

TRESTLEBOARD



Volume 17, Issue 5

Ridge Masonic Lodge No. 398 Floral City, FL

May 2014

From the EAST



W.:Pete Raymond, Master

Greetings from the East

May is looking like a fairly busy and important month for our lodge. At our next stated meeting on 12 May we will be balloting on a new candidate for all three degrees. Needless to say all the officers have been very busy preparing for the Entered Apprentice Degree. We are hoping to put on this degree as soon as possible.

We have also received another petition for plural membership and there is a rumor that we me be receiving yet another petition for all three degrees.

Let's not forget Memorial Day May 26, and remember that all U.S. Flags are to be flown at half staff from sunrise until noon.

And last but not least I would like to send along my best wishes to all the ladies for a very happy Mother's Day.

Fraternally
W.: M.: Pete Raymond

Ridge Masonic Lodge Officers 2014

Worshipful Master	(352) 860-2385	W.: Pete Raymond
Senior Warden	(352) 345-0461	Bro. Peter Carter
Junior Warden	(352) 527-6847	Bro. Dennis Suarino
Treasurer	(352) 726-8714	Bro. Robert Taber
Secretary	(352) 628-0668	W.: Robert Bernard
Chaplain	(352) 795-9561	W.: Lucky Lee
Senior Deacon	(352) 746-3016	Bro. Chuck Schloss
Junior Deacon	(352) 445-2422	Bro. Mike Cota
Senior Steward	(352) 637-5073	Bro. Ben Edney
Junior Steward	(352) 697-3763	Bro. Chris Edney
Marshall	(352) 597-4642	Bro. Henry McInturff
Musician	(352) 746-6936	R.:W.:Robert Owen33°
Tyler	(352) 754-2424	Bro. James Roach

From the WEST



Bro. Peter Carter, SW

The Easter Celebration is a very special time. This year our family celebrated the first Confession (penance) and first Communion (the Eucharist) of my sweet angel Soleiyah (almost 8 years old now), and the Baptism of our newest addition, Tiernan Michael Carter. During last year's Easter Celebration Kimberly, myself, and the older children also received Penance and first Communion; all of the children were Baptized the previous November. Kimberly and I were also confirmed, the blessings continuing as we then took the vows of matrimony in the eyes of our Lord. These important Sacraments are the foundation for the lives we hope to teach our children to live. In our household's faith and practice, the Sacraments are the KEYS to their Spiritual growth and happiness. Below is Webster's brief definition of the word.

Sacrament (noun):

Religious action or symbol in which spiritual power is believed to be transmitted through material elements or the performance of ritual. The concept is ancient; prehistoric people believed that they could advantageously influence events in the natural world, such as weather patterns, through the performance of ritual. The word sacramentum was used in Roman law

From the SOUTH



Bro. Dennis Suarino, JW

BROTHERS MAY MEAL WILL BE COOKED BY BROTHER CLIFF, AND WE KNOW WE WILL BE IN FOR A TREAT. LUNCH WILL BEEF STROGAOFF AND NOODLES WITH PEAS AND ROLLS.SOUNDS GOOD TO ME . I HOPE MANY OF THE BROTHERS WHO HAVE NOT STAYED FOR LUNCH DO SO THEY MISS OUT ON A GREAT MEAL AND THE BONDING AND FRIENDSHIP WE ENJOY AS MASONS. LAP DAY WILL BE AT CRACKERS IN C.R. ON MAY 20TH MARK THAT DATE BECAUSE WE HAD TO MOVE LAP DAY UP A WEEK DUE TO GRAND LODGE WHICH IS ON MAY 25, 26 AND 27 TH . THE TICKET THAT WON THE COIN IS #459058. PLEASE CHECK YOUR NUMBERS AND ANY BROTHER WHO MAY NOT HAVE COME TO THE APRIL MEETING.IF NO ONE CLAIMS IT THIS TIME WE WILL DRAW TILL WE HAVE A WINNER SO I HOPE THE FIRST TICKET HOLDER SHOWS UP AND CLAIM HIS PRIZE. ON A PERSONAL NOTE PLEASE KEEP ME IN YOUR PRAYERS. ON MAY 13 THE DAY AFTER LODGE I WILL BE HAVING MY BACK DONE AGAIN .I BROKE THE HARDWARE (TITANIUM SCREWS) FROM MY LAST OPERATION JAN.21. THIS TIME.MY DOCTOR SAID IT WILL BE A HARDER OPERATION BECAUSE HE HAS TO TAKE THE HARDWARE BACK OUT & THE BROKEN SCREWS AND CK. IF THE RODS ARE BENT .I THANK ALL MY BROTHERS EVERY LAST ONE HAS BEEN SO GOOD TO ME ,YOU ARE ALL TRUE FREEMASONS. AT THIS TIME I WOULD LIKE TO SAY I LOVE ALL MY BROTHERS I AM SO LUCKY TO HAVE FOUND THIS GREAT LODGE. JW DENNIS SUARINO

Ridge Masonic Lodge Past Masters

W.·.John M. Lee	2013
R.·.W.·.Robert H. Owen	2012
R.·.W.·.Robert H. Owen	2011
W.·.Charles "Chuck" Taylor	2010
W.·.John M. Lee	2009
W.·.John M. Lee	2008
W.·.Henry L. Oppenborn, Jr.	2007
W.·.John M. Lee	2006
W.·.Robert A. Bernard	2005
W.·.Charley W. Rhodes	2004
W.·.Charley W. Rhodes	2003
W.·.James McIntosh	2002
W.·.John M. Lee	2001
R.·.W.·.Robert H. Owen	2000
R.·.W.·.Paul B. Miller	1999

and later became an oath of allegiance soldiers swore in a sacred place. The sacrament is primarily associated with Christianity, and Christian theologians as early as St. Augustine focused on the proper definition of sacrament. Among Christians, sacraments are said to derive from practices instituted by Jesus, such as Baptism, the washing of the feet, and the casting out of Demons. There are seven sacraments of Roman Catholicism, as codified by St. Thomas Aquinas, and promulgated by the Council of Trent: baptism,Confirmation, the Eucharist, penance, anointing of the sick, ordination, and matrimony. The Eastern Orthodox church generally accepts seven sacraments, even though no council accepted by the Orthodox church ever defined the number of sacraments. In most Protestant churches, however, only baptism and the Lord's Supper are recognized as sacraments, as the understanding of sacrament differs from that of the Roman Catholic church.

2014 Trestleboard Boosters

Fred Basehore
 Buzz & Gwen Bernard
 Peter & Kim Carter
 Whitey & Margie Cassell
 Mike Cota
 Sam Douglas
 Gunnar Erick son
 Cliff Hammer
 Lucky Lee
 Hank McInturff
 Slim & Anita Owen
 Pete & Mary Raymond
 Wayne Reedy
 Jim Roach
 John Ross
 Chuck Schloss, Sr.
 Dennis Suarino
 Bob Taber
 Jim Westfall

Your \$10 donation to the Boosters goes toward the preparation of your Trestleboard during 2014.



MAY BIRTHDAYS

William Corse
Gene Waters

5/10/1950
5/07/1913

The Chaplain's Corner

What is Shibboleth?

One of the more curious puzzles in Masonic symbolism concerns the sheaf of wheat in the Fellowcraft degree. The water-ford seems to make some sense, as commemorating the Biblical incident at the passages of the river Jordan where the Ephraimites could not pronounce the word Shibboleth. But nowhere does wheat enter the story as we tell it. One of the several versions of English ritual attempts to account for the wheat, however, by asserting that the initial battle between Jephthah and the Ephraimites occurred in a wheat field by a waterfall, after which the Ephraimites retreated to the river. The symbol of a waterfall, sometimes depicted under a stone arch bridge, and with a single stalk of wheat, is widely found in the Fellowcraft tracing boards and floor cloths from the late 1700's and early 1800's, and even to this day in

English ritual. The word passage as found in the King James Bible's account of the story must have been interpreted by some Masons as a bridge, rather than a ford. Evidently, there is a great deal of confusion among the craft over how these symbols relate to the story. The picture clears up considerably, however, when the meaning of the ancient Hebrew word shibboleth is considered. In Biblical times the word had two distinct meanings: an ear of wheat (which meaning continues into Modern Hebrew); and a strong current of water—anything from rapids in a stream to a waterfall or whirlpool. So the symbols of a single ear of wheat and a waterfall are no more than depictions of the meaning of the word itself. But an ear of wheat is not a sheaf of wheat and a waterfall is not a Waterford. It is relatively easy to see how "sheaf" could be substituted for ear in American practices. The phrase of ear of wheat sounds chunky and unnatural to Americans, who are used to thinking of an ear of corn or maize, rather than wheat. But sheaf of wheat comes naturally to our lips. In a time when ritual was transmitted (almost) entirely by mouth to ear, and with knowledge of the actual meaning of the symbols

forgotten, this substitution seems quite natural and understandable.

The substitution of water-ford for waterfall, as simple and similar as it may seem to the sheaf for ear substitution, has a forced rather than a natural quality to it. The term water-ford is as cumbersome to our ears as sheaf of wheat is natural. Undoubtedly someone must have thought that the symbol should commemorate the place where the action took place, since a ford in no way be misconstrued as a rapids or waterfall. Rivers can only be forded where they are shallow and the current is slow. Since most biblical scholars think the passages of the Jordan referred to fords, it seems that some opinionated person—not that we have them in our fraternity—must have thought they were merely correcting the obviously erroneous water-fall usage. This tendency to embellish, repair, or otherwise restore the interpretation of symbolism has long been a practice among Masonic ritualists, and has left its mark in many places. Even in cases such as the Ephraimites episode, where there is a biblical story for reference, different versions of the story with various interpretive explanations have been used among Masons. Our version is closer to the biblical account than some, but still has some significant departures. For instance, our catechism says that the pass was instituted to distinguish the friends from the foes of Israel. The only problem is that the Ephraimites were themselves one of the twelve tribes of Israel, despite their different accent. As an aside, reference to any bible Atlas shows the Ephraimites inhabited the area north of Jerusalem in the vicinity of the modern day town of Ramallah, while Gilead was east of the river in modern day Jordan.

Brethren: Lets keep Jean and Bill Harms in our prayers.!

Also, our Junior Warden, Dennis Suarino is going back into the hospital for back surgery as the first operation didn't work. He re-broke his back and some of the hardware that was installed broke.!

Lets keep all of our sick and distressed brethren in our prayers and by all means our military people.

W.: Lucky Lee, Chaplain

MAY

2014

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
April M T W T F S S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	June M T W T F S S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30		1	2	3	4
5	6	7 10:00 am Ridge Lodge Offic... 10:00 am Ritual Practice	8	9	10	11
12 10:30am Ridge Lodge Meet...	13	14 10:00 am Ritual Practice	15	16	17	18
19	20 LAP DAY - CRACKERS in CR. 11:30am	21 10:00 am Ritual Practice	22	23	24 08:00 am Open Books	25
26	27 11:30am LAP DAY	28 10:00 am Ritual Practice	29	30	31	