

The Guiding Light

Issue #1 July 2014

Welcome

Welcome to the inaugural issue of “The Guiding Light”, the official newsletter of Fredericksburg Masonic Lodge #794! We hope this monthly communication will not only inform you of the happenings of Fredericksburg Lodge #794 but that it might also uplift and inspire you a bit, as well. Please feel free to chat with us on our Facebook page: [Lodge #794](#)

If you have any items relating to Lodges within District 51, or anything for the good of Masonry from anywhere in the country, please let us know and we'll be glad to submit it for publication.

From The East

The Heartbeat of the Lodge

The beginning of each new Masonic year always brings feelings of excitement coupled with the promise of good things to come and hope for the future. This year is no different. As the changing of the guard takes place, the new officers make their plans and begin going about ‘their work’, just as our predecessors have done for centuries. One beauty of Masonry is that the Craft doesn't change, only the Craftsmen.

There is one constant thing in all Lodges that defines their character and personality. It is the heartbeat. It can be either deafeningly loud or diminutively weak, but it is always there because every active Lodge is alive. Each part of the ritual in the Lodge is, or should be, done either by, or upon, the heartbeat. From the cadence of the gavels during opening and closing, to the steady knock upon the outside of the door by a candidate, to the smooth tempo in which a candidate should be examined in his proficiency, to the steady effortless flow in which his answers should be returned, to the hypnotic rhythm presented in the esoteric work during degrees and lectures, to the crisp, precision like execution of giving the signs of any degree, right down to the verbiage of the Junior Deacon whenever he addresses the Tiler, there is always the pulse of the heartbeat, and it is the lifeblood of the Lodge.

Our Lodge is not only alive but it is experiencing growth and regeneration. Our heartbeat is strong because we are taking care of our heart. In Freemasonry, corn represents plenty, referring to opportunity, friends and work; oil represents joy, happiness, gladness; wine represents health, spirituality and peace. What better wages could there be, my brother?

As we begin this new Masonic year, I would exhort you all to go about the business of being not just a good Mason, but set about the higher task to become a great Mason. Seek your wages in earnest for they will be paid tenfold if you earn them. Let the heartbeat of our Lodge be felt throughout the fraternity by uplifting and edifying each and every brother in this Lodge, using the trowel to spread the cement of brotherly love and affection toward all mankind, more especially, a brother Mason. In short, my brother, let's all take care of each other.

It is my prayer that this time next year, we can all look into our storehouse where we have placed our collective wages and behold a stockpile of opportunities that were capitalized upon, a wealth of friends who we have worked and laughed with in joy, gladness and happiness, all while drinking the wine of good health and spiritual cleanliness from the vessel of peaceful hearts, because we would have successfully gone about the business of becoming great Masons. Then, we will hear our Lodge's heartbeat thundering within the Lodge building as never before.

Duke Davis, Worshipful Master

The West Gate

I am so humbled but at the same time honored to be part of "The Guiding Light." I am a new Mason and have had a very pleasant experience thus far. Some of you have heard my story of how my Religion excommunicated me from my friends of 10-15 years for joining the Freemason fraternity, but others have not heard my story.

Being part of a religion all your life and then having them turn their backs on you because you join a brotherhood is not a good feeling at all. But my experience was that something was leading me to Masonry. An abrupt change was happening. I found a Masonic apron at Fredericksburg Trade Days, a book, "Morals and Dogma" at a thrift store, one of my cleaning service customers was a Mason, so I asked him questions, and he handed me a petition. Six months later I was initiated. That sort of "Guiding Light," brought me here and I am so glad it did. From the first time I set foot into the Lodge, I was met without prejudice. Only the friendly, happy faces and firm hand shakes made me feel at ease.

As I went through the degrees and learned the questions and answers, little lights went off in my head trying to connect everything. Observing the fine conduct, dedication, and the memory work, amazed me and I often thought if only I could one day do the same. What impressed me the most was taught to me not by words but through example and action by certain members of the Lodge.

Even though I lost a lot of friends, I also gained a lot of quality friends in Masonry. Friends that had real brotherly love, love that would cement us. Being received with open arms, so to speak, made me forget my loss. I thank the Great Architect of the Universe for leading me here.

I look forward to a bright future in the Fredericksburg Masonic Lodge, and only want to learn from the more experienced Brothers.

There are some really experienced Masons who not only have experience in life but also in the Fraternity that can't make it to the meetings. As for those members, this newsletter will keep you up to date with the Lodge activities and what we are accomplishing in our local community, but I for one can benefit from your thoughts, ideas, or simple support. I am sure that others in the Lodge can benefit from your Masonic value too. I look forward to talking to you guys at our meetings, or maybe we can somehow visit with you.

I know Freemasonry in Fredericksburg Texas has a future. A future that will benefit many more good men that will become even better for the benefit of themselves, their families and the community.

Sal Pacheco, Senior Warden

The South Gate

I hope you are enjoying the first edition of this newsletter called the *Guiding Light*. It will serve as a great tool for information, observance, and thought. I am honored to be serving as Junior Warden of Fredericksburg Lodge #794. I am also proud to be a part of this great fraternity or brotherhood of men.

It is a step I should have taken many years ago, as both my father and grandfather were both hugely instrumental in my growth into adulthood, and they are and were exceptional Master Masons. Someone once said, "Hind sight is always 20/20." That being said, I am not going to dwell on the past, but only look forward to the future.

This lodge is in the process of moving forward into a bright and productive future. We have seen the education banquet and the car show grow consistently over the past few years. These ventures allow us to continue to

support the young men and women who will go on to college and become productive members of society.

As a teacher at Fredericksburg High School, I see these young men and women on a daily basis. They are advancing into a world of technology and innovation that we could not have dreamed possible in our youth. They carry around more technology in their pocket than we saw in all of our school days combined. We as Masons should be honored to know that we can serve as an integral part in that future by providing scholarships and support for this "millennial" generation. The car show and educational banquet allow us the means to do this. I ask that you continue to help out in the coming year, or step up to do more with both of these annual events.

As a Mason, and an educator, I am proud to know we are investing in the future of this great community, state, and nation. Once again, I am proud to be serving you as Junior Warden and look forward to a great year in Masonry. The future will be here faster than we know it.

Randall King, Junior Warden

Mouth To Ear

Peace and Harmony

Whether spoken or written, the wonderful union of the two words peace and harmony has a most calming effect upon the listener or reader. Peace and harmony is really what Freemasonry is all about, or should be, not only in the lodge, but also in our daily lives.

We have all met a quintessential Mason, a Mason whom we admire, a Mason we would most like to emulate. On the other hand, we have all met a Mason who we find it hard to believe could have ever found his way into our Sacred Band of Brothers. Instead of spreading the cement of Brotherly love, a mal-Mason spreads ill will, suspicion and contention.

Both of these Masons wear the square and compasses. Both attend lodge meetings on a regular basis. And both let their friends and neighbors know that they belong to the Masonic Lodge, the lodge that represents you.

When we watch a quintessential Mason interact with others, we are proud to belong to the same fraternity that he belongs to. When we watch a mal-Mason interact with others in contentious or hurtful ways, are we proud to be associated with him? Probably not, but do we take corrective action when we witness un-Masonic behavior by one of our own?

When you hear the same Brother repeatedly using foul language, or making hurtful comments about others, do you turn a deaf ear, or do you let your Brother know he is acting in a profane manner? Whispering good counsel is a Masonic responsibility.

Are we not a fraternity of good men with the express purpose of making each other better? If so, how do we do that? Do we let un-Masonic behavior go unchecked? Or, do we do what is not only the right thing to do, but is the obligatory thing to do, and that is to bring the matter to the offending Brother's attention.

It is not that Masons who act in an un-Masonic way are not good men. More than likely they are good men acting in a profane way, and they need the help of their Brethren to show them the error of their ways.

So, the next time you hear the words Peace and Harmony, ask yourself if you are doing your part to insure that peace and harmony really does exist amongst the members of our fraternity.

Jim McCrae,
PM Lodge #794 - 2005, 2006
DDGM - 2007
Grand Marshall, Grand Lodge of Texas - 2011
PM Texas Lodge of Research - 2012

Labors of the Craft

The 10th Annual Masonic Open Car Show held on June 7th was an outstanding success once again! The event, held in downtown Fredericksburg in Marktplatz, hosted 137 custom cars in our best show ever, and there was plenty of 'eye candy' for hot rod enthusiasts. More importantly, the Lodge generated 25% more cash sponsorships from the previous year.

A trip to Branson, Missouri was raffled off and won by David Weiting. The trip included three nights lodging for two people, three shows and a couple of dinners. Revenue from the raffle was up about 7%, as well, which means more scholarship money for our deserving youth of Fredericksburg and Harper High Schools!

Live music from the Mike Blakely trio was well received and there were plenty of good eats and cool treats on hand, along with some fine vendors. Thanks to all our sponsors who made this happen and to all who helped stage this day that has become one of the premier events of Fredericksburg!

Words of Wisdom

"Experience is one thing you can't get for nothing."
– Oscar Wilde –

"Better to light a candle than to curse the darkness"
– Chinese Proverb –

"Life is only short if we fail to live the time we have fully, because the length is generally out of our hands but the depth of experiences while we're here is up to us."
– Brian Austin Whitney –

Tongue in Cheek

Lester, the cowboy, goes into the local Lumber Yard and tells the salesman, "I need some four by twos".

The salesman chuckles to himself and says, "Lester, don't you mean two by fours?"

Lester tips his hat back, scratches his head and replies, "Naw, I'm purtty shore the Boss said four by twos."

Seeing he was getting nowhere fast the salesman reluctantly surrenders and asks, "How long do you need 'em Lester?"

Without hesitation, Lester fires back, "Well, I reckon we'll be needin' 'em fer quite a while

..... we're buildin' us a shed!"

Recipe of the Month

Jalapeno Popper Dip

By Carol Bradshaw

- 3 blocks cream cheese
- 2 small cans green chilies (drained)
- 3 oz. dices jalapenos
- 1 ½ cups parmesan cheese
- One can of Rotel (drained) – optional

Mix 3 blocks cream cheese, 1 ½ cups mayo, 2 small cans green chilies, and 3 oz. diced jalapenos. Stir and heat until creamy. Add 1 ½ cups grated Parmesan cheese and one can of Rotel if you like. Stir while reheating. Serve warm with chips.

From the Fredericksburg Lodge #794 "Recipes, Remedies and Ramblings" - 2012