



Freemasons Lodge #363
790 N. Van Buren St.
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Lodge Activity

Mar. 25	5:30pm	Degree work	HSRMC
April 2	5:30pm	Stated Meeting (vote on non-paying members)	HSRMC
April 23	5:30pm	Degree work	HSRMC
April 30	6:30pm	Table Lodge	HSRMC
May 7	5:30pm	Stated Business	HSRMC
May 11	1:00pm	Brewers Dew Deck multiple lodge event-maybe	Miller Park
May 13	11:00am	Freemasons Comic Relief Open spring practice	TBA
May 28	5:30pm	Degree work	HSRMC



The Sound of the Gavel

Master's Message

by Bob Roth

Well, we are doing it. We are minting Masons, with 12 new EAs in the Lodge and six more candidates voted in on 5 March. And we are getting more serious about our fraternal relations, holding what by any standard was a very good lodge meeting with our own EAs and visiting EAs that same evening. The Masonic spirit that filled the lodge was palpable and the moment of silence in honor of Brother Dreyfus was memorable.

And it is all because you are caring, giving of your time, and being there for others that really is making all this possible. And for that I surely am proud of you and proud to be your Worshipful Master this year.

If you are asked to be a sponsor, please help out. We want those new Mason's to know we are there for them. It's a small investment with great returns. Thank you in advance for your help.

And so now, let us go to some items of business. We will hold a Master's Board for new petitioners at 5:00 PM on 25 Mar. At 5:30PM we will start a four-candidate EA degree evening. All lodge members are invited to attend, and we have many small roles for folks to play should they care to. Memory work not required. Our degree work is excellent, and well worth the attending. EAs and FCs are more than welcome.

We will concentrate on EA conferral in the next month or two, than shift our weight to FC and MM. My guess is that there will be work going on all summer. We will also have a degree night on 23 April. EA's again

And now for some serious fellowship. We will have our stated meeting on April 2nd, where we will have our floor debate on the lodge endowment proposal. The opening discussions on 5 Mar were excellent, and I think we will find our way to a good process. We will be dining out that evening, and we will let you know where in due course. Then comes one of the highlights of our annual year, the Freemason's Lodge Table Lodge on 30 April. This is about as good as it gets for Table Lodges, always sells out, and we often get visitors from Grand Lodge and from other places about the Craft. Price, details and related information will be communicated at or before the 2 Apr Stated meeting. JW Tom Curtis will be the Officer In Charge, and we will add to this event a few more of the military historical traditions that are intertwined with the history of the US Military and the Craft. It should be very interesting for all of you who can attend.

My special thanks to the Lodge Officers for great work on 5 March, and for their excellent support for the degree work and degree teams.

I look forward to seeing all of you about and around.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Bob Roth
Worshipful Master
FML #363

Freemasons Lodge #363, Milwaukee, WI

www.freemasons lodge.org

Trestleboard Editor: Thomas A. Baas II

Webmasters: Jan F. Talaga

STATED MEETING:
1st Wednesday, monthly

Lodge Officers

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Junior Warden's Station

by Tom Curtis



"To Call the Craft from Labor"

At our March Stated Meeting, our WM passed out a written explanation of the goals and mechanics of our new "Sponsorship" Program. In essence, as mentioned in our last Trestle Board, this is a vehicle by which members of the Lodge can (individually) help draw in newcomers and make them feel very much a part of our fellowship. I'll review some of the things expected of each sponsor and ask that you consider offering your services to help knit us together in this pro-active manner. At that meeting, I began to collect the names of those who were willing to help...for which I was most grateful. In the months ahead, I'll try to contact each member of the Lodge to ask your assistance, as well. Please give it serious thought and come join us.

What is expected of a sponsor? Only that you accept one new-comer, one EA or one individual about to become an EA and make him feel welcome...Be a one-stop source to him for any questions he might have. If you don't know the answers, check with the wardens. We'll always be there to help. Plan to do it only for one year as a start. Tell him about our scheduled meetings and advise him as to where to meet and what to do. Of course, you'll receive a briefing as to such sponsorship accessories as your charter, checklists and feedback...

This is truly an exciting opportunity and will give each of us a true sense of what it is to be a brother mason. I look forward to working with you in the upcoming months.

As ever fraternally,

Tom Curtis, Junior Warden



For the Good of the Rite

"In with a lambskin, raised by a Lion's Paw."

Happy March, Spring & Easter, everyone! A little poetry...

"Ice" by Brother David White

Black Ice
White Ice
Grey Ice
Ice Ice

Ice everywhere like a tiny universe of crushed light bulbs falling to Earth
The chill and the burn running through cloth and rubber and brick
Amazing how we humans have survived ice
Lived to tell tales of Saber Toothed Tigers the size of horses
Wooly Mammoths the size of small whales with feet
Mountains of ice
Nothing but a vast remembrance of ice

Next time you are sipping a cocktail watching spirits
melt the ice stop and think how many ice ages have passed
and how many will return...

"Love on a Higher Plane Realized (for Amelia)" by Tom Baas

We are each others inspired songs
traveling with eachother always
blind only to darkness which is blindness itself
thus seeing through to pure lightness everywhere we go
with the other always just behind our eyes, smiling

love is

when

simply by knowing somebody

you believe in a god that much more

(note: whenever referring to my Muse, "eachother" becomes one word, as opposed to the grammatically correct division)



Shrine Update
by Clay Simchick

Sportsman's Night

Friday, April 4, 2008 at Tripoli Shrine 5:00 pm Doors Open, 7:00 p.m. Dinner

* Corporate Table Sponsor Package - \$1000

Package includes 8 Banquet Dinner Tickets and 12 Gauge Shotgun

* Corporate Table Gold Sponsor Package - \$1500

The same as above plus 8 Super Saver packages

Hurry, seating is limited!

Download details and order form

ALL NEW PRE-EVENT RAFFLE

TRIP TO IRELAND FOR 2

Includes airfare and 7 days accommodations. OR a Weatherby MK-V .257 with a Leupold Scope

Tickets for the Pre-Event Raffle are \$20. You do not need to be present to win!

THE AMBASSADOR HOTEL

2308 W. Wisconsin Ave. 414-342-8400

Special pricing for Scimitar Sportsman's Night!! Includes free parking and shuttle service.

Mention "Sportsman's Night" when making reservation.

Deadline for Sportsman's Night Discount is February 28, 2008.

GUN BOARDS

Scimitar Sportsman's Night will continue to have their Red, Yellow, Blue, Silver and Gold Gun Boards.

BOAT, MOTOR & TRAILER RAFFLE

16' Smoker Craft/Monark aluminum boat, 4 stroke motor & Shorelander trailer.

Donated by [Keith's Marina](#)

Tickets:

1 for \$20, 3 for \$50, 7 for \$100

SUPER SAVER RAFFLE PACKAGE

Super Saver Raffle Package will include tickets for the Blue Gun Board, Tool Board, (Small) Restaurant Board, Leisure Board, Camping Board, Outdoor Board and Wild Boar Hunt along with a coupon for \$20.00 to be applied towards one Vocal Auction item.

These packages will only be sold prior to the event. The value of the package is \$160.00.

Tickets: \$100.

BOAR HUNT

Raging Russian Boar Hunt Hunt includes overnight stay. Located in UP Michigan.

www.bearmountainquest.com Tickets:

1 for \$10, 3 for \$20, 7 for \$50

SILENT AND VOCAL AUCTIONS

As always, Scimitar Sportsman's Night will host our Silent and Vocal Auctions. Remember, you will find rare and valuable items in our auctions. This year's event will include such items as wood carvings, original paintings and prints from popular artists, gift certificates, and much, much, more.

MUSKY FISHING WITH BILL JACOBS

Ranked #1 Musky Fisherman at National Championship in KY. For 2 people, in the Eagle River area. Tickets:

1 for \$10, 3 for \$20, 7 for \$50



The Winding Stairs

Editor's Light

by Thomas A. Baas II

"And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons." (Genesis 3:7)

Thus is relayed the wearing of that first of all aprons placed over the loins for purity by Adam and Eve upon the opening of their eyes to the Knowledge of Good and Evil (duality), or as it were, the lifting of the blindfold. Some might even use this as evidence of Masonry's sublime antiquity, or at least that of its symbols, Adam being the first man, and indeed the blood ancestor of such Masonic figures as Tubalcain, David, Solomon, and Zerrubabel, as well as that greatest of carpenters. As it goes, man was created in the image of the Deity, which the Jewish Kabbalists outlined in the image of the Tree of Life, from whose syllables we derive the Tetragrammatron, that Ineffable four-lettered name of God as revealed to Moses as I Am that I Am (JHVH).

Exoterically the ten sephiroth of the Tree of Life have been concealed in the Ten Commandments as written on the tablets of the Law and encased in the Ark of the Covenant, which rests in the West, the Sanctum Sanctorum of Solomon's Temple, representing in symbolic architecture the world. The Star of David and the Seal of Solomon and the Masonic Square and Compasses all have in common their basic outlines, which is the merging of two triangles of three points into a six-pointed star. For this reason the number 6 by the Pythagoreans is interpreted as symbolic of marriage, wedding opposite trinities which at once represent male and female as well as they represent Heaven and Earth. "As above, so below," goes the Hermetic idiom of Thelemic philosophy, indicating the reflection of the celestial heavens upon earth, as well as God upon man, all things manifestly being isomorphic to each other at the most essential level.

The Triangle is central to Masonry in that it is the first of all forms geometrically, and is said to encase the Deity, and indeed as the tip of the unfinished pyramid it beholds the All-Seeing Eye of Horus. The three points and/or three lines of the shape simultaneously represent the Three Stages of Man, the three Blue Lodge degrees, the original three Freemasons (Solomon, Hiram King of Tyre, and CHiram Abif), the Holy Trinity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the top three sephiroth (Keter: crown, Chokmah: wisdom, and Binah: understanding) of the Tree of Life in Atzilut (emanation), the first of four realms reflective of the Four Elements and the four letters JHVH. Essentially what is being portrayed in all these symbolic triads is the threefold nature of man, as an emanation of the Deity: spiritual, intellectual, and generative.

The most basic thing we're told about the symbolism of the white sheepskin apron that we wear is that it represents innocence and purity. It is similar even to the white sheepskin undergarments worn by the original Knights Templar so to keep their generative organs in check, and indeed it does cover up that place on man's body wherein is encased the lowest nature of man (in that it is furthest in emanation from Deity since it procreates man in material form), which also holds its correspondent place on the Tree of Life, whose "fruits" along their branches represent particular points along the human body, the Middle Pillar of which similarly corresponds with the Chakras. The Middle Pillar would be those sephiroth of the Tree of Life along the middle of the diagram, whereas the two pillars on each side are reflective of Jachin and Boaz, also denoting wisdom and understanding and reflecting the opposing but integral and reflective concepts of male and female or the heavens and earth.

The Entered Apprentice is told to wear the triangular flap of his apron upward, so that its base is level on earth and pointed toward the Deity of the heavens. Thus we have one of the two triangles that make up the Star of David or Seal of Solomon or Square and Compasses, and the original emanation of Deity into man, the single seed or eye of Whom is spread to two dichotomized points, the ends of the base of the triangle, representing the Unity of God split into the two forces of Yin and Yang.

Next the Fellowcraft is taught to wear the triangular flap folded to one side, so it appears isosceles like the lines across the center of the Tree of Life connecting various sephiroth in the Beriah (creation) and Yetzirah (formation) realms.

By the time one is raised Master Mason, and man is said to have mastered his lower nature, the triangle is reversed from its position in the EA Degree, so that the dichotomized natures are reunited back to its original Unity, and man is complete in the image of Deity out of which he was firstly manifest. This triangle facing downwards (or more appropriately, now the base should be thought of as the top and the tip as the base from which man emanates upwards toward the heavens) is reflective of the lowest of the four realms of the Tree of Life, that of Assiyah, meaning action, or in Kundalini yoga, raising up, apropos enough. From this term comes the word Asia (perhaps also Isaiah, whose chapter of the Old Testament is brimming with kabbalic symbolism), with its "Seven Churches" (the chakras) as depicted in the Book of Revelations. These seven points also correspond with the Seven Days of Creation and the seven celestial bodies or manifestations of Deity as depicted in the pagan mythologies, and have their reflection in the Seven Liberal Arts which make the topmost rungs of that ladder between earth and heaven that we are told to contemplate in the Fellowcraft Degree. Leading up to these seven rungs are the initiatory three representative of the Three Degrees of Blue Lodge Masonry (the Three Ages of Man or Man's/God's Threefold Nature) followed by the five rungs representing the Five Senses through which we experience and learn.

Since the division of Deity into duality upon the eating of the fruit of Knowledge, everything that exists comes with its opposite. The Seven added to Four (representative of JHVH or the Four Elements), we arrive at 11, which even in form connotes the pillars of the Temple, and further added by kabbalic Geomatria equals two.

When the 3-pointed/3-sided triangular flap is encased in the 4-pointed/4-sided square of the apron, it reflects the Threefold Nature encased in the Four Elements of Earth, Wind, Fire, and Water (JHVH) or the four realms of the Tree of Life, thus the Trinity materialized, the Word Made Flesh, the Deity encased in man, who becomes the "substitute" of that Logos lost when the lower trinity (the ruffian Jubels) "murders" the architect of the higher trinity. The Trinity met in the Four Elements (which each have three qualities) or four realms of the Tree of Life (each with their sephiroth) also brings us back to that most sacred of all numbers, Seven.

The lambskin is appropriate of alchemically purified resurrection in terms of the Zodiac. When the Sun (represented in our Mystery legend by Hiram) rose out of the East through the sign of Aries upon the Vernal Equinox, it was represented as a ram. This is also how the Jewish Carpenter of Christianity came to be symbolically associated with the lamb. In Hiram Abif's time, the Vernal Equinox occurred in the sign of Taurus, thus Son of God his Dionysian Mystery Tradition was represented by a bull. These days the Sun ("Son of God") is raised out of darkness through the sign of Pisces, and thus has the fish come to be emblematic of the savior.

Here's to all of us bass born in the month of March!

"Even every one that is called My name, for My glory I have created him, I have formed him: indeed I have made him."

-Isaiah 43:7 (note the Geomatria laden in the chapter/verse number!)

