

The Guiding Light

Issue #4 October 2014

Welcome

The Best Chefs in the Hill Country join us on Saturday, October 25th for our Second Annual Masonic Picnic at Lady Bird Johnson Park.

Who are these Best Chefs you ask? *You and Yours!* Bring your best Picnic dishes for a day that celebrates Fall in the Hill Country, Good Will Among All and Great Music featuring the classic country and cowboy songs of John Kirby.

What: Annual Masonic Picnic

When: Saturday, October 25th

Time: 12pm - 3pm

Where: Lady Bird Johnson Park, Site #4 by Golf Course

Who: Any and all

To help us plan, please respond with your **RSVP here** and tell us what dish you will be bringing and how many we can expect.

Please feel free to chat with us on our **Facebook page: Lodge #794**

From The East

“A Friend In Need, Is A Friend In Deed”

How many times have we all heard this saying, either growing up, in church, in Lodge, or in the ‘outside world’? There is an old saying, too, that, ‘if when you die, you can count your friends on one hand, you’re a lucky person and have led a good life.’ There is credence in both of these statements but Masons strive to better the odds of the latter. Why? Because we take good men and make them better? Yes, of course that’s true, but the reason Masons aspire to heed to a higher level of expectation is because in our obligations of all three degrees of the Blue Lodge, we have promised to strengthen every necessary personal character trait to become ‘the best’ we can be. By fulfilling our obligation, we do ‘begin’ to become the best we can ‘possibly’ be, and in kind, by not fulfilling our obligation, we have violated our word, to our God, to our loved ones, and most importantly, to ourselves.

Now, I’m not the type to curl up with Albert Pike’s *Morals and Dogma* for an evening of enjoyable reading. It’s just a difficult and intense read that can hold my focus for no more than a page or two, and even that is done at a much slower pace than ‘recreational’ reading. But, sometimes I’m compelled to delve into such Masonic purity to find the best guidance and truth. Truth must be sought in study, reflection, and discrimination. Pike says, “streams of learning that now flow full and broad must be followed to their heads in the springs that well up in the remote past, and you will there find the origin and meaning of Masonry” (p. 107).

So, let’s apply this to our friends. In the EA Degree, we avow ‘... I did this as a pledge of my fidelity, in the work, I was then engaged upon.’ If one gives a ‘pledge of fidelity’, then that should be our everlasting and binding word. Pike states, ‘Weigh well what it is you promise; but once the promise and pledge are given remember that he who

is false to his obligation will be false to his family, his friends, his country, and his God' (pp.111-12). Now, that's truth, plain and simple! He also says, 'The word of a Mason, like the word of a knight in the times of chivalry, once given must be sacred ... (p.112). Pike adds, 'Be faithful to your friends.... Be faithful to your country Be faithful to Masonry Thus will you be faithful to yourself ... (pp. 112-13).

Masonry provides us with a wealth of friends, an inexhaustible source and pool of good men to associate with and bond to. Even after our Lodge duties are successfully carried out, our committee meetings have been held, and all of our Masonic related 'business' has been addressed, what do good Masons tend to do? We end up hanging out with each other. Typically, Masons are just most comfortable around other Masons. I play golf with some, my wife and I go to a movie and dinner with others, we'll do date nights with still others, and all because we're 'friends'. But we're more than 'friends', we're 'brothers', and our wives are all a part of that same inexplicable magnetic chemistry, too.

I would hope that when I die, I will have more than one handful of friends. I like to believe that I will. The reason I believe that is because I've picked up the phone in times of dire need, and made one call, saying, 'I need some help', and it was immediately there, no questions asked. On one such occasion, a single phone call produced four men coming to my assistance within 30 minutes. I, in turn, more than once, have received phone calls, even very late at night, with an equally distressed brother reaching out to me for help, and I was out the door as I was pulling my shirt on, no questions asked.

The bottom line is, if you love your God, and you love your family, and you love your country, and you are a good Mason, then that sort of commitment automatically becomes part of your moral and Masonic edifice you have worked so hard to erect through Masonry. Always cherish those around you that they might receive the very same blessings and brotherly love that you receive from them.

And if you see a brother who is acting in a profane manner, remember, it is your obligation, as a Mason, to help that man 'right his ship'. Don't hesitate to come to a brother's aid that really needs the counsel of a 'good Mason'. More than likely, he has been isolated, or ostracized by the Lodge for his profane behavior, and he really needs to be 'reeled in' by pure Masonic behavior and principle displayed by 'good Masons' around him. It's not about wearing a ring, or splashing the Square and Compasses logo on everything you own, or the color of an apron, or a big flashy leadership badge, it's about 'fidelity', which means 'TRUTH', and that should be your everlasting bond as a man, and a Mason, end of story. Once again, to repeat Albert Pike's counsel, 'Be faithful to Masonry, thus will you be faithful to yourself.'

Duke Davis, Worshipful Master

The West Gate

I have quickly recognized that to truly grasp the depth that's in Freemasonry can take a lifetime of study.

As I study Freemasonry I reflect on a few of the verses taken from The Bible, verses used in Masonic Degrees, that are taken from Ecclesiastes Chapter 12 which describes the infirmities of age, written by King Solomon as a book of contemplation of his own personal self reflection.

In my study I found this explanation that I will now share with the reader. Let's go over these verses and their meanings and how we can personally benefit from them.

VERSE 1: YOUTH...Entered Apprentice

"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth": This alludes to the fact that as we grow older, each of us

fondly remembers the glorious days of our youth when all things were possible.

With the hindsight of age and experience, advice is given to youth to 'gather the harvest while they are young' because as we age, we change and are not able to enjoy things with the same lightness of heart.

VERSE 2: MANHOOD...Fellow Craft

"While the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars, be not darkened," refers to the fact that as we grow older, our eyes begin to fail. It is also an allegory to remembering back to the time when life looked bright with promise before the 'twilight years' and 'sunset years' of our lives, "nor the clouds return after the rain:" Rest and recuperation take longer as we age.

VERSE 3: AGE....Master Mason

"In the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble," refers to no longer being able to take care of yourself. "And the strong men shall bow themselves" refers to the body's degeneration process and the inability to physically walk without stooping.

"And the grinders cease because they are few," refers to the loss of teeth. "And those that look out of the windows be darkened" refers to failing eyesight.

VERSE 4:

"And the doors shall be shut in the streets" refers to no longer being able to hear the noisiness of life due to deafness.

"And he shall rise up at the voice of the bird," refers to aged people being unable to sleep and arising early.

"And all the daughters of music shall be brought low" refers to changes in the vocal chords which change and bring about a coarser and less melodious quality to the voice.

VERSE 5:

"When they shall be afraid of that which is high, and fears shall be in the way."

Elderly people become unfamiliar with the speed at which the world changes. Also, as we become older, our reflex speed decreases and things that we once tackled with abandon, we are now more cautious to attempt.

"And the almond tree shall flourish."

Almond trees have large, delicate, snow-white blossoms. Figuratively, this means that our hair turns to white.

"And the grasshopper shall be a burden."

When we are young, hope springs eternal. The grasshoppers that plagued the farmers were something to be dealt with by completely replanting the field, as a young man can withstand a total loss and look forward to the hope of the following seasons.

However due to his decreased energies, an elderly farmer would find that the loss of an entire year's harvest (and all the work of replanting) to be a devastation and the elderly farmer would not look upon the same issue as 'lightly' as when he was a youth.

"And desire shall fail."

The dreams which take a long time to come to fruition are not as desirous in the elderly as in youth because they know they do not have the time to learn and work them to obtain the desired results. The gradual decrease in physical desire also diminishes in both male and female.

VERSE 6:

"Or ever the silver chord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken."

The loosed silver cord is believed to denote the spinal column and therefore the physical infirmities (stooped back) of age. The golden bowl is believed to denote the brain and the gradual decline of mental powers, which in dotage is described as senility.

"Or the pitcher be broken at the fountain."

Having a desire to urinate, but being unable to do so.

"Or the wheel broken at the cistern."

The body contains all its blood, (the cistern is full), but the heart's pumping action (the wheel) ceases.

VERSE 7:

"Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was; and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it."

This last portion of the Masonic degree verse refers to "ashes to ashes, dust to dust", which are still the words voiced when we inter (bury) the dead.

While this Master Mason, third degree Masonic degree verse may seem unduly depressing to some, as it describes the deterioration of each individual part of the body; it accurately describes our journey through life and makes us ponder on our choices.

While it describes the deterioration of our physical 'temple,' and the passages of time which happen to each of us, we must remember that our ending is the same as our beginning.

The LORD created us, gave us HIS commandments of law and it is to him that we return...which is the final triumph...the one treasure in life that cannot be taken away. If we have lived our lives properly, old age is no longer 'the evil days,' but becomes instead, reminiscent of the harvest...the love, the friendships, the experiences and the fond memories...

...the true cornucopia of receiving the 'plenty.'

Sal Pacheco, Senior Warden

The South Gate

October is upon us, and my children have already decided what they will be for Halloween and how much candy they are going to round up while trick or treating. Youth is a great thing. They have so much to learn about life and the world around them. They are like sponges that soak up everything. I have learned to be careful what I say around them, because it will get repeated sometime, somewhere, and usually it is not a convenient place for it to be spoken. As adults we find ourselves not as 'sponge worthy' as our children. We remember things that are

important to us and tune out what we deem as unnecessary. My wife can attest to this! My activity in the lodge has provided me the opportunity to become more 'sponge worthy' in gaining Masonic Light.

Weekly and sometimes daily, I am finding more and more light within Masonry. I learned so much through memory work and process of initiation and proficiency. I have had the opportunity to be on the other side as a Master Mason. Learning the floor work that goes with each degree, opening and closing different lodges, and serving on committees and degree teams has continued my growth as a Mason. We all must find that niche that we can give back to the lodge, our brothers in Masonry, and the community. It is in this, that we will find more light as we grow. This light will show the path to improvement as a man and a Mason. I encourage each of you to get involved in the proceedings of the lodge in some manner. It is in brotherhood and teamwork that the most light can be shared and found. I know that my sponge is far from full, after all, we are entitled to all the light a lodge has to bestow.

Randall S. King, Junior Warden

Mouth To Ear

A young man walking alone the street in New York City stops a cab driver and asked him "how do you get to Carnegie Hall". The cab driver looks him square in the eye and with a grin on his face and says "practice, practice, practice". How do you confer a Master's Degree with a great deal of perfection and integrity? The correct response would be with practice, practice, practice.

After much coordination and working together to perform a graded Master's Degree last Monday evening we can now say how good it is to see Brethren working together in harmony. Each time we observe the Master lower the gavel to open the Lodge or to confer a degree we can look forward to order and beauty that goes along with these observances when practiced correctly and having a common goal of performing the ritual as ordered by our Charter.

As we remember the two authorities given to each Lodge in the jurisdiction in the Grand Lodge of Texas we know that we are to receive, Initiate, Pass, and Raise Master Masons in the manner instructed by the Grand Lodge. We are also instructed to elect and install officers. These duties require that we develop leaders for our Lodge and our community.

Again, we should be very proud and thankful for the excellent job done by our officers and degree team recently. We are looking forward to completing the other two graded degrees this Masonic year. How good it is to see brethren working together in Peace and Harmony.

S&F

David Bruton, WM
Kendall Lodge #897

Labors of the Craft

We had one Fellowcraft degree on September 10th. Another EA has completed his proficiency and is arranging to be scheduled to be passed to Fellowcraft. We have another EA currently preparing for his proficiency.

Mark your calendars for Thursday, October 9th, for a called meeting of Fredericksburg Lodge #794 that will present a program by the Boy Scouts of America and the Girl Scouts of America, their role in the community, and future

programs and projects to be done at the new Texas Ranger Heritage Center at Fort Martin Scott. Light refreshments of sandwiches and desserts will be served beginning at 6:00 PM followed by the program at 6:30 PM.

The 2nd Annual Fredericksburg Masonic Lodge Picnic will be held on Saturday, October 25th from noon to 3:00 PM at Lady Bird Johnson Park at Site #4 by the Driving Range. Entertainment will be provided by John Kirby . This is a good opportunity to share a little fellowship with Masons but it is also a perfect opportunity to bring along someone who is not a Mason.

Words of Wisdom

“There is only one success – to be able to spend your life in your own way.”

- Christophe Morley -

“There is only one corner of the universe you can be certain of improving – and that’s your own self.”

- Aldous Huxley -

“People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.”

- Anonymous -

“Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.”

- Thomas Edison -

Tongue in Cheek

How To Call The Police

George Phillips, an elderly man from Walled Lake, Michigan, was going up to bed, when his wife told him that he’d left the light on in the garden shed, which she could see from the bedroom window.

George opened the back door to go turn off the light, but saw that there were people in the shed stealing things.

He phoned the police, who asked, “Is someone in your house?”

He said, “No, but some people are breaking into my garden shed and stealing from me.”

Then, the police dispatcher said, “All patrols are busy, you should lock your doors and an officer will be along when one is available.”

George said, “Okay.”

He hung up the phone and counted to 30. Then, he phoned the police again.

“Hello, I just called you a few seconds ago because there were people stealing things from my shed. Well, you don’t have to worry about them now because I just shot and killed them both; the dogs are eating them right now” and he hung up.

Within five minutes, six police cars, a SWAT Team, a helicopter, two fire trucks, a paramedic and an ambulance

showed up at the Phillips' residence, and caught the burglars red-handed.

One of the policemen said to George, "I thought you said that you'd shot them!"

George said, "I thought you said there was nobody available!"
(True Story)

DON'T MESS WITH OLD PEOPLE!

Recipe of the Month

"What's It"

By Nancy Janin

2 Cups Grated Sharp Cheddar Cheese
1 ½ Cups (3 cans) Minced Ripe Olives
1 ½ Cups Chopped Green Onions
1 Package English Muffins (8 Muffins)
1 Teaspoon Black Pepper
¼ Teaspoon Salt
1 Teaspoon Curry Powder
1 Cup Mayonnaise

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Mix all ingredients and spread on Muffin halves. Cut each Muffin half into four pieces. Bake at 375degrees for 15-20 minutes and serve hot. Yields 64 pieces.

Note: Freezes nicely. Let thaw for one hour before baking