



## UNION LODGE # 3 A. F. & A. M. OF OREGON

PO Box 453 McMinnville, OR 97128

### **MASONIC NEWS & TRESTLEBOARD October 2015**

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"History creates comprehensibility primarily by arranging facts meaningfully and only in a very limited sense by establishing strict causal connections." - Johan Huizinga (Historian)

#### Tidings from the East!

I have a calendar, a Word document really, where I jot down important Masonic dates when I come across them. Looking at it recently, I saw that October was a busy month for establishing things. Five Grand Lodges (that I know of) were established during this month including the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma (October 5th, 1874), the Grand Lodge of Virginia (October 14, 1778), the Grand Lodge of Vermont (October 15th, 1794), the Grand Lodge of Kentucky (October 16, 1800), the Grand Lodge of the State of Israel (October 20th, 1953.) The Philalethes Society, an independent Masonic research society, was established on October 1st, 1928.

[This is as good a place as any to put a plug in for the Philalethes Society and the Lodges of Research – if you have any interest in a more formal, academic pursuit of Light in Masonry, both of these bodies could use your effort and support and both have a lot to give in that regard.]

I have a couple notes related to a different kind of “establishing.” Two Presidents had their Entered Apprentice degrees conferred upon them: Presidents Franklin D. Roosevelt in (October 11, 1911 – Holland Lodge #3, New York) and Lyndon B. Johnson (October 30, 1937 – somewhere deep in the heart of Texas.) And, finally, on October 14th, 1989 the first official recognition of Prince Hall Masonry by a Grand Lodge was granted by the Grand Lodge of Connecticut. This wasn’t the first attempt to recognize Prince Hall Masonry, but it was the first that survived subsequent challenges and changes in Grand Lodge composition and became the driver for several others.

Looking at our own calendar, we have our own bit of “establishing” to do sometime soon – we have a candidate who has been initiated and passed, who is ready to give proficiency and be raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason.

“Establish” comes from the Latin adjective “stabilis” (stable) which became the verb “stabilere” (to make firm.) When we confer the degrees and help candidates to make their way through them, coaching and mentoring and supporting them as we can, we are participating in a process of making them firm in the Light of Freemasonry. We accept them at their weakest and least illuminated as Entered Apprentices. We imbue them with some knowledge and Light on the way to becoming Fellowcrafts. And then we acknowledge their achievement and make them firm as Master Masons. The proficiencies that we require along the way serve as scaffolding to show both the Brethren and the Lodge that they are doing the work and will not topple.

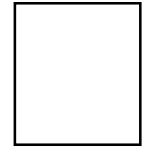
Those proficiencies are echoes of our historical, operative past, when apprentices in many collegiate or trade guilds, after serving a lawful time, would be required to make a “prentice piece” to show that they had acquired the basic skills to allow them to work with less supervision, but still under the tutelage of a Master of the craft. Finally, when they had worked in the quarries and workshops long enough, they could submit a “Master’s piece” (masterpiece.) This would be the pinnacle of their career in trade up to that point. In many cases, it would be evaluated by the other Masters, who would determine if the work was of high enough quality and showed enough promise that the maker should be considered a Master themselves.

If for no other reason than recognizing the work that candidates have put into their own establishment, we should be present and supportive of them. It’s not the memorizing, or reciting, or even the learning that establishes them – it is being surrounded and supported by a community of Master Masons, who have walked the same roads and confronted the same challenges.

That is what makes them firm.

So, when you get the call to be active in Lodge as an officer or volunteer for some effort or participate in a degree (or, frankly, just to be there for it), I encourage you to do it. It’s not just for your sake. It’s to provide firmament to everyone else, not least of which the youngest Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts who are looking on and needing that support.

Frank Blair  
Secretary  
Union Lodge # 3



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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS:**

- Oct 3** Tuality # 6 Stated 10:00 am
- Oct 6** Union Lodge # 3 Stated 7:30 pm
- Oct 6** Holbrook #30 Stated 7:30 pm
- Oct 7** Rickreall # 110 Stated 7:30 pm
- Oct 8** Newberg # 104 Stated, 7:30 pm
- Oct 14** Sheridan-Dayton # 64 Dinner 6:00 pm  
Lodge 7:00 pm
- Oct 27** Union Lodge Trustees 6:30 pm - Officers 7:30pm

**A Bit of Masonic Humor**

Bob and Bill were brother masons and great friends for most of their lives.

Each had agreed that when one of them passed on to that Grand Lodge above, he would attempt to make contact with the other and tell him all about what heaven was like.

As so happened, Bill went to heaven, first.

One night Bob was just drifting off to sleep when he heard Bill's voice calling to him.

"Is that you, Bill?"

"Yes, Bob. I am honoring our agreement."

"Oh, MY,.... what's it like?" Bob asked with some anticipation.

**Contacts for Eastern Star**

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"It's like nothing you could ever imagine. The lodge here is fantastic,... better than any lodge we ever saw on Earth.

The meetings are always well attended, the ritual is letter perfect, the friendship nights always have tons of new people just itching to join, and the spirit of fellowship blankets the entire place."

Bob's eyes teared up.

"Oh, my, it's just like we'd hoped. I'm so happy for you. But I have to ask,... that sounds really great, but you didn't really seem all that excited. What's wrong?"

"Well, I have some good news and some bad. The good news is that we're raising a fellow to the third degree next Wednesday."

"That's fantastic. What's the bad news?"

"Your name is on the list to be the Senior Deacon."



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