

TRESTLEBOARD

PHALANX LODGE NO. 31



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June 2015



John Harder, PM
Master

My Brothers,

What? We are nudging the midway point on this year? Already? The school year is ending, vacations are in the offing for some and the heat is on. Please keep our nation, its weather embattled regions, and our fraternity in your prayers. We have entered hurricane season, so in light of memories of Hurricane Hugo and in the face of so much uncertainty from other factors nationwide, have your emergency preparations in order. HAVE A PLAN.

Proper department. Brethren, remember who and what you are as you travel, for you have no idea who may be watching at work, church, and yes - even in traffic. Different things or issues may spark an interest in our fraternity, and any meeting with another man could become a rich discussion leading him to the lodge. I recently met a young man who had been circling the fringes of Freemasonry on the internet for information. He saw my ring, and began asking those questions he had asked years ago of his grandfather. His grandfather told him he would need to wait until he was older for those answers. Through the years, he became the proud owner of his grandfather's apron, jewels, Bible, and the questions that were never answered. He is now learning the truth about our fraternity and what his grandfather held so precious. When he is ready, I will be proud to sign his petition as I am sure his grandfather would have wanted to do himself.

Ah, to degree work! We have a Fellow Craft degree coming up quickly so make preparations to attend and help where you can. We also anticipate a fast turnaround for an Entered Apprentice degree.

Fraternally,
John Harder - Master



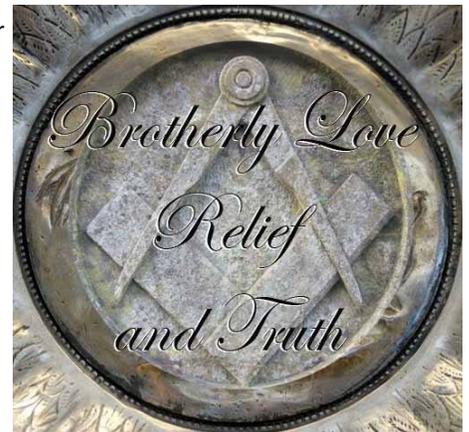
Chris Crump
Senior Warden

"The ultimate success of Masonry depends on the intelligence of her disciples." - Albert Mackey

A significant group of passionate Masons are coming together to create what aims to be nothing less than the premier North American research society in Freemasonry. Called simply The Masonic Society, they are gathering together brothers who have a deep and abiding desire to seek knowledge, explore history, discover symbolism, debate philosophies, and in short, who will be at the forefront of charting a path for the future of Freemasonry.

As a student of Freemasonry, you are invited to join with them in the formation of this exciting organization.

Their name, The Masonic Society, intentionally alludes to the Royal Society, the innovative organization of visionary men who were at the forefront of the Age of Enlightenment, many of whom were present at the formation of what became modern Freemasonry. Likewise, the new Society will be at the forefront of a new age of Freemasonry, and we intend to be a vibrant, active community within the fraternity. The goal of The Masonic Society is not just to look backward at the history of Freemasonry, but to foster the intellectual, spiritual and social growth of the modern Masonic fraternity. To that end, The Masonic Society extends the hand of assistance and cooperation to individual Masonic research lodges in North America. It is the desire of The Masonic Society to be a partner with these lodges, to give their members the regular opportunity to publish their papers for an international audience, and to publicize their activities. The Masonic Society is also forging a special relationship with those bodies that meet annually during Masonic Week, as well as the Grand Encampment, Knights Templar and the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association. While not designed as a York Rite-specific research group, The Masonic Society encourages examination of this branch of Freemasonry.



- More information available at www.themasonicsociety.com - note that there is a fee for membership) -

WHAT MAKES A MAN A MASON?

By: George M. Free

What makes a man a Mason, O brother of mine?

It isn't the due guard, nor is it the sign,
It isn't the jewel which hangs on your breast
It isn't the apron in which you are dressed

It isn't the step, nor the token, nor the grip,
Nor lectures that fluently flow from the lip,
Nor yet the possession of that mystic word
On five points of fellowship duly conferred.

Though these are essential, desirable, fine,
They don't make a Mason, O brother of mine.

That you to your sworn obligation are true
'Tis that, brother mine, makes a Mason of you.

Secure in your heart you must safeguard and trust,
With lodge and with brother be honest and just,
Assist the deserving who cry in their need,
Be chaste in your thought, in your word and your deed.

Support he who falters, with hope banish fear,
And whisper advice in an erring one's ear.
Then will the Great Lights on your path brightly shine,
And you'll be a Mason, O brother of mine.

Your use of life's hours by the gauge you must try,
The gavel of vices with courage apply;
Your walk must be upright, as shown by the plumb,
On the level, to bourn whence no travelers come,

The Book of your faith be the rule and the guide,
The compass your passions shut safely inside;
The stone which the Architect placed in your care
Must pass the strict test of His unerring square.

And then you will meet
with approval divine,
And you'll be a Mason,
O brother of mine.



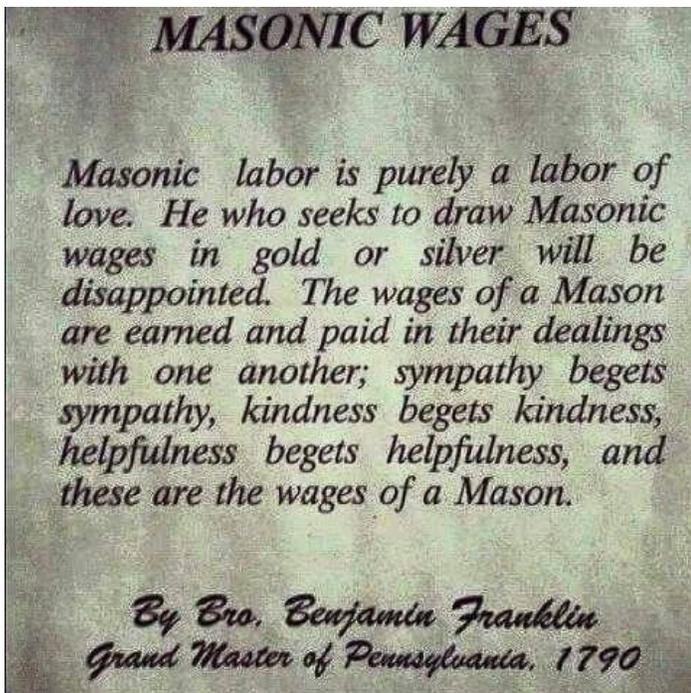
Upcoming Masonic Happenings

Tue. June 9 - Stated Communication
6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens

Thu, June 11 - 7pm: Practice Fellowcraft Degree

Tue. June 16 - Fellowcraft Degree
6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens

Tue. July 14 - Stated Communication
6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens



BIRTHDAYS

JUNE

03 - Dirk Baxter
04 - Billy Smith
04 - Neal Saunders
05 - John Dwelle
11 - Bobby Golibart
12 - Russell Kruse
14 - Scott Shelton
15 - William Snow
15 - Larry Martin
18 - Jerry Cohen
18 - Roger Huse
20 - Steve Jones
21 - Paul Whitfield
29 - Jerry McCorkle
29 - William Ross
30 - James Shore

JULY

02 - Thomas Kirkpatrick
03 - Brad Hufeld
04 - Rocky Boyle
04 - Ralph Harkey
05 - Garry Krueger
08 - Charles DeKrafft
10 - Richard Bohart
13 - Tommy Blacka
13 - Ken Caudle
16 - Robert Denton
17 - William Bradley
19 - Zaccues Oudin
21 - Bill Goodyear
21 - Michael Davis
22 - James Eskridge

22 - Robert Hall
24 - Daniel Lawing
24 - Chris Cox
28 - Shane Smith
29 - Roscoe Lindsay
29 - David Campbell
31 - John Jones
31 - John Cain III



Brothers,

We have begun our spring fundraiser and I invite you to participate.

As in the last several years, we have Autobell carwash vouchers available for their Full Service Wash (\$15.99 value). The Lodge will retain half (can you donate another penny and we'll just say \$8.00?) to go to our two Masonic charities, Whitestone and the Masonic Home for Children.

Mike Hamrick, PM
Secretary

I don't know of another charitable fundraising effort that requires much less than selling a voucher for a service that someone may already be getting on a regular basis, or perhaps you can use as a gift or incentive.

Do you, or someone you know, get regular washes already? Would you be willing to prepay the lodge what you will pay at the store location, and have half of that purchase go to our charity? If you usually get a higher value service, you need only present the voucher and difference in cash at the location (ex: + \$3.00 for the Super Wash) in order to get that service. How about using one or more as a gift for someone who takes a particular pride in their vehicle? These vouchers have no expiration date.

If you attend lodge, I will have these with me. If you are not able to for some reason, I would be glad to mail these to you if you'll simply drop a check in the mail (payable to Phalanx Lodge, address on page 1) noting carwash on the memo line.

Mike Hamrick, PM
Secretary



NOW IS THE HOUR

by Charles R. Glassmlre

We are always thinking in Masonry about the word "building." We are told that Masons are builders. Yet how often do we ever stop and think of the true meanings of this word? We should consider it under four headings.

First, we must consider the building of the vast universe; that product of the Grand Architect of the Universe; that inestimable gift of God to Man; that structure which we use every day but seldom do we stop to appreciate it and to give thanks. Sometime ago, a group of us stood atop Mount Blanc, at an altitude of 15,000 feet, viewing the majestic Alps. The beautiful fertile valley lay below us with the glaciers above. It was very easy to be awe struck, to close your eyes and to give a prayer of thanks to Almighty God. How often in our own communities do we ever look around us and give thanks for the things that do not have actual physical beauty and yet see beneath them the handiwork of the Great Architect of the Universe? Yes, even sometimes in things which are actually ugly to the sight. Who can look at the town drunk, for instance, and see in him a work of God? Yes, it's a work of God but a neglect of man and perhaps we are largely responsible for much of this neglect. We pass him day by day lying in the gutter, when perhaps by stretching forth a helping hand, giving a pat on the back or a word of encouragement, we might help that man to achieve his rightful place in society, all to the glory of God. It's up to us to help make this universe the place that He intended it to be.

Secondly, if we're thinking in terms of building, we must think in terms of the fact that man is a builder and from the day of his birth he is constantly engaged in the building of his own personality and his own character. Every day we have the opportunity to do things which will make us better individuals but so many times we neglect it. There is an old saying which says, "What man needs not nor sows most abundantly grows." This, of course, in one connotation refers to the weeds in that neglected garden behind the house. But think for a moment of the neglect which permits those weeds to grow inside the mind and the character of each and every one of us. Before long, just as the beautiful flowers are destroyed by the weeds in the garden, so is that great mind which is potentially there destroyed by the weeds of neglect. A little poem says it better:

Of all that I hear and see, Day by day I am building me.
I alone have the right to choose, What to reject and what to use.
Nobody's workmanship but mine, Can keep the structure true and fine,
Strong or feeble, false or true, I build myself by the deeds I do.

Yes, Brethren, remember we are saved not by what we think but by what we are. Day by day we build ourselves by the deeds we do. Next, if we are going to consider man as a builder, we must appreciate the fact that man is also commissioned to build an ideal social structure and Masons must qualify as living stones for that structure if it is going to be the society it can be. We have another

great responsibility as Masons. We tell the world that as Masons we take good men and make them bet-ter. Are we really doing this today in Masonry? How many times have we had the unpleasant experience of raising a Brother from that Altar and having him go out the door and never seeing him again? Statistically, one out of three of the Brethren that are raised at that Altar will leave that night and never come back. Why? The answer is obvious and perhaps falls into two categories. First of all, we have lost the opportunity by failing to impress upon him the beauties of Freemasonry. We have perhaps done the work in a slipshod fashion. Officers have mumbled the words which have been poorly memorized and the Brother gets very little from it. He sees nothing that you and I have seen as we have gone through Masonry . . . of the things which bring us back. Secondly, so many times the man's dignity is insulted. How often have we unfortunately seen a man literally ridiculed for the amusement of some of the Brethren on the sidelines. We tell a man to kneel at the Altar and pray to Almighty God and then tell him to arise, follow the conductor and fear no danger, only at a later date to have him treated in such a manner that he can't see the beauties because of the lack of dignity. We are told that of those who do come back, another third are going within a year. Once again, the opportunity is lost. No man becomes a Mason simply by taking three degrees any more than a man becomes a Christian simply by joining a church. It requires work. It requires work on his part and it requires work on our part. First to impart the knowledge to him and secondly to give him a job to do. Only if he is kept busy will he return as you and I have done. Yes, we can take good men and make them better and we have the tools with which to work right there on the Altar.

That great American poet, Brother Edwin Markham, put it in verse this way:

We are blind until we see, that in the human plan
 Nothing is worth the making if, it does not make the man.
 Why build these cities glorious, if man unbuilt goes?
 In vain we build the work unless, the builder also grows.

Lastly, my Brethren, as we speak in terms of building, we must appreciate the fact that from the moment we are born until the day we die we are constantly engaged in the building of that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. How many of us go through life consciously building that house? As young men we're immortal. No young man ever thinks of the possibility of dying. It's only when we get older that we realize that we cannot expect an exemption from the common fate of man, but sometimes by the time that realization comes, it's too late and we have not begun, let alone finished the building of that house not made with hands. I suggest to you that if you have not started building it yet, now is the hour. We are very fortunate to have religion to assist us in this and I don't mean necessarily the member-ship in any particular church or sect. I'm thinking in terms of the definition of religion which says, "Religion is the life of God in the soul of man." We have the power to reach God in prayer and yet most of us waste that power. I suspect that ninety percent of all of the prayers that are wafted Heavenward are never heard because they are simply a repetition of the "gimmies." "Gimmie" this, "gimmie" that, "gimmie" me something else, when really what we should be praying for is the strength and the character to carry on in daily life, working for those things which are pleasing in His sight as we build our house not made with hands. Oh, it's a pretty tough world as we look around. Many times we come home discouraged by what we see--war and pestilence on one hand, dishonesty in high places on the other hand. We may get into bed at night and with all these things around us find it very difficult to sleep. Unfortunately, too many people in this culture are turning to drugs. There's no answer here. Drugs may provide a small portion of oblivion, but later the problem is still there. Other people say if you come home at night and get into bed and can't sleep, that you should count sheep. I don't believe this works either. No, Brethren, if you come home at night, get into bed and can-not sleep, don't count sheep--talk to the Shepherd.

In the meeting notice of a Lodge in one of the Western Jurisdictions, we recently saw an item which sums it up nicely: A favorite pastime with many people-- especially women--is rearranging furniture. Don't you think it is about time we, the human race, get busy and rearrange our mental furniture? Well, I do, and I think we had better do it real fast. First of all, we should take everything from the walls of the mind. Then we should sweep the floor and scrub it so it will be clean. Next, we ought to change our thoughts let us move the hatred table into the love corner, the sinful dresser behind the door of forgiveness, and the beds of prejudice by the wall of kindness. After this is done, we can lie down and rest with a clean mind and life.
 Brother Builders, Now is the hour!

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