



Cover photo: pixabay.com “Acacia in bloom with worker bee”



NEWSLETTER ISSUE NO. 03 APRIL 2021

The Trestleboard

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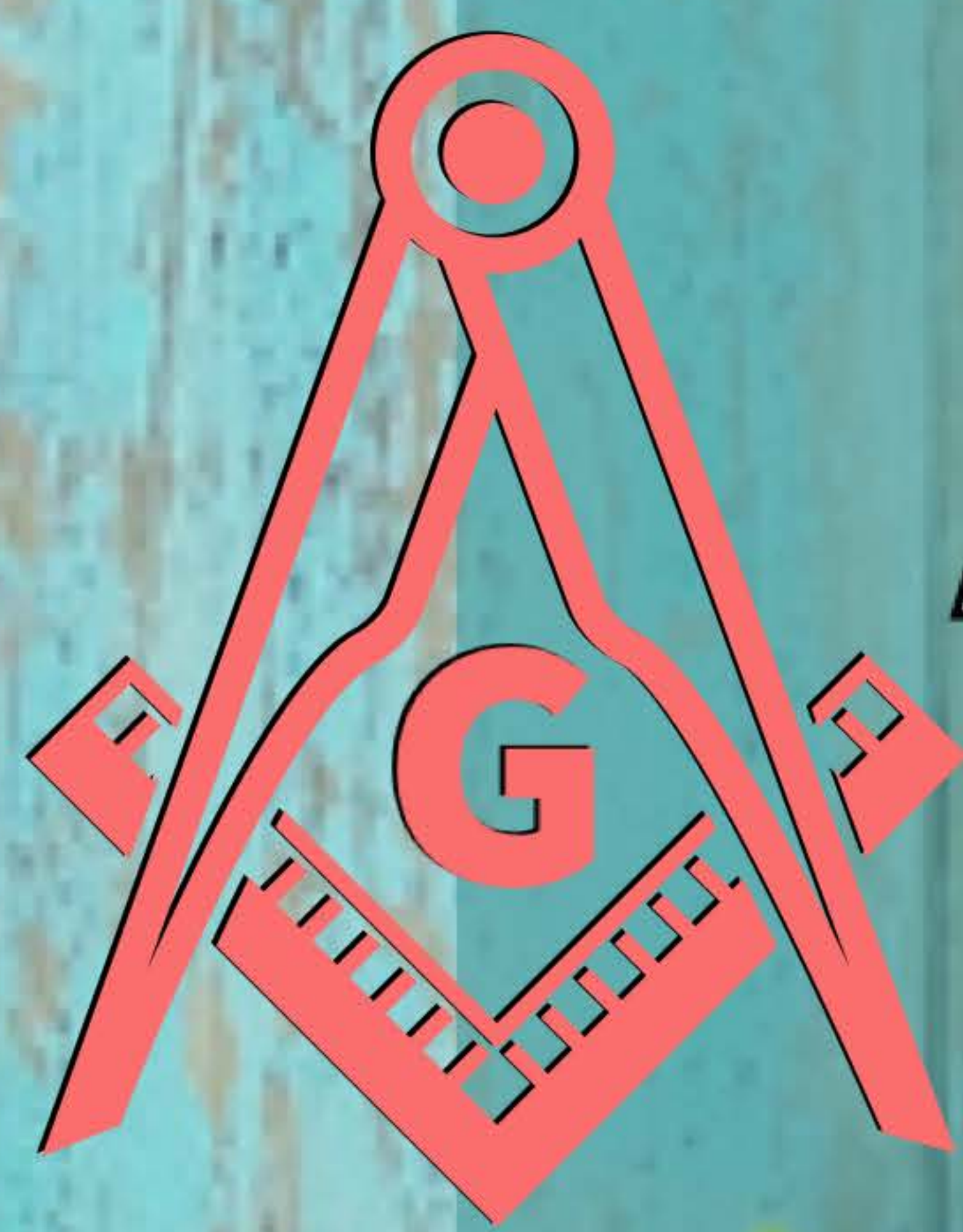
SATURDAY

APRIL 17, 2021

FROM 1PM UNTIL 3PM

1420 BARBARA LOOP,

RIO RANCHO, NM



**If you have any questions please
call Bro. Larry @ (505) 615-6540**

THE CLOSING OF A LODGE

Author: R.W. Brother J.G.W. Kelley P.G.Lect.

Grand Lodge of South Australia and the Northern Territory

This poem remains the property of the author but permission is given for its use in masonic circles. Should you wish to make contact with the author his email address is jakelley@iinet.net.au

The poem was written in two hours on the morning of the 9th February 2000 by R. W. Brother J. G. W. Kelley P. G. Lect. Grand Lodge of South Australia and the Northern Territory and presented by him at the final festive board of Torrens Park Lodge No.112. after surrender of the Lodge's Warrant. The final ceremony was well attended and very moving with the temperature 38-39 deg. C (over 100F).

*With the closing of the Volume and the opening of a door,
Think not this Lodge has ended, think what has gone before.
Remember all those worthy men who as apprentice came,
And who developed love and skill and worked in friendship's name.
When you take up the Working Tools too gently put aside,
Think not their work has ended, think how they were applied.
Remember well the lessons taught, to craftsmen tried and true,
Of Masons worthy of the name and apron white and blue.
When your Tracing Boards are covered and the Columns laid at rest,
Think not their teaching ended, think more a message blessed.
Remember the special meaning to Master Masons all,
Of birth and life and learning and waiting for the call.
With the sounding of the gavel and as the lights at last go out
Think not your Lodge has ended, dispel all lingering doubt,
Master, Wardens, Brethren, remember as you depart,
Your Lodge will live forever in every Masons' heart.*



LODGE BUILDING UPDATE



Good Afternoon Brethren,

I would like to generally update you all on the Lodge projects since my last email in regards to the building maintenance on 2/28/2021.

On our first weekend as i mentioned we did a bit of outside painting and touchup to the building, worked on the cable surround of the parking lot, and did some minor repair to the broken drawer in the kitchen. (as well as manned a food drive organized by WM Eric Moses). This had a great turn out and much appreciated efforts by the brothers.

Next i want to thank Brothers Davin Teague, with the diligent effort of Brother Roger McDonald. Who researched the proper LED Lighting fixtures and were able to locate 15 fixtures to replace the old existing ballast lighting that was not working very well inside the Lodge room and Fellowship area. Brother Davin so graciously stepped up and donated all the lighting retrofit cost out of his pocket. Brother Roger spent the time to try to find the most cost effective place to purchase them.

With the help of Brother Alec Fordyce, Brother Trey Bettisworth, and WB Dave Bachman they were able to remove all the old fixtures, rewire the new ones install and have it cleaned up in just a few hours on Saturday 3/13/2021. Brothers i thank you so much for taking your time to help this endeavor.

Next Project, I went to Home Depot and purchased a new locking mailbox to donate to the Lodge and with the help of RWB Dan Irick, with a few modifications- he was able to install it on the post at the curb. I must say it looks much better than the beat up mailbox with broken handle and zip tied to a board. I have added another post in hopes of having a couple identifying signs made that we can hang with the Lodge Name, MSCLD, Demolay, Jobs contact information. But that is a work in progress and we should look into seeing if we need to have a permit per Rio Rancho ordinance first.

And the Last Project so far was one i did by myself. I took a demolition saw and cut out the asphalt along the dirt bed on the street to give a cleaner appearance and hauled off the asphalt. I did this in hopes of having some decorative gravel and boulders added as accent to the property in the near future. I believe Brother Davin will once again be involved with this effort as well and there might be an opportunity to help him. if you are interested please reach out to myself or Bro. Davin.

I have spoken with WB Leon Alderette about some ideas in order to move the air returns from the noisy wall near the mechanical room to some further away locations in the ceiling in order to really quiet down the noise when the heater or air conditioner are running. i hope we can work together to determine if this can be done relatively inexpensively. Another opportunity for someone who might want to donate would be to purchase a locking metal frame (see me for details on style) that we would hang on the wall outside the building where the old MSCLD sign was mounted before weather took it down for us. This would be a 36" X 48" no glare display sign. The limited research i have done, I see we can get a cheap one for around \$60 to a solid nice constructed one for about \$250. then MSCLD can have another sign put in there and it will blend in with our other marquee boxes we have like the lodge info outside the doors now. (i am not sure if this might be in the MSCLD Budget as i have not asked yet)

As far as if anybody would like to contribute to the Lodge room painting, we could also do that in stages but i believe about 15 gallons of paint would be a good place to start. I believe paint generally runs in the ballpark of \$130/5 Gal. for a good quality paint and we would need to seal some cracks and prep first. And there might even be rollers and brushes already in the back hall. If I have any takers on this project please reach out to me and I can help coordinate it.

Lastly, If we have any brothers who might be able to suggest options and assist me in choosing and pricing of adding some AV equipment such as a nice display (perhaps a big TV hung on the wall) for presentations, or connection ports for presenters to easily connect their computers to. This is also a project i believe to be a worthwhile cause that could be used regularly.

Brethren. this type of effort and working together for the greater good has really been very humbling to me and makes me proud of who Sandoval Lodge is and how we pull together. No matter the task we can be proud that we have such an active lodge and willingness to get out and stay involved in masonry.

I hope that someday-somehow you are inspired by the contributions of Brethren like Bro Davin Teague who gives so selflessly. I hope you can find something you can take on wether with money, or time and labor to help the lodge. Your contributions towards our Lodge will ease the load so much in securing the strongest foundation for years to come

Thank you,

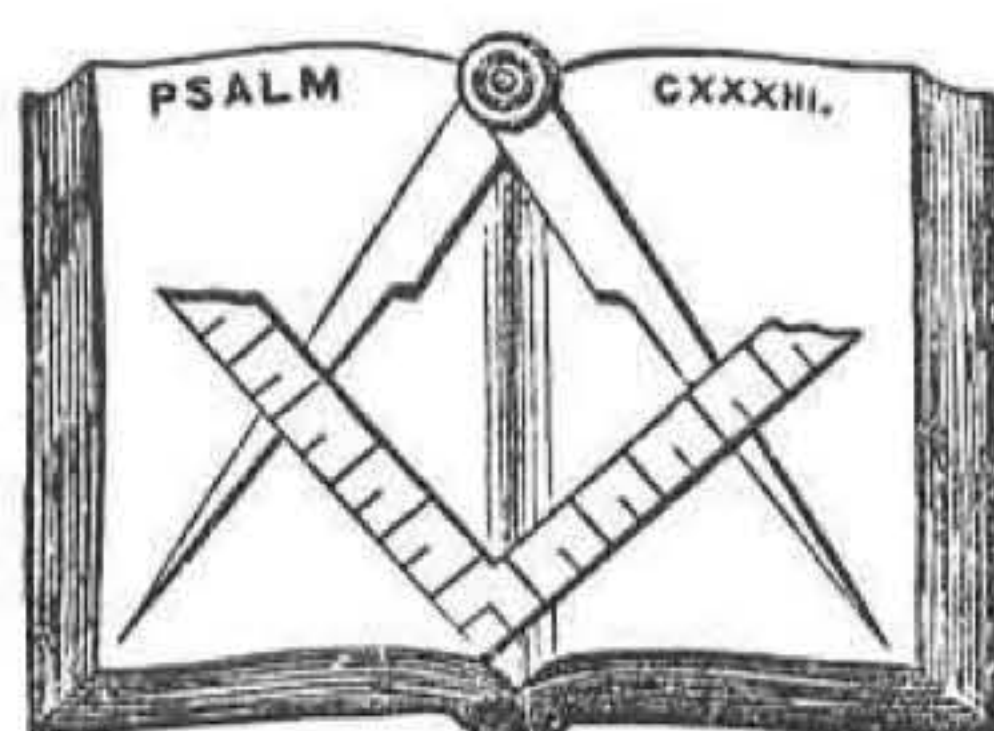
Bro. SW Larry E. Mikkelsen Jr.



Masonic Degree Verses

The Biblical Meaning of Freemason Degrees

Some verses of the Bible are used during degree work, and these verses need to be memorized and understood for better and active participation during degree work. When you read these verses and take your time to understand them, you will find a deeper meaning to them, and you will have a greater understanding of your membership of the Freemason Brotherhood. It's better that you understand them rather than memorizing them. It's also easier to remember the verses when you understand them, and they won't remain much of a mystery to you when you do understand them. Understanding the Masonic degree verses puts them in their actual context. These degree verses can even be acted out with the right gestures to make the experience better and make your Brothers understand the verses better. Here are the Masonic verses for the 3 Degrees. These verses are opened in the Bible when performing each degree. Their meanings are also explained.



Entered Apprentice Degree Verse (First Degree Verse)

The image representing the Entered Apprentice Degree shows the square lying on top of the compass. This is a stark difference from the Master Mason Degree image which has the compass lying on top of the square. Here are verses from Psalm 133

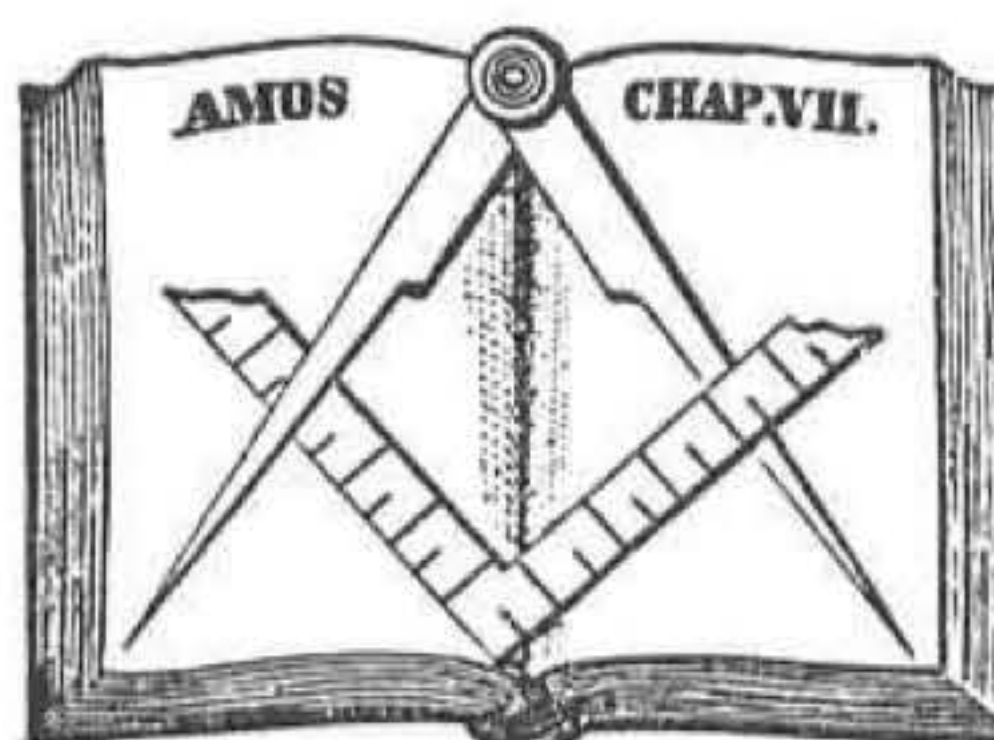
Psalm 133: 1 - Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

Psalm 133: 2 - It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments

Psalm 133:3 - As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.

In Psalm 133:2, Aaron was mentioned. Aaron is Moses brother. Aaron was also the first High Priest in the Bible under the first covenant.

In Psalm 133:3, Hermon is mentioned. Hermon is a range of mountains in Israel. The peaks of these mountains were capped in snow, and they were a source of ice. During the Six-Day War, Israel regained control of Jerusalem and the area surrounding Mount Hermon. These Degree Verses represents the Youth, when one is strong. Those that walk in the ways of the Lord in their youth and thereafter shall be rewarded with everlasting life.



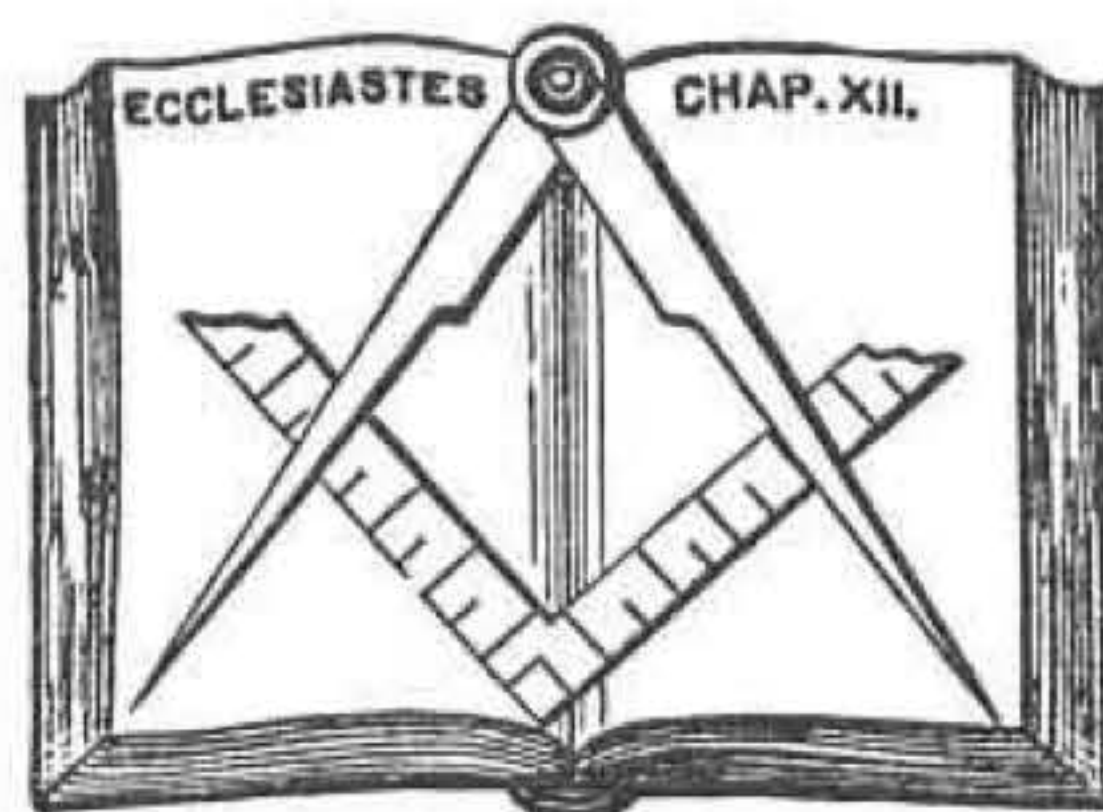
Fellow Craft Degree Verse (Second Degree Verse)

The image representing the Fellow Craft degree shows the left leg of the compass on top of the square while the right leg of the compass is under the square. Here are verses from Amos 7

Amos 7:7 - Thus he shewed me: and, behold, the Lord stood upon a wall made by a plumbline, with a plumbline in his hand.

Amos 7:8 - And the LORD said unto me, Amos, what seest thou? And I said, A plumbline. Then said the Lord, Behold, I will set a plumbline in the midst of my people Israel: I will not again pass by them any more:

You can see that plumbline was repeatedly mentioned here. This is the Lord's plumbline that stands for upright conduct all through a man's life. The Fellow Craft degree represents middle age.



Master Mason Degree Verse (Third Degree Verse)

The symbol for the Master Mason degree has the compasses lying on top of the square. This shows that the Master Mason has learned how to circumscribe his passions.

Here are verses from Ecclesiastes 12

Ecclesiastes 12:1 - Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them

Ecclesiastes 12:2 - While the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars, be not darkened, nor the clouds return after the rain

Ecclesiastes 12:3 - In the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble, and the strong men shall bow themselves, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those that look out of the windows be darkened

Ecclesiastes 12:4 - And the doors shall be shut in the streets, when the sound of the grinding is low, and he shall rise up at the voice of the bird, and all the daughters of musick shall be brought low

Ecclesiastes 12:5 - Also when they shall be afraid of that which is high, and fears shall be in the way, and the almond tree shall flourish, and the grasshopper shall be a burden, and desire shall fail: because man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets

Ecclesiastes 12:6 - Or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern

Ecclesiastes 12:7 - Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it

In Ecclesiastes Chapter 12, the infirmities of age are described. The Bible is opened to Ecclesiastes 12 whenever the Master Mason degree is being worked. Ecclesiastes is a book of the Bible written by King Solomon for reflection and contemplation.

Actual meaning of the lines of the Master Mason Degree Verse Ecclesiastes 12:1 represents Youth or Entered Apprentice. 'Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth' - This advice is given to youths to remember their creator when they are young and gather their full harvest in their early years. They will get older and change, and they won't be able to enjoy the things they enjoyed in the days of their youth. A lot of people get older, and they fondly remember the days of their youth when they could achieve almost anything.

Ecclesiastes 12:2 represents Manhood or Fellow Craft 'While the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars, be not darkened' - This reminds us that as we get older, our sight starts to fail. It tells us to look back to the time when life looked so promising and bright with a lot to look forward to and a lot to explore. This was before the twilight of our lives. 'nor the clouds return after the rain' - As we get older, we spend more time resting and recuperating.

Ecclesiastes 12:3 represents Age or a Master Mason 'In the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble' - This refers to the days when a man is no longer able to take care of himself.

'and the strong men shall bow themselves' - This refers to the inability of an old man to walk without bending. 'and the grinders cease because they are few' - Here, the loss of teeth at old age is referred to. 'and those that look out of the windows be darkened' - This refers to failing eyesight.

Ecclesiastes 12: 4 - 'And the doors shall be shut in the streets' - A man shall no longer be able to hear the noise in the streets and the noise of life because of old age. 'and he shall rise up at the voice of the bird' - Old people are unable to sleep and they wake up earlier than younger people. 'and all the daughters of musick shall be brought low' - When one gets old, there are changes in his vocal cord, and his voice becomes coarser and less melodious.

Ecclesiastes 12: 5 - 'Also when they shall be afraid of that which is high, and fears shall be in the way' - As one gets older, he becomes more cautious. Reflexes are reduced, and one is less likable to try reckless things. Old people are unaware of the speed at which the world changes. 'and the almond tree shall flourish' - This means that our hair shall turn white. Almond trees have large, white blossoms. 'and the grasshopper shall be a burden' - As a young farmer, when grasshoppers disturbed a field, the field can be easily replanted. The young man won't worry much about the loss. But this will be a great loss for an elderly person and the grasshoppers become a burden. The elderly person won't be able to replant his field again due to his reduced energy levels, and it won't be a small or negligible issue as it was when he was young. 'and desire shall fail' - Elderly people rarely have dreams like young ones because they know that they do not have the time or the energy to actualize these dreams. Also, their physical desire is also reduced.

Ecclesiastes 12:6 - 'Or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken' - The silver cord represents the spinal cord and the way one bends in old age. The golden bowl refers to the brain and how one's mental problems declines gradually. 'or the pitcher be broken at the fountain' - One has the desire to urinate, but he is unable to do so.

'or the wheel broken at the cistern' - The cistern is full which means that the body still contains all its blood, but the pumping of the heart reduces.

Ecclesiastes 12:7 - 'Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it' - This verse refers to 'ashes to ashes' and 'dust to dust' which we say when the dead are interred. It refers to the deterioration of the entire body. It shows the passage of our body as we transit through life. It is a call for us to reflect on our life choices. It tells us that our body is not ours forever and we will end up the same way we started.

God created us and gave us the commandments of life. We return to God when we die, and we should live a life accountable to him. Our return to God is our final triumph and a treasure that cannot be taken away.

For those that lived their life properly in service to God and their fellow man, old age is a time for reminiscing and love, the friendships and the good times that they shared. It is a time for celebration and won't be referred to as 'the evil days.' Old age is truly a blessing for the good ones.

QUOTES AND SAYINGS AS AN INSPIRATION FOR EXCELLENCE

Part 02 of 02

WB Dave Bachman

Brethren, I often find quotes and sayings and present them to my team at work. I try to use these to instill a sense of pride in the job we do and keep them constantly moving forward. I find often that they translate into everyday life.

“All progress takes place outside the comfort zone.”
Michael John Bobak

Have you ever achieved something you were proud of when the path was easy? Have you ever become better when the road was smooth? More likely when you overcame some sort of obstacle in your way the end result was sweeter because you grew and learned from it. Comfort gains you an easy result, but is that truly rewarding? Get outside your comfort zone, push yourself to be uncomfortable, grow and learn from it and savor the satisfaction of earning it.

“Old ways won't open new doors.”
Unknown

“But we've always done it that way”. What does that gain you? Is there progress, have you moved forward? Is anything getting better? Sometimes we need to drop the excuses and get out of our comfort zone and reevaluate what we do. Every idea may not work, but the more times we try, sooner or later something will stick. Along the way you will find bits and pieces of ideas that work which can be incorporated into a new idea until there is success.



"After you've done a thing the same way for two years, look it over carefully. After five years, look at it with suspicion. And after ten years, throw it away and start all over."
Alfred Edward Perlman

This fairly well sums up the above ideas. Everything changes and we can either work to be ahead of the changes or we can get left behind and eventually become a memory. Question everything and always be looking for ways to improve.

"In Search of Grand Master Hiram: Understanding Masonic Symbolism"

BY JOHN R.
HEISNER PART
02 OF 03

Continued from March Issue No. 02

Albert Pike wrote that the message found in the Emerald Tablet attributed to the great Egyptian Hierophant, Hermes Trismegistus- equilibrium is achieved after the assimilation of different concepts- is the great lesson Masonry imparts to humanity. For example, Pike observed that wisdom as described in the Kabbalistic Books, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes is nothing less than the Creative Agent of God. As the Creative Agent, wisdom is active, not passive- it is in the present, not of the past. Creation is an ongoing phenomenon in which all mankind participates to a greater, or lesser degree depending upon each man's state of enlightenment. Thus Freemasonry is as operative today as it was when our ancient brethren wrought at the building of stately edifices. Pike, as well as other Masonic writers encouraged Masons to develop both their operative sense, as well as their speculative curiosity. For Masonry to impart anything of lasting value to humanity, Masons must think then act. One cannot exist without the other, if man hopes to contribute anything to his brethren. In so doing, those writers have variously invited us to synthesize three antitheses or antimonies: (1) idealism- realism; (2) realism- nominalism; and (3) faith- empirical science. The idealist considers everything as so many forms of thought, while the realist affirms that objects of knowledge having existence that is independent of thought. For example, the realist answers "yes" to the question of whether or not a fallen tree in an isolated forest makes a sound- the idealist is not so certain. When all is said and the quarrelling about which is correct has subsided, the Mason is left with the unshakable knowledge that both have a common source in the Great Architect. Actions built upon considerations are, therefore, regarded as valid by God. However, the failure to act on either notion gives nothing to the world.

Realism relates to the school of occidental thought which attributes objective reality to general notions that are generally designated as "abstract." Medieval philosophy designated it as "universalia" - all things pertain to the universal. Nominalism, on the other hand, admits that only "particulars" are real. The problem was explicitly analyzed by Plato, who first observed on behalf of realists: "I see a horse, but I don't see horseness." According to Plato, "horseness" merely exists as an idea and is not real other than as a form of thought. Horses aside, the philosophical struggle becomes important when we ask ourselves, "What came first, genesis, or creation?" The differing concepts also draw grave significance from the discussion about which is more important, the individual, or society. To Freemasons, the problem is again resolved by reference back to the Supreme Architect of the Universe- Masons confess

His superiority in all matters and trust that thought coupled with action will make real to all mankind God's enormous love.



Get to know a Brother

EA: MAR 13TH 2019
FC: JULY 15TH 2019
MM: AUG 31ST 2019



Bro. Brian Borowski

Our Brother Brian Borowski was born September 1st, 1981 in Cleveland Ohio Debra & Steven Borowski Sr. Brian has one older brother named Steve. Our Brother attended Chardon High School and graduated in 1999. Bro. Brian wanted to further his dream of becoming an engineer so he went to Penn State University in 2003 and graduated in 2012 with his PhD degree as an engineering scientist. This took him a while to accomplish as he was hurt pretty bad in 2006 in a motor cycle accident. He now holds a job at Intel as a Data Scientist and has for 9 years. This life long dream was inspired by his father as he was a construction foreman and use to bring home blue prints and data that inspired him to be like his father. His father was his greatest inspiration because he was a very dedicated selfless worker. Brian's life and choices led him to meet his wonderful wife Laura. Laura was born June 1st, 1983 in Mayfield Heights Ohio. Bro. Brian and Laura met at her house through a mutual friend named Aaron who introduced them at this time. Their first date was in 1998 at Euclide Tavern East Cleveland and the band that was playing was 'Peanut Butter Conspiracy'. Not to long after this they both tied the knot on June 21st, 2003. They kicked off this joyous event by going on a honeymoon to Epcot Disney. Laura and Bro. Brian have had 4 children that they know of. Brian said during this interview. Their names are Gwen, Miles, Kaylin and Juliet. They are between the ages of 9-12.

I asked Brother Brian if he looked up to anyone now as an adult and he said he looks up to his wife Laura. He said she is the epitome of a hard worker, dedicated to do the right thing, for the right reasons; in a very selfless manner. She is always willing to help and provide for her family and abroad. His favorite quote is "not my monkeys, not my circus." This is a polish proverb. Brian, his wife and kids have 7 rabbits, 2 hamsters and 1 bearded dragon. Bro. Brian and his family like to travel and get out when they can. They have visited many parks in New Mexico and most of the East Coast. But his favorite place to visit is the Mammoth Caves in Kentucky. He said it's like stepping into a whole different world and it really opens up the imagination about what beauty nature can make.

Brian has a few hobbies like Martial Arts, cycling and bowling. Since his recent wrist and back injuries, he hasn't been able to lift any more but that was a hobby of his when he was more able. He could bench and deadlift 265. His favorite animal is the cheetah. When he has a chance he likes to listen to Electronic House music called EDM. He also likes Johnny Cash. He likes a wide variety as he says "you can find good music in any genre." His favorite musicians are Robert Plant, Led Zeppelin, Rodger Waters and Pink Floyd. "These were musicians that helped shape and start entire genres of music. I love musicians that make their own original sound that is something different. As even Led Zeppelin and Pink Floyd helped open the doors for electronic music like EDM." He said.

His favorite artists are Salvador Dali and MC Esher. He loves the color blue and will devour as many waffle fries he can get his hands on at Chik-Fil-A and then he will wash it down with a tall glass of ice cold Cherry Coke. If he had the money he would buy a 1970's Plymouth Road Runner Super Bee.

When Bro. Brian has some free time he likes to watch his favorite show 'House' or he will throw on 'Casino' with Robert De Niro. Brian's favorite book to read is an esoteric book called 'House of Stairs' which is a Sci-Fi story about programming people against their will and how to fight back.

I asked Bro. Brian what his favorite number was and this is the answer he gave me, (it's for sure the answer of an engineer), he said "the Euler Equation. Because it's a really beautiful thing. Euler Equation talks about how exponential growth can be circumscribed back upon itself over Pi. Growth and change comes together in a balance within that equation called the Euler Equation $e^{i\pi} + 1 = 0$. It explains everything. It can be hard to explain, but it's an amazing equation. Brother Brian use to play soccer and baseball when he was young but he is more into playing sports than watching them. The only sports he will watch is a UFC match here and there when he can. If he is to be active in any sport it's martial arts and bowling. If he were to route for any team though it would be Penn State in Football.

His main future plan in life is to build a sustainable house but as of right now they need the right sized plot. He has all the plans ready and when they are more relaxed and life is not so in chaos they will make their dream house come true. He wants it to be able to basically take care itself and be more environmentally friendly. They don't want or need to live with luxury but rather side by side relaxed with nature. Bro. Brian's future plans in masonry are to help expand DeMolay Squires in Metro Chapter and step up to expand the rest of Demolay to young men that need it to help them better themselves for society and masonry in a whole. So his main plan is to keep learning more and more so he can be able step up to these challenges and obstacles to make this happen. He would like to make it through the line (traditions prevailing) before he focuses on the Youth fully. "Focus is key to making your goals a reality", he stated.

Our Brother may be new to our lodge and new to being a Mason but he is not new to Masonry and our morals and values. Brian Borowski was a Demolay when he was a teen (14-17) in 1997-99. He was not in as long as he'd liked to have been but it was definitely a good organization from what he remembered and this is what lead to his want to reconnect with those 7 cardinal virtues of DeMolay through becoming a Master Mason. He believes it gave him great examples of how to live his life and how cope with life when it gets chaotic and complex. We may not have a manual to life on how and what, etc but it is nice to have a simple rule book of sorts to help guide or calm your mental waters when you know how to act but need that refocus. The brotherhood is good for reminders in these ways.

Bro Brian was curious in Masonry and decided he'd take that next step and look for a lodge close by and his friend at work named Rich Cullen an Irish man and contacted our Rich Cullen to inquire about the lodge, not knowing them to be different people. Thus he came to Sandoval Lodge in 2019. Brian was initiated on March 13 2019, passed to the degree of fellow craft on July 15th, 2019 and raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason at our 3rd annual camp-out meeting on August 31st, 2019 a day before his birthday. Brother Brian also an advisor chairman of squires at Metro Chapter and JD of Sandoval Lodge this year (2021) Three accomplishments that our brother would like to share with us is:

1. His commitment to building a family he is proud of. He is honestly proud of each and everyone individual and together as a family in a whole.
2. The fact he and his family were strong enough to rebuild himself after his motorcycle accident. He was walking with cane for three years and got to the ability to obtaining his black belt in tye kwan do
3. He is also proud he was able to push through in getting his PhD while still recovering from his accident. It may have taken him a lot more physical and mentally focus but he was not going to give up.

Brian ended with saying this "even though each degree has something special about it, being a man of math and science the fellow craft degree really sang to my heart. The way is pointed out how science and God can compliment each other and not contradictions one another is why it is my favorite degree. For a long while I was always taught they were separate. Thank you to all the brethren for being so welcoming. A genuine thank you to everyone on this same journey and I am happy I am here to meet you all and experience this journey with you."