

Trestleboard

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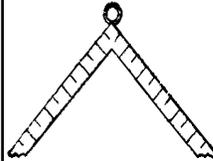
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Please remember our website location

<http://planomasoniclodge.org>



From the East



Brethren,

For those of you unable to

attend the George Washington Birthday dinner, you missed a fabulous meal. Our Stewards and Chef Al Drew outdid themselves. Seems like they make a habit of this. And Jim Miller (father of our Senior Steward JJ Miller) put on a very educational presentation on George Washington and the times surrounding the founding of our country. Once again, a good time was had by all.

In the last issue of the Trestleboard, we included an article entitled The Masonic Funeral. In putting together the Trestleboard, part of the article was incorrectly cropped. We are including it again with the important last 2 lines included. Please read it again. I apologize for the error, (the editor apologizes too.)

March will be another full month. We are having a traditional family night on March 24th so we can award a Golden Trowel Award to JJ Miller for his contributions to Masonry. This will be a potluck starting

at 6:30 to eat and 7:30 for the presentation. Hope you all can make it to witness this important event in JJ's Masonic life.

The rest of the month will be full of degrees. We will be working every Thursday night, so come out, enjoy the fellowship, work in the degrees, or just watch.

This past month, we held an Entered Apprentice night and invited all of the area EA's. We kept it informal and had questions and answers for anything they wished to know. It was very well received and educational for both the EA's and all other Masons in attendance. We will try to do this again.

Hope to see all of you in lodge soon.

Fraternally,

Mike Heidenreich

The Great Light in Freemasonry

Early in his Masonic journey, the Freemason is introduced to the three Great Lights of Freemasonry, the Holy Bible, Square, and Compasses. By careful attention to the ceremonies and lectures, he finds the Holy Bible symbolizes God's will for man, the Square signifies morality and righteousness, and the Compasses represents spirituality.

The Square represents the moral law that dictates our relationships with others and guides our actions here on earth while the Compasses signifies our endless pursuit of spiritual understanding. Together, the Square and Compasses should constantly remind the Freemason of the balance required between the earthly and the spiritual nature of man. Together they also symbolize man's journey

through life to the eternal hereafter.

The Holy Bible, however, is the Great Light in Freemasonry and upon it rests the Square and Compasses in every lodge. As such, the Holy Bible represents the foundation of the work of Freemasonry. The Bible is opened when the lodge is opened; it is closed when the lodge is closed. No lodge can conduct its business without the Holy Bible open upon its Altar. Thus, it rules the lodge during its labors. More importantly, it is central to the work of the Freemason as he works to develop his moral and spiritual self according to the symbolism of the Square and Compasses.

The Holy Bible is the source of enlightenment that all Free-

masons should seek. Open upon the Altar, its rays of truth, faith, and hope radiate outward throughout the lodge room, symbolically representing the will of God pouring forth upon the world. The spirit of the Bible, its faith and its attitude toward life and man's relationship to God permeates Freemasonry like a sweet fragrance.

Faith in God is the cornerstone of Freemasonry so it is only natural that the book, which presents to us the truth of God, should be our rule and guide to our faith and practice. The Temple of King Solomon, about which much of the history, legends and symbolism of Freemasonry are developed, was the greatest building of the ancient world. It was the greatest, not because of its grandeur, but for the truths that it represented. In the face of idolatry and superstitions, it represented the unity, righteousness and spirituality of God. Upon no other foundation can man build his moral and spiritual edifice with any sense of security and permanence in preparation for the hereafter. Within the Holy Bible, the unity, righteousness and spirituality of God is revealed and within its pages moral truth is stored to light the mind and warm the heart of man.

Like most other things in Freemasonry, the Holy Bible is itself a symbol of Divine Truth in every form. When viewed as a symbol, it represents that divine truth or knowledge from whatever source derived. Freemasonry invites men of all faiths to its teachings, requiring only a belief in a Supreme Being, knowing that we all pray to the God and Father of the Universe

Calendar of Events for February

Plano Lodge Events

March 4 – Stated Meeting

March 11 – EA degree

March 18 – Masters Degree

March 24 - Family Night
(Golden Trowel Award) dinner at 6:30 PM.

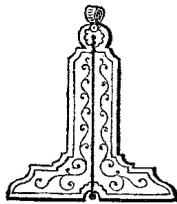
March 25 – Degree

April 1 – Stated meeting

Special Events

- Scottish Rite Valley of Dallas stated meeting March 8th, day one Spring reunion March 20th.
- Hella Shrine stated meeting March 18th
- Plano Assembly Rainbow #320, March 9th & 23rd
- Plano Chapter #702 Order Of Eastern Star March 15th
- Plano Shrine Club meeting March 30, 6:30 Los Rios CC

Senior Warden's Column



February has been a good month with good things happening. The meeting we held for information and question and answers from all masons from EA's to Master masons was well received and very informative to all. I hope to continue this format occasionally in the coming year.

The George Washington celebration was well attended and enjoyed by somewhere near 200 people. As usual the kitchen staff did a remarkable job. Thanks to Al Drew, David Starr, J. J. Miller, Scott Shaeffer, Bert Freeman and any others I may have overlooked. We

were served by the Rainbow Girls and their adult leaders, for which we are grateful, good job!! The program on the history of George Washington by J.J. Miller's father was also very informative.

March looks like another busy month for us with stated meeting on March 4th, degree work and a Family night with a Golden Trowel presentation. Check the calendar for the exact dates. I look forward to seeing everybody at these important meetings.

If you know someone who has a interest in becoming a Mason, bring them up on any Thursday night for supper and let's get to know them and get them started on the road to light thru Masonry.

THE MASONIC FUNERAL

A new Worshipful Master in a small Georgia town spent the first four days making personal visits to each of the members, inviting them to come to his first Lodge meeting.

The following Thursday the Lodge was all but empty. Accordingly, the Worshipful Master placed a notice in the local newspapers, stating that because the Lodge was dead, it was everyone's duty to give it a decent Masonic burial. The funeral would be held the following Monday afternoon, the notice said. Morbidly curious, a large crowd turned out for the "funeral". In front of the Altar, they saw a closed coffin, smothered in flowers. After the Chaplain delivered the eulogy, he opened the coffin and invited his Brethren to come forward and pay their final respects to their dead Lodge.

Filled with curiosity as to what would represent the corpse of a "dead Lodge", all the Brethren eagerly lined up to look on the coffin. Each "mourner" peeped on the coffin then quickly turned away with a guilty sheepish look.

In the coffin, tilted at the correct angle, was a large mirror. Remember the obligation we all took my brethren to attend and support your Lodge!!

Author Unknown



Family Night and Golden Trowel

The Plano Lodge will hold a family night March 24. Dinner to be served at 6:30 PM with the program starting at 7:30 PM. Please bring a covered dish to share. The food is always great.

The family night program will feature a Golden Trowel Award to be given to J. J. Miller honoring his service to the Plano Lodge and Texas Masons.

Kester "Sez"

See Larry Kester for Name badges. A Blue Lodge AND a Scottish Rite emblem costs \$15.00

The Scottish Rite Spring reunion begins with day one on Mar. 30., day two Apr. 3 and day three on Apr. 24. See Kester for an application or any Scottish Rite member

A reminder to all Blue Lodge Masons. To become a Shriner "It is no longer necessary to be a 32nd degree Mason or a Knight Templar to become a Shriner!" If you desire to become a Shriner, see any Shriner or, Larry Kester, for an application.

A reminder to all Shriners: There is a fine and active Shrine Club here in Plano. Meetings are the last Tuesday of every month at the Los Rios County Club. Start time is: Social Hour at 6:30 PM and meeting at 7:00 PM. The cost is \$17.00 per person, for dinner and entertainment. Dues are \$25.00 per year. Bring your wife or significant other for a wonderful night out.

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*"The Great Light In Freemasonry"
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regardless of the actual name one uses to address Him. Thus, the Bible is often referred to as the Volume of Sacred Law, allowing men of differing faiths to use the Sacred Writings of their faith as the Volume of Sacred Law.

What does this mean to the Freemason? The fact that the Holy Bible or some other Volume of Sacred Law rests open upon the Altar of Freemasonry means the Freemason must have some Divine Revelation. The Freemason must seek truth and wisdom from a source greater than that from human minds. Freemasonry makes no attempt at a detailed interpretation of the Bible. The Volume of Sacred Law lies

upon the Altar open for all to read, open for all to study and interpret for himself. The tie that unites Freemasonry is strong, but it provides for the utmost liberty of faith and thought. It unites men not by creed or dogma, but upon the broad truth of a belief and faith in God, the Supreme Grand Architect of the Universe. Freemasonry is truly a Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God.

The Freemason should not only respect and honor the Volume of Sacred Law as the revelation of God's divine will for mankind, the Great Light of Freemasonry, he should read it, live it, and love it. The truths contained within its pages should be stored within his heart and guide his use of the Square and Compasses in building his moral and spiritual edi-

fice. The Holy Bible, if it fills man's heart, makes him gentle and strong, faithful and free. It teaches him goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness and brotherly love. It tells us that we will be restless and lonely until we learn to walk with God.

As Freemasons, our moral and spiritual foundation must be built upon the Great Light. It is fitting to close our discussion with words from the prophet Micah. "[God] has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8)