

The Sentinel

Unity Lodge #95 F. & A. M.

642 Colonial Rd., Memphis, TN 38117

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Facebook: [@unity95](https://www.facebook.com/unity95) / Instagram: [unitymasoniclodge95](https://www.instagram.com/unitymasoniclodge95)



The Master's Message

Brothers,

I would like to start off my message by thanking you all for electing me Worshipful Master of Unity Lodge. My officers and I will do our best to help continue the legacy of the Masons that came before us. This year Unity Lodge will be partnering with Normal Whitehaven and Mizpah OES to collect supplies for the Ronald McDonald House and the FedEx Family House. If you would like to bring items for donation or would rather make a monetary donation for us to go buy the supplies, please let me or Brother Ralph, our Secretary, know. I look forward to working with y'all for the ensuing year. If there is anything you would like to discuss, whether it is future events or questions and concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me or the Secretary. My personal email is davidhasting4@gmail.com and my phone number is 901-484-6132. If I'm not able to answer, please leave me a voicemail or text message and I'll get back to you as soon as I can.

Fraternally,

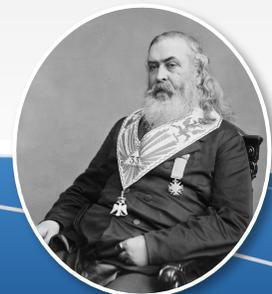
David Hasting
Worshipful Master

Blood Drive

Mizpah Chapter #62, Order of the Eastern Star is sponsoring a blood drive at the Lodge, 642 Colonial Rd. on January 23, 2020 from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This is open to the public. Walk-ins are welcome, but if you are sure you want to donate or have a particular time you would like to come to the Lodge, please contact Gwen Irwin at (901) 483-0046 or pengwen777@gmail.com. All Covid-19 protocols will be followed. In addition to blood collection they will also test for the Covid-19 antibodies, so you will find out if you have or have had the virus.

Inside

- Page 1 The Master's Message
Blood Drive
- Page 2 From The Secretary's
Desk
Officers
Deaths
- Page 3 Calendar
- Page 4 Masonic Education



“What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us;
what we have done for others and the world remains
and is immortal.” - Albert Pike

From The Secretary's Desk

Brethren,

I first want to say thank you for entrusting me with this important position in our Lodge. I promise to do the best I can to fulfill your expectations and to keep everyone informed about what's happening at our Lodge.

The first and most important duty is the collection of dues. Dues for 2021 are payable by January 1st. If paid after March 31st a \$25.00 late fee will apply. You may mail us your dues payment or pay with PayPal on our website. A processing fee is automatically added to this form of payment.

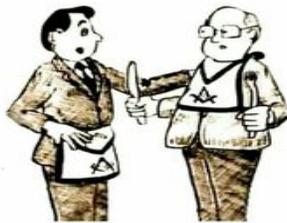
By code, dues should be sufficient enough to cover the yearly operating expenses of the Lodge. Therefore, the timely payment of your dues is much appreciated so that we may properly budget our expenses for the year.

Finally, if you received this newsletter by U.S. Mail then we don't have an email address for you. I understand that not everyone uses email, but if you do, please provided us with that address so that we can save the Lodge some postage expense for this newsletter and dues notices.

I hope to see you at Lodge soon!

Fraternally,

Ralph L. Scott, Jr., P.M.
Secretary



"DON'T GET ME WRONG BROTHER. I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE. JUST TRY NOT TO BE SO OBVIOUS AS TO WHY YOU ARE HERE"



2021 Officers

- David Hasting, Worshipful Master
- Craig Forshee, Senior Warden
- Broque Lingerfelt, Junior Warden
- Ed Doremus, Treasurer
- Ralph Scott, Secretary
- Bill McDaniel, Chaplain
- Benji Kaw, Senior Deacon
- Joey Sabio, Junior Deacon
- A. J. Roe, Senior Steward
- Joe Vinson, Junior Steward
- Mike Riggs, Tiler



Deaths

Albert Hicks Owens
10/19/1924 – 10/10/2020

Jason Lee Cartwright
12/21/1986 – 10/24/2020

Curtis Standifer Person
11/27/1940 – 9/4/2020

Charles Guy Wilson
4/16/1940 – 12/19/2020

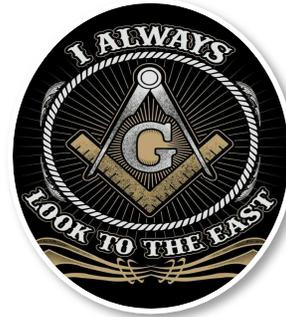
Strengthened in his labors here by faith in God and encouraged by the hope of immortality, he has sought admittance into the celestial Lodge above.

Richard Ross Callicott
2/25/1930 – 12/13/2020

Calendar

January

- 1 – Normal Whitehaven OES Stated Meeting @ 7:30 p.m.
- 9 – Daughter’s of the Nile Luncheon
- 11 – Lodge School @ 6:00 p.m.
- 12 – Mizpah OES Stated Meeting @ 7:30 p.m.
- 16 – Daughter’s of the Nile Stated Meeting @ 11:00 a.m.
- 18 – Lodge School @ 6:00 p.m.
- 23 – Mizpah OES Blood Drive @ 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- 25 – Lodge Stated Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.



Success is the ability to go from one failure to another with no loss of enthusiasm.

Winston Churchill

February

- 1 – Lodge Stated Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.
- 5 – Normal Whitehaven OES Stated Meeting @ 7:30 p.m.
- 6 – Daughter’s of the Nile Chili Lunch @ 11:30 a.m.
- 8 – Lodge School @ 6:00 p.m.
- 9 – Mizpah OES Stated Meeting @ 7:30 p.m.
- 15 – Lodge School @ 6:00 p.m.
- 20 – Daughter’s of the Nile Stated Meeting @ 11:00 a.m.
- 22 – Lodge School @ 6:00 p.m.

March

- 1 – Lodge Stated Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.
- 5 – Normal Whitehaven OES Stated Meeting @ 7:30 p.m.
- 8 – Lodge School @ 6:00 p.m.
- 9 – Mizpah OES Stated Meeting @ 7:30 p.m.
- 14 – Daughter’s of the Nile Installation @ 2:00 p.m.
- 15 – Lodge School @ 6:00 p.m.
- 20 – Daughter’s of the Nile Stated Meeting @ 11:00 a.m.
- 22 – Lodge School @ 6:00 p.m.
- 24 – Grand Lodge

Wisdom, Strength and Beauty

Triads are groups of three ideas or objects. Triads appear in nature, politics, and religion. To early man, the cosmos consisted of the sun, the moon, and the stars. He called the natural elements earth, wind, and fire. He could see triads in the three-leaf clover. He knew he lived in a three-dimensional world. In politics, the US Constitution established three branches of government: legislative, executive, and judicial. And in religion, most faiths teach fealty to God, your neighbor, and yourself. All are arranged in intriguing triads of ideas. Let us endeavor to understand some of the power in triads both historically and for us as Masons.

Before we become aware of triads, we think in opposites or dual concepts. Developmental learning theorists easily prove that infants learn through simple stimulus and response events. Touch a newborn baby's cheek, her instinctive reflex will be to turn her head in that direction. She quickly learns to identify her Mother's voice from all others. As language is acquired, knowledge can be gathered by asking, "why?" After a child asks a question she is rewarded with an answer. The pattern engages a pair of concepts or dyads. Even as we advance in learning, we make decisions using dyads by giving reasons for and against an action. A straightforward method for determining a course of action involves drawing a vertical line on paper and arranging the pro and con arguments on either side.

Furthermore, Socratic teaching methods train students by asking questions. The students must provide the answer or else the teacher must supply it. Catechisms are similarly simple teaching devices for youth. The first question in the Westminster Confession asks, "What is the chief end of man?" The student replies, "The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever." The question is neat; the answer is clean. This is an uncomplicated style of learning for the young.

But as men, we become more complex. Answers tend to include modifiers such as on the one hand this, but on the other hand that. Dualistic thinking is insufficient for more advanced analysis. Socratic methods tend to give way to Hegelian philosophy that was based on threes: thesis, antithesis, and synthesis. Inspired by Christian insights and grounded in his mastery of a fund of knowledge, Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel attempted to answer all questions--natural, human, and divine--using dialectical reasoning that swung from thesis to antithesis and back again to a richer synthesis. Two opposing forces resolve into a creature wholly different, like the cross-fertilization of two different rose bushes producing a more perfect hybrid.

Higher learning tended to use triads. Among the seven liberal arts and sciences are grammar and rhetoric. Grammar uses subject, verb, and object – three things. Adjectives are inflected into good, better, and best – also triads. Grammatical tenses are conjugated into run, ran, and have run.

Rhetoric is similarly infused with triads. "A rhetorical comment," is a phrase meaning tangential or unnecessary words. Yet expert rhetoricians reveal much about the persuasive power of words and ideas in orderly lists. In Latin, word order doesn't matter. In English, "man bites dog," demonstrates that word order matters. We remember the three things that abide which are faith, hope, and charity. The order matters. The Bible did not say charity, faith, and hope. We remember from the French Revolution: equality, liberty, and fraternity – a triad. Providing citizens with equality and liberty produces the ideal of fraternity. Rhetoricians argue that the ear wants to hear the most complex at the end of the list as it finishes or completes the first two thoughts.

-Continued on page 5



Altar

By William R. Fischer

The most important article of furniture in the Lodge is the altar. When we talk about this type of furniture, we intend it to be a chair, a table, a desk, etc. not the symbolic furniture. Altars in ancient times were made generally of turf and stone. When permanently erected, were cubical and built long before temples. Altars of sacrifice were erected outside, and altars of incense inside. These altars were for sacrifice and incense, only because at this early period the Holy Scripture had not yet been written. The Masonic altar is both sacrificial and incense. You lay down your passions and vices in an obligation to the All Mighty God as a sacrifice to him. You offer up the thoughts of a pure heart as a fitting incentive to the Supreme Architect of the Universe.

The altar is therefore the most holy place in the Lodge.

(continued)

Triads appear in many ancient systems of thought. In numerology, triads are seen as the combination of odd (1) and even (2) that sums to three. Three becomes a symbol of perfection in many ancient cultures and mystic philosophies. Threes also appear very early in geography and in geometry. We can find any location on a plane by reference to three points. Even anthropological artifacts reflect triads. From the union of marriage comes a child. The complication of three elements is needed to provide sufficient complexity to achieve an idealized perfection.

Triads are also prominently employed in Lodges and Masonic writings. Why triads dominate over dyads or quartets of ideas may not conclusively be known, but speculative Masonry permits us ample opportunity to reflect on the reasons.

Threes appear prominently in the lecture of the winding stairs as we are shown the first three steps. They remind Fellowcrafts of the three degrees of Masonry and the three principal officers of the Worshipful Master, Senior, and Junior Wardens. We learn that a Lodge is not singular. A Lodge is not dual. It is plural with a minimum of three.

Similarly, displaying of the three Greater Lights and the three lesser lights are central rituals for the opening and closing of the Lodge. As the furniture of the Lodge, they separately are symbols with meanings and lessons, but the fact that they are grouped into threes is not accidental.

The three lesser lights are named wisdom, strength, and beauty. They are said to help make Masons better men. Naturally, we could have added other virtues to the list: patience, fortitude, or peace making, but the fact that there is but three draws your attention.

The three Greater Lights parallel the three lesser lights. First displayed on the altar is the Holy Bible or scriptures from other religions. The Holy Bible is a collection of writings, histories, and moral teachings that provide guidance in our actions. They are sometimes known as wisdom literature; indeed, one of the books in the Apocrypha during the inter-testamental period is the Book of Wisdom. King Solomon is recalled as a wise king whose wisdom was demonstrated by the story of two women claimants for a baby. Furthermore that wisdom is symbolized atop the Worshipful Master by his hat, the crown of the ruler who is wise.

The square is the second Great Light. A right angle is key to forming a strong wall or a proper column--a wall that will withstand the vicissitudes of weather and seasons. Being on the square is commended to all Master Masons. We are charged to follow the rules and regulations of the Craft and of the country in which we live. We see the square as a symbol of right living in our own lives as well as order in society. The Senior Warden represents strength: he is the strong supporter of the Worshipful Master. Yet it is intriguing that the symbol of strength, the square, is worn as the jewel of the Worshipful Master.

The third symbol placed on the altar is the compasses. We use a compass to draw an arc or a perfect circle. There is beauty and perfection in structures built with arches and celestial windows. Cathedrals featured rose windows over the altar, which were circular stained glass windows beautifully adorned for the contemplation of the glory of God. We are further taught a message hidden in the compasses to keep our actions within due bounds. Beauty is orderly, balanced, and under control. So too, the Junior Warden talks of the arc of the sun as it rises to Meridian height as being the beauty and glory of the day.

Hence we repeat patterns of wisdom, strength, and beauty in the three officers as well as the Greater and Lesser Lights. The rhetoric of listing wisdom, strength, and beauty in this order places importance on beauty. Beauty is an odd ideal for a fraternity. Yet beauty is seen as the resolution of a life that is brimming with wisdom and strength. Men who exhibit wisdom and strength create harmony. Harmony is itself a characteristic of beauty in social settings as it is in aesthetics. In the Aurora Lodge (a German-speaking lodge in Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin), the German word for beauty is Schönheit, which involves balance and symmetry, as in the beauty of a well-built structure. Perhaps we can visualize that a Lodge of filled with wise and strong men will produce better men in a manly sense of symmetry, strength, and beauty.

The three degrees emphasize three stages of life. Our youth and adolescence are emphasized in our training as Entered Apprentices; our manhood and useful work are keys to the Fellowcraft degree; and contemplating our own mortality is vividly illustrated in the Hiram story for Master Masons.

The posting monitors used by all three degrees today begin with three grand principles of brotherly love, relief and truth. Meetings in Lodge are designed to reinforce these three principles as we practice fraternity, charity, and virtue – three moral guides.

Triads are used by Lodges to train our minds. As we grow in understanding we will tend to use more and richer triads. Intelligence, force, and harmony provide elegant synonyms used today for wisdom, strength, and beauty. Likewise, religion, law, and morals are pillars of Masonic teaching. By religious study and contemplation we search out wisdom. By the force and rule of law, we establish a strong and orderly society. And by inculcation of personal morality, we strive for beauty in our private and public lives.

The lesson for us is that the triads used in our rituals and in our lectures are purposeful and helpful to us. Let us strive for perfection by becoming better men in wisdom, strength, and beauty.

Richard D. Marcus
George Washington 1776 Lodge, F&AM #337
Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin