



ST. JAMES LODGE NO. 47 F. & A. M.

CHARTERED JUNE 25, 1844

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Monthly Newsletter- March 2016–April 2016



Greetings from the East Brethren,

It's almost hard to believe that this year is already one-third of the way through!

In looking back on the first few months of this year and reflecting on the meetings we have had, I am again amazed by the talents and dedication of the members of St. James Lodge.

We started off the year with a beautifully conducted Lodge of Sorrow honoring all those members who have passed away in the last two years, your officers attended the Grand Lodge Session and helped to conduct the business of the Grand Lodge, and returned home to conduct the business of the Lodge, including an Entered Apprentice Degree.

At the beginning of March we held an outstanding guest night, which resulted in three petitions for our Lodge, and one for another Lodge. We now have 5 petitions coming up for action and 6 candidates working their way through the degrees already. This promises to be a very busy ritual year!

At our last meeting we honored two outstanding young men with the Lodge's Honesty and Integrity Award. This was a very memorable meeting, which you can read more about in a related article.

Looking ahead to the remainder of the year, aside from our busy ritual calendar, we have great events coming up such as our Night of Masonic Renewal on May 19th (which our Grand Master will be joining us for), Masonic Youth Day on June 2nd, a Table Lodge on June 16th to celebrate St. John the Baptist Day. Our next guest night will be on September 1st, and it is never too early to start talking to a good man about joining us that evening (or any evening for dinner!).

Bro. Cody Cifelli has been hard at work on a new website design that I think looks really great, you can preview it at http://stjameslodge47.org/sjl47_new/home.htm, not all of the pages are done yet, but please take a look at the main couple of pages and let us know what you think before we finish building the pages and go live with it.

I've touched on a few of the things going on in your Lodge, but really I've barely brushed the surface of all of the opportunities to get involved. As Freemasons we are always laboring in our daily lives to build our internal temples, and my Brothers I assure you that work gets easier when you labor alongside your fellow Masons, your Brothers, your Friends. Something as simple as a short phone conversation with a member of the Lodge (although honestly they rarely end up short!) can lift and brighten my whole day.

Whether you cannot attend Lodge because you live on the far side of the country (Hi Bro. Mickey!) or you live right down the street, whether you are 27 or 97, I assure you there is a way for you to be involved in the work of the Lodge. Just give me a call or drop me an email and I'll be happy to "set the craft to labor"!

With fond regards and best wishes I remain,

Fraternally yours,

Jeff Maynor

Worshipful Master 225-485-7069

jmaynor@alumni.lsu.edu

FUTURE EVENTS:

Greeting Brethren!

Coming up in the next month we've got a number of very exciting programs that I hope you'll join us for.

On May 19th the Grand Master of Masons in Louisiana, M:W: Will Gray, will be joining us for a Night of Masonic Renewal. This is a different take on the traditional Rededication/Reobligation program, and I believe that it will be a truly memorable occasion for all who attend.

On June 2nd we will have an open meeting to learn more about our local Masonic Youth Organizations (DeMolay and Rainbow) and show our support for these outstanding young men and young ladies. I encourage all members to bring their families.

As always if you have any questions about upcoming events please don't hesitate to ask!

Fraternally yours,

Jeff

IT IS MY SAD DUTY TO INFORM YOU OF THE PASSING OF
W:BRO. JACK CLAUNCH.

W:BRO. CLAUNCH WAS A FREQUENT VISITOR TO ST. JAMES
LODGE AND A WELL KNOWN RITUALIST AND CANDIDATE
COACH IN THE BATON ROUGE AREA.
FRATERNALLY YOURS,

JEFF MAYNOR
WORSHIPFUL MASTER
ST. JAMES LODGE NO. 47

Greeting Brethren!

One of the things we've been doing in Lodge this year is taking a few minutes at most meetings to call a few random members of the Lodge who aren't in attendance just to say Hello!

One of the things we are finding with this activity is that some of our contact information is not up to date. Maybe we had your office number, but you've retired. Maybe we had your home phone, but you've cut the cord and going solely to cellular.

In late April we'll be mailing a letter to every member checking on your contact info. If you'd like to save us 2 stamps (we'll even be sending you a return envelope!) please send your current mailing address, phone numbers and email address to me at jmaynor@alumni.lsu.edu, we'd also appreciate your birthday too!

Fraternally yours,

Jeff



St. James Lodge No. 47
 Post Office Box 444
 Baton Rouge, LA 70821-0444

Newsletter
March 2016—April 2016

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Other Masonic Events

Acacia Shrine meets at 7:00 PM every 3rd Wednesday at 7991 S. Commerce Ave. Dinner is served at 6:00 p.m.
 Downtown York Rite Bodies meet on the 1st Saturday of each month at 8:00 a.m. with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. at St. James Lodge.

NOTES

Membership Rosters are available in the Tyler's room when you attend Lodge or can be emailed by making a request to Bro Richard Black at rwblack@gmail.com Please inform him of changes in your mailing address, email address or phone numbers.
 If you received a copy of this newsletter by US Postal Service, have computer access with an e-mail address and want to help the Lodge save money, please send your e-mail address to Bro Richard Black at rwblack@gmail.com so that he can update the database.
 You will then receive an e-mail each month with a link that you can follow to read the latest news letter on line.

Lodge of the Nine Muses #9, F&AM, meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at St. James Lodge. The meeting starts at 6:30 PM. If you are interested in visiting, contact one of the members for dress code and other details.

Livingston Certificate Association meets at 6:30 P.M on the first Friday of each month, with dinner at 6 P.M., at Pine Grove Lodge # 288 on Pine Street, in Ponchatoula, LA.

Scottish Rite Baton Rouge Valley meets on the 2nd Monday of each month, dinner at 6:30 PM, meeting at 7:30 PM, at the Consistory on Florida Boulevard. The Advisory Council meets at the Consistory at 6:00 P.M. on the 2nd Monday of the month, prior to the normal stated meeting.

Baton Rouge Certificate Association meets at 7 P.M. with dinner at 6:30 P.M. on the third Friday of each month at Trinity Union Lodge # 372.

Your article could have been here. Submit articles to Bob Zinn, N5bz@cox.net

DEADLINE FOR ARTICLE SUBMISSION: 3 days after the 2nd regular meeting of the month!

If it isn't in my e-mail box by then it won't go in the newsletter for that month.

Request To Membership:

Please notify our Secretary, W: Bro Mark Paxton, and Bro Richard Black rwblack@gmail.com of any change in your postal address, email address, or phone number!!!!

"He deserves hope. Without hope, where would we be?"

This line comes from the beginning of an episode of Grantchester and is between the hero, Sydney Chambers, and his friend Amanda Hopkins. Sydney is a Vicar in an Anglican Church and is trying to save an 18 year old man, Gary, from being hanged. Gary was assisting a high school classmate try to abort a baby by drinking turpentine. The girl died and Gary was convicted of murder. Whether you believe in capital punishment or not, is not the question. The question is, does Gary deserve hope and where is he?

A person is condemned to die for the death of another. Is it right to give them hope of not being executed by making appeals, filing for stays of execution, or requesting clemency? If we determine these activities are acceptable, to what end? Some in this country have had appeals filed simply to delay the execution long enough for nature to take their life. Others still have appealed and eventually proven their innocence. If we do not agree with allowing meaningful appeals, are we not saying, "your life is judged solely on this one act, and you are beyond redemption."

Freemasonry has adopted a derivative of the seven classic Cardinal Virtues; the last three being Faith, Hope and Charity (Brotherly Love). As long as we remain a Freemason, by whatever definition we may use, we believe that all people are entitled to hope until it comes to fruition. Fruition simply means the plan hoped for comes to completion. For the truly innocent we must hope for their life to be spared; for the guilty, that they will receive just and righteous punishment; for those who are without remorse, we all find the ability to forgive, for the greatest Virtue is Charity.

At the end of the episode, Gary goes to the gallows fearing he will not be accepted by God into heaven. He is repented, and we are left to believe he asked for forgiveness truthfully, which in my faith tells me forgiveness will be given and he will be received into that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. Gary accepts his death in the absence of all hope. While waiting for execution. He is in a black hole void of the universe we dwell. The characters, like ourselves, are left to express their belief in the merits of the Justice system or disbelief in its morality; dealing with ill-stated words as best we can.

From the education Committee

Our annual Honesty and Integrity Award Night, held this year on April 21st was a truly memorable one.

After a delicious meal of jambalaya, Maestro (and Brother) Regulo Stabilito graciously agreed, as a special favor to his Masonic Brothers, to momentarily lay aside the conductors baton and — playing both the violin and quattro (a Venezuelan instrument resembling a small, 4 stringed guitar) — accompany his lovely and talented wife, renowned flutist Maria Fernanda Castilla in a program of consummate musical artistry, playing selections by Bro. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Johann Christian Bach, before concluding the evening with a lively selection of 3 Venezuelan folk songs.

Bro Steve Newman, an H&I Integrity recipient himself (which time has clearly shown the wisdom and accuracy of the Brothers who awarded that to him!), delivered a moving and eloquent address to those assembled. Bro. Newman made very good use of excerpts from “The Road to Ithaca” by K.P. Kavafis, which I encourage everyone to read.

H&I Awards were then presented to two outstanding young men, Mr. Aaron Posner (introduced by Bro. Joe Cooper) and Mr. Brandon Ruth (introduced by his Grandmother). These two young men have exhibited those qualities which bode well for a bright future for both them, and all those they encounter on their journey through life. St. James Lodge again offers our congratulations and best wishes for success in all of their future endeavors.

(article prepared by W:Bro. Larry Wade, PM and W: Jeff Maynor, photographs by W: Richard Black)



A short story of Masonic Charity:

Brethren, it has been called to my attention that several members of this Lodge, and even in other parts of the State, have gone out of their way to demonstrate that true spirit of Charity as inculcated in the Masonic Degrees.

Upon hearing of a widow in need of some assistance with a stacked washer and dryer unit, these fine Brethren gave unstintingly of their time and pocketbooks to both move this rather awkward unit to its new location, install it, ensure that it functioned properly, and provide for the required repairs to the dryer.

They have asked that no names be used as they were simply doing that which is right, but I felt that it was very worthy to share this excellent story with you all. So well done my Brothers, well done. This small example of kindness is a beacon of good news and an example to us all.

-JDM

"The following Article was written by M:W: Bryant Webster, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina and was published in the March/April 2016 issue of The North Carolina Mason. It is reprinted here with the Author's permission.

On Four-Letter Words

Hate is a four letter word. Hate is completely inconsistent with our Masonic teachings. Unfortunately, as we read the headlines, scroll through Facebook, or even listen to casual conversation, what we see and hear is hate and intolerance. Even more unfortunately, when I see Masons expositing on Facebook, and in conversation, some of what I see and hear comes very close to hate and vitriol. Whether the topic is nationality, immigration status, religious tradition, race, sexual orientation, or any other subject on which there is a spectrum of belief, we seem unable to be tolerant of divergent views. I suspect that most hate comes from a lack of understanding, and a fear of what we do not understand. We seem as a society to have forgotten how to have civil discourse with those with whom we disagree, We don't need to agree on everything. If we disagree, one of us may be right and one of us may be wrong; it is equally possible that both of us may be right or both of us may be wrong. Even if the other is wrong, there is no need to hate him for being wrong. There certainly is no reason to hate him for being right. There are positive ways that we as Masons can set examples for our communities.

First, it is acceptable to have an unexpressed thought. Regardless of how upset or indignant we feel about something, I recommend taking a deep breath, and deciding whether we can improve upon the silence; if we cannot make a positive contribution to the discourse, please refrain. In my house, we call it the Thumper Theory: "If you cain't say something nice, don't say nothin' at all." With the right to say something comes the responsibility to decide whether it is appropriate to say it. Please do not jump to the conclusion that I am suggesting a derogation of our free speech rights. The First Amendment to the US Constitution guarantees to us the protection of our speech from Government interference. That does not mean that we should say everything. As Masons, we are charged to be prudent, temperate, discrete. That means we do not always exercise our right of free speech if that language will be harmful to another. Our Brother Benjamin Franklin explained "your right to swing your fist ends at the tip of my nose." The same is true of our words.

Second, seek to understand more. Talk is a four letter word, but a positive one. Talk to those who are different, who have different views. Seek out those with a completely different perspective; seek to understand why they believe or do as they do. Hear is a four letter word, again a positive one. We have these working tools in our toolbox. We just don't use them enough. We talk about the instructive tongue and the attentive ear; too often we restrict these concepts to the transmission of the ritual; they will serve us much better if we extend them to other areas of our lives, particularly when it comes to human interaction. If we learn, if we formulate questions and seek answers to them, if we gain more understanding of concepts, ideas, and beliefs other than our own, it will broaden our minds and allow us to have less fear of that which is different, and less hate. I'm not suggesting that we change our own beliefs, far from it. You may find that exploring the beliefs of others strengthens your own belief system. It is perfectly ok for us to have different beliefs; we don't even have to agree with those of another, we just have to respect their right to their own beliefs.

Third, reach out to others, particularly those whom you think are wrong. Walk is a four letter word, again a positive word. That icon of American literature, Atticus Finch, suggested to his daughter Scout, that "you cannot really understand a man until you get inside and walk around in his skin." This is a Masonic teaching also. We are instructed to go on foot and out of our way to help those in need. We are taught that "every human being has a claim upon your kind offices". Every human being means every human being, regardless of nationality, residency status, race, religion, sexual orientation, period. There are no exceptions to every human being. Spending time with them, walking with them, going to their aid, will do them good and do us good. Again, I'm not recommending that we need to agree with everybody, or change our views, or accept that anyone has a better position than ours. I am only suggesting that we need to respect all others and seek to understand them. By having personal relationships with those who diverge from us, we will have the opportunity to exemplify the teachings of our gentle Craft. We will become wider, deeper, more well-rounded men, worthy of the title Master Mason. We will be examples and ambassadors for all that is right, good and beneficent about our Fraternity.

Fourth, do good unto all. Love is a four letter word; perhaps the most important four letter word of all. Love is the opposite of hate. Brotherly love is the first tenet of a Mason's profession. "Love your neighbor as yourself," is the greatest commandment. If we love one another, if we break bread together, if we talk and hear and walk together, we will have no room for hate. Hate cannot coexist with love, they are mutually exclusive. We need to live our Masonic obligations outside our Lodges more importantly than living those obligations in our tyled recesses. That is why we give a closing charge. It is a reminder to practice what we preach in our daily lives. if we do that, our wives, our families, our communities will see our better selves, and our Fraternity will be increased in stature and standing.

Let me be clear. Hate is Unmasonic. Intolerance is Unmasonic. Denigrating the views of others is Unmasonic. It cannot be justified by our faith beliefs, by our political views or by our personal philosophy. Disagreeing is fine; being disagreeable is not. We are here to subdue our passions and improve ourselves in Masonry. Vanquishing hate to the dustbin of our personal history is essential to our task of fitting ourselves as living stones for that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. Let us begin."