



TRESTLEBOARD

NEWSLETTER OF WASHINGTON LODGE No. 20.

October 2008

To Make Good Men Better

OUR 156th YEAR



From the East

Richard Pullen, Master

To practice patience is a lesson that is frequently repeated in Masonic ritual. It is also a recurrent theme in Christ's ministry, in Edgar Cayce's readings, in Buddhism, in writings about the "law of attraction" and many other moral teachings. We are all familiar with problems arising from a lack of patience from the "spoiled child" who has not learned that his every wish cannot be satisfied at once, to the adult with little impulse control, who often regrets the consequences of his actions. Clearly, the world would be a better place if patience were more consistently practiced.

Masonry teaches that as Masons, we should display the moral virtues, including patience, which is key to learning to subdue our passions. In so doing, we set a good example, and our actions reflect favorably upon our fraternity. However, Masonic ritual really addresses the inner Mason, and its influence upon the outer Mason is a necessary, but not sufficient result. It is primarily the inner work that produces a true and square living "stone".

I write this not as a sermon, but as a preface to an article for the next Trestleboard, in which I will expand these thoughts further. I have not read anything that expresses what I have in mind, so I hope it will be interesting.

The Ladies Night dinner invitations will be in your hands when you read this. I can't thank David Cameron enough for the fine effort he puts into these events. It truly is an act of love on his part. I hope that every member and his lady, and every widow can attend. David will arrange for transportation for any widows needing such. If any member needs a ride, call me, or any of the officers. We will do our best to hook you up with someone.

Don't miss the Constitution Observance on October 23d. This will be a more ambitious event than usual, so we want a good turnout. Any officer will be happy to sell you a ticket at the bargain price of \$10 each.

Concerning the problem of reservations, I wish to thank the faithful few who always make them. Those who do not sometimes cause our great kitchen volunteers to be caught in a dilemma. Do they try to estimate attendance and risk running short, or buy more than enough food and throw the excess away? One way they try to manage is to guess at how many will show up, and if there are more than planned, they try and stretch the food by giving out smaller portions, which is unfair to those who made reservations. We know this, but no one wants a member or guest to not have something to eat. I spoke with Wally about this and he agreed to try a new approach. They will plan for a certain number based on reservations received. Those with reservations will be served first, and then if there is extra food, non-reservations will be served, but portions will not be reduced to stretch the food. However, no one will go hungry. They will have on hand something to serve up. It may be hot dogs or another item that we can store, but it won't be the planned entree. We will see how that works. If it works great. Anyone dissatisfied is welcome to present me with another suggestion. We aren't trying to be punitive, nor do we want to discourage attendance, but the present process isn't fair to either the kitchen crew or to the ones who cooperate. If it happens that you were not able to call in, come anyway. There may be extra food, but if not, a hot dog and good company ain't so bad. Besides, we would miss you.

Fraternally,
Richard



From the West

Andrew Wilson, Sr. Warden

The Templar Legend

This is an adaptation of a talk I gave about the Templars at a Masonic Information Night this spring. Since Masonic education is a focus that both Dick and I share, I thought I might share this little bit of history.

The full name of this order was the "Poor Fellow-Soldiers of Christ and of the Temple of Solomon." Also known as the Knights of the Templar, or Knights Templar. The red cross on white was their emblem, and remains a popular one images of the Crusades (the black cross on white was the emblem of the Hospitallers, and the white cross on black was the Teutonic Knights). They were founded following the 1st Crusade as a sort of police force for the Holy Land and the roads pilgrims took.

Within ten years of opening shop, they were given official sanction by the church and became very successful in recruiting and raising funds. You could almost say it was the fad of the day to donate money or land to the Templar.

Of course, the knights themselves could not use it, as they had taken vows of poverty. But the order became very rich indeed. So much so that they became one of the most reliable money houses in Europe, and some say the foundation of modern banking. Why, after all, should you travel through pirate-infested waters and bandit-ravaged lands with chests full of coin and treasure when you can make a deposit at a Templar office in Europe and take a letter of credit to another Templar office in Jerusalem?

Over the years, this power grew a bit too much for some monarchs liking. This was especially true at the turn of the 14th century, when the crusades had failed and the Templars were without a clear purpose. Phillip the IV of France (also known as Phillip the Fair) owed quite of money to the Templars, and envied their power and position within the church. Because of this, he conspired with the reigning pope to have all the Templars in Europe arrested on Friday, October 13, 1307.

No, that was not the origin of Friday the 13th being viewed as unlucky. Nor did all the European countries follow France in arresting the Templars. In Spain, for examples, the trained soldiers were needed for fighting the Moors that still occupied that country. In France, however, the Templars faced imprisonment and death on trumped up charges.

This all ended on March 18th, 1314 when Jacques de Molay and one of his senior men were burned at the state after publicly refusing to read a confession. That's when history and legend start to get a little strange. Like the curse DeMolay supposedly called down on Phillip IV and the Pope to meet him before the throne of God within a year to answer for their crimes. Both individuals died in the months following the execution. Or there is the Masonic connection, best described in John Robinson's "Born in Blood".

But that is all it is: a legend. We have records of speculative masonry older than the Templars. That does not mean that there is not a connection. Our aprons and the office of the tiler, for instance, seem a little closer to the Templar way of life than that of the cathedral builders. Or our standards of religious toleration and acceptance. Not quite fitting cathedral makers who depended on the Church for their livelihood, but what about a society of ex-monks on the run from church and state? Food for thought.

Fraternally,
Andrew

The 2008 Washington Lodge Officers

Richard A. Pullen.....Master
email richardpullen@comcast.net
Andrew Wilson..... Senior Warden
..... Junior Warden
Eric Hixson, P.M..... Treasurer
Jon Isaacson, P.M..... Secretary
email: secretary@washingtonlodge20.org
Jed VanWagner..... Chaplain
David Cameron.....Senior Deacon
Jerry Livingston-Joy.....Junior Deacon
Lance Vayder.....Senior Steward
Kelvin Mark.....Junior Steward
Michael Quinn..... Marshal
Floyd Tritt..... Tiler
Eric Hixson, P.M..... Officers Coach
Ray W. Lenau, P.M..... Officers Coach Emeritus
Richard Wilson.....Inspector District 246

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CONSTITUTION OBSERVANCE

Sponsored by Washington Lodge #20

October 23, 2008, 6:30 p.m.

1123 J Street, Sacramento

A Traditional American Dinner followed by
A Speaker from the Federalist Society

This is an event you won't want to miss!!
Teachers and students from local schools will be invited to celebrate our Constitution and learn about contemporary constitutional issues.

The Ballroom should be full, so call any Lodge Officer soon to obtain tickets at the very reasonable price of \$10.

We are working with Congresswoman Doris Matsui's Office to obtain and provide pocket version copies of the Constitution for attendees. We are also inviting the Congresswoman to attend.

Fraternally,
Phillip Hardiman, PM, Chairman



Secretary's Desk

Jon Isaacson, PM

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

George E. Dacre 10/01/22
Richard H. Griset 10/03/28
Martin P. Zimmerman 10/03/62
Burriss A. Heflin 10/06/20
Robert D. Hurst 10/12/26
John M. Otten 10/13/39
Thomas E. Goodwin 10/15/25
Douglas C. Witt 10/15/22
Carl M. Rea, Jr. 10/18/30
William D. Chessum 10/20/43
Norman L. Stillwell 10/22/21
Robert M. Ferry 10/24/35
Harold J. Stevenson 10/24/15
Thomas W. Brockman 10/25/39

Ladies Night

Saturday, November 1, 2008

The Brothers of Washington Lodge #20 F& AM cordially invite you to Ladies Night 2008. This year the dinner will be located in the Ballroom at the Downtown Temple. The evening starts with social hour between 5:30pm – 6:30pm. Dinner begins promptly at 6:30pm. The menu includes Prime Rib and Cornish Game Hen. Jerry Livingston-Joy provides his culinary skills as our chef for the evening.

This year's theme is the Roaring Twenties. The 1920's, bootlegging abounds and organized crime has taken root. Prohibition was the law, but justice was served by the Mob. Speakeasies appear to cater to the rich and notorious. Politicians and Gangsters met in these private clubs and backrooms. Admissions were limited, and locations moved frequently. Dress up and have fun with your fiends. Costumes are encouraged but not required.

Dinner will include a Murder Mystery feature. We all will be encouraged to participate in the solving of a crime. Please join your friends for a night of mystery and intrigue.

Dinner Prices are as follows. Gentlemen \$30.00, Washington Ladies and Widows are no cost. Guest Ladies cost is \$15.00. Reservations are required by October 15, 2008.

RSVP to David H. Cameron (916-359-5335)
or ycdealer@winfirst.com.

Stated Meeting Dinner
October 4, 2008
Sausage Feed

Social Hour 5:15 PM,
Dinner 6:15 PM
Stated Meeting 7:30 PM
Reservations Requested 422-9108