



## Gray Lodge #329 Newsletter August 2009

From the WM. Darrin Pitts:

Well Brethren,

Another new year is here! I would like to extend my thanks for the confidence you have reposed in me for the 2009 – 2010 Masonic Year. Thank you to all the beautiful ladies of Bluebell for there help with my installation.

The officers and I are extremely excited about the upcoming year. This year will see many rousing things happening and I invite and encourage all Freemasons to come visit anytime.

The August stated meeting's program (Wednesday August 5<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 p.m.) has an open portion and Bro. Sam Ayers will be there to speak to about investments and the state of the market. Our treasurer will be presenting the budget for the year and an analysis of the last few years since he's been in the in office. In the highest interest of being more transparent than even the President of the United States, the Treasurer's presentation will also be given during the open portion of the evening. After the open potion is concluded, we will open Lodge and move into the business of Gray 329.

In the July stated meeting, a motion was made to raise the degree fees for an Entered Apprentice and Fellowcraft. The motion was tabled and will be discussed and voted on at the August Stated Meeting.

On Thursday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, Gray will be hosting R.W. Bill Sessums, from the Committee on Work from the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas. He will be conducting certificate exams for the A, B, and C level certificates. The exams start at 6:30p.m. and there will be light refreshments if you will arrive by 6:00pm. If you think you will enjoy watching the proficiency exam, or even participate, please be there by 6:15pm to register and get a *seat*.

Speaking of certificates, all of you Brothers who will help, can help or enjoy helping with any part of the degree work, please speak with the Senior Deacon Randon Reaves or the Junior Deacon Alan Harnack. If you want to brush up on some work contact our Junior Warden Roberto Sanchez or any member of Gray's certificate committee.

Brethren, I understand that Lodge can be difficult and uncompromising to schedule with all of the many other obligations of your professions and families, however you can remain involved through the website and by email. For example if you have any motions, recognitions, appreciations or tokens you want to present to your Lodge, please e-mail it at least a week before any Stated Meeting to Secretary. Remember the Gray 329 officers are here to serve your Lodge,

so please let us know what we can do for you. Please remember to join us for the Wednesday August 5<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting. Supper is served at six p.m.

The new, improved and updated Gray 329 website is up and running, and I want to take a moment thank Brother Bill Bradford for stepping up and putting together a useful, sleek and functional website that all the members of Gray Lodge can participate on. Drop in often for updates, programs and contacts to [www.gray329.org](http://www.gray329.org) .

Fraternally,  
Darrin Pitts  
WM Gray 329

Texas Masonic Fact: First formed in 1837, the original Texas Masons met in the Houston Senate Chambers, with Sam Houston presiding over the Grand Lodge. All the Republic of Texas presidents were, in fact, Grand Masters of the Texas Masons. Milam No. 40 at Nacogdoches and McFarland No. 41 at San Augustine. At the invitation of Holland Lodge No. 36, delegates of the three Lodges met at Houston in the Senate Chamber of the Capitol of the Republic at 3:00 o'clock p.m. on December 20th, 1837. Brother Sam Houston presided and Brother Anson Jones acted as Secretary. At this meeting was organized the Grand Lodge of the Republic of Texas with Brother Anson Jones as the first Grand Master. From these three Lodges, Holland No. 1, Milam No. 2, and McFarland No. 3, we have grown to approximately 908 Lodges and 124,000 members.

Freemasonry confirms and complements religious faith and church participation. The principles of our Fraternity are based on the same moral absolutes that form the foundation of all true faith. Every Mason must believe in a Supreme Being. He must strive to live morally in accordance with the highest standards of individual character and social conduct. Consequently, every Mason abides by the "Golden Rule," however stated, and labors in all aspects of his life to fulfill Freemasonry's goals of charity in both senses of the word---philanthropy to those in need and loving brotherhood for all the members of humankind. Because it is universal in scope and inclusive in membership, Masonry provides a philosophy and a Fraternity where good men can "meet on the Level and part on the Square." It binds all men in a mystic tie of sincere brotherhood and mutual love. Faith and work, soul and body, heart and hand are united as Masons everywhere labor through Freemasonry in peace and harmony to honor the Creator and serve mankind. - C. Fred Kleinknect

#### A Masonic Metaphorical Moment

In builders' language Ashlar is dressed stone work taken from the quarries. Ashlar blocks are large rectangular blocks of stone masonry sculpted to have precisely squared edges and smooth faces. The blocks are generally 13 to 15 inches in height. When smaller than 11 inches, they are usually called "small ashlar". The physical dressing and preparation of ashlar has evolved now to have symbolic meaning as a metaphor for states of progress and growth. The ashlar comes in two forms: the rough ashlar represents a rough, unprepared or undressed stone, and is an allegory of the uninitiated Freemason prior to his discovering enlightenment, we hope. And while the rough ashlar is the profane, the smooth ashlar represents the dressed stone used by the experienced stonemason, and is an allegory of the Freemason who, through education and

diligence, has achieved enlightenment and who lives an upstanding life, we hope. Metaphorically, the rough and perfect ashlar bear the same relation to each other as ignorance does to knowledge, death to life, and light to darkness.

*From the Sr. Deacon* - Brothers, we have been asked to put together a Cornerstone laying team to lay cornerstones for the buildings the Tellepsen Company builds, the first of which will be the new downtown Tellepsen YMCA. If you would like to participate in this team please contact myself or Brother Jr. Deacon, Alan Harnack. Also, the Houston Masonic Library and Museum Foundation is holding its annual banquet and auction on November 12th, in the Texas Room of the Houston Club. As many of us know, The Houston Club, founded in 1894 is synonymous with Houston's history, leadership, vision and civic distinction. - Randon Reaves