

Onion Creek No. 220 A.F. & A.M.
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THE BEACON

Onion Creek No. 220
Ancient Free and Accepted Masons
Chartered by the Grand Lodge of Texas – June 16, 1858

Visit our website at <http://www.onioncreeklodge220.org>



October 2021

Lodge Officers 2021 - 2022

WM: **Troy J. Shugart, PM**
SW: **Ernest Owney**
JW: **Richard Alonso**
Treas: **Curtis A. Gilgan, PM**
Sec: **Raul J. Scully, PM**
Chap: **William L. Lewis, PM**
SD: **Abram R. Wallace**
JD: **Bobby D. Clakley**
SS: **Mike Barefield**
JS: **Mike Aufdencamp**
Mar: **Dennis J. Ross, PM**
MC: **Ben B. Rauschke, PM**
Mus: **Wilfredo "JR" Vera**
Tiler: **Anthony T. Farmer-Guerra**

Living Onion Creek Lodge Past Masters

1969- Tommie J. Conner
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
1988- Jerry T. Jarmon
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
2000- Walter E. Sanders
2001- Jonathan D. Walker

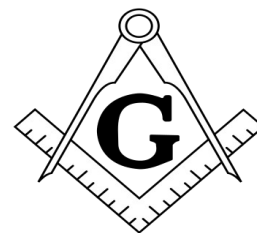
2002- Robert L. Roda
2003- Ricky J. Tindell
2005- Hamilton B. Carter
2006- Russell M. Tidwell II
2007- Michael E. Sanders
2008- Daniel E. Barber
2009- Dale L. Flatt
2010- Tony M. Ramirez
2011- Dennis J. Ross
2012- Adrian W. Edmundson
2013- Raul J. Scully
2014- Ben B. Rauschke
2015- Curtis A. Gilgan
2016- Jeff J. Carroll
2017- William L. Lewis
2018- Christopher R. Dawson
2019- David "Tide" Williams
2020- Troy J. Shugart

Living Affiliated Past Masters

J. Roland Brown
Gerald T. Dawson
Allen W. Deaver
Robert Eschenburg
Reagan W. Hammett
Bennie L. Hudson
Howard Kimball
James M. King
Don R. Long
Wes Mersiovsky
Jorge A. Millan
Ernest Owney
James C. Wells



Onion Creek No. 220 A.F. & A.M. South Austin, Texas



October Birthdays

Albert J. Stowell 1; Christopher R. Dawson 2; Ricardo Avila, Jr. 3; Forest M. Cruse, Sr. 4; Wayne E. Moore 5; Gerald T. Dawson 6; Bobby J. Tiner, John H. Schlueter II 7; Charles W. Pickering, Kenneth J. Polk 8; Richard K. Bledsoe 9; Harrell E. McCaslin, Jr. 10; Don R. Long, Matias S. Ruiz 11; Robert M. Mallett 12; Ronnie H. Lee, David M. Prescott, Robert F. Simo, Randy A. Martin 13; Maxie E. Brune 16; Ben E. Gray 18; Ladare V. Benoit 19; Donn E. Hile 22; Paul D. Pennybacker 23; Tyler G. Lane 26; Juan A. Rivera, Jr. 29; Donn C. Winner 30.

Happy Birthday, Brothers!

May the Supreme Architect bless you with many more!

Masonic Birthdays; raised in October (year)

Tommie J. Conner 59; Glenn M. Groth, John W. Jackson II 61; Roy L. Hamor, Jr., Ralph D. Morren 63; William B. Farr, Don R. Long 68; Gary A. Crain 72; Kendell Holcomb 73; Jerry F. Trammell 82; Robert C. Cowan, James L. Younger 83; Michael L. Poe 85; James B. Harris, John N. McFarling 88; Scott A. Freng 91; James K. Miller 93; Todd A. Reynolds 94; Jason P. Harrell 95; Jesus P. Velazquez 05; T. David Hoke 07.

*And God said, "Let there be light,"
and there was light.*

Stated Meeting

**First Thursday
October 7th, 2021**

**Entered Apprentice
Mason's Lodge**

Family Night

**Meal at 6:30 p.m.
Meeting at 7:30 p.m.**

Onion Creek Lodge Committee Chairmen:

Activities:	<u>Bobby Clakley</u>
Arbitration:	<u>Ernest Owney, PM</u>
Audit:	<u>Richard Alonso</u>
Beacon Editor:	<u>David Karhi</u>
Breakfast Socials:	<u>Bobby Clakley</u>
Building:	<u>Abram Wallace</u>
Cemetery:	<u>Dale Flatt, PM</u>
Communications:	<u>Raul Scully, PM</u>
Community Builder:	<u>H. Max Fisher</u>
Fantastic Teeth:	<u>Dennis Ross, PM</u>
Finance:	<u>Curtis Gilgan, PM</u>
Fraternal Assistance:	<u>Troy Shugart, PM</u>
Funeral:	<u>Troy Shugart, PM</u>
Golden Trowel:	<u>Tide Williams, PM</u>
Grand Lodge Business:	<u>Curtis Gilgan, PM</u>
Historian:	<u>H. Max Fisher</u>
Hospital:	<u>David Karhi</u>
Lodge Education:	<u>Abram Wallace</u>
Members in Arrears:	<u>Ernest Owney, PM</u>
Past Masters' Night:	<u>Dennis Ross, PM</u>
Pleasant Hill Advisory:	<u>H. Max Fisher</u>
Raffle:	<u>David Hoke</u>
Scholarship:	<u>H. Max Fisher</u>
Sick and Distressed:	<u>Troy Shugart, PM</u>
Vanguard:	<u>Richard Alonso</u>

From the East

Greetings everyone! As usual, I trust this finds you all in good health and spirits. I really don't have much to write about as things have been quite slow around the lodge as of late.

We recently conferred a courtesy Master Mason Degree for a brother out of Florida and we welcome Brother Rich Guthridge to Onion Creek and look forward to teaching him the Master Mason proficiency, TEXAS STYLE! Brother George Moxley, PM from T. Neal Porter Lodge #1354 held a mini-forum at our lodge on Saturday, 9-25 which turned out well and was a lot of fun. We had several folks attend as well as a couple of other visitors from Lodge #12 and #456. A big shout to PM Bill Lewis for providing coffee and doughnuts and to PM Robert Eschenburg for firing up the pit on the back porch and providing a delicious lunch. It is always fun when we come together to improve ourselves in Masonry. PM Dennis Ross will be conducting a Briscoe Workshop on October 9th and it is open to all Master Masons. Coffee and doughnuts in the morning beginning around 8:00AM with the workshop starting at 9:00AM and going through around 1:30PM. Brother Eschenburg will be providing lunch consisting of pulled pork and all the fixins! Hopefully we will again have participation from other members in and around our district. The "Come and Take It" celebration will be in Gonzales on October 2nd beginning at 9:00AM. Also on October 2nd, Grand Master Curry will be conferring a Master Mason Degree for University Lodge #1190 in the House Chambers of the Capitol beginning at 2:00PM. The doors will open at 1:30PM. We have a Master Mason Degree scheduled for some time soon but do not have a firm date. We will keep you posted. The GL Committee on Work Chairman, Keith Reynolds, will be hosting Forum and Exams on October 30th at our lodge, so start preparing now if you want to earn or maintain a certificate. Brother David Hoke has begun putting together our Christmas Raffle, so start stashing some money so you can support a good cause and possibly win a cool prize!

PM Curtis Gilgan and his family have been doing extensive work at our cemetery and you can see the difference. There is a lot of brush and fallen trees being removed. They can use all the help they can get over there! Watch your emails for more info on how you may help. Brother Billy Capps and Wes Brancamontes, a regular visitor to our lodge, went over

last week and cleaned up the front fence line and it looks really nice as well.

As far as the building goes, PM Bill Lewis is working on finding a tuck-pointing company to repair all the missing mortar on our historic building. PM Ross and our only FC have revamped the library and made it more accessible and comfortable for study and practice. We are looking to have some preventative maintenance on the AC system so as not to have any surprises in the future.

I've noticed that attendance during the Monday and Thursday practice nights has dropped somewhat. If there are specific things keeping you from attending, please reach out to me and let's discuss it. There may be things we can do to fill whatever that void is. My goal is that we are all fulfilling our Masonic and Fraternal needs and enjoy some fellowship with our wonderful members. Our Senior Steward, Mike Barefield, continues to raise the bar when it comes to fine meals. He feeds us extremely well before we move to fellowship and practice. This alone is a good reason to come to lodge!

I hope to see you at lodge real soon. I love you all very much.

Troy J. Shugart, Worshipful Master

Cleopatra's Needle

October is an auspicious month for Texas history. Like me, I'm sure most of you attended Texas History in Middle School. It's likely you and I had Texas History teachers with the same name. My teacher's name was "Coach". How about yours? Seriously, though, I wanted to share something of Masonic relevance for this month, but with a back-story some of us may not know. How many of you are familiar with the obelisk?

In Ancient Egypt, obelisks were raised at various temples. The obelisk was a religious symbol to the Ancient Egyptians. Obelisks were said to be the crystallized ray of light, the Aten, and symbolized the sun God, Ra. Ra was originally part of the greater Egyptian pantheon, but around 2500 B.C.E, was declared supreme over all others. Akhenaten, Pharaoh during the 5th Dynasty, was a religious reformer and declared the first monotheistic religion in Egypt, with Ra above all other gods. The influence of Ra, and the symbol of the obelisk, has affected cultures and

religions for thousands of years. Two obelisks in particular were erected at a city called "The House of Ra", or Heliopolis in Greek. They stood at a temple, dedicated to Ra, built by Thutmose III, who was Pharaoh during the late 1400's B.C.E.

Caesar Augustus, who presided over the annexation of Egypt, moved these obelisks to Rome in 12 B.C.E. The Romans, one of the few civilizations that didn't destroy the cultures they conquered, often assimilated other religions and gods. The Thutmose Obelisks were erected at the Caesareum in Alexandria. This was a temple begun by Cleopatra VII in honor of Julius Caesar, and finished by Caesar Augustus. Since Rome also worshipped a god of the sun, these obelisks escaped vandalism or theft. After the fall of Rome these obelisks were buried in sand and rubble, which allowed them to remain whole with their hieroglyphs still legible.

I'll now fast-forward to the late 19th Century, when one of the Thutmose Obelisks was presented as a gift by Mehmet al Pasha, the Khedive of Egypt. In 1877, it was officially offered to the United States as a token of gratitude for trade, but also for not interfering with Egypt's sovereignty. The other Thutmose Obelisk eventually found its way to London. After some logistics and engineering plans were drawn, the obelisk, dubbed "Cleopatra's Needle", was transported to the United States. Transporting the obelisk was no easy task, as it was carved from roughly 200 tons of red granite, and measuring 69 feet high.

After it arrived in the United States, it was erected in New York City at Central Park, and raised on a 50-ton platform. Jesse B. Anthony, Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York, presided over the cornerstone ceremony on October 2nd, 1880. Some 50,000 people watched as 9,000 Freemasons paraded up Fifth Avenue, from 14th to 82nd Street. On February 18th, 1831, a formal ceremony was held to commemorate the erection of Cleopatra's Needle.

Christopher Dawson, PM

October Menu

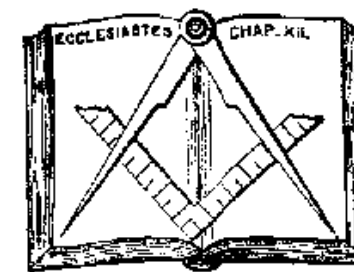
October Food Committee Chairman Tom Estes reports they will be serving a delicious meal of pork loin with beans, mashed potatoes, and a dessert.

Thank you for a fine meal!

Prayer List

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: Teo Arredondo (Ab's nephew), Walter Boyd, Jack Brassil, Glenn & Wanda Brodderick, Roland Brown, Scott Brown (Roland's son), Johnny Camarillo, Johnnie G. Camarillo, Sr. (Johnny's father), Billy Capps, Madeline Carter (Richard Alonso's mother-in-law), Narayana Chandler-Finch (Brett's daughter), Sandy Combs & Ray Combs' family, Robert Cowan's family, Doris Cruse (Forest's wife), Zoey Curry (Gerald's widow), Elouise Duckworth (Roland Brown's sister), Linda Dyess, Sidney Ellis, Boyce Freitag, Lily Forman (Troy Shugart's niece), Curtis Gilgan, Jimmy Gower (RW Mike Gower's son), RW Mike & Barbara Gower, Reagan & Betty Hammett, Arnold Holden, Ethel Johnson (Roland Brown's stepdaughter), Amy Karotkin (Alan's daughter), Eva Jean Kestner, Murphy Kidder (Jim Wells' son-in-law), Don & Johnnie Long, Patricia McGinnis, Ann Merica (Ed's mom), Nicole Mersiovsky (Curtis Gilgan's sister-in-law), Edna Missildine, Orlando Perez, Ellen Pietrzak (David Hoke's mother-in-law), Bob Roda, Angela Ross (Dennis' wife), Linda Russel, Carl Robinson's family, Archie Scott, Jay Sharp, Theresa Shugart (Troy's mother), John David Smith's family, Kenneth Smith, Mike Smith (Curtis Gilgan's sister-in-law's husband), David Solverson, Melissa Springer (Ben Rauschke's mother), Henry Tindell (Ricky's father), Bobby Tiner, Louis Ugarte (SW Orlando Perez's cousin), Tracy Williams (Tide's wife), PM Buddy Wilson's family, and Willis Woods (Michael's father).

If you know of others who should be on this list, please contact WM Troy Shugart, PM or Chaplain Bill Lewis, PM



***Called to the
Celestial Lodge***

***Elliott R. "Buddy"
Wilson***
September 2, 2021

Robert C. Cowan
September 5, 2021