



HIRAM'S JOURNAL

BY the WIDOW'S SONS' LODGE NO. 60, Charlottesville, VA

APRIL 2013

Next Stated Communication: April 15, 7 PM

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Greetings Brethren!

In my last address to you, I said it seemed spring was in the air. In light of all the recent snow and bad weather, it also seems that I am just about as accurate as a weatherman! – We had a

lively March Stated. Brother Bill Bond was presented with an apron and congratulated by Brother Bob Simpson on behalf of the Grand Lodge on becoming District Instructor of Work. He also received a Silver Card for his Masonic ritual proficiency. Brother Christopher Allen Ruffin returned his Master Mason's catechism. Brother Bill Bond, his coach, conducted the examination. Brother Ruffin did a fine job and was voted proficient by the lodge. Brother Gene Carpenter won the Master's hat drawing and received two fine Masonic books. He had promised to read them to us at the April stated! (Relax, he was only kidding.) After our meeting, we dined on a traditional St. Patrick's Day repast of corned beef and cabbage, soda bread and various desserts. The corned beef was the most succulent I have eaten in years. Kudos go to the stewards, Peter-John Leone, Simon Alexander and Chris Ruffin. They have really executed their duties well. I have received a number of comments remarking on the good food, harmony and convivial conversation at our post-meeting dinners. Please come to our stated meetings and enjoy the same! – Besides the Stated, we had a Master Mason's degree in March. Brother Joshua Aaron Stanton was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason. Please congratulate Brother Stanton, and take a

little time to get to know him. We had two new team members assist with the degree, Brother Ruffin and Brother Alexander. Thanks for stepping up, brothers! Brother Bill Bond put together the degree team, and Brother Graham Bond delivered the lecture. Good job men. – The April Stated is shaping up to be a good one. Brother Jim Dickerson, our District Education Officer, will provide us with some Masonic Education on prayer. Brother Dr. Samuel Caughron and Brother Steve Fetcho will provide us with some useful (but hopefully unneeded) training on the use of heart defibrillator devices. This training could literally make you a lifesaver. I am looking forward to learning. These two items address the spiritual and the physical well-being of Man. Please attend and improve yourself in Masonry. By the way, there will be some entertainment after the meeting, during our meal. I think you will enjoy it. – We also have some degree work coming up in April, a Fellow-Craft degree and an Entered Apprentice degree. Details will follow as the dates are firmed up. We also have a district event, lodge officer training coming up on April 4th, at 6:30pm at King Solomon's Lodge No. 194 in Crozet. This meeting is open to all who are Lodge officers and those who are interested in becoming officers. The event will be led by our District Education Officer, Brother Jim Dickerson. – Our April Stated will be held on the 15th, at 7:00pm. If any need assistance in order to attend, please reach out to me or another lodge member. We will make arrangements for you to attend. – I leave you with this thought: Have you purposely reached out to someone today in the spirit of Masonic faith, hope and charity? - Fraternally,

L. Thomas Hill, Jr., Worshipful Master

Should any brother need assistance, please contact the WM at tomhill302@comcast.net, telephone: 434-465-9388 or our Lodge Secretary, Mark Chapman at agw123@earthlink.net, telephone: 434-971-1332

QUOTE OF THE MONTH: Extracted from “The Purpose of Freemasonry, by Brother Ed Halaus, Southern California Research Lodge: In response to questions as to the substance of “a Freemason’s work”, a Master said:

“The purpose of Speculative Masonry is not to get more men into Masonry but rather to get more Masonry into men...”



Bro. R. E. Simpson, DIW presents Rt. Wor. W. R. Bond III with a Silver Card and a new apron on becoming the District Instructor of Work (District 18)

Queen Esther Chapter #14, OES,

Charlottesville, has changed their meeting date to the 2nd Saturday at 10:00 AM beginning on April 13, 2013, so that our members who do not drive at night will be able to attend. We extend an invitation for all Master Masons and their female relatives to consider joining our Order. You can obtain an application by calling our secre-



R. R. Kennedy Area Ritual School,
April 13th at 9:00 a.m. at **Lee Lodge No. 209,**
for Lodges in the 18th and 19th Masonic Districts



“My” Chamber of Reflection

It took place in a white brick building like any other in the Austerlitz neighborhood of Paris. Only the inscription “Ordo ab Chaos” below two stucco sphinxes invited the attention of any passing philosopher. I was carrying with me an anonymous letter, testimony to my having undergone three preparatory interviews and a thorough personal investigation. In response to the door-bell I was led inside, where two brothers in black awaited and guided me to a tiny black chamber furnished with a chair and a table. A blank sheet and pen lay ready for my last thoughts as an uninitiate in these strange and unexpected surroundings. I was so deeply moved by all of it that, to this day, I can’t remember who exactly among my brothers had brought me there. The darkness, even the sharp odor of blown out matches had me focused on a single candle, placed next to a skull, that faintly illuminated the painting of a welcoming rooster surrounded by the letters V.I.T.R.I.O.L. This on a morbid background showing the Grimm Reaper with his sickle on a wintry path. And there stood an enormous hour-glass.- Picking it up, I found engraved on it the Latin words “Visita Interiora Terrae, Rectificando Invenies Occultum Lapidem” (visit Inner Earth and you shall find the cleansing Secret Stone) – My memory of that admonishment, rife with symbolism, full of promise, and at the same time reminding me of Death – has never paled in the thirty years that have gone by since that experience.

Bro.: Pascal Bussière

(transl. and edit. HUST)

Do you reserve a moment in your day for quiet reflection?

We read in the “Lodge Presentation Program Paper 2013” of **The Grand Lodge’s Education Committee** “...*Just as our children learn more from our behavior and actions than from our words, so do we as Candidates learn, both the good and the bad, from the Brethren in the Lodge we come in contact with as we progress through the degrees (and beyond, I might add – edit.). The candidates very quickly observe whether the lessons in the ritual are mirrored in the actions of the Brethren, and so it is important that we model the behaviors we are teaching...*”.



From the Editors' desk:

Seeking the Light - 4: in *James Anderson's Spirit*.

Entered Apprentice: I believe I understand now how important it is to be reflective. And I am trying to daily reserve a brief moment to sit quietly and listen to my thoughts.

James Anderson: That is indeed very wise. And how is it going?

EA: To tell you the truth, not quite as expected: My thoughts hardly touch on Death or on God, as you seem to expect.

JA: I see we were right in judging you a good candidate for Freemasonry, namely as a man with an open mind: You are demonstrating this quality when you prove yourself open both to advice from the outside, and to your own voice from within! Do keep listening to both, no matter what!

EA: But how can thinking about my mortgage, my next task at work or my obligations at home be useful?

JA: "Seeking the Light" is a life-long journey. And all journeys begin at home. Mentally you are still "at home". Your mind is still preoccupied exclusively with your immediate and material life. Outside of crisis situations, Death and God seem of little consequence. – Are you familiar with the symbolic "three voyages" the blind-folded candidate has to undertake during initiation, where he is confronted

with heat, with water and with earth?

EA: Don't these represent his being cleansed by fire and water, and a reminder of his end part of earth?

JA: Yes, they symbolize your new task of giving up your strivings for material gain and all earthly accomplishments that you cannot take with you in the end. You too need to keep those thoughts in mind! Repeat them to yourself anytime you find you are questioning the purpose of life!

EA: It is true that I joined our brotherhood precisely because I had the feeling of an inner void, of missing a meaningful purpose, and not because I lacked a social life.

JA: I can promise that Death and God will in time become increasingly meaningful and important to you. But don't expect to appreciate their significance as yet. Presently you need to work on becoming aware of your personal attitudes and behavior and their effect on your relationships with the world around you. Try to see ever more clearly how your unintended mistakes, your misunderstandings always contribute to all unpleasant confrontations. Break your all too human habit of focusing on how others might be blamed for your pain and unhappiness. Try to give up your old habit of making your surroundings responsible for your fate, for the quality of your life! HUST

April Masonic Birthdays:

Daniel A. Albert	04/26/1965
Frank W. Bauer	04/17/1985
M. Wayne Biby	04/01/1991
Bobby Cameron, Jr.	04/07/1975
Claude L. Easton, Jr.	04/25/1960
Timothy J. Edwards	04/24/1976
William B. Fischer	04/27/1964
William C. Gentry	04/22/1963
Theodore M. Jones, III	04/30/2008
James M. Landreth	04/05/1976

Peter-John Leone	04/25/2012
Michael G. MacInnis	04/03/2000
Earl R. Morris	04/07/1969
Monte S. Parsons	04/02/1992
Hollis A. Payne	04/23/1957
Harlan E. Phelps, Jr.	04/05/1977
Ronald G. Ridge	04/26/1965
William S. Roudabush, Jr.	04/21/1958
A. Fredrick Seaman, Jr.	04/13/1971
Matthew C. Stimart	04/06/2009
Glenn R. Sweet	04/05/1965

Light Fare by our Steward, Brother Peter-John Leone : The menu for April Stated Communication will be Lasagna accompanied by Ceasar salad and rolls. The stewards would like to recognize and thank Brother Mark Chapman for providing the tasty Irish soda bread for last month's refreshments

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Hiram's Journal

Winding Staircase: Widow's Sons' Study Group.

At our March meeting Brother Carlos Mcreddie took us to Lodges in Buenos Aires, Argentina and in Montevideo, Uruguay, cosmopolitan cities on either side of the Rio de La Plata, the enormous river separating the two countries. We learned much about their lodges' structures, about their rituals and past history. We learned much about their lodges' structures, about their rituals and past history.

Our next meeting will take place in May, date to be announced later. We'll again be the guests of Maury and May Kingman, 374 Shepherds Ridge Circle. Brother William F. "Bill" Reinhold, KCT, Grand Generalissimo Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Virginia will introduce us to the degree of the Masonic Knights Templar and lead the discussion. He will include the topic of Skull and Crossed bones. - ANYONE is WELCOME to JOIN US!



Excerpt from article by Brother Stan Shapiro, Grand Lodge Education Officer, Grand Lodge of Minnesota : *What are the reasons men have given for joining Masons, and the value of being a Freemason?* - And one particularly deep answer :

Avoiding conflict and maintaining peace and harmony

Send us your thoughts to be included here!