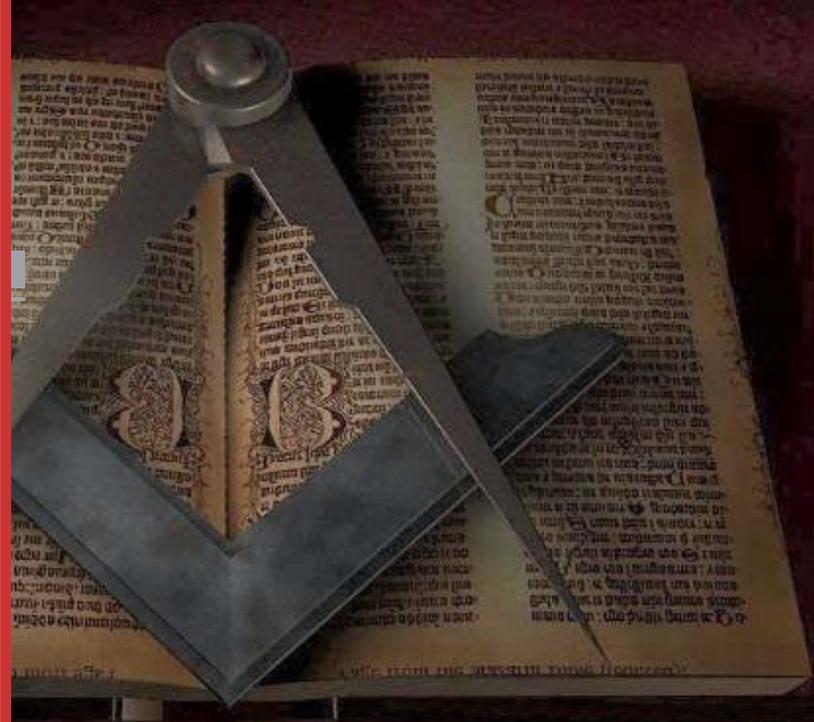


APRIL 2021

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Worshipful Master: WB Jerry Murphy
Senior Warden: B. Michael Hesner
Junior Warden: WB Steven Dinkins
Secretary: MWB Jim Mendoza
Treasurer: WB Bob Starowski
Senior Deacon: WB Kevin Reid
Junior Deacon: B. Abby Bereket
Senior Steward: B. Peter Ablor
Junior Steward: B. Kris Lockrem
Chaplin: WB Rick Watt
Marshal: WB Bill White
Tyler: WB Michael Beasley



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From the East

As usual, I am a day late and a dollar short as the old saying goes. One thing about it though is that sometimes you can make it up in many ways. As an old saying goes, Ha cha cha cha, I have got a million of them. I guess at a certain age you look around and see old guys sitting in lodge talking on the sidelines commenting back and forth with another old guy. Suddenly you look up and find that you are that old guy. Again, yesterday I complained about the old guys sitting on the sidelines reciting ritual work, only now I am that old guy. (Thinking it would be soft spoken but only to know that it was loud enough for the East to hear).

I only say this to maybe illustrate the fact that time presses on and as individuals we are usually the ones standing there wondering "Just where did the time go". Yes, if you look in the mirror you will see that time has dragged you with it. All being said, I can only say that I personally have enjoyed the ride. I especially have looked back on becoming a Mason and the journey that I have been privileged to have had through those many years and can only say one thing: WOW! Yes, wow because it has been a real education and a privilege for me to have made this journey. It has not only been educational but enlightening. I truly believe that it, as they say (another old saying) has helped to shape me into the person I am today. Just look at the time we have been through during this pandemic.

We had to learn how to manage our lives and deal with it. I only hope that the younger Masons' will have let a little of what all went on during this period sink in. Later, they may recall this time in their lives and reflect on the lessons that were learned.

Yes, Masonry has been a big and important journey in my life, and I have especially enjoyed joining Frank S Land. As I finish my term as Worshipful Master, I thank you all for the great term of office that I have enjoyed and what you all have accomplished for yourself, this lodge and Masonry. We have a great group of members and a lot to look forward to with the energy and enthusiasm I have seen this term.

I would say a year, but it has been an extended term due to our virus problem all our nation is going through now. All considered, my life has been quite a journey especially since having been made a Mason. I will say that although someone else might quietly go out of office and not attend regularly, I plan on continued attendance at lodge. I also plan to continue my association with the youth groups that I have worked with and have enjoyed doing so. Both Job's Daughters and DeMolay have been a great part of my Masonic life. I hope for and wish you all have the experiences and memories I have been privileged to be a small part of.

I also would be remised if I did not close this rambling of Masonic memories with a huge thank you to all the Brethren who have supported and worked with me as Master of the lodge this term. MW Mendoza has been a super Member of our lodge while serving as Secretary. Not only doing a superb job as Secretary but was instrumental in what I believe was a program that helped hold our lodge together during the pandemic. A JW and SW who have continued to be very supportive. Our JW and SD who

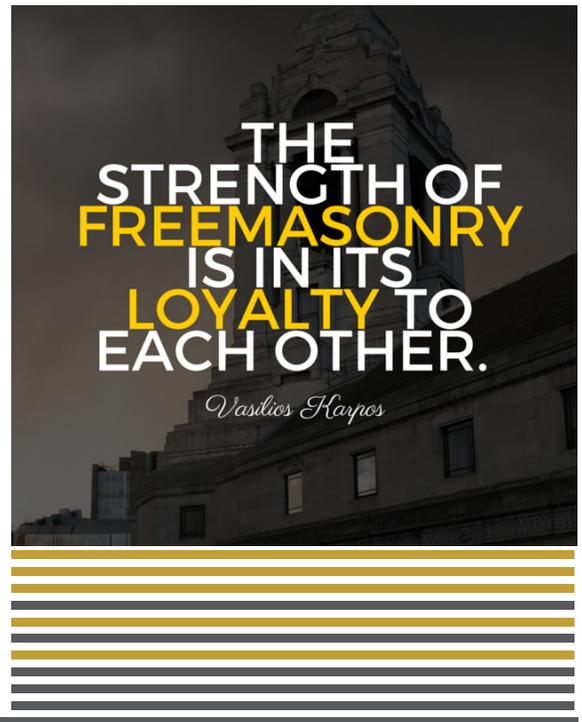


"No man, who continues to add something to material, intellectual and moral well-being of the place in which he lives, is left long without proper research."

- Brother Booker T. Washington

came up with a terrific idea for a 2022 cruise. Our JW has continued to come up with ideas that have also helped keep our lodge active and ready when we would ultimately get back to regular meetings and activities. We should all be thankful for their dedication to our craft.

I would be wrong and in trouble if I did not mention the fact that my wife of 56 years has been a very big part of support and the making all these memories. May you all have a good life and plenty of memories of your own. And please, enjoy life itself for all it holds for you.



From the West

Hello brothers,

As April quickly approaches, I look forward to the opportunity to serve Frank S. Land lodge, but I also call upon all our members to help create a term filled with activities. This is our lodge, and we need to keep it moving forward as much as possible. I am asking for a virtual brainstorming session. I want all your ideas for events that can take place both virtually, and in person. I am also looking for suggestions for guest speakers or topics for our Wednesday get-togethers where our friends who are not, yet masons may attend. I am hoping that we can all gather by November and put on a dinner cooked by all of us for our local DeMolay Chapters. And I would also like to set up a District 13 Charity Invitational Poker tournament to raise some additional funds for the local food bank, possibly around September, to get them some additional funding heading into the fall. That leaves a lot of room for events. Right now, it is unclear when we will be able to gather in larger numbers, but hopefully soon. I look forward to working with this lodge as it has always been very active and comes up with amazing ideas. All our members have always come together to support one another, our youth programs, and in recent years, the members of our community around the lodge.

To those who have agreed to fill an office for this term, I thank you. You are the support that makes having and running a lodge possible. Throughout this last year you have made the effort to come together and keep our lodge great. To serve our community through continued support of the local food bank when they need it now more than ever. You are the difference makers. Everything you do matters. As a gentle reminder to you all. On April 3rd, 2021 we will be setting our lodge on a path moving forward, while at the same time doing something that has never been done in the history of Washington Freemasonry. Installing our officers completely online. No lodge building, no lodge room, and gathering together from our homes. It will be an adventure. Please remember to wear your suits, bring your smiles, and have your family and support around you for the big day. And as soon as it is allowed, we will gather together and have a reception to celebrate.

Fraternally,
Michael Hesner
SW FSL #313
mbhesner@gmail.com

From the South

Brothers, Ladies & Friends,

I was thinking about our lodge today, and how with each term we strive to accomplish a greater level of accomplishment. Raise \$1 more through our fundraising efforts, donate \$1 more to the charities we find worthy, initiate 1 more member in to our ranks, enjoy 1 more individual in attendance at each of our annual events, etc. It's an ever-constant work in progress. Term, after term, after term. A smile came across my face as I thought back over the many accomplishments we have achieved together over the past 24 years as a lodge using this strategy. Heck, from a fundraising perspective alone we made just over \$1,000 at our very first Crab Feed and we were excited about it. We've learned, evolved and polished that event year after year to the point where at our last Crab Feed we realized \$40,000. And we'll strive once again to best that in March 2022 when we are able to hold our event yet again. And someday, we'll laugh at that number over a glass of scotch as we're realizing close to \$100,000. And yes, many of us have already had discussions about how we are going to that mark. Most importantly, our charitable contributions have skyrocketed because of those efforts, our membership is getting close to 100 members and all our events and activities continue to grow.

Then, (as I often do), I started analyzing what we consistently do that ensures our continued success. And while I don't think we've cornered the market on success, I do believe there are 4 pillars we continue to hang our hat on that lead to our continued success:

Character: Honesty, self-control, excellence in what we strive to accomplish, respect and courtesy.

Capacity: Process, purpose, culture, governance, information and structure. While each year we have a new Worshipful Master standing in our East, we manage our lodge by committee. Everyone is asked for their input on all aspects of our work. And, by doing so, we create consistency from term-to-term. Further, no brother steps into our elected line unaware or ill-prepared.

Creativity: Original ideas from all members. This is displayed through the continued enhancement of our existing events and the creation of our new events.

Commitment: Simply put, we live up to the commitments we make. Both as a lodge and as individual members.

As we head into our Silver Anniversary year in 2022, we can only hope that our next 25 years follow the same plan and are even more successful than the first 25 years. I hope you are just as proud of what we have built (and continue to build) as I am.

Quite simply put, 'What we are to be, we are now becoming.'

Steve Dinkins
Junior Warden



From the Desk of the Secretary

Installations are first an opportunity to thank those who have rendered faithful service to our lodge, so allow me to do that now. A big thanks to our Worshipful Master, WB Jerry Murphy, for plowing your way through what has been an interesting year (plus a little bit more). To be sure this was not the year you envisioned. That said there are successes to be celebrated:

- Our Zoom meetings were interesting and educational
- We had a virtual table lodge and a virtual Christmas party
- We found ways to continue to support our youth groups
- We remained true to our charitable commitments
- We maintained our fellowship (beer deliveries by our Treasurer may have been a factor here).

Public Grand Honors to you, Worshipful Sir, for your leadership and to all the brethren of our lodge who played a vital role in keeping it together.

Installations also afford us the chance to give best wishes to the new officers, and to pledge our support to the new team. I recall my installation as Worshipful Master as a joyous occasion. The energy in the room was electric. I could feel that no one wanted me to fail. Trust me that is a feeling that is unique to Freemasonry. Despite holding our installation virtually, I have no doubt that there will be an atmosphere that will engender those feelings.

As we move forward in 2021 and the hope that we will be able to again join together in person-to-person fellowship, let us also be sure to look at what each of us can do to create a Masonic experience that continues to expand upon the fundamental principles which we all hold so dear.

Jim Mendoza
Secretary

Traveling Man in Masonry by Brother Jeff Godwin

In the ancient world of Operative Masonry, the masons were often required to move from job to job much as in our modern time. It was further explained that ancient master masons, just as 1st class masons of today, were more likely to travel great distances than those of lesser ranks (FC & EA). Due to their experience (and today, usually a membership in the labor union representing the craft) they could move freely from job to job. Those doing so were normally members of a Masonic guild, whose members would, if known, vouch for the qualifications of (or recommend) another 'traveling' mason.

In speculative masonry we as Master Masons may freely move from Lodge to Lodge (either visiting or moving membership) and upon proper avouchment or by testing be found worthy to attend another Master Mason Lodge. This is much the same as moving from one job to another or from one ancient Masonic guild to another.

Also, a Master Mason is a traveler from west to east, as east is the where the sun comes up, hence the source of light. This is why the master sits in the East. Because it is the source of light. Thus being a traveling man represents our journey from darkness to Masonic light (enlightenment). We "traveled" symbolically when we were raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason. Remember the words, "It will be necessary for you to travel" and the condition of the road we would have to travel? In Masonry we are told to seek the light. Light in Masonry is knowledge and from that knowledge comes information and understanding.



The Weight of a Masonic Ring

Our rings come with an opportunity cost. Of course, it's easy to give a dollar amount to my ring (it wasn't very expensive, but in case my wife is reading I'm not going to admit exactly how much), but it has cost me much more than just the money I spent on the afternoon I bought it.

Over the years, my ring has cost me quite a lot in dues payments to different lodges and other bodies. My ring has obviously cost me many evenings away from my family. It has cost me thousands of hours spent studying ritual work when I would have much rather been rotting my brain with television.

It's cost me biting my tongue when some idiot at the grocery store is annoying me, because if I said what I wanted to everybody would know that it was a Freemason who said it.

It has forced me to re-examine who I am, and to make changes for who I hope to be one day. Without exaggerating, it literally cost my old identity, who had to die to make room for who I am becoming.

When I first bought this ring, if I had known the cost that came with it, would I have still purchased it? Since the ring is just a symbol, a reminder to me of my obligation, I suppose the question would be better worded thusly: when I first signed my petition, if I had known the cost that came with it, would I still have petitioned?

I believe I would have, because the opportunity cost is far outweighed by the benefits that came from it, however I must admit that if the fraternity had been pitched to me in that way I would have definitely paused a bit longer before signing my name.

Even more noteworthy than the cost of my ring is its weight. My Masonic ring weighs 8 grams, according to my kitchen scale, but of course this tidbit of information is only interesting to the most obsessive jewelers among you, and "weight" in this instance is yet another symbol, because the true weight of my ring is unbearably heavy for a man to maintain by himself.

My ring comes with the weight of all of the brothers who came before me; I owe it to them to represent them well to the current generation, and to ensure that the solid foundations that they built are maintained for future generations to enjoy.

It is weighed down with an obligation which demands I constantly seek improvement, leaves no room for excuses, and provides for the stiffest of penalties (symbolic though they may be).

I find that often, while I'm writing, I turn to the wisdom of The Beatles, and this instance is no exception; the second side of Abbey Road contains one of my favorite pieces of music, which is nearly sixteen minutes long (even if it's listed as separate tracks, it's really one large one), and contains some of the deepest lyrics that they ever wrote. In the middle of this fantastic medley are a few words that come back to haunt me in my darkest hours: boy, you've got to carry that weight a long time.

WB Adam Thayer
Lancaster Lodge No.54
Lincoln, NE



Past Masters Corner

Is this ride almost over? Are we soon going to be lucky enough to meet together, in person? Even if we do get a chance will things ever be the same? My answer to that is “Yes” and “No”. But to get to the “Yes” and how some things will be the same, let us first explore the “No”.

The global pandemic just got real right about a year ago. I am writing this on March 6, 2021. Exactly one year earlier, my wife, Jamie and I were on Kauai and fairly oblivious to what was going on. After many phone calls and virtual lodge meetings with numerous people over a few days, we decided to have our annual Crab Feed postponed which was the proper thing to do. As we all know eventually it was doomed for 2020 and now also for 2021. Right after we arrived home on the 13th, our state among others and other countries started to systematically close down to different levels and extremes. We have not experienced anything like this in our lifetimes and the fear of the unknown was very real. Shopping panic was occurring and finding even some of the basics was difficult.

Let us also remember May 25, 2020 which brought on the controversial death of George Floyd. Riots in many of the country’s large cities followed and between the Pandemic and the Racial Tensions it appeared the country was coming apart at the seams. Everyone had an opinion, and everything was political. No matter what side of the spectrum people sat, they dug their chairs into the ground and refused to move or even consider moving their stance closer to the middle. While some preached it is just safer to wear a mask, others thought it a violation of their basic human rights. While some preached “Black Lives Matter”, others chose not to single out one individual race that matters.

Long term friends and family were on opposite sides of the aisle. Even in my own circle of family and friends that has been together for many years enjoying Holidays, Sporting Events and

Vacations together there was a definite line beginning to form. Eventually the pot boiled over. I am not positive, that with the words spoken at that time, that true respect and love for one another will ever be the same. That line became a crack, and that crack has evolved into a chasm. All of this has occurred due to circumstances beyond our control, yet that human kindness, which we all thought we possessed has been lost. That ability to take down the walls of one’s ideology just to remain gracious and good to one another is not as solid a basic instinct as we had hoped. I have read stories about and spoken to many other people during this time pinpointing this amazing difference in the tenor of humans living through these trying times. In fact, kindness and civility are the real losers in our country. The division is apparent and trickle down even from our leaders is not helping bridge this large split among us.

With this pandemic and a long-term recovery in store for us even if we get together again, there will be differences. We will have to listen harder to people to understand them speaking through masks. The physical nature of handshakes and hugs might be still a little longer in coming or for that matter, things of the past. So “No” somethings will not be the same.

But we are Masons. We have heard repeatedly lessons of graciousness and civility. We have felt that beauty of having our circle of Brothers and their families that value each other as individuals. We have heard the reassuring and calm words and felt the efforts of our brothers directed at us and it has changed each one of us. This feeling is bigger and better than petty ideology. This civility is blind to social and political differences. This love is what keeps us Masons and is the “Yes” that will be the same when we meet again.

WB Drew Baker



Des Moines Food Bank

As it has been discussed in our Zoom gatherings, the Des Moines Food bank can use volunteers, in small groups of 1 or 2 people on scattered days when they are open. If you are interested in helping, please use the following contact information.

Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 9:00 – 11:45 am*
3rd Tuesday evening of each month: 6:00– 8:00 pm

Contact info

Address:

22225 9th Avenue South
Des Moines, Washington 98198

dmafb@hotmail.com
206 878-266

Where the Fast Lane Ends

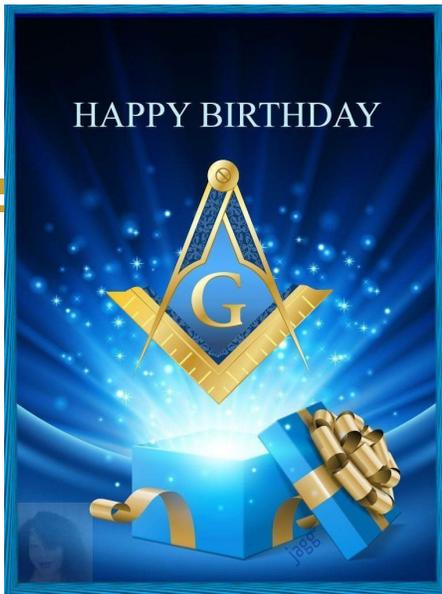
by William R. Fischer

Members come to Masonry for many reasons. Because of a relative, because of a friend, because of fellowship, because of curiosity, or maybe because they think they will get ahead. The reason we join is irrelevant.

After joining, we found men who treated us with brotherly love. This, in turn relieved the stress of the day. It also gave us a feeling of self-worth and helped us see the true meaning of Freemasonry. The fast movement of everyday life causes a lot of changes in our lifestyle. We move from one situation to another at such a speed, that most of the time, we seldom see the conclusion of one problem before another comes. Except if it doesn't turn out right, then we hear every detail of what went wrong. That is where Masonry comes in.

We come to lodge to meet old and new friends that demand nothing from us. Thus, we demand nothing from our Brethren. We teach and are taught a more even way to live and cope with problems. We learn that, all that matters is within ourselves. We learn, through watching others, that a better way to do anything is through love, understanding and trust. As we speed on and on through this ever-changing world, we come to lodge for a little bit of peace and understanding, we come to slowdown, we come because this is:

Where The Fast Land Ends.



Masonic Birthdays

Brother Christopher Sanderson	January 3, 2013
Brother Walter Collins	January 3, 2013
Brother Christopher Copeland	January 3, 2013
Worshipful Brother Dennis Norton	January 18, 1975
Brother Russell Lent	January 20, 2011
Brother Robert Thompson	January 28, 1993
Brother Virgil Maier	February 6, 1968
Worshipful Brother Michael Hesner	February 7, 1998
Most Worshipful Brother William Miller	February 19, 1959
Brother Clarence Carter	February 25, 2014
Worshipful Brother Wilfredo Garcia	February 25, 2014
Brother G. Fritts	February 26, 2020
Worshipful Brother James Taylor	February 28, 1976
Brother Kenneth Flournoy	March 6, 1999
Brother Jeffrey Abrams	March 15, 1996
Very Worshipful Brother Jeffery Brunson	March 15, 1988
Brother Jared Rinehart	March 16, 2005
Brother Richard Boman	March 25, 1998
Worshipful Brother Frank Rinehart	March 30, 1979

Ritual Keeps Tradition Alive

By Most Illustrious Companion John D. Barnes

Past Most Illustrious Grand Master and Grand Treasurer, Grand Council of New Jersey

My Companion: Tradition is not about guarding the ashes, but keeping the flame alive.- attr. Gustav Mahler
Masonic tradition is not about keeping the ritual alive. It is the ritual that keeps the tradition alive.

But it is not the mere recitation of the ritual that is important. A Mason should be able to do his ritual with fervency and zeal, with emotion, phrasing and appropriate gestures and staging. But if he himself does not understand the ritual, how can he pass it on to others?

The ability of the officers of any Masonic body to confer their respective Degrees and Orders is part of a well-run organization. No one wants to attend a group where, meeting after meeting, the officers stumble through their parts. People are more comfortable, and learn more, in a relaxed environment. But recitation alone only teaches others the words, not the meanings, not the lessons, not the traditions.

Our ritual extends beyond the Degrees themselves. In our openings and closings, the officers state their duties and acknowledge where in the room the next highest officer is located. Over time, those on the sidelines absorb this information, if only through hearing it repeated every meeting. It is good that this is so; it gives us potential officers for the future. But memorization alone is not learning. "Back in the day", we had to memorize the times tables in school, but it was only through constant usage that we understood multiplication.

Masonic ritual is important. It is part of what makes us different from other fraternal organizations. It is the match that lights the fire within us. But it is the fire that is most important, not the match that ignited it. The fire sheds Light, and heat, and smoke. The Light is more than just an illumination for us to work by; it is a source of what is good and right. The heat does more than warm our bodies; it gives us the energy to continue our labors. And the smoke from the fire, like the fragrant wisps from the Pot of incense, rises like our prayers to the G. A. O. T. U.

As you look within the words of the ritual, you will find the lessons veiled in allegory and illustrated with symbols. Many men have found that learning to recite the parts of our ritual that were encoded was easier than those parts that are in plain English. It is because you have to understand what is being communicated before you can learn to repeat it. Your mind has to work that extra bit harder to comprehend what is being said. You have to find the words within your heart before you can share them with others. And remember, a fire continues to burn only if you feed.

If you can learn it, teach it. If you can understand it, preach it. If you can live it, you will reach it!

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