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THE BEACON

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

June 2016

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Tidings From the East

“Education is a human right with immense power to transform. On its foundation rest the cornerstones of freedom, democracy, and sustainable human development.”

-Kofi Annan, 7th Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Good day Ancient Craftsmen!

My Brothers, here we are at the half-way point in our year. I am quite pleased with the progress that Union has made this year, and the momentum doesn't appear to be slowing down anytime soon. We are completing degree work, practicing ritual, doing good works in our communities, and also having great discussions on the floor of our Lodge. I want to thank all of the presenters who have contributed to this thus far; most recently WB Thomas Pierce, Grand Orator of the Grand Lodge of Oregon.

Each month as I contemplate on what to write for the Beacon, I write of thoughts that come to my mind, or current events in and around the Lodge. This month I find myself thinking inward, towards myself and each of you. The Lodge has taken a very active stance on education and enlightenment this year. We have strong examples of both external and internal exemplifications of enlightenment, such as the School Outreach Program and the themed presentations we have been privileged with.

We all as Masons have historically supported strong education not only externally but also internally. There are many themes found throughout our rituals

that enforce this stance and direct the individual to ever continue the search for enlightenment. To the individual, this might mean different avenues to pursue. For some, furthering your formal education or going back to complete a degree is a strong choice. For others, they find their path delving into the tomes of the ages seeking out timeless mysteries. It has been said to learn of the future one must learn of the past first.

As Freemasons, we lead by example and live our lives a certain way. Ever remember that we are Beacons of Light to the world. Never stagnate in life. Always be on the search for further education and enlightenment. Your mind is a powerful tool, your knowledge should be diverse, and your wisdom careful and experienced. Each day is a new opportunity to better oneself and grow; to become greater than you were the day before.

The Brothers who have presented in Lodge do so because they have spent time and effort learning about something that is passionate to them, and it shows during their performance. This is especially helpful to all of us as a group because it keeps the flow of information coming to the Lodge varied and unique. If you as you read this find that you are passionate about a theme, I encourage you to step forward and let it be known. Share your thoughts with your Brothers and engage into discussion. Never be afraid to let your voice be heard, and remember that when you bring multiple Beacons together, the Light shines brighter than if it were alone.

A few quick announcements – I want to thank WB Frank, the Trustees of the Lodge, and any other Brothers who were involved with investing their time into the upkeep and beautification of the Lafayette

and McMinnville Masonic Cemeteries. Be proud of your hard work and efforts, the community around and the Brothers of the past appreciate everything you do for them.

Also, we are rapidly approaching the summer months. Increased temperatures will soon be upon us. Stay hydrated and healthy. "Summer Dress" will be in effect for Lodge meetings starting in **July**. There has been some debate and confusion in prior years as to whether summer attire would be permissible during degree work. Let it be known, normal business attire is mandatory for all degree work, regardless of season.

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 June 28th, 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 Fraternally,
William D. MacRae
Worshipful Master
Union Lodge #3 A.F. & A.M.



Tidings From the West

I just can't go another month talking about Masonic books without including the goliath of all Masonic teachers – Albert

Pike. This month, I'd like to put a spotlight on "Esoterika – Symbolism of the Blue Degrees of Freemasonry", by Albert Pike.

While our three Blue Lodge degrees have a large number of intriguing symbols, the meanings of these symbols are often not fully explained by the degree lectures. Given that Freemasonry comes from the Western Mystery tradition, those who go through the degrees are not given all of the information on silver platter; they are expected to do their own research and self-education.

Albert Pike's Esoterika is a collection of Pike's research on a wide variety of symbols from the first three degrees of Freemasonry. Like all books by Albert Pike, the sheer volume of information contained in this book is about enough to make your head explode. This book is one that you will likely want to read one chapter at a time and then take a while to contemplate and possibly do some research on your own.

Esoterika also includes a number of excellent and rare pictures which illustrate the symbols being described and give the reader an excellent sense of just how old some of these symbols are. If you're interested in learning more about Masonic symbolism, Albert Pike's Esoterika is hands-down one of the best books you could start with.

Fraternally,
Matt Gerbrandt
Senior Warden, Union Lodge #3



Tidings From the South

Masonry is one of the most sublime and perfect institutions that ever was formed for the advancement of happiness and general good of mankind; creating, in all its varieties, universal benevolence and brotherly love. It holds out allurements so captivating as to inspire the Brotherhood with emulation to deeds of glory, such as must command, throughout the world, veneration and applause, and such as must entitle those who perform them to dignity and respect. It teaches us those useful, wise and instructive doctrines upon which alone true happiness is founded; and at the same time affords those easy paths by which we attain the rewards of virtue; it teaches us the duties which we owe to our neighbor, never to injure him in any one situation, but to conduct ourselves with justice and impartiality; it bids us not to divulge the mystery to the public, and it orders us to be true to our trust, and above all meanness and dissimulation, and in all our vocations to perform religiously that which we ought to do.

- Duke of Sussex

Sincerely and Fraternally,
Michael R. Persons
Junior Warden
Union Lodge # 3 A.F. & A.M.



From the Secretary's Desk

Besides dues, minutes, and Grand Lodge reporting one of the things that the Secretary is charged with is maintaining the

records of the Lodge and the Lodge membership. We keep virtually everything (that we can get our hands on) related to the Brethren's Masonic career, status, and, when that time comes, their passing. Records from the earliest members are kept in the Lodge office and whenever something happens – degrees, proficiencies, transfers, demits, passing – they are updated. A large chunk of filing real estate is devoted to Brethren who have passed on (over the last 150 years) and in many cases, we also have historical records from the Lodges with whom we consolidated.

All that is background to say that it's important that information be kept up to date. We use the address and contact information to send out dues cards, election notices, dues reminders, other mailings as necessary. Occasionally we'll call if we need to get ahold of a Brother quickly. As time has marched on, postal mail has become more expensive, so we do try to limit its use, but we still need to have up to date address information. Likewise, it has become more important to also have up to date email addresses and cell phone information.

In the next few weeks, you'll be receiving a mailing which includes an update form for this contact information. Please send it back, even if it makes it to your address on the first try – it will be a baseline to audit our current information and fill in gaps where we have them. There will be some additional questions that we will use to stay current and make sure that you're informed of things going on in the Lodge. Some of the new information includes email address and wife's name; the latter so that we can, when the need arises, have a good, up to date widow's list. The standard forms that we use to keep track of membership information doesn't actually track your wife's name and it's only sometimes available, if someone thought to write it down. You will also be asked if you want to receive email notification of minutes and Trestleboard updates (which occur monthly.) This is so that we can send out emails when appropriate and include information for get-

ting access to the "members only" section of the website for minutes.

If you could take a few minutes and return the form, it would be greatly appreciated and will help us stay in contact with you, even if you can't make it to Lodge for regular Stated Communications.

Fraternally,
WB Frank Blair
Secretary



Some Thoughts from WB Johnny Edwards

Here is the concluding paragraph from The Builders by brother Dr. Joseph Fort Newton. Sometimes we forget.

"When is a man a Mason? When he can look out over the rivers, the hills, and the far horizon with a profound sense of his own littleness in the vast scheme of things, and yet have faith, hope, and courage – which is the root of every virtue. When he knows that down in his heart every man is as noble, as vile, as divine, as diabolic, and as lonely as himself, and seeks to know, to forgive, and to love his fellow man. When he knows how to sympathize with men in their sorrows, yea, even in their sins – knowing that each man fights a hard fight against many odds. When he has learned how to make friends and to keep them, and above all how to keep friends with himself. When he loves flowers, can hunt the birds without a gun, and feels the thrill of an old forgotten joy when he hears the laugh of a little child. When he can be happy and high-minded amid the meaner drudgeries of life. When star-crowned trees, and the glint of sunlight on flowing waters, subdue him like the thought of one much loved and long dead. When no voice of distress reaches his ears in vain, and no hand seeks his aid without response. When he finds good in every faith that helps any man to lay hold of divine things and sees majestic meanings in life, whatever the name of that faith may be. When he can look into a wayside puddle and see something beyond mud, and into the face of the most forlorn fellow mortal and see something beyond sin. When he knows how to pray, how to love, how to hope.

Continued on page 4

When he has kept faith with himself, with his fellow man, with his God; in his hand a sword for evil, in his heart a bit of a song – glad to live, but not afraid to die! Such a man has found the only real secret of Masonry, and the one which it is trying to give to all the world."

Here is a new website that has surfaced full of documents and source material concerning the craft.

<http://masonicrenewal.drupalgardens.com/content/a#overlay-context=content/mrc-library>

The Brothers of Union Lodge are encouraged to submit articles for the The Beacon. Submissions should be in Microsoft Word documents or as part of the text in an email message. Please email your articles to Tom Gardner at gardner_t@onlinenw.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.](#)

June 2016 Calendar

- June 1** - Rickreall # 110 - Stated 7:30 pm
- June 2** - Newberg # 104 - Stated 7:30 pm
- June 4** - Tuality # 7 - Stated 10:00 am
- June 7** - Union # 3 - Stated 7:30 pm
- June 7** - Holbrook # 30 - Stated 7:30 pm
- June 8** - Sheridan-Dayton # 64 -
Dinner 6:00 pm, Stated 7:00 pm
- June 28** - Union # 3 Trustees meeting 6:30 pm
Officers meeting 7:30 pm



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