

Thoughts from a newbie:

Having recently been Raised I was looking about for something to help me in remembering, and understanding some of the things that had been impressed upon me over the past couple of months. This search took me down all sorts of paths. I looked in many different places and could not find anything that seemed to speak to me on a personal level. That is until I was napping on my couch one afternoon and woke to find the start of a movie titled "Groundhog Day".

The movie opens with the main character, a weather man, who is snide and egotistical to his co workers and the people of a small town that he is supposed to be doing a remote shot from for ground-hog's day. Then a funny thing happens, he becomes trapped in this one spot of time. When he awakes the next day the radio plays the same song, "I got you babe", the breakfast is the same, meets the same people and eats at the same diner. Except everything that happened on the previous day is happening again, exactly, down to the second, from the dropping of a tray in the diner, to crossing paths with an old acquaintance from high school at the same place on the street.

Now who of us has not felt like this? Day after day the same places, people, and jobs, etc, etc. You know what I am getting at. I think everyone has felt this way at one time or another. The part that I want to focus on is the attitude of the main character. He is arrogant, unfriendly, and just plain rude to the people around him. A rough ashlar if ever there was one. He realizes after four or five days of repeated time that he is stuck. There is no going back and no going forward, again how many of us has felt this way in our everyday lives? At first this causes depression and he attempts to take his own life, sometimes with hilarious results, then he descends into the abuses of the body, over indulgence in food, drink, and the flesh. His attitude becomes worse and in one instance he refers to himself as a god, because of the simple knowledge that he had gained from his unique experiences.

After all of his physical needs are fulfilled, surprise, surprise, he finds that there is still something missing an itch that needs to be scratched, a hair stuck on the tongue of his spirit. He now starts to realize that all the things that he thought would lead him to happiness leave him as hollow and unfulfilled. Our hero then starts to awaken to the things around him that might actually matter. As long as he is here he might as well do something important for himself and the community around him, right? So he starts to divide

his time to actually see what he can do to help the people around him. He ends up dividing his day into sections similar to that of a 24-inch gauge. This time for catching a small child falling from a tree, this time for saving a man choking in a restaurant, and many other acts of kindness. He also sets aside time for study and learning how to play the piano, on and on filling his days. Improving not only himself, but also the lives of all the people that are trapped unknowingly in this small universe that is repeating day in and day out.

One by one the rough edges of his character disappear. Arrogances and the over inflated ego leave him. Self congratulation and the other traits that made him such a horrible person in the beginning of the movie are brushed away by a realization that the idea that he is the center of the universe is just not true and the only way to truly be fulfilled is by helping. The edges of this rough ashlar are knocked away by his own hand and replaced with attitudes that not only make his life better but also the lives of those around him, thereby making the entire existence in his closed reality better for all.

So what did I take away from this experience? What did I glean from this encounter? It was not that the Hollywood movie biz is ruled by Masons, but that through the things that I have encountered from The Craft I can make every moment of every day a chance to improve myself and the world around me through the teachings. I realize that ruts will still come to plague me in the future no matter what I do, but now I feel that I have the same tools that I can turn to in order to move myself onward and upward.

I have found that this particular movie helps me remember and deepen my understanding of the teachings, symbols and writings we use in The Craft. If you have a special memory, experience, or anything that you find useful in helping you explore the wisdom of our forbearers and wish to share it please feel free to look me up, sit me down, and tell me about it. I would love to know about your experiences and insights.

Brother J.J. Kuba



Hickory York Rite
Special Notice!

Currently the Hickory York Rite is experiencing fabulous changes that will benefit members for years to come. We are now opening and closing the lodge in full form and our attendance has been on the rise all year. Masonic education has become a top priority and many Sir Knights are contributing in this area. The best way to be great York Rite Masons is to know what York Rite Masonry is all about!

Besides these wonderful additions, we have voted on several modifications to the finances of the bodies. In past years, the York Rite contributed a set amount annually to the operation of the facility that we co-own with Hickory Lodge #343. Unfortunately the operational costs have increased over the years and our contribution has remained the same. In January we voted unanimously to increase the total annual contribution we donate to adjust for this discrepancy starting in 2010.

After careful review of our past expenses, current expenses, and savings we have updated our annual operating budget. In the past there has been no account set up for the sole purpose of facility maintenance. It is the consensus of the York Rite bodies that it is very irresponsible of us to continue to operate without this necessary line item in our annual budget for Facility Maintenance. We should not be dependent on endowments and monies left to the York Rite, from generous members in their estates, to operate on an annual basis or to make repairs to our building. Financial windfalls from member donations should be evaluated completely independent of our annual operations. A portion of our annual dues should go to a building maintenance fund to help secure the quality of our building for future generations.

Therefore we will be discussing and voting on an increase to our York Rite dues and to set the per capita as a separate item in our by-laws to be effective for 2011 at our next York Rite Stated Meeting on May 12, 2010 @ 7:30pm. If you wish to have a voice in this discussion and learn more about why this increase is necessary please plan on being in attendance at this meeting. We look forward to seeing each of you there.

It is better to have one man working with you than to have ten men working for you.

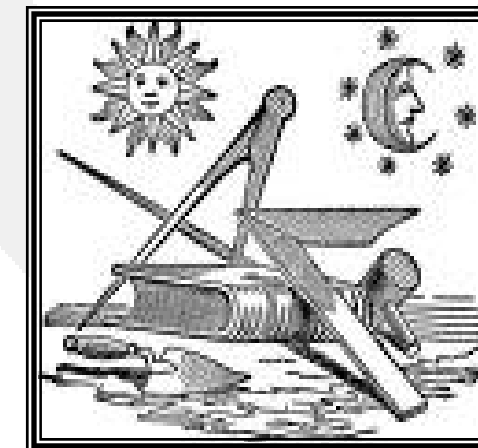
OFFICERS 2010

Worshipful Master	Dan Rolon	493-3543
Senior Warden	Lee Spach	446-1924
Junior Warden	David Brandon	638-1691
Treasurer	Terry Moore	312-1006
Secretary	Kevin Johnson	244-9055
Senior Deacon	James Hope	428-3752
Junior Deacon	Paul Aulbach	514-6994
Sr. Steward	Doug Moore	312-1012
Jr. Steward	Allen Lineberger	704-798-3691
Steward	Daniel Guthrie	310-3560
Steward	Adam Beagles	302-0616
Chaplain	Chris Jarrell	308-7762
Tyler	Robert Bickel	294-6619

Caring Report: The Hildebran Family, David Reep, Henry Holland, Doug Moore, John Cansler, Al Swofford, Everette Beckom, Click Truitt, Don Hudson, Cliff Pruitts wife, Dean Brittain, Buz Hunley, Thad Johnson, Betty Burch, Glen Henline, Nolan Yount and Wife, David Duncan, Greg Conley, Herbert Chilton Jr., Richard Rozzelle's son, A.W. Morris, Rufus Smith, Todd Cline, Joe Teague, Joe Vaught, and Lee Spach all need our prayers and attention.

Fortitude, an Interpretation
by Lee Spach

Fortitude, one of the four cardinal virtues in the First degree is a derivative of the Latin, "fords", and signifies power, strength, and control. Spence, in his Polymetis when describing the moral virtues says of Fortitude: "She may be easily known by her erect air and military dress, the spear she rests on with one hand, and the sword which she holds in the other. She has a globe under her feet; I suppose to show that the Romans, by means of this virtue, were to subdue the whole world." Mackey states for Masons that "it teaches him to let no dangers shake, no pains dissolve the inviolable fidelity he owes to the trusts reposed in him." I interpret it to mean that we should make our hearts, consciences, and moral fiber a fortress (root of fords) to guard all that is sacred to The Craft and it's teachings and we should hunker ourselves with it; an "inner strength", if you will, for us to draw upon, like a beacon, at times when we are tossed about in the sea of life and in risk of losing our proper bearings. When we risk heading deeper into a storm by decisions we make, or fail to make.



LIVING PAST MASTERS

J.N. Cagle	1973	D.J. Wallace	1999
J.L. Johnson	1974	H.W. Wallker	2000
E.W. Beckom	1978	J.W. Davidson	2001
J.F. Taylor	1979	M.D. Hale	2002
J.H. Elmore	1981	W.J. Hunley	2003
T.L. Hartman	1984	J.P. Kuykendall	2004
E.C. Cline	1986	D.L. Brandon	2006
J.H. Elmore	1987	W.G. Byerly	2007
J.E. Vaught	1988	J.D. Abernethy	2008
E.W. Masche	1991	R.L. Rozzelle	2009
J.D. Crawley	1993		
J.P. Hilton	1994		
D.L. Reep	1995		
P.C. Wray	1996		
L.D. Huffman	1997		
W.G. Byerly	1998		



Your can not write the word brothers with out writing the word others

A big thank you to all brothers that make the Pancake Breakfast a success.

NEED A RIDE?????

Any brother in need of a ride to lodge meetings should know that there are many brethren in the lodge that are volunteering to help you travel. Please call the lodge or the Master and someone will come get you to bring you to lodge.

DDGM & DDGL Official Visit

Please note the official visit of the DDGM and the DDGL is on the 17th of this month. Lets try for a good attendance on that date and show them the strength of Hickory Lodge #343. (p.s. you know that the meal that night is going to be something special so come on down and enjoy an evening of fellowship.)

New Globes

If you haven't been to lodge recently you need to come and see the new globes that have been installed on the columns. They are lit and are a great asset to our lodge room.

MASONIC RETENTION: from www.masonic-lodge-of-education.com

Masonic retention is a word upon the lips of every Grand Lodge, subordinate lodge and its many Freemason members, today, across the world. It may surprise you to know that Masonic retention was on the mind of Albert Mackey, Freemason Researcher and Historian, when he wrote Mackey's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry over 130 years ago. Here is what he wrote: *Parrot Masons*

"One who commits to memory the questions and answers of the catechetical (sic: Relating to or consisting of asking questions and receiving answers by rote rather than by understanding) lectures, and the formulas of the ritual but pays no attention to the history and philosophy of the institution; is commonly called a Parrot Mason, because he is supposed to repeat what he has learned without any conception of its true meaning."

In former times, such superficial Freemasons were held by many in high repute because of the facility with which they passed through the ceremonies of a reception, and they were generally designated as Bright Masons. But, the progress of Freemasonry as a science now requires something more than a mere knowledge of the lectures to constitute a Masonic scholar."...Mackey's Revised Encyclopedia of Freemasonry, Vol. 2, Page 752, Albert Gallatin Mackey, 33°, published by The Masonic History Company, Revised ed. copyright 1929, Original copyright 1873. Masonic Retention

Memorization without understanding will only take a person to the end of his memorized work...much like memorizing a geometric equation does not prove truly useful unless you understand its components.

Example: If I asked you to tell me the equation to measure the area of a circle, the answer quickly coming from your lips may very well be πr^2 ... and I would applaud your knowledge. But how useful is that knowledge if you do not know that: π = the ratio of the circumference to the diameter of a circle; approximately equal to 3.14159265358979323846..., or 3.1416 if you round it off. r = Radius of the circle...the measurement from the center-point to its perimeter or boundary. r^2 (Squared) = the radius times itself.

Therefore, your quick answer of πr^2 (the equation with which you may perform the task) was absolutely correct, but if you cannot understand each component of the equation, you cannot "do the math", and therefore your journey ends.

Memorization of ritual is important within Freemasonry, however without learning the Biblical, symbolic and historical components within Freemasonry's depths, your journey, too, will end without your actually finding Freemasonry's true light.

True Masonic retention is obtained when both ritual and Masonic knowledge are balanced with one another. Masonic education is the only means with which the fraternity can both retain its current membership and produce new members to carry on Freemasonry's proud traditions.

AD 1874

CONSTITUTED

AL 5874

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
PAID
Hickory, NC 28601
PERMIT NO. 86



34th NC Masonic District

HICKORY LODGE NO. 343

ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS

P.O. Box 451
Hickory, NC 28603
828-322-8016

www.hickorymasoniccenter.org
secretary@hickorymasoniccenter.org

* Return Service Requested *

May 2010

Return Service Requested

IN GOD WE TRUST

Hickory Masonic Center March Events Calendar

Pancake Breakfast for Charity!	Saturday	May 1st	7:00am—11:00am
Stated Communication	Monday	May 3rd	Dinner 6:30 pm; Meeting 7:30pm
Emergent Communication	Saturday	May 8th	2nd degree; Meal <u>7:00AM</u> ; Degree <u>8:00AM</u>
Emergent Communication	Monday	May 10th	1st degree; Dinner 6:30pm; Meeting 7:30pm
Stated Communication	Monday	May 17th	Dinner 6:30 pm; Meeting 7:30pm

!!May 17 is DDGM & DDGL Official Visit to our Lodge!!!

Mark your Calendars NOW!

St. Johns Day Celebration	Saturday	June 26th	Oxford Orphanage for Children
Hickory Lodge #343 Family Day	Saturday	August 14th	11:00am-2:00pm
Chicken Pie Sale for Charity!	Saturday	November 6th	1:00pm—5:00pm
Hickory Lodge Awards Night	Thursday	November 18th	6:30pm
Officer Elections	Monday	December 6th	Meal 6:30pm, Meeting 7:30pm