



FREEMASONS LODGE #363

790 N. Van Buren St.
Milwaukee, WI 53202



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FREEMASONS LODGE #363, MILWAUKEE, WI

www.freemasonsldge.org
Webmasters: Jan F. Talaga

Trestleboard Editor: Tommy Baas

STATED MEETING:
1st Wednesday, monthly

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SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION

The schedule of the Schools for Freemasons Lodge is:

The E.A. at James M Hays on January 5, 2009 starting at 7pm. We will do the E.A. Opening.

The F.C. School at Nathan Hale will be on February 5, 2009 at 7pm. We will do the F.C. 1st Section.

The M.M. School will be at Freemasons Lodge on March 25, 2009 at 7pm. We will take part in the M.M. 2nd Section.

You need to be a Master Mason to attend the Schools. Sideliners will be able to follow along in their books, if they care to.

Frank Mayer
District #12 Lecturer



THE SOUND OF THE GAVEL

Master's Message
by Bob Roth

My brothers,

It has been more than a privilege to be the Worshipful Master of Freemason's Lodge this year for so many special reasons. First and foremost has been the fraternal experience. It took brotherhood and teamwork and love and care to deal with 27 candidates moving through the lodge. At year's end, with the raising of Daniel and Stephen Bruckner to the sublime degree of Master Mason over the Thanksgiving weekend, we find ourselves with two Entered Apprentices, 17 Fellowcraft and eight new Master Masons. To the degree teams and all that made this possible, my congratulations on work well done.

From the installation in January to the great holiday party on December 3d, made all the more memorable by the presence of our Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Wisconsin, Dr. John Wilke joining us for Lodge and for the evening festivities, it has been a year of growth and great brotherhood at work.

And so much more has happened as well. The Lodge officers gave of their time and spirit to help evolve new projects and initiatives. We got our endowment program up and running and we deployed a sponsorship program to help shepherd the many candidates through the social and ritual activities that are so much a part of bringing new Masons along on their journey.

During the year we had special programs to include an introduction to the Fraternity's largest charity, Three Pillars Senior Living Communities, and the Masonic Service Association brief from Brother Chuck Wallens, our MSA representative at the Veteran's Center in Milwaukee. And there is no doubt that the Trestle Board itself showed much change and innovation this year under our able new editor, Brother Tom Baas.

Whether is was working in Lodge, or dining in or out, we sustained the pace and closed gaps where we needed to in our work and our fraternal care for each other, and have positioned the Lodge for a great new year under our new Worshipful Master, Jan Talaga. Lets all put our shoulder into supporting him and his programs, and in working with the new Masons who have honored us by choosing this Lodge to be their home.

Have a grand holiday season, my brothers, and thank you all for the humbling, joyful, very special opportunity to be your Worshipful Master this year.

s/f

Bob Roth
Worshipful Master
Freemason's Lodge #363
2008



JUNIOR WARDENS STATION

By Brother Tom Curtis

"To call the craft from labor to refreshment..."

Brethren....Let me express my appreciation to all of you who offered to participate in the **Sponsorship Program** that the Lodge initiated this year under the sterling leadership of Worshipful Master, Brother Bob Roth. Its goal was to keep our new brethren informed about our activities and to draw them into our fellowship, at whatever level they had reached (EA, FC or MM). We are looking forward to continuing the process in 2009, with our new Junior Warden, Brother Mike Reindl, taking on the task of organizing and following up on our activities in this front. Give him your support in the months ahead....and, in so doing, support our new members. If you are a sponsor, please call them every month to keep them posted. We'll be doing a lot of MM degree work in the months ahead...to raise many of them to the "Sublime Degree".

In the way of "refreshment", our December Holiday Party at "The Steak Out" was an immense success as, no doubt, many of you will attest...and we'll be looking forward to a number of great dinners in the upcoming year. See you all at Lodge!

As ever your Brother!

Tom Curtis

Junior Warden



SENIOR STEWARDS STATION

By Brother David W. Alderfer

I'm preparing a log of lodge activities for 2008. I have found a great deal in the Lodge's minutes, Trestleboards, Wisconsin Masonic Journal, etc., however I am sure many individual efforts have not been identified. Lodge members who have performed individual activities in either of the following areas during 2008 please contact me. The activities are: **SERVICE TO OTHERS** (e.g. Children's Hospital, V.A. Hospital, Nursing Home, School, etc) **and PERSONAL VISITATIONS** (e.g. Shut-ins, Hospitalized, Health Center, Widows, etc.). For example a number of our lodge members volunteer with the 32⁰ Children's Learning Center.

David W. Alderfer

Senior Steward



POET'S CORNER

"Angels of Light" ~ a holiday poem by Brother David White

Angels of Light
return again
in time for the seasons
to transition from summer joy
to quiet contemplations.

Angels of Light
return to guide us
through dark nights.
The lonely of cold, and
the reflections of ice.

Angels of Light
wait for us home.

Angels of Light
pray for us home.

Peace and Health Always,

David J. White



THE WINDING STAIRS

Editor's Light ~ By Brother Tommy Baas

more from my personally-created tarot deck...

1 - The Magician

There is an old Buddhist proverb: "Who is the magician that makes the grass green?" Like so many things (including Freemasonry, the Illuminati, Rosicrucianism, Templarism, Gnosticism, the OTO, Crowley, Wilhelm Reich, Carl Jung, etc), I was introduced to it by the late writer Robert Anton Wilson, the self proclaimed "guerilla ontologist" who understood and used for good the power of the Word to manipulate perception, and thus reality. As my friend

Max Klapperman, who gave me my first Wilson book, put it: Wilson's little trick is that by the time you've finished reading the *Illuminatus! Trilogy*, he's managed to subliminally initiate you into the Illuminati. Indeed it is a good brainf***. My way of thinking is that much more clear and enlightened since reading RAW's work. Max also commented, as I was reading RAW's *Masks of the Illuminati*, on how a writer is able to subliminally mold you into a certain reality tunnel as you read. Wilson's thing was more to make you more aware of this and to keep your mind open, rather than to convince you of something, as is the typical author(ative) way. He encouraged avoiding perception-controlling verbs like "is" (see Korzybski's E-prime language) and always maintained humility, encouraging readers to question everything, especially his own stubborn statements.

With his ideas, writing style, and thinking exercises that he offered to the reader, he broke down reality by the reflection of words and their interpreted meanings, hand-in-hand breaking down for us the way our minds work. With his best friend, legendary psychedelic guru Timothy Leary, he exposed the process of brainwashing so that we may be aware of how commonly it happens and how to defend against it. A timely example would be how political leaders play on the vulnerability of our fear and shock after national tragedies, using it to gain support for an agenda of war ("peace") and control ("security" or "freedom") (see George Orwell's *1984*). Wilson also introduced me to pioneer semanticist Count Alfred Korzybski, who said, "Those who control our symbols, control us." The good Magician knows the difference between white magick and black magick. In fact, black magick is not an independent system; it has no core symbols of its own...it is only white magick backwards. In invoking God, spelling the Tetragrammaton backwards is as bad as spelling it forwards is good. Drawing a pentagram is all good...drawing it upside-down is bad. With the assumption that most people are right-handed, black magick has been nicknamed the "left-handed" method for this reason. You've all heard the saying, "Let not the right hand know what the left hand is doing." This has nothing to do against left-handed people, who are actually all the more in tune with Creative energy, being right-brained (everything works in a balanced cross). When doing an I Ching toss, it is best to shake the coins with your left hand. If you draw a pentagram with your left hand, as long as it isn't upside-down, you're all good; perhaps even more so because you create a cross-balance in act and expression. I know a left-handed poet who can take both the dark and light of life and by expression make it Pure and Beautiful and Good. By this I mean by way of expression she actually alters the mood of reality, churning dark into light. And mood directly affects reality, because it affects both our actions and how others react. The Good Magician is consciously aware of these factors.

The Magician's magic wand here is a pen (and if you'll look closely, you'll see it is purple, a royally sacred color). It could also be a paintbrush. While his right hand writes, his left hand holds to a passage he is reading. Constantly both learning and teaching is the dedicated Magician. By the light of the outside world shining through his study room's window from behind and the self-lit light of a singular candle, the Magician writes worlds into existence from his pregnant mind. In Freemasonry, three candles on the altar are called the Lesser Lights, and the Bible, Square, & Compasses are called the Greater Lights. The two mason's tools which make our fraternity's star are seen here on the poet's desk (his altar). Initially one is told that the compass symbolizes being well-rounded and the square means to keep one's actions on the square. More esoterically, the compass draws infinity, a perfect cycle, and the square boxes the circle into an organized perception ("*Ordo ab Chaos*"). By these two complimenting ways does man perceive from the inside out. Indeed there is so much more within the vault of one's mind than there is in the "vast" world outside the windows of our eyes.

The job of the Magician is to recreate that world going on inside his Imagination and to manifest it into reality. To make Heaven on Earth. Hence, it is the will of the Imagination that makes the grass to be green. As taught in Buddhism, "reality" is an agreed upon illusion manifested by the mind perceiving it. But, you say, then how come I can't change it? Simply drawing the grass blue on a piece of paper only makes the grass on that paper blue. Bob Wilson also said, "Reality is what you can get away with." One thing we need to keep in mind is that we are everywhere surrounded

by a million magicians just like us, and that Truth is an agreement. Reality is created from the constant interplay of both Will and Fate. Oracles can hint potential futures according to the forecast of pending circumstances as in agreement with the student's current mental disposition, his/her attitude and will. The affective Magician must be clearly aware of circumstances, which are often the combined byproducts of the will of other Magicians, each with their own circumstances and agendas. The good Magician constantly draws upon oracles with quiet respect, which by synchronistically drawn symbols reflect the relationship of the mood of the hand which shuffles and draws the cards and that of the archetypes whose spirits reveal in symbols, the principle of As Above, So Below. By revealing a seemingly "random" (by the proverbial element of "chance," which is simply the present patterns of Fate which we're blinded from understanding by its contention with the present patterns of our Will) of mythically symbolized archetypes (too abstract to be understood any other way better, though very, very real), Oracles help us to be the more aware of how our personal Will is presently affecting and affected by Fate, helping us know all the better how to act accordingly with what we can expect of present circumstances. As the Grateful Dead sing, "I can tell your future, just look what's in your hand."

By being aware, we know all the better how best to go about using our will. When we align our Will with Fate, everything falls into place as it should. This is the Way taught in Taoism. Contemplate what Lao Tzu meant by "Do by non-doing and all will be done" and what Aleister Crowley meant by "Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law. Love is the Law. Love under Will." These mantras mean neither necessarily to just go with the flow or just to do whatever you want and that will be right. It means if you are truly acting in tune with your conscious will, you succeed seemingly effortlessly, because the Will, being a child of Fate, is magnetically in tune with Fate. When mind over matter doesn't work, the relationship between mind and matter is blocked by misunderstanding of either circumstances or feelings or both.

There is an element of hedonism in this philosophy, but only insofar as what feels good is good when your conscience is healthy and aware. At this point, one is all happy and all powerful, glowing with life, capable of everything because completely aware of and in tune with the ways of the natural environment. A good Magician is constantly studying everything and keeps his/her bag of tools everywhere he/she goes, like a turtle shell. The Magician here looks like a young monk, and that is how he lives; in solitude and in love with something sacred to him. The grail in the picture here is both for nourishment and intoxication, either/or, according to either the needs or whims of the partaker's spirit. The bird in the wind is both observing and singing, in between worlds of outside and in. The rose on the cross is the blossoming soul out from the four elements, which the Magician is crucified to, as the soul within the body, but in learning from and interacting with them, he/she understands his own nature that much more, being of the same stuff, and the soil, sun, air, and wind become the fertile means of his/her soul's resurrecting bloom, rather than the means by which he/she is buried.

A personal mantra of mine is: Don't ask questions when you can all the more effectively take actions/attitudes to manifest the answer you want. The FREEmason seeks out membership of his own initiative & Freewill; it cannot be solicited. By this assertive act he reflects the Creative who makes the world. The shape of the number 1 reflects the masculine phallus, the wand/pen, the first line drawn. The Magician (1) is the Fool (0) having been initiated into the Mystery, un-hoodwinked and shown Light, armed with knowledge and the wand of his pen, ready to begin the Path through the rest of the Deck. Crowley, who in the Thoth deck refers to this card as the Juggler, describes it as "the adult form of the first emanation, the Fool," but also as "the Son, the manifestation in act of the idea of the Father." Indeed in the cycle of life, the Son born of the Father becomes, through maturation, the Father himself. The Magician is the Son of God as interpreted in Christianity as interchangeable with God. The Magician understands what Jesus meant by how He did nothing except by the Father working through Him. The Magician derives his magic as a natural vehicle born of God's Grace.

One is reminded of the introduction to the Gospel of John, concerning the original and all-pervading Word. Indeed to those in darkness, magick appears unreal and the world a random meaningless mystery, whereas those in the Light know magic to be very real, and being in Light, understand the ways of the world homeopathically as one within it, and are thus able to affect it.



Tommy Tarot ~ ameliArcana presents:

The Turtle Deck

This 78-card Tarot deck produced by Amelia and myself is personally painted with colorful acrylics and cosmic character...completely home-made, printed on 3.5 x 5", 110# card stock...full of modern, medieval, biblical, occult, and personal character...faithful to the traditional deck with personally affective interpretations... every reading I have done thus far with this deck has been right on and awesome. This would make an awesome holiday or anytime gift! I'm putting it out there to brothers and friends at \$35/deck; if you're interested in one for yourself or for a friend, drop me a line either personally or by email (gnostictom420@yahoo.com or turtlepoet74@gmail.com).

-Tommy