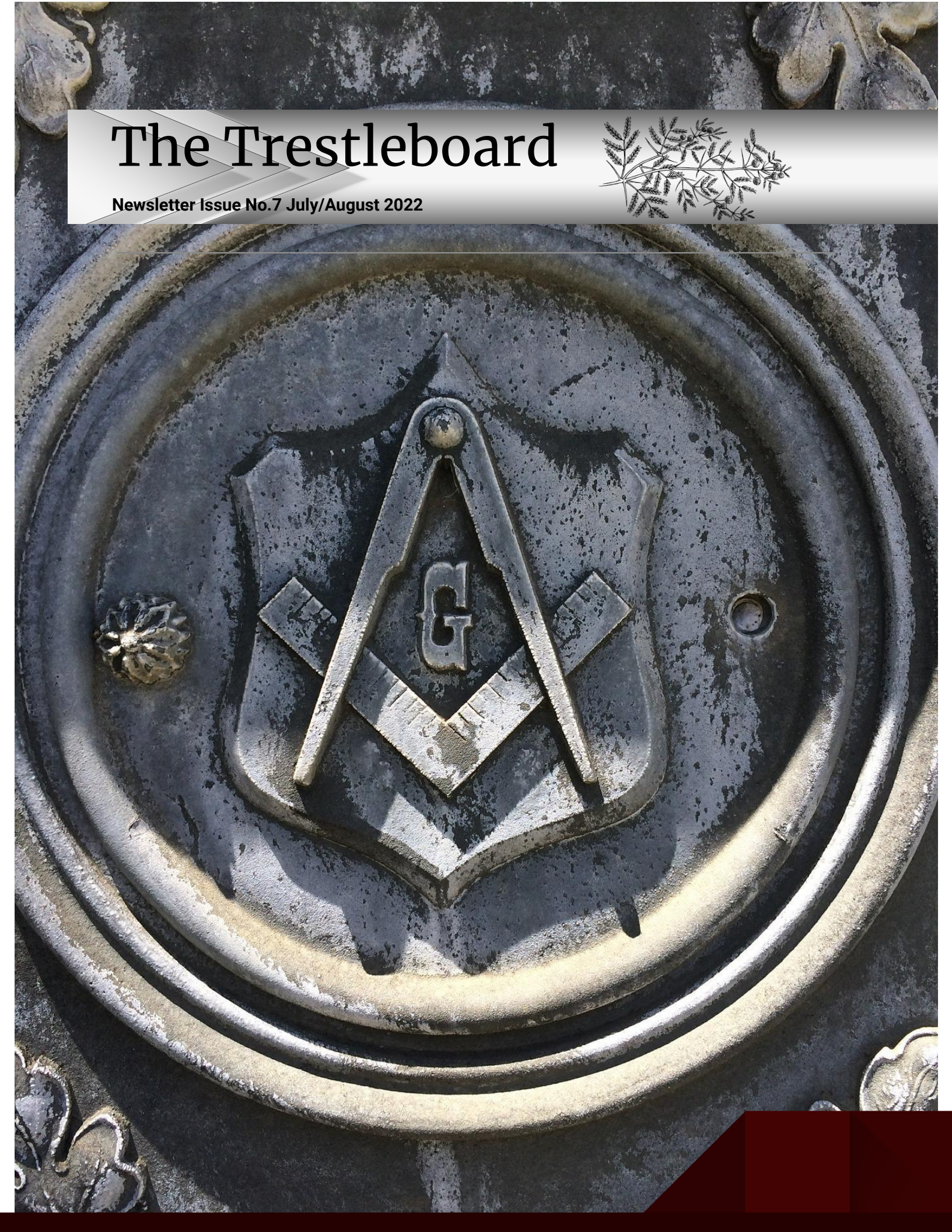
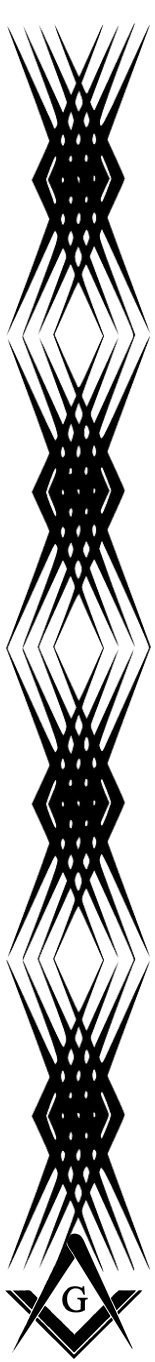


The Trestleboard

Newsletter Issue No.7 July/August 2022





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Summer Recap

Greetings brethren,

First I'd like to thank all of you for all the hard work you've put in over the past couple of months. We've done an EA degree for Bro. Mike Patrick, a Fellow Craft degree for Bro. Bill Welchel and Bro. George Carver and a Master Mason degree for Bro. John Keel and Bro. George Carver. Let's be proud of our newest brethren and master masons as well be proud of all the hard work you've done

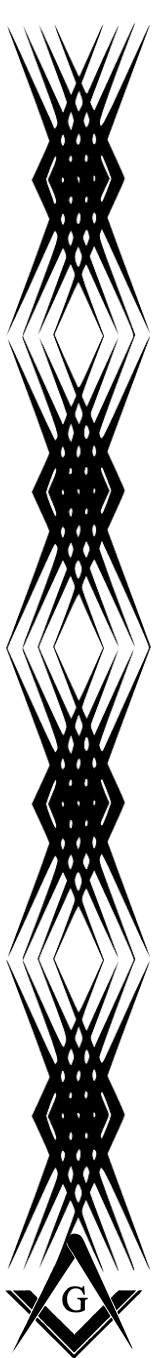
and put into the craft this

summer. Let us keep this energy up as we finish out the year and hopefully we'll have more brethren ready to advance through the next degrees before 2023.

On a side note, after a month hiatus, the newsletter is back and with a more reader friendly

format. Make sure to let Bro. Tyler know what you think of the changes and any new suggestions you may have.

This year's Masonicon was a great success. Both Bro. Bro. Burx and brother Tyler had presentations this year. Bro. Burx's presentation was titled, "Becoming a Degree Lecturer (Techniques to improve Memory)," and Bro. Tyler's presentation was titled "TikTok - How to use it & How it's a useful tool for the fraternity." Both brethren had a great audience turn out rate, the presentations were well accepted and I'd like to thank all the brothers that attended Masonicon this year. We hope to see more brothers attend next year, there is so much to learn it's quite a great educational resource.



TOLERANCE:

A look at the importance of practicing tolerance in the Lodge
by WBro. Clive Herron

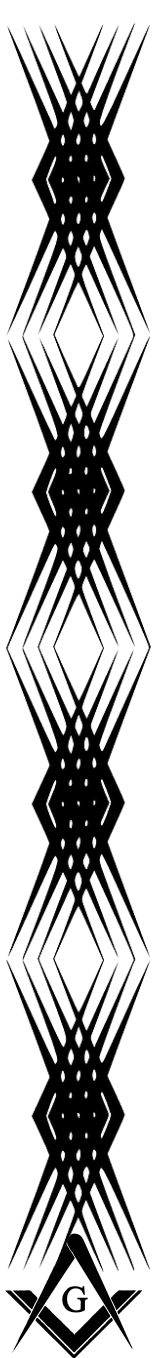
In 1969 there was a song released by the Hollies. "HE AIN'T HEAVY HE'S MY BROTHER". Wikipedia gives an explanation for the title of the song as coming from a Vietnam War photo. Supposedly, the image depicts a wounded Vietnamese man being carried on the back of a GI. The photo journalist asked if he had been carrying the wounded man far, the soldier smiled at the camera and said, "He ain't heavy, he's my brother. Try and picture the scene. And read some of the words.

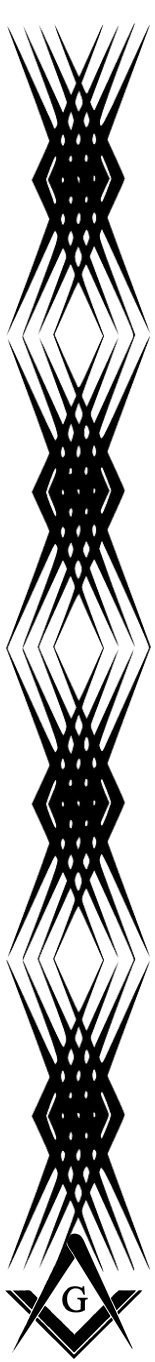
If I'm laden at all
I'm laden with sadness
It's a long, long road
From which there is no return
While we're on the way to there
Why not share
And the load
Doesn't weigh me down at all
He ain't heavy, he's my brother.



The words of the song draw a picture of compassion and love amongst the mayhem of war. Picture a scene similar to what you have recently seen on your television screen of Gaza City. Love demonstrated by one man on a mission to kill and another from the enemy side cannot exist without a great deal of love and tolerance.

One of the fundamentals of Freemasonry is tolerance. We don't speak of it much in lodge, but it is inherent in the very way our lodges operate. We teach prudence, justice and temperance and advocate brotherly love and good neighbourliness in Freemasonry. But for one reason or





another there is no mention of tolerance as a Masonic virtue or tenet. The closest we come is to teach "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you".

True Brotherly love is when a brother can show tolerance to another human in spite of the others conflicting opinions and failings, even if this means a case of applying the old maxim in practice: Hate the sin but love the sinner.

Tolerance is the unwritten law of Freemasonry. There can be no Brotherly Love without it. Many a Mason will articulate Masonic tolerance firstly in terms of religious tolerance or political tolerance. That is only part of the pie. As we begin to fully appreciate the customs and traditions of Freemasonry, we realise how much deeper the meaning of tolerance goes.

Taking our instruction from the VSL we are told to "Love our enemies, do good to those who hate us, and to pray for those who spitefully use us" (Luke 6:27-28)

The Old Testament tells us that we should conduct ourselves: ...with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love", (Ephesians 4:2)

The conclusion we can draw from VSL is that there is a direct link between tolerance and love.

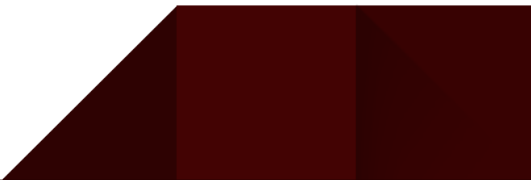
Tolerance is defined in the dictionary as: being patient and indulgent toward those whose opinions or practices differ from one's own. It also means being free from bigotry, or severity in judging the opinions or conduct of others. Being tolerant also means we show forbearance.

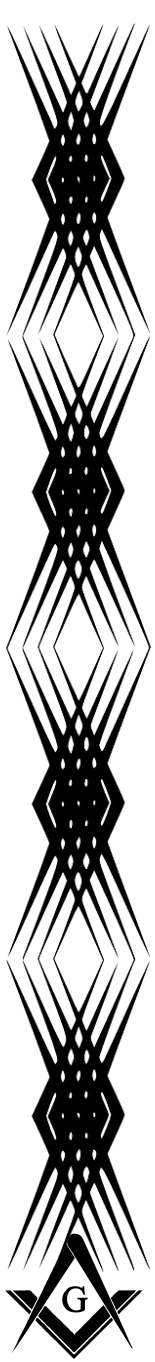
John F Kennedy summed it up as "Tolerance implies no lack of commitment to one's own beliefs. Rather it condemns oppression or persecution of others"

A Mason should be one who tolerates opinions or practices differing from his own. He should also be prepared to defend another's right to have a differing opinion. Tolerance can be said to be a Mason's recognition of the right of private judgment including his own. The story behind the song "HE AIN'T HEAVY" illustrates the soldiers tolerance without surrendering his own belief

"He doesn't weigh me down at all
He ain't heavy, he's my brother".

We need to be tolerant of others, but we also need to be tolerant of ourselves too. Tolerance is not about surrendering our own beliefs or compromising our own values. It is more about respecting another's right to hold differing views.





In the Thesaurus we find that Tolerance has the following synonyms Broad Mindedness, Open Mindedness, Lenience, Acceptance, Forbearance, Charity, Patience, and Easiness.

The opposite of Tolerance is Intolerance, Bigotry, Prejudice, narrow mindedness, Fanaticism, Small mindedness.

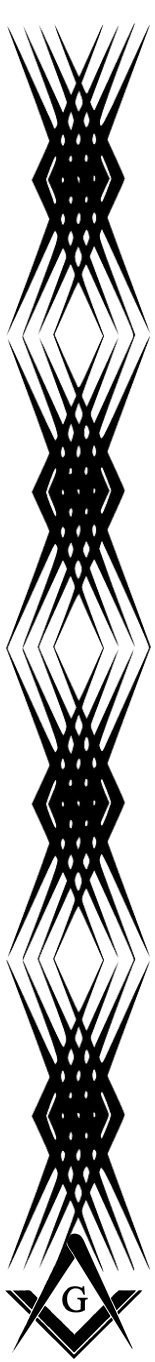
As masons we should ALL fall into the first category. We must ask ourselves. Is it possible in a world of free and independent thinkers, to establish a relationship of friendliness and tolerance with another whose views are diametrically opposed to mine? The answer is YES it may be difficult at times, and it will take a determined effort. It's easy to be positive and tolerant when everything is going your way, but not so easy when they don't. That's when we need become alert and try to figure out where the other party is coming from.

If there is an irritation what is the source? Review the situation. Are you expecting things to go your own way? Remember, always remember to practice understanding.

If you are inflexible and your values and your beliefs are neither rational nor negotiable then any confrontation involving them will only result in a heated and fruitless exchange. Understanding what is really behind the irritation will go a long way suggesting a way forward. The best way to assess a situation is to reverse it. There will be times when tolerance may seem an impossible exercise, being tolerant nonetheless remains the key to easing hostile tensions between individuals or groups.

Under difficult circumstances there are some who find it almost impossible to exercise tolerance and put the blame on personality clashes. Yes each of us has our own unique belief and opinions that make up our personalities. If we clashed with everyone who differed from us, we would be constantly at loggerheads. In fact, we tolerate, accommodate, and even enjoy certain differences. Indeed, our lives are richer and more exciting when we see the world from another perspective.





Clashes can occur when our deeply-held values or beliefs are being challenged, or we challenge others. This can be viewed as a threat, and could result in a hard fight to prove who is “right” and who is “wrong.” What we are really doing is seeking confirmation that we have no reason to change our own belief. In our lives we have all witnessed this in one form or another. Let us take another look - In its broadest sense tolerance can be described as ... the appreciation of diversity and the ability to live and let others live. It is the ability to exercise a fair and objective attitude towards those whose opinions, practices, religion, nationality and so on differ from one's own. Tolerance is not just agreeing with one another rather it is a sense of respect for another's values. Indifference or silence in the face of injustice cannot be deemed a tolerance.

In reality, tolerance is about how best to work together in harmony. It is about accepting each other for who they are and what they are, and learning to be a better man before God and our fellow beings. To build that temple not made with hands.

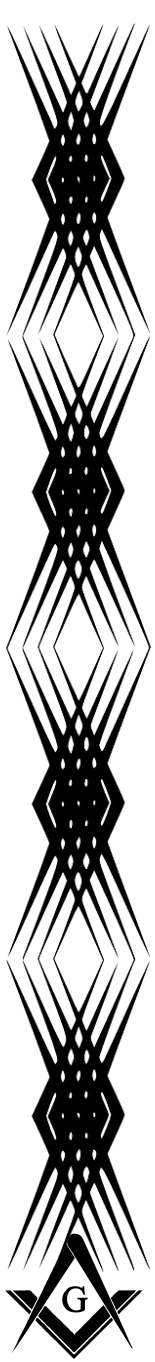
Silence and reluctance to confront an issue will not make the differences go away. On the contrary they will fester and destroy the peaceful harmony. We need to understand one another and work in harmony offering the hand of friendship given to each of us as an Entered Apprentice.

Intolerance is the failure to appreciate and respect the practices, opinions and beliefs of another group Freemasons are men drawn from all walks of life. We possess differing characteristics and opinions. We are brought together, in an unusual relationship of friendship, harmony and goodwill. It is natural that differences may occur within our own ranks, as they do within the best-regulated families. We may disagree but should not be disagreeable. To bring about a faultless world is perhaps a very tall order.

As Masons we are reminded that when we were initiated as an EA we were charged to regulate our actions by the Divine precepts of the VSL, to our neighbour; by acting to him uprightly; by rendering him every kind office that justice or mercy may require and always doing to him as you would he should do to you.

There is no issue (other than perhaps a physical violation against one's self or ones family) that cannot be dealt with by a handshake and in most cases without need to alter one's personal views. We cannot bring about peace and compassion without forgiveness and tolerance.

Remember we build our temples (our character) one brick at a time. Don't cause the wall to tumble. EXERCISE TOLERANCE in all your dealings.



Masonry is not about one person winning over another; it's about everyone winning at the same time. This is what Freemasonry teaches; this is what it creates; this is what it holds fast to. If we truly love another person and if we really practice Brotherly Love with our fellow beings - we will be tolerant of them. Again I stress, tolerance does not mean endorsing the beliefs, or actions, of others. However, it does mean a tolerant person will be willing to pardon the offense of another, be willing to forgive another, and not feel resentment. No man truly obeys the Masonic law who merely tolerates those whose opinions are opposed to his own. We must be able communicate and sit together in Brotherly Love putting aside our differences. Every man's opinions are his own private property, and it is the right of all men to maintain their own opinion.

Finally, I wonder if we ever think about our level of tolerance in our everyday lives.

How tolerant are we of others in the workplace, in society, at home?

How tolerant are we with others when no one is looking?

When no one we know is present? Is there room for improvement?

I believe these questions are important and need to be answered by each one of us because what we do when nobody is looking is driven by our core beliefs and values.

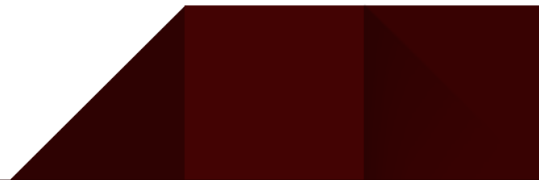
PEACE, LOVE and HARMONY are the foundation stones of our Order and life. We have committed ourselves to always act in such a way as to keep that foundation sound.

We are all traveling a long, long road

From which there is no return, we know that we are accountable for all our actions. So while we're on the way to there. Why not share and the load? Don't let it weigh you down

If you have an adversary – don't make Him heavy, he's your brother.

Think before you act and always exercise tolerance.



August at a Glance

August 7th MM Degree Practice (2nd Section) at 6pm



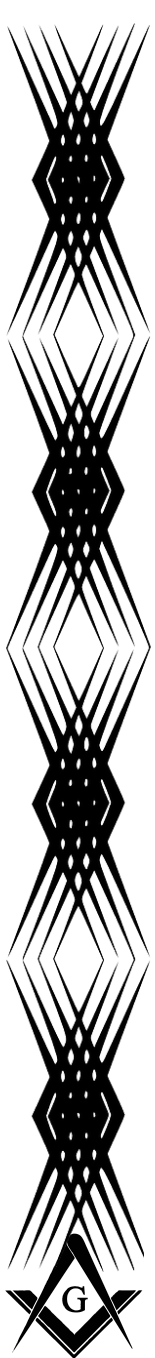
MM Degree 1st Stated Meeting @ 7pm (dinner at 6p)

August 8th

August 22nd 2nd Stated Meeting @ 7pm (dinner at 6p)

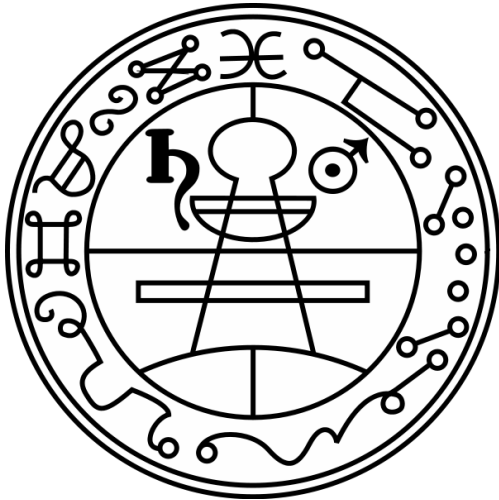
MSCLD Fundraiser Dinner @ 5:30 PM

August 24th



The Testament of Solomon

A general definition of what Freemasonry is has been explained by William Preston (queue the English accent) "a peculiar system of morality, veiled in allegories and illustrated by symbols." His added explanation was that Freemasonry teaches a philosophical approach to virtue in which the building of King Solomon's Temple was been used to paint this allegorical Picture.

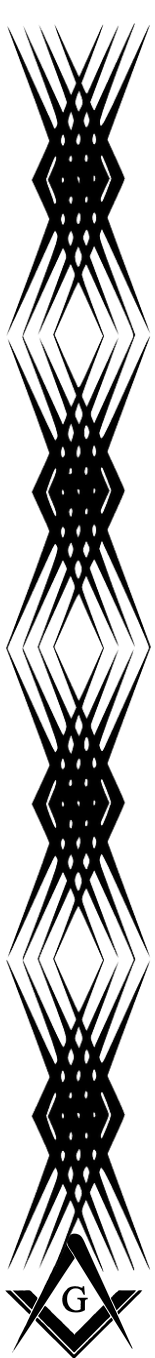


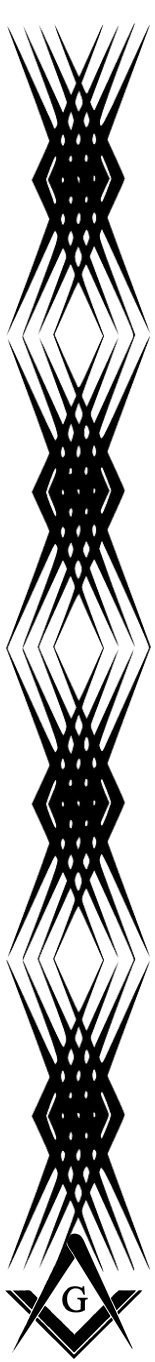
King Solomon's Temple is the fundamental key to this - which has has proved only allegorical in nature - as there still is no evidence that King Solomon, nor the Temple ever existed - unless one takes the bible literally, which is where this story is alive and well in. Interestingly enough - in the late 1800's the book 'The Testament of Solomon' was printed - from ancient works transcribed from Greek of the 1st Century CE. It was a first hand account from King Solomon himself on how the Temple was built. A brief summary of this book - that wasn't recognized by either the Jews or the Christians, which is why it didn't make it's way into the Bible - is an account that that King Solomon prayed

to God for help on he could build a magnificent encasing to house the Holy of Holies which he had been entrusted with. With this - God gave Solomon a ring - and with this ring, it allowed him to communicate with animals and to command Demons. Along the way - Solomon got a hold of 72 of these entities ... all having a specific name, as well as a power.

As newly minted Entered Apprentices ... we learn that the Temple was built without the sound of axe, hammer, or any tool of iron (verse of 1 Kings 6:7). As a newly initiated candidate - often we don't dig into what was being said - mainly because most never get around to actually learning the Lecture - which is where one can actually dissect the lessons being taught. In ancient folklore - Iron was used to ward off demons ... which is spin on why the Temple was built without any tool of Iron - mainly the demons who were building it despised it!

The book 'The Lesser Key of Solomon' came about in the 17th Century, which is a grimoire - to explain just how you can do the 'Magick' of Solomon, which is to learn how to invoke and evoke these same 72 Demons that he did in order to build the Temple in order to accomplish what one wants out of life. Sounds a bit crazy to someone hearing of this for the first time - but it's not a new idea - or one spun out of some Satanic Verse. This belief in how the Temple was built is common throughout other parts of the world - whereas in the United States - the idea of King Solomon is found in the bible - and in movies.





The Middle East, along with the Jews and Muslims, revere Solomon as this Magician. The Kabbalah - that school of mysticism which says to be the basis of all religion, even has a reference to the 72 names of God in it's writing in the Zohar .. the number 72 is referenced quite a bit.

One of the most known esoteric groups - the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn, was formed in the late 18th century by Freemasons who wanted to put focus on this spiritual occultism,

Freemasons who dug into this work after having been exposed to it through Freemasonry, and maybe were chastised a bit from trying to work this system in the Masonic Lodge due to the overly christian theme Freemasonry took during this period - which would have looked down upon anything to do with a demon. From the Golden Dawn came the likes of the Ordo Templi Orientis, with Aleister Crowley being such a center figure - having been a member of the Golden Dawn himself - and has referenced himself being a Freemason and a Scottish Rite Mason, but was unfortunately a member of a clandestine Lodge. If it looks, feels, and smells like Freemasonry - to the naked eye, it most certainly is ... thankfully, here in the 21st Century one can google this info, and make sure they join a 'Regular' Lodge.

Back to William Preston.

If Freemasonry is a peculiar system of morality, veiled in allegories and illustrated by symbols - who's to say that trying to understand these 72 demons who built the temple are, and their powers contained will help us to uncover our own 72 layers of consciousness to make us better men? "Chasing my demons" has been a popular saying - with meaning that if you face your demons, you confront your own fears.

The book The Testament of Solomon is an easy read of just 52 pages ... a free PDF is available online via googling it ... for more information about understanding the allegory of King Solomon's Temple and reference points - email BurxNorrod@gmail.com

Scientia Est Potentia! /G\
Burx Norrod, Master Mason
Sandoval Lodge No. 76

This depicts the ancient marble column preserved in the Chapel of the Pieta in St. Peter's, Rome. It is a spiral column with the top half covered with a leafy vine ornamentation between a ring of acanthus leaves (at the middle) and another ring of acanthus leaves (at top), capped by an Ionic capital. The bottom half of the column is a fluted spiral. At the base is another row of acanthus leaves. This impression is a first state before the inscription. **Credit:**Museum purchase from Drawings and Prints Council Fund.



What is Freemasonry?

"What is Freemasonry?" will be a question posed to Freemasons at least once by the profane (non-Mason), more especially if you're wearing a Masonic ring, hat, shirt, belt buckle, tie, bolo, or even a bumper sticker / car decal. Should this question be asked of you - what will you say to it without it sounding like any other do-good organization that abounds? I've presented this question to many Masonic Lodges, and the answers are all based upon from the individual's own thought process for joining the Craft in the first place, which often presents Freemasonry in a non-distinct light.

The good news is - after reading this short article, you will be better prepared to answer this question in a fairly quick way - which may even prompt the person asking to want to inquire further. William Preston - who's been instrumental with developing our Ritual Work, had explained that "Freemasonry is a peculiar system of morality, veiled in allegories and illustrated by symbols."



Preston had linked the teachings of Aristotle as a starting point to argue that Freemasonry teaches a philosophical approach to virtue, which is allegorically expressed through the story of the building of King Solomon's Temple. What are the tools? Each Degree teaches a different set of tools in order to get the initiate to contemplate on those specific set of working tools to help build that temple within - that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

This highlighted definition is one that is most popular, and one I think that best sums up the what the Craft is about. However - in 2012 - I received another explanation from my 80 year old mentor, WB Dick Walk (now member of Celestial Lodge) who was teaching me the Catechisms... and he had this to say when I asked him what was Freemasonry;

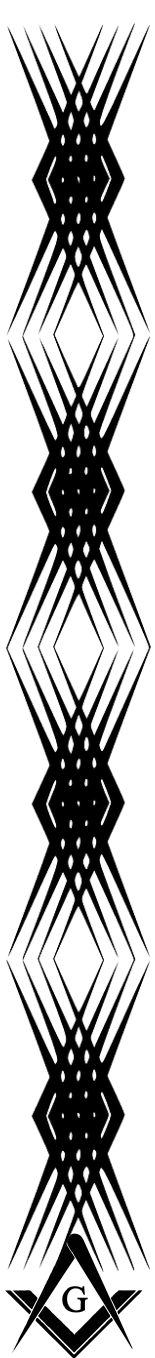
"Freemasonry is group of men who meet on the Level, act upon the Square, and walk Uprightly in life. We take good men and make them better by the teachings of Masonry, and work towards Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth."

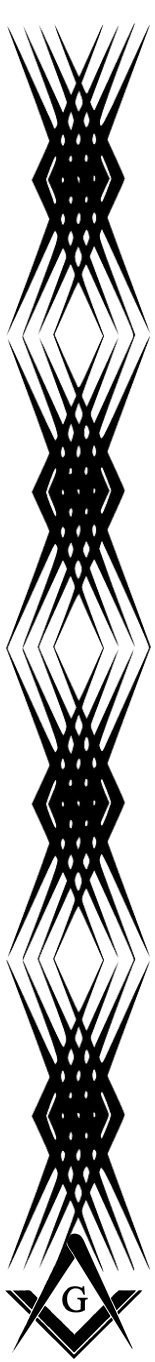
I've come to adopt the 2nd explanation as my own - although it's a further explanation of the first. As a Freemason - one should understand this explanation that uses working tools, mentions the rough / perfect ashlar, and even speaks on the Tenents.

You may even come up with your own explanation to what Freemasonry is - but whatever it is - be ready to deliver it when posed with the question, "What is Freemasonry?".

Scienta Est Potentia! /G\

Burx Norrod





In Masonic History: Jack Leonard "J. L." Warner

In Masonic History Jack Leonard "J. L." Warner was born August 2nd in 1892.

Jack was a member of Mount Olive Lodge No. 506 in California

Jack Leonard "J. L." Warner was originally born in Canada in London, Ontario but moved to the US and started working in the movie industry.

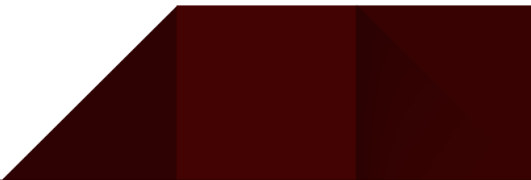


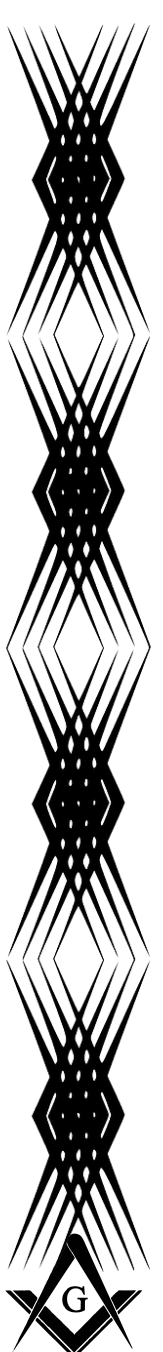
At the age of 2 Bro. Jack and his family moved back to their original settlement in Baltimore Maryland where his family originally fled to from Poland due to antisemitism. Two years after that the family moved to Youngstown, Ohio where Bro. Jack spent much of his youth. His neighborhood was on the poor side of town filled with gangs and it's said the Bro. Jack might have belonged to one of them. He also referred to the fact there were 1 or 2 murders in his neighborhood every Saturday night. In his teens Warner entered vaudeville as a singer.

In 1907, at the age of fifteen, Bro. Jack joined the entertainment industry with his brothers. In 1917 at the age of 25, Bro. Jack lived in California and had set up a film exchange company which was used for distribution. In 1918 the brothers produced the film "My Four Years" in Germany about the atrocities of World War I. This helped the Warner's to fund the setup for their studio where Bro. Jack was the head of production.

In 1923, Bro. Jack was asked by his brother to make a set of films with a dog co-actor named Rin Tin Tin. He was reluctant at first but once he met the co-actor he decided to make the films stating Rin "seemed to display more intelligence than some of the Warner comics."

Bro. didn't enjoy the company of the actors so much he even banned them from the executive dining room. This led to many conflicts with actors and the studio over Bro. Jack's career. Actress Bette Davis left the US to London to break her contract she had with Bro. Warner's company after some conflict. Later she claimed that Bro. Jack's attitude changed towards her when he learned she was pregnant.. She also defended him when accusations of intemperate misbehavior came to light. "





In the years leading up to World War II, the Warner's and Bro. Jack particularly began making anti-Nazi films during a time when the US was not as socially connected with the rest of the world as it is now. The studio was so highly criticized for making these films that the German Ambassador to the United States made a formal complaint about the film. The films also upset the Nazi dictator Adolph Hitler. Pro isolationist congressmen publicly stated the Warners should not be going after a "friendly nation."



After the war, the studio started focusing on making cartoons. Despite the legendary characters people see today with Warner Brothers, Bro. Jack wanted nothing to do with cartoons. He focused on selling off cartoons made before 1948 which these cartoons went on to make millions later on.

In the mid 1950's Bro. Jack's older brother Harry decided he was going to sell off the Warner Brothers Studio. After learning this, Bro. Jack made a syndicate to buy the studio and doing so put Jack in charge. When Harry found out what Jack had done the already strained relationship between the two brothers came to end. A few years later when Harry passed away Jack was asked for his thoughts on his brother's passing to which he seemed un-bothered by it.

When television came out, Bro. Jack was against them and even claimed that tv actors were worse than film actors. By the 1960's he had begun embracing television and the studio began making programming. Brother Jack Warner retired as the head of Warner Brothers in 1969.

In his retirement, Bro. Jack produced independent movies. His Last Film in which he worked really hard to promote "1776" was released in 1972 and was less than successful. It was released during the time of the Vietnam War and most Americans did not want a pre-republic civics lesson. In his first and only television interview on the Merv Griffin show, Bro. Jack Warner went on a tirade about "pinko communists."

In 1973, he became lost in the building where his offices were because he got disoriented. This led to Bro. Warner retiring for good. In 1974 he suffered a stroke and was left blind. He passed away on September 9th, 1978 from a heart inflammation.

