

Trestle Board

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From the East

Brethren,

As we approach the Presidents' Day holiday, I find myself reflecting on activities, mindsets, and determination characterized our early Presidents as well many of our other "founding fathers." They not only had vision of what they wanted to achieve, but a willingness to pragmatically stand up and do what needed to be done to see that vision come to fruition. They knew that they could not simply rely on, or hope that, others would "do the right thing". They just did it - sometimes at great peril, sometimes great tedium. Sometimes with great support, many times not. But, they knew (or at least hoped) that the reward for their hard work would represent an improvement of their overall condition, and those they cared about. I bring up these ruminations in my Trestle Board article not simply to recognize the work of those who have gone before, but to ask you to think about what you have done in your own life to make serious difference in your general condition, and those you care about. Be proud of those things you've done. And, if you have not done as much you wanted to, remember that it is not too late. Opportunities are plentiful.

As for Lodge activities, we took care of some important business at our January Stated



Communication. The proposed budget was presented, tweaked slightly based on the conversation, and approved by a ballot of those present.

We now have a guideline to measure our progress for the remainder of the year. I won't recount the rest of the "business" of the meeting, as that information can be found in the minutes. As for upcoming events, among the many we discussed, we have selected the fourth Tuesday in April for our first Lodge fundraiser. We will be hosting a Cribbage Tournament, with the proceeds to be split between the Lodge and winners. For this first event, the proceeds will be used to offset expenses related to our Little League sponsorship. We will have up to 20 entrants in this first event, so please invite any friends you think might enjoy this social event.

Lastly, the Officers and I have been hard at work updating records and Lodge related information. You'll see some of this elsewhere in this Trestle Board, with more to come. You can expect to be contacted from time to time by either myself or one of the Officers to confirm that the information we have is complete and up to date.

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From the East: continued

We are building on the thorough information that VWB Hunter Greening gathered in his years as Silver Star's Secretary. We are in the process of automating some of the information handling, and look forward to your ideas and suggestions about what information is most important to acquire and share with the Brethren.

In closing, I'm going to bring the message full circle and leave you with this thought: "If not now, then when? If not me, then who?"

On the Square,
WM Mark D. Sanders

Raised in the Month of January

*Brother Roy Rhine
WB Richard Bishop
Brother Ronald Bishop*

*Congratulations
Brothers*

Raised in the Month of February

*Brother George Bennett
Brother William Dietrich
WB Jonathan Gill*

*Congratulations
Brothers*

From the West

The Rough Day, the Ring, and Freemasonry

It was around 5 pm when I left my office in downtown Portland Oregon. It had been one of those days that I was happy to forget about. I had been dealing with issues such as budget reductions, staff issues and now for the traffic and the drive home. Half way across one of the bridges spanning the Willamette River the car I was driving developed what later was a minor problem that I easily repaired. I was ready to get back to sitting in traffic. It was then that I looked down at my right hand and noted that the Square and Compasses of my Masonic Ring was gone. All that remained was glue marks in the shape of the now lost symbol. To my surprise, nothing else went bad the remainder of the day.

The next morning I left for work without my ring. I recall thinking to myself "how will another Brother know I am a Mason without my ring present on my now naked right finger?" It was then that I recalled several passages in our work and rituals. No where

in the passages of the work does it have the word "Ring". I recall back to my friend, mentor and Coach Hunter, when helping me study my degrees. When I was asked, "how should I know you to be a Mason?" Well let's say I did not hold up my right hand and say "by my Ring".

I found the true answer to my identity problem in numerous places in the work. "For every human being has a claim upon your kind offices. Do good unto all". It is not a ring that makes a Mason, it is the honest and upright stations before God and Man that show others, Brothers, that, I am a proud Freemason.

My Ring is being repaired by another Mason, no charge.

Fraternally

Brother Ron Bishop

From the South

Brothers,

As your Junior Warden, I am responsible for superintendence of the Craft during refreshments. Therefore, I plan to have dinner available before every Stated meeting this year (except Widows' Night and Past Masters' Night when we will have other dinner arrangements). Each month in the Trestle Board I'll list the dinner menu for the

next Stated meeting. For February, we will have lasagna with green salad at 6:30 pm. We will have ice cream and pie after the meeting. If there is something specific you would like to have for future dinners or have special food

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From the South: continued

needs, please let me know.

I have also been assigned the development and training of our officers. The second meeting in January will be a ritual practice. We expect every officer to know his part by heart and how it dovetails with the parts of the other officers. Because of the size of our lodge, it is not unreasonable to assume you might be called upon to “move up” to the next higher office occasionally, so you should also learn that part as well. Ritual is one thing that distinguishes us from other organizations and if done proficiently,

impresses our initiates and visitors and brings pride to ourselves.

I really look forward to our meetings and events so I can get to know you better and benefit from your wisdom and experience.

Fraternally,

VWB Ray, Junior Warden

Stated Communication

February 9, 2010

Lodge Opens at 7:30pm

From the New York Times January 7, 2010

Op-Ed

The Not-So-Secrets of the Temple

By HOLLY BRUBACH

New York Times Published: January 7, 2010
- Pittsburgh

IN the final days of a year dominated by repeated — and mostly unheeded — calls for full disclosure on the part of Wall Street banks, pharmaceutical companies, the N.F.L. and any number of other organizations, transparency arrived out of the blue from an unlikely quarter if ever there was one: the Freemasons.

Thanks go not to Dan Brown, whose latest novel, “The Lost Symbol,” focuses on the notoriously mysterious fraternal order, but to Tom Sturgeon, a career law-enforcement officer, who was installed as Right Worshipful Grand Master for Pennsylvania on Dec. 28. His ceremony, in a break with centuries-old Masonic tradition, was held at a convention center here and open to the public. “We need to make Freemasonry more contemporary,” Mr. Sturgeon told me, “to make it reflect 2010, not 1910 — or 1810.”

Nonetheless, the audience of about 1,200 people seemed to consist primarily of members and their families with a sizeable contingent of Masonic dignitaries from 13 other states and Canada. Many had come in full regalia, sporting tailcoats, purple moiré or black velvet “collars,” satin aprons embroidered with esoteric symbols, white gloves, swords — all telegraphing distinctions of rank legible only to insiders.

Freemasonry in America is organized by state — there is no higher governing body — and Pennsylvania is the largest Masonic jurisdiction in the world, with a spectacular temple in Philadelphia, completed in 1873, as its headquarters. Mr. Sturgeon was sworn in reciting the same oath, or “obligation,” Benjamin Franklin recited 275 years ago when he took the same office.

What did the New York Times think of the ceremony? Find out in the February Trestle Board or at our website www.silverstar286.org

If you have not remitted your 2010 dues, lost your remittance form or have questions, please see WB Ric Bishop

Menu for February Stated Communication

Lasagna

Green Salad

Served at 6:30pm

Contact VWB Ray Zimmerman if you have a special request

Contact Information:

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Making Good Men Better

We're on the Web!

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Officer Contact Information

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| <i>WB Ric Bishop</i> | | silverstar286@hotmail.com |

February Stated Communication and Events

February 9, 2010 – Stated Communication Silver Star #286
Dinner at 6:30pm
Lodge Opens at 7:30pm

February 23, 2010 – Special Communication Silver Star #286
Lodge Opens at 7:30pm

Please check Silver Star Web Site at www.silverstar286.org for updated information on degrees, dinners and events around District 19

Call for Members Contact Information

In the next month's edition, we will be printing a membership contact list consisting of names, phone numbers and email addresses. In this day and age of instant information, identity theft and data manipulation, we only want to distribute and print what members are comfortable sharing. With this in mind, if you have a preferred phone number, email address, or do not wish to be in a printed list of members, please contact Secretary Ric Bishop at silverstar286@hotmail.com or at P.O. Box 2556 Battle Ground WA 98604, Attention Secretary.

Thank you,

WB Ric Bishop