



FriendshipMasonicLodge¹⁶⁰

Trestleboard

Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Oregon

from
the **East**

Kindle Charitable Donation

A charitable donation was made, this month, by our lodge. We donated 13 Kindle Paperwhite e-readers to a third grade class at Harrison Park School, in southeast Portland. Also, we donated appropriate accessories.

Support for public education is a longstanding Masonic tradition. Unfortunately, our public schools are under considerable financial stress. Some schools could benefit from donations of educational equipment.

That is where Kindle e-readers enter the picture. The Masonic Grand Lodge of Oregon has initiated a program called Kindles for Books, which promotes donations of these small, lightweight battery-powered devices.

Kindles display the pages of books, magazines, and newspapers. Books can be electronically installed on Kindles from a variety of sources, including from public libraries for no charge. The flagship model, known as the Kindle Paperwhite, comes with a backlit screen. That way, it can be read under any lighting condition. Kindle Paperwhites have a storage capacity large enough to hold about 4,000 books.

For a third grade class, that would be quite a library! And we have donated 13 separate Kindles.

Brian Swan is the teacher who will be stewarding the Kindles. His plan is to control the content that is installed on the Kindles, and to allow their use only in the classroom. So these devices will remain at school, and not be taken home.

There is one exception. Friendship Lodge has given Mr. Swan permission to give as many as half of the Kindles to individual students, at the end of the year, based on his own judgment regarding students who might benefit from individual ownership of an e-reader.

WB Bob Casey, Worshipful Master 2016



Is Masonry a ritual or a practice?
By: Br. Leo Schuman, SW

We hear it said that the purpose of Masonry is to “make Masons.” But, how exactly do we do that? My personal experience as a brother of “Friendship Masonic Lodge #160, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons” has been unusual in some respects. Like 5 of my brothers, I was raised in the “united” Friendship 160, during the period when we were consolidated with Kenton 145. Yet, the first time I ever spoke in open Lodge, other than during my degrees and proficiency testing, was to offer prayer as Chaplain the night our Lodge was divided by the Grand Master back into its predecessors. The lines of our closing prayer - “[n]ow that we are about to separate ...” - have never rung so strongly for me as they did that night. While I still sometimes painfully feel my Masonic youth, the nearly three years since that night have been a significant learning experience. As one can imagine, whether or not you’ve been able to attend many of our meetings,

strong feelings have flowed on all sides of “the division.” Most of the brothers who actively participated in raising me were suddenly - with the stroke of a Grand Master’s pen - no longer part of my Lodge. My mentor was no longer part of my Lodge. And, a journey began leading two “new” Lodges in two complementary, but different directions. Along the way, I’ve had no choice but to quickly learn there is far more to Masonry than merely participating in rituals, no matter how ancient, beautiful, and symbolic. There is more to Masonry than fun and fellowship, no matter how tasty the sup. Young as I am in our Craft, it has quickly emerged that my ashlar is smoothed when I find my way to agreement with a brother across differences. My ashlar is smoothed when I come to understand you must “just keep showing up”, even if I’ve disagreed with the brother teaching me this lesson. My ashlar is smoothed when I do the sometimes challenging work of seeking Friendship, even when it’s hard. This work is making me a better man. And, I’m happy to share that we are reaching the close of the most harmonious year of Masonry I’ve yet enjoyed. I hope for many more to come. We have much to do as a Lodge if we wish to thrive in the years ahead. We have only ten to twelve relatively active members, and we still need assistance to hold a degree. Yet, we also have good line of young Masons headed through the stations towards the East, each with a Basic Proficiency Card. We are actively working to improve in all ways, and are grateful for elder brothers ready and willing to assist when needed. We have a strong commitment to solid financial management and transparency. We also have a developing eye towards who we are and wish to be and become in the years ahead. Not all Lodges are so fortunate as we are, for the patrimony our elders have given to aid us in our work, even if it has been a challenging path rendering this legacy into its soundly-invested liquid form. No small part of our work ahead is to learn how to honor this gift, and use it to build - and re-build - our Friendship. There are many ways to be a Mason, but none of them matter if we cannot be friends.

from the South

Greetings from the South Brethren,

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity!

I’ve been turning this familiar piece of scripture over in my mind for a bit now because it seems to connect two ideas that I had previously found to be paradoxical, though individually agreeable, and harmonizes nicely with our present theme of *charity*.

In a society that delights in individuality and the creativity which springs from it, how do we create bonds of commonality and shared interest? We see it all the time in our Lodge experience – men giving their time to create a degree for a Brother. The Brethren giving their patience to one another in debate. And our coming together behind the Kindles program. All of these are acts of *charity*. All of them demand some denial of the self, a suspension of our individual will to power, for the sake of another’s opportunity to flourish. Charity is a virtue because it is the clearest expression of unity within the family of humanity. It proves to each of us that our nature is to be one being, greater than the sum of its parts, and lets us reflect the order and beauty that reigns before the Great Architect of the Universe.

What a delightful gift. And one I look forward to enjoying with you all this October, over a robust meal from Der Rheinlander – in proper Oktoberfest fashion.

Until then, be well Brethren.

Fraternally,

Your Junior Warden,
Walter Lee



October Masonic Birthdays

Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason

- 09 Daniel Tuggle (31)
- 13 Douglas McCarty (23)
- 14 Pepper Howland (29)
- 20 Charles Tomassene Jr. (68)
- 21 Michael Benson (07)
- 25 James Damron (49)
- 27 John Bladholm (45)
- 28 Michael Watson (46)
- 31 Lexus Johnson (54)



Kent Smith Fellow Craft Degree Team completed on September 21, 2016.

October Natural Birthdays

- 20 Brian Murphy
- 27 Jerry Parrick

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Sufi Community Meeting 7:00 PM
2	3 Bethel 4 7:00 pm	4	5 Friendship 160 Dinner 6:30 PM Stated 7:30 P	6 Minerva 104 Meeting 5:00 pm Kenton 145 Dinner 6:30 PM Stated 7:30 PM	7	8
9	10	11	12	15	16 Mizpah-Rose 12 Meeting 7:30 PM	17
18	19 Bethel 4 7:00 pm	20	21	22	23	24
25 Rosicrucians Social Hour 3:15 PM	26	27	28	29	30	31

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

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Address Correction Requested