

Onion Creek Masonic Lodge #220
AF&AM
Post Office Box 150727
Austin, TX. 78715-0727

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Austin, Texas
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December 2011

THE BEACON

Onion Creek Masonic Lodge #220
Ancient Free and Accepted Masons
Chartered by the Grand Lodge of Texas – June 16, 1858
Visit our website at <http://www.onioncreek lodge220.org>



Lodge Officers 2011 - 2012

WM: Dennis J. Ross
SW: Adrian W. Edmundson
JW: Raul J. Scully
Treas: Dennis C. Kestner, PM
Sec: J. Roland Brown
Chap: John W. Turner, PM
SD: Ben B. Rauschk
JD: Curtis A. Gilgan
SS: Brett M. Chandler-Finch
JS: Jeff J. Carroll
Mar: Joe V. Seguin, PM
MC: Javier R. Gonzalez, PM
Mus: Chris R. Dawson
Tiler: Chris J. Walterscheidt

Living Onion Creek Lodge Past Masters

1969- Tommie J. Conner
1970- Ralph L. Cearley
1971- W. David Johnson
1974- Jimmy M. Hodges
1977- Roy L. Hamor
1978- Bobby J. Doherty
1980- Ronald B. Norwood
1981- Howard D. Hall
1982- Alan L. Karotkin
1984- Matias H. Ruiz
1985- Richard A. Frazer
1986- Jose V. Seguin
1987- Elliott R. Wilson
1988- Jerry T. Jarmon
1989- Dennis C. Kestner
1991- Ronnie H. Lee
1993- Albert A. Mehlhaff
1994- Walter H. Argall
1995- Javier R. Gonzalez
1996- Kenneth P. Wood
1997- William S. Lear
1998- John W. Turner
1999- James F. Keese
2000- Walter E. Sanders
2001- Jonathan D. Walker
2002- Robert L. Roda
2003- Ricky J. Tindell
2004- Eljio Arjona, Jr.
2005- Hamilton B. Carter
2006- Russell M. Tidwell II
2007- Michael E. Sanders
2008- Daniel E. Barber
2009- Dale L. Flatt
2010- Tony M. Ramirez

Living Affiliated Past Masters

Jesus A. Araiza
Jimmie L. Banks
Don R. Cowley
Gerald T. Dawson
Allen W. Deaver
Carlton L. Edwards
Elbert I. Franks
O. Tripp Garza
Reagan W. Hammett
Ronald D. Holton
Bennie L. Hudson
Gordon W. Kelso
James M. King
Don R. Long
Bobby J. Norris
Boyce V. Oakes
Gene C. Payne
L. Bruce Roberson
Eugene A. Sassman
William W. Winnie III



December Birthdays

Javier Gonzalez, Paul Hinchliffe 2; Clemens Hofmann 3; Duke M. Glenn 4; Ronald D. Holton, Sidney Q. Strength 5; Jerry T. Jarmon 6; John J. Johnson, Jr. 7; John E. Waggoner, Jr., Ronald L. Angell, Tom Estes 9; Carl Ruthstrom, Tommie Conner, Marvin Gammage, Brant Griffin 10; Sam Hill 14; Eljio Arjona, Jr., Gregory S. Self 15; Jerry Eschberger 16; Maurice Beckham, John N. McFarling 17; Mack Gerald, Bobby LeDoux 18; Steven N. Moore 21; Floyd W. Bridges 22; Wallace S. Ostrom 23; Jesse Araiza, Michael Zombola 25; Gene Sassman, William Bargainer, Jr. 26; Sidney Ellis 28; Michael W. Carter 30; Max Fisher and Randy Storm 31.

Happy Birthday, Brothers! May the Supreme Architect bless you with many more...

Masonic Birthdays; raised in December (year):

Victor E. Chandler 52; Arnold J. Holden 57; Duke M. Glenn 59; Wayne V. Frye 60; Glenn T. Smith 61; Charles L. Ames 65; Felix R. Vickers 68; William D. Alman, Gordon Kelso 69; Howard Hall 70; Bobby J. Doherty 72; Roy G. Koontz 73; Wallace S. Ostrom, Floyd W. Bridges 74; Matias S. Ruiz 77; Clemens Hofmann 81; Freddie Park, Jr. 85; Bart Tuthill III 86; Dennis Ross, Gerald Dawson 89; Terry L. Sharp, Bertis R. Ward 94; Charlie Gray, Jr. 96; Hamilton Carter 01 and Bill Lewis 10.

And God said “Let there be light,”
and there was light!

Onion Creek Lodge Committee Chairmen:

<i>Ill & Visitation</i>	<u>Dennis J. Ross</u>
<i>Building</i>	<u>Curtis Gilgan</u>
<i>Historian</i>	<u>Max Fisher</u>
<i>Beacon Editor</i>	<u>Chris Dawson</u>
<i>Hospital</i>	<u>Bart Tuthill</u>

Stated Meeting

Second Thursday
December 8th, 2011

Family Night

Entered Apprentice
Lodge

Meal at 6:30 pm
Meeting at 7:30 pm

From the East...

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving with loved ones. Family, fellowship, food, and football make for a festive day.

I would also like to thank the brethren of Onion Creek Lodge for coming together and voting, unanimously, to increase our dues. This was a difficult decision to make when considering the state of our economy and how much some of us have been affected by it. However we needed to ensure that our expenses as a lodge are met.

Remember that December the 8th is our Stated Meeting. It will be a family night and we will be holding our raffle. The raffle proceeds go straight to our Charity Fund and can only be used for charitable purposes such as donations to Pleasant Hill School, scholarships, and other charities. There is still time to buy tickets, so ask if you would like some!

With the Holiday Season underway, it’s getting colder outside. I hope Christmas and New Year’s Day are festive. Stay warm and see you next year!

Worshipful Master, Dennis Ross

“’Tis the Season”

The holiday season has begun. Thanksgiving is behind us and I hope everyone had a wonderful day with family and friends. Several holidays are coming in the next month with the season culminating on New Year’s Day. Retailers have begun their marketing barrage; hoping you’ll get caught up in a frenzy of purchases. I want to offer you an alternative. I ask for something more important and beneficial to the community.

Most of us know someone in need. In the current economy, there are plenty suffering either financially or spiritually. I want to challenge you to take a break from the advertising assault and help a Brother, neighbor, or friend. I don’t ask you to reach for your wallet. I ask you to spend some time in this busy season to either call, write, or visit someone you know in need. And, if you are fortunate enough not to know someone in need, contact one of the officers of the Lodge and ask for a name. Offer a Brother a ride to the December Stated meeting. Call a friend or family member with whom you haven’t spoken lately. If you can spare a few dollars, take someone to lunch or just a cup of coffee.

Make an effort to connect with someone and give them some indication, when times are difficult, there is still hope for a better tomorrow. I will wager the time you spend will be more appreciated and beneficial than any item found in a store. Have a great month and come join us at Lodge on December 8th as we celebrate the holidays and the end of the calendar year.

Adrian Edmundson, Senior Warden

Lodge Dues We Pay

Most Brethren understand that a lodge is a certain number of Brethren with a charter or warrant, and when assembled, set to work. Likewise they know that lodge dues are the fees required to remain an active member of the fraternity, but there is more to consider with lodge dues than a simple fee.

With our Ancient Brethren it is doubtful that dues were required since there was not a structure bonding lodges and no permanence in lodges. For operative masons lodges were set up on site and existed for the duration of the construction. Even with the advent of grand lodges and speculative masonry in the early 1700’s dues were generally not required or considered. It is in the late 1700’s that lodges developed fees and a dues structure to support lodge operations, particularly with the construction of lodge buildings, charities, and degree fees.

For the average Mason dues are simply the annual assessment to maintain their membership, with a portion going to the Grand Lodge, a portion for charitable purposes, and a portion for their local lodge. It is most important that the new Mason understand that dues are a part of his membership and he is fully informed as to the distribution and use of the funds. Financial integrity is paramount to lodge operation, trust, and continued membership.

There is little question that Masonic membership has rights and privileges, but the “dues” carry “responsibilities”. Failure to pay dues can result in suspension or expulsion. The “right” to attend or visit a lodge is coupled with the “responsibility” to attend or visit. Beyond the fellowship, attendance at one’s home lodge when at labor should be recognized as a responsibility. Understanding Lodge operations, supporting its charities, and participating in its activities are the “dues” of an active member.

For the inactive, “dues”, once paid and acknowledged with a dues card placed in their billfold, allow them to move on as usual and remain inactive. As the adage goes, “they have paid their dues” and simply belong to a lodge.

Occasionally at forty or fifty-year recognitions the recipient will apologize for lack of attendance and participation. They openly state they should have been more active in the lodge, but were not. Likewise some officers will be very involved until they have “paid their dues” and finished their terms. Fortunately this is not the case for the majority, for many Past Masters are truly the backbones of most lodges. They understand that masonry is a lifetime commitment.

So, beyond the cash fees, dues should include attendance, support, and involvement. The active member attends to gain Light, know what is happening in his Lodge, and the state of his Brothers. He is supportive of the officers, their efforts to advance Masonry, the projects of the Lodge in relieving the distress of the widows and orphans, and needs of the community. He is involved in the projects and in the primary mission of the Lodge, namely making Masons.

Monetary dues may maintain the structure of Freemasonry, but dues paid in time and action maintains the character of Freemasonry. Each Brother chooses to become a Mason and through the efforts of his Brothers may be raised to be a Master. His “lodge dues” are to be committed and devoted to the Craft. Those Brothers, who went before, gave much and ask little. We should do the same.

***Brother Robert Northcutt
Grand Lodge of Texas***

Masonic Education and Services Committee

The Holy Saints John

Lodges were anciently dedicated to King Solomon because he is said to have been our first most excellent Grand Master, but in this country Masons dedicate their Lodges to Saint John the Baptist and Saint John the Evangelist who are said to have been two eminent patrons of Masonry. There is represented in every regular and well-governed Lodge a certain point within a circle embordered by two perpendicular parallel lines, representing St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist; and upon the top rests the Holy Scriptures.

The festival days set aside for these two saints by Freemasonry are June 24, for Saint John the Baptist and December 27, for Saint John the Evangelist. Both of these dates coincide with the Summer and Winter Solstices respectively. The parallel lines which borders the circle are also said symbolize these two solstices.

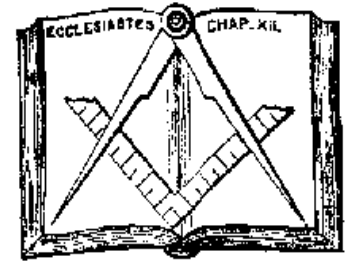
Prior to Christianity, the celebrations of the changes of the seasons were marked with many pagan celebrations. For example, December 25 was already a major festival in the pagan Roman world. The *Dies Natalis Solis Invicti*, or "Birthday of the Unconquered Sun", falling within the week-long celebration of the Saturnalia, was a feast honoring the renewal of the sun at the winter solstice. It included feasting, dancing, lighting bonfires, decorating homes with greens, and giving gifts. The early Church wanted these pagan festivals stopped but they were very popular with the people and they continued to celebrate them.

The solution to the problem was simple; substitute Christian meanings and Saints to these holidays and continue to celebrate them. Therefore, the celebration of the summer solstice became the Festival of Saint John the Baptist and the celebration of the winter solstice became the Festival of Saint John the Evangelist. But why did Freemasonry select the Holy Saints John as their patron saints rather than Saint Thomas, who is the eminent patron of architecture and building? According to Albert Bede, adoption of the saints by Freemasonry far antedates the first Grand Lodge of 1717. Many of the Operative Lodges had been dedicated to the Baptist and a few to the Evangelist. The Baptist seems to have come into Freemasonry well in advance of the Evangelist. It may be significant that the first Grand Lodge was formed at a meeting held on the Festival of Saint John the Baptist. Thereafter London Lodges were dedicated to the two Saints John, and continued to be until the union of 1813, since when they have been dedicated to Solomon. The festival of the English Lodges has since been changed to the Wednesday after St. George's Day.

American Lodges have continued the custom brought from England in colonial times, paying no attention to changes made by the English Lodges and continue to observe the festival of the two Saints John.

"History does not tell us why the Saints John were selected as the patron saints of Freemasonry. Whatever the facts may be, surely it is in accordance with the fitness of things that we honor these two names, John the Baptist, the stern prophet of righteousness, and John the Evangelist, the teacher of Love. Righteousness and Love--those two words do not fall short of telling the whole duty of a man and a Mason."

Joseph Fort Newton



***Called to The
Celestial Lodge:***

James William
Rountree, Jr

November 8th, 2011

December Food Committee and Family Meal Menu

Co-chairmen Gene Sanders and Bill Lear always have a spectacular holiday meal for December, and this year they will continue their tradition of a turkey dinner with all the trimmings! New committee members on the December team are Bernie Bernfeld, J.R. Ghaddar, and Jim Schaffrath. Thanks to all of you for helping to produce this important holiday tradition.

Others committee members are: Dan Barber, Greg Johnson, James Keese, Dan McCarter, Bobby Norris, Gordon Powell, Jonathan Ramirez, Mike Sanders, Randy Storm, John Waggoner, and James Younger.

Ill, Recovering, and Shut-In Brethren and Family

Please remember the following people in your prayers as they seek comfort and healing. They are or have been ill, recovering from medical procedures, or have limited mobility: Walter Boyd, Johnny Camarillo, Bob Caudill, Max Ehrlich, Dick Frazer, Roger Gaby, George Henry, Alan Karotkin, Gordon Kelso, Marvin Langley, Rodney Lay, Johnnie (Don) Long, Randy Martin, James Milligan, Jackie and Kenneth Patton, Tom Richardson, Dewey Savell, Judy Brown (Roland Brown’s wife), and Philip Sughrue. ***If you know of others who should be on this list, please contact WM Dennis Ross or Chaplain John Turner***

SAMC Hospital Volunteers

A total of 17 Masons, wives, and friends of Onion Creek Lodge contributed over 196 hours of volunteer time at St. David’s South Austin Medical Center during October! Mason Doug Cheape and his wife Carol contributed 53 hours as a team! Walter and Linda Boyd had over 28 hours. Cart Driver Bart Tuthill worked nearly 31 hours, closely followed by Ron Moreau with almost 28 hours. As for the rest of us, Glen Broddrick had about 4 hours in October, Roland Brown 3, Norm Hays 4, Dwane Ideker 7.5, and Charlie Jennings 3.5 hours. Ken Loveless had nearly 4 hours, while newcomer Ben Rauschke worked 6.5 hours. Carl & Jeanine Robinson contributed 8 hours, Ricky Tindell worked 14 hours, and Bobby Tiner had 3 hours this month. Everyone looked sharp in their new uniforms, and magnetic-backed name tags may soon show up on the uniforms of the Masonic team. Thanks to everyone for all your hard work during October!