

The Trestleboard



A Publication of Austin Lodge 12, A. F. & A. M.

January 2009



From The East

Brethren:

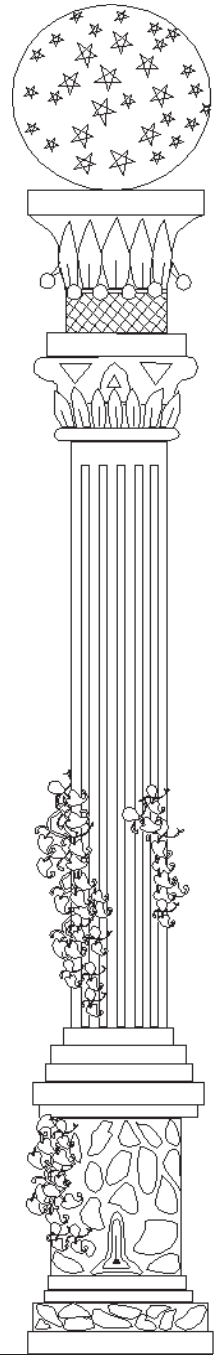
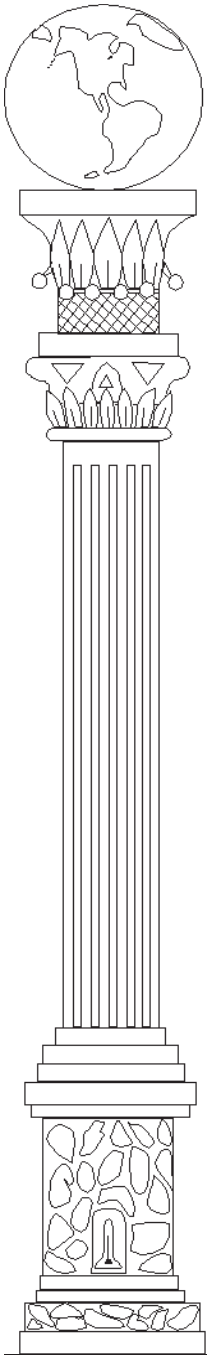
2009, wow! This will be a year of changes, I feel. You can see it everywhere: our newly elected President, Barak Obama used Change as his political slogan; certainly, several sectors of our nation will see change, if they haven't already. Wall Street, several of our auto manufacturers, banks and financial institutions have already seen change; even people on the street are coming up to us and asking, "Change? Spare change?" So change is in the air.

If change is inevitable, as it surely seems to be, more especially in this time and in this place, let us embrace it in Masonry. We have plenty of opportunities to make a change in the lives around us, and if you do it through the Lodge, Austin Lodge #12 can benefit as well. You can do things like volunteering at Mathews Elementary, the school we are partnering with. Or look at the website (www.austinelodge12.com) and see when we are having degrees or other work going on at the Lodge and come down and help us. We are also giving food for the food bank and any non-perishable food items you can bring and donate will go into the hands of those more needy than us. You know it will change their lives. You could change the way a Brother feels (for the better!) by participating in the Communications Committee and calling a Brother.

There are many more opportunities to be had for change and change for the better. And all of these opportunities will have a wondrous effect on any who are involved in that change: it will also change you. Participation has a way of making us feel better, even in times of challenge. At Lodge, we get fellowship, we get a firmer grasp on what it is to be a Mason, we get back more than we put in.

Let us know how you would like to see the Lodge changed, or how you think Masonry can change for the better. Of course, I am not advocating changing Masonry in its ritual or foundations, but we can make changes to help us deal with the changes in the outside world, and we are all the agents of change there, so let us change it for the better.

I will leave you with these last words: May the Best of 2008 be the Worst of 2009!



Next Stated Meeting: Monday, Jan. 19, 2009

2008-2009 Lodge Officers



Worshipful Master

John Brengle
(Evelyn) 335-8070
brenglej@austin.rr.com

Senior Warden

James A. McKissick
(Lin) 828-7701
jam@mckissick.us

Junior Warden

Steven C. Sterzing
431-4554
stevensterzing@hotmail.com

Treasurer

Russell W. Zears
(Chalda) 794-9224
rzears@medium-s.com

Secretary

Victor Y. Armstrong
(Patricia) 345-0226
lodge12@austin.rr.com

Chaplain

Ron Harrison
(Kay) 345-6601
RonHarrison@rocketmail.com

Senior Deacon

Stephen J. Mitchell
(Sandy) 632-2781
sjmitchell@austin.rr.com

Junior Deacon

John W. French
(Juanita) 345-9454
jwfrenchins@yahoo.com

Senior Steward

William J. Smith
(Carol) 961-2067
magnus.strange@yahoo.com

Junior Steward

Paul E. Rana
(480) 252-0559
ninjapaul@gmail.com

Marshal

David K. Waller
(Martha) 633-0338
dave.waller@datadirect.com

Master of Ceremonies

Aaron D. Swenson
(Anna) 898-3022
a_swenson@sbcglobal.net

Tiler

Stephen S. Penn
(Priscilla) 203-9113
mint400@hotmail.com



From the Secretary's Desk

From the Secretary's Desk

Happy New Year! It is 2009 and I will be messing up the date on my checks for awhile.

Thanks to each of you Brethren who have paid your dues. More than 50% of our dues paying membership have responded, and it is obligatory for secretaries to encourage the rest of you to send in that check. So, please do!

I have been told (warned) by two of our Grand Lodge Officers not to expect any monies this year from the Endowed members trust. The stock market has played havoc with the investments and the economic picture is not good. For the past several years the Lodge had been receiving approximately \$30.00 dollars for each Endowed Member and that has helped greatly in maintaining our Permanent Fund (but I ramble, so to the point). If you are an Endowed Member a donation to help overcome this shortfall would be greatly appreciated.

Last night at the Scottish Rite stated meeting, Brother Northcutt discussed 25% Masons.

A wonderful concept which would ask each of our members to attend 25% of our Stated Meetings (only four a year). Think what that would do for our attendance. Some of you attend regularly and if we could make 25% Masons of the rest of you in the Austin area, our attendance would triple and the fellowship would be tenfold. So.....

See you at Lodge, become a 25% Mason,

Victor Armstrong, Secretary

January Birthdays

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Brian Arthur Vance | 1/2/1951 | Martin Cornelius Heyne | 1/22/1973 |
| Stephen Daniel Mings | 1/3/1946 | James Laurence Caldwell | 1/23/1937 |
| Erwin William Meiske | 1/5/1929 | Adrian Darell Sallee | 1/24/1931 |
| Ronald Gayle Wright | 1/6/1949 | Michael Wayne Weaver | 1/24/1948 |
| Edward Thomas Laine | 1/7/1944 | Charles J Preston | 1/24/1973 |
| Shephen John Mitchell | 1/8/1967 | Earl Jeffery Combs | 1/25/1921 |
| Durwood M. Thompson, Jr. | 1/10/1950 | Thomas William Munroe, Jr. | 1/26/1929 |
| Louis Rase | 1/11/1947 | Daniel Ralph Samuelson | 1/26/1926 |
| Thomas Edward Riggs | 1/11/1930 | Silas Steen Smith, Jr. | 1/27/1914 |
| James Clifton Overcash | 1/15/1931 | Kevin Wallace Flegal | 1/27/1951 |
| Jason Earl Thomas | 1/16/1971 | Vincent Turner Crawley, Jr. | 1/29/1940 |
| Donald Waldo Mishler | 1/18/1922 | Anthony Molin Pais | 1/30/1926 |
| Russell G. Harper | 1/22/1964 | Donald Curtiss Meyers, Jr. | 1/30/1926 |
| Frederick Whitfield Howlett | 1/22/1938 | Garrett Cooper | 1/31/1940 |

A View From The West

In my last Trestleboard article I talked about the working tools of the Entered Apprentice, and how they are tools of Action, which we should use to improve ourselves and to shape our Rough Ashlars into Perfect Ashlars. This month I will move on to the Working Tools of the Fellowcraft – the Plumb, Square, and Level.

The symbolism of the Entered Apprentice Degree emphasizes beginnings; the first steps and youth; a period of learning fundamentals, which are all consistent with a rite of induction into the Fraternity. The Fellowcraft Degree symbolizes the methods of developing and progressing in the Craft; and, in a sense, the emergence into manhood. But it is a manhood of continued schooling; of renewed research; of further instruction. The working tools of the Fellowcraft are now testing instruments. With them we try, square and prove. With them we learn to develop the faculty of judgment: what is valuable, what is true, what is real.

The Plumb is a symbol of uprightness of conduct. In Freemasonry, it is associated with the plumb line which the Lord promised Amos he would set in the midst of His people, Israel, symbolizing God's standard of divine righteousness. The plumb line in the midst of a people should mean that they will be judged by their own sense of right and wrong, and not by the standards of others. By understanding the Plumb, a Mason is to judge his Brothers by their own standards and not those of someone else. When the plumb line is thought of in this way, it becomes a symbol of an upright life and of the conscience by which each person must live. This idea is closely tied to the concept of Justice. For, in truth, Justice is giving another man his due.

The Square is the symbol of morality, truthfulness and honesty. The direction of the two sides of the Square form an angle of 90°, or a right angle, so-called because this is the angle which stones must have if they are to be used to build a stable and upright wall. It symbolizes accuracy, not even varying by a single degree. When we part upon the Square, we go in different directions, but in full knowledge that our courses in life will be going according to the angle of the Square (which means in the right direction), until we meet again.

The Level is a symbol of equality. We do not mean equality in wealth, social distinction, civic office, or service to mankind; but, rather, we refer to the internal, and not the external, qualifications. Each person is endowed with a worth and dignity which is spiritual, and should not be subject to man-made distinctions. Masonry recognizes that one man may have greater potential in life, service, or reward, than another; but, we also believe that any man can aspire to any height, no matter how great. Thus, the Level dignifies labor and the man who performs it. It also acknowledges that all men are equal without regard to station. The Level also symbolizes the passage of time.

How do you measure up when you apply your Plumb, Square, and Level to your own life and conduct?

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Bro. J. McKissick
Senior Warden, Austin Lodge No. 12, A.F. & A.M.

* Content taken in part from "A Basic Masonic Education Course",
Grand Lodge of CA

REMEMBER : YOU ARE SOMEONE'S IMAGE OF MASONRY!

Brethren,

The following Lodge 12 Brethren remain on our prayer list as they are either ill at home or staying in nursing facilities. I am sure they would appreciate hearing from any of you, either by phone, personal visit or a card:

Steven Bach
James Baker
Samuel Baker
John Brengle
Everett Bohls
George Davis
Marvin Feil
Bill Fogle
Herbert Jackson, Jr.
John Kavanaugh, Jr.
Claude King
John McNamara
Robert Pugh
William Riley
John Sheffield, Jr.

If you know of any other Brethren that should be on our prayer list, please call the Lodge office at 454-8009.



Lodge Schedule

January, 2009



Mon. Jan. 19 : Stated Meeting

Dinner at 6:30pm, Stated Meeting at 7:30pm

Thur. Jan. 22 : M,W,S Association (District 50)

At University #1190. Light meal at 6:30pm, meeting to follow.

Mon. Jan. 26 : Called Meeting

Light meal at 5:30pm, Degrees to follow

Mon. Feb. 2 : Called Meeting

Light meal at 5:30pm, Degrees to follow

Mon. Feb. 9 : Movie Night

Light meal at 5:30pm, Movie to follow

Mon. Feb. 16 : Visit Colorado Lodge #96

Light meal at 6:30pm, Movie to follow

Mon. Feb. 23 : Stated Meeting (Widow's Night)

Dinner at 6:30pm, Stated Meeting at 7:30pm

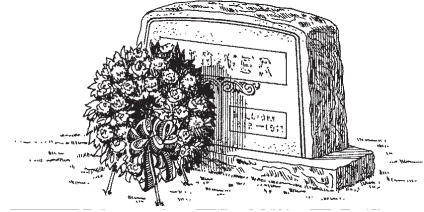
Note : Stated Meeting in February has been moved from the 3rd to the 4th Monday

Schedule is subject to change based on the availability and schedule of candidates.

For the latest, most up-to-date information on what is scheduled to occur at the lodge, please call 454-8009. The answering machine message is updated every Monday evening. We invite all interested brethren to attend our floor work and degree work sessions! **Remember, all stated meetings are Family Night!**
We hope you will all bring a dessert for everyone to share!

You can also view the schedule online here:
<http://www.austinlodge12.com/schedule.php>

In Memoriam



“Well done, thou good and faithful servant! Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord!”

Dennis Guy Willie
December 28, 2009

Willie Ignacious Kocurek
January 1, 2009

Trestleboard Editor -- Steven Bach
<editor@austinlodge12.com>

If you would like to subscribe to the Austin Lodge 12 Email list, please visit this web page:
<http://www.austinlodge12.com/ccmail/>



Austin Lodge No 12, A.F. & A.M.
P.O. Box 5150
Austin TX 78763-5150 — 512/454-8009

Non Profit
Organization

U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Austin, Texas
Permit No. 1558

Address Service Requested