



FriendshipMasonicLodge¹⁶⁰

December2021

Trestleboard

Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Oregon

from
the **East**

Hail Brothers and Fellowes Well-Met!

When you read this, it will be early December. This is the last Trestleboard article for A.L. 6021, and my last "From the East" as your lodge's Worshipful Master.

Your two-year journey of being forced to read my wandering thoughts is at an end - ALMOST!

There is simply no way to communicate the appreciation I feel for having had this opportunity. I am a big believer in viewing lodge chairs as part of a progressive process that, for some brothers, can amount to "manhood training." I would have been well-served to have aspired to the East 20 years ago or more, when the natural wisdom such a journey imparts would have benefited me greatly.

As I prepared to compose this final note for you, I considered summarizing my two years in the East: lessons I learned; events that occurred; bullets dodged; mistakes made. It was certainly an enriching and enlightening time, but who among us has much to say to these past two years? What I experienced in the East - I will say - was certainly no great hardship, considering what so many others had to face. In some ways, once your brothers made it clear that they were prepared to ride out the storm, our path was set.

In our mutual time of stress, distress, and isolation, we did find (if we'd ever lost it) that we can always lean on Friendship Masonic Lodge No. 160, A.F. & A.M.

We leaned on Friendship to give us some sense of purpose outside our private lives and jobs. Friendship, in some ways, gave us something worthwhile to DO. We also leaned on the personal friendship of brothers to help us fight back the blanket of loneliness and angst. Our lodge, in my humble opinion, is the best-named lodge in the whole world.

In truth, we all lean on the holy mortar that binds this lodge together actually, metaphorically, and symbolically. I believe that this holy mortar is in part composed of friendship.

Suffer me this one, last winding talk, reader.

An **operative** mason's mortar is composed of cement, lime, and some kind of solid, larger-particle aggregate. Most people aren't really aware of the critical role of aggregate in mortar. Quite often, it's considered a "decorative" element that can be tinkered with to improve a mortar's visual texture and color. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Portland cement and lime chemically react in the presence of water to form an incredibly strong bond. But it's the oft-ignored aggregate that gives mortar its real weight-bearing strength. Aggregate also protects mortar from the weakening process of temperature-related expansion/contraction, as well as from some of the water-logging that all bricks-and-mortar edifices face at their peril. Without the proper type and ratio of aggregate, mortar crumbles long before its time, and a building so built will fail.

Now, not a few of the rites we undergo as **speculative** masons result in equally strong ties and bonds. We can quickly think, brothers, of 2 or 3 things that might stand very well as cement, lime, and water in our rituals. They mix together alchemically to produce a whole new substance. But let me add here that FRIENDSHIP must also be added to the mix, just as aggregate must be added to cement-lime-water, or the whole building will FAIL.

FRIENDSHIP is no mere "decorative" element in this lodge - or any lodge, for that matter.

FRIENDSHIP in this lodge is what makes our ties and bonds able to bear otherwise-crushing weights, tremors, and quakes that seek to tear our Lodge down, brick by brick.

It's FRIENDSHIP that gives our ties/bonds their REAL strength, especially when those bonds are tested by the gnarly vicissitudes of history.

I came aboard as your Worshipful Master in friendship, for the sake of Friendship, put up to the task by my best friends. My report to you on this year, on the two years of my administration of your lodge, is that we have survived well enough. We are quite ready to thrive in the coming new year. And this is due solely to friendship.

My time in the East will, like the sun at this time of year, diminish daily until the longest midwinter night is broken by a newly lengthening day - and a new Master in the East.

As for him (Brother Jimmie Jaimes) I am so happy to see him ascend those steps. I am so confident and excited for the future of our Lodge under his Mastership.

I am so certain of these things because he is my real and true friend.

Thank you all.

In fraternity and friendship,

WBro K R Smith



from
the **South**

Fraternal Greetings from the South,

I'm glad to report that Covid numbers have continued to improve. We're on a trajectory to have minimal infections, assuming the holidays don't cause an uptick like last year. As before, as a lodge we will continue to adhere to the Governor's orders. This means masks on in the lodge, and distance at dinner time. This month, Bro Pease will be preparing for us a festive holiday feast! Everyone, including family, is invited to join us for dinner.

Good news as well in the realm of booster shots. Everyone should now be eligible to receive their shot, I even got mine on Monday! The lodge would encourage everyone to get their boosters to protect themselves and everyone else as much as possible.

I'll again link you all to the Oregon Health Authority's website here: <https://govstatus.egov.com/OR-OHA-COVID-19> Hopefully all restrictions will be removed before too long, but until then it's a good idea to keep an eye on them.

As I believe this is my last article as your Junior Warden, I want to thank you all for the opportunity to serve the Lodge. It's been a pleasure serving in the South.

Stay safe and healthy Brothers,

Brother Kevin Miller-Conley, Junior Warden

December Treasurer Report:

From the Pocketbook,

As the year draws to a close, we still have much of the approved budget unspent. As of right now, 40% of the budget is unspent, to be clearer. However, this does not account for some large expenses that are pending for the retreat and accounting services, which will bring that number down to about 25%. The Lodge will likely deliberate and vote on a budget for the upcoming year soon, and I expect it to be significantly larger than the past few years for a couple of reasons. Firstly, Worshipful Brother Smith deliberately drew up a smaller budget than would have been allowed, in anticipation of the Covid restrictions that stopped much of our normal activity. Secondly, the Lodge endowment has done very well during the pandemic. With this in mind, I want to remind brethren that though the budget may be increasing, we are still following the prudent advice of our financial adviser and taking no more than 3% of our total endowment each year. As our endowment grows, so does our budget, as well as the opposite. Be well,

Chris Chase

December Masonic Birthdays

Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason

08 Nitesh Gulhati (17)
10 Hunter T. Bronson (6)
13 Quinn Haase (4)
17 Erin Phelps (35)
18 Howard Charleboix (36)

December Natural Birthdays

02 Richard Pate
08 Scott Mist
14 Stephen Dyrnes
14 Norm Rosenbloom
22 Daniel Tuggle
25 Kenneth Bowcutt
28 Alfred Loeb, Jr.
28 Tim Kretchmer
31 Erin Phelps



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 2 3 4

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

5 6 7 8 9 10 11

Friendship 160
Game/Movie Night
7:30 PM

12 13 14 15 16 17 18

Friendship 160
Ritual Practice
7:00 pm

19 20 21 22 23 24 25

Friendship Lodge
Officers Meeting
7:00pm

26 27 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