

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

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

Monthly Newsletter--- September 2011 – November 2011



September's Open Meal included an informal dinner. Members and guests were then entertained by the French Horn Quartet. This was followed by Worshipful Master Naresh Sharma providing an enlightening lecture about the history of St. James Lodge.



The Open Meal scheduled for the first meeting of October honored Past Masters and widows of masons. Our past masters have established the lodge as both a viable charity and a meeting place of like-minded individuals to come together in fellowship and brotherly love. It has been their effort and dedication that has allowed the lodge to flourish in both good and difficult times.

Behind good men are better women. The support Masonic wives provide has enabled the fraternity to reach its goals and aspirations. The women's sacrifice permits members to attend Masonic meetings in lieu of enjoying the company of their own family.

It is near the end of the Worshipful Master's tenure that the privilege of honoring the past masters and widows for their time and sacrifices is made. It is most appropriate that this event is marked with an open meal where friends and family can appreciate the extent to which the lodge acknowledges both its debt and appreciation to these altruistic individuals.

The hard work and dedication has once again been demonstrated in the conferral of yet another Entered Apprentice degree in September. This is the culmination of replying to a Masonic membership request, screening the individual and members voting for the good of the lodge when advised as to the committee's assessment of the candidate. Degree teams practice their respective parts to insure the candidate be received in a truly Masonic manner, and the Lodge be well reminded of their obligations and commitments. These endeavors take valuable time and effort the Brothers then devoted to the Lodge. For this we are truly grateful.

It is both an honor and privilege to belong to such a benevolent organization.

May Peace and Harmony Prevail,

James W. Robinson, Worshipful Master

Naresh Sharma. An excellent meal of buffet finger foods was enjoyed.

September 11 (Sunday) 13th Masonic District Meeting 12:30/1:30 2:30 at East Gate Lodge # 452 at 14598 Florida Boulevard in Baton Rouge.

September 15 An Entered Apprentice was initiated. Several guests attended. WBro Jack Clanch, PM, from Trinity gave the charge.

October 6 The meeting was dedicated to honoring Past Masters, 25/50/60 Year Masons, and Widows. 12 P.M.s attending were recognized. 66 members and guests attended, of which 15 were Sweet Adeline's under the leadership of Cate McRitchie, plus three (3) helpers. The meal of brisket, potatoes, fresh vegetables, salad, and ice cream cake was excellent. One petition for reinstatement was read.

October 20 The Master Mason Degree was conferred on Bro. Justin Merrill Hutchinson. Congratulations Bro. Hutchinson. The Grand Lodge Archivist, Ms.Sally Signor informed the Brethren about the activities of the Grand Lodge Library and Museum.

FUTURE MASONIC EVENTS

Practice every Monday at 5:30 pm at the Lodge.

November 3	Rededication & Election of 2012 Officers
November 17	Thanksgiving Banquet, Veterans' Recognition (Open / Meal)
December 1	Installation of 2012 Officers
<i>December 4 (Sunday 2:30 PM) 13th Masonic District meets 12:30/1:30/2:30 at Fairfields Lodge # 425 at 10484 Mammoth Avenue, B.R.</i>	
December 15	Entered Apprentice Degree, St. John the Evangelist, & Necrology Service

October, November birthdays.

10/4 Henry Lalumandier
 10/6 Terry Newgard
 10/7 Dr. Randall Brown
 10/11 Eugene Lejeune
 10/13 James Douglas
 10/14 Dr. Barry Scott
 10/15 Joe Bardwell
 10/16 David Martinez
 10/16 Dr. Wallace Dunlap
 10/16 Scotty Fletcher
 10/18 Jonathon Wagner
 10/18 Daniel Rester
 10/19 Thomas Pyburn
 10/24 Charles Hughes
 10/24 Jere Evans
 10/24 Vasken Kaltakdjian
 10/25 Ben Melanson
 10/30 William Switzer Jr
 10/30 Joseph "Jay" Reynolds

11/1 WILLIAM McFERRIN
 11/1 DAVID DODGE
 11/2 NORMAN MARTINUSEN
 11/4 MARK SHIRLEY
 11/5 THOMAS WATERS
 11/12 JAYME ELLENDER
 11/16 DR. STEPHEN SELBY
 11/19 CHRISTOPHER DALTON
 11/21 DONALD SOLANAS JR
 11/23 JULIUS BEARD
 11/24 JEROME BLACK
 11/26 ARNETT BAKER

Bring guests!

Open Lodge meeting at 6:00 pm on
November 17th

RECENT MASONIC EVENTS

Thursday, September 1st 44 members and guests, plus 4 French Horn quartet players from the "Baton Rouge Horn Club," led by Ellen Bordelon, entertained us. An excellent review of the history of St. James Lodge No. 47 and its building was presented by Worshipful Brother



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 Post Office Box 444
 Baton Rouge, LA 70821-0444

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September 2011-- November 2011

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Other Masonic Events

Acacia Shrine meets at -7:00 P.M. every 3rd Wednesday at 7991 S. Commerce Ave. A meal is served at 6:00 P.M.
 Downtown York Rite Bodies meet on the 1st Saturday of each month at 8:00 a.m. with breakfast served at 7:30 a.m.
 Valley of Baton Rouge meets on the 2nd Monday of each month, dinner at 6:30 PM, meeting at 7 P.M., at the Consistory on Florida Boulevard. The Advisory Council meets at the Consistory at 6:00 P.M. on the 4th Monday of the month.
 Livingston Certificate Association meets at 6:00 P.M with dinner, on the first Friday of each month at Pine Grove Lodge #288 in Ponchatoula, LA. and Baton Rouge Certificate Association meets at 6:30 P.M. with dinner on the third Friday of each month at Trinity Union Lodge # 372, Florida Blvd, Baton Rouge.
 Lodge of the Nine Muses #9, F&AM, meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. If you are interested in visiting, contact one of the members for dress code and other details.

Your article could have been here. Submit articles to Bob Zinn, N5bz@cox.net

SICKNESS and RELEF

It is good to see W: Bro Cal Elliott recovering from recent illness, and W: Bro. David Dodge has recovered from a bicycle fall. Both Brothers are back in Lodge.
 We wish W: Bro. Fred Ladner rapid recovery after his recent return to the hospital following a stroke. Fred is at St. James Wellness Center.
 Our thoughts and best wishes are with our Brethren who can no longer attend Lodge due to age and infirmity. We should make an effort to call or visit them when we can.



Brethren, The Great Architect Of The Universe, in His infinite wisdom, has issued an early summons to our esteemed Brothers:

Fraser Edmund Landreneau, M.D.,
 joined The Celestial Lodge on 11/10/11

Our condolences and prayers are sent to his wife, Amy, and his family, friends and associates.

Bro. Landreneau was born in Eunice, LA, 43 years ago, and became a Master Mason in St. James Lodge 8 years ago.

 On 10/12/2011, our esteemed Brother, Carlisle Sheard Richard, a member of St. James Lodge No 47 for over 60 years, went to his Heavenly home. Our prayers and support are with his wife Marjorie and their families.

A Masonic Funeral was held for Brother Richard at Rabenhorst East on Friday 10/14

 Bro. Edward Bohman Stover Jones left this earthly realm on Monday, November 14, 2011. He was born on March 12, 1925, became a Master Mason on July 22, 1965, was a member for 46 years, and lived in Gladewater, TX.

A Masonic Funeral was held for Bro. Jones at Rabenhorst East on Friday 11/18



THE LEVEL AND THE SQUARE (circa August 1854)
Dr. Rob Morris, LLD, Masonic Poet Laureate 1818-1888

WE MEET UPON THE LEVEL, AND WE PART UPON THE SQUARE,-
What words of precious meaning those words Masonic are!
Come, let us contemplate them; they are worthy of a thought,-
With the highest and the lowest and the rarest they are fraught.

We meet upon the Level, though from every station come -
The King from out his palace and the poor man from his home;
For the one must leave his diadem without the Mason's door,
And the other finds his true respect upon the checkered floor.

We part upon the square, for the world must have its due;
We mingle with its multitude, a cold, unfriendly crew;
But the influence of our gatherings in memory is green,
And we long, upon the level, to renew the happy scene.

There's a World where all are equal,-we are hurrying towards it fast,-
We shall meet upon the level there when the gates of death are past;
We shall stand before the Orient, and our Master will be there,
To try the blocks we offer by His own unerring Square.

We shall meet upon the level there, but never thence depart;
There's a Mansion,- 'tis all ready for each zealous, faithful heart;
There's a Mansion, and a welcome, and a multitude is there,
Who have met upon the level and been tried upon the square.

Let us meet upon the level, then, while laboring patient here,-
Let us meet and let us labor, tho' the labor seem severe;
Already in the western sky the signs bid us prepare
To gather up our working tools and part upon the square.

Hands round, ye faithful Ghibilimites, the bright, fraternal chain;
We part upon the square below, to meet in Heaven again!
O what words of precious meaning those words Masonic are,
WE MEET UPON THE LEVEL, AND WE PART UPON THE SQUARE.

The Unfinished Sanctum Sanctorum

A craftsman came to Adoniram, troubled by something he thought he was learning in Masonry. He said, "Master, many of the wise old Master Masons I know often say things that make it sound like there is no sense at all in Masonry. They speak of Masonic light as if it has no meaning and the True Word as though it is nothing at all. This is very disturbing because it seems to contradict all that Masonry is about, such as truth, relief, brotherly love, wisdom, strength, and beauty."

Adoniram nodded and asked, "What is it that knows all these principles that we venerate?"

"It must be the mind and heart, master."

Then Adoniram knelt down and drew some symbols and figures in the dust. "Look here and tell me what you see."

The craftsman replied, "I see many of the signs and symbols of our Craft."

"Yes," said Adoniram. "And do you see that there are spaces within them, between them, and all around them, and that all of these spaces blend together into the greater space that is the dust upon which they are written?"

"It is obviously so, master."

"Very well. Now close your eyes and look within. Do you also see that the words and concepts of Masonry are written within your mind and heart?"

The craftsman closed his eyes. "Yes. I hear the words and see the images within."

"Just as with the figures in the dust, the words and images in your mind are surrounded and penetrated by something. What is it?"

"It must be my mind," answered the craftsman.

"That's too easy. Tell me how you experience it."

"It is hard to say. It is darkness. It is silence."

"You call it darkness and silence because it has no image or sound to which you might give a name, right?"

With eyes still closed, the craftsman nodded slowly.

"Do you see how one might speak of this as emptiness or nothingness?"

The craftsman laughed as he opened his eyes. "Ha ha! Yes, I do, master."

"And yet out of this darkness and silence all images and sounds arise, right?"

"Yes, it is obviously so, master."

"So it must be a darkness that has light hidden within it, a silence that has sound hidden within it, an emptiness that is full, and a nothing that is."

"Everything, master!"

"Yes, so it could be said. Are you still troubled?"

"No, master. I am at peace with the words of the old Master Masons."

"Good. Earlier we spoke of mind and heart. They are good words, but do they suffice for naming what you have found?"

"No, master. No words suffice. How can I name what has no form or image yet must be real? How can I even say I know what it really is?"

"Brother, you have not yet received the Sublime Degree, yet you have entered the unfinished Sanctum Sanctorum and seen the blank trestleboard of our Grand Master Hiram Abif. I admonish you to visit it often. You must also know that though you would speak the words and show the images, you can never communicate this to anyone except those who are duly and truly prepared."

The craftsman only smiled and nodded.

With Compliments.

Tofique Fatehi

The Forget-Me-Not.

As early as the year 1934, after Hitler's rise to power, it became apparent that Freemasonry was in danger. In the same year, the German Grand Lodge of the Sun in Bayreuth (one of the pre-war German Grand Lodges), realized the imminent problems facing them and elected a little blue flower, the Forget-Me-Not, in lieu of the traditional Square and Compasses, as a mark of identity for Masons.

It was felt that the new symbol would not attract attention from the Nazis, who were in the process of confiscating and appropriating Masonic Lodges and property. Masonry had gone underground and it was necessary that the Brethren have some recognizable means of identification. Throughout the entire Nazi era, the little blue flower in the lapel marked Brothers in Concentration Camps as well as in the cities. In 1947, when the Grand Lodge of the Sun was reopened in Bayreuth, the Forget-Me-Not was adopted as the official emblem of the first annual convention of those who survived the bitter years.

In 1948, the pin was adopted as an official Masonic emblem honoring those valiant Brethren who carried their work on under adverse conditions. At the Grand Masters Conference in the United States, Dr. Theodore Vogel, Grand Master of the newly formed UGL, AF & AM presented one of the pins to each of the representatives of the Grand Jurisdictions with which the UGL, A.F. & A.M. enjoyed Fraternal relations.

Although some believe that this was Hitler's favorite, his favorite flower was actually the Edelweiss which is a beautiful alpine mountain flower.

The Palace by Rudyard Kipling

When I was a King and a Mason, a Master Proven and skilled,
I cleared me ground for a Palace, such as a King should build.
I decreed and dug down to my levels; presently, under the silt,
I came on the wreck of a Palace, such as a King had built.

There was no worth in the fashion; there was no wit in the plan;
Hither and thither, aimless, the ruined footings ran.
Masonry, brute, mishandled, but carven on every stone,
"After me cometh a Builder; tell him I, too, have known."

Swift to my use in my trenches, where my well-planned groundworks grew,
I tumbled his quoins and his ashlar, and cut and rest them anew.
Lime I milled of his marbles; burned it, slaked it, and spread;
Taking and leaving at pleasure the gifts of the humble dead.

Yet I despised not nor gloried, yet, as we wrenched them apart,
I read in the razed foundation the heart of that Builder's heart.
As he has risen and pleaded, so did I understand
The form of the dream he had followed in the face of the thing he had
planned

When I was a King and a Mason, in the open noon of my pride,
They sent me a Word from the Darkness; they whispered and called me aside.
They said, "The end is forbidden." They said,
"Thy use is fulfilled. Thy Palace shall stand as that other's, the spoil of
a King who shall build."

I called my men from my trenches, my quarries, my wharves, and my sheers;
All I had wrought I abandoned to the faith of the faithless years.
Only I cut on the timber; only I carved on the stone: "
After me cometh a Builder; tell him I, too, have known."