

Trestle Board

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

From the West	2
From the South	3
March State Communication	3
Lodge Officer Contact Information	4
Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania	4

From the East

Brethren,

One of the jobs of the Worshipful Master is to spread Masonic enlightenment. This month, rather than talk about Silver Star events (which I'm sure the other Officers will cover thoroughly), I'm going to talk a little bit about one of the concordant Masonic bodies – specifically York Rite, and more specifically than that, York Rite in Vancouver. This is NOT a solicitation for membership, but rather my attempt to (in the words of our Grand Master) inform, inspire, and involve you in a broader picture of our Masonic Fraternity.

I won't recount all the information I presented late last fall during my York Rite presentation, but simply remind those of you who were there that the York Rite of Freemasonry consists of not one, but three bodies, namely: Chapter of Royal Arch Masons (RAM), Council of Royal & Select Masters (R&SM), and Commandery of Knights Templar (KT). These are, technically, three separate bodies, but are all part of York Rite. The first (Chapter) is based on an extension or conclusion of the Master Mason Degree with the finding of that which was lost for future generations to find, and exemplifies the purification of the soul. The other two bodies developed into part of what we



now call York Rite over a century ago, and each extols different virtues.

In Vancouver, all three meet concurrently, with one body exemplifying their opening and closing ritual, and the other two being “declared” open/closed. The honor of ritual opening rotates from one body to the next for each meeting. However this is getting tougher and tougher to do, as the minimum number of Companions required is, generally, greater than that needed for a Blue Lodge, and like all Masonic bodies, York Rite has suffered from the same drop in active membership. And, because Masonic membership is a prerequisite to York Rite membership, the recent up-tick in Blue Lodge petitions is just now starting to result in applications for York Rite, but is still a year or more “behind the curve”.

To help address this, and to share information about York Rite with those who might have either a passing curiosity, or a genuine interest, the Vancouver York Rite bodies will be hosting an “Open House” on 15-Mar-2010 at 6 p.m. at the Vancouver Masonic Center (VMC).

Continued on Page 2

***Silver Star
Cribbage
Tournament***

*Fundraiser for Lodge
Sponsored Little League,
Parade and Community
Events*

*April 23rd 2010
6:00pm
Manor Grange*

*\$20.00 Donation
(Entry fee)
Includes Refreshments*

Limit 32 Players

Double elimination

Cash Prizes

*1st Place \$50.00
2nd Place \$30.00
3rd Place \$20.00*

*For official rules go to
www.silverstar286.org or
contact a lodge officer*

***Raised in the Month of
March***

***Brother Charles Mullikin
Brother Richard Boatwright
Brother Charles Mayberg
Brother Norman Zeppa
WB Jim Stevens***

***Congratulations
Brothers***

From the East: continued

They will have some presentations and other hand-out materials related to York Rite, and will be ready to answer as many of your questions as they can. They will be serving a "red bean and rice" supper (food is always good!), and genuinely look forward to your attendance.

Are you ready to be informed, inspired, and involved?

On the Square....
Mark D. Sanders
Worshipful Master

From the West

Those who are not Initiated

There was a time in all of our lives when we were among the many who were not initiated. There was a time in our life when we had that brush with Masonry. Mine came at a young age when I was digging through a drawer at my grandfather's home (WB Archie Roy McKee) and I found this odd blue book. I was about ten and opened to book to see words that made no sense, three letter words, single letters etc. When I was initiated into this great Fraternity I was given a cipher, it had similar code as to the book I found some 35 plus years ago. Mystery solved.

One of my many enjoyments in life is spending time with my wife and combing estate sales. She is always looking for "that" item and me; well I look at old books and other assorted nick knacks. After being raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason, I have refined my searching to Masonic items. In January of this year we were out hunting for "stuff". I saw a small book with a single fold cover with a snap. I picked it up and looked inside. The first page was entitled:

"King Solomon and his followers,
CAL,

A valuable aid to the memory".
1927

I looked further and found similar text as to our ciphers and I could read most of it. I looked at the price and it was 50 cents. I went to go pay for my new found treasure and the clerk said we looked at that and can't figure it out. I said I'll take a chance, here's my 50 cents.

There is no name in the 1927 cipher but I often think of the coach, Brother, mentor who used this to study the craft. Those who are not initiated don't know the treasure of being a member of the greatest Fraternity in history. Like that little boy who found what he would later learn was his Grandfather's cipher, the people who looked and priced and could not read the 1927 cipher had no clue as to the beauty of the code and ritual.

That's it from the West, thank you my Brothers.

Fraternally

Brother Ron Bishop
Senior Warden

From the South

Brethren,
A couple of weeks ago I landed the job of Building Manager for the Vancouver Masonic Center. I am excited about this opportunity and look forward to serving all the organizations that call it home. I've been working with the retiring Manager, Bill Allison, who has been extremely helpful in this transition. With his help, I've been taking inventory of all the things that need to be done and prioritize them based on importance and urgency. Changes in our lives also give us an opportunity to "inventory" the things that need to be accomplished and prioritize what is important. Getting out of our comfort zone of work or family or pleasurable pursuits is never easy but often results in a better future. It forces us to take stock of what's important in our lives. Are we spending too much time at work at the expense of our family? Have our hobbies taken over and distracted us from the things that need to get done today? The installation of the Junior Warden includes a passage that talks about how the plumb admonishes us to walk uprightly in our several stations, to hold the scales of

justice with equal poise, and observe that just medium between intemperance and pleasure.

Finding a balance in our lives is wise advice. The spontaneity of youth gives way to the maturity of adulthood. That maturity may sound boring, but most of us are not complaining of being bored. A full life should include quality time in all our areas of importance with equal measure. This is, by its nature, very difficult but necessary for our well being and that of those around us. So don't forget your Masonic brothers and find the time to join them, on occasion, to fill that part of your life that needs confirmation and unconditional friendship.

The March Stated menu is beef stew. We will have visitors from Gresham so don't let the visitors outnumber the members. See you on the 9th.

Ray Zimmerman
Junior Warden

Stated Communication

March 9, 2010

Lodge Opens at 7:30pm

Brothers, thank you for catching up your dues for 2010. If you have not remitted your 2010 dues, lost your remittance form or have questions, please see WB Ric Bishop

March Stated Communication and Events

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

**March 23, 2010 – Special Communication Silver Star #286
Lodge Opens at 7:30pm
Currently Scheduled to Confer EA Degree**

Menu for March Stated Communication

Beef Stew

Green Salad

Served at 6:30pm

Contact VWB Ray Zimmerman if you have a special request

Contact Information:

Silver Star #286 F&AM
P.O. Box 2556
Battle Ground WA 98604



Making Good Men Better

We're on the Web!

www.silverstar286.org

Email

silverstar286@hotmail.com

Officer Contact Information

<i>Lodge Officers</i>	<i>Phone</i>	<i>Email</i>
<i>WM Mark Sanders</i>		silverstar286@hotmail.com
<i>Bro. Ronald Bishop</i>		silverstar286@hotmail.com
<i>VWB Ray Zimmerman</i>		silverstar286@hotmail.com
<i>WB Jonathan Gill</i>		silverstar286@hotmail.com
<i>WB Ric Bishop</i>		silverstar286@hotmail.com

From the New York Times January 7, 2010

Continued from January – February Trestle Board

Op-Ed Contributor
By HOLLY BRUBACH
Published: January 7, 2010

The Not-So-Secrets of the Temple
New York Times
Pittsburgh

If the ceremony at the convention center was any indication, it appears that not much has changed in the interim, although the torches around the altar are now electric and the musical repertoire has been updated to include “Beer Barrel Polka” and “No Man Is an Island.” Membership has been declining (currently 120,000 in Pennsylvania, down from 260,000 when Mr. Sturgeon joined in 1965) and the median age has been steadily climbing (now 68).

“Brethren, ladies and friends,” Mr. Sturgeon greeted the audience for his installation. “The 21st-century Masonic Renaissance starts today!”

The “renaissance” is Mr. Sturgeon’s agenda for reform, jump-starting a membership drive with a new strategy that permits “selective invitation,” replacing the old “To be one, ask one” policy that forbade Masons to proselytize. He also decreed a lifetime dues exemption for any Mason over 60 who brings in two new members under 30. Like other Pennsylvania grand masters before him, Mr. Sturgeon designed a necktie, to be distributed as a token of appreciation. Typically, the ties are a vehicle for the Masonic insignia; his is more in the style of Jerry Garcia, something he thinks younger guys might be more inclined to wear.

In his most radical move, Mr. Sturgeon has mandated that the ritual be published in book form. In Pennsylvania, since the order’s beginnings, each Mason has learned his obligation from another Mason, one on one. The ritual had never been written down. For the two lowest ranks of Freemasonry it lasts 30 minutes or so; for the third and highest degree it takes roughly an hour and runs to some 8,000 words. “It might take a man away from home maybe 50 nights to sit and learn it,” he said.

Continued in the April Trestle Board or published in full at www.silverstar286.org