



PUBLISHED MONTHLY

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## WHY WE TEACH THE WORK

Why do we require candidates to learn the esoteric work? Is it to haze our new Masons or to yoke our members with an additional Masonic burden? Sometimes it may feel this way, but in truth, it has a higher purpose. Teaching the work is what distinguishes Masonry from all other civic groups. It is the starting point used to forge the strong bonds of Masonic friendship, and it is the common bond that unites all Masons. Cutting corners while teaching the work only weakens Masonry in the long-term because it weakens the foundation of our friendships.

Teaching the work is no easy task. It requires 35-60 hours of studying to complete all three degrees. However, during that time you really get to know the candidate and he really gets a chance to know you. By the time you complete the Master's work, you will very likely have a very good friend due to this shared experience. Being an instructor is your chance to communicate what Masonry means to you, to reflect upon what the lessons of the esoteric work are trying to teach, and then determine how to communicate that to our new brother.

Commit to taking the time to learn the questions and answers and promise yourself to teach a new Mason. For your efforts, you will be richly rewarded with a new friend and you will also be contributing to the long-term success of our beloved fraternity by building a stronger foundation for our brotherhood.

**JJ Miller**

Worshipful Master

**For the latest on Lodge news and events and to download an electronic copy of the Trestleboard, go to:**

<http://www.planomasoniclodge.org/>



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### PLANO LODGE CALENDAR OF EVENTS & DINNER MENU

<b>July 3</b>	<b>Stated Meeting (MM Degree)</b> <i>Dinner 5:30 P.M. / Meeting 7:00 P.M.</i>	Lagniappe
<b>July 10</b>	<b>FC Degree</b> <i>Dinner 6:00 P.M. / Degree 7:00 P.M.</i>	Meat Loaf
<b>July 17</b>	<b>MM Degree</b> <i>Dinner 6:00 P.M. / Degree 7:00 P.M.</i>	Spanish Rice
<b>July 24</b>	<b>MM Degree</b> <i>Dinner 6:00 P.M. / Degree 7:00 P.M.</i>	Spaghetti & Meatballs
<b>July 26 (SAT)</b>	<b>Outdoor MM Degree (See Page 2)</b> <i>Gates Open 8:00 A.M. / Degree 9:00 A.M.</i>	BBQ
<b>July 31</b>	<b>TBD</b> <i>Dinner 6:00 P.M. / Meeting 7:00 P.M.</i>	Smothered Pork Chops

## WHY CORN, WINE AND OIL?

In ancient times, corn, wine and oil were a form of payment for services. Bushels of corn, cruses of oil and skins of wine were to them as are dollars and cents today. Thus, our ancient brethren received wages in corn, wine and oil as payments in the coin of the realm.

Today we consider corn to be that of the plant corn or maize, but in ancient times, it referred to any "grain." The principal grains of the Old Testament days were barley and wheat, and "corn" represents not only both of these, but all the grains, which the Jews cultivated

Wine was highly esteemed both as wealth and as comfort. Vineyards were well tended and protected against washing by terraces and walls. Thorn hedges kept cattle from helping themselves to the grapes. Undoubtedly, most of the early wines were red, but later the white grapes came into prominence. "New wine" was drunk by all, this being the unfermented type. Fermented wine was made by storing the juice in skins or bottles.

Then there is oil, which was pressed from the olive was more important than butter and other fats. Thus the olive oil became an integral part of the sacrificial rites. It was offered before the altar as something of high value. It was used not only as a food but also for lighting purposes. As we hear in one of our ceremonies "It is like the precious ointment upon the head", it being no doubt olive oil.

In closing, if I am asked for wages during this Masonic year I will provide the following: A loaf of bread, grape juice and a bottle of olive oil. This is intended to stimulate thinking and a deeper understanding of our beautiful Masonic work.

Your Senior Warden,

**Scott Shaeffer**

## WEEKLY CERTIFICATE PRACTICES

We are meeting every Monday evening at 6:30 P.M. in the Museum and Library downstairs for certificate practices. All those wanting to learn the work and those studying for the exam are welcome. The certificate exam will take place on Monday, September 8th at 6:00 P.M. Our Worshipful Master is strongly encouraging members to pursue a certificate this year, and if this is your first time, these practices are the best place to start. As a reminder, here are the requirements for each class:

**"C" Certificate** – Questions and answers from all three Degrees, the Tiler's Oath, and how to open, close, and call to and from labor all three Lodges and the Master Mason's Lodge of Sorrow

**"B" Certificate** – All requirements for "C" certificate and the floor work for all three Degrees

**"A" Certificate** - All requirements for "B" certificate and the short-form lectures for all three Degrees

## ST. JOHN'S DAY

Ended now the Mason's labors,  
Past the travel and the toil;  
Gather in, ye loving neighbors,  
Share the Corn, the Wine, the Oil;  
Brethren now, of each degree,  
Come in harmony and glee;  
Happy meeting,  
Gently greeting, -  
'Tis the joy of Masonry.

Love unites us with its cement;  
Truth inspires the Mason's breast  
Ever faithful, ever clement, -  
Thus our doctrines we attest.  
Thus we come of each degree,  
Come in harmony and glee;  
Happy meeting,  
Gently greeting, -  
'Tis the joy of Masonry.

- Rob Morris

## OUTDOOR MM DEGREE

You are invited to the 9th District MWSA's 3rd Annual Outdoor Degree on Saturday, July 26, 2008. Gates will open at 8AM, and the Collin County Young Masons will begin the degree promptly at 9AM.

The degree will be held in the shade of some old growth trees situated near a creek that runs between two rolling hills on Bro. Jim Murray's farm. The site is protected from the sun until high noon when you will be finishing up a fine Bar-B-Q lunch before it gets too warm. The farm is located 1.3 miles south of the intersection of Hwy 78 and 380 in Farmersville on the east side of the highway (just north of a tall cell phone tower). We will have a sign posted at the turnoff.

Lunch is \$5 and tickets will be sold at the sign-in station. Come have a wonderful morning of friendship and fellowship on a relaxing summer, Saturday morning.

## MASONIC TREASURE HUNT

Each month during this Masonic year, the Trestleboard will contain a question based upon information contained in the Monitor of the Lodge for the Grand Lodge of Texas. For those of you who still have the copy you received at your initiation, it should be easy to find the answer, although the questions will become increasingly difficult over time. Collect all of your answers throughout the year, and the final puzzle in June will provide the last clue, which will require your answers from all of the previous questions for its solution. All correct answers to this final puzzle that are submitted to [trestleboard@planomasoniclodge.org](mailto:trestleboard@planomasoniclodge.org) on or before Wednesday, June 24, 2009 will be entered into a drawing for a \$100 gift certificate to the local restaurant called Love and War in Texas. Do not send in your individual monthly answers. Only correct answers to the final puzzle will be accepted. Good luck! (There will be no other hints provided, so don't ask.)

### Question for July 2008:

What object, left by a mourner at the graveside of a young child, containing toys, covered with a tile, and resting upon acanthus was said to have inspired Callimachus in his invention of the Corinthian order of architecture?

## MASONIC QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

**What is the meaning of the unusual references in Ecclesiastes 12, like the almond tree and the strong men?**

Every Master Mason in the State of Texas has heard this chapter from Ecclesiastes at least once in Lodge. It begins with a charge to remember our Creator and our own mortality in our youth, when we can still make choices that affect our entire adult life, before the challenges of old age force us to face our ultimate end. This is followed by several curious passages that are often interpreted as symbols for the decline or failure of various aspects of the human body as it ages.

The trembling "keepers" are our failing arms, and the "strong men" refer to our

legs, weakened from years of toil. The "grinders" are our teeth, fewer in number, as some have fallen out. The darkened "windows" represent our poor vision, and the shutting doors allude to our failing senses. The "grinding" (our speech) becomes soft, and we begin to wake up very early in the morning, as the "birds" start to sing, though we are deaf to other "music". We fear falling and heights, and we become aware of our own limitations. The white "almond" blossoms represent our graying hair. Our strength fails, and we cannot lift even a "grasshopper". Our desire wanes.

Later symbols are used to illustrate the realities of death. The "silver cord" is loosened as the spirit leaves its mortal body. The "golden bowl" is our skull, and the "pitcher" is our heart, no longer able to pump blood or maintain the circulation like a broken water "wheel".

Thanks to all of our members and their families who are submitting questions about Masonic history, philosophy, and symbolism that need an answer. If you have a question that you would like to submit, please send an E-mail to [trestleboard@planomasoniclodge.org](mailto:trestleboard@planomasoniclodge.org).

### ADOPT A CHAIR PROGRAM

**ONLY 18 CHAIRS LEFT!!!**

Remember a loved one forever, and help grow the Plano Lodge Building Fund.

Chairs are \$100.00 each and new name tags are available at a special price of \$10.00 each.

Contact Larry Kester for more information.

[lhkester@verizon.net](mailto:lhkester@verizon.net)

## DISTRICT 9 STATED MEETINGS

First Monday	Blue Ridge - 7:30 P.M.
First Tuesday	East Fork - 7:30 P.M.
	Lebanon - 7:00 P.M.
	St. John's - 7:30 P.M.
First Thursday	Plano - 7:00 P.M.
Second Monday	Celina - 7:30 P.M.
Second Tuesday	Allen - 7:30 P.M.
Second Thursday	Empire - 7:30 P.M.
	Lee - 7:30 P.M.
	Melissa - 7:30 P.M.
Third Tuesday	Farmersville - 7:30 P.M.
Fourth Tuesday	Princeton - 7:30 P.M.



### PLANO ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR #703

July 21 - Stated Meeting - 7:30 P.M.

*Brethren, as a Mason, you, your wife, your daughters or any other female relative at least 18 years of age is eligible for membership in the Order of the Eastern Star.*



### PLANO RAINBOW ASSEMBLY #320

July 1 - Advisory Board Meeting - 7:30 P.M.

July 8 - Stated Meeting - 7:30 P.M.

July 15 - Lodge Clean-Up

July 22 - Rainbow Initiation Meeting - 7:30 P.M.

If your daughter is involved in Rainbow, please help with lodge clean up!

*Brethren, your daughters and granddaughters aged 11 to 20 should be a part of the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls.*

### APPENDANT BODIES

July 21 - Scottish Rite (Dallas) Stated Meeting - Dinner 6:30 P.M. / Meeting 7:00 P.M.

July 22 - Haggai (McKinney) Chapter / Council Meeting - 7:30 P.M.

July 26 - Scottish Rite (Dallas) Summer One-Day Reunion - 6:00 A.M.

July 28 - MWSA Meeting (Plano Lodge #768) - Dinner 6:30 P.M. / Meeting 7:30 P.M.

July 29 - Plano Shrine Club Dinner

**Be sure to check out the Member Forum on the Plano Lodge Website. To sign up, go to:**

<http://www.planomasoniclodge.org/forum/>



Plano Masonic Lodge #768

P. O. Box 860282

Plano, TX 75086

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PLANO, TEXAS



## STOCK THE STORE CAMPAIGN

Brother Clay Smith is continuing the “Stock the Store” campaign, which provides the “Country Store” where the residents of the Texas Masonic Retirement Center can pick up personal items - for free. **This is where YOU can help!** When you buy these types of products for yourselves, please buy one or two extra and bring them to the lodge. There is a large box at the top of the stairs to drop the items as you come in.

Here is a list of items they will always need:

Kleenex, Cough Drops, Sugar Free Cough Drops, Talcum and Medicated Talcum, Lectric Pre-shave, Williams Pre-shave, knee-high stockings (beige or nude), Aloe Vera and Cocoa Butter creams, Oil of Olay, Cleansing cream, Ponds Cold Cream, Moisturizing Cream (day and night creams), Toner and Astringent, Liquid make up (light color), eye pencils, eyeshadow, blush, lipstick, Compacts, loose face powder (light), Chapstick, Cologne: men’s and women’s, Softsoap, Toothpaste: Colgate, Crest and Sensodyne, Toothbrushes, Individually wrapped snacks and candy (mini candy bars), Trident Gum and regular gum, Sleep caps, Flushable moist wipes, Room deodorizers, aerosol and solid, New and used VHS and DVD movies, Spray Starch, Hair Spray, V05 Hair Styling products.

## FREEMASONRY AND THE INTERNET

**Plano Lodge**

[www.planomasoniclodge.org](http://www.planomasoniclodge.org)

**Plano Lodge Member Forum**

[www.planomasoniclodge.org/forum](http://www.planomasoniclodge.org/forum)

**Texas Young Masons**

[www.texasyoungmasons.org](http://www.texasyoungmasons.org)

**MWSA - District 9**

[www.9thmws.ntxmason.org](http://www.9thmws.ntxmason.org)

**Grand Lodge of Texas**

[www.grandlodgeoftexas.org](http://www.grandlodgeoftexas.org)

**North Texas Masonic Historical  
Museum & Library**

[www.northtexashistory.org](http://www.northtexashistory.org)

**Featured Website for July:**

[www.thesanctumsanctorum.com](http://www.thesanctumsanctorum.com)