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THE BEACON

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

May 2019

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Tidings From the East

Greetings, Brothers and welcome to May!

At our May stated communication, we will be presenting a

Hiram Award to one of our Brothers. The purpose of the Hiram Award is to officially recognize the efforts of a particular Brother who has served their Lodge and Masonry with devotion above the ordinary. This award is one of the highest honors given in Blue Lodge Masonry.

Our May stated communication will also feature a presentation by our Junior Deacon, Brother Jared Brandon-Flande, who will be sharing information about Masonic Lodges.

Please mark your calendars for our Pancake Fundraiser on Saturday May 18th from 7:30 to noon. This fundraiser is one of the main sources of income for our school outreach program and is our biggest public outreach effort of the year. Union Lodge will definitely need volunteers to help with cooking, doing dishes, and making sure that our guests are well taken care of.

I will be passing around a sign-up sheet at the May stated communication and hope that you will volunteer a few hours of your time for this worthy cause. Our School Outreach Program gives money to Dayton Elementary School, where we help supply impoverished students with educational supplies and clothing. We also donate money to the Sheridan Japanese School's Robotics Program. At SJS, we help make it possible for students to learn about high tech and make sure that this small, rural

school is able to compete with larger, better funded schools at state-wide competitions.

As with the Corned Beef and Cabbage event, everyone who volunteers for the Pancake Fundraiser will be in the running for a Lego Freemason. I will also be adding a beautiful engraved Masonic pen as an additional raffle item for volunteers.

Special thanks to RWB Steve Vanderzanden, who visited Union Lodge at our April stated communication. It's always great to have RWB Steve at our meetings and to learn about the projects that Grand Lodge is working on.

Fraternally,
WB Matt Gerbrandt
WM, Union Lodge #3

Events/Announcements

- May 18th: Pancake Fundraiser for School Outreach Program
- June 4th meeting program: Bro. Scott Rassbach, Contemplative Masonry
- June 6-8th: Grand Lodge in Seaside
- July 13th 10:30am: Regional family picnic with Tuality Lodge, Holbrook Lodge, and others at Rood Bridge Park in Hillsboro.
- September meeting program: WB Johnny Edwards, guest speaker, Willamette Mystery Stone
- October meeting program: WB Gene Hill, guest speaker, topic TBA



Tidings from the West

May: The Three Graces

"My Brother: With this right hand I welcome you to the fellowship of our Lodge and to the

ranks of our ancient and honorable Fraternity whose cornerstone is Charity: Charity is the brightest jewel in the Masonic crown; Charity is the Corinthian pillar whose entablature adds strength, beauty and grace to the Masonic fabric; Charity is the radiant spark emanating from God, the inexhaustible source of love; the Charity that is swift of foot, ready of hand, in the cause of a common humanity; the Charity that writes a Brother's vices in water and his virtues in enduring brass; the Charity of which He who spake as never man spake was the illustrious exemplar; let this, the Mason's Charity, burn upon the altar of your heart a living fire." - Brother Robert I. Clegg, Mackey's Revised Encyclopedia

The Three Graces are familiar to all Freemasons: We first learn about them in the third section of the lecture of the First Degree, in a portion of the Entered Apprentice lecture telling about Jacob and his vision. The section continues with information about the Three Graces: It begins by talking about Wisdom Strength and Beauty, and that Freemasonry's dimensions are unlimited, and that its covering is no less than the canopy of heaven. Leading into the subject of the Three Graces, it says: "by the aid of that allegorical ladder which Jacob in his vision saw, reaching from earth to heaven, the three principal rounds of which are denominated Faith, Hope and Charity, which admonish us to have faith in God, hope of immortality, and charity for all mankind."

When we hear the Entered Apprentice lecture and the portion about the Three Graces we may or may not realize that the words allude to two different sets of scripture; One from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament; Genesis 28:12 and 1 Corinthians 13:13. Please look up those pieces of scripture to read for yourself in their entire context; each of them are well worth the time it takes to read and study them.

In Freemasonry, with Faith being represented by the first or lowest rung of Jacob's Ladder, Faith is synonymous with confidence, or trust, one of the first things a candidate for Masonry must have; as Brother Mackey says: [The] "first and essential

qualification of a candidate for initiation, is that he should trust in God."

We have learned that our "Faith may be lost in sight; Hope ends in fruition; but Charity extends beyond the grave, through the boundless realms of eternity." Brother Mackey explains why this is said: Faith is the evidence of things not seen - 'when we see - we no longer believe by faith but through demonstration; Hope lives only in the expectation of possession, it ceases to exist when the object once hoped for is at length enjoyed;' 'Charity,' is exercised on earth in acts of mutual kindness and forbearance, [it] is still found in the world to come, in the sublime form of mercy from God to his erring creatures.'

After the first round of Jacob's ladder is explained in the lecture we advance to the second round where Hope is represented; Hope is symbolic of the hope all Freemasons have in the immortality of the soul. There is further symbolism found in Faith and Hope in the fact that having proceeded from the first to the second round of the ladder the Mason is led by his belief in God's wisdom and goodness.

Brother Mackey tells us "the ancients represented Hope by a nymph or maiden holding in her hand a bouquet of opening flowers, indicative of the coming fruit; but in modern and Masonic iconology, the science of craft illustrations and likenesses, it is represented by a virgin leaning on an anchor, the anchor itself being a symbol of hope."

In 1 Corinthians 13:13, St. Paul compares Faith and Hope with Charity. Masonically the third round of Jacob's ladder, St. Paul calls Charity the greatest of the three. As Brother Clegg writes: "We must not fall into the too common error that charity is only that sentiment of commiseration which leads us to assist the poor with pecuniary donations. Its Masonic, as well as its Christian application is more noble and more extensive. The word used by the Apostle is, in the original, ἀγάπη (*agape*), or Love, a word denoting that kindly state of mind which renders a person full of good-will and affectionate regard toward others."

The Three Graces of Freemasonry: Faith, Hope, Charity; if we were to think of Charity as Love maybe it would give us a whole different outlook on our Freemasonry. St. Paul tells us that the greatest of these is Love, that *agape* of which St. Paul speaks, and I believe him to be correct. I have faith, and hope, that we will share that love, both within and without the lodge room.

Thanks to Brother Ed Halpaus, A.F. & A.M of Minnesota, for his article on the Three Graces.

Scott Rassbach - Senior Warden



Tidings from the South

With Mothers day fast approaching on May 12, I thought this article would be appropriate.

Every month at our stated meeting we sign in. Next to the sign in book there is a coffee

table. On the table there is a banner that is adorned with twelve blue stars. The item looks to be hand made with some moth holes and appears to be made of felt. Bordered in red with a white background the square and compasses in the center. It reminds me of the banner that hung at my parents house. Theirs had three blue stars. It was 30 years ago when two of my brothers and I served overseas in the military.



I decided to do a little Google research on what it all signifies.

The Blue Star Mothers of America was founded in 1942 during WWII. It was and still is a organization that promotes patriotism and a way of mothers of service members to get together, support each other and their children. I was curious about Oregon's contribution during that time. In 1942 Oregon's population was about 1.1 million people compared to 4.7 million today (that's a lot of Californians).

Per the Secretary of State of Oregon's website "nearly 150,000 Oregonians served in the military during WWII."

My best guess for the maker or makers of the banner is the Yamhill County mothers of service members. More than likely from the Order of the Eastern Star.

Of the 150,000 Oregonians that served 3700 did not survive. The Blue Star changed to gold denoting the ultimate sacrifice for these mothers. Both Orga-

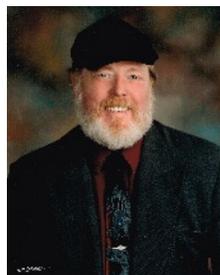
nizations are still very active below I added links to their websites:

<https://www.bluestarmothers.org/>

<https://www.goldstarmoms.com/>

"Men are what their mothers made them"
-Ralph Waldo Emerson

Matt Coady - Junior Warden



From the Secretary's Desk

"But you have retired, Holmes. We heard of you as living the life of a hermit among your bees and your books in a small farm upon the South Downs."

- Watson, *His Last Bow - An Epilogue of Sherlock Holmes*

One of the older symbols in Speculative Masonry is the Beehive. It appeared frequently in Masonic writings and regalia throughout the 18th and 19th centuries, and while it is almost a lost symbol now it is easy to see why it was used as a teaching tool for the Lodge. As one Lodge Monitor puts it, "As Masons, we must imitate the bee, be industrious, work with others and for others, take pride in our vocations, obey the rules of our society, and strive to add to our body of knowledge and understanding. Otherwise we are useless members of society."



For those who may not yet be aware, there has been quite a bit of talk over the last couple of years about the possibility of starting an Apiary (a bee yard) on some of the undeveloped land at the Masonic Cemetery. OK, so...maybe I am the one who has been doing most of the talking. But the desire to learn something new, to create something the Lodge could be proud of and enjoy, to help support a species so obviously in dire need...these have all lent their allure to the project. And, of course, the prospect of honey has an allure all its own.

So I wanted to take this month's column as an opportunity to let the Brethren know that I intend to finally get this project off the ground. As Holmes would have said, "The game is afoot." Nor has it been without its early challenges. The company that I intended to purchase the basic starting gear from had the poor luck to go into receivership just before the season started. This left us scrambling, and will insure such a late start in the season that a honey harvest will be unlikely this first year. But the true challenge will be establishing the hives and growing them to the point that they can survive the winter.

Indeed, the delayed purchase of gear has already had one very personal consequence. The above picture is from an event I attended in Dallas, Oregon last Saturday. What is not evident is the total lack of beekeeping veil or any other safety gear on my part. It was quite interesting to attend an event where you had to walk boldly into a swarming cloud of bees, ask your question or make your observation, and then walk calmly out again without agitating them. Indeed, I found that having bees fly close by your eyes and ears has the most marvelous effect on one's focus...you are quite energized to get in, make your observation, and regain a safe distance with as little wasted energy as possible. And while I'm happy to report that no stinging occurred, the experience did leave me pondering the sometimes fuzzy line between courage and foolishness.

So stay tuned and I'll be happy to share how this new journey goes. I'm sure that there will be plenty more to write about, and I can't wait to be able to break bread with my Brethren...dripping with honey from our own hives.

-Walk in light my Brothers.-



The Adventures of a Country Master Mason Abroad

Fraternal Greetings, Brethren!

After our April meeting, Cabot Lodge No. 3884 has gone dark for the summer – five months without regular meetings. We reconvene in October. But it will be a busy time as I refresh the SD parts for all three degrees for the fall, come up to speed on the Sr. Warden's part for next year (2020), and start to work on the Worshipful Master's part for

the year after (2021.) Our Jr. Warden this year has had some health issues that have kept him from Lodge part of last year and all of this year so far. He's expecting to come back in the fall but he jointly decided to stay in the Jr. Warden's post next year as he hasn't had an opportunity to really learn or perform those duties. The Jr. Warden has more to do in the ritual here, including delivering the Entered Apprentice Charge. Sr. Warden delivers the Fellowcraft Charge, so that will be on me as I jump forward into that chair next year. Likewise, the Master's parts here for all the degrees are much longer than ours in Oregon – much of what we cover in the lectures in all three degrees is delivered by the Wor. Master here. It is also expected that installed officers will perform their installed role in degree conferrals. So, I have a lot of work to do.

I was exalted into Royal Arch Masonry in February. A couple weeks ago I was able to see an exaltation for the first time from the sideline. It makes a lot more sense now. I'm looking forward to seeing it a couple more times in the fall.

The Province of Bristol held a gala ball to mark the end of the Masonic Samaritan Fund fund-raising festival (a 5-year fund-raising period.) Bristol is a relatively small Province – only 37 Lodge and about 1400 members. From that pool over 5 years we raised £1,053,768 (about \$1.4 million.) All of that was internal fund-raising – i.e. giving by Brethren, not external sources. The initial goal was £650,000 and a "stretch" goal of £800,000 was established after they blew past the first one. An outstanding showing which will help Brethren in need. The gala was a lavish affair – excellent dinner, entertainment, and dancing. Much of the entertainment was provided by Brethren members of Chelsea Lodge, London, the "entertainers Lodge", including Rick Wakeman, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame keyboardist of the band Yes and many, many collaborative efforts.

Lastly to report is that I visited Powell Lodge No. 2257's installation on Tuesday evening last. It was a special night as Bro. Wei Paul Wong was installed into the Chair of Solomon. Bro. Paul was the Jr. Warden of Powell Lodge but he is an extremely talented young man who has done a lot in his relatively short Masonic career (he's only 26.) Unfortunately, he is also battling an aggressive cancer that has spread widely. Between the disease and the treatment, the effort is taking quite a toll on him. The Brethren of Powell Lodge received a dispensation to move their installation as far for-

ward as they could and keep within the Constitutions to install, now WB Paul, into the chair. Bro. Sr. Warden of Powell agreed to hold back in his station to afford the opportunity. The installation was attended by approximately 130 Brethren, 20-something Provincial Grand Lodge officers, a like number of UGLE Grand Lodge officers, 2 Past Provincial Grand Masters, a Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and 19 "Masters in the Corner" (sitting Masters of other Lodges in the Province of Bristol), and many, many Past Masters of other Lodges, both in the Province and without. The Inner Temple was packed to the gills with Past Masters for the Inner Workings – so much so that it caused a traffic jam processing both in and out of the Inner Temple that it took a good 20 minutes to clear so we could get back to our seats and continue the proceedings. WB Paul took over his Lodge after the Inner Workings and was in total control. He gave a letter-perfect installation of his officers and closing of the Lodge. It was great to see such a turnout to support a worthy Brother. Most of the attendees stayed for the after-meeting and the Brotherly Love was strong in both the Lodge room and the dining room.

I think that's about all the news that's fit to report from Bristol. I hope that the late-Spring and Summer find you all well and active in Lodge business.

Frarnally,
-Frank



Some Thoughts from
WB Johnny Edwards

Brothers please take note that the Trustees have decided to change the time of the monthly Trustees meeting to the last Wednesday of the month at 12:30 pm at the Lodge. This will be in place for the rest of the year.

As a Member:

- I will do more than belong – I will participate.
- I will do more than care – I will help.
- I will do more than believe – I will practice.
- I will do more than be fair – I will be kind.
- I will do more than forgive – I will love.
- I will do more than earn – I will enrich.
- I will do more than teach – I will serve.
- I will do more than live – I will grow.
- I will do more than be friendly – I will be a friend.
- I will do more than just pay dues. I will be an active member.



May-June 2019 Calendar

- May 1 - Rickreall # 110 - Stated - 7:30 pm
- May 4 - Tuality # 7 - Stated - 10:00 am
- May 7 - Union # 3 - Stated - 7:30 pm
- May 7 - Holbrook # 30 - Stated - 7:30 pm
- May 8 - Sheridan-Dayton - Stated - 7:00 pm
- May 9 - Newberg # 104 - Stated 7:30 pm
- May 18 - **Union Lodge annual Pancake Breakfast fundraiser for our school outreach program 7:30 AM until Noon**
- May 29 - Trustees Meeting 12:30 pm
- June 4 - Union Lodge Stated 7:30 pm
- June 6 - 8 - **Grand Lodge in Seaside**

Mark your Calendars

Union Lodge Pancake Breakfast
to Benefit our School Outreach Program

Saturday, May 18th 2019

7:30 - Noon

\$5.00 for adults
\$3.00 for children

Masonic widows eat for free

At Union Lodge #3, 235 NE Third Street,
McMinnville, OR 97128

Stairs to third floor on Third Street.
Elevator located in the parking lot behind
Harvest Fresh.

Invite your friends to join you.

Hope to see you there.

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 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.