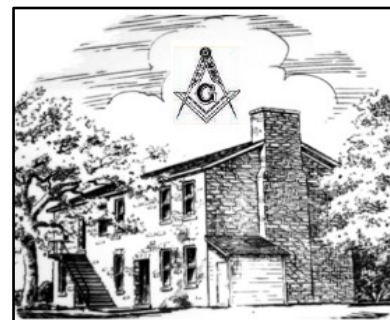


THE BEACON

July 2022

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>



Lodge Officers 2021 - 2022

WM: **Troy J. Shugart, PM**
SW: **Ernest Owney, PM**
JW: **Richard Alonso**
Treas: **Curtis A. Gilgan, PM**
Sec: **RW 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**

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

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
J. Robert Darrell
Gerald T. Dawson
Allen W. Deaver
Robert Eschenburg
Larry Faulk
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 Lodge Committee Chairmen:

Activities: **Bobby Clakley**
Arbitration: **Ernest Owney, PM**
Audit: **Richard Alonso**
Beacon Editor: **David Karhi**
Breakfast Socials: **Bobby Clakley**
Building: **Abram Wallace**
Cemetery: **Dale Flatt, PM**
Communications: **RW Raul Scully, PM**
Fantastic Teeth: **Dennis Ross, PM**
Finance: **Curtis Gilgan, PM**
Fraternal Assistance: **Troy Shugart, PM**
Funeral: **Troy Shugart, PM**
Golden Trowel: **RW Tide Williams, PM**
Grand Lodge Business: **Curtis Gilgan, PM**
Hospital: **David Karhi**
Lodge Education: **Abram Wallace**
Members in Arrears: **Ernest Owney, PM**
Past Masters' Night: **Dennis Ross, PM**
Raffle: **David Hoke**
Sick and Distressed: **Troy Shugart, PM**
Vanguard: **Richard Alonso**

Stated Meeting

First Thursday
July 7th, 2022

Master Mason's Lodge

Family Night

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

From the East

Greetings everyone! As always, I hope this finds you all in good health and spirits. This is a bittersweet communication for me as this is my last article as Master of the Lodge. I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to you all for allowing me the privilege and honor to have served what I consider the best Lodge in all of Texas. It has been a fun and eventful couple of years. I'm not going to call everyone by name, but I want to thank all the officers and brothers who went far and beyond their duties to help me and help the Lodge in the past two years, you know who you are! Due to Covid, you all know we decided to hold the line of officers over for the 2021-2022 year. This is kind of cool from my perspective as I became the first back-to-back Master in over 100 years! There is no doubt in my mind that Brother Ernest Owney, PM will do a fine job in leading the Lodge in the ensuing Masonic year. He has a good team behind him and many Past Masters to assist if needed. I would also like to thank all the OES Chapters that assisted in many ways over the same two years.

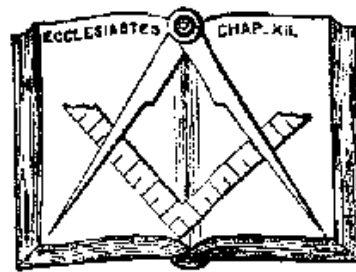
Now for some recent happenings around the Lodge. In May we had our most successful Breakfast Social ever. Thank you to Brother Bobby Clakley and his crew for a wonderful job! Also, in May we presented five \$1,000.00 "Harley Max Fisher Memorial Scholarships" to some very impressive and deserving students at Crocket High School as well as two Mini-Scholarships to two students at Pleasant Hill elementary school. Thank you to all who assisted in presenting them. At our June Stated Meeting, we awarded The Golden Trowel to our Treasurer, Past Master Curtis Gilgan. It couldn't have gone to a better man! In early June we had our first ever Onion Creek Carnival. A lot of prep work went into it, and it took a lot of folks to pull it off. The cake walk by the OES chapters was a major hit and the other major hit was the dunking booth featuring RW "Tide" Williams, PM, and Brother Secretary RW Raul Scully, PM and they stayed wet all day! There were also several more games featured, and I think all who attended had a great time. Thank you to all who helped bring the carnival into fruition. There was a L.I.F.E. and A.L.L. class led by Brother Dennis Ross, PM in mid-June for all our recently raised Master Masons and it was a great success. Thank you to all who assisted Brother Ross. As some of you know, the tuck-pointing has begun! It is an amazing transformation of our wonderful and historic Lodge and it's going to be beautiful when it's finished. This is a project that was kicked down the

road for many years due to the cost. I am extremely proud we opted to proceed with it during my last year as Master of the Lodge. Lastly, I would like to thank our Senior Steward, Brother Mike Barefield for the amazing job he did as Senior Steward, he certainly set the bar high for the incoming Stewards. Good luck Brothers Jacob and Isaac Carrol, I know you will be up to the task!

One more thing; our next Stated Meeting is July 7th, we will be presenting Scholarship Certificates to the recipients as well as presenting the 25, 40, 50, 60, and 65 year Masonic Service Awards. Please join us in honoring these fine folks.

That's all I have for now. Thank you all once again for two wonderful years! I hope to see you at lodge real soon and I love each and every one of you with all my heart

Troy J. Shugart, Worshipful Master



*Called to the
Celestial Lodge*

L. J. Brister
April 11, 2022

James D. Hatton
April 16, 2022

Onion Creek Lodge Inaugural Carnival

Saturday, June 4th 2022: A day not soon forgotten at Onion Creek Lodge by all who volunteered and the guests that participated in the first annual OCL carnival. I would like to introduce the carnival committee: Bros. Christopher Dawson, PM, RW David "Tide" Williams, RW Raul J. Scully, Dennis Ross, PM, JW Richard Alonso, and myself. The following story will describe our day:

We began the day at 7:00 am by enjoying a good breakfast. As the brothers were pulling themselves out of the comfortable chair that they were in to head outside to begin setting up all the different games, believe it or not it began to rain. I thought to myself, no rain for days, nothing in the news about rain and, go figure, we have rain and will have to cancel the carnival. Well, the rain stopped as quickly as it started and we were off setting up the different stations. If you have not seen a dozen or so brothers working toward a common goal, it was awesome!

I would like to thank the ladies from the Order

of the Eastern Star who volunteered to oversee all of the cake walk functions. They not only ran the event, but provided all of the treats as well. It should be noted that Mollie Clakley and J. Robert Darrell, PM contributed goodies as well.

Each turn on the cake walk cost three tickets, in which the players would put their tickets in a huge punch bowl, walk around to different numbered stations while music was playing, and when the music stopped, they stopped. If their number was called, they won. At the end of the day the bowl was overflowing with tickets. (I believe WM Troy Shugart put at least thirty tickets in the mix. He really wanted a treat.) This was an outstanding event and contributed a significant amount of funds to the carnival.

We had another game called Plinko. Yes, like the game on The Price is Right TV show. I asked Dennis Ross, PM if he would run this game. He stated that he would, but required direction on how it was played. After a brief tutorial on the fundamentals of the game, I tossed a microphone on him, turned up the volume and let him go to town. Everyone came to play Plinko because Dennis kept saying these same words over and over again, "Come play Plinko, where everyone is a winner!"

Next was the duck pond, with JW Richard Alonso working the game. We had to stop him from retrieving his shotgun with birdshot and remind him that the season was over and this was a small game where plastic ducks were pulled out of the water by hand. Prizes were awarded based on the number on the belly of the duck. I think he was disappointed at first, but came around and had fun.

The good thing about carnivals is that you can always get a soda, chips, and a snow cone. Many thanks to Bro. Richard Avila, Jr. for manning this station and making it a success. A very special thanks go out to Taunya and Isabella Dawson who moved in and helped out with the snow cone station, as well as in many other places.

Bro. Charles Foreman had several games he was overseeing: ring toss, bottle toss and croquet. I think the ring toss game was his main attraction. Bros. David Hoke and Robert Eschenburg, PM assisted anywhere they were asked to help.

SD Abe Wallace worked very hard on engaging attendees at the football and baseball toss games. Some of us understand why we don't play these games. SW Ernest Owney was in charge of the bean bag toss-corn hole game. He reported that he had more adults than little ones playing the game and had a good turnout.

Bros. Robert Eschenburg, PM, and Billy Capps

were responsible for the well-manicured grounds that we all enjoyed during the event. Outstanding job my Brothers!

WM Troy Shugart made sure we had all the ice we needed; taking it upon himself to fill several ice chests while being in severe pain in his shoulder. He also spent time greeting everyone that arrived at the lodge.

Bro. Billy Capps is the moneymen of all events and the carnival was no exception. I think we need to imprint his name onto the little brown box we use for money collection. Many thanks also go out to Bro. J. Robert Darrell, PM for his willingness to assist Billy all day long.

Last, but not least, we had the main attraction, the dunk tank, which was the crown jewel of the carnival. A special thanks to RW David "Tide" Williams and RW Raul J. Scully who volunteered to take the plunge and spent the entire day in the water. Some of the brothers found out why they do not have baseball contracts as well. In the interest of safety, floaties were accessible and a lifeguard was on duty.

PM Christopher Dawson, you are the glue that made this event come together. Without your unwavering support and knowledge of the small details that are so critical to the success of any well-planned event, the carnival could have turned out very different.

I am so thankful to this group of men and women that worked very hard to make the first ever carnival event possible.

Bobbly Clakley, Junior Deacon



H. Max Fisher Library

For the Brethren and friends unaware, Max Fisher recently laid down his working tools and entered into the Celestial Lodge. Shortly after, we were notified that Max had left Onion Creek his personal collection of books and bookshelves. Knowing that we needed some organization to work with Max's family, WM Troy Shugart requested the formation of an impromptu Library Committee.

On June 11th, several members of Onion Creek met at Max's home to take possession of his books and move them. There are some of you who likely know Max's love of reading, so would not be surprised that we arrived to see a book collection numbering in the thousands. We don't have the exact number, but we estimated a total weight close to 5 tons of books, not counting shelving.

Needless to say, it was a big task. A moving company was hired and a storage unit was rented so that we could more easily move the books and store them without keeping them in the Lodge. Over the course of 4.5 hours, we managed to get everything moved before the summer heat of Texas took center stage.

The Library Committee's plan is to spend the next 2-3 months going through Max's books - we will keep the ones we think would be fit for display in the Lodge, and attempt to donate the rest. Our primary goal is to have a fine collection of books pertaining to American



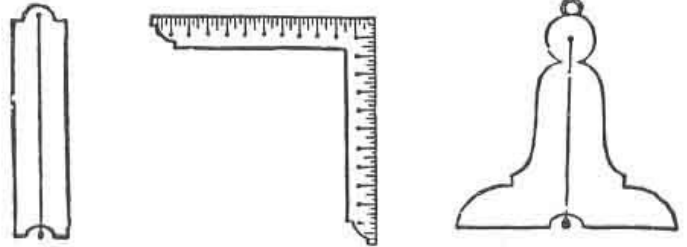
and Texan history and display them in the Parlor room, the original schoolroom of Pleasant Hill. We think that this would be a fitting way to honor Max and his dedication to bringing knowledge and inspiration to generations of Austin kids.

The Committee's second goal is to display the rest of the books in the Heritage Room. Presently it has a combination of Masonic and non-Masonic books. We'd like to add Max's Masonic books, as well as others that would be fitting for a 'library' setting. Lastly, we intend to re-name the Heritage Room in honor of Max. We haven't decided what to name the Library yet, but it's in the works. Ultimately, the Heritage Room will hopefully become less a storage room, and office, and more a space that encourages study and reflection.

I would like to thank Curtis Gilgan, PM, SW

Ernest Owney, PM, and Rick Alonzo for their help on June 11th. Even though we had movers, their help made the work faster and more pleasant. I would also like to thank David Reynolds, Max's nephew, for his help coordinating as well as helping to move the books.

Christopher Dawson, PM



2022 Officer Leadership Training

Registration for the 2022 Officer Leadership Trainings is online and can be found under the Events Tab of your Member Portal.

For more information on times and additional activities, please contact:

Cody Cockroft, Chairman Masonic Education & Service Committee 832-370-7603 mobile cmc@freese.com

City: Houston

Date: July 29 – 31

Location: Arabia Shrine Center

Deadline: July 15

Registration Link:

<https://tx.grandview.systems/events/778>

City: Waco

Date: August 5 – 7

Location: Lee Lockwood Library & Museum

Deadline: July 22

Registration Link:

<https://tx.grandview.systems/events/779>

City: Amarillo

Date: August 12 – 14

Location: Khiva Shrine Center

Deadline: July 29

Registration Link:

<https://tx.grandview.systems/events/780>

City: Fort Worth

Date: August 19 – 21
Location: Ft Worth Masonic Temple
Deadline: Aug. 5
Registration Link:
<https://tx.grandview.systems/events/781>

City: Corpus Christi
Date: September 16 – 18
Location: Amin Shriners
Deadline: Aug. 12
Registration Link:
<https://tx.grandview.systems/events/782>

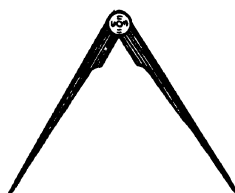
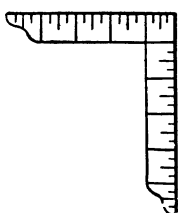
If you need assistance registering, please contact the Grand Secretary's Office.

David Karhi, Editor

This Month in Masonic History

- July 1st, 1989, the Grand Lodge of Hawaii was formed
- July 4th, 1781, Robert Burns received his 1st degree
- July 6th, 1830, the Grand Lodge of Florida was formed
- July 8th, 1789, the Grand Lodge of Connecticut was formed
- July 19th, 1901, Sir Winston Churchill received his 2nd degree in Studholme Lodge #1591, London
- July 21st, 1758, the Grand Lodge of Scotland granted a charter to Fredericksburg Lodge in Virginia, the lodge that had conferred the Masonic degrees on George Washington in 1752 and 1753
- July 21st, 1875, the Grand Lodge of South Dakota was formed
- July 27th, 1818, the Grand Lodge of Mississippi was formed

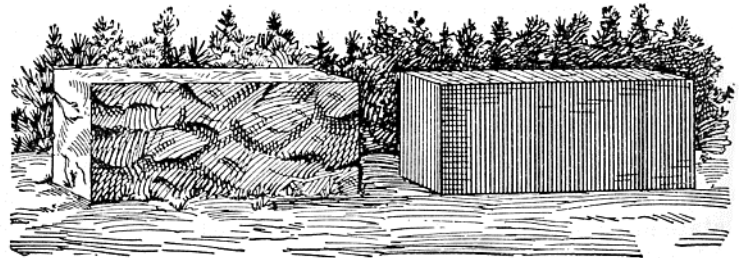
David Karhi, Editor



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: Judy Alonso (Richard's wife), Teo Arredondo (Abe's nephew), Jack Brassil, Scott Brown (Roland's son), Johnny Camarillo, Johnnie G. Camarillo, Sr. (Johnny's father), Billy & Evelyn Capps, Madeline Carter (Richard Alonso's mother-in-law), Tammy Clakley (Bobby's sister), the Clakley family, Sam & Jackie Crowther (Bobby's father-in-law and mother-in-law), Doris Cruse (Forest's wife), Zoey Curry (Gerald's widow), Bill Farr, Lily Forman (Troy Shugart's niece), Curtis Gilgan, RW Mike & Barbara Gower, Reagan & Betty Hammett, Dorothy Hill (Sam's wife), Arnold Holden, Amy Karotkin (Alan's daughter), Eva Jean Kestner, Don & Johnnie Long, Patricia McGinnis, Ann Merica (Ed's mom), Mike Owens, Orlando Perez, Ellen Pietrzak (David Hoke's mother-in-law), Ricky Rayburn, Carl Robinson, Jay Sharp, Theresa Shugart (Troy's mother), Mike Smith (Curtis Gilgan's sister-in-law's husband), David Solverson, Melissa Springer (Ben Rauschke's mother), Henry Tindell (Ricky's father), 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



SAMC Hospital Volunteers

During the month of May, 4 Masons contributed over 64 hours assisting our friends and neighbors over at St. David's South Austin Medical Center.

The outstanding volunteers who made this possible are (in alphabetical order): David Karhi with 6 hours, Carl Robinson with 34 hours, and Bobby Tiner with 18 hours, and RW Tide Williams with 6 hours.

Thank you folks for a job well done!

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July Birthdays

Steven R. Franklin, Billy R. Seguin, Adrian W. Edmundson 01; James R. Jennings 02; Christopher T. Bookout 08; Ronald B. Fife 09; Omar Chavez-Trevino 10; David W. Hardt 11; Kenneth R. Smith 15; William E. Powell 17; Samuel M Gacesa 18; Alan L. Karotkin, William R. Harrison, Todd A. Reynolds 20; Charles A. Snoddy 22; James W. Fouts 23; Clifford C. Cody 25; Dale L. Flatt 26; Kendell Holcomb 27; John C. Wood and Bradley D. French 30.

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

Masonic Birthdays; raised in July (year)

James R. Jennings 53; Donald A. Villoni 58; Gordon V. Powell, Jr. 61; Marvin H. Kelly 62; Ferril C. Smith 76; Richard N. Benoit 80; Ronald B. Fife 88; Francisco Reyes, Sr., Peter Seguin 89; Michael S. Compton 93; Darin W. Isaacs 94; David P. Vinson 95; Hunter S. Arend, Charles P. Foreman, Jerry W. Wranischar 96; John C. Preece 98; William S. Haire 99; Juan A. Rivera, Jr., Charles E. Ruebbling 04; Terrence P. Murphy 05; Jose M. Chirinos 09; Chadwyck W. Preece 14; Patrick N. Franklin 17.

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