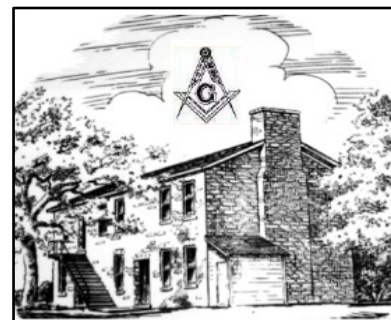


# THE BEACON

May 2023

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: **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  
Byron Webster  
James C. Wells

## *Onion Creek Lodge Committee Chairmen:*

### **Stated Meeting**

**First Thursday**  
**May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

### **Master Mason's Lodge**

### **Family Night**

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

#### **Activities:**

**Arbitration:**

**Audit:**

**Beacon Editor:**

**Breakfast Socials:**

**Building:**

**By-Laws, Policies:**

**Cemetery:**

**Communications:**

**Fantastic Teeth:**

**Finance:**

**Fraternal Assistance:**

**Funeral:**

**Golden Trowel:**

**Grand Lodge Business:**

**Hospital:**

**Library:**

**Lodge Education:**

**Members in Arrears:**

**Photography:**

**Past Masters' Night:**

**Raffle:**

**Scholarship:**

**Sick and Distressed:**

**Vanguard:**

**Bobby Clakley**

**Richard Alonso**

**Abram Wallace**

**David Karhi**

**Michael Barefield**

**Bobby Clakley**

**Robert Darrell, PM**

**Dale Flatt, PM**

**Raul Scully, PM**

**Dennis Ross, PM**

**Curtis Gilgan, PM**

**Ernest Owney, PM**

**Ernest Owney, PM**

**Troy Shugart, PM**

**Curtis Gilgan, PM**

**David Karhi**

**Christopher Dawson, PM**

**Bobby Clakley**

**Richard Alonso**

**Ricardo Avila**

**Robert Eschenburg, PM**

**David Hoke**

**Charles Foreman**

**Ernest Owney, PM**

**Abram Wallace**

## *Behind the Masonic Symbols: The Blazing Star*

The many teachings of Freemasonry seek to instill in our members thoughtfulness towards others, compassion for our fellow humans, honesty in business, and courtesy in all things. These lessons have developed over centuries, draped in allegories, and illustrated through a cavalcade of symbols. While many of the symbols are drawn from the tools of stonemasons, such as the square and compasses, and the rough and smooth ashlar, there are others derived from the ancient and natural worlds as well.

One such symbol presents itself to Masons soon after they first enter the lodge and begin participating in rituals and degree work: The Blazing Star. It has many meanings. For Ohio Masons, it is a symbol of Divine Providence, which helps to guide us on our journey through life, surrounded as we are by good and evil. It is also considered a symbol of light and signifies the Freemason who constantly seeks to perfect himself by seeking knowledge. In the lodge of England, it also represents the Sun, which sheds light on Earth, giving life to all things, including humanity.

Given the prominence of stars in religious and cultural texts throughout history, Masonic scholars have deliberated at length the Blazing Star's significance and how it formed in Freemasonry. Let us explore some references to The Blazing Star so that we can best contextualize its importance within the craft.

References to the Blazing Star can be found in the Hebrew Torah when Moses received the two stone tablets containing the Ten Commandments from God. Upon approaching the Israelites, Moses scolds them for their false worship of an idol, saying, "Ye have borne the tabernacle of your Moloch and Chiam, your images, the star of god, which ye made to yourselves."

In the Prestonian lecture of the Grand Lodge of England, the Blazing Star is described as the Ornaments of the Lodge, and its biblical significance explained:

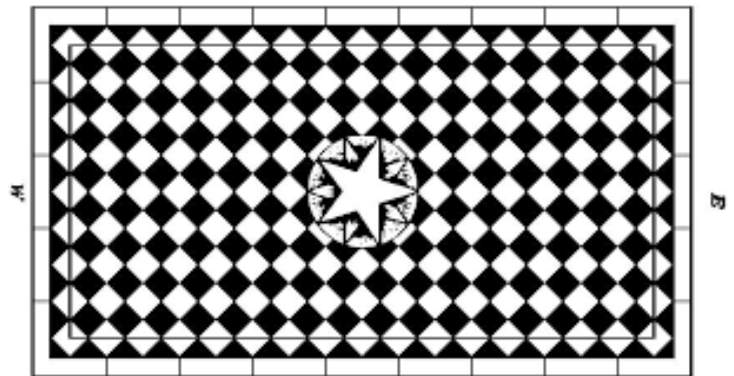
"The Blazing Star, or glory in the center, reminds us of that awful period when the Almighty delivered the two tables of stone, containing the ten commandments, to His faithful servant Moses on Mount Sinai, when the rays of His divine glory shone so bright that none could behold it without fear and trembling. It also reminds us of the omnipresence of the Almighty, overshadowing us with His divine love, and dispensing His blessings amongst us; and by its being placed in the center, it further reminds us, that wherever we may be assembled together, God is in the midst of us, seeing our actions, and observing the

secret intents and movements of our hearts."

The notable Masonic author and historian Albert Mackey wrote of the many appearances of The Blazing Star throughout the degrees of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite. Generally, the star symbolizes the guiding light of the Divine, which points the way of truth, as can be found in the Fourth Degree of the Scottish Rite. In the Ninth Degree, The Blazing Star is explicitly referred to as the star of direction, directing the pilgrim in his journey through life. Finally, Mackey described The Blazing Star's use in the Twenty-eighth Degree of the Scottish Rite as a representation of the Freemason. The lesson is that as the Freemason perfects himself by pursuing truth, he advances his knowledge and "becomes like a blazing star, shining with brilliancy in the midst of darkness." In this degree, the star is seen as a symbol of truth.

Throughout the history of Freemasonry, The Blazing Star has been said to represent many things. It has been considered a sign of God's divine providence, the life-giving Sun, and as a guiding light to direct all Masons in thought and action. Like most symbols in Masonry, The Blazing Star has a long and storied history. There is no single correct definition of its meaning, but instead, all its applications can equally inspire Masons as they push ever deeper into their quest for more light.

*Originally published at freemason.com*



### *A Spark*

In every man's life, there lies latent energy. There is, however, a spark, [which] if kindled, will set the whole being afire, and he will become a human dynamo, capable of accomplishing almost anything to which he aspires.

*Bro. J.C. Penney*

## Movie Night at Onion Creek Lodge

May 13<sup>th</sup> @7:00pm



### *A Man Called Otto*

DIRECTOR: Marc Forster

CAST: Tom Hanks, Mariana Treviño & Rachel Keller

Based on the novel *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman, this middle-aged drama follows the life of the gumpy Otto. Having lost his wife and his job, the 60-year-old man finds that there's nothing much to look forward to in his life. Having had enough of this world, he decides to commit suicide. His attempts at killing himself, however, are always thrown off by his new neighbors that surprisingly end up becoming his friends.

*David "Tide" Williams, PM*

### *This Month in Masonic History*

- May 1<sup>st</sup>, 1865, President William McKinley received his 1<sup>st</sup> degree in Hiram Lodge #21, Winchester, Virginia
- May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1886, Rudyard Kipling received his 2<sup>nd</sup> degree
- May 5<sup>th</sup>, 1851, President Andrew Johnson received his 1<sup>st</sup> degree in Greenville Lodge #119, Tennessee
- May 12<sup>th</sup>, 1999, the Grand Lodge of D.C. voted to recognize the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of D.C.
- May 24<sup>th</sup>, 1901, Sir Winston Churchill received his 1<sup>st</sup> degree in Studholme Lodge #1591, London
- May 27<sup>th</sup>, 1801, the Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States was established in Charleston, South Carolina

*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), Odie Eschenburg (Robert's mom), 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, Ann Merica (Ed's mom), Liz Mersiovsky (Curtis Gilgan's mother-in-law), Wes Mersiovsky (Curtis Gilgan's father-in-law), Ernest Owney, Jr., Ellen Pietrzak (David Hoke's mother-in-law), Theresa Shugart (Troy's mother), and Melissa Springer (Ben Rauschke's mother).

*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 March, 7 Masons, wives, and friends contributed over 124 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): Charlie Forman with 21 hours, Barbara Guthridge with 14 hours, Richard Guthridge with 12 hours, David Karhi with 6 hours, Carl Robinson with 40 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**



***May Birthdays***

Joseph E. Simpson, James C. Stewart IV 2; James E. Greybeck, Richard P. Rayborn 5; Abram R. Wallace 8; Alfred R. Bell II, Harrell E. McCaslin, Sr. 12; Orlando Perez 13; Allen W. Deaver 15; Sherrell D. Cole 16; James L. Brown 18; Terrence P. Murphy, Dennis J. Ross, Vernon W. Miers 19; Daniel V. Andrade, Raymond Gonzalez 23; Donnie F. Carter 26; Rodney W. Angell 28; Johnny G. Camarillo 29; Ronald B. Norwood 30; Clyde J. Medlock 31.

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

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

Billy R. Capps 65; Tommy R. Teykl 66; Carl H. Robinson, Sr. 67; Ronald B. Norwood, Raymond M. Williams 73; David M. Prescott 74; Albert A. Mehlhaff 83; Harrell E. McCaslin, Jr. 86; Daniel V. Andrade 88; John H. Schlueter II 94; James R. Robinson II 95; Robert N. Crawford 96; Frank C. Hankins 98; Fransisco Reyes, Jr. 01; Troy J. Shugart 07; Daniel W. McCarter 10; James C. Wells 11; Samuel E. Taylor, Jr. 12; Jacob A. Carroll, Raymond Gonzalez, James C. Stewart IV 13; Tyler G. Lane 16.

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