

Volume 2 Issue 7

July 1, 2013

THIS MONTH'S FEATURE STORIES

Why Masonry Must Teach by Symbols



Inside this issue:

- From the East 2
- From the West 2
- From the South 2
- From the Secretary 3
- From the Senior Deacon 3
- From the Senior Steward 3
- Lubbock Lodge 1392 in Action 5
- The Quarry: Our Degree Work 8

Why Masonry Must Teach by Symbols

Men come to Masonry from every walk of life and every level of education. They bring with them temperaments of every quality, from stolidity to high imaginativeness. Some have the spirit of genius and while fools are barred from the institution, along with atheists and some others, we must admit that none of us are as brilliant intellectually as other Masons we could name.

Yet each of us finds a message in Masonry. Each of us learns from Masonry what his mind is prepared to learn. And from time to time, as he progresses, he learns new meanings and new thoughts, as much as he is capable of absorbing.

How then, can Masonry speak to each of us, yet at the same time avoid boring the intellectual Mason with elementary truths he already knows and

not offend the slower-witted man by offering him more than he can comprehend? Especially, how can Masonry teach us its great truths without dogmatically defining what those truths are? And of course, dogmatic is one thing which Masonry definitely is NOT and can not be. Our institution leaves every member free to find what light and truth he can, and if what he finds does not happen to coincide with what some other brother has found, that is all right with Masonry.

So, the problem is, how shall our Institution convey a meaning, or several meanings, in a way equally acceptable to the plodder and the genius. The only way this can be done is through symbols, to which each of us may attach such meaning as we see fit.

It is true that explanations of some of the symbols are given and that some of the explanations seem to fall short of what they should be. Yet in the sum total, the explanations of symbols given in the ritual and the monitor do add up to a code of morality on which we can all agree. In fact, they spell out such a code as anyone applying for the degrees ought to have beforehand. Thus, the task of Masonry is to teach us to go beyond this simple but important morality and make ourselves better than we were when we became members.

So we have these explanations, this code, as a foundation on which to erect our own superstructure of additional or different meanings, for there are many symbols which have more than one meaning and there are many symbols which

Programs & Announcements

Elections last month yielded the following new slate of officers: WM - James Urban; SW - Glenn Fant; JW - Kevin Rush; Treasurer - Finus Branham; Secretary - Jerry Hendrick; Senior Deacon - John Rosser; Junior Deacon - Allen Jolly; Senior Steward - Brandon Gould; Marshal - Heath Morgan; Chaplain - Dwayne Collins Master of Ceremonies - Justin

Robbins; Tiler - Coke Etgen Be sure and congratulate them and wish them well for the upcoming year. Installation will be July 20 at 3:00PM. We still need a Junior Steward if anyone is interested.

By popular request, Family Night July 17 with the doors opening at 7:30 and the movie starting at 7:00, The Man Who

Would be King. Serving hot dogs, popcorn and soft drinks (don't forget the steward's fund) or bring your own snacks.

As of press time our monthly dining out has not been firmed up. We will pass the info along as soon as it is.



And God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. Genesis 1:3



**From the East**  
*Worshipful Master Elmer "Coke" Etgen*

My Brothers we have completed another Masonic year and about to start another.

The first order of business is the installation of new officers. I hope that they have as good of year as I have had. All the Brothers have worked very hard on many projects through last year. Your hard work may have won the Vanguard

Award for the Lodge. A report is being made ready for the Grand Secretary and will be sent in soon for the award.

There have been many changes in our lodge over the last year all for the betterment of our members and lodge. So to all of you that have worked hard I need to say THANK YOU for all your hard work.

Keep up the good work and help the new officers to continue moving the Lodge forward.

May the blessings of heaven rest upon each and every one of you.



*"The grand object of Masonry is to promote the happiness of the human race"*

*Washington*



**Penny for Your Thoughts: A Message From the West**  
*Senior Warden James Urban*

Now has come the time for the final penny, or perhaps the final thought ... from the West.

I want to thank all of the officers that I have had the privilege of serving with this year. Also, I want to thank all of the officers who have decided to become officers for

the upcoming masonic year.

For those that have not yet heard, official installation will be Saturday, July 20, at 3PM at Lubbock Lodge. I hope all of our brethren, our family, and our guests can be in attendance for the special occasion. I want to spe-

cifically express all the members of this lodge who are dedicated to making masonry better for ourselves, for our brethren, and for our society. So let's make this next year just as great.

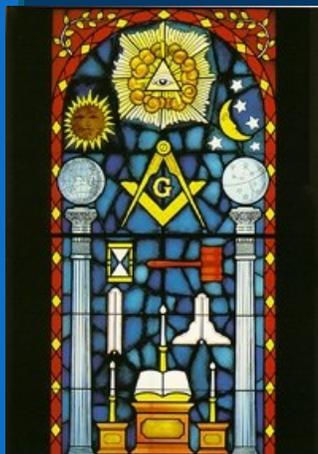


**From the South**  
*Junior Warden Glenn Fant*

**The Buzzards**—If you put a buzzard in a pen that is 6 ft by 8 ft and open at the top, the bird, in spite of its ability to fly, will be an absolute prisoner. A buzzard always begins a flight from the ground with a run of 10 to 12 ft. Without space to run, it will not even attempt to fly, but will remain a prisoner in a small jail with no top. **The Bat**—The ordinary bat that flies around at night, cannot take off from a level place. If it is placed on

the floor or flat ground, all it can do is shuffle about helplessly and, no doubt, painfully, until it reaches some slight elevation from which it can throw itself into the air. Then, it takes off like a flash. **The Bumblebee**—A bumblebee, if dropped into an open tumbler, will be there until it dies, unless it is taken out. It never sees the means of escape at the top, but persists in trying to find some way out through the sides near the bottom. It

will seek a way where none exists, until it completely destroys itself. **The Mason**—In many ways, we are like the buzzard, the bat, and the bumblebee. We struggle about with our problems and frustrations, never realizing that all we have to do is look up! That's the answer, the escape route and the solution to any problem . . . JUST LOOK UP! Sorrow looks back, Worry looks around, But faith looks up!



*"Remember not only to say the right thing in the right place, but far more difficult still, to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment."*

*Benjamin Franklin*



**From the Secretary Jerry Hendrick**

*Taking Care of Business—Whence did we come and where will we go?" Part 2*

Spiritually, we are the sons of GOD by whatever name we may call him, and by his Fatherhood, Brothers to all men of all races and all creeds. Masonically, we come from time immemorial, learning by "The Word" an example how best to live. Through all its teachings, Masonary give itself to teaching a

philosophy for living. A philosophy for each of us to interpret and live to the best of our own ability. Men are made good by individual development of integrity, judgment, and ideals. We are taught in our great principles to reject personal pettiness, that men may stand upon the level for the good of

all with no thought of honor or wealth. This to me is from whence we came - - - Where will we GO??? While it is pleasant to look back upon history and while it is informative to understand one's motives the important thing to Masonary today is its future.



**From the Senior Deacon Kevin Rush**

*Visiting Brothers & Prospects*

Last month we had the following guests attend our stated meeting: Roland Martin, DDGM, 93A, Emma Lodge; Bob Clemmons, PM, 33°, KTCH, Yellowhouse #841; Ronnie Kinney, General Secretary Lubbock Scottish Rite, PM; Van Baker, PM; David Brooks, PM all three of Wolfforth-

Frenship Lodge #1447; Rolan Pirtle, Yellowhouse #841

With the new masonic year around the corner, it's time to take stock, assess and ask ourselves, "How am I going to help make our lodge better this year and what can I do to at-

tract new members? Did I mention masonry to somebody today?"



*Let us endeavor so to live that when we come to die even the undertaker will be sorry.*

*Mark Twain*



**From the Senior Steward Alan Jolly**

*Food, Flowers & Frolic*

Brothers, we are already half way through 2013! My goodness, time flies. With the 4th of July right around the corner and our next stated meeting just after the holiday.

I hope that you will be in attendance. As always,

the meal will be good – if you leave hungry it'll be your own fault. This will be my last meal as Sr. Steward but not to worry as the next Steward will be great.

As always, this poor steward needs your

help...

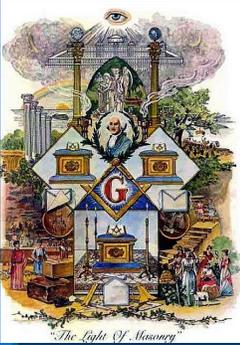
Please contribute to the cause and put a few dollars in the jar. We look forward to seeing everyone.



**Upcoming Menu for May:**

**Hamburgers and hotdogs, chips and drinks.**

## Why Masonry Must Teach by Symbols con't from page 1



are not explained anywhere. For example, the lodge itself is a symbol. Haywood, in his *SYMBOLIC MASONRY*, lists more than 100 symbols which are familiar to all of us, plus many more that are not so readily recognized. For a number of these he gives three, or even four, different explanations.

So it is easy to see why Masonry, in some lectures, is defined as "a beautiful system of morality, taught in allegory and illustrated by symbols." Also, the allegories themselves contain symbols.

Masonry is not alone in the use of symbols to convey truths; men have been using symbols as far back as we know anything about civilized peoples. All the early religions made use of symbols. Christianity makes liberal use of them today. When the cathedral builders, those operative forebears of ours, adorned their churches with figures of saints they were using symbols to recall in the observer's mind the things he had been told about those saints.

On the other hand, symbols are often used to conceal at the same time that they reveal! They may have a plain and open meaning to anyone who has taken the degrees, a concealed message for the more advanced student of Masonry, and no meaning at all for the profane. And sometimes hidden meanings are to be found in words which rhetorically convey quite another message.

If I may venture a personal opinion--and of course all that I am saying is merely my own opinion -- we speak of a certain instrument one way in the first and second degrees and quite another way in the third degree.

I feel that while both those explanations are correct and proper there is a hidden meaning. I also feel that I am far from knowing all that this valuable instrument could teach if only my mind were ready to receive the message.

Then notice the use of the word "conferred." Is not that a symbol of the search for further light which the candidate is expected to undertake and to carry on all his life? And yet, it has a perfect, plain, open, meaning aside from its symbolical meaning.

To see how different Masonic scholars read different meanings into a single symbol, let us consider a single one, the Cable Tow.

The Standard Dictionary says the Cable Tow is a symbol of the bond which holds Freemasons together.



Albert Pike traced the word to the Hebrew Khabel, which meant "a rope attached to an anchor" and also meant "to bind as with a pledge." Haywood quotes unnamed other sources as holding the cable-tow to be a symbol of man's ignorance and lust, from which his Masonic initiation and progress are to free him. Arthur Edward Waite sees in the cable tow a reference to the umbilical cord which binds a baby to its mother. J.T. Lawrence sees it as a mystic tie binding the candidate to God, to Masonry and to righteousness. Churchward sees in it a reference to a chain which candidates for certain Egyptian mysteries were compelled to wear around their necks "to signify their belief in God :and their dependence upon Him." Who shall say which is right?

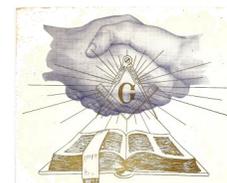
Or are all of them right, for what-

ever meaning a man may find in a symbol is true for him and the exact opposite of it may be true for the Brother sitting beside him. I never could understand this paradox until, a few years ago, I read a quotation from a professor of philosophy at, I believe, Columbia.

When this question came up in class, he asked his students to assume they were an art class, each one drawing a picture of a statue of Truth standing in the middle of the room. Naturally, as the students were ranged about the room, each had a different viewpoint and sketched a different picture. But though different, all the pictures represented Truth.

How wise, then, our early speculatives! How wise the men who seized upon the decaying and poverty-stricken guild of stonemasons and transformed it by means of its own and added symbols into an institution whose great aim is to make the whole world free! As free to think its own thoughts, choose its own God and worship in its own way as we are in Freemasonry. How wise they were not to attempt to fasten down, in precise terms, all that Masonry means, but gives us only enough to live by while we pursue Truth among the symbols.

Source: D.R. Lane, Northern California Research Lodge Reprinted with permission from [MasonsOfTexas.com](http://MasonsOfTexas.com)



### Lubbock 1392 in Action



Bob Clemmons, 33° receives his 50 year Scottish Rite award from Jimmy Willson 33° G.C., PGM



Bro. Finus Branham presents our first scholarship awards to Monique Douglas of Estacado and Mai Dao of Lubbock High



Jerry Hendrick receives the 2013 Golden Trowel Award from SW James Urban with wife Marianne looking on.



# LUBBOCK MASONIC LODGE #1392

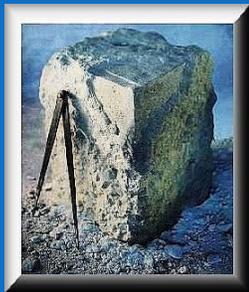
MASONIC DIST 93-A

4539 Brownfield Dr  
Lubbock, TX  
79410-1721

Meetings:  
Second Friday of each  
month, 7:30 p.m.  
Meal: 6:30pm

Floor School:  
Every Tuesday @ 7p.m.

[lubbockmasoniclodge.org](http://lubbockmasoniclodge.org)



**Brotherly Love, Relief & Truth**

## This Month's Sickness & Distress



Please take the time to visit our sick and distressed; send them cards or call them on the phone, and be sure to keep them in your prayers.  
If you know of sickness or distress with a brother or his family, please let us know.

## This Month's Brothers & Birthdays

Jerry Eastham 7/25  
Michael Hooten 7/27

## The Quarry: Our Esoteric Work By Bro. Joe Sanders

### More Light

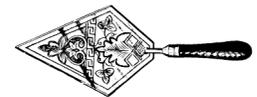
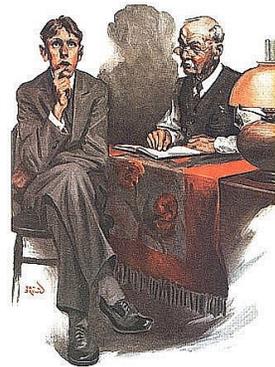
I want to continue to encourage you to work toward obtaining certificates this year. As a reminder:

- Class "C" Certificate: Opening & Closing MM, FC, & EA Lodges, & MM Lodge of Sorrow (all parts); Tiler's Oath, Questions & Answers in all 3-Degrees;
- Class "B" Certificate (Class C requirements)



- Class "A" Certificate (Class C & B requirements plus the Lectures of all 3 Degrees)

The examinations will be August 10 beginning at 9:00AM at Mackenzie Lodge and August 24 beginning at 9:00AM at Plainview Lodge.



*The things a man has to have are hope and confidence in himself against odds, and sometimes he needs somebody, his pal or his mother or his wife or God, to give him that confidence. He's got to have some inner standards worth fighting for or there won't be any way to bring him into conflict. And he must be ready to choose death before dishonor without making too much song and dance about it. That's all there is to it."*

*Blaise Pascal*

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