



Union Masonic Lodge #618, A.F.&A.M.

Volume 3, Issue 8

August 12, 2014

Happenings at the August stated

30 of us fellowshipped at this stated. We had seven visitors. 15% of our MM *regular* membership was present.

One of the three youths that we sponsored to Camp Rainbow this summer, visited with her family, and spoke about her experiences and the tremendous enjoyment that the opportunity afforded her.

Two EAs were examined on their catechism proficiencies, and their FC Degrees were later scheduled(8/25).

We will be contracting for the cleaning of our carpeting and upholstery in the building.

Celebration of our 100th anniversary is currently scheduled for March 28th. WB Bobby Burgess reported.

Brother Tommy Nash presented for Masonic Education, a talk on the history, charges, and documents in early Freemasonry.

Tickets are available for our Ladies Night Banquet on 10/18, \$12 per person. Entertainment, great food, and door prizes.

Upcoming events of interest

August 25th—FC Degree. Supper at 6:30, Degree work at 7:30. **Officer Practice** at 5:00pm on 8/24.

September 8th—Stated Communication. Supper at 6:30pm, meeting at 7:30pm.

Schools on 2nd and 4th Sundays. .

August 23rd—District 28 Quarry Degree

Charities Golf Tournament October 3rd

Ladies Night Banquet October 18th.

Masonic Education. Discretion and Secrets

Richard D. Marcus, George Washington 1776 Lodge, #337, F&AM, Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin

We live in a time that celebrates openness about one's deepest feelings and worst foibles. The media enthusiastically report infidelities of community leaders. Newscasters tell us the lurid details of the lives of Gary Condit or Robert Blake. Our society's habit of public confession can even become brutal. On TV, Jerry Springer encourages people to tell all and thereby jolt their friends and family into outrageous action. Bluntly stating what you know *regardless* of the damage done is oddly praised as candor and forthrightness. It is almost a part of the American character to "say what you mean and mean what you say," without artful diplomacy or courtesy.

Yet we, in Freemasonry, continue to practice the art of keeping secrets. We learn in our posting that we can tell everything about Freemasonry except the modes of recognition. The question we will investigate tonight is why do we continue to keep some things secret?

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August Birthdays (by age)

AGE / BIRTH DATE REPORT (sorted by age on birth date)

83 08/03/1931 ROMIE A. MORGAN
79 08/26/1935 J. B. SMITH
78 08/21/1936 LEWIS M. FLOYD
77 08/12/1937 HAROLD D. TUCKER
SR

75 08/29/1939 CHARLES K. DIXON
71 08/27/1943 BARNIE F. WHITLEY JR
66 08/06/1948 TOMMY D. MULLIS
64 08/05/1950 WILLIAM H. MOSS JR
63 08/05/1951 THOMAS O. EVANS
62 08/03/1952 RUSSELL W. HELMS
60 08/19/1954 RODNEY D. PHILLIPS

57 08/30/1957 ALEXANDER W.
BORGEMEISTER
56 08/01/1958 TERRY G. RIDDLE
55 08/18/1959 STEVEN L. BROOKS
48 08/18/1966 JEFFREY D. JONES
44 08/07/1970 DUANE D. BURRY

September Birthdays (by age)

AGE / BIRTH DATE REPORT (sorted by age on birth date)

92 09/22/1922 ARTHUR R. MOR-
GAN
88 09/04/1926 JAMES H. WEATH-
ERS SR
86 09/29/1928 JACOB V. NANCE

83 09/25/1931 MCCAMIE D. HILL
75 09/01/1939 DAVID O. MONTA-
GUE SR
72 09/14/1942 JULIAN W. PAGE
58 09/21/1956 JOHN B. BROOKS JR
54 09/11/1960 RONALD G. THOM-
AS

48 09/21/1966 DARREN R.
HARTSELL
45 09/01/1969 RYAN B. KNIGHT
42 09/05/1972 RODNEY B. SEHEN
36 09/26/1978 JASON R. RUSHING
24 09/28/1990 JEFFREY B. JONES

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Some have suggested that secrecy was needed because political and religious persecution has at times led to the death of Freemasons. Even so, the deliberately public announcement of the founding of the Grand Lodge in London in 1717 would seem to have ended the need for further secrecy. Nevertheless, we persevere in our attachment to secrecy.

Others have scoffed that secrecy is merely a sociological tool for holding a group together through a shared knowledge. Certainly specialized knowledge helps keep groups together: be it people who love to sing madrigals, those who reenact Civil War battles, or professional groups of engineers or architects. But secrecy is not essential to these groups.

The answer to why we continue to practice secrecy, it seems to me, is to achieve our goal of becoming better men in Masonry. Maintaining secrecy is a lifelong discipline. Practicing the discipline of secrecy makes us better at doing it.

We are likewise commended to keep of the secrets of a Brother, rather than gossip what we know to others. Lax discipline in secrecy within a Lodge is a source of disharmony. Perhaps a Masonic allegory can help illustrate the benefits of secrecy to our fraternity and our lives.

* * *

Adam Craftsman worked for several years in sales. His trips took him on long journeys to the North. Adam often returned dejected from these trips with more rejections than he'd want to tell anyone.

Pondering his life's path, he mentioned his dissatisfaction to his good friend Buddy Freeman. Buddy, a Master bricklayer, enjoyed his work out East.

"There is plenty of work for you as a bricklayer," Buddy said. Adam asked to join the other laborers. Adam worked hard, advancing to Journeyman and Master status under Buddy's expert guidance.

After a hard day's work, Buddy became more serious than usual. "I want you to keep this in strictest confidence," Buddy whispered. "It's been something I have wanted to share with you for some time. My son, Lewis, was actually adopted. My wife's family wants it kept a secret. Eleven years ago, my wife's teenage sister was pregnant. Since my wife and I were married, the whole family agreed that the baby would become ours to raise. But we are to keep it a secret."

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Adam felt privileged to share in Buddy's personal secret. Adam congratulated his friend on his fine parenting skills, as he knew how well Lewis was doing.

A few days later, Adam shared his knowledge to another bricklayer, who later confided in another. The story slowly spread, each time in strictest confidence, eventually finding its way to Buddy's distraught sister-in-law and to Lewis.

Buddy's family moved away. Adam's best friend was thereby lost through his violation of trust.

* * *

Adam's violation of his obligation reminds us of the enduring value of keeping secrets. We should reflect on our promise not to reveal the secrets of our worthy brothers, except in the case of treason or murder.

Keeping some parts of our craft secret is surprisingly difficult. In our public gatherings, for example, we may slip by giving the due-guard and sign when we know that we should not. Secrecy maintains harmony. When we can keep one simple secret, we grow in strength to keep larger secrets revealed inadvertently at work or in our community.

The modern German tradition in Freemasonry tends not to refer to the Fraternity as being secret (*Geheimnis*) but as being discreet (*Diskret*). Discretion conveys a sense of being tactful or silent, rather than a sense of hiding things from others. How can we feel free to communicate frankly and to grow in our development if everything we might say would be aired in public? Our emphasis on secrecy should be relabeled as practicing discretion.

Since practice helps to perfect our actions, let us all live up to our promises in our obligation. We should continue to practice secrecy and discretion, not only in the modes of recognition but also in the secrets of everyday life that are daily entrusted to us. We need not say everything we know. As we remain faithful in keeping secrets and showing discretion, we will achieve our goal of becoming better men in Freemasonry.

Presented: June 18, 2002

[The following was copied from <http://www.masonic-lodge-of-education.com/masonic-humor.html>]

Bob and Bill were brother masons and great friends for most of their lives.

Each had agreed that when one of them passed on to that Grand Lodge above, he would attempt to make contact with the other and tell him all about what heaven was like.

As so happened, Bill went to heaven, first.

One night Bob was just drifting off to sleep when he heard Bill's voice calling to him.

"Is that you, Bill?

"Yes, Bob. I am honoring our agreement."

"Oh, MY,... what's it like?" Bob asked with some anticipation.

"It's like nothing you could ever imagine. The lodge here is fantastic,... better than any lodge we ever saw on Earth. The meetings are always well attended, the ritual is letter perfect, the friendship nights always have tons of new people just itching to join, and the spirit of fellowship blankets the entire place."

Bob's eyes teared up.

"Oh, my, it's just like we'd hoped. I'm so happy for you. But I have to ask,... that sounds really great, but you didn't really seem all that excited. What's wrong?"

"Well, I have some good news and some bad. The good news is that we're raising a fellow to the third degree next Wednesday."

"That's fantastic. What's the bad news?"

"Your name is on the list to be the Senior Deacon."



OFFICERS—2014

First Row left to right: Senior Steward, John Robert Nash; Senior Deacon, Thomas Lathan Nash, Jr.; Junior Warden, Vincent Joseph D’Andrea; Master, Thomas Michael Little; Tyler, David Lee Warwick; Junior Deacon, David Gordon Nash. Second Row left to right: Junior Steward, Perry Lee Sams; Treasurer, Robert Lee Little; Secretary, Roger Darrell Long, PM; Senior Warden, Mitchell Allen Elliott; Chaplain, Douglas Eugene Martin, PM.

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MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER.

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Secretary of Union Lodge #618

Send any constructive criticisms or comments to

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Don't forget to pass the word around that our Fellowship Hall is available to rent. Provide any interested party the mobile phone number for WB Darrell Cline, who manages all of the reservations. (704) 791-9470

