartial evaluation is expressed, it is never said that Masonry seeks to impose its philosophy upon others, or seeks something of material gain for the Institution. It is to the everlasting credit of our Institution that the avowed enemies of Masonry are at once the avowed enemies of Right as it is universally applied.

It is possible to have enemies without being an enemy. The principles of Masonry must be interpreted to the world in the only way that principles remain unsullied- through patience and kindness. We often under-estimate the strength of morality when we view the apparent strength of evil. We often question its effectiveness because it is such a quiet force. Yet the Story of the Ages is the miracle of moral strength. One so weak in the ways of wrong, one so little versed in the art of revenge, one so free of hate, one so foolish as to love his enemies, draws some Unseen Power a force that neither he nor his enemies can understand. We must not blindfold our senses to the existence of enemies; neither must we adopt their weapons.

How, then is a miracle accomplished? Every miracle is a moral victory. Be content to know that. It is Truth.

Weapons, strange to the Mason, will ever be in the hands of our enemies. There will be the struggle, the fight, the upward climb over difficult obstacles. We cannot evade the struggle, yet every moment is a golden opportunity. We can gird ourselves for the battle. The performance of duties, great and small, which are duties to God and man, represent the strength that will be ours upon whatever field the lines may be drawn.

If you change phone, address or e-mail, PLEASE send updated information to Joe Richard jgr2@cox.net