



FriendshipMasonicLodge¹⁶⁰

Trestleboard

Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Oregon

From the EAST:

The Masonic Lodge experience is so intellectually stimulating. So rich with art and profound meaning in its ritual, and delightful in the opportunity for life-long friendship; that it's easy to forget that what Masons do out of Lodge is more to the point of what defines us. Correspondingly, there are a few details from January that might have been easy to overlook. Following our own first regular monthly meeting of the year, the Master and Wardens of Friendship traveled to the Washington Masonic Center to participate in the installation of the Order of Job's Daughters Bethel 4's officers.

As most everyone in Friendship Lodge already knows, Worshipful Brother Mike Benson has relocated to Arkansas to give aid to his father. He set sail on this adventure last autumn, but recently came back to Portland for a week. His timing was perfect - WB Benson was in town just in time to join us at Friendship's regular board game night and see his son for his 20th birthday. Most of our active brothers got to see Mike again, either at game night or the following day when we gathered at his family's home to help pack his shipping pod.

Mike also made time to pitch in at the Lodge during his visit, assisting with the documenting and archiving of our collection of antiques; once again reminding us of the great fortune we have in our most experienced brothers. It was a profoundly special visit for me, as Mike was my coach and mentor when I first joined Friendship Lodge. I had served him as Senior Deacon in 2016 and have always admired his clarity of thought and principle. I met with WB Benson one more time, to see him off at the airport. My son, Michael was with us and we got one more photo of Big Mike and Little Mike together.

Our charity committee successfully executed another round of one of our recurring relief projects, by bringing 60 10' X 12' tarps to Operation Nightwatch; a local homeless relief organization, which you can learn more about at www.operationnightwatch.org. While a blue tarp is a mundane thing for most of us: easily bought, used and discarded when done; the director of Operation Nightwatch was very grateful for the donation, remarking, "...these are like gold for our guests." Which leaves us all contemplating the value of everything in our lives, and grateful for the blessings we receive and pass along.

On January 24th we raised Brother Patrick Reilly to the Sublime degree of Master Mason. It was a night of marked difficulty, abundant joy, and effusive brotherly love. Despite being short handed by sickness and travel Friendship pushed onward to give our Brother one of the most special gifts of our fraternity. The ritual (and evening in total) was all the better for the efforts of our beloved brothers Tom Binkerd and Doug Auld who traveled to Friendship and pitched in after learning we were short-staffed.

At long last, having toiled hard in the quarry for all five weeks of January, Friendship Lodge closed the month by cementing the screening of "33 & Beyond: the Royal Art of Masonry" by buying out the necessary quota (curiously, 33 tickets) and giving them for free to any Brother requesting one. This film follows the Masonic journey of one brother, Johnny Royal, from the Blue Lodge into the York Rite, and through the Scottish Rite. Many Portland Freemasons were delighted to learn it was coming to our fair city, and indeed it is well to spread this great and good work. More details and photos of these wonderful activities are available on our Lodge

From the East Cond't:

website, Friendship160.org and I encourage all of our members to make a habit of visiting the site, to keep up to date on what's going on, offer their own ideas up, and join in the various conversations that are always going on.

January has been a whirlwind tour of life, change and challenge; but we've made it through in fine style at every turn by the bounty of brotherly love and affection which defines Freemasonry. And we stride into February eager to review the petitions we've received, enjoy more education, a philosophy night, and as always, the company of this band of brothers.

Fraternally,

Walter Lee
Worshipful Master

From the West,

Last month in Lodge, a letter from the Grand Lodge was read outlining the requirements of the 2018 Grand Master's Achievement Award for Lodges. One of the requirements is that the wardens complete the Torchlight Course, a comprehensive collaborative test that familiarizes brethren with the Code. It is always a good idea to be familiar with the Code, and so, led by WB Schuman, some of us are endeavoring to complete the course, and check that requirement off of the Achievement Award.

There is no minimum or maximum to the brethren who can participate, and everyone is encouraged to do so. We will be dividing up blocks of questions, researching the answers on our own time using the searchable .pdf of the

Code, and coming together to discuss and share the answers. Many hands make lighter work, so the more people get involved, the fewer questions each individual will have to research.

We are planning to meet for the first time before the philosophy lecture and discussion on the 21st of February. We will be meeting at 6 pm, which will give us an hour to share our answers with each other. If you would like to participate in this, please let myself, B Smith, WB Schuman or WB Lee know, and we will make sure you have the required information.

Additionally, as mentioned above, we will be having our first philosophy lecture and discussion of the year on February 21st at 7 pm. We will be watching a lecture from the Great Courses, titled "Moral Science and the Natural World," which draws from the work of Hume. This lecture was chosen by BJW Smith, who would like to explore how far our Masonic obligations extend.

I look forward to seeing all of you at Stated, and throughout the many opportunities we will have this month to come and work together.

Chris Chase
Senior Warden

FROM THE SOUTH:

The warm winds of the Italian Riviera come out of the South, and so too will our wonderful dinner menu. Preceding February's Stated, Brother FC Pease (Kenton 145) will grace our presence and our plates with Polenta Bolognese, roasted Italian peppers and onions, Caprese salad, beautiful herbed Focaccia bread, and a Red Mother sauce (as a vegetarian option to the Bolognese). Guests are very welcome for dinner and post-Stated activities. For our Masonic Education,

From the South Cond't:

we will be very fortunate to have WB Daniel Gray (Beaverton 100) who will deliver a fascinating lecture entitled "The Innovators" (reflecting on changes in Masonry over the centuries). After Stated and lecture, we'll retire to the Library to share our thoughts on the Masonic philosophy contained in the lecture, while remaining aware that guests and petitioners may be present. Those who choose to avail themselves of La Dolce Vita will be invited to head upstairs after the lecture debrief for supplementary fellowship and refreshment.

Kent Smith
Junior Warden

Liberty vs. Obligation
by Bob Casey,

Tyler Does liberty have limits? On one hand, we're taught that liberty is a principle worthy of the devotion of every Mason. But on the other hand, if you look closely at liberty's possible ramifications, you might develop some mixed feelings. These thoughts bubble up from an illuminating educational event, recently hosted by our lodge and presented by Bro. Kent Smith. It was titled "Liberty and the Libertine". Afterward we had our usual informal discussion over refreshments. And it became apparent, during this discussion, that if liberty moves toward libertinism, it might take on qualities that prompt the mixed feelings mentioned above. Nowadays, libertinism has a connotation of sexual licentiousness. But that wasn't its original meaning, according to Bro. Smith, who reported that it traditionally meant a general disavowal of all obligations. The only exception might be obligations which a libertine assumed voluntarily, but thinks can be discarded at any moment. As I listened to this discussion, my mind went to an observation made by the religious author C.S. Lewis. He wrote that most people have an innate sense of right and wrong, which hints at some larger purpose in life. No matter

this sense might be vague or shifting – the point is, it's there. And that's what my own experiences seem to confirm. Virtually everyone I've known well, has occasionally expressed to me some sense of right and wrong. So C.S. Lewis might be correct – most people do have this type of inner compass. That leads to a further question. Namely . . . is a libertine at war with himself? If like most people a libertine he has an instinctive sense of right and wrong, but regards himself as not obligated to observe it, then he might regard anyone like himself as untrustworthy. He might think a man like himself was deplorable. In that way, the libertine's own self-image might be conflicted

February

Natural Birthdays

17 Pepper Howland
22 Aubrey Carroll
25 Mark Cook
28 Earl Redd

February

Masonic Birthdays

Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason

16 Kenneth Bowcutt (53)
17 Jerry Parrick (48)
18 George Nelson (66)
19 Tim Kretchmer (05)
24 David Gould (61)
25 David Shearer (66)
26 James Wallace (55)
26 Fredric Krueger (27)

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 2 3

4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Bethel #4
7:00 pm

Friendship 160
Stated Meeting
Dinner 6:30 pm
Meeting 7:30 pm

Kenton #145
Dinner 6:30 pm
Stated 7:30 pm

11 12 13 14 15 16 17

Friendship 160
Vision Committee
Kenton Temple
7:00 pm

18 19 20 21 22 23 24

Friendship 160
Torchlight & Philosophy
Torchlight 6:00 pm
Philosophy 7:00 pm

25 26 27 28

Friendship 160
Officer's Meeting & Degree Practice
Kenton Masonic Temple
6:30 pm

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

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Address Correction Requested