

# 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>



## *Lodge Officers 2022- 2023*

WM: **Ernest Owney, PM**  
 SW: **Richard Alonso**  
 JW: **Abram R. Wallace**  
 Treas: **Curtis A. Gilgan, PM**  
 Sec: **RW Raul J. Scully, PM**  
 Chap: **William L. Lewis, PM**  
 SD: **Bobby D. Clakley**  
 JD: **Mike G. Barefield**  
 SS: **Jacob A. Carroll**  
 JS: **Isaac E. Carroll**  
 Mar: **Dennis J. Ross, PM**  
 MC: **Jeff J. Carroll, PM**  
 Mus: **Troy J. Shugart, PM**  
 Tiler: **Dennis W. Mingua, Jr.**

## *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  
 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  
 2021- 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  
 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:* **Richard Alonso**  
*Audit:* **Abram Wallace**  
*Beacon Editor:* **David Karhi**  
*Breakfast Socials:* **Michael Barefield**  
*Building:* **Bobby Clakley**  
*By-Laws, Policies:* **Robert Darrell, PM**  
*Cemetery:* **Dale Flatt, PM**  
*Communications:* **RW Raul Scully, PM**  
*Fantastic Teeth:* **Dennis Ross, PM**  
*Finance:* **Curtis Gilgan, PM**  
*Fraternal Assistance:* **Ernest Owney, PM**  
*Funeral:* **Ernest Owney, PM**  
*Golden Trowel:* **Troy Shugart, PM**  
*Grand Lodge Business:* **Curtis Gilgan, PM**  
*Hospital:* **David Karhi**  
*Library:* **Christopher Dawson, PM**  
*Lodge Education:* **Bobby Clakley**  
*Members in Arrears:* **Richard Alonso**  
*Photography:* **Ricardo Avila**  
*Past Masters' Night:* **Robert Eschenburg, PM**  
*Raffle:* **David Hoke**  
*Scholarship:* **Charles Foreman**  
*Sick and Distressed:* **Ernest Owney, PM**  
*Vanguard:* **Abram Wallace**

## **Stated Meeting**

**First Thursday**  
**February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023**

## **Master Mason's Lodge**

## **Family Night**

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

## *The Legend of the Winding Stairs*

Although the legend of the Winding Stairs forms an important tradition of Ancient Craft Masonry, the only allusion to it in Scripture is to be found in a single verse in the sixth chapter of the First Book of Kings, and is in these words: "The door for the middle chamber was in the right side of the house; and they went up with winding stairs into the middle chamber, and out of the middle into the third." Out of this slender material has been constructed an allegory, which, if properly considered in its symbolical relations, will be found to be of surpassing beauty. But it is only as a symbol that we can regard this whole tradition; for the historical facts and the architectural details alike forbid us for a moment to suppose that the legend, as it is rehearsed in the second degree of Masonry, is anything more than a magnificent philosophical myth.

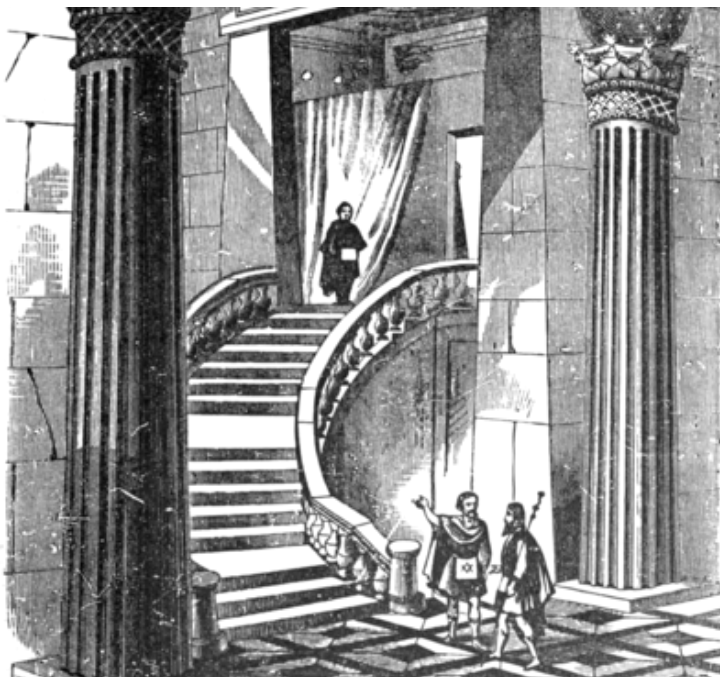
Let us inquire into the true design of this legend, and learn the lesson of symbolism which it is intended to teach.

In the investigation of the true meaning of every masonic symbol and allegory, we must be governed by the single principle that the whole design of Freemasonry as a speculative science is the investigation of divine truth. To this great object everything is subsidiary. The Mason is, from the moment of his initiation as an Entered Apprentice, to the time at which he receives the full fruition of masonic light, an investigator—a laborer in the quarry and the temple—whose reward is to be Truth. All the ceremonies and traditions of the order tend to this ultimate design. Is there light to be asked for? It is the intellectual light of wisdom and truth. Is there a word to be sought? That word is the symbol of truth. Is there a loss of something that had been promised? That loss is typical of the failure of man, in the infirmity of his nature, to discover divine truth. Is there a substitute to be appointed for that loss? It is an allegory which teaches us that in this world man can only approximate to the full conception of truth.

Hence there is in Speculative Masonry always a progress, symbolized by its peculiar ceremonies of initiation. There is an advancement from a lower to a higher state—from darkness to light—from death to life—from error to truth. The candidate is always ascending; he is never stationary; he never goes back, but each step he takes brings him to some new mental illumination—to the knowledge of some more elevated doctrine. The teaching of the Divine Master is, in respect to this continual progress, the teaching of

Masonry—"No man having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of heaven." And similar to this is the precept of Pythagoras: "When travelling, turn not back, for if you do the Furies will accompany you."

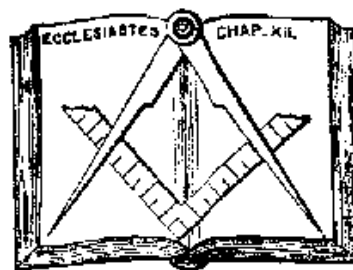
*Bro. Albert Mackey*



## *Today*

Now is the accepted time, not tomorrow, not some more convenient season. It is today that our best work can be done and not some future day or future year. It is today that we fit ourselves for the greater usefulness of tomorrow. Today is the seed time, now are the hours of work, and tomorrow comes the harvest and the playtime.

*Bro. W. E. B. Du Bois*



*Called to the  
Celestial Lodge*

**Kenneth P. Wood**  
December 30, 2022

**Joe S. Park, Sr.**  
January 11, 2023

## ***Buy a Brick Campaign***

We are building a memorial sidewalk in front of the Masonic Temple of Fort Worth. This is your opportunity to purchase a brick and engrave it with your family's name, and even include an image.

We have several images to choose from—Masonic Square & Compass, Commandry, Shriners International, Scottish Rite and more. You can download an order form at: <https://www.fwmasonictemple.com/s/Temple-Brick-Paperwork.pdf>. Fill out the form and mail in your form. You can pay by check, Venmo app or Square app.

To pay by Venmo - @MTL-M1320

To pay by Square - [fwmasonictemple@gmail.com](mailto:fwmasonictemple@gmail.com)

Please call Tom Crow at 817.233.7180 if you have any additional questions.

**Bricks will be engraved in capital letters. Text will be centered.**

**All net proceeds are tax deductible.**

*Originally published in Grand Secretary's Monthly Communication*



## ***This Month in Masonic History***

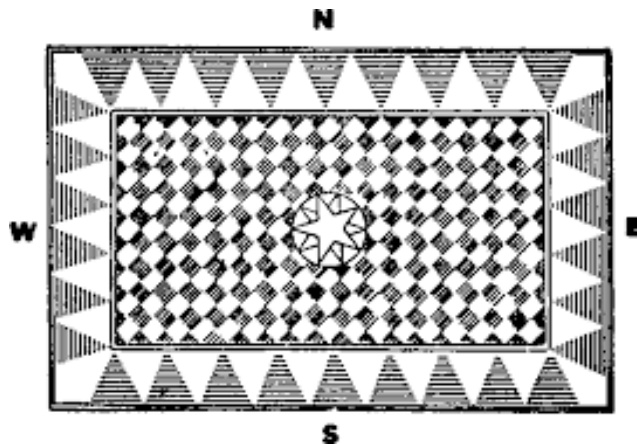
- February 7<sup>th</sup>, 1981, the Grand Lodge of Alaska was formed.
- February 9<sup>th</sup>, 1909, Harry S. Truman received his 1<sup>st</sup> degree in Belton Lodge #450, Missouri.
- February 11<sup>th</sup>, 1988, masonic leaders met with President Ronald Reagan, presenting him with a certificate of honor and making him an honorary Scottish Rite mason.
- February 18<sup>th</sup>, 1909, William Howard Taft received his 1<sup>st</sup> degree in Kilwinning Lodge #356, Ohio.
- February 19<sup>th</sup>, 1811, the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia was formed.
- February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1887, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle received his 2<sup>nd</sup> degree.
- February 24<sup>th</sup>, 1853, the Grand Lodge of Minnesota 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: Scott Brown (Roland's son), Carol Camarillo (John's step mom), John Camarillo, Johnnie G. Camarillo, Sr. (John's father), Billy & Evelyn Capps, Madeline Carter (Richard Alonso's mother-in-law), Doris Cruse (Forest's wife), Bill Farr, Lily Forman (Troy Shugart's niece), RW Mike & Barbara Gower, Reagan & Betty Hammett, Dorothy Hill (Sam's wife), Amy Karotkin (Alan's daughter), Eva Jean Kestner, Don & Johnnie Long, Randy Martin, Ann Merica (Ed's mom), Wes Mersiovsky (Curtis Gilgan's father-in-law), Mike Owens, Ernest Owney, Jr., Joe Park's family, Orlando Perez, Ellen Pietrzak (David Hoke's mother-in-law), Theresa Shugart (Troy's mother), Melissa Springer (Ben Rauschke's mother), and Henry Tindell (Ricky's father).

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



## ***SAMC Hospital Volunteers***

During the month of December, 3 Masons contributed over 56 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 8 hours, Carl Robinson with 17 hours, and Bobby Tiner with 30 hours.

***Thank you folks for a job well done!***

**Onion Creek No. 220 A.F. & A.M.  
Post Office Box 150727  
Austin, TX. 78715-0727**

**Address Service Requested**

**Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Austin, Texas  
Permit No. 1477**



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



***February Birthdays***

Howard K. Kimball, Reagan L. Dunklin 2; Manuel A. Hernandez, Stephen M. Preece 3; David H. Eickbusch 4; David J. Faria 7; Michael D. Aufdenkamp 8; Kenneth W. Patton, Jonathan L. Ramirez 11; Dennis W. Mingua 14; David A. Karhi 15; Darin W. Isaacs 20; Kirk W. Reasoner 21; Jose M. Chirinos 25; Bradley J. Hardin, Chadwyck W. Preece 26; Kenath T. Carver 27; Michael C. Owens 28.

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

***Masonic Birthdays; raised in February (year)***

Roland J. Brown 60; Harrell E. McCaslin, Sr. 61; Stanley A. Penner 63; Allyn R. Anderson, Marion P. Kerr 65; William E. Powell 66; David H. Eickbusch 74; Stephen M. Preece 80; Marvin G. Gammage 82; Michael C. Owens 84; Bobby J. Tiner 85; Sidney Q. Strength 87; Andrew W. James 88; Michael A. Lee 92; Michael E. Sanders 95; Johnathan D. Walker, David M. Harnden 98; James E. Meeks III, Samuel E. Taylor, Sr. 01; Russell M. Tidwell II 02; Donn E. Hile 03; Richard Alonso 07; Johnny G. Camarillo 08; Curtis Alan Gilgan 09; David A. Karhi 10; Orlando Perez 12; Bobby D. Clakley, Dennis W. Mingua 18.

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