



GRAY LODGE 329

NEWSLETTER



What's going on at your Lodge?

August 2007

Newsletter Format

This year brethren, we will only be sending out the newsletter in electronic format, whilst having paper copies available at the Lodge. This is an attempt to at least get the newsletter going out every month and have it up to date enough to be of value to our members who want to stay informed about current events.

Please stay up to date on all Gray Lodge news by subscribing to our e-mail list...send an e-mail to:
<mailto:gray329-subscribe@yahoogroups.com>

Useful Links:

- [Gray Lodge](#)
- [HMLMF](#)
- [Grand Lodge of TX](#)

August Stated Meeting: 8/1/07 7pm

Unfortunately, the presenter for the open portion of the August stated meeting has had to cancel due to business travel. Watch out for next month's newsletter for details on upcoming programs. August will therefore be a closed meeting.



Degrees

We have several new candidates and therefore a lot of degree work coming up. If you would like to participate, please contact our Senior Deacon (davidraycousins@yahoo.com) and he will let you know what the degree schedule is. If you need to brush up on your floor work, contact the JW, Bro Darrin Pitts (dpitts36@yahoo.com) and he will inform you of our rehearsals and degree team instruction.

GRAND LODGE

We have booked 10 rooms for Grand Lodge (6th thru 8th of December). Room rate is \$82 per night. There will be a sign up sheet at the Lodge. First come, first served!

Line Officers 2007

WM: Lex Leckie
SW: Greg Weisinger
JW: Darrin Pitts
SEC: TBA
TR: Doug Hissong
SD: David Cousins
JD: Roberto Sanchez
MA: Randon Reaves
MC: Paul Anderson
SS: RW Butch Boggess
JS: Carl Rubly
CH: Craig Johnston
TI: David Woodard

FROM THE EAST

Those of you who were at the last Stated Meeting are very aware of the number of new initiates we have!...it's a busy time for the Senior Deacon David Cousins and his cohort, the Junior Deacon, Roberto Sanchez. I'm asking all of you who can spare the time to give them, and your Lodge, the support they need to put on kind of degrees we were known for when certain other lodges around the state called us "The Grand Lodge of Hillcroft". I'm sure those brothers intended it as good fun and a bit of banter, but it was also a subliminal reference to the quality of the work in our degrees. In latter years, we cannot claim to have earned such a title. It's not all doom and gloom however...in the past few years we have attracted some younger as well as more seasoned candidates, and they have added to some other talented brethren already in the lodge. We now have enough of a core group who are keenly learning the work...to a standard that still lives in the memories of some of us who were fortunate to know, and be taught by, the brothers who earned that tongue-in-cheek nickname years ago. The raison-d'etre for Blue Lodge is to raise Master Masons. That means degrees and instruction in the work. Please make time to come along on Thursday nights to help teach candidates and/or rehearse the floor work with us. This Saturday, the 28th of July, we initiate four EA's. Refreshments at 11am, with degrees starting at noon.

Hopefully see as many of you as possible there.
Fraternally, Lex Leckie, WM Gray Lodge #329.

MASONIC TRIVIA

Massachusetts lodges have no numbers. Pennsylvania has eleven lodges with numbers but no names. Georgia has two lodges identified as number 1, Social #1 and Solomons #1. Neither Maryland, Pennsylvania, or Tennessee has a lodge with the number 1

For the sixth time in history, a pre-revolutionary Bible owned by the Masonic order was to be used for the swearing in of a U.S. president. George W. Bush had intended to take the oath of office as the nation's 43rd president on the historic Masonic bible. George Washington was the first, in 1789. The last was George H.W. Bush, who used the Bible in 1989.

On Friday, 19 January 2001, three officials of the Manhattan-based St. John's Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons boarded an Amtrak liner for Washington, D.C., carrying the nine-pound, 234-year-old King James Bible in a special container. At Union Station, they were met by inaugural committee officials and escorted to the inaugural site. They were literally waiting in the wings in a room adjacent to the inauguration platform when, at the 12th hour, a decision was made (attributed to the Vice President, but not confirmed) not to jeopardize the Bible because of the rain then pelting the area.

Bound in London in 1767, the Bible was brought to the colonies and given by Jonathan Hampton to the St. John's Lodge in lower Manhattan three years later when he became its grand master.

Just before Washington was to take his oath of office on the steps of Federal Hall in New York City on April 30, 1789, it was discovered that there was no Bible on hand. The then-New York Gov. Robert Livingston, a Masonic grand master, borrowed the lodge's bible from St. John's Masonic Lodge, which had meeting rooms just a short distance away. A statue of Washington marks the site in front of the present-day Federal Hall on Wall Street.

No printer in the colonies produced Bibles at the time, and the London import, bound in maroon Moroccan leather with silver hasps, was "probably close to a year's wages for the average fellow." Despite its age and history, the lodge today puts no monetary value on the book. "I guess the word is priceless," a representative said.

Other presidents who have placed their left hand on the Masonic Bible were Warren G. Harding in 1921, Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953, and Jimmy Carter in 1977. Among the six, only Washington and Harding were Masons.

Harry Truman, probably the most active Mason among the nation's chief executives, did not use it, nor did several other Masons who served as president.

In 1867, President Andrew Johnson, attending the dedication of a new Masonic temple in Boston, asked that the George Washington inaugural Bible be brought to his hotel room, and was seen by aides "to weep as he held it in his hands".

In addition to its role in presidential oath-taking, the Bible was used at Washington's funeral in December, 1799, the dedication of the Washington Monument in Washington, D.C. in 1885, the re-laying of the U.S. Capitol's cornerstone in 1959, and the christening of the aircraft carrier USS George Washington at Norfolk, Va., in 1992.

It was on display at the New York world's fair in 1964-65 and at the White House for 30 days after the elder Bush's inaugural. Between travels, it is maintained by the National Parks Service in a protective display case at Federal Hall, open to Genesis 49, 50, the pages on which Washington rested his hand to be sworn in.

109th CONGRESS
1st Session
H. RES. 17

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
January 4, 2005

Mr. GILLMOR (for himself and Mr. KINGSTON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the thousands of Freemasons in every State in the Nation and honoring them for their many contributions to the Nation throughout its history.

Whereas Freemasons, whose long lineage extends back to before the Nation's founding, have set an example of high moral standards and charity for all people;

Whereas the Founding Fathers of this great Nation and signers of the Constitution, most of whom were Freemasons, provided a well-rounded basis for developing themselves and others into valuable citizens of the United States;

Whereas members of the Masonic Fraternity, both individually and as an organization, continue to make invaluable charitable contributions of service to the United States;

Whereas the Masonic Fraternity continues to provide for the charitable relief and education of the citizens of the United States;

Whereas the Masonic Fraternity is deserving of formal recognition of their long history of care-giving for the citizenry and their example of high moral standards; and

Whereas Freemasons have always revered and celebrated St. John's Day, June 24th, as dedicated to their patron saints: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives recognizes the thousands of Freemasons in every State in the Nation and honors them for their many contributions to the Nation throughout its history.

Brother "Buzz" Aldrin, a member of Clear Lake Lodge #1417 in Texas, when he stepped onto the surface of the moon, carried a special deputation from his Grand Master to claim the moon as being in the territorial jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Texas. And so it is.

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If you wish to contribute to this newsletter, please contact master@gray329.org

