



T R E S T L E B O A R D

Washington Lodge No. 20 F. & A. M.

January 2014

Relaying Our Cornerstone

Our 163rd Year



From the East: Worshipful Daniel J. Dailey



I am honored and humbled to be the newest Master of Washington Lodge #20. I want to thank the brethren of the lodge for their faith and confidence in electing me to lead the lodge for the next year. I will strive to keep the time honored tradition of excellence moving forward.

Washington Lodge #20 is one of the oldest lodges in California, dating back to 1852. Our rich heritage includes four Governors of California, numerous other elected officials, judges, doctors and the common man. One of the beauties of Free Masonry is that when each of them stepped

through those doors, they were all equals. No one man more important than the other because of their station in life outside the lodge. We meet “on the level” to remind ourselves that we are all on equal terms within the lodge.

Masonry is the oldest known fraternity in the world, dating back to the stone mason’s guilds during the building of King Solomon’s temple. Many of our traditions and customs are centered on that historic event.

Masonry uses the working tools and customs from the days of operative Masonry in a speculative manner to guide and shape our minds and conscious in order to become better men.

These tools, along with many others, are reflected in the jewels worn by each officer in the lodge. Each jewel has a symbolic meaning in Masonry and are each an important piece of our Masonic journey.

In both operative and speculative Masonry, it is necessary to have a beginning or foundation for the work. In Masonry we commonly refer to this as the “cornerstone.” In operative Masonry the cornerstone is usually the first stone of a building, laid in the northeast corner of the foundation. The rest of the building is erected from this point.

In speculative Masonry, we consider the cornerstone to be the foundation from which we build and improve ourselves as men and masons. At times it becomes necessary to re-set or re-lay the cornerstone of a building. This can be for ceremonial purposes, re-enactments or during the remodeling of that building. In each case the cornerstone represents the beginning of the foundation upon which the building will stand.

The cornerstone of Washington Lodge #20 stands today to remind us of the strong foundation of Masonry in California and of Washington Lodge itself. It was first laid in 1852 with the charter of Washington Lodge #20 being granted by the Grand Lodge of California.

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It was next laid during the construction of this temple which commenced in 1920. The foundation of Washington Lodge #20 is strong and getting stronger every day. As the cornerstone has such importance and significance in Masonic history, I have chosen to make the theme for Washington Lodge #20 in the 2014 year "Relaying our Cornerstone."

What does that mean? To me it means never losing sight of the foundation which Masonry and Masons are built upon. For Washington Lodge it means never losing sight of our past and always building upon the future.

The two physical cornerstones of our lodge still stand strong today; the charter upon which we were founded and the actual cornerstone of this temple. As Washington Lodge continues to grow and become more diverse, I feel it is important not to lose sight of our foundation.

Within the lodge are the brothers and their families who make up the edifice of who we are as a lodge. The officers of the lodge constitute the cornerstone upon which the rest of the edifice stands. Without a strong and well laid cornerstone, the building will collapse. The same holds true for Washington Lodge and Masonry. Without a strong foundation, the lodge will collapse. If the lodges collapse, Masonry will soon follow.

For several years during the 80's and 90's Masonic membership was on a decline throughout the U.S., but things evened out in the early 2000's. Many reasons have been suggested as to the cause. Regardless of the reason, our edifice was in need of a remodel to strengthen our foundation.

Many different efforts were being made around the country to try and shore up Masonry, some successful, some not so much. Different ideas were tried such as "expediting" members through the degrees, making it easier to join, or combining membership with other Masonic bodies such as the Shrine or Scottish Rite.

What we seemed to lose sight of during those difficult times was the reason men joined Masonry in the first place, Brotherly love and fellowship. A place to be with like-minded men who were trying to improve themselves in an environment free from politics. Where everyone is an equal when you walk through those doors.

As Washington Lodge looked to find ways to improve our membership, we heard that message over and over. We made it a point to go back to our Masonic roots and focus on fellowship, brotherly love and Masonic education. As a result of our efforts, we have been privileged to have many new members join Washington Lodge in the last three years. The primary reason most chose Washington Lodge over the other great lodges in Sacramento was that they felt welcomed and accepted from the very first contact with us, and Washington Lodge exemplified what they felt Masonry was supposed to be about.

My goal for 2014 is to insure Washington Lodge continues to have a strong foundation and well placed cornerstone for years to come. The officers installed on December 8th, along with those that will follow them in the line are the cornerstone of our future as a lodge. Dedicated men like them have been the foundation that has supported Washington Lodge for the last 164 years and will be for the next.

The installation of these officers represents the relaying of our cornerstone. I have no doubt these officers will provide a solid foundation as Washington Lodge continues to grow and flourish.

Washington Lodge #20 2014 Officers

Master: Daniel J. Dailey

Senior Warden	Michael P. Quinn
Junior Warden	Scott J. Goode
Treasurer	Eric W. Hixson, PM
Secretary	Jon R. Isaacson, PM
Assistant Secretary	Thomas L. Weary
Chaplain	Richard A. Wilson, PM
Senior Deacon	Victor U. Sanchez
Junior Deacon	David L. Minke
Marshal	Derek D. Waterman
Senior Steward	Luis J. Montero
Junior Steward	Frederick Jason
Tiler	Floyd R. Tritt
Officer's Coach	Eric W. Hixson, PM
Candidate's Head Coach	Joseph Dongo, PM
Officers Coach Emeritus	Ray W. Lenau, PM
Inspector 414 District	Michael Titus, PM
Ambassador	Dave Freeman
Orator	Jed Van Wagner
Junior Past Master	Juan Faranda, PM

Address Lodge correspondence to:

Jon R. Isaacson PM, Secretary

Washington Lodge No. 20

P.O. Box 221788, Sacramento, CA 95822

wln20secretary@gmail.com

Washington Lodge Website:

<http://www.washingtonlodge20.org>

Jon R. Isaacson PM, - Webmaster

The Washington Lodge #20 Trestle Board

is published monthly

Victor U. Sanchez, Editor

Send articles for publication to:

washington20editor@att.net

Dave Freeman, Grammarian

Master contact:

masterwashington20@gmail.com

Stated Meeting January 2nd, 2014

5:00 PM Social

6:00 PM Dinner

7:00 PM Stated Meeting

RSVP by December 31, 2013

(888) 828-4476

"Waste Not, Want Not"



From the West

Michael P. Quinn, Sr. Warden



I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

I also offer congratulations to our new Master Daniel J. Dailey and the other new officers who stepped up to lead the Lodge forward this year. I look forward to the upcoming year with some trepidation as I see much work to be done in the Temple, with many new candidates to be initiated and many brothers to be passed and raised.

I hope I may fulfill my role as Senior Warden and Pillar of Strength for Washington Lodge, but I will need all of your help and assistance as well.

January Schedule

- January 2, Stated Meeting
- January 8, Masonic Fellowship Night
- January 9, Officer's Practice
- January 16, Third Degree TBD
- January 21, Officer's School of Instruction
- January 23, Roll Call and Dinner

It is that time of year again. I have sent out our "**Dues Notices**". But, being the good Freemasons you are, I'm sure you don't really need the notice. You already know the dues are **\$60** per year and you can, at anytime, send your Lodge that pittance to which you are obligated.

Washington Lodge #20

P.O. Box 221788

Sacramento, CA 95822



From the South

Scott J. Goode, Jr. Warden



Congratulations to Worshipful Juan Faranda for a very fruitful term. His encouragement and can do attitude helped me to realize that the road to Master of the lodge is not as daunting as it seems.

As we slide into the New Year and visit family and friends, please remember that by order of the Great Architect of the Universe, we are to regard everyone as family. If you find yourself or someone else in need of help, don't hesitate, just ask for or give a hand. We all live on the same planet and are therefore all Sisters and Brothers.

I am very excited about this new term. What a great team of officers we have in place for 2014. Worshipful Daily put together a meeting of officers on 12/12/2013 to plan for the new term. There were some fun and exciting ideas thrown around. Keep an eye out for some fun and rewarding events this term.

Our first degree of the term was for Mr. Christian Wheeler. He was made an Entered Apprentice Mason and we are happy to now call him Brother. It was a pleasure to see our new team enter a new candidate into our ancient Fraternity. Brother Montero, our Senior Steward, did an outstanding job giving the Charge. As he gave the Charge, I followed along to practice my own memory work. It made me realize something; even though I practice memorizing on my own and it seems like a solitary effort, my Brothers are actually with me. As I learn the craft, it brings us closer together in knowledge and ideals. While I am following along at a Degree with a Brother who has committed to memory a portion of the degree, our minds are in sync and it seems like it is more a prayer to the Great Architect than just a recitation for the candidate.

I encourage all Brothers to commit to memory a Charge for one of the degrees. It is very rewarding. Anyone can give a charge at a Degree. It does not have to be an Officer. I am certain that the Worshipful Master will be glad to call on you to deliver a charge once you have proven you are ready.

Brethren,

As my term as High Priest of Sacramento Chapter No.3 is drawing to a close, I want to introduce the York Rite, particularly the Royal Arch to those of you who are not members.

A short video at the following link would provide you with an overview of the three York Rite bodies: Chapter Royal Arch Masons, Council Cryptic Masons, and Commandery Knights Templar. <http://www.yorkriteusa.org/video.htm>.

As we all have already been informed, every brother who has sought the Light of Freemasonry of his own free will and accord and has been raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason has been rewarded by receiving the highest and most honorable degree that any man can attain in ancient craft Masonry and one of the highest honors which he will attain in this life. It entitles him to all the rights and privileges of the Craft, and it should ever be remembered that all the accumulated so-called Higher Degrees do not add anything to his Masonic stature.

However, for Master Masons desirous of Further Light in Masonry, Royal Arch provides an outstanding opportunity to explore some of the deeper mysteries of the Craft. In fact, more meditation sometimes makes one wonder why the Royal Arch and Royal Master Degrees particularly are not mandatory for they are so interwoven with the Craft and so essential to capture the full essence of our Masonic allegory.

Let's perhaps seize this opportune time to reflect upon the basic tenets, traditions and teachings of our order.

In 1813 the "Ancients and the Moderns" merged to form the present United Grand Lodge of England, universally acknowledged as the Mother Grand Lodge of the world and traditionally the custodian of sound Ancient Craft Masonry. At that time (1813) they adopted 21 Articles of Union, being firm and solid landmarks to forever guard Freemasonry throughout the world. The second of these 21 Articles of Union reads as follows: "*It is declared and pronounced that pure Ancient Freemasonry consists of three degrees, and no more; those of the Entered Apprentice, the Fellowcraft and the Master Mason, including the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch*".

This was the landmark that never changed. The United Grand Lodge of England thus showing the importance of the Royal Arch Degree in the Masonic System.

This beautiful degree was considered so important in our earlier history that none but those who had reached the oriental chair of Master of a Lodge actually were exalted to the Royal Arch. As time went on this pre-requisite came to be considered a hardship, as it prevented worthy brethren from participating in Royal Arch Masonry. Hence this restriction is no longer effective under the English constitution and in these modern times all Master Masons in good standing are eligible for membership in a Royal Arch Chapter. Instead, a virtual Past Master Degree has been instituted to confer them a Past Master title prior to the Royal Arch Degree.

The central idea of the whole system of Freemasonry being the LOSS and RECOVERY of the WORD with the Master Mason Degree explaining the LOSS of the Master's Word and the Royal Arch explaining the RECOVERY of the Master's Word.

The WORD is the pivotal point about which the entire system of Masonic Symbolism revolves. "Its possession is the consummation of all Masonic knowledge". Wherever there is a "loss" there should be a "recovery".

The Royal Arch Degree is not a "Higher Degree" but a volume of the series in which a sublime story is revealed through symbolism. It is definitely an extension of the Master Mason's degree. Indeed, it may well be said, that the Supreme Degree of the Holy Royal Arch is for Ancient Craft Masonry, a source from which the Master Mason can seek to receive and to share the Master's Word, as traditionally was done by the three Grand Masters when their number was complete.

It is not a surprise that the Most Sublime Royal Arch Degree is considered the heart, root, backbone and marrow of Freemasonry without knowledge of which the Masonic character cannot be complete. The Royal Arch degree is the completion of the whole system of Freemasonry. Having begun regular advancement through the Symbolic Lodge, it is the duty of each Master Mason to complete the degree series. He who has sought further Masonic education should return to the Symbolic Lodge, retrace his steps and advance through the Rite until he can receive the climax of Masonic symbolism, as taught in the Royal Arch. Only those who have attained the Royal Arch may be said to have completed their Masonic Work.

The Royal Arch Mason is a bridge between the symbolism of the physical Temple, the futile belief in the second physical Temple, and the secular belief in a "spiritual Temple, not made with hands, but eternal in the heavens." The bridge is meant to lift the seeker out of valleys of despair, to smooth rough and rocky roads of diversities, and convey the traveler over dangerous places where otherwise, there would be passage. The Royal Arch Mason is the leader of men and Masons to search out the land and find the secret of the veils that hide truths of eternity, to lift them and learn their real meanings. A Royal Arch Mason is taught and encouraged to build that Temple within, that Temple of Character which is the great goal of our gentle Craft.

The motto of the Royal Arch is "Holiness to the Lord" and ever reminds us of the reverence due to the Great and Beneficent Author of our existence, who is a Being without beginning of days or ending of years. A Royal Arch Mason holds firm to the belief in the Brotherhood of Man, the Fatherhood of God, and the Immortality of the Human Soul which he holds in high regard.

The building of the Second Temple referred to in our Royal Arch Ceremony is reenacted by the Sojourners, who remembered with trowel in hand and sword by their side built and defended the Temple against the unprovoked attacks of their enemies. Armed with our faith in our teachings as Royal Arch Masons, we too must defend the Temple we are building within ourselves. We must demonstrate by example our commitment to the precepts of the Holy Royal Arch, and by our example inspire our Blue Lodge Brethren to emulate us and to follow the path we have chosen, and so complete their Masonic education.

There has always been a discussion among the fraternity on what's the most beautiful degree. That discussion has quite frankly often centered on the Royal Arch Mason degree and the spectacular recovery of the word.

Our brethren Master Masons should be continually reminded of the fact that their education is incomplete, and that the answer to many of their questions lies within membership of the York Rite where they will add to their education, and even complete it, by becoming Royal Arch Masons.

Joseph Dongo, PM, IPM
High Priest
Sacramento No.3 Royal Arch Masons

Washington Lodge #20 ***Mission Statement***

To practice and promote a way of life that binds like-minded men in a worldwide brotherhood that transcends all religious, ethnic, cultural, social and educational differences. Through Masonic principles and tradition and by the outward expression of these through its fellowship and compassion, Washington Lodge No.20 F.&A.M. provides ways in which to serve God, family, country, neighbors and self in an environment that contributes to the enrichment and betterment of its members, mankind, and its communities.



*You and Your Guests are Cordially Invited
to an Evening with the
Most Worshipful John L. Cooper III and His Lady Heather
for a
Valentine in Vienna
and to Celebrate the
Music and History of Brother Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart*

When:

Saturday, February 8th, 2014

5:00 PM - Doors Open and No Host Cocktails

6:30 PM – Dinner

Dancing and Picture Opportunities at the Event

Where:

Sacramento Masonic Temple

1123 J Street

Sacramento, California 95814

Cost and Attire:

\$25 Per Person, Black Tie Attire or Formal Period Costumes

Welcome!

Reservations Required:

*Please RSVP no later than December 15th, 2013, to the Golden Compasses Research Lodge
with dinner payment and reservation form.*

For those desiring nearby hotel accommodations please consider the:

Hyatt Regency Sacramento

(916) 443-1234

1209 L Street, Sacramento, California 95814

AAA Nightly Rate: \$125, Regular Nightly Rate: \$139

Event Information Contact:

Wes Mindermann at (916) 365-3772 or dumpengr@aol.com

On June 21, 2014, the **Grand Lodge of California** will re-enact the laying of the cornerstone at our State Capitol. This ceremony is open to the public and all are welcome to attend.

Washington Lodge #20, along with Tehema Lodge #3 and the other Lodges of Sacramento will take part in this historic event. We look forward to a great event and strong participation from the Washington Lodge #20 membership.

More information is available at the Temple office or on the Grand Lodge website.