

WORSHIPFUL MASTER
WM. LEE RANDSALL, PM

SENIOR WARDEN
MATT ALEXANDER

JUNIOR WARDEN
NEIL MACKEY

TREASURER
JOHN PINCKNEY, PM

SECRETARY
TERRY GRIFFITH

SENIOR DEACON
STEVE KARPSTIEN, PM

JUNIOR DEACON
SCOTT BRASHER

SENIOR STEWARD
TRACE HARRIS

JUNIOR STEWARD
DENVER LEE

CHAPLAIN
DAVE JOHNSON, PM

TYLER
SEAN CALLAHAN

MARSHAL
BRIAN CANADY, PM

HISTORIAN
DALE CLAYPOOL

FACILITIES MANAGER
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**TRESTLEBOARD /
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From the East

Welcome to February... Another busy month in front of us. It starts off with an EA degree on Saturday the 4th at 10:00 AM. Please attend and show support for our newest Mason. Don't forget, our Stated Meeting is on the 9th with a great meal beforehand.

We continue to do battle with the remnants of this winter's early and heavy snow. The leaking in the apartment seems to be under control. At this point we are waiting for the restoration company to catch up with their many disaster projects. We are hoping for the apartment to be available March 1st. Several other building issues exist. Resolutions have been determined, insurance money has been received, and as soon as the weather cooperates these will be resolved. Our new windows are here and are likewise waiting for installation scheduling and the weather.

If you know of any Brothers who have spoken about coming back to lodge be sure to contact them and encourage them to attend. Several older Brothers mentioned that they were uncomfortable because they couldn't remember how to do certain things. I have assured them that we would be happy to bring them up to speed and that they shouldn't be worried. We all seem to experience the same thing from time to time...

OUR FIRST PRESIDENT

On Saturday evening, August 4, 1753, in the village of Fredericksburg, Virginia, George Washington, as a major in the Continental Army, was raised to the Third Degree, a Master Mason. He had joined the ranks of such illustrious men as Ben Franklin, Alexander Hamilton and Paul Revere.

36 years later, on April 30, 1789, George was inaugurated as the first President of the United States with John Adams as Vice-President.

The oath that George took was administered by the Grand Master of the Masonic Grand Lodge of New York. Both the Marshal of the day and his escort were generals in the United States Army and Masons. The Bible on which he swore his oath was that of St John's Lodge of

New York. George, himself, was Master of the Lodge at Alexandria, Virginia.

On September 18, 1793, the cornerstone of the Capitol was officially laid. The Grand Lodge of Maryland presided over the ceremony and George was asked to serve as Master. The affiliated Lodges under Maryland's jurisdiction were in attendance, as was his own Lodge from Alexandria. There was a great procession, which included a company of artillery. Then came a band, followed by himself, attended by all officers and members of the Lodges in full Masonic regalia.

When George reached the trench in which the northeast cornerstone was laid, he was presented with a silver plate commemorating the event and inscribed with the designations of the Lodges in attendance. The artillery fired a volley. He then descended into the trench and placed the plate on the stone.

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BEND LODGE WELCOMES NEWEST ENTERED APPRENTICE!

On Saturday, February 4th, with the help of our Redmond Lodge brothers, Eugene David Fleming Martin III was initiated as an Entered Apprentice in Bend Lodge.

Steven Moyer of Redmond Lodge acted as the Installing Master. Redmond Senior Warden Gary Bailey, PM provided the lecture, and District Deputy RWB John Ferguson gave the charge.

Brother Martin, 18 is just finishing high school He has "pre-enlisted" in the Oregon National Guard and will deploy to his first duty station mid-summer of 2017.

WELCOME BROTHER MARTIN!

VALENTINE'S DAY HISTORY

Roman Roots

The history of Valentine's Day is obscure, and further clouded by various fanciful legends. The holiday's roots are in the ancient Roman festival of *Lupercalia*, a fertility celebration commemorated annually on February 15. *Pope Gelasius I* recast this pagan festival as a Christian feast day circa 496, declaring February 14 to be St. Valentine's Day.

Valentines Galore

Which St. Valentine this early pope intended to honor remains a mystery: according to the *Catholic Encyclopedia*, there were at least three early Christian saints by that name. One was a priest in Rome, another a bishop in Terni, and of a third St. Valentine almost nothing is known except that he met his end in Africa. Rather astonishingly, all three Valentines were said to have been martyred on Feb. 14.



Most scholars believe that the St. Valentine of the holiday was a priest who attracted the disfavor of Roman emperor *Claudius II* around 270. At this stage, the factual ends and the mythic begins. According to one legend, Claudius II had prohibited marriage for young men, claiming that bachelors made better soldiers. Valentine continued to secretly perform marriage ceremonies but was eventually apprehended by the Romans and put to death. Another legend has it that Valentine, imprisoned by Claudius, fell in love with the daughter of his jailer. Before he was executed, he allegedly sent her a letter signed "from your Valentine." Probably the most plausible story surrounding St. Valentine is one not focused on *Eros* (passionate love) but on *agape* (Christian love): he was martyred for refusing to renounce his religion.

In 1969, the Catholic Church revised its liturgical calendar, removing the feast days of saints whose historical origins were questionable. St. Valentine was one of the casualties.

Chaucer's Love Birds

It was not until the 14th century that this Christian feast day became definitively associated with love. According to UCLA medieval scholar Henry Ansgar Kelly, author of *Chaucer and the Cult of Saint Valentine*, it was *Chaucer* who first linked St. Valentine's Day with romance.

In 1381, Chaucer composed a poem in honor of the engagement between England's *Richard II* and *Anne of Bohemia*. As was the poetic tradition, Chaucer associated the occasion with a feast day. In "The Parliament of Fowls," the royal engagement, the mating season of birds, and St. Valentine's Day are linked:

*For this was on St. Valentine's Day,
When every fowl cometh there to choose his mate.*

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Around it was placed containers of corn, wine and oil. All present joined in prayer, and the artillery fired another volley.

Six years and three months later, in December, 1799, George Washington died. He was buried at his home at Mount Vernon, with full Masonic honors, by the Alexandria Lodge, whose members were his pallbearers.

There is no question that Masonry contributed something to the structures and machinery of the American government. The Constitution of the United States, in a very real sense, is a Masonic document. In its final form, the Constitution represented the collective thoughts of Ben Franklin, Edmund Randolph, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams and George Washington. Of these, all but Jefferson were not only active Masons, but men who took their Freemasonry extremely seriously.

The New Republic, when it emerged with the Constitution, conformed to that ideal image, and that image reflected the ideals of Freemasonry... that the United States of America was, and is, the "Great Masonic Experiment!"

*Keith F. Walker, PM, et al
(Source: South Dakota Lodge of Research Bulletin,
March, 2003)*

I look forward to seeing you in lodge...

Fraternally,

Wm. Lee Ransdall
MASTER

From the West

Greetings from the West, brethren!

With the assistance of Redmond Lodge, we started off February with an excellent rendition of the Entered Apprentice degree!

I would like to thank everyone who came out to participate and enjoy from the sidelines!

The Blue Lodge training scheduled for February 25th in the Grand Master's calendar in the Oregon Masonic News has been changed to **March 18th!** If you haven't attended a Blue Lodge training, you should...they are VERY instructive! While the training is open to any brother, Lodge Officers are **ESPECIALLY** encouraged to attend.

If you have any questions, please contact local District Deputy RWB John Ferguson at DD19@masonic-oregon.biz. Pre-registration **IS** required, so if you'd like to attend, please contact RWB Ferguson ASAP. You can also visit www.masonic-oregon.com/blue-lodge-training for up-to-date information.

Brethren, don't forget that February 14th is Valentine's Day! Be sure to do something to make that day special for YOUR sweetheart!

Fraternally,

Matt Alexander
SENIOR WARDEN

From the South

Greeting, brothers!

I hope this finds everyone hale and hearty and surviving this rather... interesting... winter that we've had so far! A true test of one's patience...

Over the next few issues, I will be providing some information about each of the Lodge officers and their various responsibilities...a good primer and reminder for each of us to what those responsibilities are...and we might as well start with the Junior Warden!

His station is in the South, reached by one step and is representative of one once occupied by The Master Builder.

A sheaf of wheat is displayed over his station.

His jewel is the Plumb, which teaches Rectitude of Conduct.

The color of his station is Blue, denoting Beauty, Fidelity, Truth, Eternity and Friendship.

He carries the column of Corinthian.

His duties are second only to the W.M. in quantity:

- "Manager of entertainment", i.e., refreshment
- Counselor and advisor
- Supervisor of morals
- Admonisher to erring members
- Prosecutor during trials

He is to conduct personal investigations into all charges against a member. Should the charges prove factual, he is to prepare written charges for presentation to the Lodge, in a regular meeting.

Prior to presenting charges to the Lodge, the Worshipful Master should be consulted and informed of the severity, thereby allowing time for him to give private thought and consideration. Like any other Lodge business, these charges can only be read at the will and pleasure of the Master.

In the absence of the Master and the Senior Warden, the Junior Warden shall open the meeting. Unlike his two seniors, he can not open the Lodge from the East... he must do so from the South. Once the meeting is opened, it is his choice to preside, or call on a Past Master to do so.

At the start of his tenure he should have begun making himself familiar with his Lodge responsibilities and those of both the Senior Warden and Master.

He is a member of the Grand Lodge.

In addition to all those duties, at Bend Lodge, the Junior Warden is also tasked with overseeing the facilities and all its various working parts.

LOL...and here you thought your Junior Warden was JUST another handsome face! :-)

Remember...next Stated Meeting is **Thursday, February 9th**...dinner at 6pm, followed by the meeting!

Neil Mackey
JUNIOR WARDEN

WHY MEN LOVE FREEMASONRY

The New Brother sat near the Old Tiler in the anteroom, crossed his legs and took out his cigar case. "Have a smoke and unpuzzle me."

The Old Tiler accepted the proffered cigar with a smile. "I am often puzzled, too," he sympathized.

"Tell me." "I am crazy about Masonry. I love it. So do a lot of other men. And I don't know why. I can't find anyone who will tell me why. Old Tiler, why do men love Masonry?"

The Old Tiler got up and crossed the room to a book case, extracted a volume and returned. "I read that question in this little book, 'The Magic of Freemasonry,' by Arthur E. Powell. Let me read to you--"

The Old Tiler fluttered the pages. Finding his place he sat and began: "'Why do men love Masonry? What lure leads them to it? What spell holds them through the long years? What strand is it that tugs at our hearts, taut when so many threads are broken by the rough ways of the world? And what is it in the wild that calls to the little wild things? What sacred secret things do the mountains whisper to the hill man, so silently yet so surely that they can be heard above the din and clatter of the world? What mystery does the sea tell the sailor; the desert to the Arab; the arctic ice to the explorer; the stars to the astronomer? When we have answered these questions mayhap we may divine the magic of Masonry. Who knows what it is, or how or why, unless it be the long cabletow of God, running from heart to heart...'"

The Old Tiler closed the book and waited. "The cabletow of God," repeated the New Mason. "That's a beautiful phrase."

"It's more than a phrase, I think," the Old Tiler answered. "As I see it, the heart of Freemasonry by which all manner of men are attracted and held, is just that- the longing for communion with the Most High."

"Oh, you must be mistaken. Men who want God go to church."

"Do you go to church?"

"Er, oh, well, sometimes."

"Yet you never miss coming to lodge?"

"No, I don't, but--"

"Never mind the 'but.'" The Old Tiler smiled. "A lot of men come to the Lodge who do not find heart's ease in the church. The Lodge is not a substitute for church. Masonry is not a religion, although it has religion. If the church fails, occasionally, it is because all human institutions must fail at times. No minister or church can satisfy all men. Some men find communion with the Most High in Masonry a greater satisfaction than in a church. I think that is the real reason some men love Freemasonry so much."

"You give me credit with being a lot more religious than I do," retorted the New Mason.

"Men are incurably religious," asserted the Old Tiler.

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"Many don't know it and refuse to call it by that name, like you, for instance! In a church men are told various things about God.

In a Lodge they are allowed to tell themselves what they will. In a church you are taught a creed, a dogma. In a Lodge there is neither. In a church you are quiet and respectful and whisper if you speak at all. It is kept high, unspotted from the world. A Lodge is more intimate, personal. You can be jolly in a lodge, except during a degree. Here are just other men, brothers. They think as we do; they believe in the one God, as we do. They repeat the same words, think the same Masonic thoughts, do the same Masonic acts, as we do. We feel at home with them in consequence. "Through years of simple, profound degrees, we weave the Mystic Tie. We cannot say of what it is composed. We cannot put a name to it. St. Augustine, asked of God, answered, 'I know until you ask me- when you ask me, I do not know.' In your heart you know, and I know, what the Mystic tie is- what Freemasonry is. But you cannot say it, nor can I. It is too deep for words. It is the reason we use symbols, for words cannot express it.

"Deep in us is something which understands what our brains cannot think; something which knows what our minds cannot comprehend. Masonry speaks to that something in its own language. If we must put it into words, God is the only syllable which seems to fit. But when we say God we mean no special deity, but all that is beautiful in life, in friendship, in charity, in brotherhood. "So, my brother, there is no reason for you to be puzzled; no man can answer your puzzle. Freemasonry is loved by men because it strikes deep into the human heart, and supplies the answer to the question, the food for the hunger, which the tongue cannot express."

"Unless it is the tongue of a wise, wise Old Tiler," finished the New Brother thoughtfully. "And thank you, I am not puzzled now."

We have all noticed the dates on cornerstones Masons have laid. These are peculiar to Masons and vary vastly in different rites.

LETTERS	MEANING	RITE	YEAR
A. D.	After Death Year of our Lord	Vulgar Era	Present
A. L.	Anno Lucis Year of Light	Masonry Ancient Craft	+4000
A. M.	Anno Mundi Year of the World	Scotch Rite	+3760
A. I.	Anno Inventionis Year of the Discovery	Masonry Royal Arch	+530
A. Dep.	Anno Depositionis Year of the Deposit	Masters Royal and Slect	+1000
A. O.	Anno Ordinis Year of the Order	Knights Templers	+1118

