

# **Freemasons Lodge #363**

790 N. Van Buren St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

## **Lodge Activity**

Wednesday, January 6 5:30 p.m.	Dining Hall	Installation of Officers
Wednesday, February 3 5:30 p.m.	Lodge Room	Stated Meeting
Wednesday, March 3 5:30 p.m.	Lodge Room	Stated Meeting
Wednesday, April 7 5:30 p.m.	Lodge Room	Stated Meeting

**Freemasons Lodge # 363**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin**

# The Trestleboard

~ Winter, 2009.

Volume II: Issue 4

## Freemasons Lodge #363, Milwaukee, WI

www.freemasons lodge.org

Webmaster: Clay Simchick

Trestleboard Editor: Tommy Baas

STATED MEETING:

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday, monthly

**Freemasons Lodge exclusive Facebook group: <http://www.facebook.com/home.php#/group.php?gid=48834467075>**

## Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master	Jan F. Talaga	(414) 852 - 6292	premiere1@wi.rr.com
Senior Warden	Thomas P. Curtis II	(262) 703 - 0797	thebruce@execpc.com
Junior Warden	Michael Reindl	(262) 821 - 1815	mreindl2008@wi.rr.com
Secretary	Robert E. Manske	(414) 259 - 9634	remanske@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer	Paul Tourville	(414) 659 - 5205	paul.tourville@nextlevelpwm.com
Senior Deacon	Jeff Day	(262) 784 - 6311	jday@wisconsin.nef.com
Junior Deacon	David W. Alderfer	(920) 535 - 0515	dave.alderfer@us.army.mil
Chaplain	David R. Miracle	(414) 839 - 0948	fmiracle99@yahoo.com
Senior Steward	Vincent J. Michuda	(414) 764 - 5773	zotz1313@yahoo.com
Junior Steward	Tommy Baas	(414) 553 - 6528	gnostictom420@yahoo.com
Deputy Jr. Steward	Vincent J. Michuda	(414) 764 - 5773	zotz1313@yahoo.com
Counselor	William V. DeLind II	(414) 271 - 8525	wmdelind@execpc.com
Tiler	David J. White	(414) 828 - 3382	agentleblanc@yahoo.com
Trustees	Jeffrey D. Schwartz	(414) 273 - 3320	jschwa7578@aol.com
	Frank S. Bevsek, PM	(414) 698 - 3297	fbevsek@rwbaird.com
	Robert W. Roth	(262) 782 - 3922	rroth2@wi.rr.com
Organist	Michael J. Hill	(414) 364 - 4455	mhill@trykor.com

## The Sound of the Gavel

Master's Message

Brother Jan Talaga

Brethren-

It's been a long and productive year, to say the least! Thanks to all who made it so memorable, for all your hard work and dedication. It's reassuring knowing that such hard work and dedication will continue as I hand the gavel over to Brother Curtis in the New Year. I hope everybody had a wonderful holiday, and I hope to see you all at Wednesday's Installation.

Here's the details:

You and your guests are cordially invited to attend the Open Installation of Officers of

Freemason's Lodge No. 363, F.& A. M.  
Humphrey Scottish Rite Masonic Center  
790 North Van Buren Street - Milwaukee, WI

on

Wednesday evening, January 6, 2010 -6:00 P.M.

Reception and Dinner Following Installation  
Scottish Rite- 8:00 P.M.

## Senior Warden's Station

by Brother Tom Curtis

"...harmony being the strength and support of all institutions, more especially ours."

As we approach the end of the year and, with it, a change in officers, permit me to express my appreciation to all those who have done so much to make this year a productive one for the Lodge. From our Worshipful Master to the Wardens to the Treasurer and Secretary to the Deacons and Stewards to the Chaplain, Counselor and Musician and not to forget the many members of the Craft who put in time in our degree work, I salute you! We have accomplished an extraordinary amount of work over the past months, particularly in seeing many new Master Masons of singular caliber become a part of our fraternity. I can only hope that we can see as productive a year in 2010! I would like to especially

commend our Secretary, Bob Manske, for the yeoman's duty ...the truly herculean efforts...that he performed in that most demanding of tasks. Brother Bob has, both as a former Master of the Lodge and then as Secretary, played a major role in our life at Freemasons 363! I thank you, Bob, from my heart! Special thanks also to David White as our Tiler, who guarded our Outer Door throughout the year.

I am looking forward to the upcoming year as one in which there will be a number of innovations, which I'll go into in greater depth in the months ahead. Before closing, let me introduce you to the slate of your officers, elected at our Lodge this month:

WM -Tom Curtis, SW -Mike Reindl, JW - Jeff Day, Secretary- Joe Lieungh, Treasurer- Paul Tourville, and Trustee - Jan Talaga.

.....also the following appointed officers:

SD - Paul Tourville, JD - John McChesney, SS - Vince Michuda,

JS - Jerry Reick, Chaplain - Dave Miracle, Counselor - Bill

DeLind, PM, Tiler - Bill Frazier, PM, and Organist Mike Hill.

I'm immensely grateful to all of these fine members of the Craft who will be working to give our Lodge "a year to remember in 2010!"

Looking forward to seeing you at the Installation Ceremony, scheduled for 6:00 P.M. on 6 January 2010 and the reception and dinner planned for afterwards! A formal invitation will be sent out separately.

As ever, S&F  
Tom Curtis

## From the Junior Warden's Desk

by Brother Mike Reindl

“To call the craft from labor to refreshment!”

From your Junior Warden:

Well, this is my last official written communication to the Lodge from the South. It has been a pleasure and a privilege serving as our Lodge's Junior Warden this past year. A few brothers have commented to me how ironic they found it that yours truly was the one in charge of making sure no one converted the means of refreshment into intemperance or excess. That irony was not lost on me as well, and I hope that my “shenanigans” in the South were received in the jovial spirit they were attempted.

As I leave the South and head to the West for 2010, I would like to congratulate our incoming Worshipful Master, Tom Curtis, on his election to the East for 2010 and thank our outgoing WM, Jan Talaga for his leadership in 2009. I would also like to congratulate the other elected and appointed officers as they assume their new roles in the coming year. Please allow me an opportunity to thank Illustrious Brother Robert Manske for his service and dedication to Freemason's 363 over the past many years as our Lodge's Secretary. Having sat in the Secretary's chair for a short period of time, I realize the amount of work and effort that goes on behind the scenes to keep our records in order. Thanks Bob for all you have done, and I know will continue to do, for Freemason's 363. When you see Bob, take a moment to extend your gratitude to him as well. I know he'll appreciate it.

Our Lodge did some great work in 2009, welcoming a number of new brothers to the fraternity. More work is ahead as 6 Entered Apprentices await their first step in Masonry on January 16, 2010. Come join us on the sidelines and welcome these new Brethren as they are initiated. It'll be another active year, full of fun, fellowship and fraternity. I look forward to seeing you at Lodge. Happy New Year!!!!!!

Sincerely and fraternally,  
Mike Reindl

## By the Light of the Moon

Junior Deacon  
Brother David Alderfer

I will be ordering nametags soon, if you need a nametag please let me know.

The lodge's most timely means of communicating with its' brothers is via e-mail. If you haven't been getting the Trestle Board and other announcements thru e-mail please provide your current address to either myself or Brother Paul Tourville.

## Freemasons Lodge at Work

Master Masons, 12/5/09

Freemasons Lodge #363, ably assisted by Grand Lodge, Wauwatosa #267 and Damascus Lodge #290, continued their busy schedule of degree work by raising two Master Masons on Saturday, 5 December.

First row, left to right: Mike Reindl, Junior Warden; new Master Mason David Zisso; Jan F. Talaga, Worshipful Master; new Master Mason Mark Johnson; Tom Curtis, Senior Warden; Pat Colletta

Second row: Jeff Day, Senior Deacon; David Weiss, Past Master; Paul Tourville, Treasurer; David Miracle, Chaplain; Joe Lieungh

Third row: Jerry Reich; David Zale; Mike Kugler, Past Master

Of note Pat Colletta, Joe Lieungh, David Zale, Jay Paulson, and Jerry Reich were all raised within the last few months and joined in to help raise these new Master Masons.

# The Winding Stairs

Editor's Light

by Brother Tommy Baas

*Zerubbabel: Master Mason to the Second Temple (part 1)*

Familiar to Scottish Rite Masons through the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Degrees of the Princes of Jerusalem is a name we all love to pronounce, if we can only get it right, belonging to a great Jewish patriarch who we might consider a sort of secondary hero of Masonic legend. After all Zerubbabel is to the Second Temple who Hiram Abif is to the first Temple of Solomon. Both figures were esteemed as especially wise and skilled builders in Phoenicia and were responsible for the building of the foundations of the respective Temples of Jerusalem. As Masonic icons, both are revered for exemplifying profound dignity in ensuring the temple be built with the utmost integrity to the secrets of Freemasonry. What secrets Hiram in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree allegory protects even against threats on his life, Zerubbabel protects the same in the 15<sup>th</sup> Degree against the temptation of riches and the return of the Temple's most sacred, yet material, furniture. In the 16<sup>th</sup> Degree, the idolatrous ways of the three members of King Darius's court who debate over what holds the most powerful sway over man could symbolically be likened to that of the three ruffians who conspired against Hiram in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree. Esoterically, such might reflect the three conceptual negative forces of Nature, or man's threefold lower nature, in direct opposition to the more positive forces, epitomized in Christianity's Holy Trinity and characterized as Hiram Abif, Hiram King of Tyre, and King Solomon (and perhaps also as Zerrubabel, Joshua the Priest, and Haggai the Prophet).

While there are but two minor mentions of Hiram in the Old Testament and none in either the New Testament or any Gnostic or other Apocryphal texts, we have as sources for the life of Zerubbabel: the genealogies of two Synoptic gospels from the New Testament, the book of Ezra from the Old Testament, the Apocryphal text I Esdras, the works of the great Jewish scholar Josephus Flavius, and various old Masonic rituals compiled and filtered through by Christopher Knight and Robert Lomas into what they call "The Masonic Testament" (*The Book of Hiram*).

Several texts explicitly state Zerubbabel to be the son of Shealtiel, but the genealogy in I Chronicles explicitly refers to him as the son of Pedaiiah (3:19), making him a nephew to Shealtiel. Whatever the case, he was apparently the Prince of Judah. He is commonly associated with the name Sheshbazzar, though there is speculation that this name may refer to the character who gained permission under Cyrus to rebuild the Temple and that it was Zerubbabel who re-established this decree under Darius, whereas the texts otherwise seem to depict the two personages as one and the same. Perhaps an elusive distinction might exist? According to Matthew, Zerubbabel (here spelled "Zorobabel") was the 11<sup>th</sup> ancestor from Jesus, whereas according to Luke, he was the 20<sup>th</sup>. While even the Synoptics aren't always completely synoptic, we at least know that Zerubbabel was a leading descendent of the House of David by the Tribe of Judah. A strong and skilled Phoenician artificer of the Dionysian Mysteries, Hiram was of the notoriously pagan-like Tribe of Naphtali through his widowed mother, whose old man was the great Jewish patriarch, Ur. As in the case of Jesus, Hiram's mixed origins set him at controversy among the Jews (in Hiram's case, the "Juwes"), who would jealously conspire the hero's demise, insisting that one whose blood and/or beliefs might not be purely orthodox should not be fit to furnish the Temple of Jerusalem (Brown, John W., "Hiram Abiff"). Zerubbabel, as he proclaims in the 15<sup>th</sup> Degree, and as we can discern from genealogies connecting him with both Jesus and King Solomon, was of the Tribe of Judah. Now *Judah* we know of as the son of Jacob (aka, Israel) who suggested selling his brother Joseph out to the Egyptians, similar to how *Judas* (the Greek derivation of *Judah*) infamously sold his brother Jesus out to the Romans. The story of Joseph told in the 12<sup>th</sup> Degree of Scottish Rite Masonry follows more or less faithfully the same story told in Genesis. Esoterically, as the "Lion of Israel," Judah, or Judas, represents the zodiacal house of Leo, through which the Sun (anthropomorphized by Joseph with his brilliantly-colored coat in the O.T. and by Jesus with his setting and rising in the N.T.) passes before it is "crucified," or brought to a low point for "three days" (similarly reflected in the three Craft degrees) before resurrecting again anew. This "low point" of darkness is allegorized in various ways throughout the Bible, either as slavery, death (in a more spiritual sense than necessarily physical), or hell. On

another esoteric level, this “darkness” represents the human body in which the Logos or the Light of the Holy Spirit is entombed at physical birth, before it is resurrected by spiritual re-birth through initiatory rites such as Masonry and the Ancient Mysteries practice.

Before the building of the First Temple, this place of darkness was symbolized as Egypt. In the Book of Genesis we find this phenomenon of Light being shadowed by and subsequently rising up from Darkness portrayed in the exile in Egypt out of which Moses led his Exodus, and also in the same Egypt where Joseph spent his slavery before being placed at the *right hand of the king* where he preached *forgiveness*. Further similar to both Moses and Joseph, Jesus in the New Testament also speaks of rising up out of Egypt.

For rituals and allegories concerning the building of the Second Temple, the land of captivity out of which the hero leads his people has become Babylon. The very name Zerubbabel refers to one conceived in Babylon, a.k.a., Babel. Some Masonic origin theories suggest that the descendents of Nimrod, being ancestral Freemasons, were responsible for erecting that notorious Tower of Babel (Mackey, *The History of Freemasonry*, pg. 59), which, as punishment for mankind blasphemously building a temple to God by idolatrous means, resulted in the one universal language being confounded into a million tongues and the building being destroyed. This confounding of the universal language into a myriad of confused tongues can be likened to the substituting of the Master’s Word or the Ineffable Name into various words and names only able to capture disjointedly aspects of God’s glory (for such is the inherent fallibility of language and such human efforts when attempting to describe the divine...hence the True Word being wholly ineffable). And the selfish sins of the people are often blamed in Jewish legend for the destruction of sacred temples and subsequent exiles. Indeed this idea is reflected in Haggai’s prophesy which Joshua throws in Zerubbabel’s face in the opening scene of the 16<sup>th</sup> Degree. “Being preoccupied with building our own houses and neglecting the Temple” is synonymous with general idolatry in the language of the Western Mysteries. Similar was the reason given for the Great Flood against which Noah built his ark by God’s instruction. It is against this so human nature which our heroes Hiram and Zerubbabel must fight with courageously unflinching dedication if the erection of the temple is to be won with integrity enough to sustain its walls against both the weapons of its enemies and the greed of its own people. Jesus got busy knocking over tables and scattering coins when the idolatry of the money-lenders threatened to blaspheme the sacrists of the Temple. In the 16<sup>th</sup> Degree, the characteristically human suggestions that the king, wine, and women each might yield the most powerful sway over man constitute idolatry unbecoming to the Lord of Truth. But as we’ll see, the text of I Esdras, when compared to our 16<sup>th</sup> Degree script, might reveal an interesting twist on Zerubbabel’s position on the matter, and could even further muddy the question of his seemingly split identity.

*to be continued...*