

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

**R. Shane Marchand, W.M.**

Home: 225-767-6993

rshanem@bellsouth.net

315 Convention Street, Post Office Box 444, Baton Rouge, LA 70821  
225-344-7658



**Mark Paxton, P.M., Secy.**

Home: 225-752-2568

mjpaxton55@gmail.com

Rouge, LA 70821

Web Site: <http://www.stjamesLodge47.org>

Stated Communications: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.

## Monthly Newsletter- September 2015–October 2015



Brethren,

We kicked off the month with our Past Masters and Widows night. We had an excellent evening, enjoying family, friends, and brotherhood. We enjoyed some gumbo, potato salad, and some cake for desert. The lodge was treated to a great performance from the Baton Rouge Chorus of Sweet Adeline's, who went through some great old tunes, new tunes, and patriotic tunes. We were also especially privileged to have W:Bro. Jesse W. Griffith, PM 1976 and his wife Harriet visiting us from Tennessee for the evening. W:Bro. Griffith was surprised with a photo of him from when he was serving as Master of St. James Lodge in 1976. We certainly want to thank W:Bro. Griffith and his wife for making the long trip down to join us, and hope they'll make it an annual occasion! Thanks W:Bro Maynor for the good eye while looking through pictures at the Grand Lodge Museum. Counting the members, guest, and the entertainment, we had just under 100 people in attendance. Thanks to everyone who made the night enjoyable.

The second meeting in October saw two brothers increasing their knowledge in masonry by being passed to the degree of Fellow Craft. We also had a special communication and conferred an Entered Apprentice degree on Oct 26<sup>th</sup>. As these brother continue on their paths to become Master Masons lets us be sure to continue to offer our support and guidance.

We are coming to the end of October and closer to the end of the year. The next stated meeting will be elections and soon installation of the new team of officers. However, before installation we will try to have to more evenings of degrees. The second communication in November should be either a Fellow Craft or Master Mason degree followed by the first stated communication in Dec being the other.

Thanks to all of you for continue to make my time as Worshipful Master enjoyable.

Your Brother and Friend  
Your Friend and Brother,  
R. Shane Marchand, WM

**Ritual Practice will be held on the first Monday of each month at 6:30PM in the Lodge hall.**

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Nov 5** - Election of 2016 Officers

**Nov 19** – Master Mason Degree

**Dec 3** – Fellowcraft Degree

**Dec 6** - 13<sup>th</sup> District Lodge Meeting

**Dec 17 OPEN MEAL** Installation of 2016 officers



### The Power Of the Opening Ritual (from the Masonic Education Committee)

The Order of DeMolay, professes seven Cardinal Virtues which differ in term from the seven Virtues taught in the first two degrees of Freemasonry, but not substance. They are: Filial Love (Hope), Reverence for Sacred Things (Faith), Courtesy (Temperance), Comradeship (Charity), Fidelity (Justice), Cleanliness (Prudence), and Patriotism (Fortitude).

At the opening of a DeMolay Chapter, seven candles representing the virtues are lit; the Master Councilor saying"... As the light from these candles permeates this chapter room, let your light shine before men. That they may see your good works and glorify your Father, who is in Heaven."

Unfortunately, Freemasonry does a poor job describing these virtues compared to the DeMolay ritual. Ask a DeMolay what one means and he has an full paragraph to describe them. Ask a Mason about the illustration of his entry and you'll likely get a blank stare or a long pause. The next opportunity you have to attend a DeMolay Chapter and see their work, you might be impressed with what they are saying, as well as how well they are saying it.



### Past EVENTS

Theme "Back to Basics" - Why I became a Mason

**Oct 1** - Past Master, Widows, 25-50 yr members

**OPEN MEAL/Entertainment**

**Oct 15** – Fellowcraft Degree

*Columbus Day Observance* – Presentation

**Oct 26** -- Special communication 7PM for the purpose of conferring the Entered Apprentice Degree.



**St. James Lodge No. 47**

Post Office Box 444

Baton Rouge, LA 70821-0444

**Newsletter**

**September 2015—October 2015**

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

extra copy

Other Masonic Events

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

Acacia Shrine meets at 7:00 PM every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 7991 S. Commerce Ave. Dinner is served at 6:00 p.m.

Downtown York Rite Bodies meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month at 8:00 a.m. with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. at St. James Lodge.

Lodge of the Nine Muses #9, F&AM, meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:N5bz@cox.net)

**DEADLINE FOR ARTICLE SUBMISSION: 3 days after the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:rwblack@gmail.com) of any change in your postal address, email address, or phone number!!!!



**Insha Allah**

I was recently reminded of this beautiful phrase while watching *Gods and Generals* when Gen. Jackson is asked how he can remain calm during fierce battle. Jackson replies that he is confident that God has already fixed the day and date of his death. All that remains is for him to live his life for God's glory. He was a Presbyterian.

The Muslims I served with in Iraq had a similar concept, Insha Allah. Three words that mean, "if God wills it". To them, if God planned for them to die on a given day, nothing could speed up the day or delay it.

Both of these theological concepts are not without merit; as well, they lend the time to observe the beauty in every day life. Through the understanding of beauty we derive wisdom. However, these concepts also lead to vanity, in a most negative way. Too often, Gen. Jackson suffered fits of depression, when he lost personally; believing he had coveted too much and God had taken that which was coveted. For my Muslim comrades, the vanity became more about doing what they wanted, because that is what Allah wanted.

Wisdom always suffers our vanity, but wisdom is our only reward in this life: The knowledge by which we demonstrate charity. In this time of Thanksgiving, let us all pray for more wisdom and less vanity; excited charity in place of our own desires.

Nicholas Auck Chaplain

REMINDER!!!

We still need more volunteers to delivery poinsettias to the Lodge's widows on or around Saturday December 12th as part of the Grand Master's project for December.

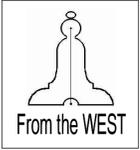
The delivery of Easter lilies in April was very well received by our widows, and was handled by just a few Brothers. We have around 30 widows in the Baton Rouge area, and right now only have 6 delivery men, so we need your help!

Please contact me at either 225-485-7069 or [jmaynor@alumni.lsu.edu](mailto:jmaynor@alumni.lsu.edu) if you wish to volunteer.

Fraternally yours,

Jeff Maynor, DGL  
Senior Warden

Greetings from the West Brethren!



One of the most important days in every Lodge year is coming up on November 5th, election day. It is this day when we select those elected officers who will lead our lodge through the next year and then on into the future. Please come and let your voice be heard in choosing our 2016 officers.

On November 19th we will confer a Master Mason degree, if you are interested in participating please let me know ASAP!

One of the changes I noticed recently from having my first child is a renewed interest in Halloween as a fun holiday. There has been much bustling about the last few weeks to decide on a costume for Calvin's first Halloween (he's going to be a tiny dragon) and of course what his parents will need to dress up as (princess and knight if you're wondering). I've also been told this is something I should enjoy as it get less fun once your kids start having their own costume desires.

As we were costume shopping, and staring at row after row of masks, costumes and capes I got to thinking about how we approach our everyday lives.

We often say of someone who does a lot of different jobs that he is a man who wear many hats. A far less discussed reality is that each of us as we go through life wear many different masks. Whether intentionally, or unintentionally we put a different mask on to face different parts of the world and our lives. Perhaps we put on bold confidence we don't truly feel in some situations, perhaps we hold back a part of ourselves from a social group out of a desire to be accepted or a lack of trust that we might still be liked by that group if they knew the "real" us. In our increasingly fragmented society the idea of being outside of the group is a very real fear that drives people to do things that are not their own character.

Throughout the Degrees of Masonry we are charged, admonished, and continually reminded that those characteristics which are inculcated in the Masonic Degrees, and which distinguish us as Masons should be evident in every aspect, every station, and every dealing of our lives. Effectively we are taught that we should never mask who we truly are, but should let our nature show before the world.

The question that this brings up to me is, how many of us wear our Masonry as a mask? Self reflection and true personal improvement and change are hard things, it is much easier to put on a mask when we are around those who we wish to see us one way, and take it off when we leave.

As W:Bro. Shahla reminded me the other day, there is no better advertisement for Masonry than good, true Masons and the work they do in their communities and the way they interact with the world, and there is no worse advertisement for Masonry than a man who acts contrary to those beliefs we profess in his interactions with the world.

When you are out in the world, give some thought to the image the world sees, remove the mask and stand before the world as a Mason in both Name and Nature, or as one of our lectures calls that class of man, one of God's Nobles.

I hope to see you all at a meeting soon, until then I remain,

Fraternally yours,

Jeff Maynor, DGL  
Senior Warden