



# Trestleboard

Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Oregon

from the **East**



## Freemasonry by Another Name

by Bob Casey, Worshipful Master

Malheur Cave sits in the desert wastelands of southeastern Oregon. It's the site of a closely-guarded Masonic ceremony, held in late August about 1,000 feet into the lava tube. A torchlight ceremony confers the Third Degree on an initiate, surrounded by cold, dark gloom.

But consider whether this location has hosted other Masonic events. And go deeper. Ask yourself what it really means to be a Mason.

Native American legend might bear on these matters. According to Paiute legend, long ago a band of their tribe was warned by a coyote of the approach of a larger force from the Bannock Tribe. The Bannocks planned on exterminating them. So the Paiutes stocked the cave with food. They closed up its entrance with large rocks. Then they retreated into its depths.

The coyote was left outside to keep watch.

The marauding Bannocks discovered the cave and suspected it was where the Paiutes were hiding. For several days, the Bannocks shot arrows into the

entrance of the cave. They didn't realize the arrows landed harmlessly in the darkness. Also they didn't realize the Paiutes had ample provisions of food and water. Eventually the Bannocks moved on.

The Paiutes returned to sunlight, to the solar perpendicular. They thanked the coyote for his protection. Thereafter they

revered the coyote as a wise, cunning protector. Moreover, they developed a belief in transmigration of human souls through the coyote to heaven, where they would be restored to youth, plentiful game, flowers, trees, lakes, and streams.

As postscript, Malheur Cave is owned by Robert Burns Masonic Lodge No. 97, located in the small community of Burns, Oregon. Every member of that lodge has affirmed that a Mason is first prepared to be made such in his heart. That affirmation provides Freemasons with basis for looking to other cultures and claiming them as brother Masons, in all but name.

So this question occurs to me: were the Paiutes lodge brothers, using Malheur Cave as their sanctuary, with the coyote posted outside as their Tyler?

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**WB Bob Casey, Worshipful Master 2016**



## **Fraternal Greetings from the Secretary**

Attended a Leadership Workshop last month, conducted through Grand Lodge, and was a very well attended event. With the following subjects being discussed; Code, Esoteric Masonry, Long Range Planning, Social Media Lodge Investigations, Consolidations/Mergers, if anybody is interested in a particular subject, I would be happy to go over the material presented. We hope to have a couple new men interested in petitioning the Lodge, and they come well received. If your residence or email address has changed please let me know. I can be reached at the Lodge phone, or feel free to call me directly at 541-499-2953, and my email address is [JimLoennig@yahoo.com](mailto:JimLoennig@yahoo.com). We hope to stay in touch with our Brothers.

Spring seems to have sprung, and Friendship looks to have caught its stride. Our March Communication saw a fantastic turn out of Brothers (members and visitors alike) and we didn't disappoint. Inspired by

WB Arneson's lecture on "The Art of Virtue", a delightful party of Brothers stayed behind to enjoy refreshment and conversation into the night. Though liberated from the usual Masonic restrictions, *temperance* was on display in good form, undoubtedly bolstered by a measure of *prudence*.

Our country is presently navigating the passionate affair of elections; even more, our Fraternity is seeing divisions created from within and the ramifications of the various Grand Jurisdictions involved can only be imagined. I do presume we all have strong opinions on all these matters, and perhaps struggle to know which is wisest – silence or openness. The *charitable* man would give the benefit of the doubt to others and learn from their stories, that he might make wiser choices.

I suspect the distance of history might be helpful to us all today, and so it is that April's education comes once again from *The Great Courses*; an analysis of *The Federalist Papers* from a philosophical angle. After all, what could be more *prudent* during divisive times than to reflect upon the operative and speculative craftworks that have shaped our world?

Brethren I so dearly value our time together. The feasting, festivities, debates and routine business, too all remind me how good and how pleasant it is for Brethren to dwell together in unity.

Be well. I look forward to seeing you again this April.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Your Junior Warden, Walter Lee

## **April**

### **Masonic Birthdays**

Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason

**15 Kenton Barnes (29)**  
**19 Earl Carrier (38)**  
**22 Richard Bristow (46)**  
**24 Keith Moon (06)**  
**25 Roy Kirkham (37)**  
**28 Walter Davis (62)**  
**29 Earl Redd (72)**  
**29 Cole Magbanua (07)**

## **April**

### **Natural Birthdays**

**09 Paul Blackburn**  
**10 Tom Sawyer**  
**13 James Peyer-Nelson**  
**15 Eugene Nelson**  
**21 Cliff Jenne**  
**22 John Bladholm**  
**29 David Gould**  
**29 Joseph Shull**  
**30 Lovell Danilson, Jr.**

**Sun                      Mon                      Tue                      Wed                      Thu                      Fri                      Sat**

**1                      2**

**3**                      **4**                      **5**                      **6**                      **7**                      **8**                      **9**  
 Bethel 4                      Friendship 160                      Minerva 104                      Mizpah-Rose 12                      Prince Hall  
 7:00 pm                      Dinner 6:30 pm                      Meeting 5pm                      Dinner 6:30 PM                      10:00 AM  
 Stated 7:30 PM

**10**                      **11**                      **12**                      **13**                      **14**                      **15**                      **16**  
 Kenton 145  
 Dinner 6:30 pm  
 Stated 7:30 pm

**17**                      **18**                      **19**                      **20**                      **21**                      **22**                      **23**  
 Bethel 4  
 7:00 pm

**24**                      **25**                      **26**                      **27**                      **28**                      **29**                      **30**

Rosicrucians  
 Social Hour  
 3:15 PM

*To the Brother who stands plumb to his principles, yet is level to his Brethren.*

# FriendshipMasonicLodge<sup>160</sup>

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Address Correction Requested