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# THE BEACON

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

January 2019

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## Tidings From the East

Hello, Craftsmen and welcome to 2019! I hope that you all enjoyed the holidays. Katie and the boys and I had a wonderful time visiting family in California. Birthdays and Christmas were celebrated, cake was eaten, songs were sung, and presents were unwrapped. It was a wonderful time.

As I'm getting back in gear and preparing for the year ahead, it amazes me how quickly the calendar is already filling up. Below, is a list of the activities that I'd like to put on your radar:

### Events/Announcements

- January 26<sup>th</sup> (Saturday):** Double EA Degree at Union Lodge
- February 5<sup>th</sup> meeting program:** Marissa Douglas, Marketing and Communications Director from the Grand Lodge will talk about public outreach.
- Sweetheart's Dinner** in February, date TBA
- March 5<sup>th</sup>:** Grand Lodge Visitation, Corned Beef and Cabbage
- April 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Official visitation from RWB Steve Vanderzanden, GL District Deputy
- May 7<sup>th</sup> meeting program:** WB Johnny Edwards, topic TBA
- May 25<sup>th</sup>:** Pancake Fundraiser for School Outreach Program

- June 4<sup>th</sup> meeting program:** Bro. Scott Rassbach, Contemplative Masonry
- June 6-8<sup>th</sup>:** Grand Lodge in Seaside
- July:** Regional family picnic with Tuality Lodge, Holbrook Lodge, and others

Thanks again to the Union Lodge officers who have volunteered their time to help run our Lodge this year! I'm so lucky to have such a great team of Brothers to work with this year!

Fraternally,  
Matt Gerbrandt  
Worshipful Master



## Tidings from the West

### January: What Freemasonry Teaches

As I begin my year in the West, I'd like to thank you all for electing me as Senior Warden. As the one who pays the craft their wages, I thought I would spend the year discussing the teachings of Freemasonry, for it is with these symbols and allegories that we are paid.

In fact, one of the most common explanations of Freemasonry is that it is a "peculiar system of morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols." Peculiar, in this case, does not mean the modern meaning of 'odd, strange', but rather 'particular, individual, and not shared by others.' For a society organized around lodges that require admission, it would be required to have a system of morality that

was not shared by others. In the ages and places in which Freemasonry developed, the secrecy, peculiarity, and individualism would definitely have to be kept as a secret. Not sharing the morality of the dominant culture could cause issues, from imprisonment to being burned at the stake!

The allegory and symbolic illustration would also follow, as one can point at a compass and say 'it is a tool of our work', but also say it is a tool for defining the boundaries of obligation and restraint for those who shared the peculiar insights.

One of the great founding ideas of the United States, was the idea that a person could have their own peculiar belief system, and another could disagree, but not legislate punishment for the difference. With the establishment of the rights of free association and freedom of religion, the necessity for Freemasonry as a strictly secret society faded. Now, Freemasons peculiar system is shared much more widely by everyone.

Freemasonry teaches that it is better to be guided by established principles, by virtues, by graces, by learning, science, and reason, than by the whims and emotions of the moment, or the good regard of the crowd. There are always forces in any system that try to work against the ideals of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. The profit motive works directly against Love and Relief, the quest for more attention mitigates against Truth when a salacious lie will bring more people to the crowd.

In this way, Freemasonry is peculiar. It is not shared by others, many of whom are swayed by the arguments of tyrants, the needs of the day, or the efforts of the salesperson and the con man. It is this peculiarity; this particular, individual, morality, that we shall explore this year. I hope to show how all that is taught in Freemasonry points us back to the three main ideals of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth.

Fraternally,  
Scott Rassbach  
Senior Warden



## Tidings from the South

### First encounter with the Masons

In 1988 I was a young medic working at an army Hospital in Germany. One weekend I was at the orthopedic clinic where I worked. From the windows I noticed a small group of soldiers marching in formation. They didn't see me looking out the window. I watched them for about ten minutes. I thought they might be an honor guard getting ready for some big event. Their uniforms were impeccable; fatigues were heavily starched, airborne jump boots polished to a mirror finish. Military bearing was in full view. These were squared away troops. I was very impressed. I walked out and asked them what they are doing. The response was "we're doing some fraternity practice." I said what college? They said not for a college fraternity. It is the Masonic fraternity. They were Prince Hall Masons. We chatted few minutes and I asked them about it. That was my first introduction to Masonry. I always remembered that day. After that my uniform was starched a little more my, boots gleamed a little brighter and I stood a little bit taller.

I was discharged out of the army a couple years later and petitioned Union Lodge #3. And that's how I became a Mason; from a chance encounter with some Military masons in Germany.

Fraternally,  
Matt Coady  
Junior Warden



## From the Secretary's Desk

"I violate no secret when I say that one of the greatest values in Masonry is that it affords an opportunity for men of all walks of life to meet on common ground where all men are equal and have one common interest."

– Bro. Theodore Roosevelt

There are two aspects of Freemasonry that have always seemed out-standing to me. One is an aspect of the men who are drawn to it. We are almost all of us historians at heart. Whether as professionals or strictest amateurs, we share an interest in the past. We come from many different walks in life, and many differing viewpoints. But start a dis-

cussion about history at the Refreshment Table, and soon almost every Brother in earshot will have been drawn in.

And that Fellowship that is so fascinated by history is the other aspect of Freemasonry that I find outstanding. We truly do come from many different viewpoints and walks in life. Were it not for the Fraternity, we would likely never have any opportunity to speak to or befriend many of the men we call Brothers. The passive social forces of wealth and profession, not to mention politics or religion, would guarantee that most who sit at that Fellowship table would never come in contact—much less come together as friends. And yet the Fraternity draws us together so that we may work in harmony and friendship. It was Albert Pike who said *“We Masons are among the fortunate ones who are taught to meet together with others opposing convictions or competitive ideas and yet respect each other as Brothers.”* It’s hard to overstate what a blessing that is.

Recently, a donation to the Lodge brought both of those aspects together. Susan Phinney, the daughter of Bro. Clarence Greenlund, donated a number of items that she had inherited and thought the Lodge might have an interest in. Amongst those was the Program for a Mortgage Burning Ceremony back in the year 1950. (See the link below) In recent times, the Lodge has tried a number of different ways to hold Fellowship. We have had dinners before Lodge or after, full meals or light snacks, Agape at a local bar or gathered together in the Refreshment Room. But back in 1950, our Brothers came together to celebrate one of the most defining moments of a person’s life—to finally own one’s own home.

What a powerful idea that is. No matter how much we may differ from one another in creed or circumstance, there are some things that are defining moments in everyone’s life. To get married or earn a degree, pay off a home or have children are all mileposts in our individual lives that change those lives completely. To think that almost 70 years ago our Lodge would come together for a special ceremony just to celebrate one of those milestones—what a great way for the Brethren to be able to show how much they cared for each other’s success and happiness.

As we move into the New Year, we will once again be deciding what works we will strive to achieve in

our community and in our Lodge. We will be planning our special dinners and celebrations. And we will be deciding once again when and where we shall come together in Fellowship. This Masonic year is a story with 365 pages, and so far you can count the ones that have been written on one hand. Yet on the Secretary’s desk rests an application for a Mason who wishes to transfer into our Lodge—just weeks after the last fellow who did so. And there are no less than three applications from perspective candidates for the degrees of Masonry. At three days in, that’s one heck of a pace.

With such a great start, I can’t wait to see how the story of this year will unfold. But I’m absolutely certain that it will contain good works and great Fellowship amongst the Brethren. And no doubt, a little bit of history shall creep into the conversations around the Refreshment Table.

[Click here to view program for Mortgage Burning Ceremony](#)

*-Walk in light my Brothers.-*



## The Adventures of a Country Master Mason Abroad

A couple stray thoughts for the year end.

As I type this, I am preparing to go to Lodge for the monthly Lodge of Instruction. Every month for the diligent and involved Brother (especially those who accept a leadership position), there are at least three committed days of work related to the Lodge – the regular monthly meeting, the week after is a regular Lodge of Instruction, and the week before the next Monthly meeting is the Committee Meeting followed by a rehearsal for the next month’s meeting.

“The Committee” is the Finance and General Purposes Committee for the Lodge. It is chaired by the Worshipful Master and is comprised of the regular Lodge officers for the year plus any Past Masters who want to attend. It is analogous to our Officer’s Meetings. The rehearsal following is tailored for the following week’s work, but is a full run through in every regard. All officers and anyone participating in a role for a degree conferral (which is standard at our Monthly Meetings) is strongly encouraged to attend and work through/practice their part.

The Lodge of Instruction is a monthly opportunity to practice a wide variety of ritual – an upcoming degree, a new position, some special part of a night's activity. It is organized and run by the Director of Ceremonies. The DC is basically our Marshall and is responsible for protocol, escorting people around Lodge, escorting officers to their places, announcing and leading the various types of honors for visiting dignitaries. He is aided by an Assistant DC. They are both required officers in the opening/closing and running of any Lodge meeting. The Lodge of Instruction itself isn't completely unlike what we do in Oregon, except that it's intended to be a regular practice and learning opportunity. Since it happens so frequently, one gets a lot more practice and it's not unusual to be put into a position you've never executed before. It's more casual than the rehearsal but the work is still the focus.

Cabot Lodge No. 3884 is known for quality work in the Bristol Workings and the planning and effort that goes into the monthly rehearsals and Lodges of Instruction are a big part of that excellence in execution. That does not in any way diminish the work that Brethren do on their own and with one another outside of formal Lodge functions. It accentuates and expands on that individual work. And, as I have told many a person working on proficiencies or parts for ritual work- it's very different going through it in the privacy of your car versus in front of G-d, the Lodge, and everybody... in the moment... with floorwork... and a deep desire to get it right. The more often you can practice with other people, the better and happier you will be and the more fulfilling experiences everybody will have in Lodge.

(Continued next month)

Frarnally,  
-Frank



### Some Thoughts from WB Johnny Edwards

The following was posted on the Facebook page of WB Frank Blair on December 27<sup>th</sup>. It is presented here with his permission.

Later today Brethren of the Ancient Craft in many places will either be installing their officers for the ensuing Masonic year or handing over the keys to the next crew, anyway. This would be because to-

day is the feast of St. John the Apostle... whom Christian tradition since the early Church Fathers has conflated with many Johns.... John the Evangelist, John of Patmos, John, "The Beloved Apostle." Knowing what happened to Mary Magdalene (i.e. being slammed with the epithet of "prostitute" when she was conflated with two other nondescript, unidentified Marys), I wouldn't put a dollar on them all being the same guy.

But, that notwithstanding, tradition usually wins...

St. John is the representative of the Second Order of Martyrs, those who were willing but didn't make it to the finish line. In John's case, he was ok with the idea, but was delivered from a vat of boiling oil before it could come to fruition. His feast day lands straight between St. Stephen (Second Order) and the Third Order in the Feast of the [Slaughter of the] Innocents or martyrs in deed but not will - i.e. they weren't asking for it - on the 28th. His feast originally had an Octave attached, meaning that it was celebrated starting on Dec. 27th, but continued with celebrations each day until January 3rd (the octave.) This was removed in 1955.

St. John is the patron saint of love, loyalty, friendships, authors, booksellers, burn-victims, poison-victims, art-dealers, editors, publishers, scribes, examinations, scholars, and theologians.

Onward and upward.



## January-March 2019 Calendar

- Jan 2 - Rickreall # 110 - Stated - 7:30 pm
- Jan 6 - Tuality # 7 - Stated - 10:00 am
- Jan 8 - Union #3 - Stated 7:30 pm
- Jan 8 - Holbrook # 30 - Stated - 7:30 pm
- Jan 9 - Sheridan-Dayton - Stated - 7:00 pm
- Jan 10 - Newberg # 104 - Stated 7:30 pm
- Jan 26 - Double EA Degree starting at NOON
- Jan 29 - Trustees Meeting 6:30 pm  
Officers meeting 7:30 pm
- Feb 5 - Union # 3 - Stated Meeting - 7:30 pm
- Sweethearts Dinner** - February date to be determined
- Mar 5 - Official visit by the Grand Master -  
**Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner**

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@onlinenw.com](mailto: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.





### January-March 2019 Calendar

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Jan 6 - Tuality # 7 - Stated - 10:00 am

Jan 8 - Union #3 - Stated 7:30 pm

Jan 8 - Holbrook # 30 - Stated - 7:30 pm

Jan 9 - Sheridan-Dayton - Stated - 7:00 pm

Jan 10 - Newberg # 104 - Stated 7:30 pm

Jan 26 - Double EA Degree starting at NOON

Jan 29 - Trustees Meeting 6:30 pm  
Officers meeting 7:30 pm

Feb 5 - Union # 3 - Stated Meeting - 7:30 pm

Sweethearts Dinner - February date to be determined

Mar 5 - Official visit by the Grand Master -  
Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner

[December 2018 January 2019 Calendar](#)

[Dec 1](#) - Tuality # 7 - Stated - 10:00 am

[Dec 4](#) - Union #3 - Stated 7:30 pm

**\*\*\* Installation of 2019 Officers \*\*\***

[Dec 4](#) - Holbrook # 30 - Stated - 7:30 pm

[Dec 5](#) - Rickreall # 110 - Stated - 7:30 pm

[Dec 12](#) - Sheridan-Dayton - Stated - 7:00 pm

[Dec 13](#) - Newberg # 104 - Stated 7:30 pm

[Dec ??](#) - Union # 3 - Trustees Meeting 6:30 pm  
Officers Meeting 7:30 pm

[Jan 8](#) - Union # 3 - Stated Meeting - 7:30 pm

**NOTE the date**