

HEMPSTEAD MASONIC LODGE

#749 AF & AM



Worshipful Master Kenneth Harvey Secretary John "Corky" Daut
Hempstead Masonic Lodge Was Chartered December 6, 1893

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Hempstead Masonic Lodge
#749 AF & AM

P.O. Box 1251

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Special points of interest:

- Meetings every second Thursday at 7:30 P.M.
- Family style meals before the meetings at 6:30 P.M.
- Study nights, Degrees and floor work, Mondays 7:00 P.M. at Waller Lodge.
- Waller Lodge meets on the second Tuesday at 7:30 P.M.
- Waller Lodge family style meals are at 6:30 P.M. before the meetings

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EPILOGUE TO THE MASTER MASON DEGREE

My Brother-

There is one more thing that I wish to mention before we close this Lodge and we all return to our normal lives in the mundane world:

You have now experienced the three degrees of Masonry. You have been presented with much in the way of symbolism and allegory. Hopefully, those symbols and stories have, or will come to have, a profound meaning for you.

When you go into the world now, in your new character as a Master Mason, you are sure to be confronted with people who will attempt to put meaning to those symbols and allegories *for* you, or attempt to tell you exactly what Freemasonry teaches by those symbols. They will say that

you have joined a religion, or that you have replace one form of "salvation" with another, or that you are worshipping a "false god."

What you need to understand about Freemasonry is that the meaning of what you have seen and heard in this Lodge room is largely *what you make of it*. No single man speaks for Freemasonry, except you, to yourself. There is no sin in symbols -- only, possibly, in the meanings that we, by our own conscious choice, ascribe to them.

We gave you a Bible this evening, but we did not give you a religion. As you recall from the presentation, you were admonished to search within the pages of that sacred book *for yourself*; and earlier this evening, you were bidden to pray *for yourself* -- and no

particular form or name was required for your prayer.

Freemasonry does indeed have a teaching: it teaches each man to look within his heart, with clarity and subdued passion, to determine what is right and true.

There is an ancient riddle which asks: "Who is the Master who makes the grass green?" The answer, my Brother, is *you, yourself*. YOU are the Master who, by his own perception and understanding, "makes the grass green." YOU are the Master over the meaning of your own experience. YOU are entrusted with the power *and responsibility* to interpret all that you see and hear. And as long as you remain faithful to your trust, then NO man ever take that power or responsibility away from you!

Not One Person by W.: Dan Weatherington, PM

Not one person ever joined Masonry because George Washington was a Mason.

Not one person ever joined Masonry because Harry Truman was a Mason.

Not one person ever joined because of any of our great Masonic heroes. Joining doesn't make you any of those people.

Not one person ever joined in order to give a

million dollars a day to charity, or homes, or crippled children. You don't have to be a member to give money.

Not one person ever joined because our ritual is outstanding, or our minutes are accurate, or a hundred other things we worry about. They don't know about our ritual. They joined because someone they knew and admired

was a Mason.

It could have been a father, a friend, a man down the street, or someone a thousand miles away.

Who, it didn't matter. They admired him and wanted to do the things he did, and they did it by the millions. Want to help our growth?

Be the kind of man someone admires.

Someone will notice.

Foolish Spending - An Old Tiler Story

The Old Tiler stories first appeared in print in August, 1921

WHY do Masons spend their money so foolishly?" asked the New Brother.

"A fool and his money are soon parted," answered the Old Tiler.

"Do you think Masons are fools?"

"Certainly not. I was just agreeing that if Masons spend money foolishly they are foolish. What variety of foolish spending is teasing you?"

"Oh, a lot! We spend five dollars to send a funeral wreath to every brother's funeral, and three dollars for flowers every time one is sick, and four dollars for fruit when one goes to a hospital. We decorate the lodge room when we have an entertainment. We spend money for food for men who are well fed at home. We hire entertainers for a blowout! My idea would be to put all that money in an educational fund or a charity fund or . . ."

"By any chance," interrupted the Old Tiler, "are you delivering a lecture? I want to talk, too!"

"I want you to talk. Tell me that I am right and that we do spend our money foolishly!"

"I can't do that," answered the Old Tiler. "But perhaps I can show you something on our side. You object to five dollar funeral wreaths to deceased brethren, and would rather see the money put in charity. Do you think we send the wreath to the dead man? With it we offer consolation to the family! We show that his brethren care that he has died and that the world may see that we hold our deceased brother in honor. If we are careless when grief comes to the loved ones of those we love, the world will hold it against us, and our influence be lessened.

"We send flowers to the sick and fruit to the hospital, that the ill brother may have the cheering comfort of knowing that in his hour of need his

brethren forget him not. Is it, then, more charitable to feed a hungry body than a hungry heart? Have you ever been ill in it hospital? Did no one remember you with a card, a flower, a basket of fruit? If you were unremembered, you passed a sad hour in the thought that no one cared. If friends brought their friendship to you when you needed it you were helped to recover. If we do not cheer a worthy brother, for what does our brotherhood stand?

"Of course we decorate a lodge room for an entertainment! In your home are there but bare walls, without pictures, carpets or furniture? Do you give to the poor all you make over a bare subsistence? Do the poor spend only for food? In a poor man's home you will find a flower, a book, a picture. Beauty is as much a need as bread. Cows chew cuds contentedly, but man must chew the cud of life with a spiritual as well as a physical outlook. The lodge room is our home. We decorate it for entertainment that all may remember their Masonic home as beautiful with pleasures taken together. "Refreshment, whether sandwiches and coffee or a vocal or instrumental solo, refreshes mind and body. The solo we hear alone gives us not half the pleasure which comes from listening in company. The few cents per capita we spend for refreshment is no more wasted than were the twenty cents you paid for your cigar or the fifteen cents for your shoe shine!

"Suppose the world spent only for food, clothes and charity? The poor would become rich; ambition, thrift, independence and manhood would become extinct. If there were no music, painting, love of flowers, beautiful buildings in the world, where would our hearts reach when they seek something they know is just beyond? We do

not see God in the ham sandwich as in the beautiful notes of music. I'll agree He is everywhere, but if we find Him easiest through our appreciation of the lovely, rather than the mundane things of life.

"Would you cease printing Bibles that more hungry people be fed? You argue that money not spent for charity is ill spent, but charity is but a part of Masonry. Masonry teaches men to help themselves, to think-, to aid their fellows, not only by gifts, but by encouragement, cheer, help, aid, the kindly word. When we express them in the flower, the basket of fruit, the song or refreshment, we spend our money wisely.

"Truly the fool and his money are soon parted, but the fool parts with his for foolishness. We part with ours for value received, to carry Masonic cheer to the hearts of our brethren."

"You are right, as you always are," agreed the New Brother. "By the way, you are chairman of the committee on hospitals, are you not? Stick that in your pocket and make the next bunch of flowers or basket of fruit twice as big."

That with which the New Brother soothed his conscience, crinkled as it was folded.

Acting?

Billy's father picked him up from school to take him to a dental appointment. Knowing the acting roles for the school play were being posted that day, he asked Billy if he got a part.

Billy enthusiastically announced that he'd gotten a part. "I play a man who's been married for twenty years."

"That's really great, son. Keep up the good work and before you know it they'll be giving you a speaking part."

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Forward By Corky

I had to read the column reprinted below, the second time before I could believe it. It is the first time that I could remember, in a long

time, reading a story in a newspaper that was complementary to Masonry.

It impressed me so much, that I wanted to insert it in this issue of the newsletter. And since it was already set up to be printed, I decided to

make Hempstead Lodge history and add another page to this month's issue of our newsletter so I could include it here.

Of course it is being reprinted with permission of the author.

'Miracle Hospital' Supported By Wonderful Shriners, Masons

By Cynthia Calvert, Editor of the Greater Houston Weekly

A product of Houston Community Newspapers

Down in the Texas Medical Center is a special place. A place for kids, a place dedicated to quality orthopedic health care, a place where there is no billing department. Everything is totally free of charge.

Shriners Hospital for children is the place where Ernie Estrada just spent the last month undergoing surgery and then daily physical therapy. A little more than a year ago, Ernie's mom Monica took Ernie, who suffered from cerebral palsy, to the circus. Ernie who uses handheld arm crutches, which got the attention of a volunteer working at the event. He gave a card to Monica and suggested she call Houston Shriners Hospital for Children to see if they could offer Ernie some help.

Today Monica and Ernie are grateful cheerleaders for the hospital. "I told my husband, if we could rename this place, we would call it "Miracle Hospital" because that is what they have done for us given us a miracle.

The Estradas, who live in San Benito, have nothing but praises for the hospital - everything is "awesome, wonderful and amazing." And the Estradas should know- they experienced many hospital settings in Ernie's 11 years.

"I had never heard of Shriners until about a year ago." Monica said. "More people need to know about the wonderful job they do here, what they do for so many kids." Another enthusiast is Chris Adams of Spring.

Adams' daughter Christian Michelle was also a patient at Shriners, almost five years ago. Then just a toddler, Christian was diagnosed with a serious bone infection in her arm. At the time, the Adamses had no insurance as dad Chris was in school making his way to a second career.

Our doctor first sent us to Shriners, but we were sent on to Texas Children's. But as we sat in the waiting room, I got a phone call. I knew no one knew where we were, but it was the Shriners, telling us not to worry about a thing, everything would be paid."

Baby Christian had two surgeries that first week and eventually spent four weeks hospitalized at Shriners. She had daily intravenous antibiotics, which dad said, "was no fun. But we endured."

Today Christian is seven years old, healthy and beautiful.

And dad is a Mason. The Masonic Lodge 1174 of Spring is a group of 226 men who raise money for Shriners Hospital. Masons in Spring, in Texas, and all over the country engage in fund-raising to promote community projects

Worshipful Master Jim Sumner of Lodge 1174 explained that the mission of Masons is "men making better men."

"It really works. Our work makes us better husbands, better fathers, better leaders and better pillars of the

community. Our Lodge has different fund-raisers to support projects like Shriners Hospitals. Masons are the foundation group, then there are several appended groups such as the Shriners. We all work toward common goals. Masons and Shriners.

Masons and Shriners aren't religious per se, but everyone has to believe in deity. "We have members of every religion - Buddhist, Jew, Baptist, Presbyterian, Catholic, Methodist, Lutheran. Masons teach cooperation and working together. We all contribute to our community and especially to wonderful projects like Shriners," says Sumner.

Which brings us back to Adams whose father was a Mason. After baby Christian was on her way back to health, Chris asked his father about the Masons, this group who had made possible his baby's recovery.

He gave me a book to read and I wanted more. I wanted to give back to these wonderful people who had helped me. Some time later, I petitioned the Lodge for membership and I have been there every time the are doors open since.

Notice the common word here? Monica, Chris, and Jim all said the same word - 'wonderful.'

Raquel Williams, public information officer for Shriners, says the hospital in 2002 had a \$18.65 Million budget. They served 3,411 active patients, performed 670 surgeries and

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Wonderful Shriners Continued From Page 3

recorder 35,000 children have received life altering or life saving treatments since the hospital's founding in 1952. All at no charge.

And if that isn't wonderful, then I don't know what is. Shriners Hospital for Children-Houston may be reached by calling 713-797-1616 or by visiting www.shrinershq.org

Afterward

First I wanted to thank Mrs. Calvert for writing the story about the hospital and Freemasonry. Yes, I know, it's about Shriners, but as we all know Shriners must be Masons to be a Shriner.

Many of you have met my daughter, Valerie who was born with cerebral palsy. She was treated at the Shrine Hospital for almost 17 years and we were never asked for a dime. Like Brother Chris Adams, that was a big reason that, I became a Mason.

I also wanted to add how great it feels to be an editor printing one of Mrs. Calvert's stories.

She has been my editor, printing columns I write about growing up during the depression and WWII. They have been featured in some of the other Houston Community Newspapers for about 6 years or so.

They All Came Just For Me

Something big is going on here.
Or so I thought that night,
As the Masons came to gather round
the Great and lesser lights.

One from here and one from there
From places far and wide,
They came to do, I knew not what,
As they gathered there inside.

But from each man I was greeted
With a smile and voice of cheer.

One said, "so you're the candidate.
The reason that we're here."

I scarcely knew just what he meant,
For this was my "first degree."
There must be much for them to do
Before they got to me.

Surely these guys would not travel
for the sake of just one man.
Yes, there must be much for them to
do,
Before my part began.

The "Brother Tiler" was my company
As I waited at the door
To step into this brand new realm
I had not known before.

They shared with me the three Great
Lights
and some tools of the trade,
That I might learn a thing or two
of how a man be better made.

When at last I had been seated
In this brotherhood of men
The Master then began to bring
The meeting to an end.

And with all things then completed,
They stayed a little more,
To eat and drink and share a laugh
Before heading toward the door.
But as we left I understood
And then began to see.

That they all came for one reason.
They all came just for me.

Dear brothers I pray every lodge
Will make new ones like me,
Feel as welcome as these brothers did,
When they held my First Degree.

European Versus U. S. Lodges

Lodge membership in Europe is usually limited in numbers and when the membership of a Lodge reaches the limit, a new Lodge is formed. The result is a number of smaller but more

active Lodges where attendance at meetings is very high, some Lodges running as high as 90% of its members at meetings. In the U. S. a lodge's membership is unlimited and with many in the hundreds, attendance is usually small with fewer than 5 to 10% of the membership attending stated meetings.

Lodge Dues in America run small, usually \$30 to \$50 or \$60 per year, while European Lodges run in the \$100 to \$500 range, with some as high as \$2,000

In Europe, meetings may be held quarterly, monthly, or weekly depending on the Lodge and jurisdiction. European meetings are summoned; frequently a formal, engraved summons is issued. Members either attend the communication, or respond to the Master and/or Secretary. Meetings in the U.S. are usually held once or twice a month, with extras often called for degree work is done, but Americans hardly ever make use of the summons for Lodge meetings

In America, all business is done in the Master Mason Lodge. Lodge ceremonies and degree work are delivered from memory, often receiving instant correction on missed words or lines from the sidelines. All business in European Lodges is done in the Entered Apprentice Lodge, but only Master Masons are allowed to vote. Lodge ritual and degrees are frequently read from printed sheets at each station.

In the U.S., candidates are not considered to be Masons until after having received the Master Mason Degree while in Europe, Candidates are considered to be Masons after receiving the Entered Apprentice Degree.

In the U. S. Masters of Lodges are usually elected to a one year term of office and usually not re-elected. In Europe the Master is elected for two year terms and often re-elected to serve for more terms

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Would Raising Hempstead's Dues In January Be Enough

January is the start of a new year and may be time for some changes.

At this time, the only thing keeping the Hempstead Lodge doors open is the work of 6 or 8 dedicated members. They love Masonry and the Hempstead Lodge enough to be involved in planning and working in every fundraiser to earn the additional money required to pay more than half of our monthly bills. And many of those workers are the dual members whose home Lodge is Waller 808, the same members who also always work Waller fundraisers.

Maybe you didn't know, Endowed Members, 50 Year Members and distressed members for who the Lodge pays dues, are more than half of our membership and do not pay dues. Endowed memberships are becoming a curse for small Lodges. At less than \$25 per endowment for 2003, we lost \$700 or \$800 in dues. Only 26 of our 54 members actually paid dues to the Lodge in 2003.

The annual dues could easily be increased in a vote at the January Stated meeting. It probably wouldn't take but about 5 or 6 votes from those Brothers who are also the ones that also usually do most of the work.

They are also the majority of those who attend stated meetings.

But, would raising dues be enough. I guess that would have to a subject for further discussion.

Bill and Doug were sitting on a riverbank fishing. They look up at the bridge next to them and see a funeral procession passing over it. Bill stands up, takes his hat off, holds it over his heart and bows.

Doug said, "That was a very nice thing to do."

"Well" Bill replies. "... we were married for 20 years."

TWO SUBJECTS THAT ARE BEST AVOIDED

Two of the most damaging subjects to the universal good name of Freemasonry are:

1. Any mention of a goat to any person concerning the workings of a Lodge. The goat has for centuries been seen by many as a symbol of Satan. It is not in good taste, even though in jest, to "threaten" a candidate with "Riding the Goat!"

When overheard by the profane, statements such as this add fuel to the long standing Anti-Masonic attitude. Recently while visiting in another Grand Jurisdiction, I refused to stay for an outdoor degree after seeing a male goat dragged through the "Lodge" into the preparation room where more than a dozen candidates waited to be raised to the Sublime Degree. I do not believe that "true" Freemasonry was being practiced that day.

2. We do not have "Masonic Bibles!" There is no such thing. We do have Holy Bibles with the Masonic Emblems stamped on the front and some even with graphic illustrations within of King Solomon's Temple.

We have them on our Lodge altars and we have personal copies, but those are not "Masonic Bibles!" They should not be referred to as such. For the same reasons as above, those who distrust our great Fraternity have often been heard to say "Freemasons do not believe in God. Why, they even have their own bible!"

From the Masonic Services Association of North America. Publications beginning in the 1920's

A TV can insult your intelligence, but nothing rubs it in like a computer.

THOUGHTS FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

If you missed the Waller Lodge Christmas Party (Dec. 13) you really missed a good one. Two tables full of food and deserts. After the meal everyone sang Christmas songs, led by Brother Haney, Carolyn and Michelle Risley. Following the singing Brother Sitton gave a talk on Waller Lodge History. Then Brother Haney showed some of his old home movies. Part of the show was leveling the cornerstone of the current Waller Lodge building. He also had film of the opening of the current Waller County Courthouse and the parade celebrating the 100th anniversary of Waller County.

Say A Prayer For,

Brother Jim Faure' who has an inoperable tumor at the base of the skull that has causing irreparable damage to the optic nerve.

Correction

In the December issue of the newsletter, Brother Steve York was listed as a member of Hempstead Lodge. Brother Steve quickly reminded me at the December meeting that Waller Lodge 808 is his home Lodge and he is a plural member of the Hempstead Lodge .

MASONIC ANNIVERSARIES

Carter, Malcolm A.	01-24-72
Lay, Thomas Fox	01-27-50
Lyons, Steven Dale	01-12-85
McWilliams, James	01-12-85

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

Banks, Daniel	01-07-48
Cox, Kelly O'Neal	01-06-66
Daut, John N. Sr.	01-07-53
Moseley, Darryl E.	01-05-48
Smith, Huey D.	01-08-32
Stasny, Roland E.	01-14-50

Joe was a good Southern Baptist who backslid a little when it came to horses. One day he got to thinking about the races and decided it wouldn't hurt to visit the track and put down one little bet on a horse.

After the fourth race and all his money was lost he noticed a Catholic Priest touch one of the horse's head and then blessed it. Sure enough, that horse won the race.

Before the next race he noticed the Priest touched another horse's head and blessed it. Sure enough, that horse won his race.

Before the next race, the priest walked up to a horse and not only touched the horse's head, but also both shoulders and it's chest and said a blessing.

Joe was ecstatic this time and raced down to the ATM machine and withdrew all his money and placed a bet on the horse. The horse came in last..

Later Joe caught the Priest and ask, "Why did the first two horses you blessed won their races and the third one you blessed lost his race?"

"Well," The Priest said. "that's the trouble with you protestants, you don't know the difference between a blessing and the last rites."

<http://www.geocities.com/hempstead749/>

Own Web Site

Visit Hempstead Lodge's

Small Town Texas Masons



HEMPSTEAD LODGE #749

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