

The Trestleboard



A Publication of Austin Lodge 12, A. F. & A. M.
Sept 2008



From The East

Brethren:

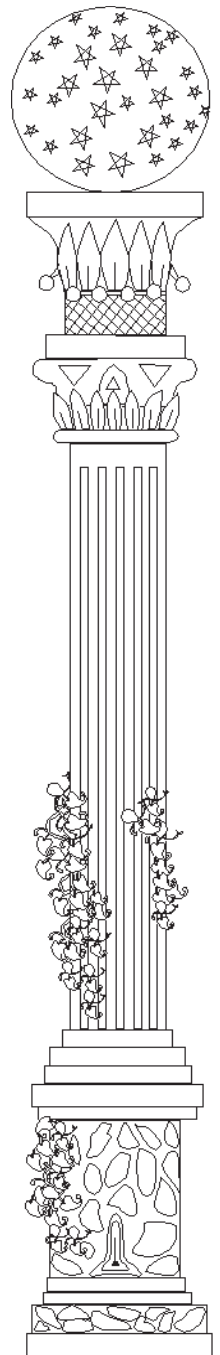
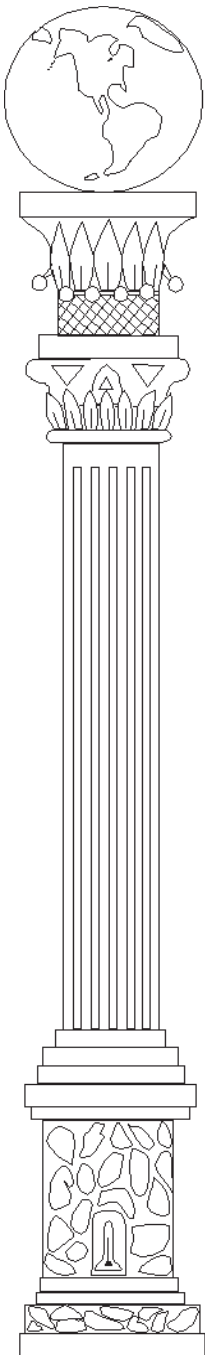
In slowly merging back into Masonic work (and healing well, thank you), I find I did not fully realize just how important my Brothers were to my life. In talking to y'all, I also find that the Gentle Craft has impacted us all in most every way positively. Even those standing on the outside, are looking in at Masonry—though they may not realize it—and finding our service to society in general and to our Country specifically, holding up the ideals our Founding Fathers imagined and brought forth.

I think back to the history lessons I learned as a child and I did not know that so many of our heroes were Masons. Some we know much about, like Brothers George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, Albert Pike and Sam Houston, but many of them, we know nothing or very little about. While much is touted of the influence of these famous men and Masons, the little known Masons were in the vast majority and as such, hoisted on their capable shoulders the bulk of the work in formulating, instituting, carrying forward and maintaining this bulwark of Freedom, known as the United States of America. This is certainly not meant to downplay the roles of our more famous Brethren, but it is to bolster up those amongst us who play a supporting role in upholding the society, culture and ideals of this great nation, as well as around the globe.

As we go about our daily tasks, we should keep in mind all the Masons who were influential in our lives, personally, professionally and certainly in maintaining our freedoms. We should ever be vigilant for good men who are not Masons, that we may make them aware that there is a force for good out there, and that we are a part of it and they may become a part of it as well, much as our Founding Fathers were. It is a service we do for them in introducing Masonry into their lives. This seemingly small task has the possibility to benefit them and all of us.

Always, we should remember that it does take the many to be the foundation for the few who would lead. Gathering more good men of like minds and introducing them to the world of Freemasonry can do nothing but bolster our strength and help us to work for the good of all. Men are looking for what we do, but many do not even know we exist, so we need to keep our eyes peeled for those who would fit the mold set so long ago in a certain Temple of earthly origin, as well as that one not made with hands.

It will be good to see you in Lodge again. I look forward, as well, to all the



Next Stated Meeting: Monday, Sept 15, 2008

2007-2008 Lodge Officers



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new Brothers you will help to bring on board in the future.

In Brotherly Love and Sincerity, I remain your obedient Servant,
Worshipful Master, John Brengle

From the Secretary's Desk

Brethren,

As we move into this 2008-09 Masonic year, I am hoping to have a large response from our membership. I have received numerous calls concerning 25 year service award pins and 40 year service award pins... Well, here is the good news! We will be presenting both 25 and 40 year pins at our October Stated Meeting. Mark your calendars and call the office to let me know you are coming so the Stewards can prepare enough food.

We will also be presenting Fifty and Fifty plus Service Awards at the October Stated Meeting. Right Worshipful Jim Dougherty, District Deputy of Masonic District No. 50 will be there to present the awards and for his official fall visit.

I will be making this announcement again in my article for the October Trestleboard, but make your plans now to attend this event.

See you at Lodge soon,

Victor

Sept. Birthdays

David Glenn Hogan	9/3/76	Justin F Pollack	9/11/1975
Michael Lynn Barker	9/4/1972	Pat Morgan	9/14/1927
Morris H Craig	9/5/1926	John Stephen Toland	9/14/71
Efren Bermudez	9/5/1930	Samuel Earl Baker	9/16/21
Charles Lee Easter, Jr.	9/6/1949	John Wilson Ashby	9/18/1920
Philip Eugene Morgette, Jr.	9/6/1952	Robert Lynn Pugh	9/19/1923
Jonas Silberstein	9/6/1929	Gordon Wayne Kelso	9/20/1941
Jack E Hightower	9/6/1926	Darrell Lee Wise	9/21/1939
Morris Douglas Wallis	9/7/1912	Herbert Lanoey Jackson, Jr.	9/22/1928
Hyman Sandgarten	9/9/1921	Malcolm Douglas Ferguson	9/24/1925
William Alfred Dye	9/9/1939	Shawn Pitre	9/24/1972
John Robert Hastie	9/9/1942	William Joseph Smith	9/25/1974
Benard Laves	9/11/1926	Larry David Mitchell	9/26/1938
Philip Edward Hornsey	9/11/68		

A View From The West

One of the duties of the Senior Warden is to be in charge of the Craft while at Labor, so with that in mind, I intend to focus my articles this year in that area. Those of you who know me know that I have a real passion for the Esoteric work – for it is through our Ritual that the lessons of Masonry are communicated and passed down from generation to generation. It is our Ritual which ties us to our Masonic past and heritage, and the Ritual that contains the lessons and tenets of Freemasonry.

Just as our Ancient brethren used the common gavel, square, level, plumb, and other working tools of masonry in its Operative sense, so do we apply these same tools to our Speculative Masonic work. But what is this ‘Great Work’ that we are trying to accomplish?

I believe that the purpose of our Masonic Work is to become better men - better husbands, better fathers, better citizens, and more thoughtful human beings. We work to improve ourselves and transform the rough ashlar that we are into perfect ashlar. Being in the company of other men working towards this same goal helps us in this task, for we see in others examples of good qualities that we can emulate in our own behavior. We also help one another by correcting irregularities in each others behavior, and supporting our Brothers in their efforts at reformation and self improvement.

So how do the Working Tools of Masonry help us accomplish this? The working tools are symbolic, and guide us as we explore the lessons of Morality – our duties to God, our families and society, and to ourselves. They also help us to be able to communicate with our Brethren through a common understanding of what these symbols mean. It is up to each Mason to determine for himself how these tools apply to his own life and what their deeper meanings are, but there is also a common meaning to these symbols that is understood by all Masons. It is these common understandings that tie us together into one sacred band, or society, and upon which we build our Moral and Masonic edifice.

So Brethren, I encourage you to think about the Working Tools of Masonry, and how they can be applied to your own life and actions, and how by doing so, you can become a better man, thereby fitting yourself as a living stone for that Spiritual Building, that House not made with Hands, eternal in the Heavens.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

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

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:

James Baker
Samuel Baker
John Brengle
Everett Bohls
George Davis
Marvin Feil
Bill Fogle
Herbert Jackson, Jr.
John Kavanaugh, Jr.
Gordon Kelso
Claude King
John McNamara
Larry Mitchell
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

Sept, 2008



Sept. 8 : Called Meeting.....5:30pm

A light meal will be served, with E.A. degree to follow.
After the degree, we will have a Lodge Officer's meeting.
The officer's meeting is open to all Lodge members.

Sept. 15 : STATED MEETING.....6:30pm

Dinner at 6:30pm, with the Stated Meeting to follow

Sept. 22 : Called Meeting.....5:30pm

A light meal will be served, with degree(s) to follow.

Sept. 29 : LODGE MOVIE NIGHT.....6:00pm

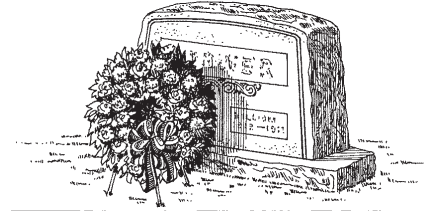
Popcorn and sodas will be provided by the Lodge.

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!”

George Curtis Holland
September 2, 2008

Walter Allen Schlueter
September 2, 2008

Trestleboard Editor -- Steven Bach
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