

The Trestleboard

AUSTIN Lodge #12

May AD 2010, AL 6010

Worshipful Master

J. McKissick



~Rising From the East ~

Brethren,

We are rapidly approaching the end of another Masonic year, and quite a year it has been! It has truly been a pleasure to serve as your Worshipful Master, and it has been one of the great experiences of my life. We have a fantastic Lodge, and I will always look back at my time in the East at Austin Lodge #12 with much fondness. Thank you to all the Brothers who have worked so hard to make our Lodge what it is today.

This year, we have initiated 10 Entered Apprentices, Passed 9 Brothers to the Degree of Fellowcraft, and Raised 6 to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason. We continue to have many young men visit our Lodge every week who are interested in joining our Fraternity, and the numbers seem to only be increasing.

We are continuing our tradition of certifying in all three degrees – at this time we have completed the Fellowcraft and Masters Degree certifications, and plan to certify in the Entered Apprentice Degree soon. We were also recognized again as a Vanguard Lodge at the Grand Lodge of Texas Annual Communication in Waco this past December.

We have continued to develop our relationship with Matthews Elementary, the school we adopted just a few short years ago, and we've been making quite an impact

there. We raised over \$1000.00 for the school by sponsoring the raffle at their annual Octoberama festival, and we plan to send another of their teachers through the Scottish Rite Learning Center Dyslexia training program this year. I spoke with the teacher we sent last year when we presented her (and two of their outstanding students) with Lamar Medals at a school assembly in March, and she said the training made such an impact on her that it inspired her to go back to school and pursue a Masters Degree in Special Education. The school has been so appreciative of our efforts that they named Austin Lodge #12 as their Partner of the Year this year. I'd like to give a special thanks to Bro. John Brengle, PM, who continues to serve on the Matthews Campus Advisory Council, and Bro. Chris Moyseos, who is serving as our liaison with the school.

Although we've had many accomplishments already, the year isn't quite over yet. On Monday, May 26th, the week after our May Stated Meeting, we will be having an 'Awards Banquet', where we will be awarding scholarships and the presenting the Community Builder Award, so please try to attend and make this a great event for all the recipients. Masonry is all about making the world a better place, and this is just one way that our Lodge giving back to our community.

Lastly, on Monday June 14th we'll be having our annual Festive Board. If you have not been to one of these, you are really missing out. It is a great time of Masonic Fellowship and is one of the great Masonic Traditions from Antiquity. This will be a 'black tie' event, and will include a catered meal and traditional Masonic toasts and songs. Please contact our Junior Warden, Bro. Russell Zears, or our Lodge Secretary Bro. Victor Armstrong if you'd like to attend. A donation of \$25.00 per person is suggested to help cover the cost. Please come and join us if you are able as we celebrate another year of Masonry at Austin Lodge #12.

Most Sincerely and Fraternally,

Bro. J. McKissick

Worshipful Master, Austin Lodge #12, A.F & A.M.
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~As The Sun In The West~

From the West

Well, it seem's that now a days there is an agenda for just about anything and everything. I believe that this thought process comes from our mind's eye, i.e., our own perception of the world and how we have perceived that it has treated us and the ones around us; loved ones or others. All I have to offer is to just keep doing what you believe is Right. In addition, fight the good fight, finish the course and keep the faith; in heaven there is laid up for you a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give you on that day. It seems appropriate to close this thought process with this prayer; you may have heard it before: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever.

Amen.

S.M.I.B.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
Steven Sterzing, Senior Warden
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~From the South~

Frankin does Yoga! (Part 2)

For those who have not been following this series of articles closely, a small recap.

In studying the Franklin virtue system, I felt that his methodology was valuable, but I was not certain that he had chosen the "virtues" that I would have. I then began collecting systems of describing virtue or virtuous behavior. Ultimately I intend to construct a list of virtues I feel are best for me, but I wanted to build upon those selected by some of the greatest minds available. One system that I recently studied is that of yoga, called the Yama and Niyama.

I was struck by the parallels between Socrates and the ancient yoga experts. Both believed that all virtues were connected, and that at their base was knowledge, basically of right and wrong but also more extensive worldly knowledge of how the internal translates into the external. Both also felt that one could only be said to possess knowledge if you used that knowledge in your daily actions. For, surely, no sane person would act against what they knew to be true! It is through practice one inculcates knowledge, this being the basis for a yoga practice. Similarly this is the basis for Franklin's simple and practical virtue system.

These are the five "Do's" or observances of yoga, called the Niyama:

- 6) Shaucha: purity, cleanliness
- 7) Santosha: contentment, peacefulness
- 8) Tapas: austerity, practical (i.e., result-producing) spiritual discipline
- 9) Swadhyaya: introspective self-study, spiritual study
- 10) Ishwarapranidhana: offering of one's life to God

For more in-depth understanding of these, try http://www.atmajyoti.org/med_foundations_of_yoga.asp
Join me in practicing each of these for a week.

Russel Zears, Junior Warden
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~From the Secretary's Desk~

Happy Birthday to all who have had birthdays since our last Trestleboard.

Please keep our sick, infirm and otherwise distressed Brethren and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

Spring has sprung and it is that time of year when your Secretary is required by Grand

Lodge law to send out letters to members who are delinquent in their dues and if unpaid, will suspended themselves on June 24,2010. This year I sent more letters than any year since I have been Secretary.

It sounds as though the Lodge is trying to nickel and dime you all the time. Part of that is correctin fact, Three dimes per day will cover your dues for the year. If you don't relate to that, try this, a cup of coffee at a regular restaurant with the tax costs as much as your dues for one week.

Austin Lodge 12 no longer has the highest dues in the area, we have been passed and several other Lodges are getting close. Masonry at any cost is a bargain.

How much is your Masonry and the welfare of the fraternity worth to you?

We are about 5 cups of coffee away from finding out!

See you at Lodge?

Victor Armstrong, Secretary
Austin Lodge #12, A. F. & A. M.
Website is: austinlodge12.com

~ A Brother on the Winding Stairway~

"What is a Mason, Mr. Underwood?" One of my students asked me the other day in class. There was a side bar in the textbook that mentioned George Washington being a Mason.

"A Mason is a man who believes in certain ideals so deeply, that it changes who he is", I told him. I knew the answer was not what he wanted, so I invited him to come see me after class and I would give him the full explanation.

After class, I pressed a book into his hand and told him to open to a certain page and read the section. That section was about The Marquis de Lafayette.

Lafayette was a Frenchman who believed so strongly in the ideals of enlightenment and freedom that he risked everything simply for the chance to fight for those ideals. Lafayette was a Mason, although the facts of which lodge raised him as a Master Mason are debatable. Lafayette played a significant role in the formation of this

nation. As a teenager, Lafayette came to America at his own expense to join the Continental Army. He served with honor and became one of General Washington's most favored generals and life-long friend.

At Lafayette's death a small container of soil, by his request, was taken from the battlefield of Bunker Hill to Paris and sprinkled over his grave during burial. An American flag has always flown over his grave. The flag has remained undisturbed, even when the Nazis occupied France during WWII. One of our greatest Patriots was not even an American. He was something much more; he was a Mason.

"Wow, that was an awesome guy", my student said.

"He is a Mason", I replied.

My brothers, you and I have attached our names to that legacy. I am somewhat confident that we will not lead any armies of revolution, but we are called to lead our families; to be leaders in our neighborhoods and communities, and for our parts, leaders in Lodge. The funny thing about 24inch gauges is: the great heroes and leaders of our past only had 24 inches in theirs too.

Fraternally,
Joe Underwood, FC

~Past Masters Feast~

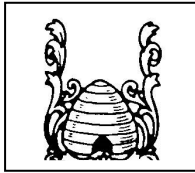
This month's meal will be furnished by the Past Masters of Austin Lodge #12. Chicken cacciatore will be the fare, with cornbread, ice cream (of course), and special other stuff to be revealed at the feast. All Past Masters are invited to join in the fun. We will start cooking at about 3:30.

SUMMONS NOTE:

The Worshipful Master wishes you all to know that each Trestleboard is to be viewed as an official summons to the Stated Meeting just the same as the summons you receive every other month. Please notify one of the above officers of your disposition.

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THE TRESTLEBOARD

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

~UPCOMING SCHEDULE~

AUSTIN LODGE #12 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May

Mon. May 17 : **STATED MEETING**
Thu. May 13 : Floorwork Class
Mon. May 24 : **SCHOLARSHIP AND AWARDS
BANQUET (COMMUNITY BUILDER, SCOTTISH
RITE DYSLEXIA SCHOLARSHIP, HIGH SCHOOL
SCHOLARSHIPS)**
Thu. May 27 : Floorwork Class
Mon. May 31 : CALLED MEETING

June

Thurs. June 3 : Floorwork Class
Mon. June 7 : CALLED MEETING
Thurs. June 10: Floorwork Class
Mon. June 14 : **FESTIVE BOARD**
Thurs. June 17: Floorwork Class
Mon. June 21 : **STATED MEETING
(ELECTIONS)**

Mon. June 28 : **OPEN INSTALLATION OF
OFFICERS FOR THE MASONIC YEAR 2010-
2011**

Thurs. July 1 : Floorwork Class
Mon. July 5 : CALLED MEETING
Thurs. July 8 : Floorwork Class
Mon. July 12 : CALLED MEETING
Thurs. July 15 : Floorwork Class
Mon. July 19 : **STATED MEETING**
Thurs. July 22 : Floorwork Class
Mon. July 26 : CALLED MEETING
Thurs. July 29 : Floorwork Class

NOTE: At almost all of the called meetings we are doing degree work. Come out and be a part of the dynamic work that is going on at your Austin Lodge #12. We have some great young men joining our Lodge and the work is excellent. Y'all will be proud!

Visit our website at
<http://austinlodge12.com/schedule.php> for the latest schedule.