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THE BEACON

The monthly Trestleboard of Union Lodge #3, A.F. & A.M

May 2016

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Tidings From the East

“Enlightenment is its own reward, its own punishment. You begin to see so much more. And so much more sees you.”

-Laird Barron, American author and poet.

Good day Ancient Craftsmen!

This Masonic year thus far has been strong with discussions being commonplace on the floors of our Lodge. Historically, Lodges have been hot beds for enlightening discussions and for like-minded men to come together and make a difference in the world around us. My Brothers, you all have been exhibiting excellent participation and dedication to our causes. On top of that, I feel that together we all are bolstering the Light that which we all carry within. As I sit in the East and look upon the Craftsmen, I see excitement and energy in your eyes. I see that glimmer of wonder and amazement upon your faces as together we stand in unity and speak our minds. Carry on, my Brothers; we are traveling in the direction we need to be.

I would like to take a moment to recognize and thank WB Johnny Edwards for his presentation to the Lodge last month. Last month, in the Beacon, I wrote of exhibiting balance – not just observing it in nature, but also accepting it in oneself. In the pursuit of balance, there are times when what we study and observe around us could potentially be of a negative nature, however, to shun that away and be ignorant of the circumstances would be illogical. WB Johnny discussed a heavy and sensitive topic, but I found great value in that and I believe it made all of us stop

and think about what we have seen or heard in our lives. As Masons, we are to be exemplary towards mankind. We must be made aware of failings that exist around us, and correct them as we move forward. Ever remember Brethren, we meet on the level. We are all created equal.

As the summer time approaches we have much work to do in and around the Lodge. As you all know. The Trustees of the Lodge manage the McMinnville and Lafayette Masonic Cemeteries. Memorial Day is the big push for us to prepare our cemeteries for the public, and work is already underway. I would ask that if you are willing to participate and volunteer some of your time, no matter how big or small, it all makes a difference in reaching our goals.

The library in the Lodge has been expanded thanks to the generosity of Brothers being involved and donating to the archives. Thank you to those who have already made a submission. This kind act enhances what we all have to offer and gain from, and this generosity will be felt for many years to come.

In May, the Lodge will be graced by a special presentation from WB Thomas Pierce, Grand Orator of the Grand Lodge of Oregon, and an integral founding member of the Lewis and Clark Chapter of the Philatheles Society. I look forward to seeing you all in attendance during our next Stated Communication. Officer meetings will continue to be the last Tuesday of each month, following the Trustees meeting and beginning promptly at 7:30 PM. Any Brothers who have comments or concerns are welcomed and encouraged to attend. Let your voice be heard! The next meeting is scheduled for April 26th, 2016.

Remember if you need a ride to Lodge for a Special or Stated Communication, please contact the Lodge office and we shall make the appropriate accommodations.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
William D. MacRae
Worshipful Master
Union Lodge #3 A.F. & A.M.



Tidings From the West

Many people are familiar with Carl Gustav Jung (1875 – 1961) as the founder of analytical psychology but did you know that he was also a Past Grand Master of Freemasonry of

Switzerland? Not only that, the teachings of Hermeticism and Alchemy were central to his understand of the human mind and were a cornerstone of his teachings.

The book I've selected for this month's column is called "Mystery of the Coniunctio", by Edward F. Edinger. This book is a transcription of several of Edinger's lectures on the teachings of MWB Carl Jung and it is a perfect introduction to psychological alchemy. Psychological alchemy is when you take the concepts of traditional, lab-based alchemy and apply them to the mind. I know that sounds abstract but it's quite simple, thanks to the fact that this book is well written and features plenty of pictures to illustrate concepts and familiarize the neophyte with alchemical symbolism. This book is short enough to get you on your feet with knowledge quickly and deep enough to require many re-readings.

If you're interested in learning more about alchemy or would like a fresh perspective into the workings of the mind, I would highly recommend this book. In fact, I feel so strongly that the members of our Masonic community would benefit from this book that I have donated a copy of it to our newly-refurbished reading room. I hope you'll swing by and check it out!

Fraternaly,
Matt Gerbrandt
Senior Warden, Union Lodge #3



Tidings From the South

Good Day Ancient Craftsmen, Brotherhood.....the most amazing experience I have ever encountered. Every one of you has a unique version of what this means to you. As for me, there is nothing more enjoyable than sitting with my Brothers and getting to know each of you more and more with every visit. I really love going out to the Agape and sitting around a table with Brothers all dressed up and just shooting the breeze. If you have not been to an Agape with a group of brothers, than I would strongly encourage you to do so. So mote it be.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
Michael R. Persons
Junior Warden



From the Secretary's Desk

"Knowledge is of no value unless you put it into practice." – Anton Chekhov

Happy April! I don't know about you, but this year is really getting away from me. I'd like to say that I'm going to follow up the great Chekhov quote (Anton, not Ensign) with a treatise on how the light we seek must be put into our daily practice to be fully realized. Sadly, that's not where I'm going, but if you come to Lodge for the Stated throughout this year, you'll get that sentiment and all sorts of knowledge that you can start putting into practice.

While not specifically "Secretary" related, I'm actually going to riff briefly on ritual practice. One of WB Will's directives this year was to form up a regular practice and establish degree teams that we can call on – Brothers who "own" their roles and can deliver a high quality degree; one that doesn't require finding Brethren from all over the Grand Jurisdiction to cover gaps. We're pretty close to that, now. I have degree teams set up and we can cover all the necessary parts for all three degrees, with a couple caveats and exceptions. Yeah, you read that right – I could, theoretically, pull together an MM degree strictly from Union #3 members once people are comfort-

able in their parts. If you'd like to be a part of that, let me know and I'm happy to slot you in.

In order to facilitate getting comfortable, we've set up regular practice nights – the third Tuesday of the Month. I send out a reminder email to people who are required or who expressed an interest in knowing about them a week or two in advance and we talk about it in Lodge at the Stated Communication at the beginning of the month. This is a time to work on parts that you know and are assigned, start to cement new parts so that we can have some cross training, teach others a part (you never really know what you're missing until you try to teach it to someone else), and to watch and listen, even if you aren't actively participating. Between practices, there is some required woodshedding and I'm happy to help, if I can, as are some of the other Brothers who know many of the parts.

It's important that we do this. We owe it to ourselves (and we are obligated) to continually seek the Light – to improve ourselves in knowledge *and* practice. We also owe it to our candidates and members to do good ritual work; we should be quietly confident in our ability to perform the requirements of the Craft. This, by extension, will help us to be more confident in the more esoteric and character building aspects as we learn them and pass them on.

So, if you're on a degree team or are an officer of the Lodge, please attend – it's important. If you're interested in picking up a part or brushing off one that you used to do, please let me know and I'll work you into the roster and the announcements – I can also let you know where I have gaps. If you're a member of Lodge and want to attend to deepen your exposure to the ritual and degrees, let me know.

On a related note, the Grand Lodge is resurrecting Jurisdiction-wide ritual competitions between Lodges. We were asked to field a team – it doesn't have to be the elected and/or appointed Lodge officers, but the team members do have to come from our Lodge. WB Will and I declined for the time being, but we'd love to participate. In order to feel good about doing so, I need commitment to practice and to attend the competition. If that interests you, let me know and I'll work out the details.

Have a great month! I'll see some of you on April 19th for practice (FC and MM ONLY, please) and the rest I hope to see at the Stated Communication in May.

WB Frank Blair
Secretary

“A madman got us into this, and it's beginning to look as if only a madman can get us out. “ – Ensign Pavel Chekov



Some Thoughts from WB Johnny Edwards

If you are trying to build your Masonic Library this is a different way of doing so. Ebooks are for free online for many of the old titles concerning Freemasonry.

Below I have added several links that a reader could never read in a lifetime. These older books are a wealth of information and are great for source material.
Enjoy.

Gutenberg Ebooks

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/search/?query=freemasonry&go=Go>

Pietre - Stones

http://www.freemasonsfreemasonry.com/masonic_books_online.html

Hermetics Resource Site

http://www.hermetics.org/library/Library_Masonry.html

The Masonic Trowel

http://www.themasonictrowel.com/masonic_books_online.htm

Phoenix Masonry

<http://www.phoenixmasonry.org/poems.htm>

Archive.org

[https://archive.org/search.php?query=freemasonry&and\[\]=mediatype%3A%22texts%22](https://archive.org/search.php?query=freemasonry&and[]=mediatype%3A%22texts%22)

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More from WB Edwards

Here are some links to several Masonic Periodicals online.

<http://www.freemasonry.fm/News-Magazines.html>

<http://www.freemasonrytoday.com/magazine>

<http://www.yorkrite.org/magazines.html>

http://www.themasonictrowel.com/magazines_online/magazines_online/magazines_online_english.htm

Here are a collection of lectures that you might like to add to the TB.

<http://www.phoenixmasonry.org/videom/Vweofm.htm>

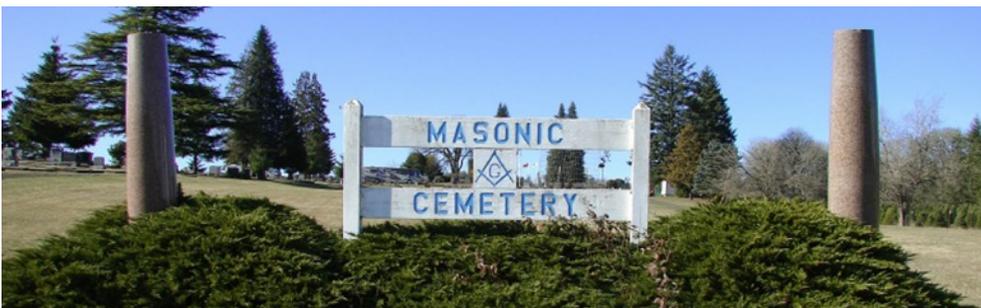


Cemetery flag pole dedication: This is a great photograph as it shows three of our dearly departed Brothers, Bill Bach, Bill Oldham and Glen Shipman. Garreth Duggan is the Grand Master. I believe this to be 2005.



On March 31st, standing in front of a student assembly and assisted by Principal Stephanie Ewing, WB Tom Gardner and Bro. Matt Gerbrandt from Union Lodge #3 presented a check for \$500 to students at the Dayton Grade School. Lodge members authorized a school and education outreach program in 2013. Principal Ewing, herself a beneficiary of Masonic scholarship opportunities during her academic career, will use the support to provide supplemental supplies and necessities for the students of the school, many of whom qualify for assistance. Principal Ewing will manage the use of the funds, reporting back to the Lodge periodically for what we hope becomes a long, future partnership between Union Lodge and schools in the area.

See Lodge Calendar on Next Page



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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

THE LODGE OFFICE (503) 472-2341
OR
FRANK BLAIR, SECRETARY (503) 858-5445

May 2016 Calendar

May 3 - Union # 3 - Stated 7:30 pm

May 3 - Holbrook # 30 - Stated 7:30 pm

May 4 - Rickreall # 110 - Stated 7:30 pm

May 5 - Newberg # 104 - Stated 7:30 pm

May 7 - Tuality # 7 - Stated 10:00 am

May 11 - Sheridan-Dayton # 64 -

Dinner 6:00 pm, Stated 7:00 pm

May 31 - Union # 3 Trustees meeting 6:30 pm

Officers meeting 7:30 pm

The Brothers of Union Lodge are encouraged to submit articles for the The Beacon. Submissions should be in Microsoft Word documents. Please email your articles to Tom Gardner at gardner_t@frontier.com by the 15th of the month for inclusion in the following month's edition of The Beacon.

Be sure to keep up with Lodge activities between editions of the Beacon by checking our website <http://www.unionlodge3.com>

or



Visit Union Lodge # 3 on Facebook and be sure to Like us.