

St. James Lodge No. 47 F. & A.M.

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Stated Communications: 1st & 3rd Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.

Monthly Newsletter- February 2016–March 2016



Greetings from the East Brethren,

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"

How often have you heard those words spoken in a lodge? How often have you seen them printed on a variety of Masonic items? How often do we latch onto those words to describe why it is that we do things the way they do?

Yet, for all of that, how often do we really think about the depth behind those words and what they really imply about how to live our lives.

One analysis of this particular Psalm I have seen proposes that David wrote it to celebrate the union of the tribes when they selected him as King.

The idea of dwelling together in unity, to me, implies something much greater than a simple lack of quarreling, or the idea that everyone agrees with everyone else. It implies a notion that we are actually celebrating each other's triumphs, sharing each other's woes, and promoting each other's general welfare "through reciprocal acts of mutual kindness". It is the idea that we are traveling together through life as one common band of Brothers.

While sometimes it becomes necessary for Brethren to depart from each other, and live apart in order to preserve harmony, that should never become a perpetual state of being. The ideal state for our happiest lives is "dwelling together".

There is a great deal of disturbance in the Masonic family right now, you may have seen it in the news, it's even been on NPR. Let us always remember those early words from our Masonic journey and strive to live those ideals.

Fraternally yours,

Jeff Maynor
Worshipful Master

FUTURE EVENTS:

Greeting Brethren!

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

On April 21st we will be celebrating our Honesty and Integrity Awards with a very special open meeting. Our esteemed Bro. Régulo Stabilito (a notes conductor and violinist) and his lovely wife Maria Castillo (a world renowned flutist) will provide a musical program for the occasion.

This is a truly remarkable occasion and I hope you will all join us. If you need a ride let me know!

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

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

Past EVENTS

March 3rd — OPEN meeting for Guest Night. Dinner 6:30 PM, program 7:30 PM.

March 17th — Dinner was served at 6:30 PM, during which a presentation was given by directors from Maison des Amis, a local downtown charity. The meeting commenced at 7:30 PM and included an Entered Apprentice Degree.



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Newsletter
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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!!!!

Brotherhood (Fulfilling the Promise of Freemasonry)

From the Ancient Greek, as told by Aristoxenus, two Pythagoreans travel to Syracuse, the Kingdom of Dionysius I. While there, the first Pythagorean, Pythias, is accused of plotting against the tyrannical King and sentenced to die. He asks to be allowed to return home to settle his affairs and say goodbye to his family, but Dionysius refuses. Pythias' friend Damon offers to stay as a hostage until his friend's return. Dionysius agrees, but warns Pythias that should he not return, Damon will suffer his fate.

During Pythias' return trip, pirates sack his ship and throw him overboard; forcing him to swim to shore and make his way back to Damon just in time to take his rightful place as prisoner to be executed. So taken with the moral strength and bond of friendship, Dionysius pardons both and asks to become their friend as well. He was denied.

In our obligations, we assume only two specific bonds to our Masonic Brothers, the rest of our obligation is a personal relationship with our personal God and his tenants. So our commitment to our Brothers is largely the same as that to non-members. The philosophy of Freemason, however, is much broader and addresses the Brotherhood of humanity. We must treat humanity, not just those we like, with their best interest as the forethought. Our philosophy also speaks directly to the Human Family, not just those we hope to impress. Imagine how much better the world would be, if we took on the responsibility of honoring our commitment as citizen of this Republic, doing the best we can for mutual achievement. Instead of President's Bush's "No Child Left Behind" we would revolutionize the world with "No One Left Behind."

From the education Committee