



# TRESTLEBOARD

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

### Senior Officers

Worshipful Master	Scott Shaeffer	214-384-0317
Senior Warden	Adam DeMasellis	214-244-7830
Junior Warden	Clay Smith	469-853-3765
Treasurer	Barry Parrish	214-876-6819
Secretary	Harry F. Powell II	972-742-7433

### Junior Officers

Senior Deacon	Kevin Main	214-796-9054
Junior Deacon	Bill Goodell	214-288-1838
Senior Steward	Brian Chaput	469-831-3993
Junior Steward	David Carter	469-939-2487
Marshal	Guy Haskell	469-667-1272
Chaplain	Bob Pannell	972-596-4416
Master of Ceremonies	Jim Harbor	
Tiler	James Drennan	

## FROM THE EAST

Brethren of Plano Lodge,

This month my message is aimed at those Masons or families of Masons that are retired or considering retirement over the coming years.

Several members of your leadership team and members recently visited the Grand Masters Conference @ the Dallas Scottish Rite Temple. Grand Master Orville O'Neill's presentation was about the Texas Masonic Retirement Center (TMRC) and cleared up several misconceptions. The TMRC is near and dear to Grand Master O'Neill's heart.

If you read no further about the TMRC, write down this website ([www.texas-masonicretirementcenter.org](http://www.texas-masonicretirementcenter.org)) and email ([information@txmrc.org](mailto:information@txmrc.org)).

Benefits of the TMRC:

- New addition scheduled to open July 2010.
- 100 acre property that is well maintained.
- Medical care – Skilled nursing care on a 24- hour basis.
- Housekeeping – Provided for each living and public area.
- Common areas – Daily use of the dining room, lounges, auditorium, social & recreational rooms, etc.
- Meals – Three (3) meals a day, served cafeteria style.

(Continued on Page 2)

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

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



### PLANO LODGE CALENDAR OF EVENTS & DINNER MENU

February 4	<b>Stated Meeting Family Night</b> <b>DDGM Official Visit</b> <i>Dinner 5:30 P.M. / Meeting 7:00 P.M.</i>	TBD
February 11	<b>EA Degree</b> <i>Dinner 6:00 P.M. / Meeting 7:00 P.M.</i>	15 Bean Soup
February 18	<b>Fellowcraft Degree</b> <i>Breakfast 8:00 A.M. / Degree 9:00 A.M.</i>	Steward's Trestleboard
February 20	<b>Goerge Washington Dinner</b> <i>Dinner 6:00 P.M. Plano East High School</i>	
February 25	<b>Degree TBD</b> <i>Dinner 6:00 P.M. / Meeting 7:00 P.M.</i>	BBQ
March 4	<b>Stated Meeting Family Night</b> <i>Dinner 5:30 P.M. / Meeting 7:00 P.M.</i>	Baked Ziti

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## FROM THE EAST

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- Utilities, Service, Maintenance & Repairs – All utilities are provided (except telephone); all repairs and maintenance for each unit.
- Activities – A wide range of regularly scheduled activities, overseen by an activity coordinator.  
Recent Activities: Santa arrives by helicopter, State Fair Trip, Fishing @ Joe Pool Lake.
- Transportation – Regularly scheduled transportation (handicap accessible) for doctor appointments, shopping, entertainment, etc.

Common misconceptions:

- o You must surrender all of your assets to the TMRC for admission. There is also a pay as you go plan.
- o It's only available to Masons. Wives, widows, mothers, never married sisters or never married daughters are also welcome.

If you are interested in more information, please contact me either by email, phone or mail a letter to the lodge. Either me or one of your officers will send out a packet explaining the Texas Masonic Retirement Center. You can also contact the TMRC directly:

Texas Masonic Retirement Center  
1501 West Division  
Arlington, TX 76012  
817-275-2893

Your Worshipful Master,  
Scott Shaeffer  
214-384-0317  
master@planomasoniclodge.org

**Texas Public Schools Week is coming up March 4 - 11.**

**All Masons of Texas are asked to participate because of our close ties to Texas Public Education!**

**Bookmarks and other items have been ordered by Plano Lodge!**

**We will be distributing these items to area schools.**

**If you want to participate, please contact me!**

**Scott Shaeffer**  
**214-384-0317**  
**master@planomasoniclodge.org**

## COMMITTEE OPPORTUNITIES

Brethren,

I have often heard the question “how can I help in the Lodge”. I have the answer as we move toward the new Masonic year. There are several committees that will be finalized over the next few weeks, and I would like the membership to fill some of these positions. If you are interested, please contact me to offer your time. Everyone has a skill set or knowledge base that can contribute to the success of a committee. I need your help in filling these positions.

Committee opportunities available in a support capacity:

- **Widows:** Ensure communication between Lodge and Widows
- **Lodge communication:** Ensure website is updated, communicate with Lodge members
- **Museum & Library liason:** Keep the Lodge updated on M&L happenings
- **Prospect committee:** Communicate with new non-mason visitors to the Lodge
- **By-Laws committee:** Update our By-Laws & roster during 2009

I look forward to hearing from you on filling these positions. Together the Lodge will grow and prosper.

Your Worshipful Master,  
Scott Shaeffer  
214-384-0317  
scott\_wrs@verizon.net

Bring your family, Bring your friends

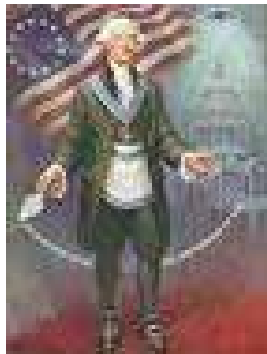
Plano Lodge Annual George Washington Dinner is upon us!

Date: February 20, 2010

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location; PESH (Plano East High School)

Dinner & FUN! Come join in!



ARK OF THE COVENANT

by William R. Fischer

The Ark of the Covenant was a chest originally constructed by Moses at God's com-

mand. It held the two tables of stone on which were engraved the ten commandments. It also contained a golden pot filled with manna, Aaron's rod and the tables of the covenant. The Ark was placed in the Sanctum Sanctorum or Holy of Hollies of King Solomon's Temple. The Ark and all it contained was lost when the Chaldeans from Babylon destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple.

The Ark was three feet nine inches long, two feet three inches wide, and two feet three inches deep. The ark was made of shittim wood overlaid with pure gold inside and out. On either side was placed two rings of gold for carrying. On the sides were two cherubim with out stretched wings covering the Ark. Over it rested a

**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.

**lhkester1@verizon.net**

**DISTRICT 9  
STATED MEETINGS**

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	Blue Ridge - 7:30 P.M. Celina - 7:00 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**

February 15 - 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**

February 2 - Advisory Board Meeting - 7:30 P.M.  
February 9 - Stated Meeting - 7:30 P.M.  
February 16 - Lodge Cleanup - 7:30 P.M.  
February 23 - 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**

February 15 - Scottish Rite (Dallas) Stated Meeting - Dinner 6:30 P.M. / Meeting 7:00 P.M.

February 23 - Plano Shrine Club Dinner

February 9 - McKinney Commandery #34 - Meeting 7:30 P.M.

February 23 - Haggai Chapter and Council - Meeting 7:30 P.M.

mist which was the Divine Presence and the voice of God.

The Ark is said to be a conduit for the purpose of talking to God. King Solomon would sit on the ark and talk to the Divine Presence. He would receive guidance and insight through his conversations.

When the first temple was destroyed the Ark was lost. The temple was rebuilt and a new Ark constructed, but the mist did not appear in the second temple.

Rumors still persist about what happened to the Ark, but no one has discovered it, if it still exists. Again in the 1990's a new rumor has started that the Ark still exists and is being protected and watched over but no one has seen it.

Cherubim - A creature of gold facing each other on the Ark. Head and breast of a man, wings of an eagle, and belly of a lion.

## ACACIA

by William R. Fischer

The Acacia tree is found in the area known as Palestine during ancient times, today it is found all over Africa. Acacia looks like the mulberry tree, can grow to well over one hundred feet high and is a hard wood. The gum obtained from it is known as Arabic.

Acacia is a sacred Hebrew wood known in the scripture as "Shittah." The ark of the covenant was made from it.

Acacia is part of our initiation as Master Masons and represents the immortality of the soul, as the soul lives on after our bodies have been put to rest.

Acacia can be a bush, tree, or a grove of trees. If you cut it down it grows back, if you burn it, it grows back. If you try to dig it up and leave one root it will grow back.

Acacia can live through floods, droughts, and bad soil conditions. There is little doubt to the reason Acacia is our symbol of immortality.



## 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, eye shadow, blush, lipstick, Compacts, loose face powder (light), Chapstick, Cologne: men's and women's, Soft soap, 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 February

<http://www.the-relevant-mason.com>